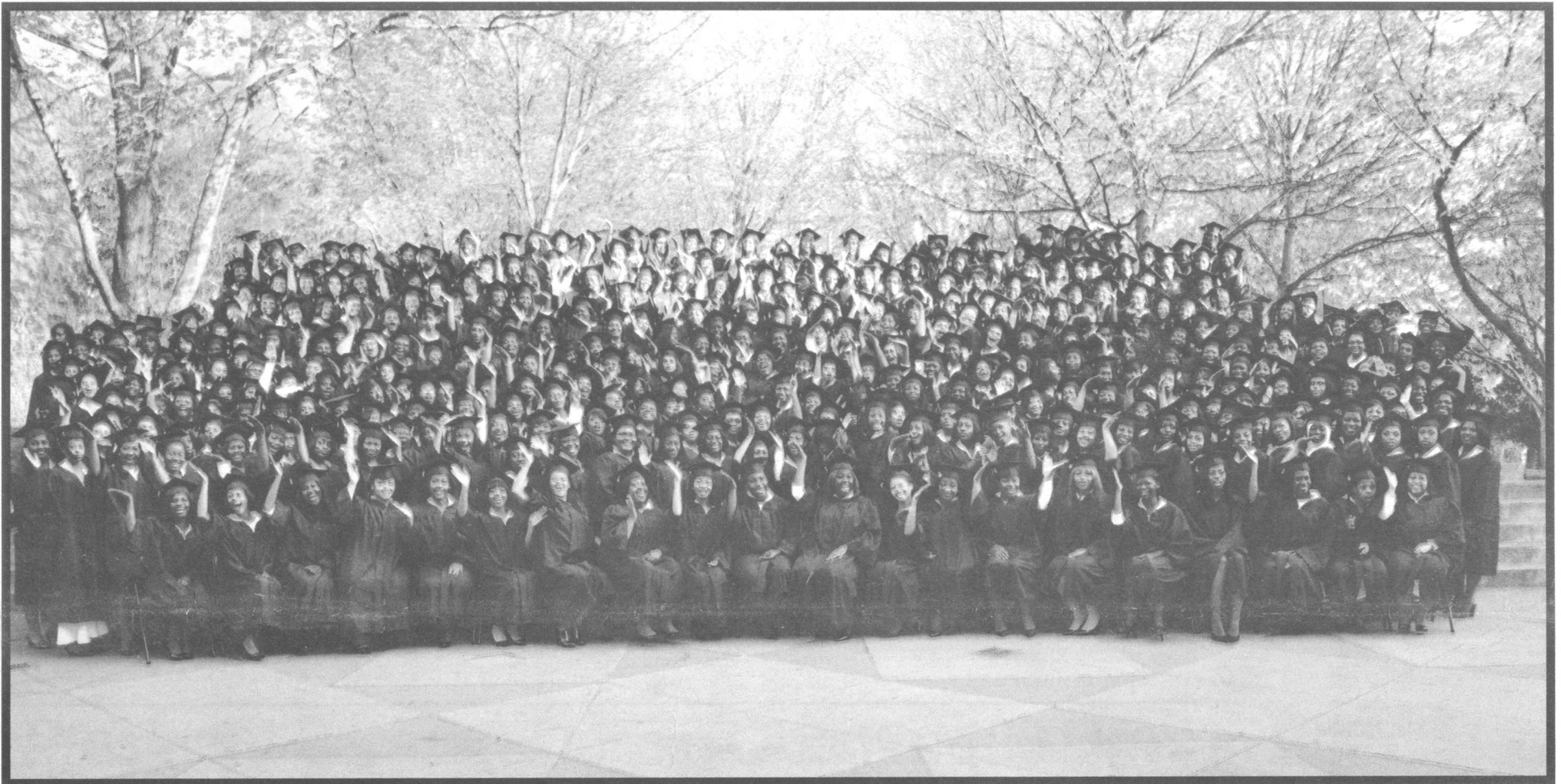


# SPELMAN SPOTLIGHT SPECIAL EDITION

spelmanspotlight@gmail.com May 2009 Voice of African-American Womanhood

## SENIOR EDITION

### Saying Goodbye to the Class of 2009



www.MyGradPhotos.com

The graduating seniors of 2009 pose proudly in their caps and gowns. May 17th, 2009 marks Commencement 2009, where they will cross the stage to receive their diplomas.

## To the Class of 2009: A Letter from President Tatum

*To the Class of 2009,*

Congratulations for all the hard work and dedication that has brought you to this moment of accomplishment – your graduation from Spelman College! Though we are in a challenging time for our nation and the global economy, we have much to celebrate. On May 17, 2009 more than 550 of you will cross the stage at Commencement, ready to take your place as Spelman women ready to change the world. I know you know this already – but it bears repeating. It is a *privilege* to have received an education of the quality that you have with the help of the Spelman College faculty and staff, and the support of your family and friends. And now, to whom much is given, some would say, much is expected. And we do expect much of you. But the saying, which comes from the Bible, is more accurately remembered as “to whom much is given, much is *required*”; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.” (Luke 12: 48) Much has been entrusted – much will be demanded. You are the ones we have been waiting for. The world needs your talent to be developed and harnessed for good. *It is your time.*

We know it is a time of tremendous uncertainty globally – a time of inter-

national conflict and a time for needed peace, a time of economic instability and a time of needed innovation, a time of a growing divide between the haves and the have-nots and a time of needed social reform, a time of disease and a time for needed cures, a time of shrinking environmental resources and a time to preserve the earth. *It is also a time of great opportunity* – a time when smart, socially conscious women can make their mark on the world in so many different ways! The good news is the world *can* change – and women like you can change it! We have all seen the reality of change with our own eyes as we watched the inauguration of President Barack Obama on January 20, 2009, the first African American to serve as President of the United States. This remarkable event took place just 45 years after the Civil Rights Act of 1964 ended the rigid social segregation of public accommodations, creating the social freedoms we now assume as part of everyday life in Atlanta – changes brought about in part by the activism of Spelman women who preceded you here.

Our tradition as change agents is longstanding and a source of great pride. What changes will happen in your lifetime? What will you make happen? I am an optimistic person by nature, but I cultivate my optimism by

seeking out hopeful stories. One of my favorites is this one – perhaps you have heard it.

A young girl was walking along a beach. To her amazement, she came upon thousands of starfish. Washed ashore by a storm, they were dying in the hot sun. The girl began to toss starfish back into the sea, one by one. After a while, a man approached her. “Young woman,” he asked, “why are you doing this? There are thousands of starfish on the beach. You cannot possibly hope to make a difference!” The girl was discouraged, and dropped the starfish in her hand. But a moment later, she bent down, picked up the starfish again, and tossed it as far as she could into the sea. She turned back to the man. Smiling brightly, she said: *I made a difference to that one!* Inspired, others joined her. And soon, to her amazement, all the starfish had been tossed back into the sea.

