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Spelman students tackle controversial topics in independently produced student films

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THE SPELMAN

SPOTLIGHT

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The Voice of African-American Womanhood Since 1957

Ambassador Susan E. Rice Selected as Commencement Speaker

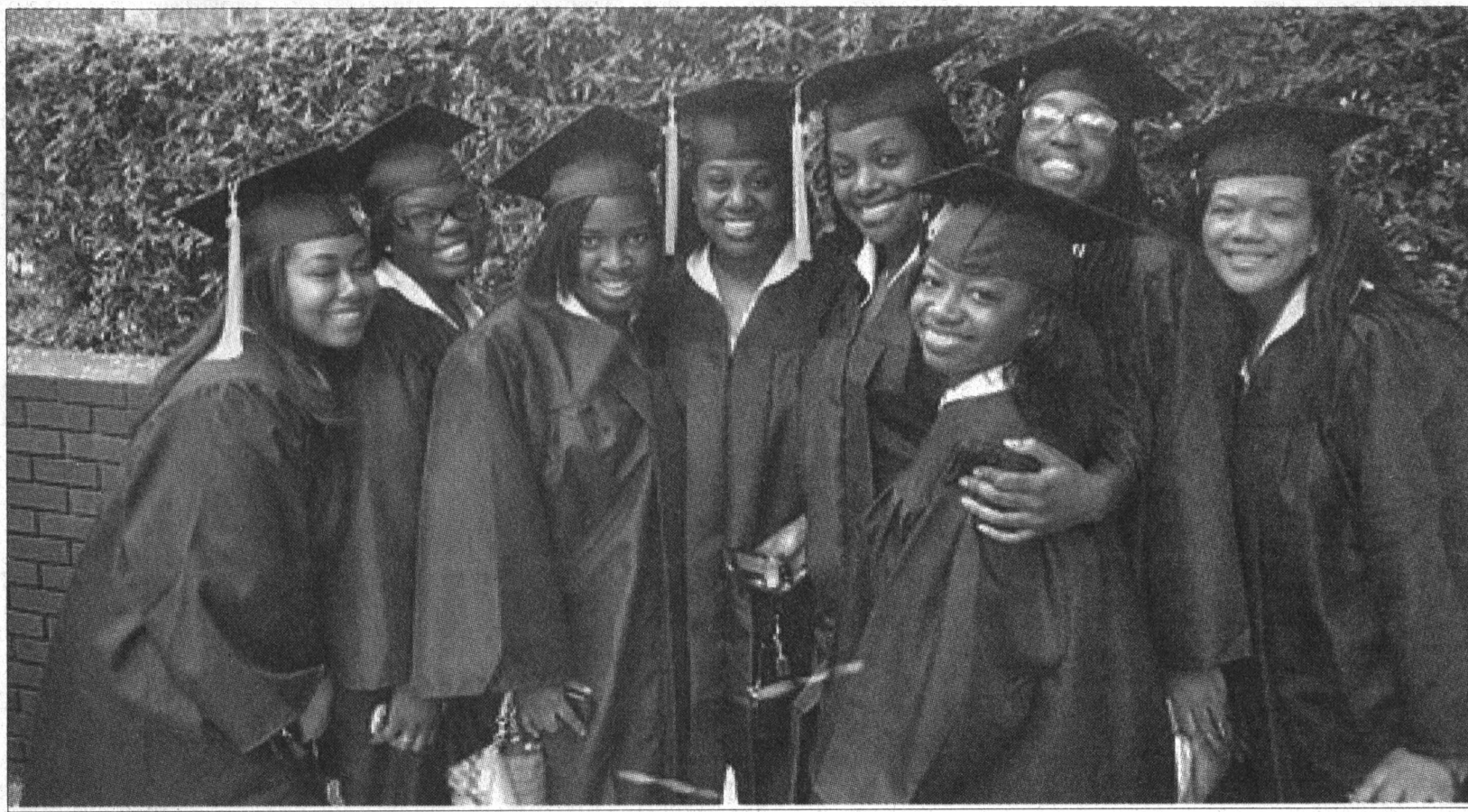
By Cherise Lesesne
News Editor

As the senior class anxiously prepares for the bittersweet moment when they walk across the stage with their caps and gowns, they will also be awaiting a charge, a lasting message that they can take with them as they begin a new phase of their lives after Spelman. This year Ambassador Susan E. Rice will give the commencement message.

The Senior Class Council, faculty and SSGA have been organizing the commencement celebration since the beginning of the fall semester. From selecting a place for the commencement ceremony to take place to printing the program, the commencement committee has worked diligently all year long to make commencement weekend a success. One major aspect of the commencement planning is selecting a commencement speaker. After several reviews and nominations, the Class of 2010 selected Ambassador Susan E. Rice to impart words of wisdom to the class as they prepare to begin their post-undergraduate journey.

In choosing the commencement speaker, the Spelman community works arduously, reviewing biographies and appointing prospective candidates. Starting early in September, faculty, the SSGA and the Senior Class Council begin the process of receiving recommendations from the Spelman community, including members of the Class of 2010, in order to find the best suited candidate. For several members of the class, First Lady Michelle Obama was the obvious choice for the commencement speaker. However, with the high demand from other universities and colleges to have Obama as their commencement speaker, Obama was unable to grant Spelman's request.

The recommendation for Ambassador Rice did not come from within the Spelman community, but from Obama herself. When she declined Spelman's offer, she suggested



Spelman College

Spelman seniors wear Spelman blue tassels to commemorate their Senior Legacy Gift to the College on Founders Day.

Ambassador Rice as the commencement speaker. Rice currently serves as the United States Ambassador to the United Nations and is a member of President Obama's cabinet.

The Senior Class Council and commencement committee voted on Rice and other qualified candidates. Ultimately, Rice received the nomination and her candidacy was forwarded to the Board of Trustees for official approval and recommendation.

Rice is well suited to be the commencement speaker, primarily because of her life-

long commitment to global peace and her impressive academic background.

"As Spelman becomes more involved globally, Ambassador Rice seemed to be a wonderful choice because of her involvement with the United Nations and her efforts toward global development," states Topaz Sampson, senior class president.

Rice started her involvement in government and global affairs as a foreign policy aide to Michael Dukakis during the 1988 Presidential

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207 Seniors leave their legacy

By Brivviah McClain
Staff Writer

The Class of 2010 raised the largest monetary gift made by any class of matriculating students in recent years at Spelman College. Through their innovative "Senior Legacy Gift" campaign, the Senior Class Council asked each senior to donate twenty dollars and ten cents to the College. While they did not expect 100% participation from the entire class, they did expect for those who could give to make the much needed investment.

"I do understand that some seniors may not be able to make such a financial contribution to the College at this time. Thus, it is my hope that this program inspires all seniors to carry with them the idea of how important it is to give back to Spelman as we transition into alumnae who will soon be in a position to give back," says Morgan Williams member of the senior class and president of The Power of Ten, an initiative under the Office of Institutional Advancement, the wing of the College aimed toward increasing alumnae giving.

Continued on page 2

Spelman's Board of Trustees Enact New Policies for Spelman

By Kelly Harper
News Editor

This semester the Spelman College Board of Trustees convened to address recurring issues, such as fundraising and air conditioning, in addition to developing policies to respond to recent events such as campus security after the death of Jasmine Lynn and to confirm honorary degree recipients for commencement.

The board's major focus was to discuss the College's Capital Campaign, a campaign created in an effort to raise \$150 million for the College," said Christina A. Whatley, student trustee. "Thus far the campaign has raised \$84 million, a little over 50 percent of the ultimate goal."

The board has a 100 percent participation rate for the giving to Spelman College, including both the faculty and student trustee. In response to College giving, the board has noticed a significant increase in alumnae giving, a problem the College has faced in the past.

In light of recent tragic acts of violence within the Atlanta University Center, the board advocated for increased safety measures for Spelman's campus. The board supported plans to expand bus service for Spelman students to reduce the amount of walking around the surrounding community, especially at night. This includes continuing to improve the services offered by the Brawley bus to the library. New safety measures were

also discussed, including the approval of a Sunday bus service to the Kroger grocery store. The board also emphasized the need to increase safety patrol around the College and surrounding areas.

Air conditioning the dorms on Spelman's campus has been a priority of the board for over the past decade and is an issue of high student interest. With mounting pressure from students, the board has been working on the issue for a substantial amount of time and the issue has been included as part of the college's strategic plan. To address the issue the board has established a comprehensive calendar for completion of the project.

"Funding has already been secured for two

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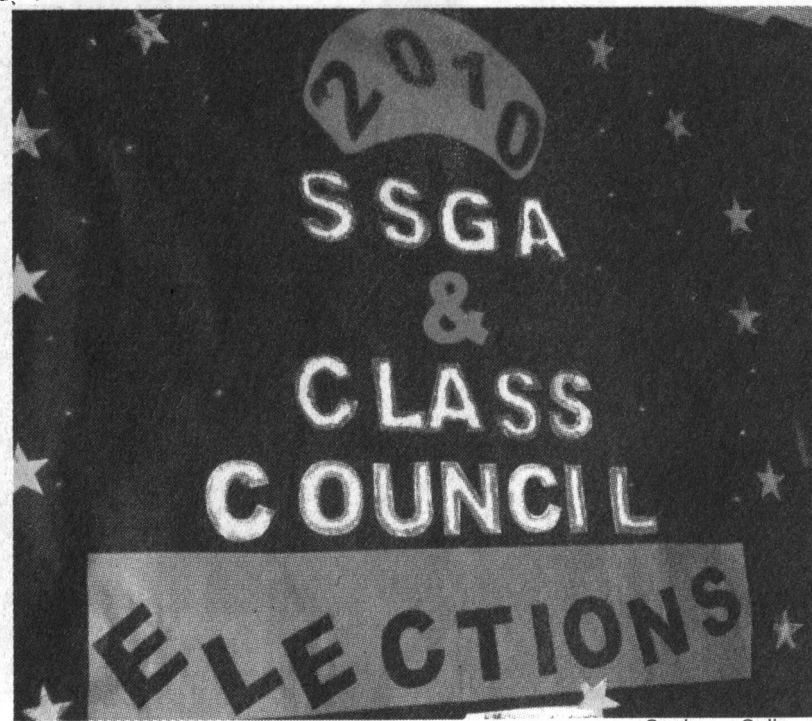
Interest Spikes in Student Affairs Position

By Toni Cannady
Staff Writer

The Spelman Student Government Association held interviews for its primary appointed positions for the 2010-2011 academic year shortly after elections. However, there was one position that was a new to the list - Secretary of Student Affairs. This position is traditionally an elected position; a position that students campaign for, creating elaborate posters, slogans and speeches to persuade the student body to elect them. However, this year no one chose to run for the position, an indication that gives light to a growing concern amongst many current students. Fewer and fewer students are showing interest in pursuing leadership positions on campus, especially in SSGA.

The opening of this position left many students wondering why no one had chose to run and the absence of a candidate made the SSGA elections less dynamic and in some ways incomplete. The lack of overall interest during the election season has many students wondering about the future of SSGA in the coming years. This is not only a concern for SSGA as a lack of interest was evident among the class councils. Only three first-year students ran for positions on Sophomore Class Council, which has 13 positions available. Lizzie McGowan, the Sophomore Class Council President 2010-2011 ran unopposed.

Interestingly, while no one ran for the



Spelman College

The Elections Commission created an election display in Upper Manley.

position of Secretary of Student Affairs, many students applied, including students who ran for SSGA positions and were defeated. The SSGA ultimately selected Stacy Mason, a junior, English major from St. Louis, Missouri. Mason did not run for a previous position. Mason previously served as co-publicity chair for Miss Spelman Advisory Board, and in her position she worked to enhance the Court's

visibility on campus.

"Stacey is a dynamic leader, someone who inspires people by her example; we chose her because she was the candidate who we felt would be the most personable, inspiring, and efficient," said Kelly Harper, Secretary of Academic Affairs 2010-2011.

Yet, the question still remains, if so many students were interested in applying for the position, why were they so uninterested in running in the election? Is the feat of running a campus-wide campaign too stressful for some students?

Many of the candidates who applied for the position found the campaigning process to be daunting and nerve-wracking. Running for an elected position isn't easy and takes a great deal of courage. In addition to the great expense of a student's time and finances, students are constantly under scrutiny by their peers. The debates are arguably the most intimidating aspect of campaigning as students are probed

with questions from current SSGA members and the student body. While the debates are meant to be professional, the lines between personal and professional are often blurred.

Regardless of the qualms one might have about running, it is important to keep in mind that every position on the SSGA Executive Board requires its members to work closely with administration and students. Assertiveness and courage are required to deal with challenges and pitfalls that may occur throughout the year and confidence is needed to approach students about SSGA initiatives.

The Secretary of Student Affairs position is vital to the fluidity of Spelman's student body as it is the position that handles student complaints and suggestions, in addition to coordinating activities that enhance the Spelman experience, primarily socially. Iva Stewart-Barre, Secretary of Student Affairs 2009-2010, provided a thorough platform and set of initiatives when she ran for her position last year, and it was her interpersonal acumen that led to her victory as SSGA President 2010-2011. One of Stewart-Barre's major initiatives as Secretary of Academic Affairs was her SSGA sponsored trip to Six Flags in fall 2009. This trip allowed almost 100 students to attend the amusement park for free, as well as have a free meal. Nevertheless, Stewart-Barre's enthusiasm and work in the position did not encourage students to run.

The SSGA Executive Board rather than the students body chose who they felt would best fulfill the position; and it is the hope of many students that she is the right choice.

Women of Color Conference 2010



By Deaweh Benson
Copy Editor

We have come a long way from the women's suffrage marches of the 19th century. Still, newer forms of oppression have materialized in this modern age. The Spelman College Leadership and Women of Color Conference seeks to equip women with the tools needed to face adversity in the 21st century.

The 6th annual Spelman College Leadership and Women of Color Conference took place on May 12-13 at Spelman College. The conference was coordinated by the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement under the leadership of Jane E. Smith, C'68, executive director of LEADS. The conference was designed to encourage meaningful dialogue and professional development between individuals and organizations. Furthermore, the conference charges participants to impact the quality of leadership for women of color and the diverse groups with whom they work and live.

Students are impressed with the notable selection of speakers and the innovative sessions offered at the conference.

"I gained a lot from the conference my freshman year because I had never been around women who authentically wanted to become leaders. The experience taught me that there is no blue print necessary in order

to become successful. Instead, I can become a leader in whatever manner or path I choose," said Shirley Noel, a junior.

Other students such as, Ayanna Cash-Clements value the conference for its many networking opportunities. "I met many of my greatest mentors during last year's conference. These phenomenal women have even played a role in helping me secure a summer internship with the Public Health Institute at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill," says Cash-Clements.

