

# THE BLUEPRINT

A SPELMAN SPOTLIGHT PUBLICATION

Vol. 1, No. 1

Intellectual Framework for the Freethinker

September 2013



New Students participate in white dress ceremony & brother-sister exchange.

Germaine McAuley

## Welcome Class of 2017

A Letter from a Junior

Dear First Years,

Welcome to Spelman College and congratulations on your many achievements. On behalf of the entire student body, faculty and staff, we are delighted to have you as the newest addition to this diverse and everlasting family. This welcome aims to give you a glimpse of the wonders your college journey will bring you.

As you are welcomed, you are charged with an urgent realization that this is your time to pursue your dreams. You have been granted with the opportunity to be a part of this chivalrous legacy that will afford you the vital tools for achieving greatness. You are encouraged to regard these next few years as the fundamental experience that will mold you into intellectual writers, competent thinkers, innovative project developers, ethical service leaders, and renowned, world-changing Spelman Women.

With the start of a brand new chapter in your life, there are a great number of adjustments to be made in ensuring your contentment throughout this structural journey. Many of you are miles from home and will indeed get more homesick than you would ever imagine. In those times, you are invited to build similar home-felt relationships with the genuine women of Spelman College.

Meet the faculty, explore the campus, and become active in registered student organizations. If you feel the urge to begin your own student organization, drop by the Office of Student Life and Engagement; this office is next door to the Bonner Office where community service opportunities are available. Visit Sisters Chapel, which is considered to be the spiritual heart of Spelman with its rich history and inclusive ambiance. Stop by financial aid and get to know the scholarship coordinators.

Spelman offers much more than academics and is a host of many educational and entertaining art forms. Stray away from confining yourself and open your mind to potential change. Spelman is devoted to your progress and by making such adjustments, you will become the lead pioneer in the quest to find yourself.

Among the list of imperative initiatives you as First Years will take, the most important are perhaps the initiatives to seek knowledge and cause effective change through service. Learn as much as you can about Spelman's esteemed history and commit yourself to positive social change. Be enthusiastic about unfamiliar topics; a wealth of knowledge is absolutely necessary for survival in this realm of academic excellence.

Challenge yourself to accept and further understand opposing views with hopes of a mutual equilibrium. Test the

theories by which you live, and enlighten the world based on your findings. Work to increase your potential and the potential of others. Closely examine your actions for they dictate the perception of your character.

Being accepted into Spelman is an achievement, a wonderful privilege, and all the reason for a celebration. However, accepting the role of a Spelman Woman is a duty and a commitment to scholastic supremacy, consistency, and civility. Spelman College dares you to conquer unforeseen challenges while bonding your heart to a global and lifetime occupation. The memories you create here will be unforgettable and the friendships everlasting.

It is imperative that you remain critically conscious of the company you keep, the places you go, and the actions you take. In closing, it would behoove you to pay particular attention to the many women who have come before you to pave your pathway to Spelman Lane.

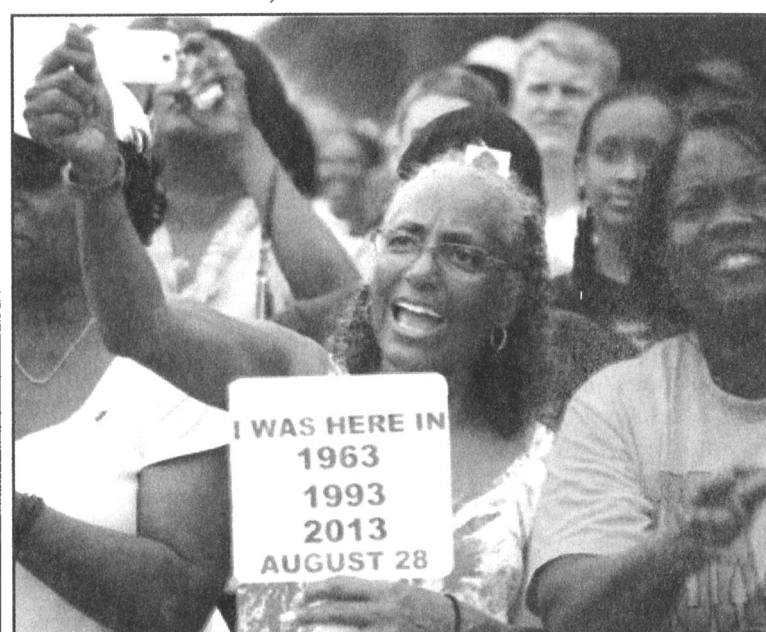
Spelman chose you. Now, what choices will you make?

With grace and love,  
Alaja Philips C'2015  
Junior, Dual Degree Physics and  
Architectural Engineering Major

## 50 Years Later:

Spelman's March Towards Freedom

By: Jasmine M. Ellis C'2015



ABC/AP Photo / Susan Walsh

Woman who was present at March on Washington in 1963, celebrates 50th Anniversary

During the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom 50 years ago, women were not included as speakers for the program. However, two Spelman women from the King family had the opportunity to speak during the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington on Aug. 28, 2013.

One of these women was Dr. King's older sister Christine King Farris Ph.D., C'48, who addressed the crowd along with President Obama, two former presidents, and Congressman John Lewis (D-Georgia). Rep. Lewis, whose district includes Spelman, served as the youngest speaker during the first March on Washington.

Spelman College and the King family have a relationship that transcends decades. The King legacy begins with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s mother, Alberta King, C'22, and spans to Dr. King's niece, Angela Farris Watkins Ph.D., C'86. While the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington resonated with Americans across the nation as a catalyst for freedom and equality, this day was very important for Farris, associate professor in the English studies department at Spelman.

"It's very significant to me," said Farris, the oldest of the three King children. "It brings back memories of my brother and knowing his sacrifice and his determination to see justice served."

Race and economic injustices were focuses of the movement that Dr. King touched upon during his I Have a Dream Speech on Aug. 28, 1963. Gloria Wade Gayles, Ph.D., founding director of the Spelman Independent Scholars Oral History Project and faculty mentor for SIS, was in attendance during the march 50 years ago.

"I am rarely at a loss for words because there really is no way to explain to someone who wasn't there what that experience was really like," Gayles said. "It was unbelievable in the sense that it was something we so desperately needed as a nation and we were not so sure that we could pull it off and we did. When I say 'we,' I don't mean only the organizers, but the people, the hundreds of thousands of people who were there."

As a civil rights activist held in solitary confinement for four and a half days in Atlanta, Gayles was well engrossed in change, leading up to the March on Washington she spent the summer of 1963 working in freedom schools in Mississippi. Similar to Gayles, the hundreds of thousands of people who attended the march were also eager to see a change in the nation.

"It was remarkable in the sense that it was such a commitment to change, you could feel it in the air. If you touched someone you could feel it in their pulse," Gayles said. "Everyone there believed that this was a new beginning that we were in fact as a nation at the daybreak of real achievements in the arena of justice. We were convinced that we were creating a new movement and not just for blacks, but for working class poor across races."

Fifty years later, the inspiration that many Americans felt during the March on Washington continues through the actions of those who are willing to serve humankind. Abraham Davis, Ph.D., Morehouse College, C'61, and professor of Political Science also had the opportunity to attend the March on Washington in 1963. Inspired by the words of Dr. King and the march as a whole, Davis has prepared both Spelman and Morehouse students such as Martin Luther King III to become social change agents by holding them to a standard of excellence.

"Excellence is colorblind and knows neither race or national origin," Davis said. "It only knows hard work, patience, attention to details, and dedication."

"The most effective way that I know to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is not by what we say, but by what we do to prepare the next generation of students to be able to compete successfully with other students in the global community."

Leading up to the anniversary celebration, citizens of all walks of life gathered on Aug. 23, 2013, to commemorate Dr. King's "I Have a Dream Speech" and focus their efforts with a common goal in mind, change, which Alaina Long, C' 2015, a comparative women studies major witnessed at the event.

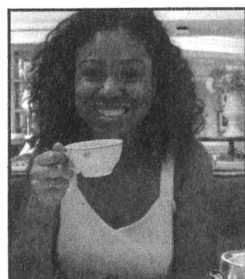
"There were people of all ages and races which was very cool to see," Long said. "A girl about seven years old carried a poster that read, 'Support Trayvon's Law,' a scene which truly moved me and saddened me at the same time that a child so young has to know and experience the injustice of our society."

Looking towards the future, Spelman students will have the opportunity to help Dr. King's dream become reality. Farris emphasizes that through reflection of the past and by paying close attention to the present day Spelman students will assist in changing the world.

"I would like for Spelman students to understand that we still have a ways to go," Farris said. "We have accomplished quite a bit in these last 50 years, but there's still that undercurrent of non-acceptance of minorities and so forth."

## Allow Us to Reintroduce Ourselves...

By: Ko Bragg C'2015, Editor-In-Chief



Ko Bragg C'2015

This is a public service announcement to the greater AUC community. We, the editors and writers of The Blueprint, are proud to reintroduce the Spelman College newspaper back into campus life.

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Ko Bragg and I am incredibly honored to say that I am the Editor in Chief of The Blueprint. This tremendously talented staff and I want to assure you that this inaugural issue of The Blueprint will be the first of many editions geared to be journalistically excellent.

I often remind myself that you have to know someone's journey to understand the paths that he or she takes. My voyage to Spelman College was more of a globetrotting expedition than it was a journey, but nevertheless it sheds light on the path that I am creating for The Blueprint.

Spelman accepted me as a transfer student in the spring semester of 2013, and I am now a junior majoring in History. I spent my freshman year at Claremont McKenna College in Southern California, where I learned that I need a little bit more in life

than constant sunshine and palm trees to be completely happy. Between Claremont and Spelman I studied abroad in 15 countries over the course of 107 days through Semester at Sea.

I was born in Virginia and spent most of my childhood there. The latter half of my most formative childhood years took place in New Jersey, which I left to attend boarding school in New Hampshire. I currently reside in Philadelphia, Mississippi—at least for now.

Having lived in six different places throughout the course of the past two years I am no stranger to change; it is a part of me. Now that you know a little of my story, I hope that you will be open to working with my staff and me so that we can help to represent yours.

As you hold your copy of the paper, keep in mind that anyone with a vision has to have a blueprint—a detailed plan with structure. Beyond that, a blueprint is a highly accurate, stable reprint of an authentic creation created by impressing one image onto another.

Like the physical blueprinting process, we have taken guidance from previous Spelman Spotlight staff members and older editions to re-brand the newspaper as The Blueprint. We recognize the Spotlight's authenticity as the voice of African-American womanhood since 1957, as it is a value that we want to continue to foster in all

of our endeavors.

For that reason, The Blueprint is not a new production. Instead, it is a more stable, consistent version of Spelman's student news source. We are confident that our name change will work in solidarity with our goal to provide the intellectual framework for freethinking people.

This edition is focusing on new beginnings, and not only our own. We are celebrating the arrival of the Class of 2017, all of the transfers, domestic and foreign exchange students, and PED Scholars who have come to join us as well. We are also covering the changes taking place this semester with regards to the Wellness Program and Market Friday.