This is a story about hope, about youth, about the power of the individual to inspire the collective. One young person saw a problem and the possibility of changing it and took action. This starfish story has had a special meaning this year at Spelman as donations to the Starfish Initiative (also known as the President’s Safety Net Fund) have made it possible for many students impacted by the economy to finish their

senior year without interruption. We are grateful to the many donors who contributed to help students – one by one – and who join with us in celebrating the success of the Class of 2009. Together we are counting on you to use your education to continue the good that you have experienced here at Spelman College.

We often talk about the idealism of youth. Class of 2009, *capitalize on that idealism, on the hopefulness of your youth.* Do not be daunted by the economy. The world is still waiting for your talents. Do not be afraid to *do* what others say *cannot* be done. The world *can* change. *You* can change it. Your education is not complete – that is a life-long process – but a foundation has been laid. Build on that foundation, don’t rest on it. Use the tools that you have been given here at Spelman College and build on them – then *inspire* us by your example.

Remember, to whom much is given, much is required. But don’t worry – you are up to the task. It is *your* time. We can hardly wait to see what *you* will do.

Congratulations, Class of 2009!  
With very best wishes,

Beverly Daniel Tatum, Ph.D.  
President

# Editorial

## Letter from the Editor

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#### **Spelman Spotlight**

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*Dear Spelman Community,*

It is once again that time of the year. The 2008-2009 school year has officially ended and the women of the Class of 2009 are leaving the place they have called home for four years; they are going beyond the gates of Spelman College to fulfill their destinies of becoming women who change the world.

As a member of the Class of 2009, it is a bittersweet but also a very exciting time. I am sad to leave the place that has taught me so much and shaped me into the woman that I am today. However, I am very eager to find out what the future has in store for me. I know that no matter where life takes me I will consistently keep Spelman and the multitude of people that have impacted my life close to my heart.

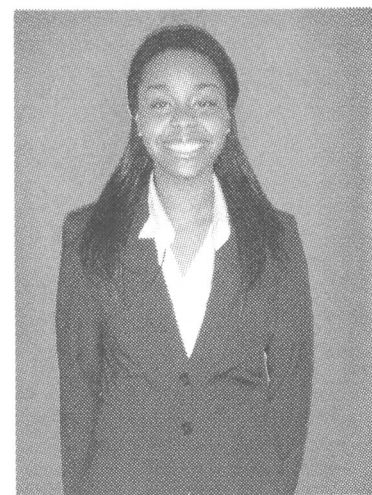
Therefore as the outgoing Editor-In-Chief of the *Spelman Spotlight* it was imperative for the *Spelman Spotlight* staff to construct an issue that would commemorate the memories of the Class of 2009. The May 2009 issue of the *Spelman Spotlight* is a senior edition. This senior edition is designed to highlight and celebrate the accomplishments and memorable times of the Class of 2009.

I truly hope you all enjoy this issue and congratulations ladies, we did it!

Sincerely,

*Demetria Patton*

Editor-In-Chief 2008-2009



*Dear Class of 2009,*

As the time draws near and the end is in sight, I, as a member of the Class of 2010, would like to take this time to reflect on the past as well as inspire hope for the future. You ladies are the big sisters that have welcomed the classes below you, helped set the standards for success, and opened the doors to opportunities. As I reminisce, I have fond memories of coming to Spel-Bound in the Spring of 2006. I remember spending the night with some of you- who were fresh-women at the time- but now compose the Class of 2009. I was thrilled at the chance to get to experience the life of a Spelman student. You all were so motivated, intelligent, fun, and full of relevant advice. I could not wait to officially become a Spelmanite. Although you did not know it, I looked up to you and have been encouraged by you ever since.

You, the Class of 2009, have become the women I and other Spelmanites aspire to be. You ladies have spent four years being nurtured by Spelman College and are now entering a world of abundant hope and opportunity. Having received your education at Spelman, you are exceedingly prepared to meet the challenges ahead. You are at the cusp of great futures, not solely in America, but the world is yours to explore.

For the past four years, you have been the distinguished representatives of Spelman College. You have demonstrated leadership, held positions in Student Government, promoted environmental consciousness, and earned awards and scholarships that have continued the legacy of stellar recognition of our wonderful institution. You were warm and welcoming to all new students. You were Student Orientation Leaders (SOL) and Student Ambassadors. Many of you did not bear a title nor were members of an organization, but you were still willing to offer a kind hand or a few words of advice. Indeed, you have set the standard and pace for the rest of us to follow. We appreciate your courage, resilience and desire to press forward despite our nation's economic woes and other trials that have affected your Spelman experience. Through the life you lived and the examples you set, you have fostered the Spelman sisterhood. By observing you, we (juniors, sophomores, and first-years) were able to conceptualize a "Spelmanite." Through modeling your behaviors, we will continue the proud legacy of becoming a Spelman graduate.

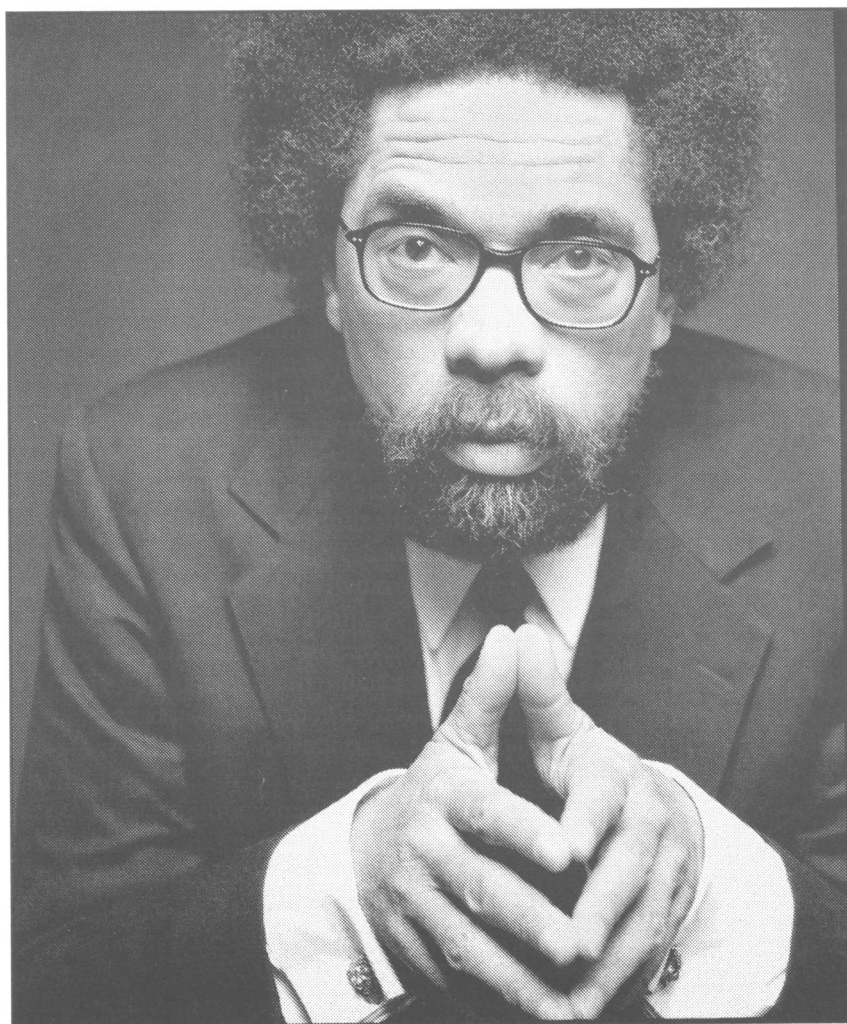
I am humbly proud of you. I know I speak for all of my Spelman sisters when I say thank you for your strength and determination. I know your futures will be bright because your foundation has been solid. You have endured the challenges that have made you the Spelman women we all know and love. Each of you can say, "Veni, vidi, vici"- I came, I saw, I conquered. Be proud but never forget from whence you came. Remember those who stood behind you when times were not so joyous. There is still an enormous amount of work that needs to be done in our communities and I know you ladies are more than capable of achieving. Yes, you are more than conquerors. "The world is your oyster," Class of 2009, and "the sky is the limit." From Spelmanites to Spelman women, you have arrived!