Although the past conferences were remarkable, this year's conference exceeded expectations. This year's theme, "Building Civil Communities for Change," challenged participants to engage in civic activism.

The keynote speaker, Ariana Huffington, co-founder and editor-in-chief of The Huffington Post, discussed the media's role in promoting civility. Additionally, Angela Burt-Murray, editor-in-chief of Essence and Mimi Valdez, former editor-in-chief of Latina, participated in a panel discussion on the importance of women in building and sustaining civil societies.

"The Women of Color conference is an excellent event and it is fitting that Spelman host the conference for professionals, as the College seeks to cultivate leaders amongst its students," stated Cash-Clements.

207 Seniors

Continued from cover page

The "Every Woman...Every Year!" campaign for Spelman met its goal of 5,000 alumna contributors by this year's Founders Day on April 11. In addition to the individual contributions, the College received a \$300,000 donation from an anonymous donor. The senior class is doing its part to help to build a pattern of giving amongst current students, which will hopefully encourage graduates to give as alumnae.

"I do feel that there is an increased responsibility for students and alumnae to give back to Spelman in a time where outside support is minimal because this is our institution and we need to show that we take responsibility for the up keeping of our

school so that donors can see the evidence of our care," says Topaz Sampson, senior class president.

This milestone for the senior class does not belong solely to the Senior Class Council. The "Senior Legacy Gift" campaign was a collaborative effort between the Senior Class Council, Regina Larkin, secretary of institutional advancement for SSGA and Morgan Williams. Together they made a decision to invest in their institution by taking on the responsibility of giving back.

"Students and alumnae always have the responsibility to give back to Spelman, no matter how abundant or minimal outside support may be provided. Spelman is an institution that stands on ideals of excellence. Most people do not understand this, but of all the women's colleges in the nation, Spelman

stands as the lowest in alumnae contributions," says Williams.

Members of the senior class seemed to take their gift to the college very seriously. Many approached this opportunity to make a difference with eager interest. Senior Legacy Gift participants, like Justina Wells, were thoroughly excited and proud about the donation and the reality that commencement is coming. Seniors stood by the decision to invest their money in giving back to the College, rather than a bench, tree, which have been typical Senior Class Gifts to the College. Collectively, the class raised approximately \$5,100 to go towards funding scholarships for matriculating students.

"The senior class has been very willing to give thus far. I receive calls and emails daily from members of the Senior Class asking for

how they can contribute to the Senior Legacy Gift," says Sampson.

The Class of 2010 will leave their legacy behind for future graduating classes to continue for years to come. On Founders Day, 207 seniors wore their blue tassels in honor of the choice they made to invest in the future of Spelman College. With the choice already made to change their institution for the better, the class of 2010 will be well on their way to making the choice to change the world.

"I feel that as we are adorned in our academic regalia during our proudest moment we will have a visual representation of our commitment to invest in the college which has provided so much for us," says Williams.

Board of Trustees

Continued from cover page

dorms and the next step is implementation," stated Whatley.

Whatley also addressed rumors that the board is trying to eradicate Market Friday, but she affirmed it is simply a rumor.

"In regard to Market Friday, it was brought to our attention there was a liability involved with the College having vendors selling illegal goods that could cause the College to undergo a lawsuit from various companies."

The infringement rights of the companies are an issue and a major reason why the board is reevaluating certain aspects.

"The board feels that it is an amazing event," says Whatley. "We're in conversation with Public Safety and administration to figure out the best way to address these issues."

Another role of the Board of Trustees is to approve the recommendation for Commencement speakers and honorary degree recipients. This year's commencement speaker will be Susan E. Rice and Marian Wright Edelman, a graduate of Spelman College and Yale Law School will receive an honorary degree from Spelman at the

commencement ceremony.

Many students consider the board to be mysterious and unseen figures, however in an effort to change this perception the board ate lunch in the cafeteria with members of student body.

"The board is like a team of advisers who help Spelman succeed - lawyers, activists, academics and people in the financial industry. We have an expert in essentially every field," states Whatley. The board also is a voluntary organization and does not receive any compensation for the work they do on behalf of the College.

The board examines many rules and policies

of the College to ensure that the rules and policies accurately reflect the current state of Spelman College. While some issues and specifics that the board presides over must remain confidential, the board aims to consider the affects of its decisions on the Spelman students, faculty, staff and alumnae.

Christina A. Whatley encourages students to become active participants in the decisions that will affect them and their Spelman experience. Contact her with questions, concerns or comments via email at cwhatley@scmail.spelman.edu

Dirty South Step Team Continues 2-Year Winning Streak

By Briyyah McClain
Staff Writer

Spring semester in the AUC is not only a time for welcoming the beauty of flowers, green trees, and warm weather. Spring semester is also an exciting time on campus as we elect new SSGA officers, crown school queens and witness the annual Freshman Step Show. For the second year in a row, the Dirty South step team has staked their claim as the freshman step team to beat as they competed against the Midwest/West Coast and East Coast teams.

In years past the Freshman Step Show has been held in Read Hall but this year the Freshman Class Council believed the show deserved a bigger venue.

"We knew that Read Hall was the traditional location, but the opportunity to see the hard work of the step teams could also be seen somewhere else. Therefore, we moved it to Forbes Arena at Morehouse College, and it turned out to be a great show and fundraiser," says Monique Gray, vice president of the freshman class. This year's step show grossed the most funds from the Freshman Step Show in the history of Spelman College. According to Monet McGruder, treasurer of the freshman class, the step show was the most successful fundraiser for the Freshman Class Council for the entire year. The number of seats allowed more students to support their region and the teams.

The Dirty South step team also performed at Spelbound in the Suites Amphitheater. The performance further confirmed that the Dirty South step team was the deserving winner. The performance also generated excitement about Spelman and

the first-year experience among Spelbound attendees.

"Those girls were great. I can see that freshman year at Spelman is going to be so exciting. I'm not too sure about those faces they made, but I want to step," says Renita Roberts, a Spelbound participant.

The team's precision and the biker theme

hoping that the Dirty South step team would take the victory over her own regional team.

"Many students from other regions outside of the Southern states probably felt the same way and changed their mind once they saw the performances," says Tidline.

Members of the 2010 Dirty South step team predicted that this would be the case, as their

says Avery Berry, a first-year student and member of the Dirty South step team.

The victory was also shared with previous members of the Dirty South step team, who worked with the team as their step coaches.

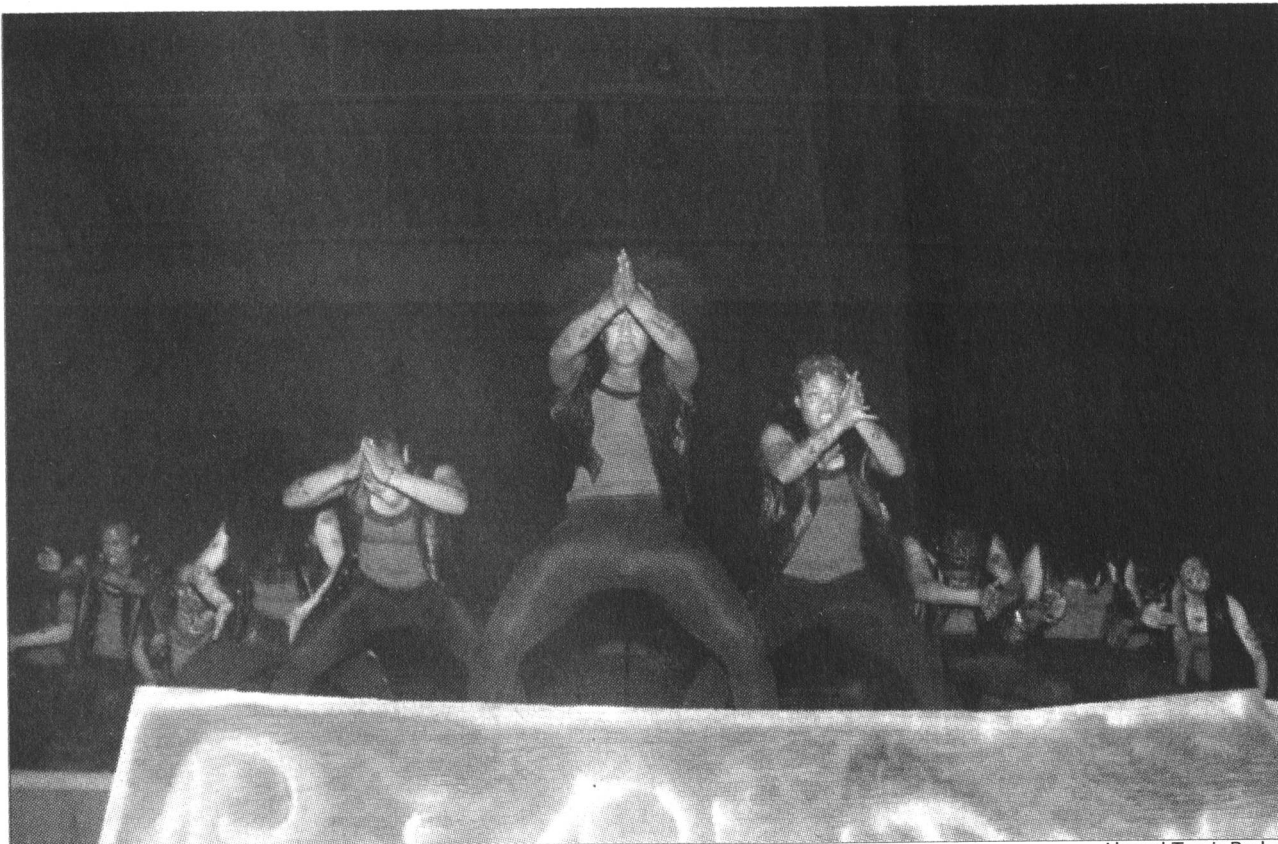
"I was there at least once a week. Yes, we were prepared to win, my first reaction was two years in a row we are holding it down," says Ashley Rogers, a sophomore and member of the championship 2009 Dirty South step team.

"I had only been to a couple of practices and at first I wasn't too sure that they were as ready as we were, but I was at the practice the day before the show and I knew that they would win," says Borley Quay, a sophomore and member of the 2009 Dirty South step team.

The team's hard work and preparation proved successful in spite of the brief suspension that was placed on practices for all of the first-year step teams.

"We feel great and accomplished. The practices were extremely hard and even though we went through a lot we built bonds with each other and we learned each other's strengths and weaknesses, so it was beneficial in the end," Berry says.

If a formula could be given to the next year's step team, in hopes that they can break Dirty South's reign as the best freshman step team it would consist of confidence, working hard, working together and learning from each other. The winning attitude is key and Dirty South has definitely upheld that attitude. Perhaps next year's spring semester will give birth to a new Freshman Step Show winner, but for now Dirty South will maintain their position as the step show champions.



The Dirty South step team performs in the annual Freshman Step Show competition. In spite of initial concerns of show cancellation, the event turned out to be a crowd pleaser and a great success.

ranked high amongst the reasons why Dirty South was the night's favorite performance. AUC students like Danielle Tidline, a sophomore at Spelman felt like a traitor for

show was strong enough to win over students who might be loyal to their own regions.

"We worked really hard and had a lot of people not on our side, but we pulled it out,"

Civil Right Matriarch Dies At 98

By Brittany Fennell
The Forum Editor



Dorothy I. Height died on April 20 at the age of 98. As a pioneering voice for civil rights, her career spanned from the New Deal, to the Civil Rights Movement, to the election of the first multicultural president, Barack Obama. She was president of the National Council of Negro Women and the 10th National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

As a pioneering figure in the fight for civil rights, Dorothy I. Height was a symbol of monumental strength and social change. Height's stood in the face of opposition and oppression by challenging adversities courageously. America lost a living legend on April 20, when Height was pronounced dead at Howard University Hospital from natural causes. Her funeral was held on April 29 at the Washington National Cathedral. Family, friends and grieverers came to celebrate the wife and work of the 98-year-old civil rights activist.

Height was not afraid to stand boldly against inequalities that hindered African Americans from living justly in this country. Her undeniable courage and strength led her to effectively help change the lives for many within the African American community. As a civil rights leader, she was instrumental in advocating on behalf of black women, many of who are oppressed as a result of the socioeconomic class, race and gender.

Height served as president of the National Council of Negro Women from 1957 to 1997. During her 40 years as president she tackled high profile issues, such as voter rights, poverty, and gender equality.

President Barack Obama honored the life of Dorothy I. Height as he spoke sentimental words about her and her work legacy and impact on civil rights in this country.

"The love in this sanctuary is a testament to a life lived righteously, a life that lifted other lives, a life that changed this country for the better over the course of nearly one century here on Earth...she too deserves a place in our history books," said President Obama.

The Howard University Choir sang "Precious Lord," a selection, which brought tears to the eyes of those in attendance.

Gospel singer Bebe Winans also honored

Height by singing "Stand" by Donnie McClurkin. The lyrics spoke of Height's steadfast devotion to advocating for others and commemorated Height's life.

Her 88-year-old nephew also spoke about the impact his aunt had on his life as she was a constant source of inspiration and shaped him into the person he is today.

Spelman student Christina Whatley interned with Height for two years at NCNW headquarters in Washington, D.C. and attended her funeral service.

The service ended with Maya Angelou reciting Height's favorite bible verse, Psalm 139, which reads, "Lord, you have searched me and known me...lead me in the way that is everlasting."

Height's presence will never be forgotten as she worked tirelessly to help the oppressed and hopeless. Her accomplishments and achievements displayed her strength and extraordinary character. Height will continue be a role model and legend for generations to come. Her life will be particularly poignant for Spelman women who will continue Height's fight against injustice and advocate for equality, especially for black women.

"For Spelman students, especially, Dr. Height's life should show us that we should dedicate ourselves to something we are passionate about and make it a priority and lifetime commitment. I hope that the Spelman administration will take the initiative in establishing some sort of memorial for Dr. Height whether it is in the form of a scholarship or event. It is extremely important that Spelman is at the forefront of honoring Dr. Height's legacy because Spelman is the global leader in educating the world about the accomplishments of black women," said Whatley.

Her legacy will continue to live on in the hearts of many and she will be remembered for her persistence and perseverance in creating opportunity and change.

Benefits of New Health Care Reform For College Students

By Nicole Smith
Staff Writer

President Barack Obama passed the long anticipated health care reform bill on March 22. This historic bill will reduce the cost of health care for families and small businesses, increase the eligibility for Medicare and Medicaid recipients and ban insurance companies from denying coverage to numerous Americans based upon their previously given reasons. For Spelman students it is important to know how this reform will affect them as both females and recent college graduates, many of whom will be entering the workforce.

College students under the bill will now have the right to remain under their parents' health insurance policy for longer. The new health care reform bill requires insurance companies to allow dependent children to stay on their parents' insurance policies until the age of 26. The only stipulations are that children cannot have jobs that offer insurance and their parents' must claim them as dependents on their taxes.