As reinforced by the contribution by Dr. Tatum on page 2, we are making it a point to look back and reflect on our history. Now, more than ever, is a perfect time to pay homage and respect to those who dedicated their lives ensuring that people like you and I would even have the opportunities to be in such a place as this. The 50th anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, happening as I write these words, is a tangible reminder about how a dream turned into a blueprint to change the nation.

Continue on paths towards greatness so that you can look back and be proud of your journey. Welcome Class of 2017, welcome new readers, welcome all.





## Living the Dream at Spelman

By Dr. Beverly Tatum, Spelman President

As the nation observed the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington, I listened to many speeches about the unfinished agenda of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream. One of the best I heard was that given by Newark Mayor Cory Booker, who like most of our Spelman students today, was not even alive when the March on Washington happened.

He said, "My father told me, 'You are enjoying freedoms, opportunity, technology, things that were given to you bought by the struggles and the sacrifices and the work of those who came before....You drink deeply from wells of freedom and liberty and opportunity you did not dig.'"

That statement is true for all of us. We all "drink deeply from wells....we did not dig" and so we must pay it forward with our commitment to excellence and positive social change. We must be committed to opening doors of opportunity for people who look like us and for people who don't, for people who speak like us and for people who don't, for people who worship like us and for people who don't, for people who love like us, and for people who don't.

For many people, coming to college represents the first opportunity to engage deeply with people whose life experiences are very different from their own. Even though Spelman is a historically Black college for women, there is much more diversity than one might imagine just looking across our campus. Some of the people we get to know may be people we have been taught to mistrust – maybe because of social class, or skin color, or sexual orientation, or religion, or physical disability, to name just a few of the categories that sometimes separate us from each other. Engaging in a meaningful way with those we have been socialized to mistrust requires some courage. Why? Because we have to be brave enough to have our assumptions challenged. The reality is we all have misinformation about people different from ourselves.

That misinformation has come to all of us from the way we heard our parents and teachers and friends talk about other people, and the way we saw those "Others" treated in comparison to how we ourselves were treated.



Dr. Beverly Tatum

No matter who you are or how old you are, you have been a part of this process. That misinformation is so common, so pervasive, it is like smog in the air, and none of us can avoid breathing it. And if you breathe in smog, you are sooner or later bound to breathe some out.

This is why we have to be courageous enough to be willing to make mistakes. Because if you want to engage with people different from yourself, you are bound to make mistakes, perhaps inadvertently using offensive language (because that is the language you grew up with), or acting on erroneous assumptions (because they are so deeply ingrained). If we are honest, we can all think of a time when we said or did something that revealed our smog-breathing past.

We can take comfort in knowing that everyone makes mistakes. But, knowing you will make mistakes does not mean that you don't have to take responsibility for the mistakes you make. Ignorance is common but in a learning environment it cannot be tolerated as a permanent condition. We now have the opportunity to seek out new information and correct the misinformation we have internalized. When we do that it increases our ability to truly see, hear, and understand each other in our full humanity. We all want that affirmation – to be seen, heard, and understood – for who we really are, not as the figment of someone's imagination shaped by years of incomplete or distorted information.

The beloved community of Dr. King's dream is within our reach if we open our hands to embrace it. Readers, I hope each of you thinks about how you can make Spelman a welcoming place for all through the interactions you have with each other every day – in person – or in the virtual world of social media. When we do, we honor the efforts of those who came before us and one important way we can all "pay it forward!"

## Letter from the SGA President

By: Shanteal L. Lake, C'2014  
slake1@scmail.spelman.edu

Greetings to the Class of 2017!

I hope that you are adjusting well to your new home away from home. Within the past few weeks I have had the opportunity to be among all of you during your New Student Orientation activities, so in that capacity I am sure to be a familiar face. I want to however take this opportunity to introduce myself a bit more informally. I am Shanteal Lake, a senior Political Science major from Augusta, Georgia. I have an older sister, a younger brother and a nephew on the way!

When I arrived at Spelman I had some pretty focused plans. I knew exactly what residence hall I wanted to live in, what I wanted to major in, and what I wanted to do after graduation. What I did not know was how the heck I was going to get there. I tried a few things, joined a few organizations and even had a few jobs. However, the act that gave me the most clarity was listening: listening to God, family, mentors, and especially myself.

I could tell you all about my journey from the time I received my acceptance letter to Spelman up until now. But I would rather give you a few words of wisdom and save that conversation for when we meet in person. Right now, I want to share with you the three things that have kept me going through my matriculation:

### Keep God First

Knowing that I have an unwavering source of love, trust, guidance, and support in my Lord and Savior keeps me motivated and hopeful in everything in which I am involved or experience.



Shanteal Lake

### Remain Genuine and Passionate.

Stay true to WHO you are and WHAT you are. Never compromise your beliefs and morals. Involve yourself with things and people that add value to your life. Value can often be determined when a high level of nurture, consideration, and respect is present. Whenever you find yourself wondering if something or someone is truly for you, ask yourself, "Am I always being nurtured, considered and respected?" It is even more important to make sure you are doing those things for yourself.

### Hold your head up HIGH

In life there will be times when we face opposition both expected and unexpected. Either way it is imperative to vigilantly pursue your end goal. When you know that the path you are on has been forged specifically for you there is nothing that can stop Him. So walk with pride, courage, and strength and know that the only way to discover treasure is to take the time and dig.

Class of 2017 get ready for an integrated learning experience that will blow your mind. I have recognized your talents, seen your beauty, and felt your passion. Now I am ready to hear your voices. You have arrived and your time is now. Welcome to Spelman College!

With sisterly love,

Shanteal L. Lake

Student Government Association President

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## Why Syria Matters to Everyone

By: Ko Bragg C'2015

Syria has the attention of the entire world. College professors, dictators, diplomats, and everyday citizens alike are all attuned to what has been transpiring in Syria during this period of civil unrest, as can be confirmed by the overwhelming media coverage.

### Background

To give a little background information, Syria was a contributing nation to The Arab Spring in March of 2011, during which many Middle Eastern nations revolted against their oppressive governments. In Syria the protesters openly expressed their desire for the end of the Baath Party regime, which has been largely maintained by President Bashar al-Assad whose family has been in power since 1971.

The Assad family, though stemming from a minority Islamic group themselves, has been noted to be discriminatory towards Syria's ethnic minority groups. President Bashar al-Assad's father, and former president of Syria, implemented free market policies that benefited businessmen closely linked to the family and consequently increased prices for common folk.

As Fox news documented in 2012, most of those rebelling in Aleppo, Syria's largest city, were poor, religiously conservative, and ergo not receiving the same benefits of wealthier Syrians in the religious majority. These people were deeply affected by the increase of free market policies, which broadened the gap between Syria's rich and poor. All of these factors were major components in the Arab Spring.

The Arab Spring showed how fiercely people wanted to organize change, and due to the technological age in which we live, the world had a transparent view into what was really going on from a citizens' perspective. However, what started as an uprising has violently turned into a civil war in Syria. Though the Syrian civil war started just about two years ago, recent unfoldings have re-launched the crisis into the forefront of world news.

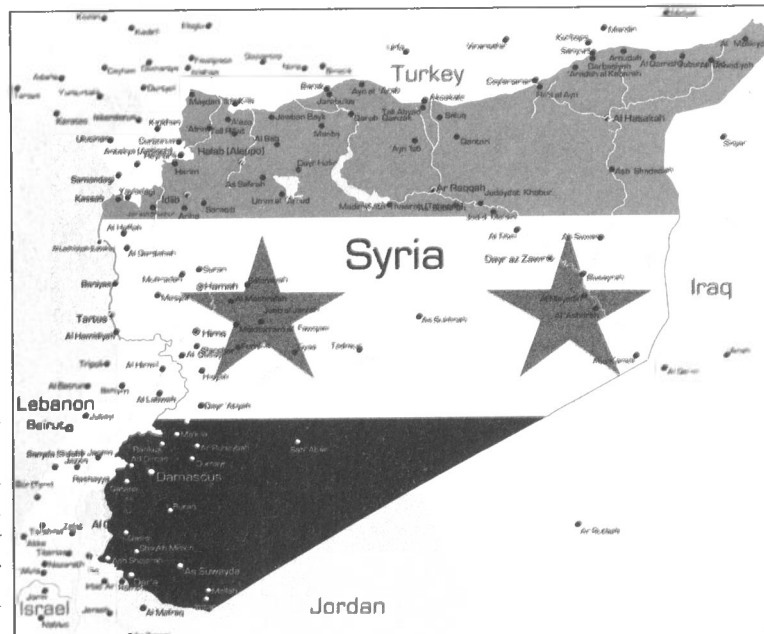
### Recent Unfoldings

On Aug. 21 the nation watched in awe as men, women, and children of all ages were gassed to death using chemical weapons that violate international law. Even when the long-term suspicion that Syria had been using chemical weapons against its civilians was confirmed, the Obama administration was hesitant to send military support and weaponry despite Obama's declaration in 2012 that chemical weapons cross a "red line" and trigger immediate, forceful responses.

Now, here we are in 2013, the red line only bolder and more solidified after the world saw unconfirmed videos and images of the chemical attacks in Ghouta, Syria—specifically in a district that adjoins the capital, Damascus.

According to Doctors Without Borders, an international medical humanitarian organization, the three hospitals they support received "3,600 patients displaying neurotoxic symptoms in less than three hours of the morning of Wednesday, Aug 21. Of those patients, 355 reportedly died." The UN is currently investigating the attack.

President Obama spoke on Tuesday, Sept. 10 after deciding to delay a military strike in Syria. Instead he



www.timesofisrael.com

has decided to take a more diplomatic route. Secretary of State John Kerry has been involved in a series of meetings with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Geneva. On Saturday, Sept. 14 the U.S. and Russia formed a pivotal deal that aims to dismantle Syria of its chemical weapons.

According to a report by The New York Times, as of Sunday, Sept. 15, Syria has been given a week to submit a comprehensive list with names, type, and quantity of the chemical weaponry it currently holds and all information pertaining to storage, production, and development. Ultimately the goal is to rid Syria of all chemical weapons by mid 2014—a very ambitious goal that has no room for deterrence.