With love from your Spelman sister,

*Ashley Brooke Brown*  
Class of 2010



# News



PRINCETON.EDU

## Dr. Cornel West to Speak at Commencement 2009

Dr. West challenges us to think critically, act globally and lead with integrity—just as the class of 2009 must do as they leave the gates of Spelman College.”

Similarly, senior mathematics major Jamaica Pouncy has no doubt that West will be able to successfully engage graduates as they embark on the next phase of their lives. Pouncy states, “I think that Dr. West is one of the most prolific speakers of our time. If he can’t motivate the class, who can?”

With impressive accolades and a boastful academic background, it is no wonder that West is highly regarded

as an intellectual powerhouse. West graduated magna cum laude from Harvard College after earning two bachelor’s degrees in three years. The scholar earned his Ph.D from Princeton University; he taught at both alma maters, Union Theological Seminary, Yale and the University of

Paris. West currently teaches at Princeton University. Senior International Studies major and Fulbright Scholar Kyasha Moore shares in the enthusiasm expressed by her peers regarding West’s appointment as keynote speaker. However, Moore hopes that West’s delivery is catered to a broad audience so that all may appreciate his inspiring words.

Moore states, “I am excited because he is a prolific speaker who is very in touch with the issues plaguing our communities, and I aspire to reach his intellectual heights, but I hope that he will be able to convey a message that can be captured by not only the graduating class but also by family members who may not be as in touch with his works.”

All the same, senior biology major Brittany Alston is sure that West’s words will incite the desire to pursue brilliance amongst graduates. “He is so enthusiastic and has a passion for promoting excellence,” she expresses.

West is the author of *Race Matters*, a critical analysis of race relations in the U.S., that

has sold over half a million copies to date. In *Democracy Matters*, West examines the concept of democracy in its relation to the U.S. and the conflict in the Middle East. His most recent work, *Hope on a Tight Rope*, discusses issues pertinent to every American citizen, including race, leadership, faith, family, philosophy, love and service.

In addition, West has produced three albums, his most recent being “Never Forget: A Journey of Revelations,” which features collaborations with artists such as Jill Scott, Talib Kweli, Prince and Outkast. The scholar also provides weekly commentary on the “Tavis Smiley Show” from Public Radio International.

West will receive an honorary degree of humane letters from Spelman College. Other honorary degrees will be awarded to Judith Jamison, artistic director of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater since 1989 and Leah Ward Sears, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia. Also, Helene D. Gayle, M.D., President and CEO of CARE USA, will receive the National Community Service Award.

Feza Kikaya  
Managing Editor

Credited by *The New York Times* with possessing “ferocious moral vision,” activist, philosopher, scholar and intellectual Dr. Cornel West will address the Class of 2009 for commencement at New Birth Missionary Baptist Church

on Sunday, May 17, 2009 at 5pm.

President Beverly Daniel Tatum is confident about West’s ability to effectively motivate the graduating class. In a press release issued to the Spelman community on April 24, 2009, Tatum states, “Described by some as an ‘in-

tellectual powerhouse. West graduated magna cum laude from Harvard College after earning two bachelor’s degrees in three years. The scholar earned his Ph.D from Princeton University; he taught at both alma maters, Union Theological Seminary, Yale and the University of

## President Barack Hussein Obama: 100 Days in Retrospect

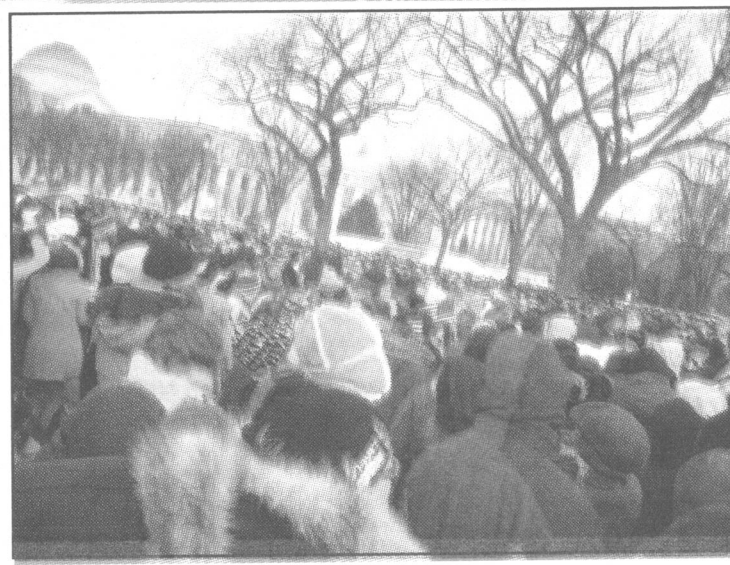
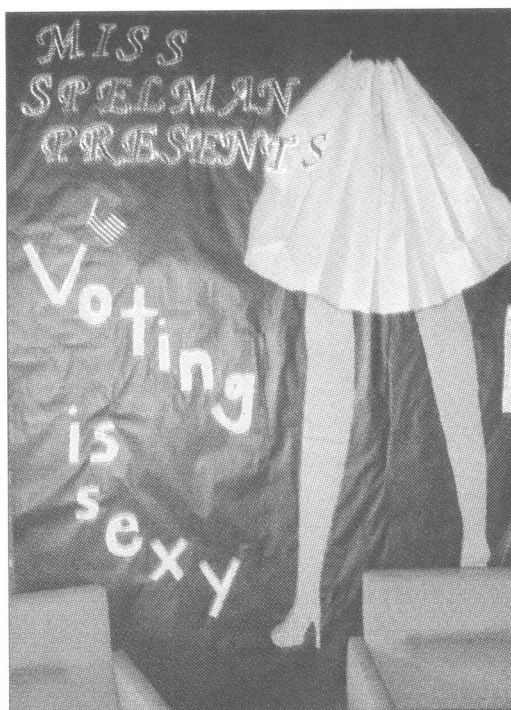
### The Spelman Spotlight reflects on Obama’s candidacy.