Another change to anticipate is a decrease in the price of your insurance policy. The health

care reform bill places a ban on higher insurance premiums for women. Females' health insurance premiums, the periodic payments made to the insurance company for active coverage, have been proven to cost more than 50 percent in comparison to males' health insurance premiums. The bill also stipulates that it will be illegal for a health insurance plan to limit, exclude or set high coverage rates for an individual or dependent due to a pre-existing health condition. However, these two laws will not be put into effect until 2014.

Many students at Spelman and across the country have responded very positively to the new laws.

"It's great! I love the USA! At least we are finally starting to get equal treatment. First Obama mandated equal pay for women and now we are getting equal premiums. What's next?" says Lisa Jones, a current student at Spelman College. "Obama's health care bill will greatly enhance American's quality of life," added Crystal James, also a student at Spelman.

Students pursuing careers in the medical or public health field will experience the results of this reform first hand. Due to the lack of

primary care providers in many communities, the bill includes incentives to increase primary care practitioners to 16,500 who will then go to in the medical field who will practice in underserved areas. The legislation also states plans to invest in a national prevention and public health strategy, improve education on disease prevention and public health and eliminate cost sharing for recommended preventative care. In addition, the legislation will invest in scholarship and loan repayment programs in order to increase the number of American students who pursue careers in health care, especially as primary care physicians.

The bill also offers many benefits for small businesses. The health care reform bill will provide the largest tax cut in health care for small businesses in history. The bill will create health insurance exchanges, a grouping of competitive marketplaces where small businesses can buy affordable health care coverage in a manner similar to the benefits offered by big businesses. Beginning in 2014, all places of employment that employ over 50 people, will be required to offer a health care plan. The plan must cover at least 60 percent of their employees overall health care costs.

The biggest change to anticipate is the new law, which makes the government the sole issuer of all federal college loans. This law will save taxpayers approximately \$68 billion over the next ten years, and the money saved will go towards strengthening programs, such as the Federal Pell Grant Program. The law removes banks from the federal loan process, and in doing so saves money. This change allows the government to cap college graduates' annual student loan repayment at 10 percent of their income as well as provide an estimated \$2.55 billion dollars to Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Many of the changes in the new health care reform bill will not go into effect until 2014. Since these changes are so new, Student Health Services is not sure how exactly Spelman insurance will be changed.

"We are unsure how the health care reform bill will affect students' Spelman insurance because it is so new. As a nurse, however, I am very excited about these changes in health care," said Brenda Dalton, director of Student Health Services.

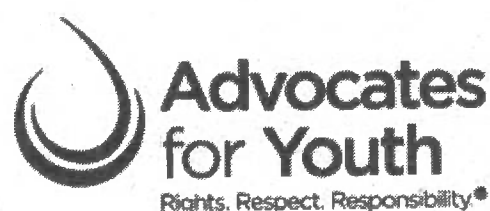
One thing is for certain, Spelman students should expect to see a lot of change regarding

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FOUNDERS' DAY

129 YEARS AND COUNTING

Are We Rooted In Our Founding?

By Deaweh Benson
Copy Editor

As the historic day approached, flyers hung from residents' doorknobs reminding them about the upcoming Founders Day Celebration. The eye-catching flyer served its purpose by alerting students about the appropriate Founders Day attire. Whether it was successful in stirring emotion or even reverence for the momentous day is another question entirely.

Some students were reluctant to take part in the Founders Day activities as the requirements to partake in the day's activities were viewed as hassles for some. An anonymous first-year student said that she planned to skip the festivities. "I frankly did not feel like being tied down by the strict dress code or sitting through another Spelman convocation."

This student's comment unearths a pressing reality for the Spelman community. After New Student Orientation, many first-year students stop caring about Spelman's history and traditions. Often times, first-year students become enveloped in the adjustment to current campus life that the regard for the historic campus that housed the founders is lost. Another anonymous student states, "Before Founders Day, I would have forgotten the College's founding year had it not been for a Spelman sweatshirt that I own, which has the year on it."

Fortunately, for students who decided to attend, the general apathy towards Founders Day subsided after the program took place. Although, some may have held some initial reservations about the ceremony, the experience of the event proved powerful enough to eliminate such attitudes.

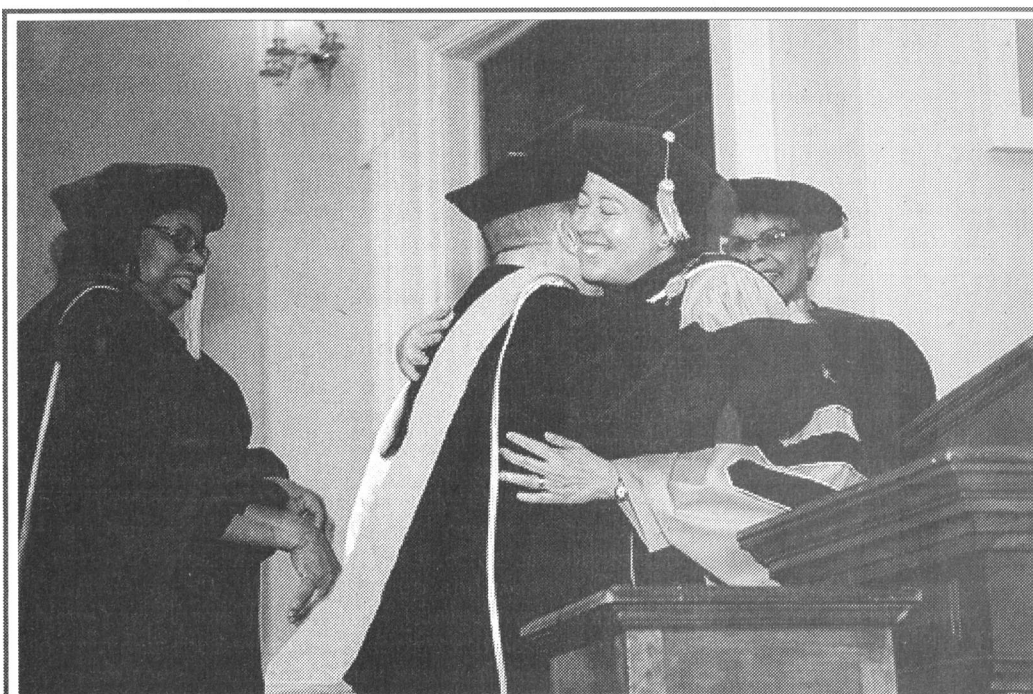
"Founders Day is just a magical day at Spelman College," said Inez Daniels, a sophomore. Afton Lane, a first-year student agreed, stating "Founders Day made me fall back in love with Spelman."

"Of course you kind of dread going to Founders Day because we already know the history, but thanks to the drama and dance department and the Spelman College Glee Club - we were able to feel the history. This feeling really reconnected me with Spelman," says Camesha Jones, a first-year student.

One of the more popular moments of the day was the Granddaughter's Club presentation. The organization captivated the audience with a selection that brought the past and present generations of Spelman College together through stirring spoken word pieces as the organization celebrated its 100th anniversary.

Sophomore Briana Bowie, a participant in the Granddaughter's Club presentation, stated, "while I recited my lines I truly felt like I was a part of the Spelman legacy. I am just so glad that everyone seemed to enjoy the presentation just as much as I enjoyed delivering it."

It is easy for students to become consumed in each of our own hectic lives. Unfortunately, our own day-to-day schedules cause us to lose sight of the beautiful story that binds us to the heart and soul of Spelman College. Founders Day exists as a tool to realign the student body to the history and original goals of the college. Thankfully, the Founders Day ceremony continually exceeds expectations and successfully immerses the student body into the history that is Spelman College.



Exceptional Alumnae Honored During Founders' Day

By Dajae Gilliard-White
Staff Writer

For 129 years, Spelman College has continued its legacy of sisterhood, leadership, and creating women who will change the world. This year's Founders Day Convocation incorporated dance, theatrics and spoken word to remind students of the college's core ideals and traditions and charge students to build upon the college's prestigious legacy. The convocation was held in Sisters Chapel on April 8 and honored playwright, essayist, poet, writer and journalist Pearl Cleage, C'71 and community-servant leader, Joy San Walker Brown, C'52.

During convocation, President Beverly D. Tatum honored the accomplishments of Cleage, Walker and other notable Spelman community members. Cleage was honored as the College's Honorary Degree Recipient, receiving an honorary degree in fine arts. Cleage has had a plethora of essays and articles published in magazines, such as *Essence* and *Vibe*. Her first novel, *What Looks Like Crazy* on an Ordinary Day, has been well received by literary circles. Her novel was selected as a selection for Oprah's Book Club and was a New York Times best seller. Cleage was also prized as the literary winner of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association's literary award. As the youngest daughter of Albert Cleage, founder of the Shrine of the Black Madonna Church and Centers in

Detroit and Atlanta, Cleage continues to uphold her family's legacy through her own personal success.

Dr. Tatum also recognized civic leader, Brown, for her commitment to community service as the recipient of the Founders Spirit Award. The Founders Spirit Award is given to the alumna whose life and work is representative of the founders' dedication and commitment to helping others.

"My gratitude is boundless," said Brown, a former elementary school teacher who has served on numerous community boards and is active in leadership development and youth organizations. Brown credited the faculty and staff at Spelman for nurturing her and challenging her to the best she could be.

The True Blue Award was given to Sylvia Bozeman, professor of mathematics for her 35 years of dedication to the College.

The ceremony also acknowledged the Rockefeller family for their many contributions to the College since its founding. This year also marked the 100th anniversary of Spelman's Granddaughters Club; a portion of the convocation was devoted to honoring the organization.

Commemorating the achievements of notable alumnae and faculty and staff, and their many contributions to the College is only one aspect of Founders Day. Spelman also uses Founders Day to celebrate both the first-year students who are commencing their journey as Spelman women and seniors who

are leaving Spelman's gates, prepared and equipped to change the world.

For first-year students, Founders Day gives them the opportunity to fully appreciate the school's founding and its perpetual drive to prepare and cultivate young women who will make a lasting impact on their communities and the world.

"I've learned a lot as a freshman about work ethic and social life. I had to get my priorities in order to prove myself here and I'm still working on it," Chauncey Strayhorn, a first-year, music major. "I learned about who to trust and about making connections with people. I also learned to ask questions."

As first-year students take in the new experience of Founders Day Convocation, seniors gain a new appreciation and understanding for the ceremony and what it represents.

"As a freshman, Founders Day was just a day. I didn't know too much about it or what was going on; I didn't really take in the experience of what Founder's day meant because I didn't have any knowledge or experiences to ascribe it to," said Kalli Williams, a senior.

Some believe that Founders Day is primarily a celebration of Spelman's longevity and history, but for Williams, the meaning is far more significant.

"As a senior it means a day of honoring not only myself, but the legacy of the College. It means I've made it this far and there are only better things to come," she states.

The White Dress Tradition

By Deaweh Benson
Copy Editor

Spelman College proudly maintains a significant balance between acknowledging our time-honored traditions and establishing new and beneficial opportunities to forward the institutional mission and vision into the 21st century and beyond. The wearing of white dresses on designated official occasions is among the most well-respected and treasured of the College's traditions.

The obligatory commitment for each Spelman student to have a "respectable and conservative" white dress was established around 1900. During this period, a white dress was the attire most often used for formal occasions. This tradition established a uniformed appearance among those present and denoted the significance of the occasion or event. Prior to the 1940s, the white dress was worn with hosiery made of cotton. However, with the invention of nylon came beige and tan colored stockings. These stockings, referred to as "flesh-toned," were worn with black shoes. Black shoes were a part of the basic clothing requirements, as all Spelman students were required to



Spelman College
First-year students wore white dresses during Founders Day Convocation.

have a pair of "sensible black shoes." This recommendation was made in an effort to avoid overwhelming students and parents with the cost of having to provide more than one pair of shoes.

In the spirit of this tradition, all first-year students are required to wear this traditional white dress ensemble for the New Student Orientation Induction Ceremony. All students are required to wear it when attending the Founders Day Convocation, and graduating seniors are required to wear this same attire underneath the academic regalia for Founders Day, Class Day, Baccalaureate and Commencement. It is also requested that alumnae wear this attire when attending the Founders Day Convocation, related Founders Day activities hosted by alumnae and chapters of the Alumnae Association around the country, and for the march through the Alumnae Arch held during Reunion.

Spelman Community Uplifts Nepali Student



Palapasa Manandhar

By Alexis Carter
Staff Writer

Hailing from Kathmandu, Nepal, first year

student Palapasa Manandhar embraces Spelman's motto of a "free thinking woman." Women in Manandhar's Kathmandu community are unable to display their assertions or freely express their opinions. Manandhar finds Spelman College and her colleagues as a welcomed change to the Nepali way of life.

Manandhar says her Spelman sisters enhance her self-esteem and worth, in a way that she did not experience back home. This time last year, as a high school senior, Manandhar did a search for the "top liberal arts colleges for women;" Spelman College was at the top of that list. She considered Spelman the best choice and was offered admission to Spelman as a Bonner's Scholar, a prestigious servant-leadership scholarship. For Manandhar to apply and gain acceptance into college was an exceptional feat in itself. In Kathmandu, often times she felt her efforts to receive an education were overlooked in comparison to her male counterparts. Nepali women rank substantially low in comparison to men in literacy and education rates. According to the

UNICEF, in 2000-2007, the gross secondary school enrollment ratio for Nepali women was only 41 percent.

Spelman's environment has given Manandhar a new found sense of confidence. Once extremely shy and nervous, Manandhar now exudes self-assurance and poise. She currently serves as the second attendant to the 2009-2010 Miss International Student Organization. "I feel empowered being surrounded by all the Spelman women that are working hard to achieve their goals - they motivate me to work harder," she says. When asked of the expectations her teachers now instill in her to excel, Manandhar said, "I feel like my work is held to a higher standard of excellence."