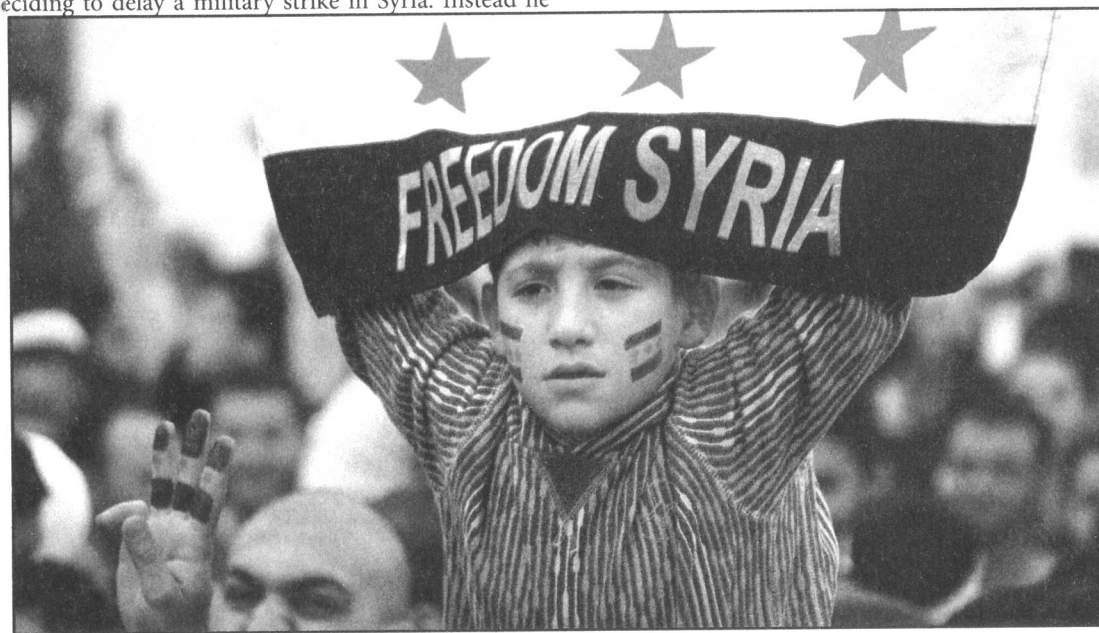
### Our Role

Sometimes as Americans, who are far off in our own isolated union of states, we have the luxury of being able to turn the other cheek to events in the Middle East. More specifically as college students it is easier to tune out peripheral distractions as a way to be the best student possible—even if that means falling behind in current events.

No one can afford to overlook Syria right now. Often times events of this magnitude can sometimes seem so convoluted with government jargon that it's hard to even know where to start. Nevertheless it's important to realize that we live in a world that is interconnected now more than ever, and mass atrocities and denial of human rights should be at the forefront of everyone's mind.

As Spelman women we matriculate under the promise that we will leave ready to change the world; you have to know about the world in order to change it. Even though you are not in the boardroom with President Obama nor are you boarding private jets to attend meetings with Russian diplomats, you as a citizen of the world have a responsibility to understand what is going on.

Check back in future editions of The BluePrint, The Maroon Tiger, as well as online sources such as CNN (which has daily breakdowns in a listed format of new developments), and credible news sources' twitter accounts.



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Atlanta, GA 30314

If you have any questions, please contact Marli Crowe at (480) 277-4387 or the Office of the Dean of Students at (404) 270-5133.



# Campus Life & EVENTS



## Market Friday

By: **Aysia Pate** Market Friday Director  
spelman.mkt@gmail.com

This year, the Market Friday Committee will work hard along with the support of other SGA members to make each and every Market Friday fun and meaningful. Every Friday will have a theme that will be advertised throughout the week.

There will either be an educational or social awareness component to enhance the experience of the students so that they are engaged with issues within and outside of the AUC community.

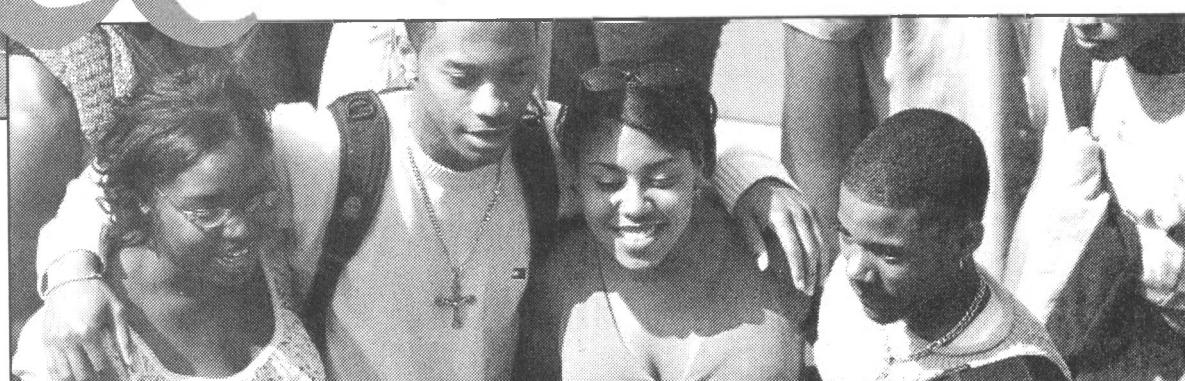
The newest component of Market Friday will include collaborating with Registered Student Organizations as well as other groups throughout the AUC. Some Market

Fridays will feature guest speakers and entertainment as well as giveaways and contests.

With your help Market Friday will regain its reputation as an exciting event that every student looks forward to attending. If anyone is interested in vending or collaborating with us please contact me!

Aysia Pate, Market Friday Director

Email: spelman.mkt@gmail.com  
Phone: (240) 441-7191



## BACK IN THE WATER

### Return of the Tigersharks

By: **Andre Wilson**, Morehouse C'2015 & **Emily Heyward**, Spelman C'2015  
Tigershark Historians

1958 was the year in which promise and prosperity rippled through the waters of a 25-yard pool at a prestigious African-American institution in the heart of Atlanta, Georgia. The pulls and kicks of the dedicated, hard working, and charismatic Tigersharks overpowered racial stereotypes, cynicism, and doubt. That was the year a legacy was born.

During the first 18 years of its existence, the Tigersharks—the Morehouse College swim team—accrued 250 wins, 15 SIAC championships, and only 25 losses. The team was so popular that not even President Benjamin E. Mays could find a seat at the Archer Hall pool. Despite the team's rise to national acclaim with features in magazines such as Ebony and Jet, in 1976 the Tigersharks swim team was disbanded because of funding issues.

Refusing to let the collapse of the team overshadow a supreme legacy, The Atlanta University Tigersharks were chartered at Morehouse College in May 2012. The team consisted of Head Coach Gary Wyatt; Assistant Coaches Lewis Collier, Carey George, and Jelani Watkins; and over 30 students hailing from the AUC.

This new group of Tigersharks wasted no time continuing the legacy of their predecessors. At the 27th Annual Black History Month Swim Meet in Washington DC on February 15-17, 2013, Omar ElTayeb, Clark Atlanta University C'2014, obtained first place and broke the meet record for the 50 yard freestyle with a time of 22.92 seconds, qualifying him to compete at the Senior Sectionals Swim Meet in July, 2013. Kayla Broughton, Spelman College C'2016, also won first place in her age group in the 100 yard butterfly. Despite the fact that over half of the swimmers were competing in their first meet ever, several students placed and scored points for the team.

Captains Seifuddin Saafir Morehouse C'2015 and Andre Wilson Morehouse C'2015, both featured in the May 2013 Maroon Tiger: Man of the Year edition, have been training and will be competing as the team's first USA Swimming athletes.

Outside of competing for titles, the Tigersharks also pride themselves on outreach. As a member of USA Swimming, the official organization for club swimming in the United States, the Tigersharks will not only compete in local meets, but train youth swimmers as well.

"Over half of the youth in America who die due to drowning are African-American," said Jelani Watkins, Tigershark Executive Board President, and Junior at Morehouse College.

"Our goal is not only to rebuild this ardent legacy once established by the previous trailblazing pioneers of Morehouse College, but to teach others the swimming fundamentals and leadership techniques that will enable them to firmly stand on the backs of those predecessors and build upon their strongly set foundation."

As one of only three swim programs housed at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), the Tigersharks have set a goal of adding three more teams over the next three years. They hope to use their successes as inspiration so that all HBCUs can have a similar outlet to the one that the Tigersharks have fostered.

Though without the luxury of backstroke flags, lane ropes, and uniforms, the current members of the Tigersharks recognize what their goals are. As a team, these students are on the verge of bringing back the most dangerous predators of the tides. You can learn more about them at [www.auctigersharks.com](http://www.auctigersharks.com).

## Where's Public Safety?

By: **Kevena Belcher** C'2015 & **Raquel Rainey** C'2014

As the new school year begins, with two recent crimes, the students of the Atlanta University Center (AUC) are reminded of the possible dangers that occur within and around the West End community. Prior to the start of classes, four freshman students from Spelman College were robbed at gunpoint near Northside Dr. & Stonewall St., one block north of the Burger King on Northside Dr.

"Well, it kind of proves that the three, four, five rule isn't the best option because it didn't work in this situation," said Gabrielle Porter C'2017. It is common for students to travel in groups around the West End community, but unfortunately taking this precaution has proven not to be enough to elude danger.

Spelman Public Safety takes great strides to protect students while on campus, but once students leave the gates the reliability of Spelman Public Safety fades. When asked about their role in the robbing, Public Safety Director Steve Bowser responded that the incident happened "well away from campus and beyond the jurisdiction of Spelman Campus Police. The students came to us to report the incident and we immediately put them in contact with the Atlanta Police Department."

...There are dangers everywhere.

Therefore Students have to be well-educated and informed of possible dangers and necessary actions to take if an incident occurs.

It is vital that Spelman students are cognizant of their surroundings. Spelman Public Safety only acts within its jurisdiction, therefore, students must take the appropriate steps to protect themselves when off campus.

In an effort to promote safety and awareness, follow the tips below

to limit your exposure to victimization.

- Do not use headphones or text while walking
- Share your travel plans, including departure and arrivals times, with a friend.
- Have your keys ready to open your house or car door.
- Never use ATM machines in secluded locations.
- When walking, make eye contact with each individual that approaches or passes you and remain aware of his or her actions.

To report a crime or incident, please call local authorities at 911 then contact Spelman Public Safety at (404) 525-6401.

## Fall 2013 Important Dates Mark Your Calendars!

September 23-29
Anti Hazing Awareness & Prevention Week
September 26
Hispanic Awareness Month: Cultural Café (food, fun and dancing)
October 2013
Domestic Violence Awareness Month
October 2
Hispanic Awareness Month: Movie—Real Women Have Curves
October 5
Get Away To Explore (GATE) Safari
October 7-11
Midterm Exams
October 9
PULSE Midterm Madness
October 14-15
Fall Break- No Spelman College Classes
October 16
Fall Classes Resume
October 14-18
Alcohol Awareness & Prevention Week

October 20-27
AUC Homecoming Events
October 20
Homecoming Opening Worship Service
October 20
AIDS Walk ATL Community Service
October 20
Homecoming Kick-Off Jam in the Spelman Oval
October 21
Homecoming Comedy Show
October 22
Homecoming Neo Soul Concert
October 23
Morehouse & Clark Atlanta University Homecoming Hip Hop Concert
October 24
Homecoming: Miss Spelman Coronation
October 24
Homecoming: Crown Forum Pep Rally
October 25
Homecoming: Miss Maroon and White Coronation

October 25
Homecoming Coronation Ball
October 26
Homecoming Parade & Game
October 27
Homecoming Closing Worship Service
October 28
Advisement for Spring 2014 Begins
October 31
Halloween- Dress in Your Best Halloween Costume
November
Native American Heritage Month
November 1
Last Day to Withdraw from course with a "W"
November 12
Registration for Spring Semester 2014
November 27
No Spelman Classes
November 28-29
Holiday   Thanksgiving - No Classes

December 4
Fall Semester Classes End
December 5-6
Reading Period
December 9-13
Final Exams
December 13
Fall Semester Ends Residence Halls Close at 12:00 Noon
December 16-22
Student Affairs Global Experience to London
December 23 - January 1, 2014
COLLEGE CLOSED
January 2, 2014,
College Offices Open
January 11, 2014
Residence Halls Open at 10:00a.m.
February 21-23, 2014
Spelman College Family Weekend





# ARTS & Entertainment



## ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

### Gold Shades

By: Kevona Belcher C'2015

From the walls of Graves Hall, an unassumingly inspiring Morehouse residence hall, a musical performance group was formed. Marlon Booker, Julian Booker, and Gary Clark, all juniors at Morehouse College call themselves Gold Shades. The trio creates a versatile sound charmingly equivocal to their diverse backgrounds.