Whitney Skippings-Dupree  
Layout and Design Editor

When reflecting on the past two years, major emphasis on President Obama’s campaign, election, and presidency are unavoidable. The 2008-2009 school year brought with it remarkable student involvement in the proceedings of the 2008 Presidential Election.

It was something of a joint effort—students from various organizations stepped up, rallying for their candidates, and registered to vote in record numbers. Nov. 4, 2008 brought with it the Election Day Lock-in, where students of the AUC gathered to witness states report their votes, resulting in Barack Obama being elected President of the United States of America.

The class of 2009 graduates over one hundred days into the presidency of Barack Obama, the first president of mixed African-American heritage. Much has been done in these first few months, such as the passing of controversial legislation—but only time will tell how President Obama’s tenure will truly progress. What is certain is that Spelmanites will be following and influencing various aspects of his administration as it progresses.





# Miss Spelman 2008-2009

Sydney E. Robinson  
Staff Writer

While some know her by "Francesca," others know her by "Frankie," but in the Spelman community, the 21-year-old Silver Spring, Maryland resident has been known as Miss Spelman for the 2008-2009 school year.

A participant in different organizations on campus, Francesca Gibson has been involved in the African Students Association as co-publicity chair and vice-president. She has also been involved in Peer Education Programmers (PEPERS), Skirts Keeping It Real Through Service (S.K.I.R.T.S), National Council of Negro Women, Women in Excellence Leadership (W.E.L.) series and the 10,000 Girls Initiative in Senegal, West Africa.

Gibson shares her accomplishments and goals in her farewell to the Spelman community through an interview with the Spelman Spotlight.

**Q. What made you seek the Miss Spelman title?**

A. Miss Spelman is a very unique leadership position. We have the opportunity to represent the diversity of Spelman women. I believe that beyond the pearls and heels, there are girls who wear basketball shorts and tennis shoes, and they need someone to relate with as well.

**Q. What were your initial goals?**

A. My initial goals were to bring about awareness to women's rights. While I studied abroad in Ghana, I talked with a young girl in a Liberian camp that moved with her mother and little brother after the Civil War in Liberia. She was raped twice and she couldn't attend school due to the fact that she could not hold it when she needed to use the bathroom. She was stigmatized, so she asked me to help her. Realistically, I knew the way that

I could help would be to raise awareness about rape as a systematic tactic of war.

**Q. What do you feel you've accomplished?**

A. I feel that I've brought about awareness of international issues, changed the image of a college queen, as well as touched the lives of Spelman students.

**Q. What would you do differently?**

A. I would have had more events, impacted the campus more, and implicated a sense of obligation. I also would have represented the "Frankie" of freshman year that just put on her basketball shorts and rolled to class.

**Q. What words of advice do you have for Miss Lacey Reddix, Miss Spelman 2009-2010?**

A. I would want Lacey to remain true to Lacey because in order to be a representative of the women of Spelman College, you must be an authentic representation of yourself, flaws and all. I would also like her to know that leaders aren't afraid to stand alone, when they stand for what's right.

**Q. What words do you have for the Spelman community?**

A. To my beloved Spelman College and my phenomenal Spelman sisters, as I get ready to graduate and embark on the next stage in my life, I will always carry you in my heart, my spirit, and in my soul. As I travel through the journey of life, I will forever be thankful to you for the unconditional sisterhood you have shown me throughout the course of my time here at our beloved Spelman College.

Gibson is graduating with a B.A. in Sociology and plans to teach secondary English in Washington D.C. with Teach for America. She also plans to pursue a Masters in secondary education from American University upon graduation.

# Namina Forna: A Spelman Diamond

Michelle D. Anderson  
Staff Writer

Often dubbed as the "introverted and creative," Namina Forna, First Attendant to Miss Spelman and Her Court 2008-2009, says she is very happy about fulfilling her platform and creating a legacy at Spelman College.

The graduating senior English major arranged a capstone event during her tenure as First Attendant. The program, which was an intimate discussion highlighting the educational disparities for girls in Sierra Leone, was just the beginning of fulfilling her manifesto, "Spelman Diamonds."

Also part of her platform, Forna organized the second production of "International Monologues of the Vagina," a remixed and more global conscious version of Eve Ensler's "Vagina Monologues." The Free-town, Sierra Leone native oversaw the debut of the series in 2008 as part of Spelman's first International Spring Festival. This year's production, which allowed Forna to raise over \$2,000 in scholarship funds, explored topics such as womanhood, identity, sexuality and grave international trends such as female genital mutilation and the rape epidemic in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

At the end of her term, Forna sat down with the Spelman Spotlight and discussed her involvement with the Miss Spelman Court.

**Q. What made you interested in Miss Spelman?**

A. What made me interested in Miss Spelman? It was a number of things. I've always wanted to give back to

schools in Sierra Leone. Because Spelman is the oldest historically black institution for African-American women, Spelman should have a rapport with other schools across the world that are for women. [Also], I wanted to represent...my Spelman sisters who do so much—like, how many black girls do you know who are fluent in Mandarin Chinese? People like that are the reason why I wanted to do Miss Spelman. I went into it understanding the kind of work that they did. For me, it was never about the pageant because I'm not a 'pageant girl.'

**Q. Talk about your platform, "Spelman Diamonds."**

A. Sierra Leone was the place where the war of the diamonds occurred. I wanted to be able to give back to Sierra Leone and I wanted to give back to schools specifically. The first phase is education. It educates Spelman women about the plight of the educational system in Sierra Leone. The second phase is enactment. That's what I did with "The International Monologues of the Vagina." We raised money for two schools in Sierra Leone...The funds are going to provide four year scholarships for needy students...It takes about \$100 in Cocrill specifically to educate a girl.

**Q. How do you feel about students' engagement in your platform?**

A. I always think there's a certain level of disengagement because people aren't aware of the platform. What I love is that Monologues gave all students a chance to be heavily involved—even if they weren't quite sure about my platform, at the end of the day, when they came to Monologues, they knew exactly what it was about. It's not Spelman Office of Student Activities raising money for students—it is students raising money for other students.