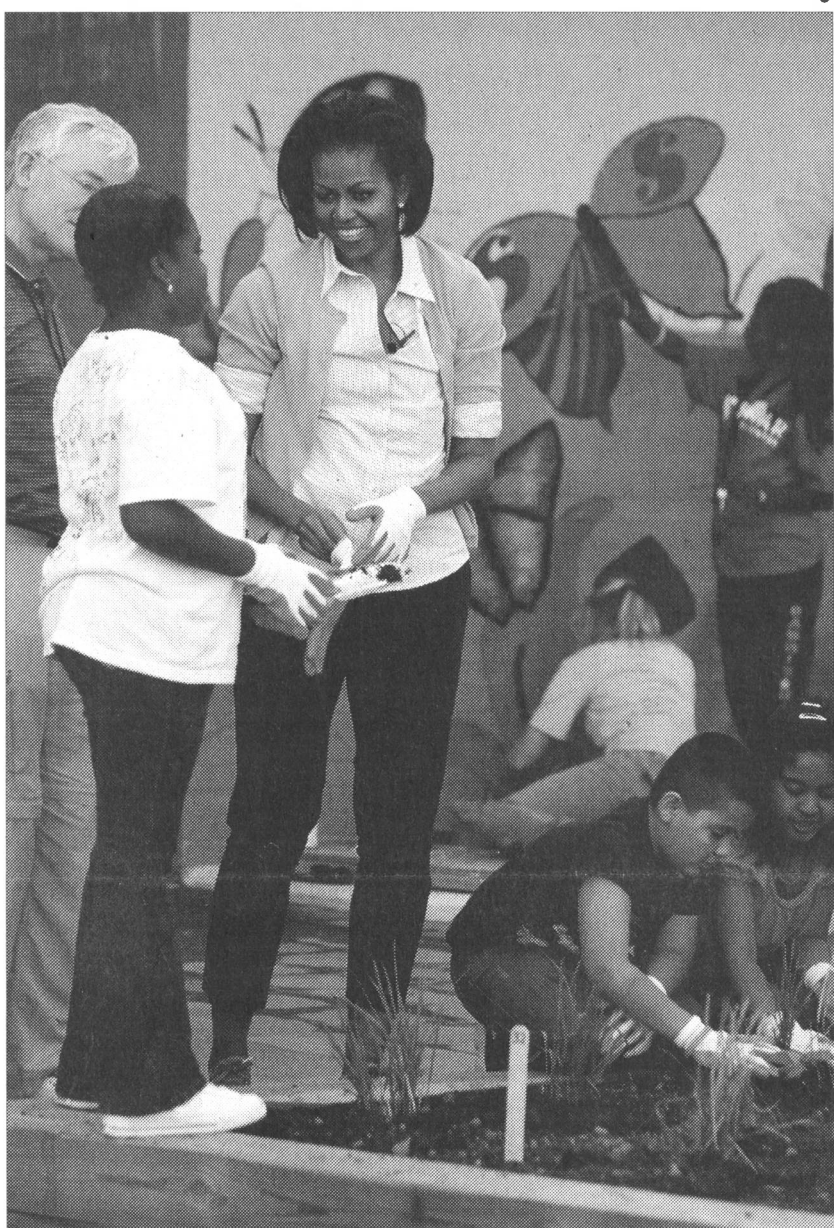
Upon returning to Nepal, Manandhar intends to share what she has learned at Spelman, especially the knowledge she has taken away from the first year required course, African Diaspora and the World (ADW), with her community. ADW teaches Manandhar to be a "free thinking woman" and encourages her to analyze and think critically, using both her

own knowledge and experiences, and those of others. As a "free thinking woman, I will encourage younger girls in Nepal to speak out about what they are thinking and to not accept everything they are told," Manandhar said.

As Nepal continues to bear the strains of an ancient caste system, similar to India, members of the higher castes harbor brutal prejudices against citizens of the lower castes. The systems in descending order begin with Brahmin, high priest; Chhetri, soliders; Vaishya, technical workers; and Shudra, "untouchable" peasant laborers. Manandhar, a citizen of the Vaishya caste, says the caste reinforces inequality of women in all areas of society.

Manandhar with all her accomplishments thus far has yet to reach her plateau of success. "If you have a certain determination or desire to do something, then no race, neither caste, nor any other barrier will act as a barrier to achieve your goals."

The Obamas Versus Obesity



Jason Reed/Reuters

First Lady Michelle Obama spent the day at Marie H. Reed Community Learning Center in Washington, D.C. She painted murals, helped plant a butterfly garden, as well as a vegetable plot.

By Nicole Smith
Staff Writer

President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama are working hard to fight obesity in America. As part of the recently signed health care reform bill, Barack Obama has mandated a calorie posting law. At the same time, Michelle Obama has launched her "Let's Move" campaign aimed at putting an end to childhood obesity.

Obesity is an epidemic in America. The National Center for Health Statistics reported that in 2007-2008, 34 percent of Americans 20 years and older were obese. Research also shows that at least half of all children will be diagnosed with heart problems, hypertension, asthma, cancer or musculoskeletal conditions that are directly related to obesity.

President Barack Obama's new law requires that restaurant chains post calorie counts for all the food items they sell. The law also states that these calorie counts must be on menus, drive through displays, and vending machines. Additional nutrition information such as sodium levels, saturated fats and carbohydrates must be available upon request as well.

"I actually appreciate this law very much. I am a vegan, and I tend to just like to know what I am eating. And sometimes I end up eating things I am not supposed to eat because I didn't know what was in it," explains Hadiya Sewer, a sophomore at Spelman.

However, only chain restaurants with twenty or more outlets have to comply with this law. This means the law only applies to approximately 200,000 restaurants, and excludes roughly 375,000 other restaurants.

While some restaurant owners are opposed to the new law, others support it. Many restaurant owners are arguing that the new labeling will not do anything to help America's growing obesity problem. It was mandated in the past that packaged food items come with nutrition labels however including these labels have done little to nothing to decrease the obesity trend. Many owners also say the labeling will be inaccurate and will increase menu costs, resulting in higher prices for consumers. Meanwhile some fast food chains, such as Burger King, and restaurants, such

as Olive Garden and Longhorn Steakhouse, support the law and claim it will simplify its menu labeling.

"It'll make me more conscious of things that I eat. I think it'll have little effect on what people eat because they already have the nutrition facts out on many things now and people don't pay attention. I think people will feel bad internally, but won't care when they are eating it," states Rachel Roberts, a sophomore.

"We did that [labeling] in 2001. I don't think it will affect our business. People eat what they want to eat," says Beverly Weaver, manager of the Popeyes restaurant on Lee Street.

"The calorie posting law may be of some benefit to those who actually pay attention to the foods that they consume. However, most people do not change their eating habits until a health issue occurs, ultimately forcing them to make adjustments to their diet," says Alexis Wasson, a junior at Spelman College.

The First Lady is also continuing the fight against obesity in America with her "Let's Move" campaign, designed to educate Americans about the dangers and health concerns associated with childhood obesity. The campaign places a major emphasis on the importance of keeping children active and providing them with proper nutrition.

"Childhood obesity is an epidemic in the United States. It's a shame for us to be as advanced as we are, yet we are suffering, more so, than other countries in that area. Eventually our whole population will be obese!" says Michelae Hobbs.

She initiated her campaign by participating in a children's soccer game, and later talking to children about the importance of eating healthy and exercising. Her program advocates getting kids involved in more outdoor activities, such as biking and skating, and encouraging them to remain active through sports or dance programs. To tie into Michelle Obama's "Let's Move" campaign, the Obamas have decided to theme this year's annual White House Easter Egg Roll "Ready, Set, Go!" and will be adding fitness activities like yoga and dancing to the day's festivities.

"I think her campaign is a great idea. It is really important, especially in the African American community. We tend to die from a lot of heart related diseases, so it is important to install proper eating habits and athletic activities at a young age," explains Jasmine Wheeler, a student at Spelman.

"These programs promote awareness. In America we are unaware of the effects of childhood obesity," states Janiqwa Worsley, a Spelman student.

Michelle Obama hopes to solve the childhood obesity epidemic within a generation. While she knows her goal is ambitious, she feels it is important. Between her "Let's Move" campaign and her husband's new law and health care reform bill we should expect see a decrease in obesity in America.

I Got Five On It

By Nicole Smith
Staff Writer

Tuition is extremely high, money is alarmingly tight, and yet it seems as though every organization at Spelman is still asking for contributions. Most students immediately state that they do not have the money at the slightest mention of the word donation. But, how many of us take the time to really listen to the objective of the donation? The Student Philanthropy Council has started a campaign to increase student gifts for Spelman titled, "Give Five to See Spelman Thrive."

The "Give Five to See Spelman Thrive" campaign raises money by encouraging students to donate \$5 dollars by the end of the 2009-2010 school year. The monetary goal of the campaign is to raise \$1000 dollars by Founders Day to be placed in an unrestricted fund. An unrestricted fund consists of donations that the organization can put towards any purpose. This fund is split into the following four funds: A Dream Not Deferred Scholarship Fund, the Presidential Safety Net Scholarship Fund, a general scholarship fund, and a miscellaneous fund. The Dream Not Deferred scholarship was generated to help first-year and sophomore students, while the Presidential Safety Net scholarship was created to aid juniors and seniors. In addition, the general scholarship fund goes toward the many other numerous scholarships Spelman offers, such as those given upon acceptance freshman year. The miscellaneous fund is one Spelman uses for a number of things, such as repairs and periodic maintenance. Students can select which fund they would like the

donation to go towards, however it is required that the donation remain unrestricted.

"For me, personally, it is a big way to show Spelman pride. It is a way to give back while you are still here," states Adelia Wilder, vice president of the Student Philanthropy Council.

However, the "Give Five to See Spelman Thrive" campaign is as much about the monetary donations, as it is about the number of donors. Spelman was recently at risk of losing a grant of over \$1 million because the donor was displeased with the lack of student giving. Ultimately, the donor provided Spelman with a grant, however due to their dissatisfaction the school was not given the original amount.

"The point of us doing this campaign is to increase the number of student giving. If other people see that we care then they'll care," stated Courtney Moragne, secretary of the Student Philanthropy Council.

The Student Philanthropy Council will report the number of student donations to the Office of Institutional Advancement, who then conveys this information to potential outside donors to encourage them to donate as well. These investors will be more likely to offer their financial support because of the support from the student body. This year the number of student donations has increased from previous years, and as a result so has the number of outside donations.

Needless to say, the donations help keep students in school as well as maintain different aspects of the campus.

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The Majority has Spoken

By Shannon Palmore
The Forum Editor

Now that the health care bill has been passed, backlash is unnecessary.

The closest I have come to being deprived of a health-related resource occurred when my mother lost her job, and our family also lost dental coverage. Not being able to visit the dentist's office on a regular basis may not seem to be a major health hazard, but untreated cavities and gum disease pose high health risks. On a much smaller scale, I understand the plight of millions of Americans who need, but cannot afford, health care. I know what it is like to be without, to need something, and not have a way to pay for it.

When the House of Representatives passed the health care bill on Mar. 21, I was pleased that the right choice had been made for our country. Our health care system is the most expensive in the world. The current poverty rate is the highest it has ever been in over a

decade, and the median income is steadily declining. So, for many Americans, affording adequate health care is a difficult feat.

Access to health care should not be a privilege for the wealthy elite. It is a necessity for all because illness and disease do not discriminate based on the size of a person's wallet. President Obama recognized this fact when he proposed the bill to reform health care in our country, as did a majority of the House Democrats, who approved it, and the millions of Americans who supported their efforts.

Our government is structured to speak for the majority. When the majority of the House Democrats voted for the health care reform bill, they were speaking for the majority of Americans who would benefit from its implementation.

For the millions who have praised the bill's historical passing, millions have also condemned it. Why the backlash?

Opponents' (who are mostly Republican) outrage following the bill's passing has been

astronomical. Opponents continue to voice their fear that the bill will give the government unwarranted control over their choice in health care, and they are adamantly against its costliness. For example, Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue, a Republican, decided to sue the federal government in order to block the health care bill from implementing its changes within the state.

Republican response to the bill is unsettling. Even after the bill has passed, Republican officials, and those American citizens who oppose it, continue to deride the bill, as if they are speaking for all Americans. But doing so contradicts what the American political structure stands for, representing the good and will of the majority. Their opposition to the bill speaks only for the fortunate few who have the option of choosing their own health care and those who can afford health care on their own. Considering the current state of the economy and the financial status of many Americans, the oppositions made by Republicans are not

the same sentiments shared by the majority.

Government officials have the right to advocate for the people – it is, in fact, their job. It doesn't matter if they're fighting for the minority or majority, but to be so brash and ignore the greater good of groundbreaking legislation is detrimental to the progress of our country, at its outset, disconcerting.

The United States' political system is governed by the will of the majority – and the majority has spoken. Thus, there is no reason for Republican officials or other opponents to continue to contest and degrade the health care reform bill.

Now that President Obama has signed the bill into law, the lives of millions of Americans will at least improve, and at the most be saved.

Are HBCUs Necessary?

By Vann Newkirk
Contributing Writer

The HBCU in today's world is facing tough times. Even before an Associated Press report earlier this year exposed the appallingly low six-year graduation rates at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, the recent strides of black Americans, culminating with the election of the first black President, Barack Obama, and the increasing acceptance of blacks into majority institutions have called into question the mission of HBCUs.

Based on the report from the AP, it would seem that HBCUs are failing to deliver. Even among the schools considered "Black Ivies," such as Spelman, Morehouse, and Howard, six-year graduation rates are only 78 percent, 61 percent, and 69 percent, respectively, and when compared to the same rates for Ivy League schools (98 percent at Harvard) seem downright pedestrian. The AP measures graduation rates on a six-year or under matriculation scale.

This is even worse when compared to the six-year graduation rates of black students at majority institutions, with more than more than twenty schools having higher black graduation rates than even the best HBCU, Spelman College. And the worst-performing HBCUs, Texas Southern, Edward Waters, and Miles College put out abysmal six-year graduation rates of less than twenty percent. More than often, these schools seem to do more to exacerbate the gender inequity in black higher education, with six-year graduation rates of many of the poorest-performing schools for men falling well below ten percent. The question must then be asked; are HBCUs and other minority-serving institutions necessary, and are they fulfilling their intended missions?

The short answer, even in spite of all the data presented, is still yes. HBCUs still perform a vital role in the development of black leaders and the sustenance of black culture. Of the top ten schools in producing Black students that go on to get Ph.D.s, nine of those schools

are HBCUs. Despite only producing less than a quarter of all bachelor's degrees for black students nationwide, over half of all black professionals graduated from HBCUs. The top school in the country in producing successful black medical school applicants, Xavier, produces more applicants than Johns Hopkins, Harvard, and the University of Maryland combined, and Spelman and Morehouse also rank in the top ten.

Although metrics like the six-year graduation rates do point out a problem, six-year graduation rates are generally a poor measuring stick of HBCU success because they do not take into account transfer students and other nontraditional students, which HBCUs often have more of than the general college population, and because HBCUs statistics take into account several students who do not graduate because of financial, rather than academic, reasons. It is clear that other metrics looking at success after undergraduate studies cast HBCUs in a better light.

The true answer to the necessity of HBCUs,

however, lies beyond numbers. The fact remains that HBCUs represent one of the few last bastions of uniquely black culture and heritage. Through the halls of Historically Black Colleges and Universities walked, studied, and taught some of the true greats in African-American and American history.

