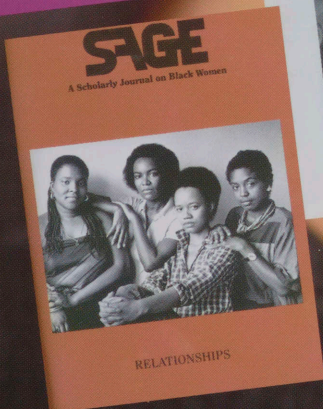
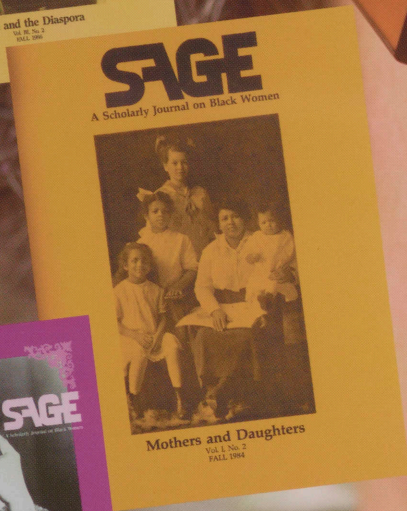
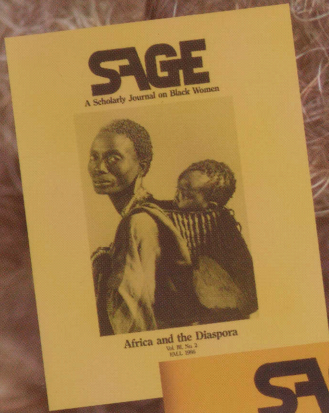


# SPELMAN Messenger



Dr. Beverly Guy-Sheftall, C'66  
Anna Julia Cooper Professor of  
Women's Studies and English  
Founding Director, Women's  
Research and Resource Center

## 25th Anniversary of Women's Center





Spelman College  
*125 years*

**S P E L M A N**  
Messenger

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*The Spelman Messenger, founded in 1885, is dedicated to participating in the ongoing education of our readers through enlightening articles designed to promote lifelong learning. The Spelman Messenger is the alumnae magazine of Spelman College and is committed to educating, serving and empowering Black women.*



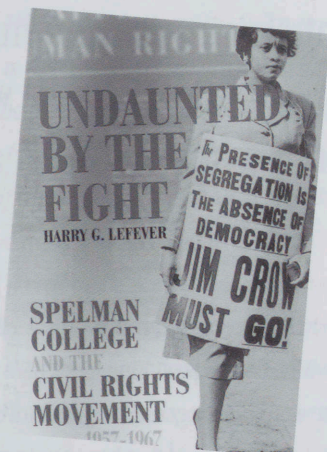


Photo: Courtesy of Spelman College

## COVER

*Dr. Beverly Guy-Sheftall, C'66*  
*Anna Julia Cooper Professor of*  
*Women's Studies and English*  
*Founding Director,*  
*Women's Research and*  
*Resource Center*

See page 16.



*Books & Papers*  
 See page 4.



*Reunion 2005*  
 See page 32.

# SPELMAN Messenger

VOLUME 118 NUMBER 1 WINTER/SPRING 2006

- 2** *Voices*  
 Remembering Coretta Scott King  
 BY BEVERLY DANIEL TATUM

- 4** *Books & Papers*  
 Book Reviews & Book Notes

- 8** *Women's Research and Resource Center:*  
 Marking 25 Years of Changing the World Through Feminist Intellectual Thought  
 BY DENISE MCFALL

- 16** *Beverly Guy-Sheftall:*  
*A Rebel With a Cause... or Two*  
 BY DENISE MCFALL

## Alumnae Notes

- 20** Sister-to-Sister Letter  
**21** Alumnae Achievement Awards  
**22** Alumnae Notes  
**23** Take Note!

- 32** *Reunion 2005*  
 Legacy and Leadership

- 41** *In Memoriam*



Photo: Sue Ross

*Women's Research and Resource Center*  
 See page 8.

*Take Note!*  
 See page 23





# REMEMBERING CORETTA SCOTT KING

BEVERLY DANIEL TATUM, PRESIDENT  
SPELMAN COLLEGE

Voices

As President of Spelman College I was humbled by the responsibility of sharing some reflections on the life and legacy of Mrs. Coretta Scott King at a memorial service held at Ebenezer Baptist Church on Sunday, February 5, 2006. I offered these few words of remembrance in honor of this great woman. When I first came to Atlanta four years ago, I was quite awestruck whenever I had the opportunity to be in the presence of Mrs. King. For so many years of my life, she had been someone I had only seen on television and admired from afar as a pillar of strength and determination, a mother determined to raise her four children, a widow committed to her husband's legacy, a tireless advocate for justice and human rights here and abroad. I did not know, but came to learn, that she was so much more than that to the Spelman community — she was really a part of the Spelman family.

A gracious lady, Coretta Scott King was a woman who *embraced* Spelman College as a part of her heritage. Though she did not attend Spelman herself, she was a member of a long line of King women who did, dating all the way back to 1888, and she embodied the values of excellence, leadership, and community service that are the hallmark of Spelman women. She *embraced* that heritage and was an active member of the campus community — attending Christmas Carol concerts and graduations, participating in the inauguration of every president since Donald M. Stewart, speaking to our students on numerous occasions and welcoming Spelman students as interns at the King Center. In many ways we were her college and she was ours.

We were privileged as a community to award an honorary degree to Mrs. Coretta Scott King in 1984. At that time she spoke these words to the graduating class of 1984 that continue to inspire us today and that I want us to remember:

*“... As graduates you can be proud of a remarkable heritage of achievement. However, I know you won't rest on your laurels too long, because this great heritage means you also have a responsibility. You have an awesome responsibility to pick up the burden of leadership that rightfully falls to the educated Black woman. No matter what kind of career you are planning, you are challenged to be a leader — not just a leader in your chosen profession, but a leader of the struggle for economic and social justice, and for world*



*peace. You also have a very special responsibility to other Black women, particularly those who have not had the opportunity to get a decent education. The tragic social and economic conditions being forced on millions of our sisters are a national disgrace. If you, as educated Black women, don't accept the responsibility for providing the kind of leadership to correct these injustices, then who will?"*

Mrs. King understood her special responsibility to lead, and she accepted it. As we honor and remember her, we can do no less ourselves than to continue the struggle for economic and social justice and for world peace. She said as she closed her remarks on that day:

*"... My greatest hope for the Spelman College Class of 1984 is that a record number of you will run for office. Those of you who prefer to work behind the scenes – I hope that you will become superstar lobbyists, campaign managers or deputy voter registrars. Jobs, education, day care centers, health, security, justice and freedom in South Africa, nuclear disarmament – we can have it all if only we pick up the ballot and use the power . . . . I thank you once again for this honor. I accept it as a challenge, a challenge to redouble my involvement in the non-violent movement, and I hope to see you there."*

Coretta Scott King, we know you answered God's call and now you receive heaven's reward. We must redouble *our* efforts and continue *your* legacy. And when our time has come, *we* hope to see you there. •

*The King family celebrated Bernice King's (center) Spelman graduation in 1985.*



Photo: Bud Smith

*Coretta Scott King pictured with Drs. William and Camille Cosby, artist Varnette P. Honeywood, C'72 (center) and her sister-in-law Christine King Farris, C'48, during the February 1996 official opening and dedication of the Camille Olivia Hanks Cosby Academic Center.*

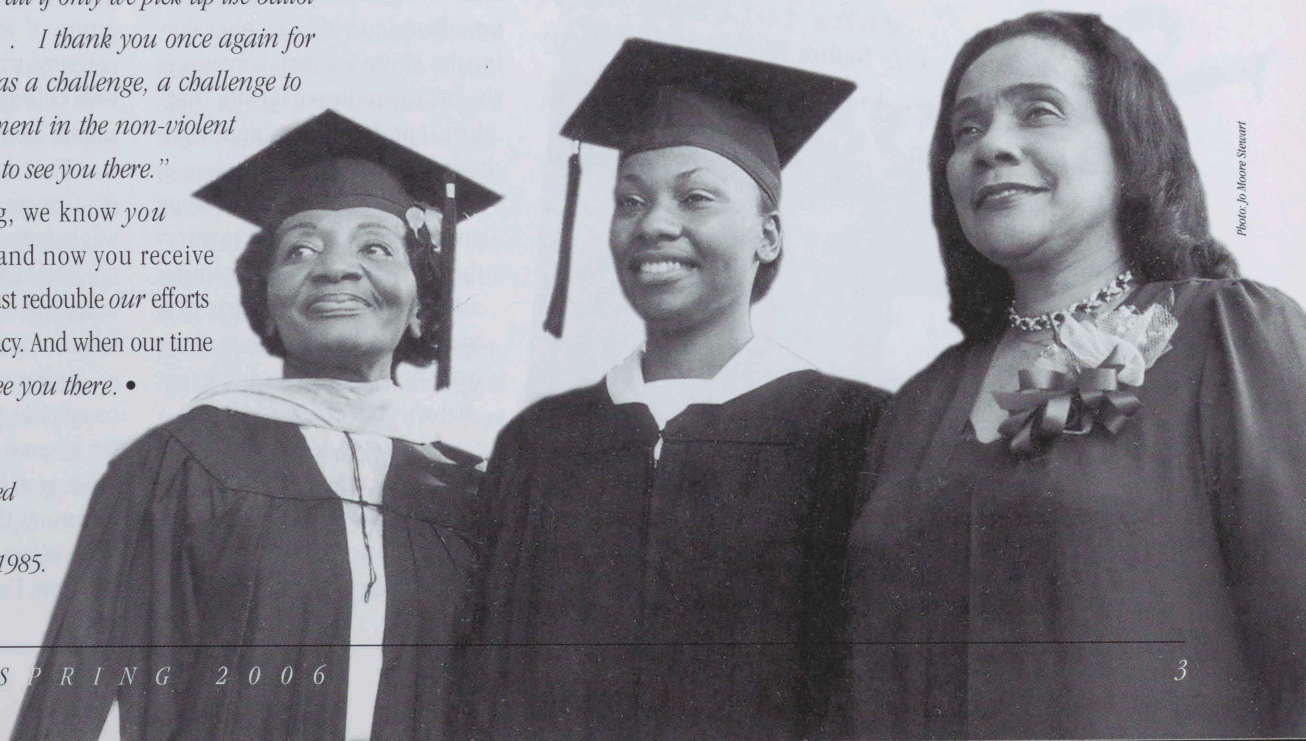


Photo: Jo Moore Stewart



## BOOK REVIEWS

ANGELA BROWN TERRELL

### NONFICTION

#### Born Colored: Life Before Bloody Sunday

by Erin Goseer Mitchell  
(Amp&ersand inc.)

The importance of memoirs like this is to preserve history in its purest form: through the eyes of those who have lived it.

Author Erin Goseer Mitchell, who graduated from Spelman in 1955, recalls how it was to grow up in the segregated South in the years before the memorable 1965 Civil Rights march from Selma to Montgomery known as "Bloody Sunday." It's full of delightful reminiscences along with insightful observations.

Mrs. Mitchell, born in Selma and raised in Fitzgerald, Alabama, tells of her childhood in the 1940s and 1950s, filled with warm memories of communities in which neighbors looked out for one another, and

parents fostered a sense of self-confidence and pride in their children, even as they protected them from the harsh realities of racism.

There were both good and bad relationships between white and Black people in those days. The good reflections stemmed from the color-blindness of a few kindly white neighbors and shopkeepers, the bad from such memories as a predatory cab driver and her fear of white bullies and policemen.

One summer evening following her freshman year at Spelman, Erin and her date walked home from the movies. She writes that her grandmother was nearly hysterical when she arrived home. "She told us that walking there was dangerous because white boys might have 'picked at us' or white people might have called the police if they had seen us walking on their street at night. [We] had no idea that our walk home could have caused any trouble. After that evening," she writes, "I never asked my grandparents to let me go anywhere out of the neighborhood after dark. I began to realize . . . how much my grandparents lived in fear for my safety."

The pages of this memoir are filled with glimpses of the social values adhered to by Black people during the 1950s. For social occasions, the ladies were dressed up with "hats, gloves, pretty dresses and high-heeled shoes" and men dressed in "suits, dress shirts and ties." Young women were expected to carry themselves in a chaste manner and "act like ladies." Girls were warned by older women to "keep your dress down," meaning sexual activities were forbidden.

Thirteen-year-old Erin Goseer's early civil rights encounter occurred when a white bus driver in Selma ordered her to sit in the back of

a bus. She decided never to ride another bus in that city, and began her own personal boycott by walking downtown from then on. That was 1948. In 1955, Rosa Parks started the Montgomery bus boycott by her refusal to sit in the back of a bus. Mrs. Mitchell writes that she has a sense of gratitude for Rosa Parks' sacrifices and feels "a secret bond with her for my private bus boycott."

Erin Goseer Mitchell seemed to lead a sheltered life: she enjoyed a long marriage and has two daughters and three grandsons. She received a master's degree in music from Roosevelt University in Chicago, and retired after 38 years of teaching in Chicago public schools before turning to writing. But the scars of living in a segregated society lingered for more than 40 years. She writes that she had a hard time relating to most white people.

In 2000, however, during a visit to the University of Georgia in Athens, as she remembered the racial strife that confronted Black students there in the past, she experienced an epiphany. Following a lunch she shared and enjoyed with a group of white women who had bonded with a Black friend of hers, she writes, "I was overcome with gratitude to this group of women who no longer appeared white to me. Instead, they were colorless, kind, warm, loving, sincere human beings.

"That day was the last day that my first reaction to a white person was based on the color of their skin . . . Now I am able to look at a person and think how we can relate to each other . . .

"It has taken me a long time to completely overcome the conditioning of growing up in the South . . . It is a good feeling to be free of these chains. As the Negro spiritual says, 'Free at last, free at last. Thank God Almighty, I'm free at last.'"





## Undaunted By The Fight: Spelman College and the Civil Rights Movement 1957–1967

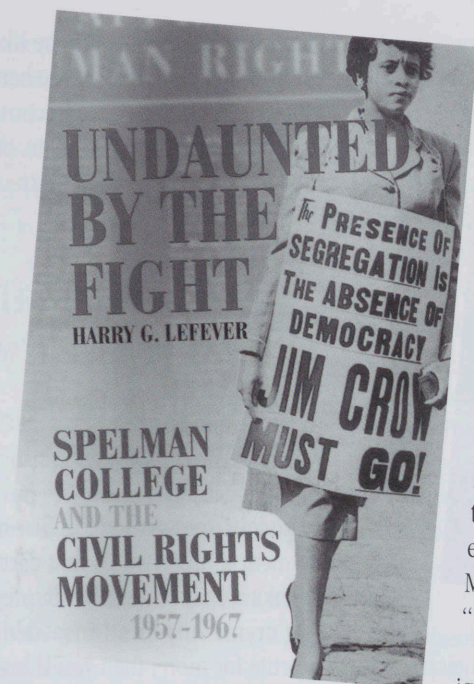
by Harry G. Lefever (Mercer)

The author, a member of the Spelman College faculty since 1966 and chair of the Sociology Department for 17 years, has compiled this telling and inspirational book from personal experiences, interviews and extensive research, to give a peek into the dynamics of a movement from the perspective of a historically Black college campus.

Dr. Lefever delves into the nooks and crannies of what life was like for the young women students of Spelman as turmoil and conflict emerged around them in the segregated, deep South cities and towns. The Montgomery bus boycott, the sit-ins at segregated lunch counters and department stores, the student marches and protests, the arrests of students, as well as the jailing of Atlanta-based leaders such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Rev. Ralph Abernathy, all served to hone an awareness of the changes in society that were to take place.

The young women on this Atlanta campus, being groomed academically to take their places as leaders with social consciences, could neither ignore nor avoid involvement in the activities swirling about them.

At the risk of being expelled and sent home from school in disgrace — many parents had made enormous sacrifices to send their children to college and feared for their safety — brave Spelman women entered the movement with other students from the Atlanta University Center and were joined by compassionate faculty members and clergy.



There emerged a conflict between the students, whose activities were considered radical, and the more conservative academic administration, which feared the possible economic, parental and public relations repercussions.

Some students dropped out to avoid being expelled, though most returned to get their degrees. Despite these threats and circumstances, the students continued to fight for human rights in demonstration after demonstration. They faced jail, physical abuse and fear. It was not a happy time.

In conclusion, Dr. Lefever, now Spelman professor emeritus of sociology, speaks to the contributions of these young souls. "The roles Spelman students played as *women* in the movement need to be analyzed . . . [They] took for granted that they were leaders and equal partners with their male counterparts."

Many of those names from yesterday still ring relevant in today's quest for human rights. Among them, here are just three — Marion Wright Edelman, C'60, founder of the Children's Defense Fund and recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom; Dr. Herschelle Sullivan Challenor, C'61,

founder dean and former professor of the Graduate School of International Affairs and Development at Clark Atlanta University and currently Diplomacy Fellow at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID); Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon, C'70, founder of Sweet Honey in the Rock, an a cappella ensemble, and recipient of a MacArthur Foundation "genius" grant.