The group started from a small acapella choir called the Hilltones. The three bonded over their shared love for music and instruments. They play over ten different instruments some of which include the drums, clarinet, ukulele, piano, cello, flute, French horn, and the dizi flute.

Gold Shades' chemistry outside of the studio is something truly special. Although Marlon and Julian Booker are identical twins, all three young men consider themselves family.

"I'm the third twin," Clark said. He added that the trust and connection between the three helps the group dynamic a lot because they know each other's voices well.

They chose to call themselves Gold Shades because as Clark puts it, "it sounds regal," and yet it's still very marketable and catchy. However, the trio is more than

catchy; they are captivating. This past summer, Gold Shades made it through Amateur Night at the historic Apollo Theater in New York City with rousing applause.

"When we walked in the restaurant afterwards, people just started clapping," Clark said.

*We want to bring communities together through our art.*

Gold Shades experienced something that only the most talented musicians have survived. It takes real talent to please the boisterous crowd at The Apollo, and the trio did not disappoint. They use big-stage

performances as motivation to improve.

"The experience at the Apollo showed us how to be the best performers that we can be," Julian said.

Largely inspired, Gold Shades is shifting to focus on the depth of their music, which already provides an alluring and unpredictable sound.

"The Apollo taught us about the style of music that we want to focus on," said Marlon. With that in mind, Gold Shades is looking to change from contemporary to a more soulful style.

"It's something people wouldn't expect from us," Clark said.

As artists, the three believe it is their duty to provide a positive message through their music. The three young men aim to achieve unity through music, and thus work tirelessly to improve their sound.

"We want to bring communities together through our art," Marlon said.

Be on the lookout for this dynamic trio. They are sure to leave a lasting impression.

YouTube: Gold Shades Music  
Twitter: @goldshades

## GOLD SHADES



Twitter: @goldshades

YouTube Channel: Gold Shades Music



## 20 FACTS

### About Today's College First-Year Students

The Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA released its annual survey of nearly 220,000 freshmen, who attend 1,555 four-year colleges and universities. The following are facts about first-year college students who graduated from high school in 2011.

- 76% of first-years were accepted into their No. 1 college.
- The No. 1 reason students gave for attending their chosen schools was they have a "very good reputation." Only 18.2% said national magazine college rankings were "very important" in their decision.
- 71% of students rated themselves as either being in the top 10% of students or above-average in their academic ability.
- 69.5% of incoming students received grants or scholarships as compared to 73.4% in 2010. Only 26.8% received \$10,000 or more in scholarships versus 29.2% in 2010.
- More than 28% said they frequently felt overwhelmed by all they had to do.
- 42% of first-years expect to earn a master's degree.
- 55% of first-years attend school no more than 100 miles from home.
- 55% of students took at least one Advanced Placement class and 21.7% took at least five AP courses.
- About 50% of first-years earned a grade point aver-

age no worse than an A- in high school.

- In their senior year, 46.5% of the students frequently or occasionally fell asleep in class.
- Only 39.5% of first-years reported that they studied at least six hours a week as high school seniors.
- More than 37% selected a college that's no more than 50 miles away from mom and dad.
- During a typical week in their senior year in high school, about 30% of the college-bound students did no pleasure reading.
- 21% of first-years estimated that their parents earned at least \$150,000 a year.
- There are more liberal first-years (27.6%) than conservative students (20.7%). The majority of students describe themselves as "middle of the road."
- 25% of first-years said they would need math tutoring.
- While many students live near enough to bring their laundry home, only 14% of first-years attend college 500 or more miles away.
- 18% of students estimated that their parents earned less than \$30,000 a year.
- Paying for college is a "major" concern for only 12% of first-years.
- Opinions about same-sex marriage have changed significantly, with 71.3% of first-years supporting

the right to marry versus 64.9% two years ago.

#### OTHER IMPORTANT FACTS

- According to a new study released by financial services firm Sallie Mae,
- More than 6 in 10 students strongly agree that taking out loans is a better option than skipping college.
- 34% of 18 to 24 year old students took out federal loans, a 4 percent increase from the year before, and a 9 percent increase from 2008-2009.
- Student borrowing was at its highest rate in four years, adding up to 18% of the total spent, up from 14% in the 2008-2009 school year. The average federal student loan taken among students surveyed was \$7,874 for 2011-2012; average private student loan borrowing totaled \$8,096.
- As many as one in three first year students doesn't make it back for sophomore year because of financial concerns, academic struggles, and family concerns.
- Parents, families and friends contribute to the 77% graduation and retention rate of Spelman students.

HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT SPELMAN COLLEGE...

GIVE TO THE ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN!

## Morehouse College and VH1's Save the Music a Benefit Concert

By: Alexis Dulan C'2016

The educators and students of the Atlanta University Center are collectively committed to servicing both local communities and the nation in profound ways. September 5th marked the date in which Morehouse College and VH1's Save the Music Foundation hosted a benefit concert to raise funds for the foundation. The event was held at the Ray Charles Performing Arts Center, a \$20 million building designed in honor of the musical legend who would have been delighted to see music unite so many people.

Funds raised during the concert will be used to purchase instruments and to fund music programs that expose children to the world of music through crafting talented musicians. Morehouse College students and students from the AUC showcased their individual talents through music and performing arts.

As service is an important part of the missions of the schools within the AUC, this was a unique opportunity to give back that allows students to express themselves through the arts. Just because the event is over doesn't mean you can't do your part to save the music.

Visit: <http://www.vh1savethemusic.org/>  
Follow them on Twitter @vh1savethemusic  
Facebook: VH1 Save the Music Foundation

## FALL MUSIC FESTIVALS & CONCERTS

### FESTIVALS

**A3C (All 3 Coasts) Music Festival:**

**Dates:** October 2-6

**Featured Artists:** Ghostface Killah, Questlove, Bun B, Too Short, Schoolboy Q, A\$AP Ferg, Young Dro, Meek Mill, Talib Kweli

**Prices:** \$60 through September, \$75 through October & at the door

A3C also has platforms in education, film, style, pro-audio, art, technology, gaming, sports, break-dance. Check the website for more.

**Website:** [www.a3cfestival.com](http://www.a3cfestival.com)

**Candler Park Fall Fest**

**Dates:** Saturday, September 28, 2013 12:00pm - 10:00pm  
Sunday, September 29, 2013 12:00pm - 8:00pm

**Prices:** Free Admission

Put on by the Candler Park Neighborhood Organization, live bands and artists will perform over the weekend. Other events include, 150+ artist booths, a kids' area, and a 5K run.

**Website:** <http://atlantabuzz.com/event/candler-park-fall-fest/>

### Concerts

(Check the venue websites for info on pricing)

John Mayer & Phillip Phillips 9/27 7:30pm, Aarons Amphitheater at Lakewood, in Atlanta

Lionel Richie, 9/27 8pm, Chastain Park Amphitheater, Atlanta

Fall Out Boy & Panic! At The Disco, 09/28, 7:30pm, Verizon Wireless Amphitheater at Encore Park, Alpharetta, Ga.

The Weekend, 09/30, 7:30 pm at the Fabulous Fox Theatre, Atlanta

J. Cole & Wale, 10/4, 8:00 pm at the Fabulous Fox Theatre, Atlanta

Toro Y Moi, 10/16, Time TBD, Buckhead Theatre, Atlanta

India. Arie, 10/18, 8:00 pm, Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre, Atlanta

Janelle Monáe, 11/26, 8pm at The Tabernacle in Atlanta







# SPELMAN SPOTLIGHT

## ALUMNAE SPOTLIGHT

On Inclusion and Sensitivity in AUC

By: Ayanna Runcie C'2015

What many people refer to as being handicapped, disabled, or crippled Shatika Duncan simply refers to as being differently abled. The Class of 2013 graduate has mild cerebral palsy.

"It's not that I'm disabled," Duncan said. "I can do anything I want to do I just have to do it differently."

When Duncan was a small child her mother noticed that she was not developing at the usual rate, and was behind in pivotal milestones in childhood development such as being able to sit up properly. After consulting a medical physician, Duncan was diagnosed with cerebral palsy. She has needed technological assistance ever since. She used a wheelchair in elementary school, a walker in high school, and a scooter in college.

As someone who had to get around campus on a scooter, Duncan argues that Spelman College is not a very accessible campus. Many doors are hard to open because they do not have buttons that open them electronically and sometimes the elevators do not work. For most of her college career she was not even given a key to the lifts in buildings with many stairs, such as Giles Hall.

Once, Duncan was not able to take a class she was really passionate about because the classroom was only accessible by stairs. Additionally, the showers act as another challenge because many lack supportive bars. Duncan recalls falling in the showers several times during her first year at Spelman.

Duncan argues that the only recent advancement in Spelman becoming more accessible is the renovation of Laura Spelman, one of her former residence halls. Nonetheless, Duncan struggled with opening and closing doors even in this building.

She believes that the only reason that Laura Spelman is accessible is because all new buildings are required to be accessible by federal law. Most of the other residence halls are not accessible because Spelman is not required to meet those standards on such old buildings. Duncan believes that Spelman should make every building accessible anyway.

However, making the campus totally accessible to all students has not been something in which Spelman has chosen to invest. Making the Spelman Safety Shuttle accessible is also something that Spelman has not invested in.

"If [Spelman] was forced to invest in it, they would probably just shut the shuttle down," a Spelman Public Safety officer said.

Duncan feels as though Spelman's administration has been really insensitive to the needs of differently

abled students because there are so few of them.

"Even if it's just one student, one student matters," Duncan said.

Duncan was the only graduating senior who needed to use a scooter. Even still, the administration did not make an effort to make aspects of senior week more comfortable for her.

During her time as a student, her peers were very insensitive to her needs as well. A lot of times when Duncan attended events throughout the Atlanta University Center, people have made insensitive or obscene comments towards her.

"People will say things like, 'why are you here with that scooter, you look stupid,' or people will stand right in front of me as if I'm not even there," Duncan said. "It makes me feel really excluded."

During Duncan's first week of her freshman year, a group of men approached her on the Clark Atlanta campus and said "we could rob you right now if we wanted to," just because she was in a scooter.

"I want to go out and have fun just like everybody else but I often can't because I am scared of what someone might do to me," Duncan said.