**Q. What legacy do you hope you**

Spelman College women

# Germani Hardeman: Name of Victory

Whitney Skippings-Dupree  
Layout & Design Editor

When Germani Hardeman began her tenure as senior class president, she had the goal of creating a smooth transition for the newly risen class of 2009. As president, Hardeman wanted

to make it a priority for seniors to have a fun and memorable last year on Spelman's campus, while still becoming increasingly more educated on the life skills relevant to life beyond Spelman's protective gates.

In retrospect, she considers that most of her initial initiatives were accomplished to the fullest, but definitely recognizes the hardships she encountered along the way. The program she is most proud of was the "Real World Series," which taught senior Spelmanites how to deal with serious real-life issues and help them gain necessary life skills. The series highlighted things such as tax filing, housing, and insurance policies—all things that students will encounter in their next phase of life. The Real World Series addressed the skills Hardeman believed women of Spelman needed

to possess before graduating. The preceding was an integral component in her decision to run for class president.

Originally from Houston, TX, Hardeman was senior class president at her high school, marking a trend of consistent involvement in school politics. Her decision to remain a leader stems from her desire to implement change in her community. "I'm a firm believer in being a go-getter. If I want to see it happen, I have to make it happen," says Hardeman.

Commencement marks the beginning of many changes for Hardeman—her future looks bright as she picks from four different law schools. She hopes that going to law school will propel her into Public Interest law. Throughout her college career, she has already completed internships in the field with groups such as Hosea Feed the Hungry and a rehabilitation center in Washington, DC.

Hardeman reflects on her experience as senior class council president and does not hesitate to express her

gratitude to those who have helped her along the way.

"Thank you to the council for being a great support system," she says, acknowledging the difficulties that she would have faced without the strong backbone they provided.

To the class of 2013, she advises them to live in the moment, but also to make wise decisions that don't interfere with their morals and values. "Work hard all four years," she warns, remembering friends who did not, and had to work hard to compensate for mistakes made.

Most importantly, to Topaz Sampson, senior class president-elect for 2010, she recommends that she try not to stress and remember that "it's her senior year as well." She also warns the incoming council that there are problems certain to arise throughout the year—problems they should not let hinder their progress.

This is just a part of the legacy that Hardeman hopes to leave behind as part of the Class of 2009. She describes her 2009 class as one that denounces both limitations and resignation. As commencement nears, she is positive about her class' prospects, and proclaims their name is victory.



leave as a Spelman student—not just as a member of Miss Spelman and Her Court 2008-2009?

A. I would hope that I brought an international flair to Spelman College. One thing that I'm happy knowing that I definitely will leave is the life of flags in Manley Student Center. For the first International Spring Festival, I said, 'Let's put up flags for every continent, every country, especially Sierra Leone.' If there is any legacy I have left I certainly hope that it is one where people are more aware of international affairs, especially those that relate to women. Also, I hope that Miss Spelman, in addition to International Students Organization (ISO), continue to do Vagina Monologues to support the Spelman Diamonds Scholarship Fund. I want it to be bigger and better every year.

## A Farewell from 2nd Attendant

Dear Spelman:

There have been so many highlights for me this past semester serving on the court: participating in the first "Welcome to Spelman," representing Spelman in homecoming festivities, and working with so many dedicated students. The relationships

I built during the pageant after will last. I have met genuine and wonderful people. I believe in Spelman, and I know you will uphold the fantastic legacy we have.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to implement my platform, "Literacy Enrichment: Knowledge for the Future." Reading in costumes and decorating themed cut-outs was incredibly memorable. Advisory board- YOU ARE AWESOME. Thank you so much for your hard work and unconditional support.

Spelmanites, work hard and stay focused even when it seems so overwhelming. The storms will end and your sun will shine brightly. Network with your sisters on campus and learn from them. Smile because you never know who needs one.

LOVE ALWAYS,

Ranelle Richards  
xoxo

## 7 Hopefuls, 3 Crowns, 1 Miss Spelman College

Rebecca Clayton  
Staff Writer

Seven Spelman students set their sights on a sash, a crown and the title of Miss Spelman College as contestants in the Miss Spelman Pageant. After an emotional final walk as a court, the outgoing 2008-2009 Miss Spelman and Her Court crowned the incoming court. Sophomore Lacey Reddix captured the coveted title of

Miss Spelman College 2009-2010, while juniors Charis Chambers and Kerri-Ann Washington earned first and second attendant, respectively.

While the other contestants—Shayna Atkins, Diamond Goodwin, Kristin Sampson and Adonica Starke-Melson—did not place on court, they took part in a remarkable experience that only a few Spelman students can boast.

The theme of this year's pageant was, "The Revolution Will Not Be Televised: Welcome to the Oval Office." P.U.L.S.E. Programming Board and Miss Spelman and Her Court 2008-2009 oversaw the production of the pageant. The pageant was held on April 18, 2009 at 6 pm in Sisters Chapel on the campus of Spelman College.

# Student Leaders

women who have made a choice to change the world

## Spotlight on Miriam Archibong

Briana Haymon  
Staff Writer

The Spelman Spotlight sat down with outgoing SSGA President Miriam Archibong to learn more about her experience at Spelman College as well as to discuss her post-graduation plans. Below are highlights from the interview:

**Q. How do you feel about graduating and leaving Spelman?**

A. It is all very bittersweet. I am going to miss everyone that I have met at Spelman, but I feel as though it is time to move on and to begin the next stage of my life. I'm saddened, but I am more so excited about the new opportunities and all of the new possibilities.

**Q. What are you plans upon graduation?**

A. Well I am looking towards obtaining a government internship in Washington, DC this summer. And after that I will be attending Harvard University getting my Masters in Education Policy and Management.

**Q. Are you excited about Harvard?**

A. Well, to be completely honest, no, not really. I mean I am looking forward to the different programs that Harvard has catered to my field of study, but in

Harvard itself? I have mixed emotions. I don't think that Harvard is ready for me.

**Q. What do you mean?**

A. Being at Spelman you are encouraged to speak your mind and to be very outspoken with your ideas and your beliefs. I love that about Spelman. I do not think that Harvard is ready for a woman like me, who is not accustomed to sitting down and remaining quiet about different issues. I am curious as to how they will accept me. And plus I know that the environment is going to be different; I'm a southern girl, and I don't know how I will deal with the cold [laughing].

**Q. Do you feel that Spelman has adequately prepared you for this next**

stage in your life?

A. I definitely feel as though Spelman has prepared me. One of the things that I love about Spelman is that I never had to wonder who was going to be in the position of leadership here. I know that wherever I go there is going to be an African American woman in charge. Because of that I know that I can do whatever I put my mind to, and there is no glass ceiling. There is absolutely nothing that can hold me back from my goals and my dreams, because I feel that I am capable.