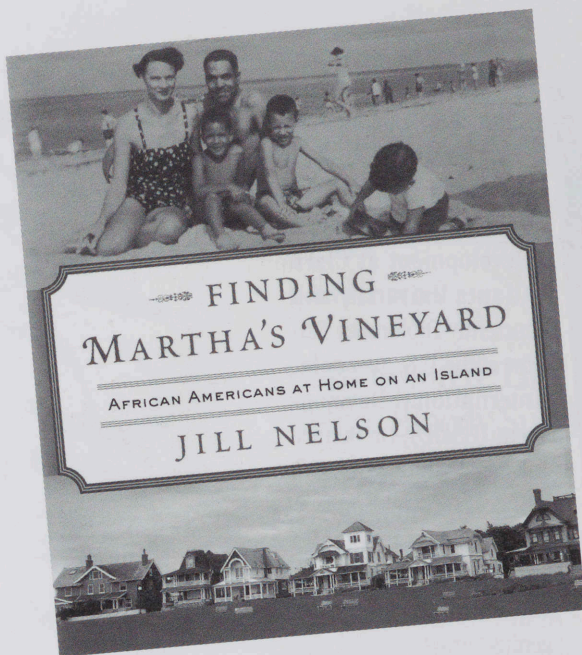
This is a history not to be ignored. Dr. Lefever notes that as Spelman accomplishments are applauded, proponents "often fail to give equal time and prominence to those . . . graduates who, as students, provided courageous leadership to assure all of us a more just and open society. I hope that in the future . . . they will include the events and accomplishments recounted in this book . . ."

## Finding Martha's Vineyard: African Americans at Home on an Island

by Jill Nelson (Doubleday)

Capturing some of the reasons why so many African Americans have been attracted to Martha's Vineyard, a small island tucked off the New England Coast, Jill Nelson writes: "We each come looking for a little bit of something we need and the space to enjoy it. For some people it is the beach, or friends, or sailing, golf, or tennis. For others it is being with family, or being alone, or finding a place of silence in between doing both. We come to paint, write, walk,





run or sit on porches and laugh as loud as we'd like. The things that we come for are as numerous as the people on the island, but at our best what unites us is an absence of greed. On the Vineyard we take no more than what we need and will use."

Ah! That explains why, since the late 1700s, Black folks have been finding relaxation and restoration in their homes and during their visits on the Vineyard. Nelson gives her personal testimony on island life and interviews scores of people from all walks of life who talk about finding solace and refuge there. Writers, artists, doctors, lawyers, they have come. People with substantial cash to spare and those who have had to scrimp all year for a vacation, they have come. They have brought their husbands, wives, and children. Some were initially coaxed there for a short visit with friends but kept coming back — for generations. Some made it their year-round home to raise a family, while others chose to live there in retirement.

There's been continuity in this community through the years. Life-long friendships have been made from one generation to the next. Grandparents look forward to sharing this laid-back beach lifestyle with their grandchildren. Parents

want their kids to meet their friends' children. And while some marriages are supposedly "made in heaven," others simply have been made on this island.

The list of residents past and present may read like a Who's Who of African American achievers: Senator Edward Brooke, Professor Stephen Carter, Vernon Jordan, Bebe Moore Campbell, Professor Charles Ogletree, Spike Lee, Dorothy West, Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr. — and on and on. But there are just as many "non-titled" folks from across the country who have settled into the island lifestyle.

Though life on the island has changed over the years — more development, more "outsiders," more traffic — some things will remain the same.

Ava Goldson, a teen from Washington, D.C. and a third-generation islander, agrees. She said, "Coming here, we have grown up with people who are the children of friends of our parents, like Cecily (from Philadelphia). She's an Allen, and we've been friends since we were babies. Also the Murrays, the Haylings. All of the children of friends of our parents we know pretty well — we're friends with

them. I like that, I want to be like that. I want to be able to come here when I get older, be able to come here and have my children be friends with my friends' children. It's like a chain."

## FICTION

### The Untelling

by Tayari Jones (Warner)

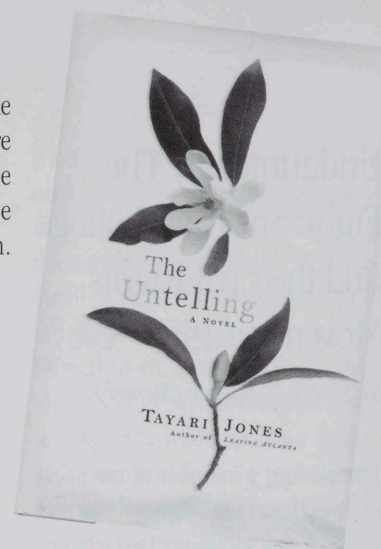
If you love words strung together in eloquent images, words that carry you along on an irresistible journey, that create in you an insatiable appetite for more, then you'll love the first chapter of this novel, and you'll want to continue to the last chapter.

Tayari Jones, C'91, author of *Leaving Atlanta*, has a knack for telling a story that may be painful but is so beautifully related that the reader happily endures to the end — and in doing so, is richly rewarded.

This is the story of a family torn apart by a tragedy that becomes more tragic because of the family members' inability to talk about it. Their secrets keep them apart and eat away at any peace they might have found with one another.

Aria, short for the Greek tragedy heroine Ariadne, was in a car accident that killed her father and baby sister. From that point until she reaches age 25, she keeps inside herself the pain of the accident, as do her older sister and her mother, each blaming herself and, at the same time, the others.

It seems as if Aria rises above her circumstances. She finishes college and begins a somewhat meaningful life working for an underpaying nonprofit organization that helps young women. She has a steady boyfriend and a roommate who is her best friend, and she lives in an Black Atlanta neighborhood that



has been up-and-coming-but-not-yet-arrived for more than 20 years.

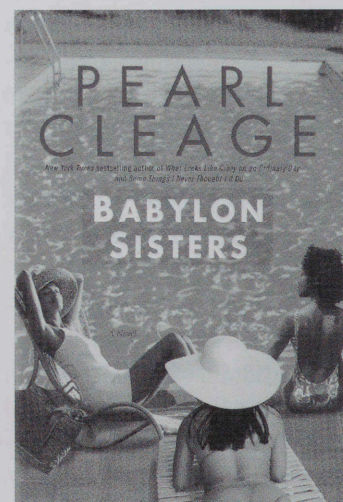
In all of this, Aria longs to establish the secure family life she has never had. But just when she's on the brink of obtaining what she thinks she wants, things begin to fall apart. Her only chance to escape disaster is to let go of the secrets she's held inside, but is she willing to face the pain to get the healing?

### Babylon Sisters

by Pearl Cleage (Ballantine Books/One World)

Mystery, suspense and conflict work side by side with friendship, laughter and romance in this novel by Pearl Cleage, C'71.

The author's special gift is her ability to make you smile and say "amen" in agreement with her





characters' lives and at the same time keep you on the edge of your seat as she runs you through a newsworthy chain of events.

You can laugh at Catherine Sanderson's parleying with her girlfriends and shake your head in understanding as she battles with her thinks-she's-grown daughter, Phoebe. Your sympathies and admiration are mixed as you watch Catherine juggle single motherhood, paying bills and running her own business.

Then college-bound Phoebe decides she needs to know who her father is, and her mom is not telling. And Catherine's long-ago sweetheart, journalist B.J., returns to the scene on the trail of a hot, investigative story that promises to shake up Atlanta and, maybe, get somebody killed.

By now, anyone who has read my previous reviews knows that Pearl Cleage is one of my very favorite writers. She shows the full spectrum of her Black women char-

acters: their generosity and cautions, their weaknesses and wiles, and their losses and triumphs. Reading her books just makes you feel good about yourself.

## The Hot Spot

by TaRessa (BET Books)

They work hard and play hard. But can these three successful women find peace and happiness and the loves of their lives? Let's join TaRessa as she takes us on a fun and scandalous romp that travels from Hotlanta to the hotter Caribbean.

Kendra is an independent public relations whiz going after the one client that can take her fledgling business off the edge and into the Black. She's competed hard to prove she can work on her own, but her ex-boss is using some sleazy methods to sabotage her efforts. Kendra's best friends, Meghan, a super event

planner, and Stephanie, a corporate diva, are all too eager to give advice, but not to take it to solve their own problems.

As Kendra wheedles her friends into helping her win a contract at a lush Caribbean resort, all kinds of sparks fly as the women encounter the unexpected: romance, intrigue and some erotic enticements.

This is the kind of getaway book you read when you want to escape winter doldrums, or you are headed to the beach for your own adventures.

As TaRessa Stovall, she's the co-author of nonfiction books, *A Love Supreme* and *Buffalo Soldiers*. Now, TaRessa has shown that she knows how to spin a fast-paced tale. It's her first work of fiction, but we hope it's not her last.

**ANGELA BROWN TERRELL** is a writer and editor in Columbia, Maryland.

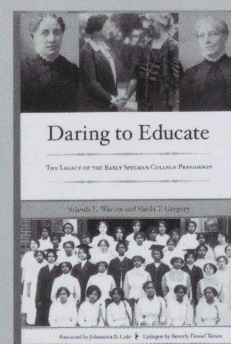
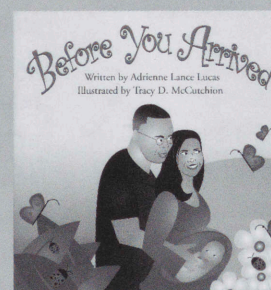


## Book Notes

DINEO A. BRINSON, C'94

*Before You Arrived*, by **Adrienne Lance Lucas, C'90**, celebrates pregnancy and the development of life before a child is born, answering the questions every little child has about what mommy and daddy experienced during pregnancy. It is a story of family, love and the birth of a child, the greatest miracle of all. It is a beloved story for all parents to read to their children about the time before they arrived in this world! (ISBN 0-9769571-0-8, Legacy Masterpieces Publishing, Mableton, GA, [www.beforeyouarrived.com](http://www.beforeyouarrived.com))

*Daring to Educate: The Legacy of the Early Spelman College Presidents* explores the history of the College's curriculum formation and development through the first seven decades, from its beginnings in the basement of Friendship Baptist Church to a liberal arts institution of extraordinary distinction. The authors, **Dr. Yolanda Watson, C'91** and **Sheila T. Gregory**, detail the College's curriculum formation and development through the leadership of the first four presidents, white women, who believed in the power of educating Black women while understanding the social condition of America in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The authority of this book is further supported by the foreword by Dr. Johnnetta Betsch Cole, Spelman's first Black woman president, and the epilogue by ninth president, Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum. This is the story of a beacon of light in higher education, creating a legacy of thousands of educated Black women who have been trained "... heads, hands, and hearts for the work in the community at large..." (ISBN 1-57922-109-2, Stylus Publishing, LLC, Sterling, VA, [www.styluspub.com](http://www.styluspub.com))





# WOMEN'S RESEARCH AND RESOURCE CENTER:

*Marking 25 Years of Changing the World Through Feminist Intellectual Thought*

BY DENISE MCFALL

*"We need Black leaders to seriously consider issues of gender and sexuality as they try to imagine what it would be like to liberate Black people in the 21st century."*

DR. BEVERLY GUY-SHEFTALL, C'66  
ANNA JULIA COOPER PROFESSOR OF  
WOMEN'S STUDIES AND ENGLISH  
FOUNDING DIRECTOR,  
WOMEN'S RESEARCH AND  
RESOURCE CENTER

In July 1981, Spelman College took yet another bold step to become the first historically Black institution of higher learning to establish a women's research and resource center. Propelled by initial funding from a Charles Stewart Mott Foundation faculty and curriculum development grant, Spelman's Women's Research and Resource Center established an explicitly feminist presence on the campus that would set the stage for helping to shape the national dialogue on women of color and women's studies.

Unlike the trendy, "here-today-gone-tomorrow" academic movements that cropped up in the wake of the revolutionary '60s and '70s, the Women's Center challenged the academy with its groundbreaking and historic foray into the deepest chasms of race and gender, creating a model program firmly rooted in intellectual innovation and rigor. The quality of teaching, programming and scholarship at the Center has catapulted Spelman into a leadership role in the academy and the women's movement through exemplary curriculum development in women's studies, research on women of African descent

and domestic and globally centered community outreach and advocacy — an impressive complement of programming that is as important and relevant today as it was at the time of the Center's founding 25 years ago.

The achievements of the Women's Center are remarkable. Determined to inspire Spelman's students to embrace notions of truth about their place in the world — *where they are* and *where they need to be* on the continuum of power and privilege — the Women's Center continues to provide a forum in which students are encouraged to delve into the hearts and minds of generations of women of color who have "fought the good fight" to gain parity in a world that has relegated us far too often to a position of second-class citizenry.

According to Dr. Beverly Guy-Sheftall, C'66, founding director of the Women's Research and Resource Center and Anna Julia Cooper Professor of Women's Studies and English: "Black feminists (the term applied to African-Americans who resist all forms of domination, especially the racist/sexist oppression of women) come to feminism through the experiences of our debilitating culture of

## Women's Research and Resource Center Timeline

### 1981

Women's Research and Resource Center (Women's Center) established with grant from Charles Stewart Mott Foundation; Women's Studies minor initiated — a first at an HBCU.

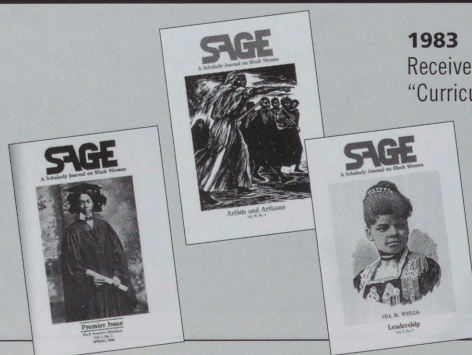
### 1982

Women's Center holds first national conference, "Black Women and Public Policy Issues in the Eighties."

### 1983

Receives first Ford Foundation grant, "Curriculum Development in Black Women's Studies in the South."

Hosts summer workshops for Black Women's Studies Faculty and Curriculum Project, funded by the Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE) and





racism, classism and sexism. Since the experiences of Black women are distinct from those of white women and Black men, Black women must struggle for equality both as women and as African-Americans, and it is this consciousness of our multiple jeopardy in the world that stimulates a Black feminist sensibility.” She also contends that Black feminism is not exclusive to Black women: “Both men and women can be Black feminists,” asserts Dr. Guy-Sheftall, citing Frederick Douglass and William E. B. DuBois as prominent examples of Black men who advocated for women’s equality.

In 1982, Spelman was chosen as the major participating institution in a two-year Black Women’s Studies Faculty and Curriculum Project initiated by the Wellesley College Center for Research on Women and funded by the Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE). The following year, the College embarked upon a major curriculum development project designed to incorporate Black women’s studies into Spelman’s curricula and that of participating Atlanta area colleges (Agnes Scott, Clark, Kennesaw State and Morehouse). The Center also worked closely with the Atlanta University Center (now Clark Atlanta University) on a faculty development project in Africana women’s studies that eventually led to the establishment of a doctoral program.

Concurrent with the establishment of the Women’s Center, Spelman initiated a minor in women’s studies. This initiative to broaden the curriculum gained further momentum under the administration of President Johnnetta B. Cole, Spelman’s first Black female president, when, in 1989, she appointed a Black Women’s Studies Task Force led by Dr. Guy-Sheftall and her faculty colleague, Dr. Maceo C. Dailey, Jr., an African-American Studies scholar. Throughout its history, the Women’s Center has been a vital resource to members of the Spelman College faculty and a stellar group of celebrated feminist scholar-activists, writers and gifted intellectuals from around the globe.

Initially staffed on a full-time basis by Dr. Guy-Sheftall and later by Dr. Kimberly Wallace Sanders (now at Emory



Photo: Courtesy of Spelman Archives

University’s Institute of Women’s Studies), the Center is now supported by Dr. M. Bahati Kuumba, associate director; Professor Ayoka Chenzira, director of the Center’s Digital Imaging Salon; Professor Aline Gubrium; Taronda Spencer, College archivist/historian; Yvonne Vinson, program coordinator; and Lillie M. Picard, administrative assistant. The Women’s Center’s Steering Committee is composed of Spelman faculty, representing a diversity of academic disciplines, who share a passion for the Center’s overarching mission.

The Women’s Center staff are committed to helping make more visible the richness and complexities of Black womanhood, including their engagement in the struggles for the eradication of oppression around the globe. “Our goal is to teach women of color how to use analytical, organizing and creative tools in the never-ending struggle for equality and justice,” says Dr. Guy-Sheftall. Their efforts have led to the Women’s Center’s reputation as one of the nation’s most important sites for the development of

#### *Global Africa Women’s Week (October 2005)*

*l-r: Dr. Monica M. White,  
Wayne State University;  
(kneeling) Alysia Burdette,  
C’2006; M. Babati Kuumba;  
Yvonne Vinson; Bernedette  
Muthien, Executive Director,  
Engender; Dr. Beverly Guy-  
Sheftall; Dr. Yvette Abrahams,  
University of Cape Town.*

sponsored by Wellesley College Center for Research on Women.

*SAGE: A Scholarly Journal on Black Women* founded at Spelman College and housed at the Women’s Center.

Women’s Center involved in planning with the National Women’s Health Network for the first National Black

Women’s Health Conference. Held on the Spelman campus, the conference attracts more than 1,500 participants – a catalyst for the launching of the Black women’s health movement.

Photo-documentary exhibition, “Black Women as Healers: A Noble Tradition,” opens with health conference.

Women’s Center selected for membership in National Council for Research on Women (NCROW).

#### **1984**

Women’s Center director is recipient of the Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. Distinguished Professor Endowed Chair in Black Women’s Studies.



*"We have not been  
scuffling in this  
waste-howling  
wildness for the  
right to be stupid."*

— TONI CADE BAMBARA



*Toni Cade Bambara (extreme far right), posed with several prominent Black women writers after the "A Tribute to Black Women Writers" symposium during the 1987 inauguration of President Johnnetta B. Cole. Top l-r: Louise Meriwether, Pinkie Gordon Lane, C'49, President Cole and Paula Giddings; Center l-r: Pearl Cleage, C'71 and Gwendolyn Brooks; Bottom l-r: Sonia Sanchez, Nikki Giovanni, and Mari Evans.*

young Black feminist scholar-activists who take seriously their responsibility to carry on the legacy of the likes of Anna Julia Cooper, Ida Wells Barnett, Lorraine Hansberry, Fannie Lou Hamer, Toni Cade Bambara, Audre Lorde and Spelman alumna Alice Walker. Through a dynamic series of course offerings, campus-wide conferences, symposia, film/lecture series and activist projects, the Women's Center provides exposure to a cross-section of feminist perspectives, social theories and political movements.