As a way to be more sensitive and inclusive towards differently abled people, perhaps Spelman College, as well as the adjacent colleges in the Atlanta University Center, should focus on promoting daily awareness.

"Bring more awareness, not just in awareness week," Marlissa Stalling C'2015 said. "But make it part of the code of conduct. Being disabled doesn't always mean physically."

"If someone who is blind were to attend Spelman, the campus would not know how to react. There would be a lot of stares. So disability awareness should be an everyday code of conduct."

If Spelman's campus becomes more accessible, a broader array of women would want to attend the institution. This would not only further diversify Spelman's campus, but it would also help students become more accepting of people from different backgrounds, which supports Spelman's mission of developing freethinking women. Students would learn to navigate difference.

## EXCHANGE STUDENTS

Students from all over the world

By: Dedra Mitchell C'2014

Spelman's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), "Going Global", has catapulted a strong foundation for international exploration. More students are seizing the opportunity to study abroad, thus enhancing the international scope for students at Spelman. However, Spelman is not only sending students across the globe but accepting international students. This semester Spelman has the privilege to host five amazing young ladies hailing from three different continents for the 2013-2014 academic year. The following interview illustrates the students' exciting, difficult, and authentic experiences at Spelman thus far.

1. Moeko Takizawa  
Japan  
International Studies Major  
Junior

2. Tais Bellini  
Brazil  
Computer Science Major  
Junior

3. Katerina Modra  
Czech Republic  
International Studies Major  
Junior

4. Ana Paula F. Cavalieri  
Brazil  
Computer Science Major  
Junior

5. Isabela Fraga de Andrade  
Brazil  
Biology Major  
Junior

Q. Why did you choose Spelman College?

• Bellini: "It has a rich culture and it's beautiful."

Q. What's your favorite thing about Spelman so far?

• Modra: "The people and the classes because they're so small."  
• Cavalieri: "Everyone is so nice and helpful!"  
• Bellini: "We're really far away from our families, but I feel so welcomed and comfortable."

Q. What's your least favorite thing about Spelman so far?

• Takizawa: "The food. It's not healthy and [living conditions] aren't as clean"  
• Fraga: "The lines for food are so long, and there are no markets to buy fresh vegetables. And shared bathroom, shared room."

Q. What do you miss most about home?

• Takizawa: "My family and friends. But I have some friends in America doing other study abroad programs so I may be able to visit them."  
• Fraga: "My mom and cat. I think I can live without everything else but my mom and cat. I don't really miss my boyfriend."

Q. What would you like to say to the Spelman community?

• Takizawa: "Feel free to talk to me."  
• Bellini: "Thank you for being so nice to us. People say that first impressions are the ones that matter the most and we will always think of Spelman students and staff as very accepting people."  
• Modra: "I am happy to make new friends!"  
• Cavalieri: "To me it's like a dream! I'm very happy to be here."  
• Fraga: "A lot of people have asked me why I came to a 'black school'. I'm not at a black college. I'm at a great college. For us, it's a pleasure and an honor to be here."



## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Honoring the Late Taronda Spencer

By: Raquel Rainey C'2014

Spelman College has suffered a great loss. Taronda Spencer C'80, college historian and archivist, passed away earlier this summer. As a second-generation archivist, Ms. Spencer knew from childhood that history and archives were her passion.

"She was a connoisseur in her work of history and archives," Eloise Alexis C'86, Vice President of College Relations, said. "She was warm and fuzzy, and [she] was a person who cared about what people were made of, which led to her role as historian."

Ms. Spencer's extensive knowledge of Spelman's history stemmed from her undergraduate degree in history from Spelman College. In 1998, Ms. Spencer was extended the opportunity to work as Spelman's archivist and in 2000 became the college historian. Alumnae, faculty, and students loved her due to her preservation of Spelman traditions.

"If you believe in destiny, this was her destiny," Alexis said. As a charge to the Class of 2017, Alexis shares what Ms. Spencer wrote one year before her passing:

"Sophia B. Packard and Harriet E. Giles will never meet you, Class of 2017, but you are the embodiment of their vision, of women who would lead and serve."

Therefore, with the equipment of an excellent education and value of history of black women, Ms. Spencer's work will continue to live through all of our works, activism, and teachings.



Taronda Spencer  
1962-2013

## 5 Ways To Ensure Justice for Trayvon

By: Ain Ealey C'2014

Below are 5 things you can do now in the wake of the Trayvon Martin verdict to ensure your involvement in the ongoing quest for Justice

1. Register to Vote
2. Vote to repeal the Stand your Ground Law.
3. Spring break, thinking about Panama or Miami? Stop and think. We are financially boycotting the state of Florida to financial strain on the state until they change the law. Fact: The state of Florida makes over 61 billion dollars in tourism money.

4. Letter Campaign to repeal "Stand your Ground" sent to all congressmen of the specific state where the law is enforced. For those who are registered to vote in New York the same will work for "Stop and Frisk."
5. Headquarter corporations that are based in Florida boycott their products. This is because they help lobby for the laws that devalue the life of American citizens. \*A list will be provided.

## 40-Year-Old-Freshwoman

By: Karimah Noble, PED Scholar C'2015

Walk the manicured campus of Spelman College and what will you find? Gorgeous, young women of every size, shape, and hue of brown. Women from every walk of life, every religious affiliation, and every socioeconomic background. No two have the same story—every Spelman woman's journey is different.

You might find the Spelmanite who is the first person to attend college in her family or the "generational" Spelman woman whose mother's mother graduated from Spelman. The Spelman community welcomes everyone from the little girl who grew up poor and knew only scarcity, to the one whose entire world revolved around affluence. The sisterhood is tangible to all who enter the gates,

from the woman who never dreamed she would attend college—let alone Spelman—to the woman, from the day she was conceived, had Spelman DNA encoded within her, and as a result did not bother applying to any other institution because quite frankly, nothing less was expected of her.

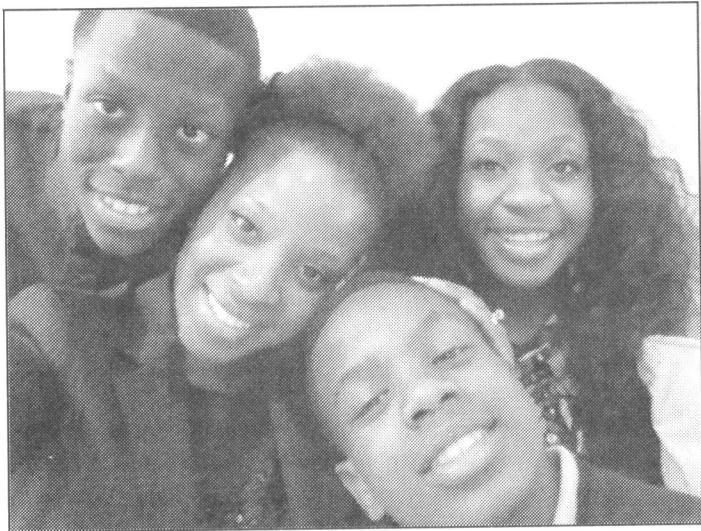
If you are only looking on the surface, you may only see excited teenagers fresh out of high school

experiencing freedom for the first time. However, a closer gaze might reveal a different kind of student—one who has woken up late with just enough time to throw on a pair of sweats before dropping her three children off to school. Amid a sea of flawlessly styled heads, perfectly put together designer ensembles, this student may go unnoticed.

Who is she, you ask? Why, it is I, the 40-year-old freshwoman, commonly referred to as one of the Pauline E. Drake Scholar (PEDS), and I represent a small portion of the student population at Spelman College. Perhaps I go unnoticed because I wear skinny jeans, instead of the typical "mom" jeans most have come to associate with mothers—you know the kind, with the 25 inch zipper and God-awful pleats that accentuate, rather than

camouflage, the mid-section. Or perhaps it is because I look younger than I am (so I am told anyway), or maybe it is simply because most students are too busy navigating through their own lives to even notice.

Whatever the case may be, there are a handful of mature women who have made the choice to either enter college for the first time or to return to their studies. Of course, we are not all literally 40-year-old freshwomen. Some may be 24-year-old first years, 31-year-old sophomores, 39-year-old juniors (like yours truly), or even 50-something-year-old seniors (absolutely no pun intended). As few and far between as we are, we do walk among you.



Karimah Noble with her three children

PEDS do not live the "traditional" life of college students. We own homes and have bills. Some of us are married to Morehouse men (shameless plug); some are single, some have children and some do not. There are PEDS who have jobs, and others, like me, are stay-at-home moms. In other words, we have real life responsibilities that we juggle while attending Spelman.

Regardless of our differences, we have a commonality: We have decided that age is not, and should not, be a factor in fulfilling our goal. We have affirmed to ourselves that, just as the tortoise learned in his competition with the hare, the race is not given to the swift, but to the one who endures to the end. We have made the brave choice to pursue this journey despite being older, having children, spouses, jobs, bills, and responsibilities beyond ourselves. Why? To complete a chapter in our lives and be able to say that we wrote, edited, and finished it our way.

So the next time you are in class, look around. You might be sitting next to one of these extraordinary women and not even know it. If you happen to be, introduce yourself. You never know what you might learn from her.

## THE BLUEPRINT: Mission Statment

It is the mission of The BluePrint to serve as a profound forum that fortifies understanding, unity, and advocacy throughout the Spelman and greater AUC community. The BluePrint strives to produce innovative, fair, and creative journalism that helps its readers understand the nation and world through the lens of African-American and Black Women.





# Opinions...

## THE HARRIET TUBMAN SEX TAPE: *Russell Simmons' Attack on African-American History*

By: **Ko Bragg** C'2015

### Intersectionality.

Ask any Spelmanite who has taken African Diaspora and the World (ADW), and she may groan at the mere mention of the subject. Though it seems so ingrained in the Spelman student body, many people are not familiar with the study that relates to many people of the world—as proven by its absence from Microsoft Word's spell check dictionary.

Intersectionality or intersectionalism is the study of the relationship between different tiers of disenfranchisement and oppression. It aims to highlight the interaction between oppressive systems as they relate to gender, class, race, sexual preferences, and any other form of self-identification. At the core of it all, intersectionality affirms that bigoted oppression does not limit itself to one form; rather it works in conjunction with other configurations of hatred.

Sometimes I like to think of ADW as preparation for cocktail hours in the sense that it prepares you to be ready at a moments notice, even if that moment occurs over martinis, to combat the fallacies about African-American culture that exist in the minds of the average American. Much of what we study in ADW relates to the intersectionality between being a person of color and a woman—two groups that were historically marginalized by racist and sexist laws for centuries.

Though we no longer live in the era of Jim Crow and his equally oppressive sister "Jane Crow," as Pauli Murray coined during her time at Howard in the 40s, there are still plenty of times in America in which the black woman is forced to be reminded of the weight she bears atop her black skin that covers her womanly figure.

Just in August, Russell Simmons attempted to use his idea of humor to overshadow the struggles that African-American women have overcome on the journey from slavery to present day with the release of The Harriet Tubman Sex Tape on his All Def Digital YouTube channel.