**Q. In regards to Spelman, how have you enjoyed your time here and what are some things that you have learned?**

A. I have come to realize that Spelman is entirely what you make of it, and I think I took full advantage of every single opportunity granted me and I am so happy about that. I think that Spelman has definitely prepared me

for graduation, and what is bound to come after it. I have to admit that I sometimes regret not being able to be as socially active as a lot of my peers have been. Because of my responsibilities I stayed busy, and I was always working. But I came to understand what was most important in my life, and sometimes when you realize what you want to do with your life you have to make some sacrifices. So I made those sacrifices, and I am completely content with where I am right now, and where I am heading.

**Q. Anything else you would like to leave with the Spelman community before you depart?**

A. Oh sure, my mother is my greatest influence, and she always used to tell me these two things. One: don't let what you want ever get in the way of what you really want, and two: always be on your best behavior because you never know who will be around to give you a promotion.

**Q. What can you say is your main goal?**

A. Hmm... I am preparing myself to take over the world [laughs].

### Theme: "Keeping YOU Informed, Engaged and Involved."

#### Administration highlights:

- Awarded more than 25 scholarships valued at more than \$36,000
- Published a 50-page resource guide of Registered Student Organizations (RSO) and messages from various departments
- Established an SSGA wall of officers
- Developed an official SSGA logo
- Established the SSGA wall of excellence
- Established 4 SSGA websites (Spelman College, Facebook, Myspace and Twitter) and Spelman E-mail
- Staffed an SSGA "How May We Help You" table at every Market Friday
- Collaborated with Aramark to offer 16 full-semester meal plan scholarships
- Awarded 8 True Blue Book Awards (4 more than previous years)
- Donated \$10,000 of our 2009 SSGA towards establishing "A Dream Not Deferred"
- Increased your SSGA revenue by increasing the fee for Market Friday and our weekly number of Market Friday vendors
- Launched the 1st Chicken and Business Wednesday campaign
- Added the position of Health and Wellness Director to the SSGA cabinet
- Finalized your SSGA Constitution
- Partnered with the Environmental Task Force to develop additional ways to make Spelman a greener campus
- Launched our 1st annual St. Jude Event.
- Distributed more than 50 RSO Thanksgiving baskets to deserving families in the West-End community
- Launched "My Sister's Closet" and gave away more than 30 business suits
- Hosted the 1st "I AM NOT MY GRADE" Forum
- Actively participated in the elections (i.e. Co-facilitated the election night Lock-In, hosted two State of the Campus Addresses)
- Hosted the first annual Spelman College Board of Trustees meet-and-greet luncheon for the student body
- Hosted the 2nd Annual Coretta Scott King School for Girls Event
- Sponsored a trip to Washington, DC for the Presidential Inauguration in Jan. 2009
- Launched the Student Giving Campaign's first annual Powder Puff Football Game



# VALEDICTORIAN

Written by Michelle D. Anderson



Ieshaah A. Murphy

When Ieshaah Murphy came to Spelman, her only objective was to do well—not to obtain the highest rank in her class. “I didn’t have the intention to be valedictorian,” says the sociology major, who boasts a 3.99 GPA.

However, after the 21-year-old received recognition for a perfect record in her freshman year, her perspective changed. “That’s when I started thinking, ‘Wow, it’s possible for me to do really well so there’s no reason why I can’t get A’s in every single class.’ I wasn’t going to let myself do any less than I knew I was capable of,” the Buffalo, NY native says.

As a result of her early resolution, the Spelman community will recognize Murphy as valedictorian of the Class of 2009 on May 17, 2009.

Sociology and Anthropology professor Bruce Wade says he could tell right from the beginning that Murphy was an outstanding student. “She could take abstract readings [and] work through that and come up with some very clear arguments,”

Wade says. “Every year she’s stronger.” Wade says he was especially impressed that Murphy was a first generation college student—many students from Spelman and Morehouse are second, third and even fourth generation collegians, he says. “I think what’s most impressive about her is that she balances her intellectual strengths with being a very nice person.”

Murphy has also been a source of inspiration to her friends. Angela Boudreaux, a graduating senior and Comparative Women’s Studies major, says the two have become good friends this year. Boudreaux says Murphy possesses wisdom most people their age don’t have.

During a recent dinner outing, Boudreaux says she asked Murphy to tell her everything she knows about life. “That’s how much I regard her wisdom, her maturity and her sense of her integrity,” Boudreaux says laughing. “She has so much to offer to other students. I’m really excited to hear what she has to say to the senior class.”

While Murphy has established herself as one of Spelman’s brightest, she has also experienced some darker moments. During the spring semester of Murphy’s sophomore year, she took 20 credit hours in an attempt to determine what academic program she wanted to join. “I knew I wanted to go to law school, but I didn’t know what path I wanted to take,” Murphy says. “It was tough but I got through it.”

Another challenge she faced occurred while studying abroad in Ghana during her junior year. “I felt like being at Spelman in general opened up my eyes to a lot of things, but being in Ghana for four months really opened up my eyes to things that I really want to change, not only in the United States, but in the world.”

Another defining moment came while participating in the Women of Excellence Leadership (WEL) series in the spring of her junior year. As part of the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement (LEADS), the annual WEL series is a certificate program designed to develop global leaders.

Murphy is a member of several honor societies and has served as a Writing Center tutor. This year, she served as president of Peer Education Programmers (PEPers) and as co-captain of Spelman’s Mock Trial team.

This summer Murphy will participate in the Arthur Liman Public Interest Law Fellowship Program. Moreover, she will attend law school at The University of Pennsylvania in the fall.

“I’m interested in different types of law,” Murphy says. “I really would like to challenge common beliefs. I really want to challenge the status quo and push the envelope.”

## HIGHEST HONORS

2. Nicole S. Barden  
*English, Co-Salutatorian*
2. Ashley M. Wilson  
*Spanish, Co-Salutatorian*
3. Christina M. McIntosh  
*Mathematics*
4. Joy L. Hightower  
*Sociology, Women’s Studies*
5. Ashley N. Thomas  
*Child Development*
6. Marcuetta D. Williams  
*Drama, Psychology*
7. Rahbi-Dijon A. Wood  
*Art*
8. Kristina A. Williams  
*Chemistry*
9. Breanna E. Tomlin  
*Biology*
10. Kristin L. Mitchell  
*Child Development*