These schools have become more than just places to take classes, they have fused both the museum and the classroom and have truly become "Black Meccas" to which anyone can make pilgrimages to in order to learn the true legacy of black people in the world. In a sense, HBCUs collectively stand as the modern-day Library of Alexandria, a nexus of cultural, spiritual, and academic power through the power of history. They continue to educate and put forward world leaders in this vein with true cultural awareness and a conscious background. As long as they continue to do this, their necessity should never be questioned.

Porn or Entertainment: Who draws the line?

By Deaweh Benson
Copy Editor

Controversy colored the airways in response to the release of the Lady Gaga and Beyonce's video "Telephone." Rumors quickly spread that MTV had even banned the video from its stations. Although the network quickly dismissed this rumor, one reality still rings true – the general public is beginning to question whether entertainers are overstepping the boundaries of artistic expression in songs and music videos.

Dymon Morgan, a sophomore and Joi Gaddy, a junior watched the video together and responded to the clip in awe. Morgan noted that the opening of the video in which female inmates were shown practically grasping onto jail cell bars stunned her.

"The scene in itself suggests that females are held captive to sexism in the media," commented Morgan. Gaddy agreed stating that the entire video was a step backwards for females everywhere.

"Honestly, this video takes us as far back as slavery with the painful images of women dancing in chains with brands disguised as tattoos on the sides of their stomachs," Gaddy said.

Acts of indecency in music videos has been at the forefront of public debate for sometime. However, a new issue arises when viewers are not given a choice as to whether or not they want to view the indecency. Erykah Badu was recently charged with a misdemeanor and \$500 fine for her nude performance in her latest video, "Window Seat." The video has been heavily targeted in the media for its nudity and indecency, primarily because the video was shot at Dealey Plaza in Dallas, Texas. Dealey Plaza is the historic site of President John F.

Kennedy's assassination. In her video, Badu goes completely nude, removing her clothing as she croons down the walkway – in the middle of the day.

Despite the singer's claim that her video is about "liberating herself from layers of inhibiting demons," many found the video to be disturbing. Unlike the "Telephone" video, Badu shot her video in front of a public audience, who was unaware of the scene they were about to witness. Witnesses on location during the video shoot included children and families. In an interview with Dallas Fox 4 News, Ida Espinosa, who was at Dealey Plaza on the day of the video shooting, stated that "[her daughter] was exposed to a level of indecency that most children shouldn't be exposed to."

Denisha Brown, a sophomore, argues that it is unfair for Badu to be fined for her artistic expression, while Lady Gaga and Beyonce flaunt outrageous sex scene without any legal ramifications or the same degree of media and public outrage. A sexually charged make-out scene for a video opener is way worse than a women battling against 'groupthink' a term that refers to the loss of one's individuality under the pressure to conform.

In spite of public opinion, regarding which video was more indecent, the fact remains that Badu violated a law and legally must face charges.

The public discord regarding both "Telephone" and "Window Seat," illustrates the public's concern with sexuality in music videos and what constitutes acceptable artistic expression. Until stricter laws are put in place or content viewing is more heavily restricted the debate will be on going on both sides.

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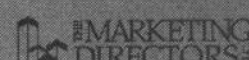
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"The Bluest Eye" Raises Questions About Insecurity Within Black Community

By Dajae Gilliard-White
Staff Writer



Cast members of "The Bluest Eye" share a moment with Jasmine Guy

The themes discussed in "The Bluest Eye" resonated with Spelman students who struggle with perceptions of beauty in a society that places emphasis on the Eurocentric standards of beauty.

Acclaimed actress and director, Jasmine Guy was tapped to direct the play. Guy was personally asked to direct the play by Eddie Bradley, Jr., drama and dance department

chair. Guy rose to fame as Whitney Gilbert on the popular television series, "A Different World."

"It was incredible working [and being directed by] Ms. Guy because she is also an actress," said Ebonne Holyfield, a senior, who played Mama and plans on pursuing acting professionally. "This is her third production so she's still learning, but she sees pictures very well."

The play is a story about an eleven-year-old African-American girl living in Lorain, Ohio during the 1940s. The title character Pecola is stigmatized by her community and made to believe that she is irrelevant and less than other, especially white girls as a result of her black skin coupled with her lower-class status. She wishes for a pair of blue eyes in hopes that life's turmoil will cease. Through Pecola's story and her interactions with members of the community, "The Bluest Eye" addresses the stigmas placed on young black girls who are often discriminated against and treated poorly because of their skin color, hair texture, and financial background.

Audiences left the play expressing nothing but positivity, praising the actors and actresses for their work and commending Jasmine Guy on her directorial talents. "The Bluest Eye"

enlightened audiences and evoked a string of emotions from the audience.

While the play was well received by the crowd, with audience members clapping after almost every scene, there were a few scenes that made the audience uncomfortable. A molestation scene between Pecola and her father left audience members particularly uneasy as audience members sat quietly until the next scene ended. This scene and others called for actresses and actors to mentally go places they would have never thought of.

For actress Zuri Ray-Alladice, who played Pecola, the role was a new and daring challenge. "This role challenged me, causing me to grow in ways I never would have imagined, and was such an honor to portray," she said.

"I found out in July that Ms. Guy would be directing 'The Bluest Eye' and went to the bookstore to purchase the novel and searched for the script immediately. This is a story I was eager to see brought to life, as it touches the lives of so many."

Something different that audiences may have noticed in this production in comparison to others was the near absence of props.

"It [the lack of props] was something that added to the play and brought substance," said Holyfield. "We mimed a lot, which showcased

our acting rather than having the viewers concentrate on props."

The lack of props allowed viewers to focus more on the actor's talents and messages they conveyed in the play. One of those messages was being able to accept yourself despite societal pressures and influences.

Many believe it was important to bring "The Bluest Eye" to Spelman College not only because we are a HBCU, but also because we are all young African-American women facing the ideology that we are not beautiful enough.

"This story was so important to tell at Spelman, as it relates to the beauty standards to which black women and girls are held to and pressured by, starting at infancy," said Alladice.

The "Bluest Eye" challenged the audience to accept themselves for who they are and dismiss the idea that along with being black comes disgrace.

"The Bluest Eye" was held in Baldwin Burroughs Theatre from April 1 to 4. It was adapted by Lydia Diamond from the novel by Toni Morrison.

Student Films Reveal Stories Behind Bipolar Women, P.E.D.S. and Strippers

By Lea Scruggs
Photography Editor

Who can forget the footage of the 'crazy' black woman on the MARTA train harassing an elderly woman? Would you be surprised to find out that Chardonnay from the For The Love of Ray is not the only amateur stripper 'makin' it rain? Have you ever wondered about the story behind the older woman sitting next to you in class?

These questions are the topics tackled by student filmmakers in three different student films showcased at the 6th Annual Reel Showcase presented by the Digital Moving Image Salon on April 7 in the Science Center Auditorium. "BLURRED: A Portrait of Bipolar Disorder," "What's Done in the Dark," and "Fly Sister Fly," took an in-depth look into lives of black women struggling with bipolar disorder, women who participate in exotic dancing, and Pauline E. Drake Scholars.

"BLURRED: A Portrait of Bipolar Disorder," produced by Anissa Douglass and Nashawn

Anderson, both seniors at Spelman, is a documentary that examines the private world of Spelman students diagnosed with bipolar disorder. The producers decided to explore bipolar disorder in the African American community in response to the negative media attention surrounding the black woman's outburst on the MARTA. After the video surfaced on local news channels and YouTube, viewers immediately labeled the woman as crazy. However, it was later discovered that she suffered from bipolar disorder.

Many people have a general idea of what bipolar disorder is, but are aware of the intimate details and everyday struggles of those affected by the disease. The ignorance surrounding the disease is heightened due to the fact that many neglect to seek medical help in fear of being labeled as crazy. In agreement, many of the Spelman women interviewed in the film who had been medically diagnosed with the disorder said that they knew something was not right, yet they were initially too ashamed or embarrassed to ask for

help. However, some took it upon themselves to get the help they needed by visiting professionals, such as Dr. Merrine McDonald, assistant director of Counseling and Disability Services. These students' stories are real, emotional, and moving. Documentaries like "BLURRED" help to stimulate interest in the black community about frequently silenced topics, such as mental illness.

One of the more risqué student films, "What's Done in the Dark," produced by Mychael Bond and GERALYN McPhail, both seniors, investigates the lucrative world of exotic dancing. It challenges stereotypes about women who partake in exotic dancing and uncovers the reasons why women choose exotic dancing as a career or as a hobby.

Bond and McPhail interviewed two types of exotic dancers – women who strip for money and those who take pole dancing lessons for fun at places like Pole La Teaz in Atlanta. The professional exotic dancers interviewed included a classically trained dancer working to pay her

college tuition, and a young mother who makes \$6,700 a week as an exotic dancer.

While filming, Bond and McPhail quickly discovered that the women who work as exotic dancers were camera shy and have kept their career a choice a secret from most people. Conversely, women who take pole dancing classes were more open and willing to share their experiences.

"These women were all too excited to share with us how they have grown from their experience with exotic dancing as a workout," stated Bond.

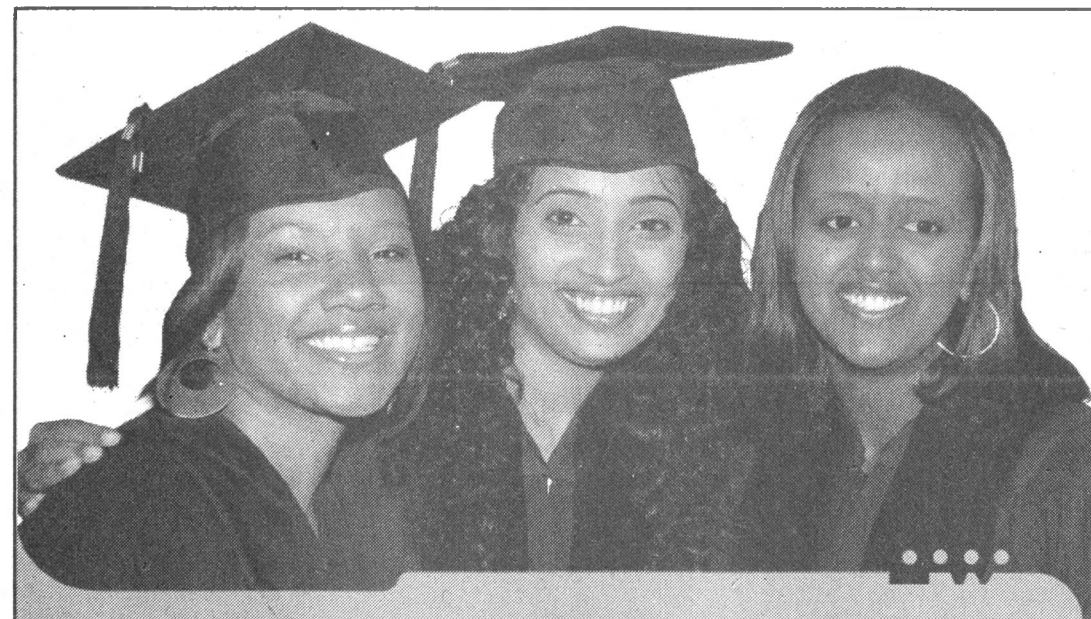
The last film included in the screenings was "Fly Sista Fly," produced by Lakeshia Ford, a senior, Bond and Pamela Stegall, a Pauline E. Drake Scholar. The film follows the inspirational lives and challenging experiences of Pauline E. Drake Scholars by highlighting a diverse group of older Spelman students. The film features a former drug addict who had been imprisoned at age 21, a self-proclaimed former party animal, and a formerly illiterate woman. All of these women testify that they have come a long way due

to their education and experiences at Spelman, in addition to a part of the P.E.D.S. program.

Pauline E. Drake was in attendance at the screening and felt the film accurately depicted the stories of these particular women and the shared experiences of all scholars. The explored the students' initial motivations for pursuing a degree from Spelman and their plans post-graduation.

"It is very typical of the women in P.E.D.S. to enroll, and feel that if they can just graduate from Spelman that will be enough. Then, as they gain self-confidence, knowledge, and skills, they start to make plans for their future regardless of their age," said Drake.

The films brought to life issues and experiences of a diverse group of black women. The filmmakers' determination and willingness to speak up about controversial issues helps to change the stereotypes commonly associated with black women. As a result of the work of these student filmmakers, their stories will no longer be silenced.