The Harriet Tubman Sex Tape was created to be a parody of two slaves seeking to revolt. The plan was for Harriet Tubman, played by actress Shanna Malcolm, to seduce her master (actor Jason Horton) into having sex with her while another slave (actor DeStorm Power)



filmed it. The two slaves planned to use the tape as blackmail in order to escape the plantation.

The myriad of shaming inaccuracies are overwhelming in the parody starting with the fact that slaves during the Harriet Tubman era would not have had access to video cameras that were arguably not even invented at that time. Moreover, enslaved black women, such as Harriet Tubman, should not be remembered as sexual deviants who wanted to get their masters into bed when so many were raped and violated sexually.

"Although in the video she seduces the slave master, it implies the previous rapes," Simmons said in an interview with the YouTube channel Brkdown. "I just saw her taking advantage of the slave master and I just let it go."

Russell Simmons, who described the video on his Twitter as "the funniest thing he had ever seen," only took the video down and issued an apology after the overwhelming backlash he received in response to the tasteless video.

Change.org, an online platform for petitions geared towards creating social change, hosted a petition by Crystal Fleming, Assistant Professor of Sociology and Africana Studies at Stony Brook University. The petition ordered that the video be removed immediately, but it also urged Simmons to apologize to the United Nations because he is an appointed Good Will ambassador to the UN for the permanent memorial in honor of the victims of Trans-Atlantic slavery.

I don't quite understand how someone in Simmons' position, let alone a grown man, could ever support something so disgusting. In his apology issued on Globalgrind.com he said:

"My first impression of the Harriet Tubman piece was that it was about what one of actors said in the video, that 162 years later, there's still tremendous injustice. And with Harriet Tubman outwitting the slave master? I thought it was politically correct. Silly me."

His apology, which did not express sentiment and was more focused on defending the creative right of the video, shows a level of immaturity so shameful that I had not realized it was a facet of our society. Silly me.

## THE N-WORD

By: **Karys Belger** C'2016

The N-word is a word we have all heard and some have used in one form or another. Recently, I was thinking about the word, its origins, why African-Americans are okay with using it with one another, and why we condemn people who are not of African descent for using it.

Before I delve a little deeper, here's a little history lesson. The N-word derives from the Spanish and Portuguese root "negro," meaning the color black. Before it became an ethnic slur, it was used to describe anyone of color, African or not.

It was not until the later part of the 15th century that the word became synonymous with African-Americans, a group that was viewed as inferior by their Caucasian counterparts. Today the N-word is a common adjective that is used in a variety of situations, from referencing a person you hang out with daily to referencing a dude who treated you badly.

Though it is apparent that this term had seemingly innocuous origins, it is universally agreed upon that the N-word was used in some places, particularly the South, because it was more offensive, and demeaning to African-Americans. The word became synonymous with subservience and lack of intelligence—things inaccurately associated with African-Americans. This practice continued into the latter half of the 19th century.

Fast forward nearly 175 years, the N-word has taken on the commonality of a government descriptor and colloquial slang term. It is used as a misnomer for African-American children who seek a better education and civilians who seek equality under a system that refuses to protect their interests.

No matter how many times your friend uses it to greet you, or Jay-Z says it in song, you should not desensitize yourself to something so hateful. The more people continue to use the N-word, the more the ignorance behind the meaning will be perpetuated.

## Sister Spelman:

*Coming Soon in the Next Issue*

By: **Karimah Noble, PED Scholar** C'2015

Is your roommate driving you up a wall and you do not know how to handle it? Does your Morehouse brother want to be more than "siblings" and you can't quite find the words to say "not in a million years"? Are you facing difficulty balancing your school life with your social life? Have you ever wished you had an outlet to blow off steam? Do you want unbiased, impartial advice to help navigate through the inevitable challenges that come along with college life?

Well wish no more, Sister Spelman is here for you. Sister Spelman is an advice column that seeks to establish

healthy dialogue through anonymously submitted questions and/or concerns.

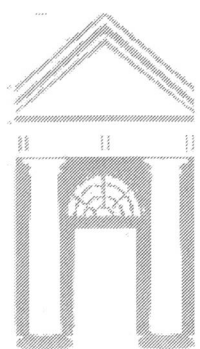
Sister Spelman's foremost priority is to protect her reader's privacy. All submissions will be kept confidential. No names or email addresses will be shared inside or outside of the Spelman community. So rest assured and let the dialogue begin!

Please send all correspondences to [sisterspelman@gmail.com](mailto:sisterspelman@gmail.com). Looking forward to hearing from you beautiful Spelmanites!

## 32 PIECES OF ADVICE *Your Spelman Sisters Never had.....*

By: **Kamron Taylor** C'2015 & **Karys Belger** C'2016

1. Appreciate the 'Spelman Experience' while you are here.
2. College is all about managing time wisely.
3. Get involved with student organizations.
4. If you can get the books cheaper, do! Chegg.com.
5. Budget your money wisely; you do not need Subway everyday.
6. Don't keep food in your room. It's the best way to keep the freshman 15 away.
7. Don't wait to develop a relationship with your professors. You're next opportunity, might be too late.
8. When a Man of Morehouse asks you to come to his room and "watch a movie," it's likely the movie is that last thing on his mind.
9. You'll need different dresses for different occasions. PLEASE BE AWARE: You can't "sip tea" in the same dress you "twerk" in. Ladies, use caution.
10. Don't wear heels to the kickback...Just don't do it.
11. Business wear is a must. If there is something important happening on campus, career fair, info session etc. you will want to look as professional as possible.
12. It rains in Atlanta a lot. Have several umbrellas on hand: one for your room and one for your school bag.
13. Be careful on social networking sites. Your professors can and will find you.
14. Explore Atlanta. There are so many places in Atlanta to explore make sure you ask your big Spelman Sisters to help you out.
15. Although you don't have a car, you can use MARTA. Just be careful, research where you're going or ask someone and take a friend.
16. Don't be alarmed by what we call "ATLiens" or "WestEndiens". They're harmless. If they speak to you just say hi and keep it pushing. If they ask for money tell them you don't have anything on you.
17. Be careful what you say to your AUC peers, and whom you say it to. It will ALWAYS come back to haunt you.
18. Your first year group of friends may not stay together forever. Just focus on surrounding yourself with positive people.
19. Make sure that you stand out as a leader and showcase your talents to the AUC community. You never know who is watching.
20. Get your community service done as quickly as possible. Even better, make sure you join campus community service organizations like SKIRTS, ACTS and JumpStart.
21. Don't play with your GPA. A+ and A- make a huge difference. Make an effort to get the highest GPA possible in your freshman year so you can be inducted into honor societies like Alpha Lambda Delta.
22. Don't compare yourself to others. Be yourself.
23. Be careful with these kitchen beauticians! Don't let just anyone do your hair. Many students think they are professionals, and you will to until you are bald.
24. Take advantage of networking opportunities. For just about everything on campus it's about who you know!
25. Hide your food in the community fridge or someone will eat it. Putting your name on it means nothing. We are hungry college students just as much as we are beautiful.
26. No matter how hard you try to avoid it, drama will come so do your best to diffuse the situation calmly and quickly.
27. Get to the party shuttles early and bring flats.
28. You have to have a 3.0 GPA to participate in most campus activities.
29. Second semester freshman year is when you can try out for the Step Teams and Mahogany-N-Motion. Prepare yourself by working out first semester.
30. You can try out for cheerleading first semester. You can also run for Freshman Class Council and Dorm Councils.
31. The freshman dorms at Morehouse will have dorm queens. You have the opportunity to run. Try it out!
32. You only have four years at Spelman and they go by so quickly. Have fun and use the time wisely.



THE BLUEPRINT:  
A SPELMAN SPOTLIGHT  
PUBLICATION





# FASHION & Beauty

## TREND REPORT FOR FALL

By: Houston Scott C'2014

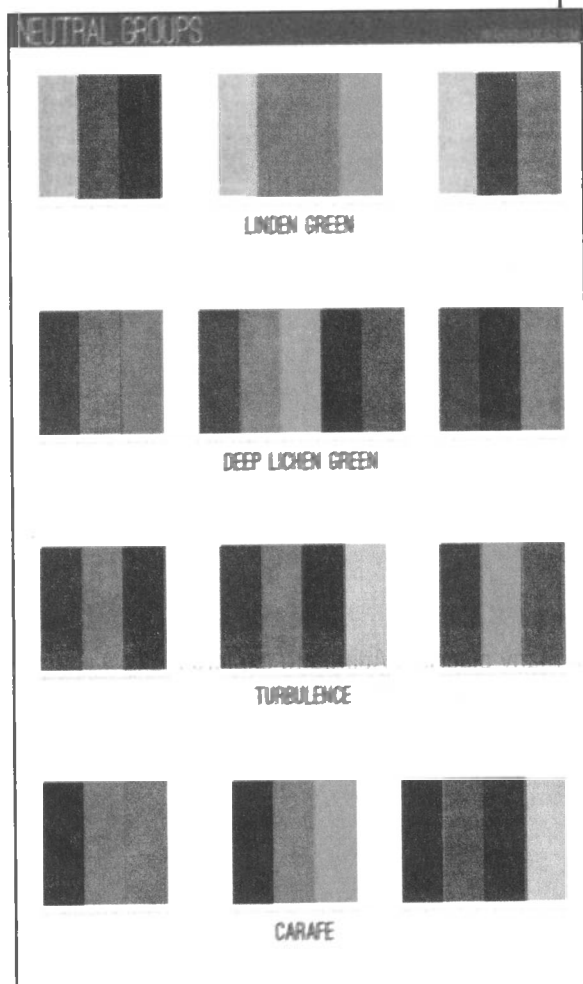
### Colors trend for Fall 2013

- Emerald Green (color of the year)
- Vivacious (pink)
- Carafe (Grey and brown blend)
- Turbulence (gray)
- Deep Lichen Green
- Samba (red)
- Açai (purple)
- Mykonos Blue
- Linden Green
- Koi (orange)

### Colors to Wear Together

- Carafe and the turbulence
- Mykonos blue and emerald
- Vivacious and açai
- Koi and a deep lustrous purple
- Linden Green and Turbulence
- Mykonos Blue and Turbulence

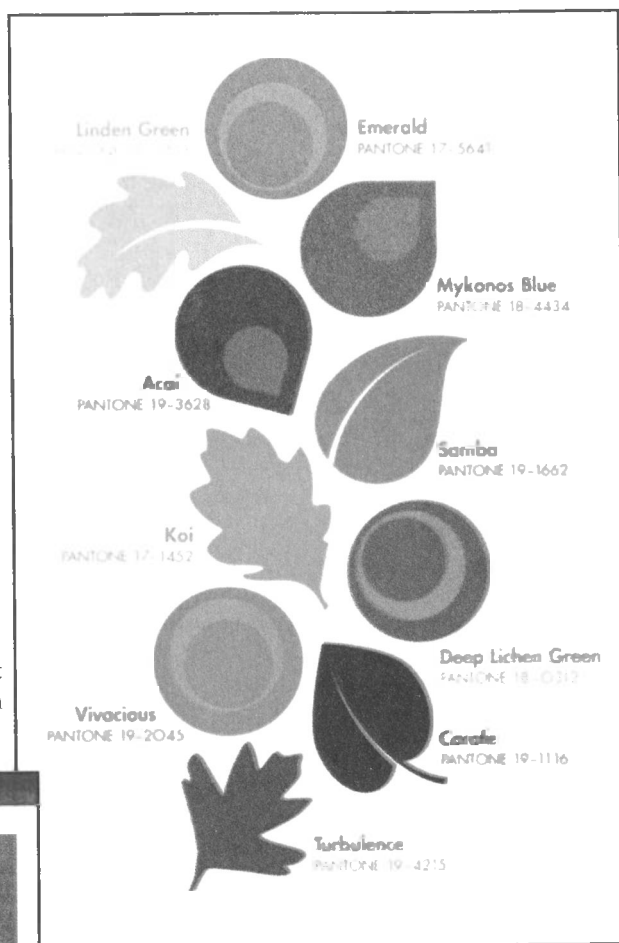
Below is a chart that displays color schemes that correspond with each color of the season. Have an open mind when looking at the color combinations.