During the early years, the Women's Center broadened its program to include an international component that focused on Third World women, with special attention to women of color from Africa, Asia, India and the Caribbean. In support of this global outreach initiative, the Center launched a highly successful enrichment program for

Third World women, winning Spelman praise and recognition among Atlanta's Third World community. To further the Women's Center's evolving international worldview, in 1985 the Center led a delegation of women to the United Nations Decade Conference on Women in Nairobi, Kenya. A decade later, a similar contingent traveled to Beijing, China, to attend the Fourth World Conference on Women.

In the '80s, Spelman became one of the most sought-after sites for national conferences that addressed women's issues in general and Black women's issues in particular. The first conference, organized by the Women's Center in 1982, examined Black women's public policy issues. The second such conference, held in 1983 under the auspices of the National Women's Health Network, provided the impetus for the founding of the National Black Women's Health Project. With more than 1,500 participants, the conference was celebrated as the most successful community outreach effort in which the College had been involved in its 103-year history.

The following year, the Women's Center co-sponsored a national conference, "Southern Granny Midwives," in co-sponsorship with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and Bryant College. The uniqueness of this issue resulted in a diverse audience of midwives, scholars, teachers, journalists, archivists and women from throughout the nation. A major outcome was the establishment of the Association for the Study of Traditional African-American Midwifery.

Since its inception in 1981, exactly one hundred years after the founding of the College, dozens of activities and projects have demonstrated the unwavering commitment

## Women's Research and Resource Center Timeline

Women's Center co-sponsors national conference, "Southern Granny Midwives" with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and Bryant College.

Engages in collaborative project with Memphis State University's Center for Research on Women and the Duke University/University of North Carolina's Women's Studies Research Center, which produces working paper series, "Southern

Women: The Intersection of Race, Class and Gender."

### 1985

FIPSE-funded project, "Women as Writer/Scholars: A Model Internship Program," spurs the creation of the *SAGE* Student Internship Program (joint project with Spelman's Comprehensive Writing Program — now the Toni Cade Bambara Writer/Scholar/Activist Program and Collective).

Women's Center delegation attends United Nations Decade for Women Conference in Nairobi, Kenya.

Women's Center convenes national symposium, "Black Women Writers: In Celebration of Lorraine Hansberry."

Hosts Fulbright Scholar, Dr. Mabel Milimo, University of Zambia.



of the Women's Center to make visible the significant roles of women of African descent on the global stage as teachers, artists, activists, scholars, organizers, intellectuals and scientists. In 1983, Spelman was selected for membership in the National Council for Research on Women, the only historically Black college represented on the Council. The Center also participated in a major research project that culminated in the publication of the pioneering text, *Theorizing Feminisms: the Visionary Pragmatism of Black Women* (Routledge, 1993; edited by Dr. Stanlie James, C'71, and Abena Busia).

Gaining momentum in achieving national recognition and prominence, in 1987, the Center hosted the 10th Anniversary Annual Conference of the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA), "Weaving Women's Colors: A Decade of Empowerment." This conference marked the first meeting of NWSA on a Black college campus.

Over the years, the Women's Research and Resource Center has also hosted a roster of distinguished visiting professors, including Pulitzer Prize winning novelist Alice Walker and Paula Giddings, the acclaimed journalist-historian who is, perhaps, best known as the author of *When and Where I Enter: The Impact of Black Women on Race and Sex in America* (Morrow, 1984). In 1985, the international component of the Center was strengthened further by the presence of Fulbright scholar Dr. Mabel Milimo, an Oxford-trained historian from the University of Zambia.

For thirteen years, a critical component of the Women's Center program was the publication *SAGE: A Scholarly Journal on Black Women*. Founded in 1983 on the Spelman College campus by Patricia Bell-Scott (co-editor of *But Some of Us Are Brave*) and Dr. Guy-Sheftall, *SAGE* was first published in April 1984 at the height of the Black women writers renaissance that included Toni Morrison, Paule Marshall, Ntozake Shange, Alice Walker, Audre Lorde, Toni Cade Bambara, bell hooks and others. In addition to Patricia Bell-Scott and Dr. Guy-Sheftall, Jacqueline Jones Royster, C'70, Janet Sims-Wood and Miriam DeCosta

*"Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose."*

— ZORA NEALE HURSTON

Willis worked tirelessly as principals of the *SAGE* Women's Educational Press, Inc.

The journal focused on themes that included Black women's studies, Africa and the Diaspora, women as writers, women as workers, artists and artisans, leadership, education, science and technology, health, relationships and male kin. One of its thematic dialogues, mothers and daughters, led to the publication of the landmark text on Black mothers and daughters, *Double Stitch* (Beacon, 1992), edited by the *SAGE* collective. The journal also served as the focal point of the *SAGE* Scholars Internship Program. In collaboration with Spelman's Comprehensive Writing Program, the internship program enabled a select and talented group of students to learn, first-hand, the dynamics of publishing a scholarly journal, to be mentored by some of the most brilliant minds in women's studies and to engage in a wealth of co-curricular activities that contributed to their development as critical thinkers, scholars and writers. The final issue of *SAGE* was published in the summer of 1995.

The Women's Center was also involved with Fulton County Arts Council-funded Project Catalyst, the objective of which was the production of a literary journal. The premier issue of *Catalyst* (September 1986) was edited by the 2005–2006 Cosby Chair of Fine Arts, Pearl Cleage, C'71, who was then a part-time creative writing instructor at Spelman and the *SAGE* student internship coordinator.

Shortly after the appointment of President Johnnetta B. Cole, the College began to receive the papers of the most celebrated and influential contemporary Black lesbian feminist writer, Audre Lorde. Following her death in 1992,

#### 1986

Hosts United Nations Children's Fund (UNCF) Visiting Scholar, Dr. Paula Giddings, author of *When and Where I Enter: The Impact of Black Women on Race and Sex in America*.

Hosts symposium, "Black Female Intellectuals," with Paula Giddings and bell hooks.

Receives grant from Fulton County Arts Council funds Project Catalyst, marking the establishment of the literary journal, *Catalyst*; September 1986 premier issue was edited by Pearl Cleage, C'71.

Receives grant from Paddington Corporation at National Coalition of 100 Black Women Candace Award ceremony in New York City for outstanding work on behalf of Black women.

#### 1987

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) funds Spelman Archival Access Project to establish Spelman Archives as part of the Women's Center and its research component.

Hosts 10th anniversary National Women's Studies Association Conference, "Weaving Women's Colors: A Decade of Empowerment."



*"I will not have my life narrowed down. I will not bow down to somebody else's whim or to someone else's ignorance."*

— BELL HOOKS

Spelman was named as the official repository of the Audre Lorde papers. The following year, the Women's Center began co-sponsoring, along with the Department of Drama and Dance, the annual Audre Lorde Lecture Series, traditionally held in March as part of Women's History Month festivities. It was during this period that a chapter of the Lesbian Bisexual Alliance (now Afrekete) was chartered as an official campus organization, the advent of which was not without controversy.

As the Center was fostering an awareness and understanding of inclusiveness as a critical component of its human rights agenda, it was also engaged in a focused way in the national discourse and contentious debates on multiculturalism and diversity in higher education, a unique project for historically Black colleges. In 1994, a two-year Ford Foundation grant, "Scholarship, Technology and Faculty/Student Partnerships: Infusing Diversity into the Liberal Arts Curriculum of a Historically Black College," helped Spelman prepare for the changing demographics and issues surrounding difference in a newly emerging global society. Faculty-student teams, working in pairs, labored to develop pragmatic and creative ways to make social science, fine arts and humanities courses more inclusive and multicultural by addressing a broad range of issues surrounding race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality and religion.

In 1996, after 15 years of offering a minor in women's studies, Spelman's Curriculum Committee approved the inauguration of a new, interdisciplinary major in comparative women's studies. The new major is co-supervised



In 1988, Dr. Ethel Waddell Githii, C'57, (left) is shown receiving a copy of Audre Lorde's book during an autographing session following Lorde's "Speaking At Spelman/Readings at Reynolds" lecture.

Photo: Courtesy of Spelman Archives

by Dr. Guy-Sheftall, Dr. Kuumba and the Women's Studies Steering Committee, an interdisciplinary group of faculty members, most of whom teach women's studies courses offered by other academic departments.

The Center's curricular and co-curricular activities are devoted to critical reflection about the worlds of women and examinations of the meaning of gender as a social construct and how it intersects with race and other markers of difference. In recent years, attention also has been focused on the complexities of Black male-female relationships, social movements, documenting women's lives, African feminisms and the misogynistic messages inherent

*"If I didn't define myself for myself, I would be crunched into other people's fantasies for me and eaten alive."*

— AUDRE LORDE

## Women's Research and Resource Center Timeline

### 1990

Hosts National Conference on Black Women's Studies, funded by the Ford Foundation.

### 1991

Women's Center director invited by Ford Foundation to prepare major consultant's report on "The Status of Women's Studies" (1992); published as *Women's Studies: A Retrospective* (1995).

### 1992

Anna Julia Cooper Professorship in Women's Studies established with grant from Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and matching funds from Drs. William and Camille Olivia Hanks Cosby through the Clara Elizabeth Carter Foundation.

### 1993



### 1994

Receives Ford Foundation grant, "Infusing Diversity in the Liberal Arts Curriculum at an HBCU."

### 1995

Women's Center delegation attends Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women in Beijing, China.



## A Woman's Place...

Comparative women's studies courses expose students to a substantial body of knowledge about the social construction of gender in various cultural contexts and from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. In providing conceptual models for a comparative analysis of the situation of women globally, especially women of African descent, students are encouraged to analyze the hierarchies of race, class and gender. The Comparative Women's Studies program also exposes students to feminist critiques of traditional scholarship across academic disciplines and masculine biases in the history of the acquisition of knowledge.

### Comparative Women's Studies Courses

- Introduction to Comparative Women's Studies
- Documenting Women: Oral Narratives and Digital Media Production I
- Documenting Women: Oral Narratives and Digital Media Production II

- Special Topics in Women's Studies
- Feminist Qualitative Research Methods
- Women and Social Resistance Movements
- The Black Female Body in American Culture
- Independent Study Internship/Practicum
- Feminist Theory and Thought
- Honors Thesis

*The following courses are cross-listed and housed in other academic departments:*

- Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Women
- Issues in Women's Art
- Women in Theatre and Drama
- Women in Dance: Sexuality, Sexism and Subversion
- Women in the Economy
- 20th-Century Black Women Writers
- Images of Women in Non-Western Literature
- Representations of Women in Literature
- Woman as Writer
- Images of Women in the Media
- Postcolonial Women Writers
- Special Topics: Women in Francophone Cinema

- Women in the U.S.
- Women in Modern China
- European Women Toward Equality
- Women in Latin-American History
- In Our Own Words: African-American Women's Biography and Autobiography
- Seminar in Gender and Family in Early Modern Europe
- Seminar: Race, Class and Gender in the English-Speaking Caribbean
- Seminar: Race, Class and Gender in Brazil
- Women in Music
- Feminist Philosophy
- Psychology of Women
- Women of the Bible
- Women in Japanese Society
- Race, Class and Gender
- Women, Values and the Law
- Sociology of Women
- Special Topics: Violence Against Women
- Special Topics: The Universe of the Women of Color in Afro-Hispanic Literature

in rap and hip-hop music. These topics, and a wide range of other issues, are frequently addressed in the Center's annual newsletter, *Sisters of the Word*, at annual Toni Cade Bambara Scholar-Activists conferences and at campus-wide meetings of the Center's affiliated student organizations, Sisterfire!, Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, Big Mama and Afrekete.

Committed to the idea that learning takes place outside the classroom as well, the Women's Center strives to help students develop competencies that result from national and international engagement in a variety of contexts. In April 2004, a delegation of Spelman's students and faculty journeyed to Washington, D.C. to take part in

the Feminist Majority Foundation-sponsored March for Women's Lives, adding their voices to the fight for reproductive justice.

"Black colleges and universities must involve themselves in one of the most urgent health issues facing communities of African descent here and around the globe," asserts Dr. Guy-Sheftall. "We should be teaching and speaking about HIV/AIDS, doing groundbreaking research on the pandemic and raising awareness on our campuses about prevention and intervention strategies. We owe it to our students, our families and our communities to do all we can to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS so that we can live healthy, productive lives."

### 1996

Receives Ford Foundation grant, "Women and African Diaspora Studies at Spelman College."

New academic major in Comparative Women's Studies, submitted to and approved by Spelman College Curriculum Committee, affords Spelman the

distinction of being the first HBCU to establish a women's studies major.

Co-coordinates symposium on Black Women Artists in connection with the exhibition "Bearing Witness: Contemporary Works by African American Women Artists" at the Spelman College Museum of Fine Art.

Hosts White House-sponsored video conference, "The United Nations Women's Conference: One Year Later...in Atlanta."

### 1997

Co-hosts visit of Dr. Wangari Maathai, founder and coordinator of the Green Movement, Kenya (2005 Nobel Peace Prize recipient).



*"I am committed to exploring the oppressions, the insanities, the loyalties and the triumphs of Black women . . . For me, Black women are the most fascinating creations in the world."*

— ALICE WALKER, C'65

In response to this mandate, in June 2004, the Women's Center under the auspices of the Ford Foundation faculty and curriculum development grant, "Race, Gender and Sciences at a Historically Black College for Women," provided a global platform for researchers and activists to exchange information and explore strategies for curtailing

Alice Walker (left) visits with Dr. Beverly Guy-Sheftall at the Women's Center.



Photo: Courtesy of Spelman Archives

and/or eliminating the spread of HIV/AIDS and its devastating effects on communities of African descent around the world, with a particular focus on women and girls. The conference, *Learning From Our Lives, for Our Lives: Women, Girls and HIV/AIDS in Africa and the African Diaspora*, was the culminating activity of the groundbreaking Ford-funded four-year project.

Co-convened by Dr. Guy-Sheftall and Dázon Dixon Diallo, M.P.H., C'86, founder and president of SisterLove, Inc. — the first and largest women's AIDS organization in the Southeast that focuses on the needs of women of African descent — the conference hoped to stimulate curriculum development and research at other colleges and universities and sparked dialogue among policy makers, activists, community workers and persons living with HIV/AIDS. An important result of the conference was a series of commissioned papers that are available from the Women's Center.

In January 2005, the Women's Center took a delegation of faculty and a student to South Africa to attend the "Writing African Women: Poetics and Politics of African Gender Research" conference at the University of the Western Cape. Funded by the Ford Foundation, the new project, "Globalizing African Diaspora Women's Studies," broadens the College's international focus and fosters important linkages with South African women, including faculty and student exchanges between Spelman College and the University of the Western Cape.

From Hurston to hip-hop, the Women's Center is a treasure chest of feminist intellectual thought, creative energy

*"If women want any rights more than they's got, why don't they just take them...."*

— SOJOURNER TRUTH

## Women's Research and Resource Center Timeline

### 1998

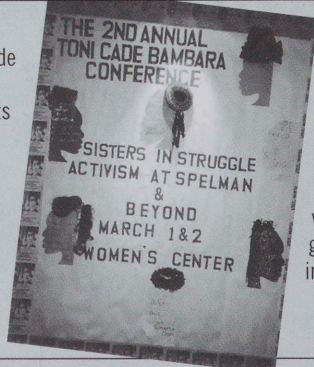
Invitational Ford Foundation-funded conference, "Women's and African Diaspora Studies."

### 1999

Receives Ford Foundation grant, "Race, Gender and the Sciences at a Black Woman's College."

### 2001

Annual Toni Cade Bambara Scholar/Activists Conference is inaugurated.



### 2004

Asha Jennings, Moya Bailey and Leana Cabral, who are enrolled in women's studies class during spring semester, launch student protest against Nelly's misogynistic music video, "Tip Drill"; protest garners national and international attention.

Digital Moving Image Salon (DMIS) founded by Professor Ayoka Chenzira.

### 2005

Hosts international, invitational conference on "Women, Girls & HIV/AIDS in Africa and the African Diaspora."

Women's Center delegates present at 15th Annual International AIDS Conference in Bangkok, Thailand.





"Day of Silence"—activist event Spring 2002 members of Afrekete, AUC students, Big Momma's Roundtable, Spelman faculty.

*You may write me  
down in history  
With your bitter,  
twisted lies,  
You may trod me in  
the very dirt  
But still, like dust,  
I'll rise.*

*(Excerpted from the poem  
"Still I Rise")*

— MAYA ANGELOU

and passionate organizing. Analyses of and resistance to racism, patriarchy and heterosexism have been their call for 25 years. Most urgent has been the Center's work at transforming the lives of young women by demonstrating the relationship between knowledge and power and always asking: If not you, *who*? If not now, *when*?

The struggle for women of color to gain a seat at the "table of plenty" requires tenacity and conviction. Gingerly navigating the "mine fields" that dot the landscape of institutional, regional and social convention, the programs and activities of the Women's Center have been cutting-edge — radical, if not revolutionary. To be sure, it has taken grace, courage and resilience for the Women's Center to take its rightful place at the Spelman table.

Poised to remain at the forefront of regional, national and international feminist dialogue, the Women's Center is intent on crafting a cutting-edge women's health concentration; providing the catalyst for the Spelman Archives to become one of the most important repositories for the

papers of Black women; and producing a new generation of feminist scholar-activists who understand and work with the moving image and are committed to social change.

"We will intensify our efforts over the next decade as a resource institution for other historically Black colleges and universities that have an interest in bringing about more gender-sensitive curricula and addressing the particular needs of women on their campuses," promises Dr. Guy-Sheftall. If the past and present achievements of the Women's Research and Resource Center are accurate predictors of the future, there should be no doubt that this, too, shall come to pass.

**DENISE McFALL** is an Atlanta-based freelance writer with an extensive background in college administration, program management and curriculum development. She is a frequent contributor of articles and publications that focus on notable leaders and programmatic initiatives in higher education.