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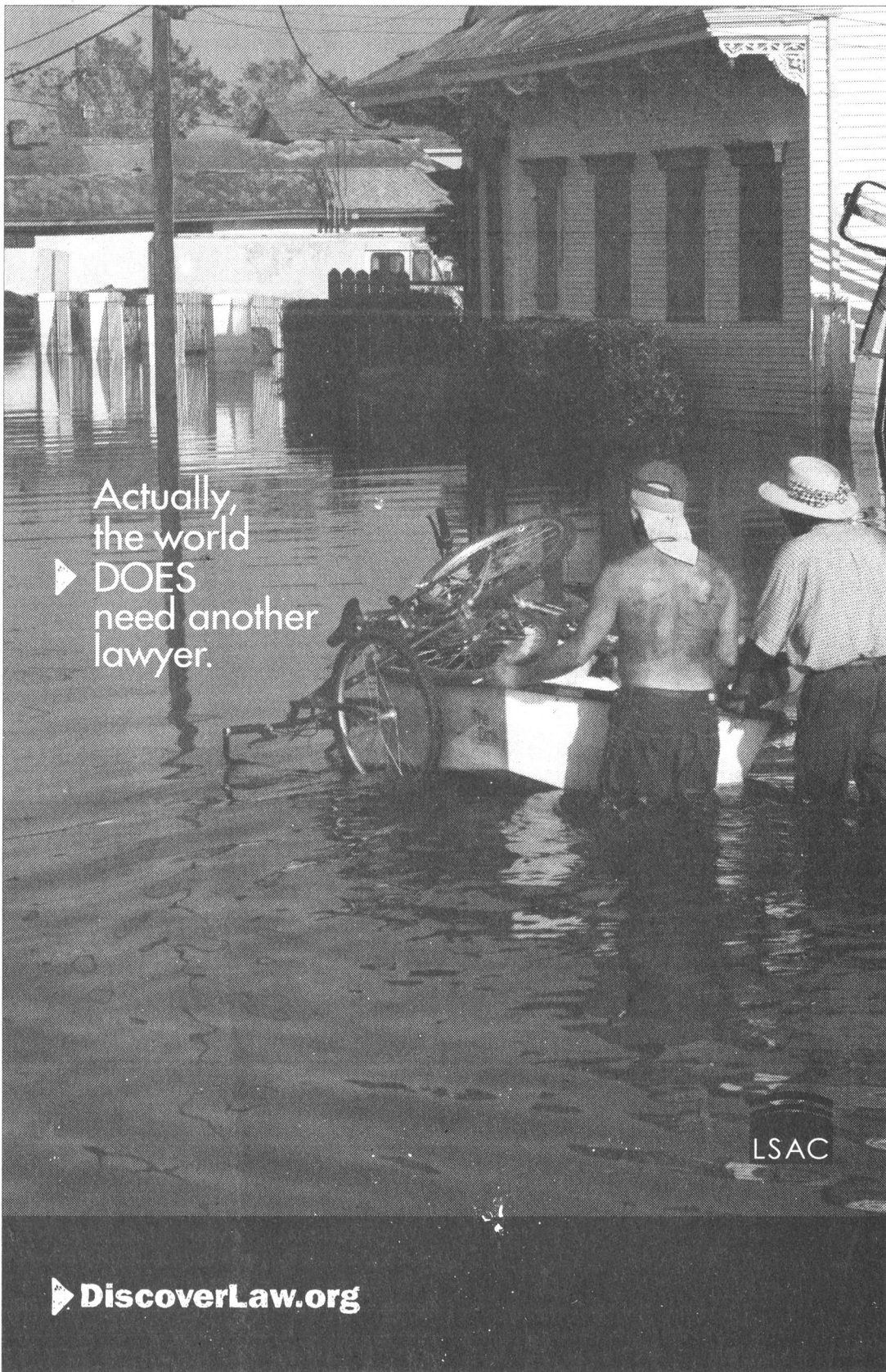
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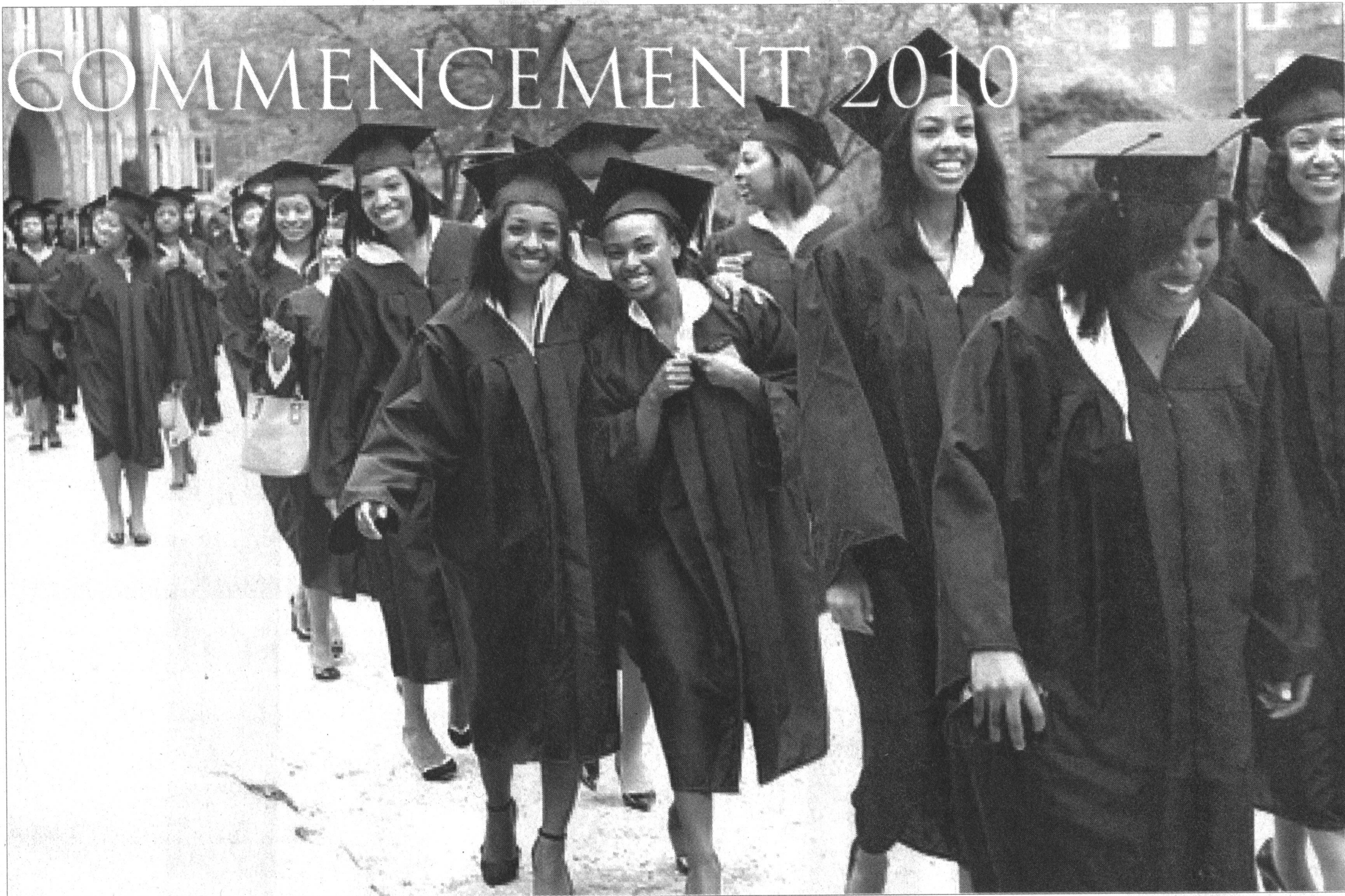
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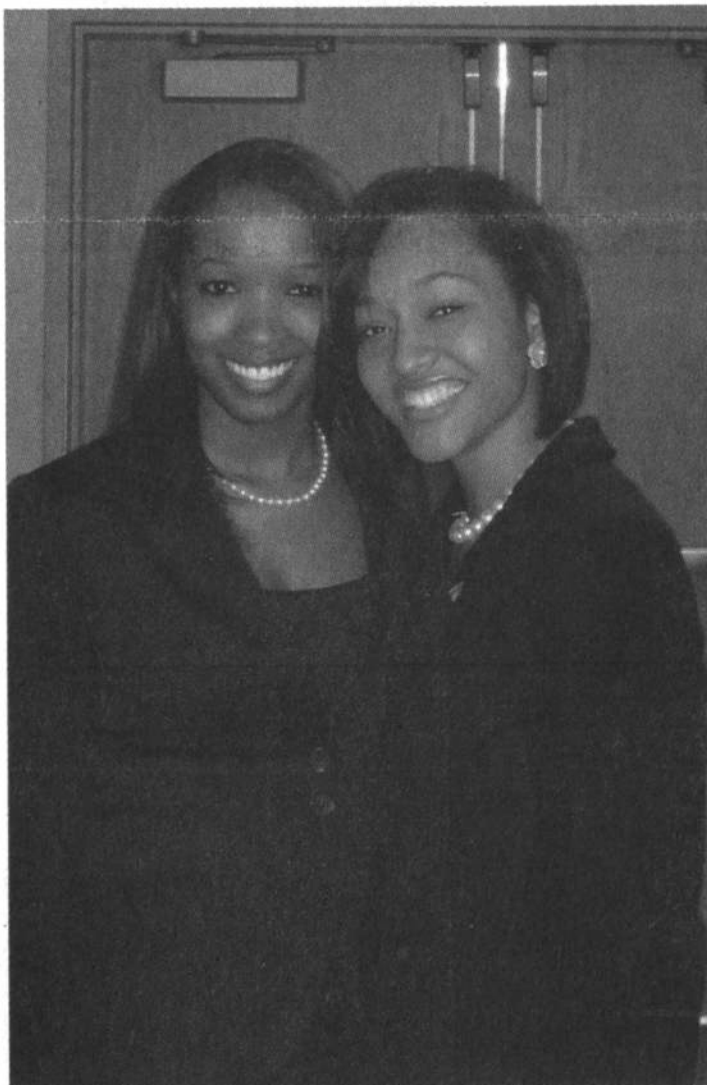
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Ariel Eckblad's Journey to the Top



Rebecca Clayton
Ariel Eckblad, right, and Breana Wofford, left, prepare for an event.

By Jordan Harris
Staff Writer

While her closest friends and colleagues are enjoying dinner at a local restaurant, partying at some of Atlanta's hottest night clubs, or just hanging out, senior Ariel Eckblad opts to study her class notes a few more times. Albeit, she would rather be spending time with her friends, Eckblad chooses to concentrate on her studies instead. Consequently, Eckblad's hard work and discipline is reflected in her final grades. With a 3.988 GPA, Eckblad earned the title of the senior class valedictorian.

Throughout her collegiate experience, Eckblad fought to juggle her academics with her social life. "Often times I would study when I wanted to go out or spend time with my friends, but I tried to be well balanced," said Eckblad. "I did not want to sacrifice any part of my collegiate experience." Eckblad was informed of her selection as valedictorian in early April.

"I was so excited and honored, especially considering how intelligent and driven the women of Spelman are. I felt it a privilege," said Eckblad.

Upon entering into Spelman College her freshman year, Eckblad did not have specific

goals or intentions of becoming the valedictorian of her graduating class.

"I knew I wanted to be successful in a holistic sense," Eckblad said. "I wanted to come to Spelman and better my community, while simultaneously bettering myself. I knew I wanted to be involved, do well academically, and develop as a woman."

During her time at Spelman, Eckblad surely lived up to the standard she set for herself. She became involved with leading organizations on campus such as the Student Government Association and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Eta Kappa Chapter. In fact, many others will agree that Ariel changed the face of each campus organization she was involved with due to her tenacity and impressive work ethic.

Eckblad served as SSGA Chief Justice, 2009-2010. Danielle King, a current sophomore justice says, "Ariel is the ideal leader. I was one of the three justices working under her, and I can honestly say that she inspired us all by valuing our input."

King will assume the role of Chief Justice next year. "I will make sure to incorporate her ability to connect with others into my own leadership style," adds King.

Eckblad was not always secure, optimistic, or even enthusiastic about upholding such expectations or accomplishing the goals she had set out for herself. Her biggest obstacle was getting out of her own way and having faith in herself and in her abilities.

"It's difficult to look at yourself in totality and acknowledge your weakness and work to remedy it," Eckblad said. "I faced many obstacles, but the most daunting was self doubt. It took time, effort, and introspection in order to even begin to tackle it."

In order to help her combat her insecurities and the challenges she faced, Eckblad looked to her family and her friends for support and guidance.

"When you doubt yourself, often it is those closest to you who guide you through," Eckblad said.

After graduation, with a degree in political science and comparative women's studies, Eckblad plans to travel to India for a year on a Fulbright Research Grant.

"I will be analyzing the role of women in Indian democracy. I deferred law school for a year. So when I return from India I will be headed to Harvard Law School to study international and human rights law."

Overall, Eckblad credits her collegiate success to her acknowledgement and understanding of the action versus the reaction ideology of life. She explains that this ideology allowed her to always stay on top of the many responsibilities. She encourages and advises her underclassmen Spelman sisters to do the same.

"Understand that everything in life is fluid," said Eckblad. "What you do today, even in the academic sense, has consequences tomorrow. When it is 1 am and you have a test the next morning, understand that that test grade influences your overall grade, which influences your GPA, which influences your applications to jobs and to graduate schools, which ultimately determines the trajectory of your life. Stay focused. Have fun. Push yourself to be the best you possibly can be. Appreciate your strengths and acknowledge your weaknesses. Love yourself in totality, regardless."

Leader and Learner: A Winning Combination



Spelman College
Jenae Holloway, SSGA Vice President, left, and Morgan Pierce, SSGA President, right, enjoy a Japanese meal during the SSGA trip to Japan.

By Sierra Stokes
Staff Writer

The words "this is just the beginning" are on the lips of many graduating seniors. As seniors prepare for the future, many are using their final days at Spelman to reflect on their undergraduate years. Many look back and smile on the mark they have left on campus, one of those women is Jenae Holloway, Vice-President of SSGA. Throughout her time at Spelman, Holloway made an impact on the campus community, but her proudest moments are from her senior year.

As SSGA Vice-President, Holloway was sure to participate in the many opportunities given to her. She was able to organize campus-wide events, volunteer in numerous community service projects, and 'rub elbows' with notable figures. Out of all her experiences as Vice-President, Holloway prides herself on her impressive execution of Spelman Day.

"Spelman Day is an activity that involves the registered student organizations of Spelman in a community service effort at the local Coretta Scott King Academy for Girls. We spend the entire day doing interactive learning activities as well as fostering mentor relationships with the students. I believe it is

the best outreach service that Spelman does," said Holloway.

While executing her duties as SSGA Vice-President, Holloway had to balance her other campus activities and academics. Holloway is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Eta Kappa Chapter.

When the tasks seemed impossible, Holloway looked to her role models for motivation. She reminded herself what they would do if they were in her position.

"My motivation to take on leadership positions at Spelman while maintaining academic excellence has mainly derived from my belief in role models. When I was a first-year, I remember looking at the SGA President and Vice-President never considering myself as a candidate for such a highly sought after leadership position," Holloway said.

"With role models who encouraged me to place myself in the ring, I was able to overcome my fears and contribute to Spelman just as they had. I simply hope to inspire some underclassman to do the same thing," added Holloway.

Another admirable trait that Holloway possesses is her ability to maintain close relationships with her friends and family. In the midst of a hectic conclusion to senior year,

Holloway still put her family and friends first. When asked if her academics remained her top priority, Holloway admitted that academics did not.

"Honestly, my family and personal relationships were my top priority at Spelman," said Holloway. "Following that was my responsibilities to SSGA, other organizations, and then my academics."

"I think that students will find as they place more responsibilities on themselves, they will rise to the occasion. There's no reason to be stressed because everything is everything. I just had faith in myself as a capable student and a competent leader," added Holloway.

Needless to say, Holloway has definitely contributed to Spelman as SSGA Vice-President. As she moves on to brighter horizons, Holloway will always remember what Spelman has taught her as it relates to academics and leadership.

Holloway hopes to inspire others and leaves a message for her successor Taylor Allen.

"I charge her to find a Spelman student and be a role model. Inspire another student like previous leaders have inspired her. I encourage Taylor to pass on her knowledge and empower younger students to be ethical and influential student leaders of Spelman's future."



SENIOR STORIES

Spelman's intriguing grads of 2010

By Rebecca Clayton and Jasmine Leal-Taylor

THE RESEARCHER

Successfully completing college is a challenge, but completing college while suffering from a health disease is an additional challenge that Arielle Dance and many other students face. Rather than using her illness as a hindrance, Dance who suffers from Endometriosis, a debilitating gynecological medical condition in females, has used her condition as a motivation for her current research.

Dance, a comparative women's studies major, chose to conduct her independent studies

in depth and research 'Endometriosis in African American Adolescents' it was nearly impossible."

While Dance is unsure of her ability to cure diseases, she is determined to find answers and close gaps for women of color with her research.

"More research needs to be conducted on women's health disparities especially for minority populations, different socioeconomic populations, and rural areas," states Dance. "Additionally, I am interested in learning why health conditions vary amongst certain groups."