Pantone.com

**As seen in:**  
All colors can be seen in Tom Ford fall/ winter 2013 collection.

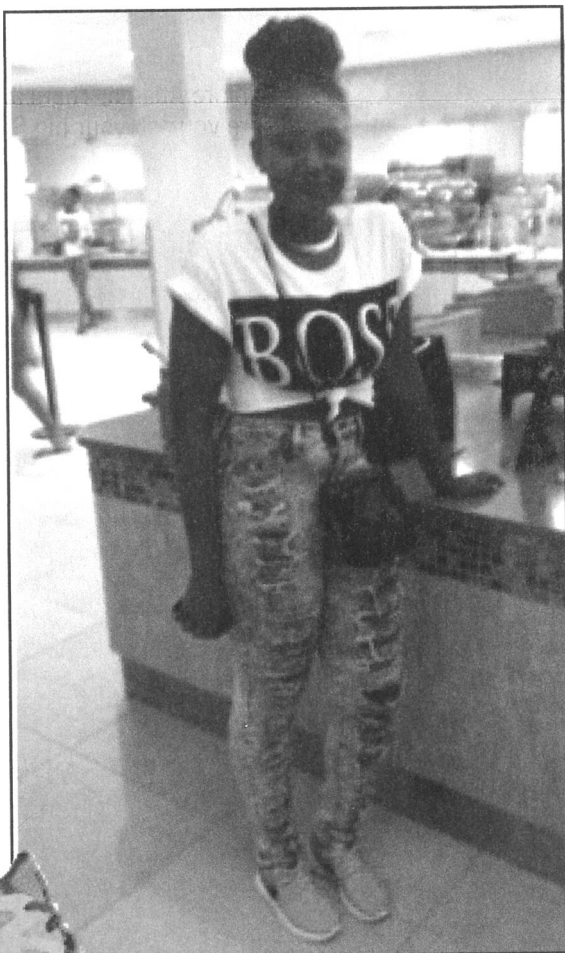
"Pantone, LLC, influences this color trend report information for fall 2013. Pantone is "the world-renowned authority on color. The PANTONE" name is known worldwide as the standard language for color communication from designer to manufacturer to retailer to customer."- Pantone.com



Pantone.com

## The IT Shoe

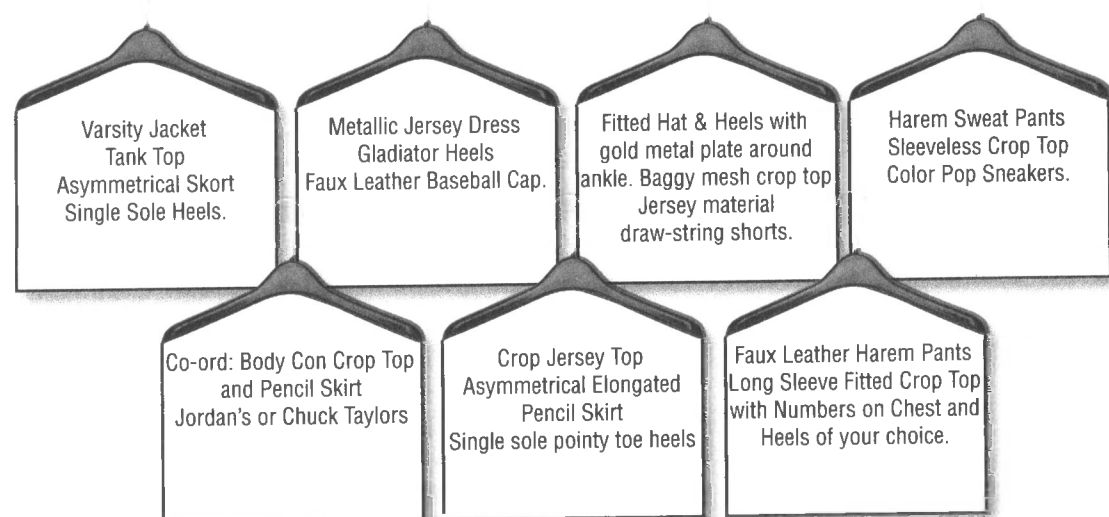
The "it" shoe in the market right now: is the lightweight runner. More specifically the running shoes are flexible, durable and, aesthetically pleasing color wise. Expect to see heather gray with a pop and neutral colors this fall. The shoes will lighten up later in the spring to white uppers, and multi-color speckled bottoms.



## Get the Look: Sporty Chic

Sporty Chic, or sometimes referred to as Athletic Luxe is the most popular look of the moment. This style incorporates very sexy feminine aspects of fashion fused with work out and athletic gear, or national sports paraphernalia. Singer and actress Teyana Taylor rocked this sexy tomboy look for years, before it was commercialized. Now numerous fashion influentials are giving the tomboy glamorous style meaning and visibility. Singers Rihanna and Rita Ora display great examples of the style in the media. Beyoncé's February 2013 GQ Magazine cover and spread is another affirmation of style having validity in the fashion realm of daily life.

Below are descriptions of outfits that embody the sporty chic (or Luxe Athletic) look.



## SPELMAN'S Rent the Runway Team

By: Houston Scott C'2014

RTR  
On Campus

What if women could have access to a dream closet: a new dress for every occasion, without actually buying them? In 2009 Jennifer Hyman and Jennifer Fleiss launched a company called Rent the Runway in New York City. Rent the Runway is designed for women who want to look glamorous without breaking the bank.

The company allows its consumers to rent high-end designer dresses and accessories for a four to eight day period from renttherunway.com. Rent the Runway is a vehicle for fashionistas to have access to their dream closet on a modest (college student) budget. Rent the Runway provides access to over 165 high-end fashion name brands for a fraction of the retail price.

Rent the Runway has been called the "Netflix of fashion" and has been mentioned in major publications such as Cosmopolitan, The New York Times, Forbes Magazine, Style.com, CNN, WWD, Teen Vogue, Seventeen, The Today Show, Bloomberg, and The Wall Street Journal. So far over 3 million women have signed up for access.

During a trip home, one of the co-founders, Jennifer Hyman, saw her sister struggling with "a closet full of clothes, but nothing to wear." Hyman's sister wanted to wear something from the red carpet, but had shallow pockets. At that moment Hyman decided to find a way for every woman to be able to have a Cinderella experience.

They created a company to fill the needs of women

who know and love high fashion, but cannot afford the designer prices. Hyman and Fleiss have created and maintained exclusive relationships with top designers, and therefore are able to continually update inventory with the latest designer pieces.

Rent the Runway has college rep teams on campuses around the country under their Campus Girl branch of the company. For the first time, Spelman College has a Rent the Runway team. The rep team intern members are comprised of two managers, a blogger, a social media representative, an event coordinator, a public relations representative, two marketing representatives, and a Greek liaison.

The college rep team is an amazing fashion internship that provides insight into the fashion industry and working experience. Spelman's Rent the Runway team plans to host several events and constantly advertise the rental experience to its students.

**Houston Scott, Manager**  
**Khalia Braxto, Manager**  
**Lydia Hayes, PR Rep**  
**Asha Pollard, Event Coordinator**  
**Brandy Hayes, Social Media Coordinator**  
**Maura Washington, Blogger**  
**Alyssa Battle, Marketing Rep**  
**Nia Reddix, Greek Liaison**  
**Taylor O'Neal, Marketing Rep**

## More Trends for Fall

We all know that Atlanta weather is unpredictable and varies from day to day. So here are some trends that you can sport in any weather.

- French Coats
- Crop Tops
- Oversized sleeves
- Co-ords (Coordinates) matching print on top and bottom.
- Faux Leather
- High Waisted Jeans with Slashes all the way down the leg
- High waisted elongated Pencil Skirts
- Zara Inspired Asymmetrical Skirt
- Shirt sleeves tied around Waist
- Non-gendered outerwear
- Fur

### Accessories and Shoes

- Beanies
- Clear heels
- All Clear shoes
- Tall Boots
- Jelly Shoes
- Id bracelets and necklaces
- Chunky chains
- Single sole ankle strap heels
- Spikes
- Studs
- Extreme sunglasses
- Quilted purses





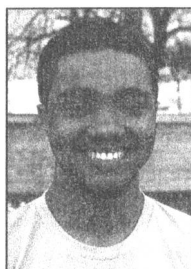


# Business & Finance

## “Raggs” to Riches

Karon Smith, Morehouse C'2016 Gives Advice On Becoming a Successful Entrepreneur

By: Teri Davis C'2016



Karon Smith

Becoming a successful, independent business owner does not come easy; it's a step-by-step process. Karon Smith, a sophomore Economics major at Morehouse College, is well aware of what this process entails. He owns Raggs Boutique, in his hometown of Chicago.

"At a very young age, I began to dabble in fashion and business," Smith said. As he reflected on what he has learned in business and finance, he attributed much of his mental growth to his hands on experience in the industry.

As he learns more about being a businessman, Smith faces some obstacles. Specializing in urban and street styled men's clothing that appeal to younger generations, he finds that sometimes being the same age as your target demographic can be tricky. Smith, only 19 years old, has had to combat doubters with confidence.

"People do not take you as seriously as a 30-year-old with the same type of business," Smith said. However, Smith's seven-year-old boutique has reaffirmed his belief that "age does not limit your knowledge on what you can do."

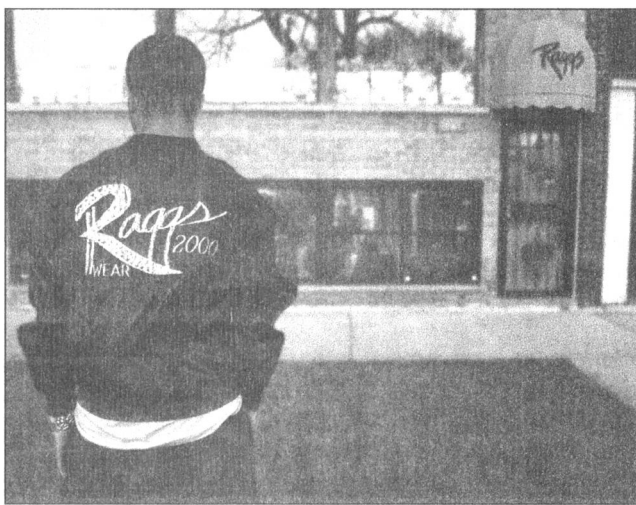
The bottom line is that consumers are interested in businesses that are unique. Smith's self-proclaimed attention to "exclusivity, style, and quality for a good price" has earned him a dedicated clientele. In March 2014 he plans on opening his second boutique in the Little Five Points area of Atlanta.