Receives Ford Foundation grant, "Globalizing African Diasporan Women's Studies."

Women's Center/University of the Western Cape Collaboration is inaugurated with South African scholar-activists.

Global Women's Health Initiative is established, funded by Pfizer Foundation.

*Sisters of the Sojourn*, a documentary produced by women's studies majors in Professor Chenzira's film class, is selected to screen at Women of Color Film Festival in Berkeley, California — the first time Spelman students have participated in a competitive film festival.

**2006**  
Women's Center celebrates 25th Anniversary with symposium on Audre Lorde.



Second Women's Center/African Diaspora Women's Collaboration meeting held at Spelman.



# BEVERLY GUY-SHEFTALL: A REBEL WITH A CAUSE ...

BY DENISE MCFALL

Sojourner Truth . . . Angela Davis . . . bell hooks . . . Audre Lorde . . . and Alice Walker are just a few of the names that pop into the head of one of the nation's most respected scholar-activists when questioned about the Black women she admires most. But, to generations of Spelman students, faculty, staff and alumnae, the first name that comes to mind in their litany of Black "sheroes" is, more often than not, that of Dr. Beverly Guy-Sheftall, C'66, Anna Julia Cooper Professor of Women's Studies and English and founding director of the Spelman College Women's Research and Resource Center.

*"We need to  
abandon the notion  
that 'race' is limited  
only to people of  
color, and that  
'gender' is limited  
only to women.  
Everybody has both!"*

DR. BEVERLY GUY-SHEFTALL, C'66  
ANNA JULIA COOPER PROFESSOR OF  
WOMEN'S STUDIES AND ENGLISH  
FOUNDING DIRECTOR,  
WOMEN'S RESEARCH AND  
RESOURCE CENTER

For more than three decades, Dr. Guy-Sheftall has been one of America's leading pioneers in advancing the causes of race and gender at Spelman and throughout the world. Unabashedly and unapologetically, she has had a lifelong commitment to tearing down the artificial barriers that fly in the face of liberation and equality for women of color. Forever marching to the beat of her own drummer, Dr. Guy-Sheftall has never fit neatly into the mold of the stodgy academic confined to the proverbial ivory tower. Her admirers view her as an atypical amalgamation of intellect and nonconformity, wisdom and wit. All at once, she is the distinguished scholar, devoted mentor, loyal friend, close confidante and the rarified "sista" with a quirky sense of humor who can move a conversation from Faulkner to Filene's Basement at the blink of an eye.

Growing up in the 1950s in Memphis, Tennessee, Dr. Guy-Sheftall learned the power of self-reliance and the importance of holding fast to her feminist sensibilities from her mother, Ernestine Varnado Guy, a math-teacher-turned-accountant and a fiercely independent, divorced single mother. As a Black woman, Dr. Guy-Sheftall's

southern exposure during the height of the Civil Rights Movement also taught her about the ills of racism. But it was not until she entered Spelman College in 1962, at age 16, that she discovered the mantle of sexism as she compared the rigid dress codes and curfews imposed on Spelmanites against those of the "Morehouse men."

Abandoning her initial plan to become a pediatrician, Dr. Guy-Sheftall graduated from Spelman with a major in English in 1966 and spent a fifth year of study at Wellesley College broadening her experience. Writing her master's thesis, "Faulkner's Treatment of Women in His Major Novels," was her initial foray into women's studies. In 1968, she received a graduate degree from Atlanta University, now Clark Atlanta University, and later went on to earn a doctorate in the field of American studies at Emory University. Before joining the Spelman faculty, Dr. Guy-Sheftall taught English for two years at Alabama State University, where her uncle, Dr. Levi Watkins, Sr., served as president. While there, she married, returning to Atlanta in 1971 with her husband from whom she is now divorced.



# OR TWO



Photo: Courtesy of Spelman Archives

*"Beverly Guy-Sheftall's continuing efforts to uplift the contributions of Black feminists and feminist women of color have been lauded internationally and have helped countless Black women feel connected to a movement from which we had historically been omitted."*

— MOYA BAILEY, C'2005



During her 35-year tenure at Spelman College, Dr. Guy-Sheftall has risen to become a legend in her own time. Her first active, high-risk, political activity came as a junior faculty member. Although she acknowledged the

background and credentials of Dr. Donald M. Stewart, she was disheartened to learn the Board was considering appointing yet another male president and actively protested against his candidacy. Even then, as a young faculty member, her principles won out over safety and security, complacency and careerism.

Revered by faculty colleagues across generations, institutions and academic disciplines, Dr. Guy-Sheftall is known to be courageous in transgressing against both Black and white society, writing numerous articles and essays about the causes and effects of racism, sexism and classism. In 1979, she co-edited a pioneering anthology of Black women's writings, *Sturdy Black Bridges: Visions of Black Women in Literature*. And in 1983, along with Dr. Patricia Bell-Scott of The University of Georgia, she co-founded *SAGE*, a Black feminist journal that published essays, personal narratives and interviews focusing on women of African descent throughout the world. Her latest work, *Gender Talk: The Struggle for Women's Equality in African American Communities*, co-

written with Spelman College president emerita Dr. Johnnetta Cole in 2003, examines the historical conflict between race and gender issues in the Black community, the impact of feminism, the role of the Black Church, and attitudes about sexuality and popular culture.

At Spelman, feminism and womanism have historically intersected in the struggle for the empowerment of women of color. When asked to articulate the difference between "feminist" and "womanist" theories, her response is less strident and hair-splitting than one might expect. "I don't see these schools of thought as being different or antithetical. I simply view womanism to be a variant of

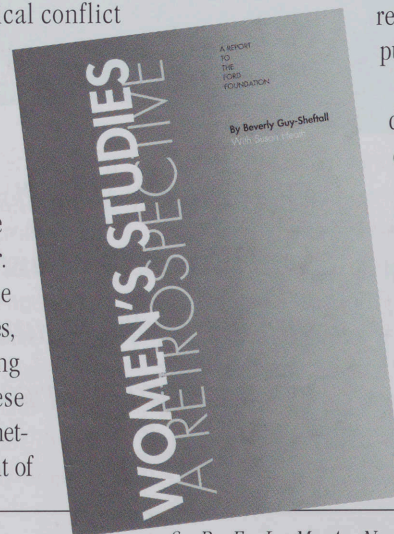
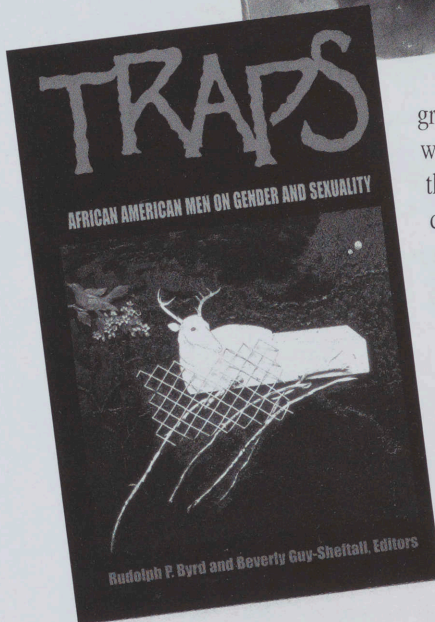
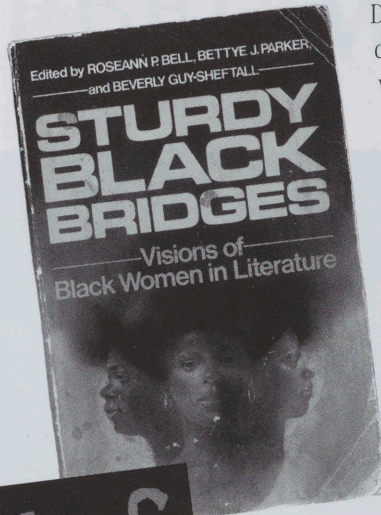
*"Dr. Guy-Sheftall has elevated the relevance of the Black feminist perspective in today's world to a point where it can no longer be ignored. Spelman knows, and now the whole world knows, about her unwavering commitment to scholar-activism."*

— SARAH THOMPSON, C'2006

feminism." As such, in what seemed to be a natural evolution in the mission of the College, in 1981 Dr. Guy-Sheftall founded the Spelman College Women's Research and Resource Center — the first women's research and resource center to be established at a predominantly Black college or university.

Student leader-activist Moya Bailey, C'2005, emphatically recounts the impact of the Women's Research and Resource Center and the influence of Dr. Guy-Sheftall on her decision to pursue a doctorate in women's studies at Emory University. "Generally, [Spelman's] students underestimate the revolutionary power of the Women's Research and Resource Center in their college experience. Dr. Guy-Sheftall's continuing efforts to uplift the contributions of Black feminists and feminist women of color have been lauded internationally and have helped countless Black women feel connected to a movement from which we had historically been omitted. For those of us who are aware, we see the Women's Center and her leadership as integral resources on the Spelman campus," says Ms. Bailey.

Student Government President Sarah Thompson, C'2006, concurs. "More than once I've asked myself when facing a difficult situation: 'What would Beverly Guy-Sheftall do?'" My friends and I often quote her and Dr. Johnnetta Cole because their prophetic voices reaffirm our observation that there is a need for serious dialogue about gender and







## Spelman: a centennial celebration

sexuality issues in the Black community.” Sarah goes on to share a defining moment that occurred during the 2005 spring break while visiting the African American Studies Department at Harvard. She happened to glance up at a bulletin board located directly opposite Cornel West’s old office. Affixed to the board, which bore the heading “World-Renowned Scholars,” was a newspaper clipping and photograph of Dr. Guy-Sheftall. “Spelman knows,” says Sarah, “and now the whole world knows about her exemplary commitment to scholar-activism. Dr. Guy-Sheftall has elevated the relevance of the Black feminist perspective in today’s world to a point where it can no longer be ignored.”

Dr. Guy-Sheftall continues to bring passion to the field and a formidable knowledge of the range of scholarship in women’s studies. She thrives on challenging herself to challenge her students, on creating “light bulb moments” for transgressive, creative students who want to make this a better world. Consistently emphasizing the importance of linking gender issues to broader concerns about diversity on campus and around the globe, she has risen to become one of the brightest stars in the constellation of outstanding faculty in the history of Spelman College.

Yet, while much of her life is devoted to the pursuit of lofty cultural and philosophical ideals, Dr. Guy-Sheftall also wrestles with some of the more practical, if not stereotypical, aspects of what it means to be a woman in contemporary society. It is a little known fact, for example, that she is a *bona fide*, dyed-in-the-wool, “recreational shopper,” with “intense aesthetic needs.” She, apparently, never met a sale she didn’t like and finds fun and frivolity in living out her “shopoholic” tendencies, satisfying her obsession for the color green, indulging in her penchant for fabric

dolls and ethnic jewelry, and collecting mermaids, elephants, sunflowers and all things Native American.

And what does Dr. Guy-Sheftall read when she is not reading scholarly journals? *Vanity Fair*, *New Yorker*, *Architectural Digest*, *ESSENCE*, and *Jet* magazines are her reading material of choice. And, although her travels have taken her to the exotic reaches of Africa, Asia, the South Pacific and the Caribbean, she still longs to hop a ride on the Orient Express and daydreams about taking a weaving class at her favorite place on the planet, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

On the other hand, in her more poignant moments, she remains troubled about the prevalence of negativity among and between Black women. “I see Black women competing with other Black women for the handful of Black men they *think* are going to save their lives,” she laments. We’ve got to realize that, in the final analysis, you don’t have to have a man to be happy!”

“Women of color need to stop questioning and comparing our packaging. Do I have the right body? Is my hair long enough? Silky enough? Am I the right color? We need to gain a level of self-confidence about the power and potential we have to do [this] by ourselves, if need be. In the absence of the kind of life we *thought* we were going to have, we’ve got to have the courage to be single.”

The gospel, according to Dr. Beverly Guy-Sheftall, is both realistic and reaffirming: “Important work is the perfect antidote for loneliness!”

**DENISE McFALL** is an Atlanta-based freelance writer with an extensive background in college administration, program management and curriculum development. She is a frequent contributor of articles and publications that focus on notable leaders and programmatic initiatives in higher education.

## Books by Beverly Guy-Sheftall:

*Spelman: A Woman’s Place*

*Gender Talk: The Struggle for Women’s Equality in African American Communities*

*Black Women in United States History*

*Double Stitch: Black Women Write About Mothers and Daughters*

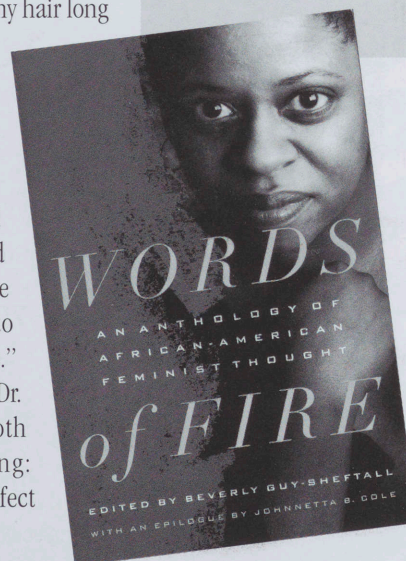
*Sturdy Black Bridges: Visions of Black Women in Literature*

*Traps: African American Men on Gender and Sexuality*

*Spelman: A Centennial Celebration*

*Women’s Studies: A Retrospective*

*Words of Fire: An Anthology of African American Feminist Thought*





## Sister to Sister:

### LEGACY & LEADERSHIP FOLLOWING FAITHFUL FOOTSTEPS

As we reflect in this *Messenger* on 2005 and its thematic focus on our faithfulness to the spirit and vision of the Spelman mission, the College is embarking upon a yearlong celebration of its 125th anniversary. Out of this intersection of celebrations comes the realization of the purpose and power of the *Spelman Messenger*. In no other place or publication can one find the leadership and service rendered by Spelman women, across the nation and around the world, so concisely and consistently documented. It is in the alumnae magazine of Spelman College that our mantra of scholarship, sisterhood and service becomes ALIVE, through examples of Academic excellence, Leadership Development, Improving our environment, Visibility of our achievements and Exemplary customer service. For 125 years, Spelman has educated women who change the world. As alumnae, we shouldn't take this feat lightly. Nor should we allow others to do so. Therefore, as you read this and future issues of the *Spelman Messenger*, pause more, appreciate more and share more, to ensure that, as Spelman women, we continue to study, work and serve for a world of change.

In the Spelman spirit,

*Eloise A. Alexis*

Eloise A. Alexis, C'86  
Vice President for  
Institutional Advancement



Photo: Bud Smith



# SPELMAN COLLEGE ALUMNAE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2005 RECIPIENTS

## ARTS & MEDIA

Sheila K. Davis Kinui, C'77  
Founder, Producing Artistic Director,  
New Professional Theatre  
New York, N.Y.

Michelle M. Bailey, C'89  
Director of Corporate Market Research, BET, Inc.  
Washington, D.C.

## BUSINESS & LAW

Kimberly Browne Davis, C'81  
Senior Vice President of Leadership, Talent, Learning and Education  
JPMorgan Chase — New York, N.Y.

Tracey D. Hughes, C'90  
Promotions Manager, Colgate Palmolive Company  
New York, N.Y.

## CIVIC SERVICE

Joy San Walker Brown, C'52  
Community Volunteer and Civic Leader  
Atlanta, Ga.

Gwendolyn Walker Garrison, Ph.D., C'54  
Chairperson, Southwest Ecumenical Emergency Center, Inc.  
Atlanta, Ga.

## EDUCATION

Darnita R. Killian, Ed.D., C'79  
Vice President of Student Services,  
Pace University  
New York, N.Y.

Cynthia Neal Spence, Ph.D., C'78  
Director, UNCF Mellon Foundation Fellowships Program and  
Associate Professor of Sociology, Spelman College  
Atlanta, Ga.

## HEALTH & SCIENCES

Ruth E. Baines, Ph.D., C'57  
Consultant, Health Science Curriculum Design and Evaluation  
Albany, N.Y.

Pamela Gunter-Smith, Ph.D., C'73  
Porter Professor of Physiology, Spelman College  
Atlanta, Ga.



Photo: Julie Varbrough

*Achievers 2005 (l-r, as listed above) surround President Beverly Daniel Tatum and J. Thomas Carroll, Regional Vice President, Mid-Atlantic Region, Tiffany & Co., at Breakfast at Tiffany & Co.*



## 1933

### Alpha Talley English

**Personal:** Celebrated her 97th birthday on April 3, 2005 in Menifee, Arkansas. She was able to attend her 70th class reunion in 2003, and she still writes occasionally for her local newspaper.

## 1951

### Mignon Lackey Lewis

**Personal:** Honored by the Decatur Chapter of the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College (NAASC) along with her niece, **Yvonne Jackson, C'70**, in a *Soulful Soiree*, March 11, 2005.

## 1955

### Erin Goseer Mitchell

**Professional:** Spoke at The Lovett School Middle School Chapel Service in Atlanta on February 16, 2005. As the author of *Born Colored, Life Before Bloody Sunday*, she was also asked to speak to eighth grade classes about writing memoirs and about the Civil Rights Movement.

## 1963

### Bettie Durrah

**Professional:** Wrote seven meditations in *These Days*, January–March 2005, as well as choreopoems, "Breakthroughs and Challenges," published by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in *Periscope 4*, and "Women of Faith Speak: Listen," written for a regional group of Presbyterian women. She has written or updated two choral poems for 50th anniversaries, one for the Fellowship of the Least Coin (published in the *Asian Church Women Newsletter* of January/March 2005) and one for the Ordination of Women as Ministers of the Word and Sacrament. She also has an article, "Intentionality: The Key to Inclusion," in the March/April 2005 issue of *Church & Society*, a publication of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

## 1964

### Georgianne Thomas

**Professional:** Chaired the 2003 Atlanta Sister Cities Commission.

## 1966

### Brenda Greene

**Professional:** Became the new assistant vice president of student affairs for diversity initiatives at Miami University of Oxford, Ohio. Her career in diversity started in 1987; since then, she has been dedicated to this work at both Ball State University and the University of North Carolina before accepting this position.