## Academic Achievement

1. Brittany Alston, *Biology*
2. Terri Ambrose, *Environmental Science*
3. Chino Aneke, *Biology*
4. Miriam Archibong, *Political Science*
5. Jessica Ball, *English*
6. Shaquitta Bell, *Chemistry*
7. Danielle Blair, *Spanish*
8. Angela Boudreaux, *Women’s Studies*
9. Sabria Brown, *History*
10. Tanisha Clark, *Psychology*
11. Daphne Cole, *Psychology*
12. Taryn Crenshaw, *Women’s Studies*
13. Malika Davis, *Child Development*
14. Bejide Davis, *Economics*
15. Irene Delily, *English*
16. \*Cyrah Denson, *Drama*
17. \*Ariel Eckblad, *Political Science*
18. Namina Forna, *English*
19. Lyndosha Griffin, *Political Science*
20. Tyneisha Harden, *Political Science*
21. Joy Hightower, *Sociology, Women’s Studies*
22. Sarah Hill, *Philosophy*
23. Nicole Hopkins, *Religion*
24. Feza Kikaya, *Economics*
25. \*Regina Larkin, *Economics*

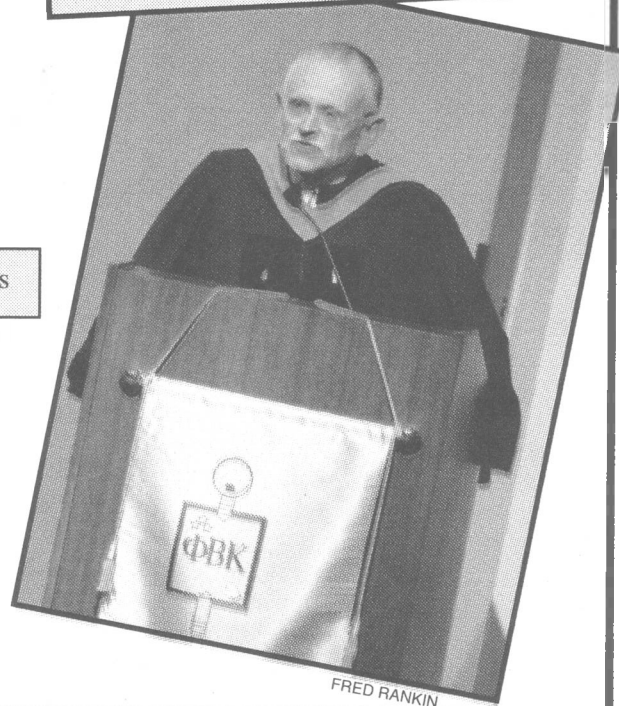
26. Nicole Leach, *Psychology, Women’s Studies*
27. Ginene Lewis, *Political Science*
28. Nyeema McCaskill, *Child Development*
29. Tianna McCullough, *English*
30. Christy Melton, *History*
31. Kristin Mitchell, *Child Development*
32. \*Sierra Mullen, *Spanish*
33. Tracey Murry, *Psychology*
34. JeNita Partridge, *Biology*
35. \*Juliana Partridge, *Sociology*
36. Shenja Patterson, *Biology*
37. Shaundra Patterson, *English*
38. Normandi Pitts, *Sociology*
39. FranShon Reid, *Drama*
40. Jerez Roberson, *Psychology*
41. Ashley Simmons, *Biology*
42. Zaneta Smith, *Psychology*
43. Danielle Snead, *Political Science*
44. Diana Spell, *Chemistry*
45. \*Lauren Sprott, *International Studies*
46. Ashley Thomas, *Child Development*
47. Ashley Tolbert, *Economics*
48. Jacquelyn Vines, *History*
49. \*Ella Washington, *Psychology*
50. Courtney Williamson, *Psychology*

\* denotes Juniors

### Inducted As Juniors/ Resident Members:

Nicole Barden  
Sakina Davis  
Shaunicie Fielder  
Andrea French  
Christina McIntosh  
Ieshaah Murphy

Breanna Tomlin  
Marisa Toodle  
Kristina Williams  
Marcuetta Williams  
Ashley J. Wilson  
Rahbi-Dijon Wood



FRED RANKIN

Honorary Initiate: Cora B. Marrett

# PHI BETA KAPPA



# Research Day 2009 Winners!

Only seniors are listed

## ORALS

*Anthropology, Comparative Women's Studies, English, Religion*

1st Place- Sakinah Davis

*Chemistry*

1st Place- Angelica Trumer

*Drama and Dance*

1st Place- Leah Dupard

*Education, Psychology*

1st Place- Brittany Leonard

*Environmental Science*

1st Place- Erin Jackson

*Music*

1st Place- Jesika Berry

*Political Science, Cosby Academic Center*

1st Place- Miriam Archibong

## POSTERS

*Biology, Section A*

3rd Place- Krystal Butler

*Biology, Section B*

1st Place- Krystle Ainsworth

3rd Place- Jolisha Eubanks

*Environmental Science*

1st Place- Montoya LaFrance

*Physics*

1st Place- Jarvett Cox

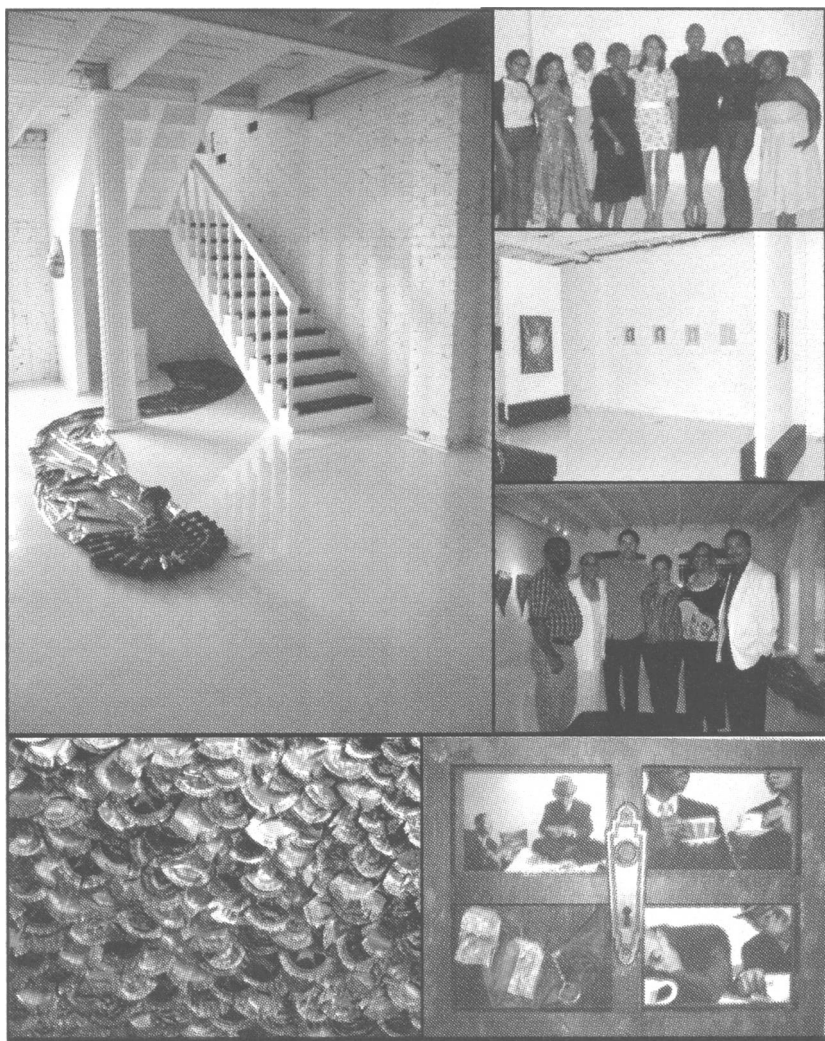
*Political Science/Sociology*

1st Place- St. Jalisa Miller

*Psychology*

1st Place- Kerri-Lynne Thomas

2nd Place- Erica Finley



## Senior Art Show

Photos provided by senior Art majors

## STAR AWARDS 2009 RESULTS

Dr. Zenobia Hikes Hall of Leaders Award For Excellence in Service & Leadership: Amberly Ferguson