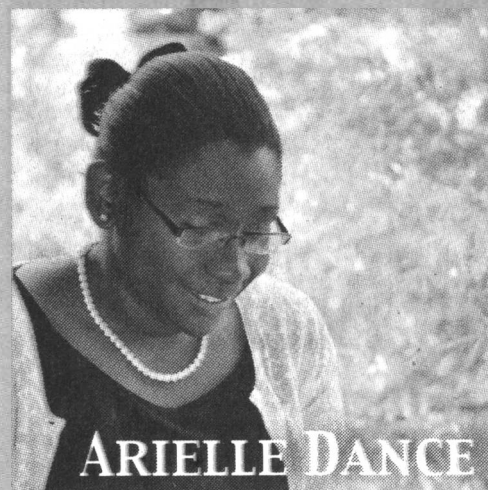
In the fall, Dance will begin the masters in women's health program at Suffolk University in Boston, Massachusetts. Her courses will focus on research methods in women's health, gynecology and diversity in women's health and illness. Once Dance completes her masters program, she will pursue her Ph.D. in health advocacy, sociology, or women's studies. Dance also hopes to work with a health-based organization and eventually write articles and books on her research findings.

Dance credits her mentors at the American Cancer Society for cultivating her interest in research.

"I was introduced to many women, including Spelman alumnae, at the American Cancer Society, who encouraged me to follow my heart and research 'women just like me,'" said Dance. "They understood that African American women were not being researched fast enough especially in terms of cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment."

Dance's family and friends are also very supportive of Dance's research and career aspirations.

"They understand that these topics hold a special place in my heart for personal reasons and they have always been supportive of me," says Dance.



ARIELLE DANCE

research at the Center for Endometriosis Care and the American Cancer Society. One of Dance's biggest challenges at Spelman was finding adequate research on the topics she was interested in studying. Dance knows firsthand the lack of attention and research on women's health diseases, especially for African American women and women of color.

"At one point I was searching for 'Endometriosis in African American Women' and that topic was hard to find research on," Dance states. "When I decided to go more

When over 500 undergraduate seniors participate in Commencement on May 16, they will leave behind their years at Spelman College, but their contributions will not be forgotten. The Spotlight selected 9 seniors who have made a lasting impression during their undergraduate years.

THE SOLOIST



LEANNA PEARSON

When Leanna Pearson enrolled at Spelman College at the age of 17, she knew she wanted to study music and become an Opera singer, however she had no idea of the journey she would eventually take once entering Spelman's gates.

At Spelman, Leanna has been afforded a myriad of opportunities that most students can only dream of. She has studied abroad in Milan, traveled to Japan, and sang with the Atlanta Opera Company in their production of Aida.

Pearson is known for her strong Brooklyn accent, big voice and 'diva-tude'. She is also well admired in the music department as both a student and soprano vocalist.

While she sings solo on stage, Pearson is involved in many campus organizations and community service activities. Pearson is a member of the Spelman College Glee Club,

Grammy U, and Sigma Alpha Iota Sorority, Inc. She also is a Bonner Scholar.

Despite her hectic schedule, which consisted of classes, rehearsals, community service projects and extracurricular activities, Pearson had virtually no difficulties in accomplishing her initial goals and more.

"Finishing college wasn't hard for me. I was raised in an environment in which I was expected to go to college and graduate," says Pearson.

The classical music world that Pearson will be embarking upon is rooted in European culture and tradition. For Pearson, it is extremely important to maintain her identity as an African American female.

"Spelman has provided me with a rich history of the contributions of African Americans in music," states Pearson. Pearson has also gained a strong sense of herself as a woman, a self-confidence she demonstrates both on and off stage.

Pearson will continue her formal educational training in classical music in her hometown, New York City this fall at New York University. Pearson was awarded a full tuition scholarship from the university. Pearson will pursue a dual degree in masters of musical in classical voice with a concentration in opera and an advanced certification in vocal pedagogy. She will also impart her knowledge on undergraduate students as a member of the adjunct faculty.

Pearson has always had big dreams and so far she has seen her dreams come true.

"I also encourage everyone to dream," says Pearson. "I believe we should all dream so large that it seems larger than life and with God's help we will ultimately succeed."

THE MOTHER

At first glance, Yasmine-Imani McMorris appears to be the ordinary Spelman student, yet under the exterior lies a remarkable young woman, who has excelled against what others may deem impossible odds.

During her sophomore year, McMorris faced two significant experiences that would change her life forever - her older sister, Khalidah McMorris, lost her battle with a chronic illness and she found out she was pregnant.

While some women would have taken time off from school to deal with their personal issues, McMorris chose not to settle for mediocrity and channeled the simultaneous

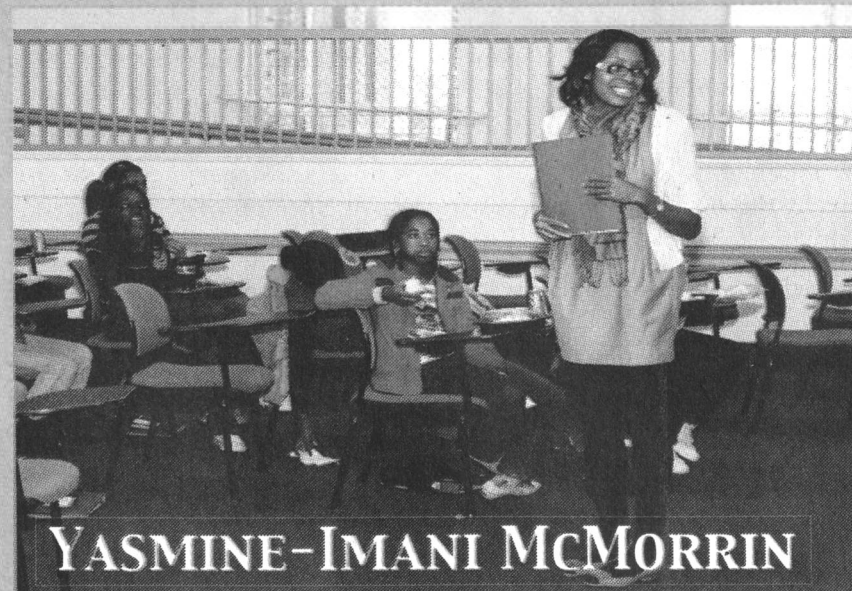
gradating in four years.

McMorris was actively involved on Spelman's campus before her pregnancy and when she returned back to school in the fall of 2008, she was determined to have a holistic college experience. She fulfilled her academic obligations, interned with the Department of Transportation in Atlanta, remained active in campus organizations and enjoyed the social aspects of college as well. Yasmine served as co-social chair for the Senior Class Council, and was instrumental in coordinating this week's Senior Week activities. McMorris was also a Civic Engagement Fellow and student mentor at F.L. Santon Elementary School.

For Yasmine, prioritizing was key, but she also credits her family and friends, especially her mother Delores McMorris, with enabling her to maintain balance and finish Spelman College in four years.

"I had to set realistic goals, while being happy and accepting my personal best," says McMorris.

McMorris hopes to serve as an inspiration and role model not just for



YASMINE-IMANI MCMORRIS

loss of her sister and motherhood into the foundation for her success.

When faced with adversity, McMorris referred to a pearl of wisdom that had been given to her at a first-year convocation by the convocation speaker.

"I remember the speaker telling us [the first-year students] that there is no such thing as 'no' for a Spelman woman," states McMorris. McMorris kept that message close to her heart and committed herself to achieving the goals she had set for herself when she first arrived at Spelman in the fall of 2006, which included

young student mothers, but any student who faces a challenge during their college experience.

"Trust and believe in yourself, pray for strength, and utilize the on campus resources, such as the Wisdom Center," says McMorris.

McMorris will continue her passion for working with children as a teacher assistant/enrichment instructor at a middle school in Decatur, Georgia, in the fall. After she completes the program, she plans to return back to her hometown of New Jersey to attend law school.

THE HISTORIAN

In Selah Johnson's eyes, our history is our greatest treasure. Johnson, a native of Peachtree City, Georgia is a self-proclaimed history lover. At age 22, Johnson says, "I was fortunate to discover my passion at an early age. My passion for history has made it easy to stay up late studying or writing papers because I love history. During my sophomore year, I decided I wanted to be a professor. I then mapped out a plan to achieve my goals, and followed it as much as I could."

Johnson's hard work and late nights have surely paid off. Her resume includes many honors and fellowships including the Mellon-Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program and the University of California, Los Angeles Summer Humanities Institute. She has also participated in the AUC History Conference, orally presenting research she conducted on women and politics, and serves as a history and English tutor for various non-profit organizations within the Atlanta community.

Johnson attributes a major part of her success to the experiences and support she has had during her matriculation.

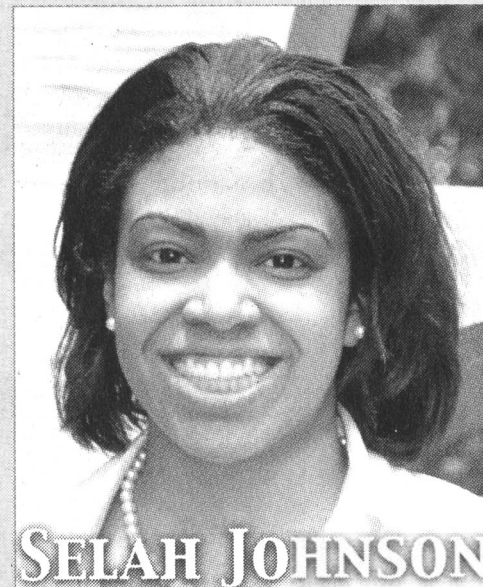
"Spelman has encouraged me to take advantage of every opportunity that I am presented with, and that is one of the best lessons I have learned in life. Also the history department was very supportive and nurturing. Many of my professors have guided me to the career path I am now on," said Johnson.

While Johnson has had much personal success, her greatest accomplishment is the advice and guidance she has given to her younger Spelman sisters and youth she mentors. Whether it be assisting another student in her research, or editing classmate's paper, Johnson is more than willing to share her knowledge and expertise with others.

As she prepares to graduate, Johnson hopes that Spelman students continue to believe in themselves and never give up on their goals, no matter how stressful or daunting the task may be.

"There will always be detours and distractions, but you have to push through them even when it seems like you cannot, because that is ultimately what builds character and will make you the successful individual that you want to be," states Johnson. She also warns students to be careful of the people they seek advice from, "not everyone is interested in your success," she adds.

As part of Johnson's initial plan, she will continue to advance her study of history as she pursues her Ph.D. in history at UCLA this fall.



SELAH JOHNSON

THE BANKER

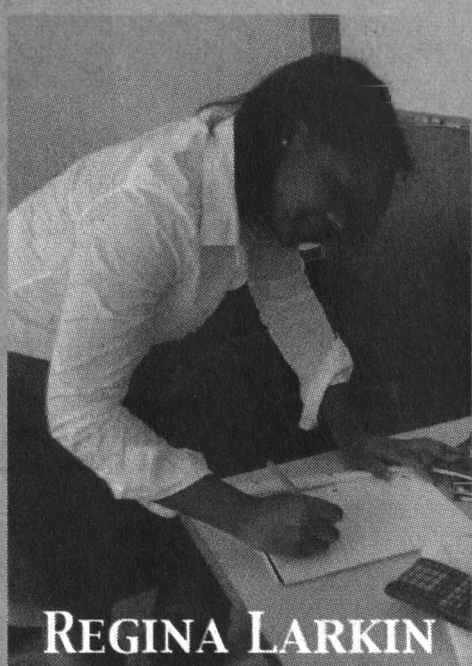
Balancing academics and a social life are typical issues that college students face, but how students overcome those obstacles is what ultimately defines their success. Regina Larkin, an economics major and member of Phi Beta Kappa has made sacrifices for academic success, and has not compromised her goals in order to please others.

"When I first started college, my goals were a combination of what my family wanted for me and my aspirations. However, I've learned that I cannot make decisions based on other's expectations and it's simply easier to motivate yourself when it is natural.

My goals beyond college are what keep me motivated," said Larkin. Larkin's own motivation proved to be successful as she has been able to set her own path and accomplish her own goals.

Larkin is a recognizable face on Spelman's campus, in part due to her position as SSGA Secretary of Institutional Advancement. Larkin was also active in the Spelman Investment Club and Morehouse Business Association. Her involvement in these campus organizations cultivated her interest in Wall Street and inspired her future career and personal aspirations.

After four years of tireless effort and making the needed sacrifices, Larkin has



REGINA LARKIN

come out a winner and is extremely proud of her accomplishment, which she achieved on her own terms.

"One of the things that I appreciate about Spelman is its emphasis on character development. Outside of the classroom, we are encouraged to be active and ethical leaders in the immediate and international community. These extracurricular experiences have broadened my scope and further shaped my beliefs," says Larkin.

After graduation, Larkin will be moving to New York City and tackling Wall Street as an investment banking analyst for Barclays Capital.

Spelman has provided Larkin with many useful tools, both academic and non-academic that will aid in her success in the future.

"Spelman has taught me to build relationships and these relationships will be beneficial to me as I pursue a career in investment banking. These relationships will aid in advancing my current career on Wall Street and exploring future opportunities in other fields," states Larkin.

Her success at Spelman proved to her that she was not only capable of graduating college, but also to go on to achieve startling feats.

"Our success and limitations are defined by our own expectations of ourselves. Trusting in your own abilities and knowing you will do well is more than half the battle," states Larkin.

THE STAR

Some people love to watch movies, and some are destined to direct and star in films. Joy Brunson, has captivated the Spelman community with her multitude of talents for the past four years, and is well on her way to captivating audiences around the world.

As a constant fixture in Spelman's drama productions, she has dedicated herself to perfecting her craft and exploring other opportunities in theatre. Brunson chose to attend Spelman because she realized that Spelman would not only allow her to grow in her craft, but also would support her growth as a person, which is very critical to acting. At Spelman, Brunson also received acting instruction from her first black acting professor, Crystal Dickenson.

Brunson's talents have taken her beyond the Spelman gates. In 2007, she was featured in her first major studio film release, "First Sunday." She will also be featured as the voice of Sowetu in "Kasha & the Zulu King," a digitally animated feature film that will air on BET this fall.

Yet, with all her early success, Brunson is not focused on being a famous Hollywood star.

"I would lie if I said I did want it all," admits Brunson. "But, I am more focused on being the best actress that ever lived, or at least the best actress that I can be and those chops are developed on the stage."

Brunson has also explored opportunities behind the scenes, trying her hand at directing and feels that is a natural progression for an actress to want to direct other actors.

As a black actress, Brunson is committed to portraying roles that represent the diverse experiences and profiles of black women.