## 1967

### Dianne Wilson Caesar

**Professional:** Appointed by Governor Michael Easley to the North Carolina Arts Council on May 25, 2004. She is executive director of the Winston-Salem Delta Arts Center, which moved into its new home in January 2005.

### Constance Burton Pulliam

**Married:** Eric Sykes in Los Angeles on May 19, 2005 (the groom's birthday).

## 1968

### Freddye Hill

**Professional:** Dr. Hill is the vice president for campus life at Dillard University in New Orleans. She's toured the country, along with fellow staff members, "enticing students to return" even though Hurricane Katrina destroyed her own home. She has more than 28 years of experience in higher education as a professor and administrator.

### Savannah Potter Miller

**Professional:** Spoke at National Youth Service Day at Morehouse College on April 16, 2005, for the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

### Laura Burton Odem

**Personal:** In May 2005, she was given the Myrtle Coleman Circle Woman of the Year award by the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles.

**Professional:** Retired from the County of Los Angeles Human Resources Department on March 29, 2005, after more than 36 years of service. In May 2005, she received the Gunther Dumalski Honorary Lifetime Membership Award from the Southern California Public Management Association – Human Resources.

### Jane Smith

**Professional:** Keynote speaker at a diversity forum of the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta on April 22, 2005 and at the convention opening breakfast of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs on July 27, 2005.

### Wilma Strong Webb

**Professional:** Retired from Morris Brandon Elementary School after 37 years. She was the first Black teacher at the previously all-white school and has the record of the longest employment tenure at the school. For the last three years, she has been joined on the faculty by her daughter, **Karen Webb, C'83**.

## 1969

### Laura English-Robinson

**Professional:** A voice instructor at Spelman, her operatic vocals are featured on "Great Day!" a new recording of Negro spirituals arranged by Uzee Brown, Jr., chair of the Morehouse College music department.

The CD includes some rare and seldom-heard spiritual melodies.

### M. Akua McDaniel

**Professional:** Received a 20-year service award from Spelman College, September 27, 2005. She currently serves as associate professor and chair of the Art Department at Spelman.

### Merchuria Chase Williams

**Professional:** As president of the Georgia Association of Educators, she was mentioned in a *Southwest Atlanta* article on the present status of *Brown v. Board of Education* and the No Child Left Behind Act.

## 1970

### Yvonne Jackson

**Professional:** Chair of the Board of Trustees of Spelman College, she was honored by the Decatur Chapter of the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College (NAASC) along with her aunt, **Mignon Lewis, C'51**, in a *Soulful Soiree*, March 11, 2005.

### Rosa King Kilpatrick

**Professional:** On May 17, 2005, she became president of the Board of Directors of the Girls Scouts of North Alabama. The Council serves over 8600 girls between the ages of five and 17. Its membership also includes over 2800 adult volunteers. Rosa King Kilpatrick is the first female African American president in the council's 40-year history.

## 1971

### Tina McElroy Ansa

**Professional:** Presented "A Conversation with Tina McElroy Ansa" at the Auburn Avenue Research Library in Atlanta on July 21, 2005.

### Pearl Cleage

**Professional:** Appointed as Spelman College Cosby Endowed Professor for the 2005–2006 academic year. Her play, *Blues for an Alabama Sky*, was presented November 3–6, 2005 at the Baldwin Burroughs Theatre by the Spelman College Department of Drama and Dance.

### Marcene Thornton

**Professional:** As principal of Capitol View Elementary School, she was featured in an *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* article, "Excellence Expected," on February 27, 2005. The article discussed the striking success of the school despite its very high poverty and turnover rates.

## 1972

### Kathleen McGhee Anderson

**Professional:** Honored by the Black Women Film Preservation Project in its fourth annual awards/scholarship luncheon on March 4, 2005 for her work as executive producer of *Soul Food*, the longest-running Black drama on television.

### Barbara Mitchell

**Professional:** Honored by the commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service in Washington, D.C. as the Appeals team Chief/Team Case Leader of the Year in September 2004. Also presented with the Financial Services Industry Director's Award for 2004.

## 1973

### Kathleen Jackson Bertrand

**Professional:** Sang on March 31, 2005 as the sole performer in an evening concert during Kenyetta: A Festival of Women in Jazz, sponsored by the Spelman College LEADS Center. *Setting New Standards* is her latest album.

### Delores LaRheine McCollum

**Professional:** After retiring from 31½ years of teaching social studies in the public schools of Cleveland, Ohio, she has started a new business venture – Majestic Butterfly™, an event planning & coordinating service, and is also a certified bridal consultant.

### Janice Sykes Rogers

**Professional:** Received a 2005 Governor's Award in the Humanities for her commitment to the importance of history, for taking care of significant Atlanta records and stories, and for her enthusiasm for inspiring others to pursue knowledge about the past. She is outreach librarian for the Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History in Atlanta, one of the largest collections of African American material in the Southeast.

## 1976

### Carol Gaither Clark

**Professional:** Won the Sherry Unger Service-Learning award from the Maryland State Department of Education.

### Yolande Herron-Palmore

**Professional:** Spoke on the subject of "Death" at the Third Annual Women at the Cross worship service held in Spelman College's Cosby Auditorium on March 23, 2005.

### Sheila Johnson

**Education:** Received a juris doctorate degree from the Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center, May 30, 2004. Received a School Service Award, honors for exceptional service to the public and the community, for exceptional contributions to the growth of the Law Center and for academic excellence in Alternate Dispute Resolution and Rights of Children.

**Professional:** Appointed as special assistant in the office of New York State Assemblyman Philip Ramos.

### Mona Taylor Phillips

**Professional:** Received a 20-year service award from Spelman College, September 27, 2005. She currently serves as professor in the Sociology and Anthropology Department.



## Take Note!

**Lucille Fultz, C'59**, associate professor of English at Rice University, won the 2005 Toni Morrison Society Book Award for her penetrating study, *Tony Morrison, Playing with Difference*. In presenting the award, the TMS Book Award Committee noted that "... what Morrison succeeds in doing in her novels — 'to provide the places and spaces so that the reader can participate' — Fultz achieves in her own criticism."

The Atlanta Horizon Theatre Company's production of *Blue* in the summer of 2005 contained a strong Spelman presence. **Toccarra Cash, C'2005**, who played the role of Latonya, is a 2005 drama graduate. Joan Foster-McCarty (lecturer), the play's stage manager, and R. Paul Thomason (assistant professor), the set designer, are faculty members in the Drama and Dance Department as is Eddie Bradley (associate professor), who performed the role of Samuel, Jr. for a week in August. **Charity Hobbs, C'2001**, was the directing intern.



◀ These beautiful greeting cards are featured with nostalgic oil paintings of Spelman created between 1950 and 1955 by **Yvonne Parks Catchings, C'55**, an artist in her own right. Dr. Catchings received a 2001 Alumnae Achievement Award in the category of media arts at Breakfast at Tiffany & Co. in April 2001.



**Anna Cooper Nealy, C'35**  
**Marguerite Simon, C'35**  
**Alice Holmes Washington, C'38**  
**Annie Jewell Moore, C'43**  
**Harriet Nash Chisholm, C'44**  
**Mary Stephens Dansby, C'46**  
**Ruby Neal, C'46**  
**Diana Mattison Anderson, C'47**  
**June Dobbs Butts, C'48**  
**Marymal Dryden, C'48**  
**Darlyne Atkinson Killian, C'48**  
**Ella Gaines Yates, C'49**  
**Mignon Lackey Lewis, C'51**

The Spelman women listed above are featured in *Their Images, Their Words: Honoring Women of Wisdom* as a part of Spelman Independent Scholars (SIS) Oral History Project and were celebrated on April 17, 2005 in the Camille Olivia Hanks Cosby, Ed.D., Academic Center.



"Hooking Up," a documentary following 11 New York City women who were dating online was shown on ABC in July/August 2005. The only Black female profiled was **Reisha Raney, C'95**. The documentary was licensed to the cable network TLC (The Learning Channel), penned as "Log In for Love," and aired in March 2006.

◀ The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis' production of *Crowns* by Regina Taylor features **Denise M. Thimes, C'84**, gifted singer, actress and entertainer.



## 1977

### Kim Bright-Coleman

**Professional:** In her position as regional counsel for the Social Security Administration, she oversees the agency's legal activities in the Chicago region.

### Shirley Henderson Coleman

**Personal:** Opened a new Pro Golf store with her husband at the Camp Creek Marketplace in East Point, Georgia.

### Zenobia Lawrence Hikes

**Professional:** Appointed as vice president for student affairs in June 2005 at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, one of the top 50 research institutions in the country, supervising 970 employees at an institution of 28,000 students, and becoming the first African American female vice president.

## 1978

### Myrna Scott Amos

**Professional:** Appointed as director of elementary programs for the Duval County Public School District in Jacksonville, Florida. Her responsibilities include directing academic literacy coaches, early intervention programs, the implementation of Pre-K into the public school district for fall 2006 and curriculum development for the Summer School Recovery program. Her former position was as administrator of Golden Isles Elementary School, Glynn County, Georgia.

### Connie Boswell-Robinson

**Education:** Graduated May 14, 2005 with honors from Holy Family University with a master's degree in education. She was also inducted into the national education honor society, Kappa Delta Pi.

### Cherrie Boyer

**Professional:** Spoke at the opening session of Research Day on April 8, 2005 in the NASA Auditorium of Spelman. She is professor of pediatrics and director of interdisciplinary training at the University of California, San Francisco.

## 1979

### Sibyl Avery Jackson

**Personal:** Featured in the July/August 2005 issue of *Homes of Color*, the Magazine of African-American Living & Style.

### Darnita Killian

**Education:** Returned to Harvard University for her third Summer Institute in 2005. This time, she attended the Institute for Educational Management. She is vice president for student affairs at Pace University.

**Personal:** Quoted in "A Pathway to the Presidency," a special report on careers in higher education in *Black Issues in Higher Education*, November 18, 2004.

### Cheryl Tyler

**Personal:** Featured in an article in *DiversityInc*, November 8, 2004. After resigning from the Secret Service in 1999, she joined nearly 250 current and former Secret Service agents, all African Americans, in a class-action race-discrimination lawsuit that, after four years, was dismissed by the court. She is currently an agent of the Transportation Security Administration for Homeland Security.

## 1980

### Hazella Rollins-LaVar

**Professional:** Founder and executive director of the Stroke of Hope Foundation, a nonprofit organization committed to improving the quality of life for people affected by strokes.

### Rolonda Watts

**Professional:** Her prime-time show on PAX, *Lie Detector*, was featured in *Essence*, August 2005, along with her hints for discovering when you are being lied to.

### Marjorie Whigham-Désir

**Professional:** Contributed an article to *Essence*, October 2005, about 25 incredible Black women who are shaping our world.

## 1981

### Angela Benson

**Personal:** Her most recent novel, *The Amen Sisters*, was published by Walk-Worthy Press in September 2005. It is her ninth novel and the most controversial book yet, dealing with sexual abuse by pastors, relationships between sisters and betrayal. She has created her own website, [www.angelabenson.com](http://www.angelabenson.com).

**Professional:** Received the 2005 Spitzer/Mather Faculty Award for Excellence on May 5, supporting excellence in teaching, research and applied programs related to family-life issues, from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She combined her research, teaching and service to provide new educational opportunities for disadvantaged children and families nationwide. Currently assistant professor in Human Resource Education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

## 1982

### Pamela George

**Professional:** The first-ever recipient of the Richard H. Brodhead Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Counseling. She is assistant dean and director of the Afro-American Cultural Center at Yale University. Her honor was noted in *The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education*, Autumn 2004.

### Lysa Hall

**Birth:** Daughter Anderson Page Andrea Sims was born on May 7, 2004, weighing 7 lbs., 10 oz. She was named after Metropolitan Opera singer Marian Anderson. She joins big brothers Alexander and Avery Sims.

## 1983

### Avis Bishop-Thompson

**Professional:** First African American woman to be appointed partner at the law firm of DeCotiis, FitzPatrick, Cole & Wisler, LLP in Teaneck, New Jersey. She practices in the areas of civil litigation, education, labor and employment law in both public and private sectors.

### Vickie Cox Edmondson

**Personal:** Has an article, "Life as the First and Only," dated May 1, 2005, on the Web site of the National Career Development Association. She discusses her many experiences of being the first and only Black female. She is an associate professor of management at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and she co-founded the Follow Me Foundation, whose aim is to assist economically disadvantaged high school students in her community.

**Professional:** Edited *No Mistakes, No More Tears: The Revonda Bowen Story*.

### Sonya Maxwell

**Education:** Received a master of science degree in health care administration from Bellevue University in Omaha, Nebraska.

**Personal:** Was featured in the Metro section of *The New York Times* on January 23, 2005, in an article discussing parents with special needs children.

## 1984

### Deirdre Haywood-Rouse

**Personal:** During April 1–April 9, 2005, traveled with a mission team from Carrollton, Georgia to Ndola, Zambia. While there she lectured, learned and assisted in the Masala Medical Clinic, as well as attending nightly revivals.

### Lillian Lewis

**Professional:** Became the HBCU Library Alliance program officer on February 1, 2005. Her responsibilities include not only the operation of the HBCU Library Alliance but also the coordination of a two-year project to strengthen leadership within the HBCU library community and more effectively integrate library services into campus programs for teaching and learning. The project is supported by a \$500,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

### Sharon Covington Patterson

**Professional:** Spoke at the Third Annual "Seven Women at the Cross" College worship service on March 23, 2005 at Spelman's Cosby Auditorium. She is the senior pastor of the St. Paul United Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas, and was the first African American woman to be ordained in the North Texas region of the United Methodist Church. She also founded The Love Clinic ([TheLoveClinic.com](http://TheLoveClinic.com)) and is the author of six books, including *The Love Clinic – How to Heal Relationships in a Christian Spirit*.

## 1986

### Nina Cobb Bronner

**Personal:** Spoke at Spelman Founders Day Alumnae Worship Service, April 10, 2005.

### Angela Farris Watkins

**Personal:** Received a 10-year service award from Spelman on September 27, 2005. She currently serves as associate professor of psychology at Spelman.

## 1987

### Triphenya Zachery Bailey

**Birth:** Jared and Joy, August 21, 2002 and July 14, 2004.

### Schuyla Goodson

**Professional:** Appointed in 2005 as division operations counsel, Coca-Cola South Africa (Pty) Ltd, based in Johannesburg.

## 1988

### Pamela Bigelow

**Professional:** Featured vocalist on Sonny Emory's CD, released in June 2005.

### Katrina Evans

**Professional:** Practice administrator of Covington Pediatrics, LLC, supervising a staff of 15 and managing billing, in addition to other responsibilities.

### Leslie Graham

**Personal:** Elected national vice president of membership, National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc.

### Daphne King Patton

**Education:** Received a master of education degree from Kennesaw State University on July 31, 2005.

## 1989

### Nefatiti Richardson Anderson

**Birth:** Selah Noel, born October 16, 2004 to Nefatiti and husband Richard ("Nippy") Anderson (Morehouse, Class of 1991). At 7 lbs., 3.8 oz. and 19.25 inches, the baby joined her big sister, Nefatiti Khya.

### Abina Gonsalves

**Birth:** Netert Sharrura Johnson, born July 2, 2005 at 6 lbs., 3 oz. and 18 inches. Her father is Terence Johnson. Her name is Egyptian and means "God Is My Joy."

### Darralynn Hutson-Bryant

**Professional:** Member of the production team for *The Musicians* on BET Jazz during July 2005.

### Alonia Parks Jernigan

**Birth:** Emmanuel Alonzo Jernigan, born April 3, 2005 at 7 lbs., 8 oz. and 20 inches.

**Professional:** Became the new manager of corporate and foundation relations with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Atlanta on August 15, 2005.



## Take Note!

**Tomika DePriest, C'89**, has been selected to represent Spelman College in the 2005–2006 class of Art Leaders of Metro Atlanta, a leadership program of the Metro Atlanta Arts and Culture Coalition, which is chaired by Raymond King, senior vice president of SunTrust Bank. Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin is vice chair. DePriest will join a group of key business and arts executives and community leaders who will examine and help define the important role the arts can play in shaping the future of Atlanta.

► **Maia Nkenge Wilson, C'97**, played Power Woman in *Menopause the Musical™* with the Alliance Theatre Company in Atlanta before returning to New York to play in *The Color Purple* at the Broadway Theatre. She was featured in the August 18–24, 2005 issue of Atlanta's *Creative Loafing*.

The child star of *The Cosby Show*, **Keshia Knight Pulliam, C'2001**, and winner of the Young Artist Award, breaks new ground in the movie, *The Gospel*, a prodigal son story of redemption, alongside a star lineup from Boris Kodjoe, Nona Gaye and Omar Gooding to gospel greats Donnie McClurkin, Fred Hammond, Kirk Franklin and Yolanda Adams.

**Allegra Lawrence, C'93**, has developed a program to help minority law students get a leg up on being able to join top law firms. Allegra, a partner with Sutherland Asbil & Brennan's Atlanta office, has organized a summer prep course for minority students who are starting law school in the fall. In 2005, the first class graduated 22 students from Spelman and Morehouse Colleges. "The legal profession needs to be more diverse," Allegra said. "The number of minority law school graduates entering big firms is disproportionately small." An article about the program appeared in the *New York Law Journal* in August 2005.

*Flyin' West*, a play by **Pearl Cleage, C'71**, was called "a splendid revival" by reviewer Wendell Brock in the *Atlanta-Journal Constitution*. The play — produced in Atlanta by True Colors Theatre in partnership with the National Black Arts Festival in July 2005 — is a history-based depiction of African American settlers in the West. Brock said it was "certain to be the crown jewel in this year's NBAF."