Dr. Zenobia Hikes Hall of Leaders Award For Excellence in Service & Leadership: India Robinson

Catch a Rising Star: Zerita Buchanan

Volunteer of the Year: Shamera Boozer

Unsung Hero Award: Ms. Sylvia Maddox, Student Activities

New Student Organization of the Year: American Women in Radio & Television (AWRT)

Social Program of the Year P.U.L.S.E. Programming Board: "P.U.L.S.E. Cooking Class 101"

Spiritual/Religious Program of the Year: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Eta Kappa Chapter, "You Deserve a Break"

Diversity/International Program of the Year: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Eta Kappa Chapter, "Chaos: Child Soldiers"

Unsung Hero Award: Mrs. Felicia Howard, Student Health Services

Woman of the Year, The Wall Street Tycoon: Littane Bien-Aime

Ruth-Ercile Letitia Hodges Sisterhood Award: Kamilah Mitchell, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Beta Iota Chapter

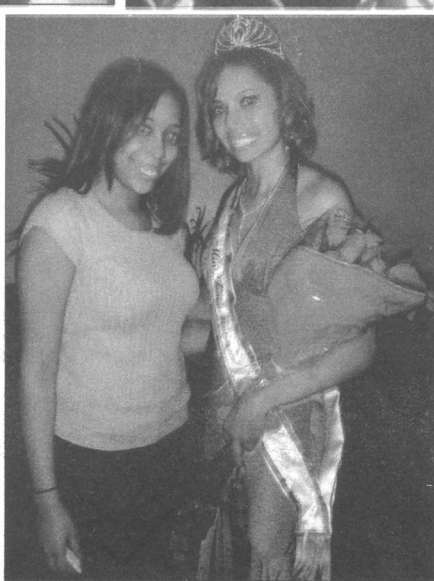
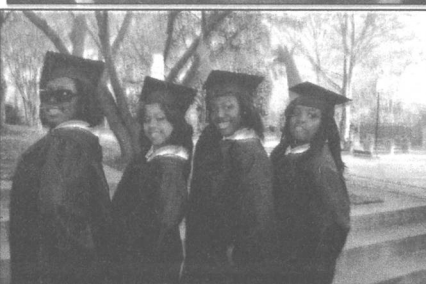
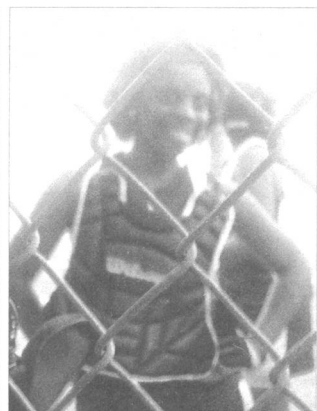
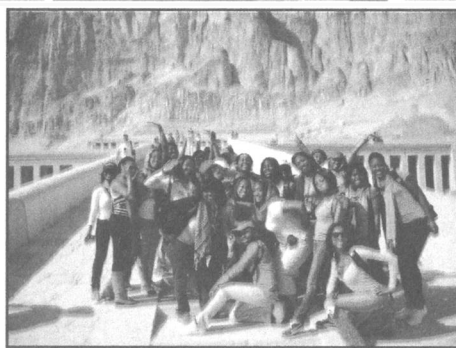
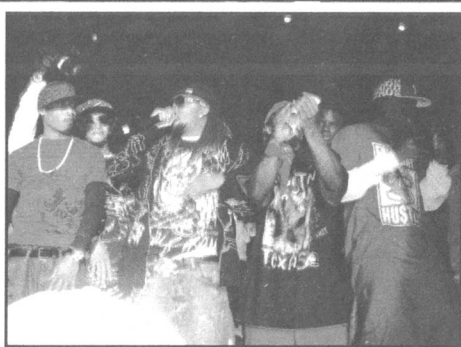
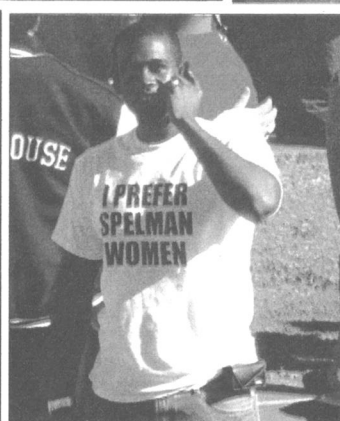
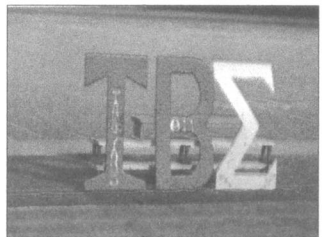
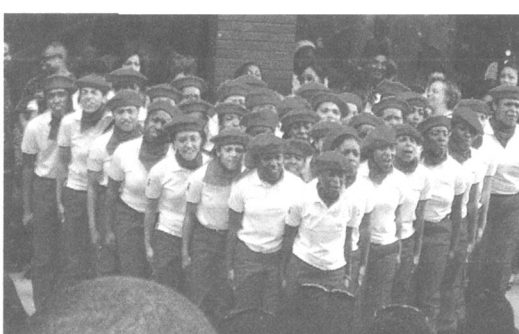
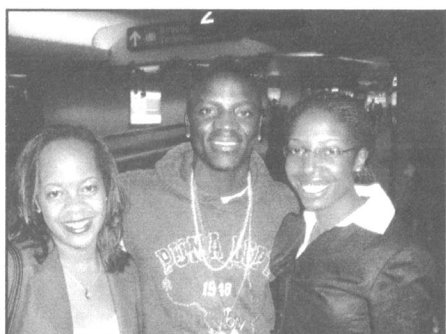
Athletic Team of the Year: Spelman College Soccer Team

Woman of the Year: The Philanthropist: Miriam Archibong, "A Dream not deferred"





# Memories



*the Class of 2009*