With success comes sacrifice. Smith's dedication to

his business has forced him to make difficult choices that sometimes cause him to become distant from people he once considered friends.

"Once you put yourself at a certain level everyone cannot be your friend," Smith said. He added that evaluating the company around you, allows you to mature. However, as Smith and his business grows, he never forgets to reflect back on the words of his mother.

"She told me not to put the cart before the horse," Smith said. With those words, Smith will matriculate through Morehouse College and expand his entrepreneurial horizons.



## \$avvy \$pending

By: Jordan Daniels C'2016

Money, or lack there of, is always an issue. College students who are paying tuition fees are always looking for ways to make money last, while still trying to have an enjoyable college experience.

Spelman students spend a large amount of money on tuition, room and board, and a meal plan each semester. Outside of school fees, students predominately spend their money on food, textbooks, and clothing.

Those who live off campus have to factor in rent, gas, and parking payments. Though owning a car gives students an element of freedom, a lot of Spelman students experience the financial burden of owning a car. After a recent poll, Spelman students weighed in on how they manage their money.

"Anything that is not adding to your educational value, at this stage, is unnecessary," explained sophomore Nneze Akwasi.

Graduating seniors Cierra Jackson and Simone Sibley offered their opinion on the subject.

"Don't try to live up to someone else's standard," voiced Jackson.

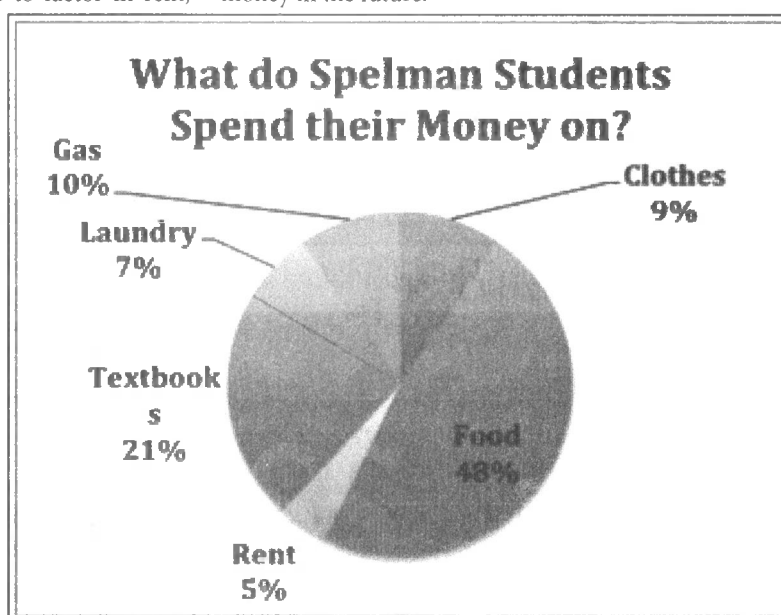
"Try not to live above your means," said Sibley.

Junior Zoe Mayfield and Freshman Raija Thomas relayed advice to students who were having a hard time handling or saving their money.

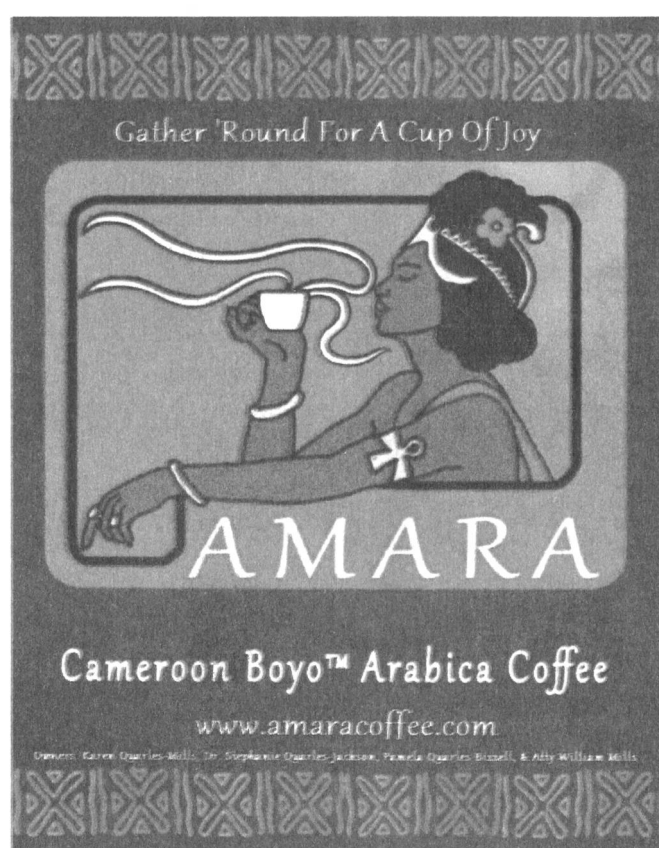
"If you have student loans start by paying those off first," said Mayfield, Junior at Spelman College. "Every little bit counts."

"Put a little money away each week to save," said Thomas "Don't buy things you don't need."

With the semester just beginning no one wants to overspend, discovering what Spelman students spend most of their money on will hopefully help them save money in the future.



Writer-Conducted Survey



# HEALTH & Fitness

## WELLNESS REVOLUTION

How to Eat Better, Move More, and Sleep Well.

By: Lydia Hayes C'2014

Compared to other minorities African-American women have the largest number of health risks as stated by the US Department of Health and Human Services. Some of these health risks include, heart disease, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol—all conditions that can be prevented by exercise and a healthy diet.

As confirmed by a study conducted at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, African-American women are more prone to the following health risks:

Cardiovascular disease (69% higher in African-American women)

Hypertension (352% higher in African-American women)

Stroke deaths (54% higher in African-American women)

Noting, a rise in these conditions among members of its student body, Spelman College has decided to combat unhealthy lifestyles and promote awareness by launching the Wellness Revolution. The Wellness Revolution encompasses the programs and services offered by the Wellness Center. These free services are available to

students, staff, and faculty. These programs include:

Weight Room Orientation: become familiar with equipment.

Exercise Prescription: one hour appointment to analyze habits, blood pressure measurements performed, medical history, and nutrition.

Fitness Assessment: series of tests to evaluate current level of fitness—heart rate, cardiovascular endurance, muscular endurance, flexibility, sit-up test, etc.

Quick Start Fitness Session: One-hour workout.

Freshman Fitness Package: exercise prescription, fitness assessment, and one-hour workout.

Another component of the Wellness Revolution is the Healthy U Interactive portal. Here you can create a personal profile that allows you to record and track your weight, physical activity, and a personal food log. The interactive profile tracks your overall improvements and growth in a graph. You can add friends to your profile to build a community. To learn more about Healthy U Interactive and the Wellness Revolution visit the Wellness Center located in Read Hall.

## BEAUTY BOXES

By: Lydia Hayes C'2014

Do you love makeup? Are you a product junky? Then, the beauty industry's newest trend is for you. These boxes are monthly subscriptions, like magazines, filled with new beauty products for you to try. Receiving one of these boxes in the mail each month would be like celebrating Christmas every month. There are many different beauty boxes out there for women interested in different aspects of beauty to try out, some of which are featured below.



Photo: Babs in Blogland

### 1) curlBOX

Girls with natural hair have been raving about the curlBOX. This \$20 monthly subscription allows you to try out five to seven different hair products. This is a great way to discover what products work best for your hair and you save money while doing it. The only con is that you can't purchase full sizes of the products you receive on the curlBOX.com website.

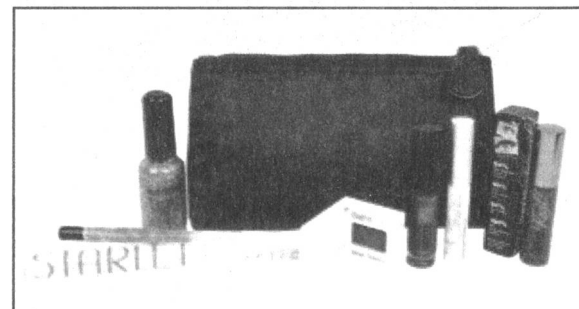


Photo: ipsy.com

### 2) Ipsy

If any of you happen to subscribe to beauty channels on YouTube, you'll love this next beauty box. Ipsy is different from other beauty boxes because YouTube sensations, such as Michelle Phan the founder, are the creators of this box. When you first sign up you take a quiz and then each month you'll be receiving a beauty box filled with the top YouTubers favorite beauty picks. It's a \$10 per month subscription and can be purchased at Ipsy.com



Photo: Ecouterre.com

### 3) Goodebox

Goodebox is for the eco friendly beauty queen. At \$16 a month you received trial sized products that are natural and organic. Some of the brands included in these boxes are Josie Maran, Tatachi and Dr. Hauschka. If you like any of those brands or you want to try products that are better for your body and the environment, this box is perfect for you. It will allow you to try out each item before buying the full sized product.



Photo: Subscriptionboxes.com

### 4) Julep Maven

This box is for the nail addicts. Upon signing up you take a quiz and then each month they send you two different shades along with foot care products. It's like a pedicure in a box. Also, each month you can see which shades have been picked for you based on your quiz results. If you don't like the shades that are picked for you that month you can always skip a month and return to your regular subscription the next month. At \$19.99 a month you'll get some great fashion forward nail polishes.

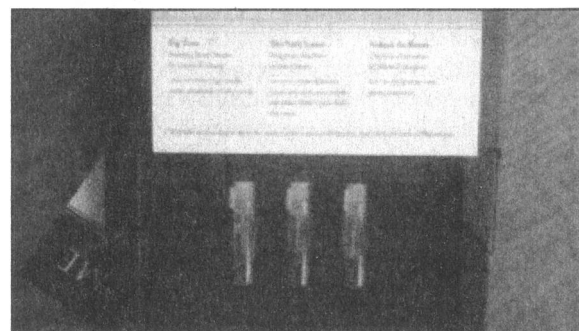


Photo: Eaumg.net

### 5) Olfactif

Olfactif is a beauty box for fragrance lovers. This is truly a great box because perfect perfumes are as difficult to come by as the perfect shade of foundation. Each box costs \$18 in which you will receive three trial size samples of perfume and each month you will also put an \$18 credit towards a full size bottle.

### 6) GlossyBox

GlossyBox is for the beauty maven who enjoys luxury brands. So if you enjoy shopping at Sephora or any department store beauty bars this is the box for you. At \$21 a month you'll receive a few trial size items along with a full sized product.



photo: glossybox.com