The Paper Plate, the food-service company of **Kimberly Carlisle, C'88**, was featured in *SmartMoney.com* on July 18, 2005. The company, formed by Kimberly, her mother and her brother, provides meals for schools in the Dallas area, as well as providing job training both on and off-site. It has grown from just the three founders to 53 employees, and they now prepare more than 10,000 daily meals.



◀ Ancestral voices. Love. Forgiveness. Pain. And most of all, love. This is the story of *The Color Purple*. The novel was released in 1982 and received the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1983. It has sold over 5 million copies to date. The Warner Bros./Amblin Entertainment motion picture debuted in 1985 — directed by Steven Spielberg and starring Whoopi Goldberg, Danny Glover and Oprah Winfrey — and received 11 Oscar nominations. Now Oprah Winfrey, Quincy Jones and team are presenting *The Color Purple* on Broadway. Through all of this, **Alice Walker, Spelman alumna**, has shared her spiritual artistry and watched how it has touched people the world over with its universal themes. **Maia Nkenge Wilson, C'97**, and the entire cast truly bring *The Color Purple* to life on Broadway!



◀ **LaTanya Richardson, C'74**, is clear that she wants it all. And she's got it! She is featured in the March 2006 issue of *Ebony* where she shares her love of theatre, producing and directing. She has appeared in *The Member of the Wedding* at the Westport Country Playhouse in Connecticut in the summer of 2005, and on film, with her husband for the second time in their careers with *Freedomland*. She is also acquiring the rights to *Babylon Sisters*, written by her sister friend, **Pearl Cleage, C'71**, in order to make it into a movie and concentrate on her desire to produce and direct.



**Shelley Johnson**

**Birth:** Daughter Kaia Sharae Hall, born November 9, 2004, at 6 lbs., 7 oz.

**Professional:** Assessment manager/assistant director in the Office of Minority Male Health, Lincoln University, Pennsylvania.

**Vanessa Robinson-Dooley**

**Education:** Completed Ph.D. in social work at the University of Georgia in 2005.

**Charlisa Scott**

**Birth:** Son, Landon Charles Douglas Scott, born on October 1, 2004, joyfully welcomed by Charlisa and husband, Douglas Scott.

**1990****Kimberly Sisson Blackwell**

**Professional:** Granted tenure as a counselor at Merritt Community College in Oakland, California, March 2005.

**Karen Roberson Bogans**

**Professional:** Director of community outreach for Congressman Jack Kingston, Savannah, Georgia.

**Faith Cargile**

**Professional:** Wrote an article, "Diary of a Mad Manager," for the March 2005 issue of *The Journal of Safe Management of Disruptive and Assaultive Behavior*. In it she detailed the beginning of implementing Nonviolent Crisis Intervention® at the Children's Home of Cincinnati, Ohio. She is the operations manager for the Partial Hospitalization Program of the Children's Home, a program that serves children from seven to 18 years of age who are experiencing severe emotional, psychological and/or behavioral difficulties.

**Lanita Dawson-Jones**

**Professional:** Has acquired two board certifications in her medical specialty of Diagnostic Radiology: Board Certified Radiologist #2 (2001) with Certificate of Added Qualifications in Neuroradiology (2002). She is currently associate professor of radiology and clinical radiologist at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center/St. Paul University Hospital in Dallas, Texas.

**Femi Francis-Leito**

**Birth:** A little girl, Bahiyah Nyeri, at 6 lbs., 7 oz., on May 11, 2005, in New York. Her father is Rafer Leito.

**Teresa Leary Jenkins**

**Professional:** Freelance writer for *Memphis Parent Magazine*. She has also written for the *West Tennessee Parent & Family Magazine*. Prior to this, she contributed regular parenting columns to the *Jackson Sun*.

**Loree Jones**

**Personal:** Board member of Operation Understanding, a nonprofit organization aimed at improving relations between

Philadelphia's African American and Jewish teens. The organization celebrated its 20th anniversary this year. Ms. Jones participated in its first year and was interviewed this year by the *Philadelphia Inquirer* about the effect the experience had on her.

**Dalhi Myers**

**Personal:** Named to the Columbia College Board of Trustees for the 2005–2009 term.

**Professional:** Special counsel with the law firm of Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A., practicing primarily in the areas of corporate commercial transactions, international commerce and regulated utilities.

**Michelle Davis Watson**

**Birth:** Baby boy, Kimani James, at 9 lbs., 1 oz., in Maryland. He is welcomed by his father, Mark Watson (Morehouse, Class of 1991) and his two big sisters, Jamilah and Meliah.

**Kendal Whitlock**

**Married:** Darren Michael Hart (Morehouse graduate) on November 27, 2004, at the Cottle Church, a slave-era Anglican church where Blacks and whites worshiped together, in Newcastle, on the island of Nevis in the West Indies.

**Denise Williams**

**Education:** Received a master's degree in human services administration.

**Professional:** Ordained as a Baptist minister.

**1991****Dawn Howard**

**Professional:** After a 10-year career in public health, in August 2004, enrolled in Howard University's jazz studies program as a jazz vocal performance major. She will pursue her passion for music and her goal to become a sacred jazz singer and instructor.

**Tara Williams Robinson**

**Married:** Frederick Robinson in August 2000.

**Birth:** Daughter, Lavoya Denise Robinson, born on March 21, 2004.

**Education:** Earned a master's in guidance and counseling from St. Thomas University in Miami, Florida in May 2000.

**Lea Anderson Thomas**

**Birth:** Third child, a daughter, Julea Anderson Thomas, in Newport News, Virginia.

**1992****Lorin Guillory**

**Married:** William George Johnson on January 15, 2005 in the United American Free Will Baptist Church in Raeford, North Carolina.

**Christine LeVeaux**

**Professional:** Published in July 2005, her first novel, *They Dance Alone*, focuses on the tragedy of the recurring removal of the Black man from the family throughout history and the strength that the Black

woman has had to develop to cope with his absence. Christine is a professor of American government and Black politics at the University of Houston.

**Dana Peart**

**Education:** Earned a master of arts degree in French from Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vermont.

**Monique Pless Spaulding**

**Birth:** First child, Taylor Elizabeth, was born to her and her husband, Samuel Spaulding, Jr. (Morehouse, Class of 1986), on October 19, 2004.

**1993****Jessica Carter**

**Professional:** Appointed as senior vice president and associate general counsel in the Global Private Client Group at Citigroup Global Markets Inc.

**Darlene Abernathy Neely**

**Professional:** Serving on the faculty of Nashville's first Montessori teacher preparation program, located at Belmont University. She is the founding teacher of Hull-Jackson Montessori, a public school that has committed to hosting training and interns for Belmont's program.

**Tiffany Pettiford-Washington**

**Professional:** Promoted to global program manager for the professional skills curriculum for GE Capital. This makes her part of the Corporate Leadership Development team for the company.

**Dekia Moore Scott**

**Birth:** She and Michael A. Scott were blessed with the arrival of their second child, Zoe Elizabeth, on September 14, 2004, in Atlanta, at 7 pounds, 8 ounces and 18.5 inches.

**Cassandra Fair Williams**

**Married:** Rev. Clarence E. Williams, Sr. on July 30, 2005, in Jackson, Tennessee. Her husband is the pastor of Walnut Grove M.B. Church in Jackson.

**Professional:** Named teacher of the month for September 2005 at Liberty Technology High School, where she is a math instructor and the cheerleading sponsor-coach, as well as serving on the school improvement leadership committee.

**Maricia Bennekin Woodham**

**Birth:** A daughter, Olivia Nicole Woodham, in Nashua, New Hampshire, at 6 lbs., 14 oz.

**1994****Keshia Abraham**

**Professional:** Fulbright Scholar. Received a Ph.D. in comparative literature (African diasporic literature, cross-cultural feminist studies and popular education) from Binghamton University, Binghamton, New York in May 2001.

**Judith Crocker Billingsley**

**Personal:** Wrote an essay that will be included in "Kids, Have You Seen My Backpack?" and *Other Inspirational Stories of Non-Traditional Students: An Adult Learner Anthology* edited by Donna Talarico.

**Keisha Smith Cook**

**Personal:** The Total Grace Christian Center Distinction Award honoring volunteers recognized Keisha for her outstanding service to the missions & evangelism ministry. Her area of work has been a youth project and the homeless/street ministry.

**Kanya Wright Cornish**

**Professional:** Named Teacher of the Year by Oglethorpe County High School in Lexington, Georgia.

**Sherri Lee Keene**

**Birth:** Isaiah Langston Keene, born on June 15, 2005 at 9 lbs., 2 oz. and 20 in. He is also welcomed by big sister, Adia, and father, Jason Keene.

**Daphne Walker**

**Personal:** Keynote Speaker at Honors Convocation in Spelman's Cosby Auditorium on April 21, 2005.

**Professional:** Featured in an article in the August 18, 2005 *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* as a "chief magistrate not afraid to shake things up."

**Bethany Brown Watson**

**Professional:** Promoted to staffing manager in the Human Resources Department of Nike, Inc. Her responsibilities include recruiting finance professionals for the company's world headquarters in Portland, Oregon.

**Stephanie Sims Wright**

**Married:** Charles Wright, Jr. (Morehouse, Class of 1992) in May 2002.

**Education:** Earned a Ph.D. in history at Rutgers University.

**Professional:** Appointed assistant professor of history at the University of West Georgia.

**1995****Detria Austin**

**Professional:** Promoted to assistant vice president of administrative services at MCG Health, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation supporting the research and education mission of the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta.

**Nicole Duncan-Smith**

**Professional:** Creator and executive producer of a reality show with Luther Campbell, *Daddy's Little Girls*, and a children's TV show, *Suga Yam's Toast & Jam Dance Show* with the Dance Theatre of Harlem. She's also a principle in the hip hop comic book publishing company, Street Legend Ink.

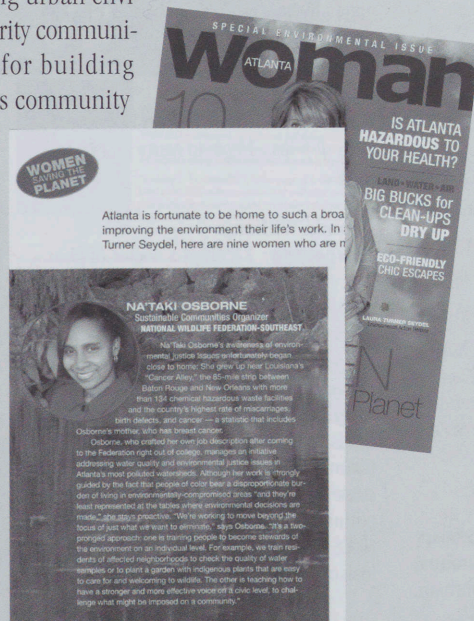


## Take Note!

► In its spring 2005 program, The Detroit Opera House printed a tribute to the legendary **Josephine Harreld Love, C'33**, one of its longtime supporters since the early years of the Opera House. Josephine Harreld Love was on the planning committee, which led to the commission of the new opera, *Margaret Garner*, with a libretto by Toni Morrison, which premiered at the Opera House in 2005. The close of the tribute read, "Josephine's recent passing has touched the Michigan Opera Theatre family very deeply. While the impact of this loss has been enormous, we take great comfort in knowing that her legacy continues to touch people throughout, and well beyond, our community."

The San Francisco African American Historical and Cultural Society bestowed its highest honor, the PraiseSinger Award, upon **Eloise McKinney-Johnson, C'47**, on October 23, 2004. Mrs. Johnson was a former editor of the society's newsletter, also called *The PraiseSinger*. She was joined at the society's gala 49th anniversary celebration by her son, Myron H. Johnson, Jr. (Morehouse, Class of 1976) as well as by San Francisco Bay area Morehouse and Spelman friends.

► **Na'Taki Osborne, C'95**, is the national leadership development & strategic planning coordinator for the National Wildlife Federation. She is responsible for developing urban environmental initiatives in key priority communities across the country and for building partnerships between grassroots community organizations, statewide agencies and academic institutions to implement environmental initiatives. She is co-founder of the Center for Environmental Public Awareness and has been serving as community health team teacher/guest environmental health professional at the Morehouse School of Medicine. She was featured in "Women Saving the Planet" in the April 2005 issue of *Atlanta Woman*.



► **Isabella McIntyre Tobin, C'45**, was honored by the Kresge HBCU Initiative in May 2005. The gala reception, held at the Atlanta Hyatt Regency Hotel, publicly celebrated 40 HBCU alumni/ae who gave a combined \$25.2 million in gifts to their alma maters in the last five years.



Mrs. Isabella McIntyre Tobin  
Spelman College, 5107.500

Mrs. Tobin, a native of Rochester, New York, graduated from Spelman College and earned a Masters Degree in Social Work from Atlanta University. She began her teaching career with a sixth grade class in the Atlanta School System and later continued teaching Social Studies in high school. For her thirty-eight years of service, she is now recognized as an outstanding and creative teacher in the Atlanta Public School System. Mrs. Tobin resides in Atlanta, Georgia and is a former president of the Atlanta Chapter of the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College.

**Evelynn Hammonds, C'76**, was named by Harvard University on July 20, 2005 as the University's first senior vice provost for Faculty Development and Diversity, a major addition to the Harvard administration, born out of almost a year of turmoil on campus. "This past academic year has really been a turning point for the University with respect to concerns expressed about gender equity, diversity . . . and faculty development," she said, and she is excited about the opportunities the position provides.

2005 was a banner year for **Ollivette Smith Allison, C'46**. She was nominated for Woman of the Year by *Atlanta Woman* magazine. She was profiled by the Georgia Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, as part of the celebration of their 30th anniversary. And — just for a bit extra — she had a building named after her. The building is a 27,500-square-foot life learning center that is part of the Carrie Steele-Pitts Home in Atlanta where Mrs. Allison has spent a good deal of her life, first as a teenager, then as the home's first professional social worker and, since 1976, as its administrator. There's more. The Ollivette Eugenia Smith Allison Life Learning Center won a ULI, a "development of excellence" award from the Urban Land Institute.

Included in *Black Enterprise* magazine's February 2005 list of the "75 Most Powerful African Americans in Corporate America" was **Jerri DeVard, C'79**. She also — as senior vice president, brand management and marketing communications for Verizon Communications — received a Corporate Marketing Award from *Ebony* magazine in its salute to Outstanding Women in Marketing and Communications.



**Nichole Harris**

**Married:** George Blackwell, November 7, 2004.

**Kristal Holmes**

**Professional:** Associate attorney at the law firm of Sliz, McKinney & Drake in Lawrenceville, Georgia.

**Gail Johnson**

**Personal:** Wrote an essay that will be included in *"Kids, Have You Seen My Backpack?" and Other Inspirational Stories of Non-Traditional Students: An Adult Learner Anthology* edited by Donna Talarico.

**Kettisha Jones**

**Adoption:** Adopted Khari Malcolm Jones on October 14, 2004.

**Education:** Master of education in educational leadership from the University of Houston.

**Siti Powers Lowery**

**Professional:** Joined the private dental practice of Dr. Desiree Palmer.

**Mendi Lewis Obadike**

**Professional:** With Keith Obadike, created a new work on exhibit at the New Museum of contemporary Art — "4-1-9," or "You Can't View a Masquerade by Standing in One Place." It is a musical suite and conceptual work of art based on "Nigerian" e-mail scams.

**Dawn Turner**

**Education:** Earned a doctoral degree in education in May 2003 from Clark Atlanta University.

**1996****Ada Brown**

**Professional:** Appointed to be a judge in Dallas County, Texas. She is the second-youngest judge appointed in Texas history, as well as the first woman and the first African American to be a judge in County Criminal Court 1.

**Maya Carter**

**Professional:** Chief resident at Duke University Medical Center Department of Community and Family Medicine.

**Blessed Chukworji**

**Married:** Edward Keefe at the Four Seasons Hotel in Washington, D.C. on February 26, 2005.

**Ina Daniels**

**Married:** Marcus Patton on September 4, 2004, in Maui, Hawaii.

**Andrea Lewis Johnson**

**Birth:** Christian Lewis Johnson was born in Atlanta on September 27, 2005 at 6 lbs., 14 oz. and 18.5 in.

**Jennifer Miller**

**Married:** Mario Reyes in Los Angeles on May 14, 2005, thus becoming a stepmother to Mario's 10-year-old son, Justin.

**Dekisha Pendergrass-Drayton**

**Professional:** Board-certified pediatrician practicing in Marietta, Georgia at Cumberland Pediatrics since August 2003. Currently in practice with **Karen Moore, M.D., C'80.**

**Yvonne Phillips**

**Education:** Earned master of science degree in decision science at Georgia State University, the Robinson College of Business, in December 2004.

**Aliciadine Starks-Oliphant**

**Professional:** Started new business venture, Magic Kids, USA, selling new designer children's clothing at 50% to 70% off the original price, bought from stores that have gone out of business.

**1997****Anika Calloway**

**Professional:** Joined the law firm of Barnes & Thornburg LLP as an associate in the firm's Indianapolis office. She practices in the Litigation Department.

**Charifa Clark**

**Personal:** Honored by the Brooklyn Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Inc. for community service efforts.

**Tikenya Foster-Singletary**

**Education:** Completed Ph.D. in English at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee in December 2004.

**Shani O'Neal**

**Personal:** Featured in the May 2005 issue of *Essence* as a poet, activist, and world traveler.

**Shana Rooks**

**Professional:** Appointed as associate judge in the Magistrate Court of Clayton County in Jonesboro, Georgia.

**Naomi Ruffin**

**Professional:** Obtained a professional license, becoming a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW).

**1998****Sakita Brown**

**Personal:** With her mother, Dr. Carrie Brown, was featured in *Woman Dentist Journal* as the first mother/daughter dentists to graduate from the University of Kentucky.