"I know many future producers, directors,

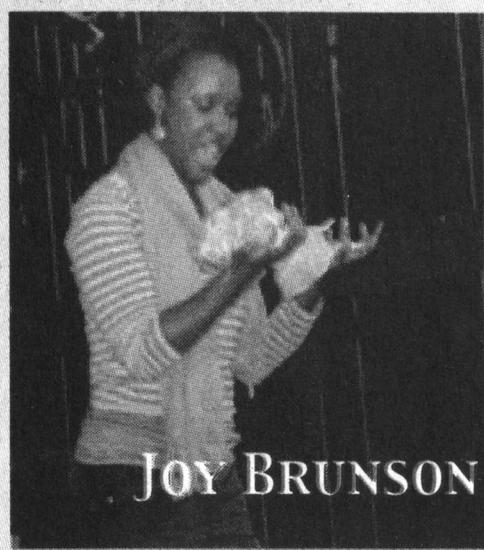
writers and cinematographers, who attend Spelman, and I plan to work with them in the future," states Brunson. As Spelman women we are challenged to use our abilities to expand and enhance the roles offered and not just replicate the popular stereotypes," adds Brunson.

Brunson, an aspiring actress and filmmaker hasn't limited herself to the director's chair or the Broadway stage.

"I also see myself opening up a golf clinic in Ghana," Brunson says.

Brunson was a top selection for Columbia University's M.F.A. acting program, however she is unsure of her plans for the fall.

"That's the scary part about being an actor, you never know what's around the corner," says Brunson. "You just have to make sure you are prepared for any opportunities that come!"



JOY BRUNSON

THE WORLD TRAVELER

Spelman challenges women to change the world, but few are given the opportunity to explore the world like Lauren Sprott.

Sprott has taken full advantage of Spelman's study abroad opportunities, spending the fall semester of her junior year in Shanghai, China and the spring semester in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Sprott also participated in an exchange program in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Sprott, who adjusts easily to other cultures and customs, was the first Spelman student to study in Vietnam or Cambodia.

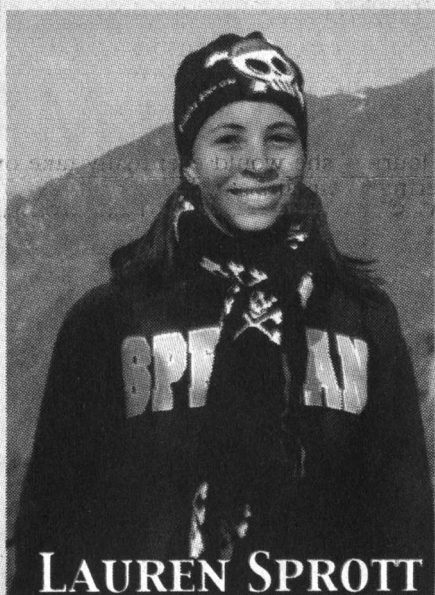
Sprott plans to pursue a career in international affairs and would like to be based in the United States, but believes it is necessary to gain experience abroad and foreign languages skills to truly be effective in such a capacity. Sprott has advanced proficiency in Spanish, intermediate proficiency in Mandarin Chinese, basic proficiency in Vietnamese and speaks a bit Khmer.

One day Sprott hopes to be fluent in Madarian. This summer, Sprott will be attending Middlebury as part of the intensive Chinese program.

"My experiences abroad have really been at the core of my college experience," states Sprott. "As much time as you spend reading about economic policies or the social structure of another country or culture, you cannot fully grasp or understand it until you experience it first-hand."

Sprott also credits her liberal arts education with her ability to approach international affairs with a holistic approach.

"The education I received at Spelman has prepared me to be a global leader," states Sprott. "As an effective leader you must be able to view issues from a variety of perspectives and lenses, taking into account religious, economic, political and sociological aspects of



LAUREN SPROTT

any situation."

Sprott also maintained her commitment to community service while abroad. She volunteered as an English teacher at a school for children of migrant workers.

"The Chinese teaching style relies on rote memorization and lecture, it took me a while to get students to interact and engage with me," says Sprott. "However, by the end of the semester, we were playing games and their English had greatly improved."

Sprott has also achieved success academically, as a member of Phi Beta Kappa and salutatorian for the class of 2010.

This fall Sprott will be working in Shanghai with the United States Department of Agriculture at the Agricultural Trade Office. Afterwards, she plans to return to Washington, D.C. and pursue a masters in international affairs with a concentration in China studies.

THE DOCTOR

A representation of the popular saying, 'beauty and brains,' Charis Chambers, a biology major and the first attendant to Miss Spelman, is on her way to medical school is this fall. As a young girl, Chambers dreamed of becoming a doctor before donning a tiara, yet she has succeeded in both.

A well respected and liked student on campus, Chambers is best known for her bouncy hair, bright smile and brilliant mind. Throughout her matriculation at Spelman, Chambers has served the College and her community through a wide array of activities. Chambers credits her involvement on campus for exposing her to a diverse range of experiences, which have helped mold her into the woman she is today.

In addition to serving on Miss Spelman's Court, Chambers was a member of the Freshman Class Council, Miss Spelman's Advisory Board and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., "Sweet" Mu Pi Chapter. She was also instrumental in bringing the first "St. Jude Up Till Dawn" event to the AUC. Her passion for this project stemmed from her desire to not only treat patients, but also provide support for children and their families while the child undergoes high-risk and costly medical procedures. Chambers interest in the cause is particularly poignant as HBCUs have not traditionally supported

and shown interest in St. Jude's events in comparison to majority institutions.

With her demanding courses and activities, Chambers admits that it has been difficult at times to balance all of her commitments.

"Time management cannot be taught, it must be learned through personal experience," stated Chambers. "I learned to prioritize in a way that allowed me to keep my grades first without sacrificing my extracurricular activities or social life."

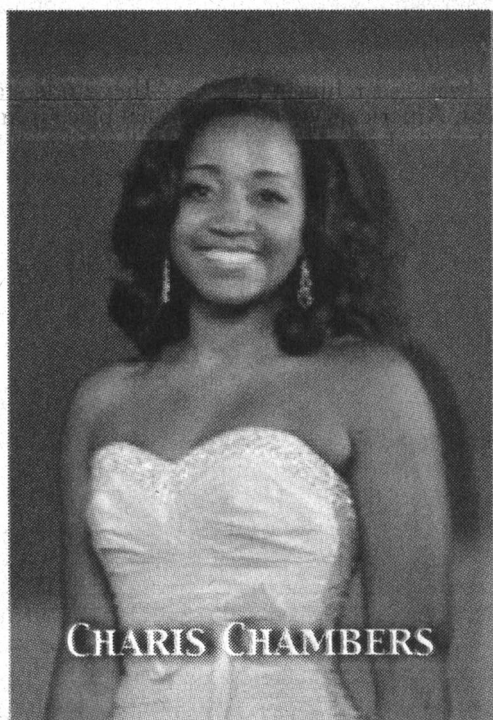
Chambers, an Alabama native, has been accepted into the nation's top medical schools, but has chosen to enroll in the University of Alabama School of

Medicine, on a full-tuition scholarship, in order to be closer to home.

Spelman has taught Chambers that there is a great need for black women to make a larger impact on the world.

"When Spelman confers our degrees, they will also hand us the world's wars, injustices and diseases," states Chambers. As she embarks upon obtaining her medical degree, Chambers is eager and ready to solve the world's medical challenges.

Spelman has left a lasting impression on Chambers, and she too has left a lasting impression on the College.



CHARIS CHAMBERS

THE SAGE

For some the dream of obtaining a college degree must be put on hold in order to fulfill other obligations. After receiving a full-tuition scholarship to Paine College in Augusta, Georgia after her high school graduation in 1969, Jacquelyn Simms, was excited about the opportunity to begin her college education. However, shortly after her graduation her mother was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and her mother needed Simms assistance in raising her younger siblings. She decided to forgo her scholarship and got a full-time job.

"My dreams were shattered because I chose to accept responsibility at an early age," says Simms.

Despite this major set back, almost 40 years later Jacquelyn Simms is finally accomplishing her lifetime goal of earning her college degree.

While working for Delta Airlines, Simms learned about an educational program that the airline offered.

"I decided I would enroll [in college] after my daughter, Simone, graduated from high school," said Simms. "I always wanted to attend Spelman, and once I found out that Spelman had a program tailored towards older, non-traditional students, I immediately decided to enroll, this was back in 1999."

Simms' age was not a setback for her, but she had initial concerns about her abilities to excel academically due to an injury that affected her comprehension level.

"I thought I was not smart enough because of my injury and I could not focus as clearly as I would have wanted to," Simms explains. "But thank God I was able to succeed. In a way that I didn't expect, schooling served as rehabilitation therapy for me."

At Spelman, Simms became a part of the Pauline E. Drake Scholars program. Learning alongside younger students has been both a challenge and rewarding experience for

Simms.

"I have learned to listen to those younger than myself and if they are in leadership to submit and respect them as well," said Simms. "I learned a lot from the class of 2010, I even learned how to salsa dance."

Simms' also had the opportunity to partake in homecoming activities with AUC students. Simms was selected as Ms. P.E.D.S., 2009-2010.

Being part of the P.E.D.S. program has provided Simms with a strong support system and she has formed bonds with her older Spelman sisters that will last a lifetime.

"P.E.D.S. is a sisterhood of strong women. We are all come from different walks of life seasoned with wisdom," states Simms. "We support each other in our pursuits of a college education, and we make sure we all get the job done."



JACQUELYN SIMMS

Rice's Impact on the Global Community

Continued from cover page

election. She then worked as a management consultant for McKinsey and Co., which offers consultative services for global management. Rice also was instrumental in the Clinton administration, serving as a member of the National Security Council from 1993 to 1997. She then assumed the title of director for International Organizations and Peacekeeping. Clinton promoted her to special assistant to the president and senior director for African Affairs. Rice's exceptional performances in all of her responsibilities led to President Obama

selecting her as US Ambassador to the United Nations, a position that Obama elevated to cabinet level.

With her multitude of accomplishments, the commencement committee found Rice to be an exceptional role model for the Class of 2010.

"In looking for a speaker, we make sure that the candidate is someone who inspires the community as well as someone who connects to the College's mission," said Sampson.

Rice graduated from Stanford with a bachelor of arts degree in history and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. She was awarded a Rhodes scholarship and earned her masters and doctorate degree in philosophy from the New College in Oxford. As a student at Stanford, Rice was also active in efforts to

end the oppressive apartheid regime in South Africa. Rice's success in both her academic and professional endeavors is a manifestation of the commitment to excellence that Spelman promotes within its students.

After approval from the Board of Trustees, Rice had to be approved by the honorary degree committee, which was responsible for further confirmation of her eligibility for candidacy. Similar to the Board, the honorary degree committee was impressed by her record and approved Ambassador Rice as the commencement speaker. To finalize the process, a formal invitation was sent to Ambassador Rice confirming her selection as the commencement speaker.

Senior class members who had initially anticipated more recognizable names, such

as Michelle Obama, Phylicia Rashad and Jasmine Guy, were initially disappointed about the selection, but were soon relieved after reading about Rice's accomplishments and current position.

"Although it would have been an honor for Michelle Obama to speak at our graduation, I am not at all disappointed with the selection of Ambassador Rice who I think will be a great speaker and inspiration to us," said Imani Hopkins-Navies, a senior.

As the class departs from the Spelman community, they will be left with an inspiring message from Ambassador Rice a dynamic woman who has and will continue to have much success. Rice will encourage the Class of 2010 to follow their passion and make an impact on the world as they prepare for life

"Explore global opportunities and world cultures by studying abroad."

Carling
Rushing

"Always keep the faith, even when no one else does."

Kenée
Daffin

"Understand the importance of networking within and outside of your field. Lifelong connections are invaluable."

Aisha
Hudson

Be kind to each other and your professors. Especially professors and take advantage of everything Spelman has to offer and appreciate this unique experience.

Lauren
Eldridge

"Be part of a vanguard of dynamic women, who are all in their own right, revolutionaries."

Jasmine
Porter

"Take advantage of every opportunity available. You don't want to miss out on success because of negligence."

Kristin
Holloway

FINAL
WORDS

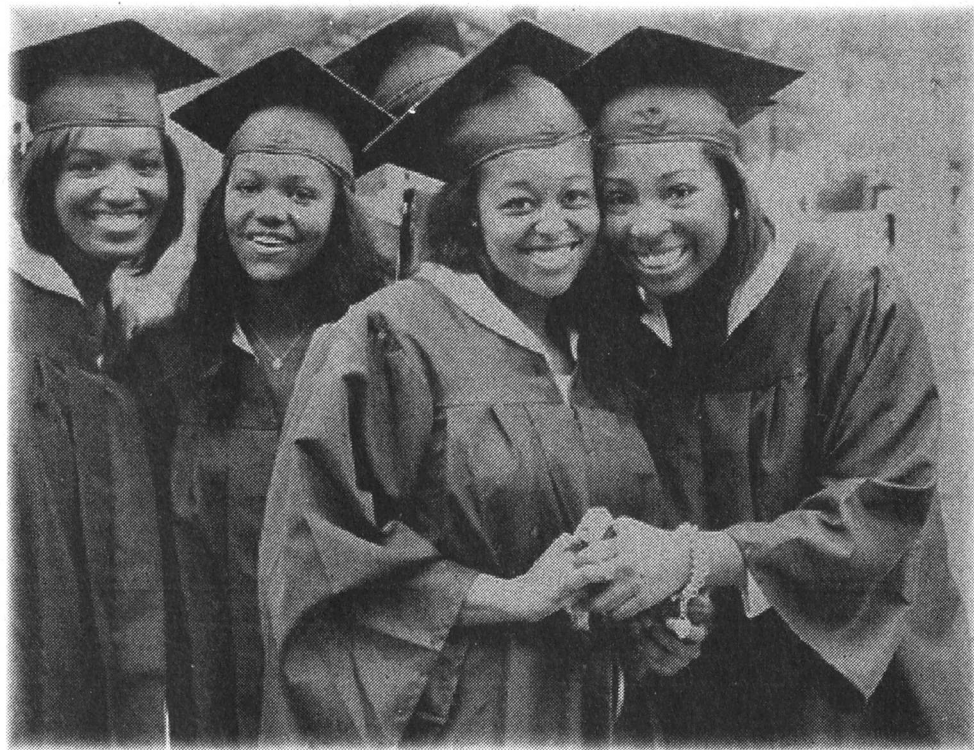
As Spelman seniors prepare for life post-graduation, they leave a few words of wisdom for incoming classes to carry throughout their Spelman journey.

The Spelman Spotlight Salutes

THE GOLDEN GIRL CLASS OF 1960
&
DIAMOND DAUGHTER CLASSES OF
1925, 1930, 1935, 1940, 1945,
1950, AND 1955



THE SPELMAN SPOTLIGHT CONGRATULATES THE CLASS OF 2010



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