**Gina Cain-Tate**

**Birth:** Daughter Alexandria Tate, September 2003, in Jacksonville, North Carolina, and son Aydyn Tate, April 2005, in Durham, North Carolina.

**Monica Farmer Cox**

**Professional:** Began a new job at Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana. She is the first African American female faculty member to be hired within Purdue's College of Engineering.

**Tia Fuller**

**Professional:** Participated in the panel, "Finding and Creating Power in the Jazz Community," and gave the lecture/demonstration, "Roots and Branches of Our Music," at Kenyetta: a Festival of Women in Jazz, in April 2005. The event was sponsored by the Spelman College LEADS Center. Currently she teaches at the Jazz Institute of New Jersey, which selected her as keynote speaker for its class of 2003.

**Kimberly Gregory**

**Married:** Charles Thorpe.

**Birth:** Cameryn Rose Thorpe, on November 3, 2004.

**Heather Henderson**

**Education:** Received a master's degree in international studies from the University of Chile in 2001 and is currently studying at the University of Oregon School of Law.

**Heather McTeer Hudson**

**Personal:** Featured in *Essence* of May 2005 as one of the youngest mayors in the nation. She is the mayor of Greenville, Mississippi.

**Kari McGriff**

**Married:** On June 24, 2005, to Christopher Miller (Oberlin, Class of 2001).

**Amber Nash**

**Education:** Graduated from Vanderbilt School of Law in May 2005.

**Andrea Tate**

**Married:** Charles O. Phillips on October 2, 2004 at Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**Azure Cardwell Utley**

**Birth:** Cyan Ezella Utley, on February 25, 2005 at 6 lbs., 14 oz. to Azure and Lonacy Utley.

**Chonda Williams**

**Education:** Received a doctor of pharmacy degree with a minor in health psychology from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

**Shana Word**

**Professional:** Vice president with Citi Cards/Home Depot Credit Services (HDCS) Communications, responsible for oversight, strategic development and managing execution of communications plans for the HDCS operations sites and the Atlanta Overlook office.

**1999****Valerie Fountaine**

**Education:** Graduated from Georgia State University with a master's degree in public administration.

**Malikha Mallette**

**Personal:** *The New York Post's* August 2005 online "Starr Report" announced that Power105.1 DJ Malikha Mallette would be shooting PSAs (public service announcements) for September's Children's Health and Fitness Expo.

**Shameika Parriss**

**Married:** Jomal Valles (Morehouse College graduate) in the Zion Cathedral in Freeport, New York on May 30, 2005.

**Shana Yarborough**

**Personal:** Her book of poetry, *Looking for Love in All the Small Spaces*, was published by The Writer's Lair Books in 2004.

**Professional:** Created new publishing company, The Writer's Lair Books.

**2000****Kendolyn Cooper**

**Professional:** Accepted a new position as director of Anacostia programs for the Discovery Creek Children's Museum of Washington, D.C. Through the Anacostia Initiative, the Museum provides innovative science and environmental education programs to children in underserved neighborhoods.

**Phylicia Fant**

**Professional:** Appointed director of publicity for Universal Records. She was formerly manager of publicity.

**Renée Hayslett**

**Education:** Received her doctor of philosophy degree in pharmacology from Howard University on May 14, 2005.

**Kimya Jackson**

**Education:** Selected for honorary recognition on The National Dean's List.

**Kimberly Jackson Leeks**

**Education:** Received a master of public health with a concentration in health behavior from the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University.

**Shanell McGoy**

**Personal:** Spoke at the dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony for The Corella and Bertram F. Bonner Office of Community Service and Student Development at Spelman on October 21, 2004.



## Take Note!

► A portrait of **Audrey Forbes Manley, C'55**, eighth and first alumna president of Spelman College, was unveiled in February 2005 at the National Academies Portrait Collection of African Americans in Science, Engineering and Medicine in Washington, D.C. The portrait is placed permanently in the hallway of The National Academies Keck Center and will be showcased each year in the National Academy of Sciences main building during the month of February.

AUDREY FORBES MANLEY retired as Spelman College's first alumna president after a long career in private and public service. Manley received a BA from Spelman, an M.D. from Meharry Medical College, and a Masters in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University. She completed her training in pediatrics at Cook County Children's Hospital and was appointed Chief Resident at the University of Illinois's School of Medicine. Manley has served on the faculties of Howard University, Emory University, University of Chicago, and the University of California. In 1976, she joined the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) and was later appointed as the first African American woman Principle Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health with oversight of eight agencies including the Centers for Disease Control, the National Institutes of Health, and the Food and Drug Administration. While at USPHS, Manley also directed the sickle cell anemia and other genetic disease programs. She went on to serve as Deputy U.S. Surgeon General and later as acting U.S. Surgeon General before becoming president of Spelman College. Manley was elected to the Institute of Medicine in 1977.



American woman Principle Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health with oversight of eight agencies including the Centers for Disease Control, the National Institutes of Health, and the Food and Drug Administration. While at USPHS, Manley also directed the sickle cell anemia and other genetic disease programs. She went on to serve as Deputy U.S. Surgeon General and later as acting U.S. Surgeon General before becoming president of Spelman College. Manley was elected to the Institute of Medicine in 1977.

African American HISTORY MONTH

► In a tribute on January 21, 2005, the Atrium in the College's Manley Student Center was named for **June Gary Hopps, C'60**, in recognition of her many years of commitment to Spelman, including serving on the Board of Trustees since 1989 to present, holding the position of chair from 1997-2004. She is former dean of the graduate school of social work and professor emerita of Boston College and holds the esteemed Thomas M. "Jim" Parham Professorship of Family and Children Studies at the University of Georgia.

## Spelman College Board of Trustees



Tribute to  
Dr. June Gary Hopps C'60

Manley Campus Center Atrium  
Spelman College  
January 21, 2005  
6:00 p.m.



▲ **A.J. Johnson, C'85**, actress and celebrity fitness trainer, was one of 10 beautiful bridesmaids in Sheryl Lee Ralph's dream wedding on July 30, 2005 at Los Angeles' First African Methodist Episcopal Church. The star-studded event received national media coverage including a photo spread in *People* magazine where A.J. (center) is shown here with Nicey Nash, Jennifer Lewis, Patti LaBelle and Loretta Devine.

## Dream Wedding

Ten bridesmaids, 400 guests and one long kiss sold to an unforgettable day for Dreamer Sheryl Lee Ralph.

Nicey Nash, Jennifer Lewis, Patti LaBelle and Loretta Devine were among the bridesmaids in Sheryl Lee Ralph's dream wedding on July 30, 2005 at Los Angeles' First African Methodist Episcopal Church. The star-studded event received national media coverage including a photo spread in *People* magazine where A.J. (center) is shown here with Nicey Nash, Jennifer Lewis, Patti LaBelle and Loretta Devine.

Angela's First African Methodist Episcopal Church. The

star-studded event received national media coverage including a photo spread in *People* magazine where A.J. (center) is shown here with Nicey Nash, Jennifer Lewis, Patti LaBelle and Loretta Devine.



**WILLIE E. GARY**  
Attorney and chairman of the Black Family Channel  
Willie E. Gary received an honorary law degree and spoke to Johnson C. Smith University graduates in Charlotte, NC, about making a difference and dreaming big dreams:  
"Striving to be successful is never easy. It is not luck, but hard work and determination that will help you reach your goals. Hard work is what has gotten all of you to this important moment in your lives, and it will enable you to follow your dreams."

**MARION WRIGHT EDELMAN**  
Youth advocate and the CEO/founder of the Children's Defense Fund Marion Wright Edelman told Spelman's graduating class in Atlanta the importance of creating opportunities and service in the Black community:  
"I want to remind you: Don't ever be lazy. Do your homework. Pay attention to detail. Take care and pride in your work. Take the initiative in creating your own opportunity, and don't wait around for other people to discover you or do you a favor. Don't assume a door is closed, push on it. Don't assume if it was closed yesterday, it's closed today. And don't ever stop learning and improving your mind. If you do, you and America are going to be left behind."

► **Marian Wright Edelman, C'60**, was honored by the National Urban League during its second annual Women of Power luncheon, recognizing women who have made significant contributions in the areas of civil rights, entertainment/news, politics, entrepreneurship, justice, local leadership, sports and health. In addition, *Jet* magazine of August 5, 2005, quoted from her May 14, 2005 Spelman baccalaureate address.

## The 45th Anniversary Celebration Continues



Former student activists who led the Student Movement of the 1960s included Connie Curry, an Borders-Patterson; Morris Dillard; Brenda Cole; Johnny Parham; Gwendolyn Middlebrooks; Louie King, Jr.; Roslyn Ipe; and Charles Black. PHOTO BY HORACE HENRY

▲ *The Atlanta Inquirer*, which celebrated its 45th anniversary in August 2005, featured **Gwendolyn Middlebrooks, C'61**, in a photograph of former student activists who led the student civil rights movement of the 1960s.

► **Janet Lane Martin, C'72**, and her husband Jerry were featured in the "Homefinder" section of *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* on May 8, 2005. The article highlights the Southwest Atlanta neighborhood where the couple has lived for more than 23 years.

SUNDAY, MAY 8, 2005  
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution  
**Homefinder**  
INCLUDES HOUSES, CONDOS AND APARTMENTS  
ajchomefinder.com

SPOTLIGHT ON ...



**Alisha Thomas Morgan**

**Professional:** Received the Earl T. Shinstorfer Award on January 16, 2005. The award recognized Rep. Morgan for her commitment to voter empowerment. She is the youngest active member of the Georgia Assembly and the first African American to serve from Cobb County.

**Kristin Morrow**

**Married:** Carl Clermont on June 4, 2005 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

**Alicia Ricketts**

**Education:** Received an MBA from the University of Delaware on May 28, 2005.

**Nicole Williams**

**Professional:** Communications director for Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones, D-Ohio, who has sponsored the College Fire Prevention Act. Nicole spoke before a House Education & the Workforce subcommittee, stating that many Black colleges don't have the necessary funds to install fire prevention equipment. This was quoted in *The Black College Wire*, May 14, 2005.

**Joni Williamson**

**Education:** Completed a 12-month clinical psychology internship at Howard University Hospital. Received a doctorate in psychology specializing in clinical psychology.

**2001****Cherise West Ayers**

**Birth:** First child of Cherise and husband Devin Ayers (Morehouse, Class of 2001), Sydney Danielle Ayers, born on February 23, 2005, in Atlanta, at 6 lbs., 11 oz. and 19.5 in.

**Erika Harper Cooper**

**Birth:** Baby girl, Kayli Joy, born on July 8, 2004 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**Ronella Ellis Frierson**

**Birth:** Imani (meaning *faith*) Niara (meaning *a woman of higher purpose*) Frierson to Ronella and Virgil Frierson in Plantation, Florida on May 12, 2005 at 6 lbs., 14 oz. Welcomed also by big sister Tiye. **Education:** Accepted to Nova Southeastern University to study marriage and family therapy.

**Dionne Griffiths**

**Personal:** Performed in movement play, *Makes you Happy*, in the Greensboro Fringe Festival in January 2005.

**Professional:** Dance teacher at Southwest Guilford High School, teaching ballet, ethnic dance, modern and jazz. Also taught

dance at the Bliss and Feet Center for the Arts, founded by **Karan Kendrick, C'98**. Choreographer for The Alliance Theatre Company's musical, *Ferdinand, the Bull*.

**Andrea Jackson**

**Professional:** As of June 1, 2005, became the new curator of archives and manuscripts at the Robert W. Woodruff Library of the Atlanta University Center.

**Dara Johnson**

**Education:** Received a master's degree in education administration from Cambridge College in Boston Massachusetts.

**Laina Jones**

**Personal:** Highlighted on a PBS special aired in April 2005.

**Professional:** Hired as a diversity consultant for her alma mater, Harvard University Graduate School of Education.

**Shana Laster**

**Education:** Graduated from Vanderbilt University School of Law in May 2005.

**Tameika Mapp**

**Education:** Graduated from Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine with an MPH in maternal and child health as well as health education/communication.

**Professional:** Received a CDC/ASPH fellowship working as a research fellow in the Epidemiology and Surveillance Division of the National Immunization Program.

**Stevie Stribling**

**Married:** Nathalio Gray (Morehouse, Class of 2001) on July 2, 2005 in Ochos Rios, Jamaica.

**Reagan Taylor**

**Education:** Received a juris doctor degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law in Knoxville, Tennessee.

**Tamela Woods**

**Professional:** On September 12, 2005, joined the Chicago office of the law firm Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw, LLP as an associate. Previously, she served as a law clerk to Justices Alan C. Page and Helen M. Meyer of the Minnesota Supreme Court during the 2004-2005 term.

**2002****Joy Beckwith**

**Professional:** Founder of a national nonprofit organization (G.O.L.D.E.N. Girls) that aims to enrich the lives of African Amer-

ican girls (grades 8-12) through friendships, mentoring, workshops and employment opportunities. Currently more than 50 participants in four states are learning about money management and health, as well as building self-esteem and learning about interpersonal relationships, anger management and how to understand diversity, through forums, fairs, field trips and guest speakers.

**Dana Elmore**

**Married:** Ryan Easter (Morehouse, Class of 2000) in Atlanta. The couple honeymooned in St. Lucia.

**Tonya Fewell**

**Education:** Graduated from the University of Florida Fredric G. Levin College of Law in June 2005.

**Professional:** State attorney based in Orlando, Florida.

**Kwajelyn Jackson**

**Education:** Earned an M.S. degree in urban policy studies, economic planning and development from Georgia State University's Andrew Young School of Policy.

**La Tranda Martin**

**Professional:** Appointed to be U.S. diplomat to Caracas, Venezuela. This was confirmed by the Senate on December 8, 2004 and attested by the President on December 20. Her professional title within the U.S. Embassy in Caracas will be vice consul and 3rd secretary.

**Joni Poitier**

**Education:** Graduated from Vanderbilt School of Law in May 2005. She received the Damali A. Booker Award, presented annually to the third-year law student who "has a keen dedication to legal activism and a demonstrated commitment to confronting social issues facing both Vanderbilt Law School and the greater Nashville community." **Damali A. Booker, C'2000**, died unexpectedly during her final year of matriculation at Vanderbilt Law School. The award is funded by the law firm of Miller & Martin.

**Shayla Sorel**

**Education:** Received a master of arts in education from George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

**Rachell VanHoesen**

**Birth:** Julian David Warren on October 30, 2004, in Detroit, at 7 lbs., 5 oz. and 20 in.

**Frederica White**

**Education:** Graduated from Vanderbilt School of Law in May 2005.

**2003****Adrienne Harris**

**Education:** In May 2005, received a master of environmental management degree (M.E.M.) from Duke University.

**Professional:** Hired by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

**Tiffani Harris**

**Education:** Graduated from the University of Delaware with a master's degree in public administration in May 2005.

**Professional:** Currently working for the federal government in General Services Administration in Arlington, Virginia.

**Tence Hawkins-Hall**

**Professional:** Founder and president of an image management firm in Atlanta, Perception Is Reality.

**Jennifer Hembrick**

**Married:** Scott Roberts (Morehouse, Class of 2003) at The House of Prayer in Richmond, Virginia on July 10, 2004.

**Alexandra Houston**

**Personal:** Performed in movement play, *Makes you Happy*, in the Greensboro Fringe Festival in January 2005.

**Shareka Newton**

**Professional:** Became a minister at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York.

**Toni Scott**

**Education:** Graduated from the University of Delaware with a master's degree in public administration in May 2005.

**Christina Smith**

**Education:** Graduated from the University of Delaware with a master's degree in public administration in May 2005.

**Constance Wallace**

**Education:** Received an M.S. in professional counseling from Georgia State University in May 2005.

**2004****Latosha Key**

**Professional:** Featured in an article on home ownership published in *Black Enterprise* in January 2005.



## Take Note!



◀ At the 2005 Oscar gala, **Morgana Freeman, C'93**, was photographed with her father, Morgan Freeman, who won best supporting actor for *Million Dollar Baby*. The photograph was featured in *Hello!* magazine, March 10, 2005.

One of the sheroes who have emerged in the wake of Hurricane Katrina and the other devastating hurricanes of 2005 is **Edana Walker, C'95**. She began a campaign in Los Angeles to gather clothing, toiletries, etc., hired a U-Haul truck and, with two other women, drove to Houston, Texas to distribute the items to New Orleans citizens housed in the Astrodome. When she and her companions learned that some New Orleans evacuees would be housed in El Paso, they delivered another full truckload to El Paso. Currently, Edana volunteers as a fund developer for the Minority AIDS Project and works with Born To Act Players, a theater training program for actors with Down Syndrome and other disabilities. She plans to continue to work to raise money for the Katrina relief effort.

**Morrisa Marshall Rice, C'95**, has worn many hats and received many awards, all in the effort to serve those with HIV/AIDS and to prevent others from being infected. In March 2004, she received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department, Balm in Gilead and David's House Compassion for her work providing partner notification services, counseling and HIV testing. In September 2004, she was the media spokesperson for the health department for a story regarding an "HIV Serial Infector" in Toledo, Ohio. This person was and still is intentionally infecting women with the virus. As a result of this serial infector, Morrisa, along with other health professionals, co-founded an organization called "Sistahs Takin Care of Sistahs." The goal of the organization is to educate African American salon owners and stylists regarding HIV/AIDS in the African American community because African American women place a lot of trust in their stylists who could, if educated, encourage their clients to get tested and counseled.

Out of nearly a thousand nominations, 18 in the nation won Leadership for a Changing World awards in October 2004. Among those 18 was **Dázon Dixon Diallo, C'86**, the founder and president of SisterLove, Inc., a women's reproductive and sexual health and rights nonprofit organization. The award, given by the Ford Foundation in partnership with the Advocacy Institute in Washington, D.C. and the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University, singles out people who are making a difference in communities across the nation. Each awardee receives \$100,000 to advance his or her work and an additional \$15,000 for supporting activities over the next two years.

▶ If you thought you noticed a familiar face in a TV newscast featuring White House staff members, you're probably right. **Randi Burlew, C'98**, was a member of the 2004–2005 class of White House Fellows, who serve for one year as paid assistants to top-level White House staff and Cabinet members. The White House Fellowships were created by President Lyndon Johnson to attract exceptional young professionals with demonstrated leadership capacity.



THE WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS PROGRAM  
*Leadership & Public Service*



◀ **Latonya Bailey McClam, C'93**, and **LaTondra Murray, C'93**, have started a business that creates multicultural stickers and coordinated 12" by 12" papers for the popular pastime of scrapbooking and other craft projects. Their company is called Distinctly Me. One of their products — a sheet of Little Me™ stickers — is shown here.



# Reunion 2005

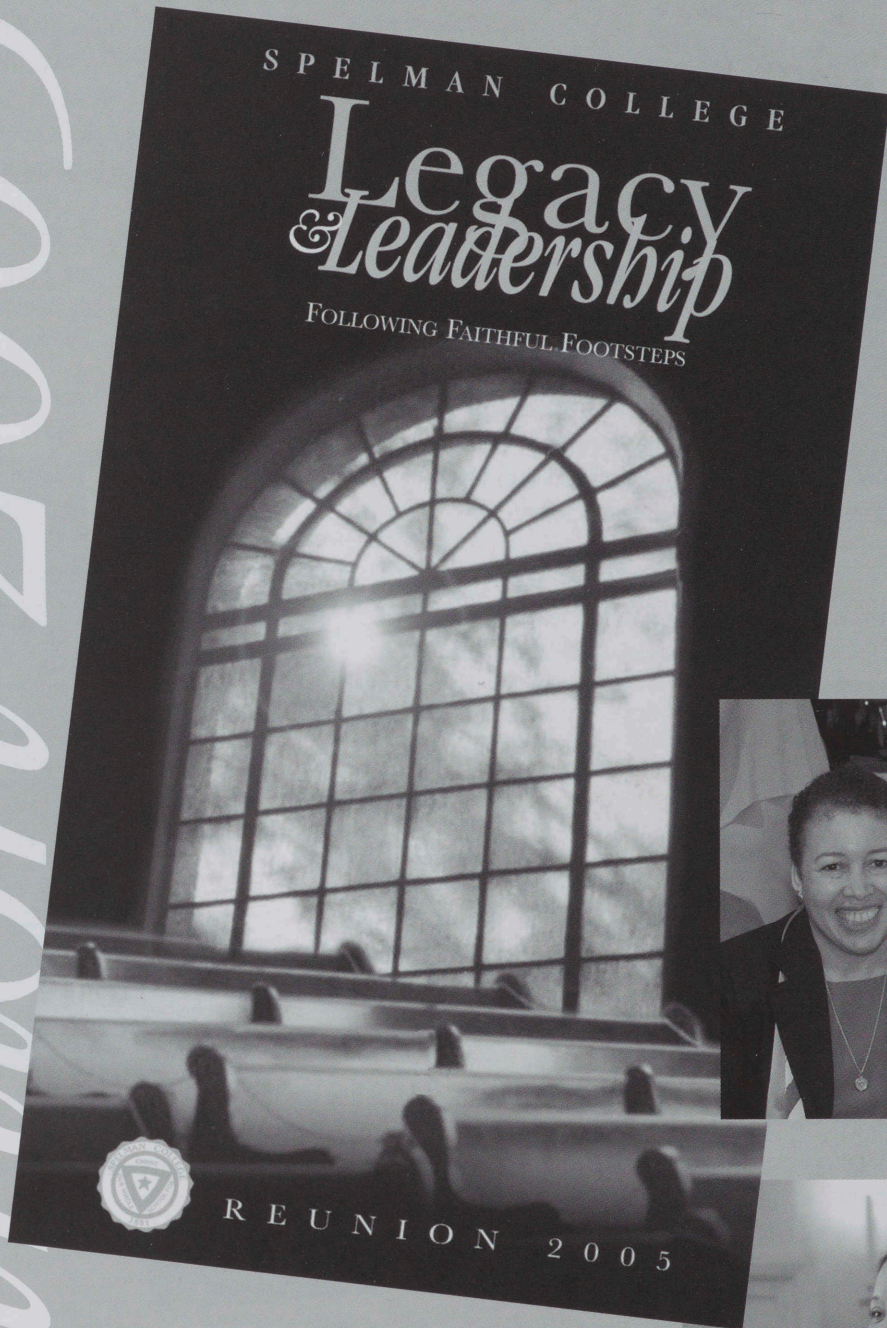
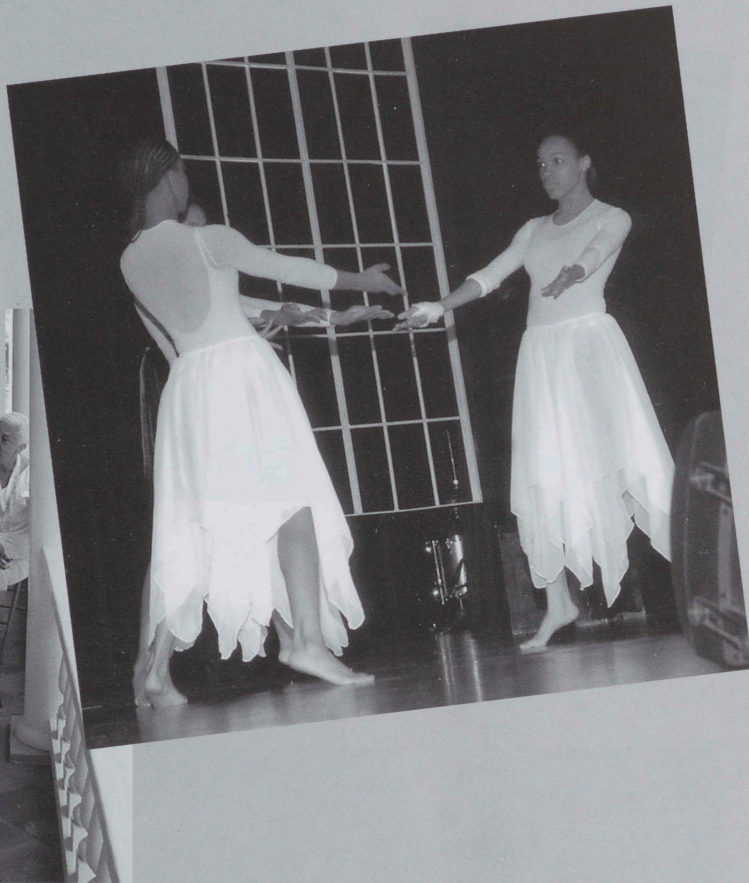


Photo: Julie Yarbrough





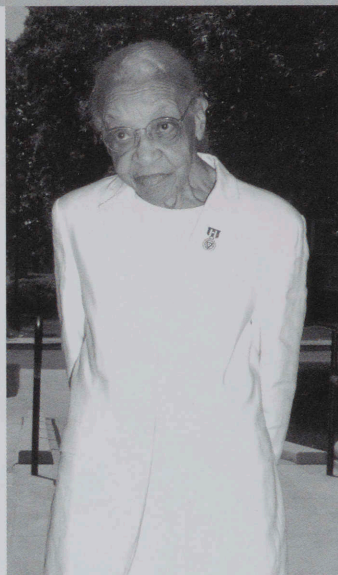
*Golden Girl Class of 1955*



# Reunion 2005: Legacy & Leadership



*Class of 1925*



*Class of 1935*



*Class of 1940*



*Class of 1945*





*Class of 1950*



*Class of 1955*





*Class of 1960*



*Class of 1965*





*Class of 1970*



*Class of 1975*





*Class of 1980*



*Class of 1985*





*Class of 1990*

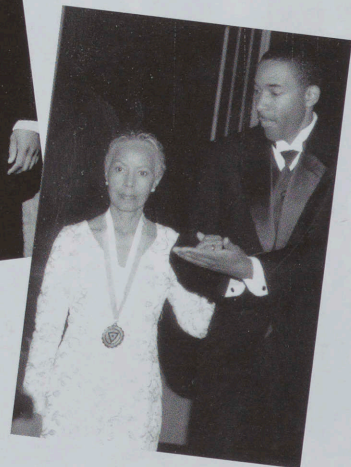
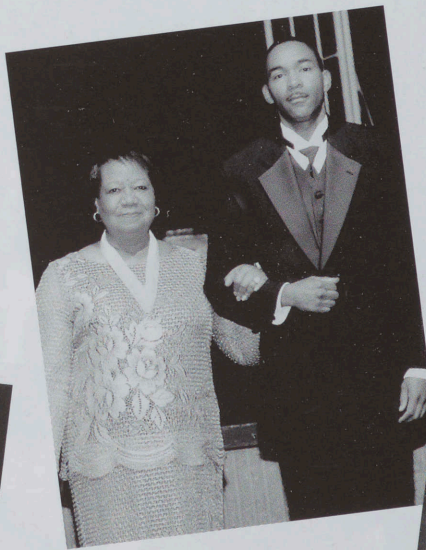


*Class of 1995*





*Class of 2000*





## In Memoriam

1927

### Helen Greene Holland

She touched many lives while teaching at McKinley High School in Baton Rouge, Louisiana as a dietician at the Tuskegee Veterans Administration Hospital and as a partner in Holland's Radio Sales and Service. She also belonged to several community organizations, including the Tuskegee chapter of the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College. She died five days before her 99th birthday.

Died: December 2, 2004

Services: December 8, 2004 at Greenwood Missionary Baptist Church, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama

### High School 1928

#### Hettie Mae Jackson Spottsville

After graduating from Spelman High School, Hettie Mae Jackson attended Spelman College for two years before graduating from West Virginia State College and then receiving a master's degree from the Atlanta University School of Social Work. After practicing social work in Chicago and New York City, she earned a degree in medical library science from Massachusetts General Hospital. She then worked as a medical librarian in Detroit and Kansas City, Missouri, where she settled and belonged to many civic organizations. In recent years, she taught adult education in the Kansas City school district.

Died: March 16, 2004

Services: March 20, 2004 at the Second Missionary Baptist Church in Kansas City, Missouri

1937

### Frances Sampson Mask

After graduating from Spelman, Frances Sampson married James Washington Mask, Jr. and settled in Hamlet, North Carolina. Frances taught piano in the public schools and then raised a family of five children. Although confined to a wheelchair since 1987, due to a stroke, she maintained an independence of mind and spirit and her enormous love for people. She died on her 92nd birthday.

Died: November 12, 2004

Services: All Saints' Episcopal Church, Hamlet, North Carolina

1938

### Eloise Usher Belcher

In addition to a B.A. in English (with honors) from Spelman College, Eloise Usher Belcher had two master's degrees, one in theater arts from the University of Iowa and one in English from Atlanta University. She taught a myriad of subjects in a myriad of places, including being director of the then Spelman-Atlanta University-Morehouse Players. She had numerous academic and dramatic professional affiliations and belonged to many civic and church groups. She was the widow of Dr. Algernon Belcher. She was recognized for 50 years of service at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Orangeburg, South Carolina and, on October 29, 2004, Morehouse College celebrated her as its oldest living homecoming queen (known as Miss Maroon and White). She died at the age of 86.

Died: June 22, 2005

Services: June 29, 2005, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Orangeburg, South Carolina

1942

### Mary Elizabeth Gaines Parker

After graduating from Spelman College, Mary Elizabeth Gaines did graduate studies at Temple University and Penn State University and received her master's equivalency. She met Walter Parker at the Philadelphia Navy Yard; they were married in 1947 and had two sons. After teaching in Philadelphia public schools for more than 25 years, she retired. She then spent another 20 plus years at the Center in the Park, leading a support group and teaching yoga, among other activities. She was a faithful church member, and she loved to line dance and to travel.

Died: May 13, 2005

Services: May 19, 2005, at Grace Baptist Church of Germantown in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

1946

### Portia Annice Spencer Chandler

A few years after graduating from Spelman, Portia Annice Spencer joined the U.S. Army and traveled throughout the United States and Europe. After her tour of duty, she enrolled in Atlanta University's Graduate School of Library Science. Two years later, she married Cleveland A. Chandler, Sr., an economics professor. That union was blessed with a daughter, Lisé Colette, and later with grandchildren. Upon her return to Chester, Pennsylvania, she began her career as a librarian, serving in both public and private schools and libraries, ranging from middle school to colleges and general libraries. She attended Baptist and Christian Science churches throughout her life.

Died: June 21, 2004

Services: June 26, 2004 at Calvary Baptist Church in Chester, Pennsylvania

### Anita Lewis Polk

Anita Lewis Polk had careers as a newspaper reporter and editor, social worker and business owner. She was deeply involved in the civil rights movement in the 1960s, was active in the local NAACP and worked for the Urban League of Greater Cleveland, where she founded its Street Academy for teenagers who wanted an alternative to regular schools. She hosted radio and television shows that featured Urban League activities and was the first woman to be named deputy director of the organization. She helped to found the American Sickle Cell Anemia Association and developed treatment programs for people with alcohol problems. She had a master's degree from Case Western Reserve University's School of Applied Social Science and, in addition to her social work, she also was involved in a number of businesses and received many awards from civic organizations.

Died: January 4, 2003

Services: January 11, 2003 at Mount Zion Congregational Church, Cleveland, Ohio

1948

### Gertrude Davis Fuller

After graduating *summa cum laude* from Spelman College, Gertrude Davis earned a master's degree from Wayne State University in Michigan. She then taught in Griffin and Monroe, Georgia until she was called back to her dearly

beloved alma mater to serve as campus food service dietician until she married Burton Fuller. The couple moved to Detroit, where they both taught in the Detroit school system. After 36½ years of teaching, Gertrude, now a widow, retired. She was a faithful member of Bethel A.M.E. Church in Michigan, a singer in the choir and a member of various community organizations, where she served in many capacities. "Gert" was a stickler for detail, crossing every "t" and dotting every "i."

Died: August 3, 2005

Services: August 13, 2005 at Trinity Baptist Church, Tignall, Georgia

1950

### Martha Stinson

Martha was a retail entrepreneur and educator. She is survived by her best friend and husband, Allen Stinson, Jr., and their four children, as well as five grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Died: October 3, 2004

Services: October 14, 2004 at St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church, Columbus, Georgia

1951

### Marjorie Vaughan Crawford

After graduating from Spelman College, Marjorie Vaughan Crawford became the first Black graduate from the Medical College of Virginia School of Physical Therapy in Richmond, Virginia. She received an M.S. in health care administration from the North Carolina School of Public Health at Chapel Hill. She then began her career as a physical therapist in Omaha, Nebraska, later serving in New Jersey and Tuskegee, Alabama. She retired from the Department of Health and Human Services in the District of Columbia as the coordinator for physical and occupational therapy. After her retirement, she served as a physical therapy consultant for the Prince George's County Board of Education in Maryland. She was a life member of the American Physical Therapy Association. She was also an active church member, holding several responsible positions, and active in civic groups.

Died: October 5, 2005

Services: October 13, 2005 at First Baptist Church of Highland Park, Landover, Maryland

1956

### Flora Hathaway Mosley

After Spelman, she served as an educator and retired from this profession.

Services: February 22, 2005 at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, Atlanta

### Gwendolyn Nevelle Gilley-Conley

"Gwen" began her academic career at Spelman College at the age of 16. Her love for Spelman was displayed through the lifelong support she gave to "little Spelman sisters," which included providing financial resources and temporary housing to countless students. Gwen received a master's degree from Atlanta University and completed additional studies at Georgia State University. She began her teaching career in Newnan, Georgia, where she met and married Percy H. Conley, Jr., a music teacher. Three children were born from that union. She continued to teach

in Atlanta Public Schools, including teaching and supervising in the Program for Exceptional Children. This was the beginning of her work and her passion for students with special needs. After retiring from the public sector, Gwen began work on providing respite services for individuals with disabilities. In 1986, she, along with a group of parents, educators and business leaders, founded Metro Atlanta Respite and Developmental Services, Inc. (MARDS), where she served as Executive Director. MARDS has continued to respond to the growing need for safe and dependable services for children with special needs. In addition, she was a member of several groups and a faithful and active member of Friendship Baptist Church. She received recognition for outstanding community service from numerous organizations; among other awards, she received the Spelman College Community Service Award.

Died: February 28, 2005

Services: March 5, 2005 at Friendship Baptist Church, Atlanta

1959

### Jeanette Stovall

She served the Catherine Dunham Center for Arts & Humanities as associate program director and resided in East Saint Louis, Illinois.

Died: January 17, 2005

Services: February 26, 2005 at Flipper Temple AME Church Chapel, Atlanta

1961

### Margie Durrah McIver

Even though she was afflicted with multiple sclerosis immediately upon graduating from Spelman, she taught her family and friends a great deal about faith and grace. She is survived by her husband, Jerome H. McIver (Morehouse, Class of 1961).

Died: October 28, 2003

1968

### Yvonne Pinckney Aldridge

Died: July 15, 2005

Services: July 21, 2005 at New Bethel AME Church, Lithonia, Georgia

1980

### Christi Len Harris

Christi received an M.A. from Atlanta University after her graduation from a very active participation in the life of Spelman as a student and Glee Club member. She continued to uphold and uplift her alma mater after graduation with her time, her talent and her treasure. She was an educator and a productive citizen, but even more, she inspired those around her to do more and to be more. She was kind and tenacious of spirit, traits learned from her dear parents, **Daisy Phinazee, C'47**, and Henry "Pete" Harris, III, who took great joy in her care when she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Mr. and Mrs. Harris and family friends have made gifts in memory of Christi, and these gifts will be used to support the Spelman College Glee Club, ensuring that Christi's legacy remains in the hearts of everyone who knew her and in the well-being of Spelman College, her beloved alma mater.

Died: April 7, 2005

Services: April 12, 2005 at Radcliffe Presbyterian Church, Atlanta





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*125 years*

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