

# Spelman Messenger

## Alumnae Voices...

*Dovey Johnson Roundtree, C'38*



Ten Alumnae on  
Board of Trustees...

*Rosalind Gates Brewer, C'84*

Advocate for the Cure...

*Alexine Clement Jackson, C'56*





Spelman College

A Choice to Change the World

SPELMAN

## Messenger

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### C R E D O

*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.*



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## SPELMAN Messenger

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### ALEXINE CLEMENT JACKSON, C'56

*Raising the Bar in the Black Women's Battle Against Breast Cancer*

By Denise McFall

Alexine Clement Jackson, C'56, is a powerful force in the fight against breast cancer. She is the president of the National Black Leadership Initiative Institute (NBLII) at Spelman College, where she has been a faculty member for over 20 years. She is also the co-founder and co-director of the Black Women's Health Initiative (BWHI) at Spelman College, which is a national leader in the field of Black women's health. In this article, we explore her journey from a young woman at Spelman to a leading expert in the field of Black women's health.

*A change of goals took care for all, but one risk. Dr. Jackson, a 53-year-old cancer survivor, has been a prominent advocate after.*

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## 10 Black Women & Breast Cancer

BY DENISE MCFALL

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### GRANDDAUGHTERS CLUB Celebrates 100 YEARS

*A legacy of love for Spelman students through a century of change*

By Mae Whitlock Gentry, C'73

The Granddaughters Club at Spelman College is a national leader in the field of Black women's health. It was founded in 1910 by a group of young women who were inspired by the legacy of their grandmothers. The club has since grown into a powerful force in the fight against breast cancer. In this article, we explore the club's history and its impact on the lives of Black women.

*Founded by C'10 by young Spelman president Lucy Hughes, the Granddaughters Club was inspired by grandmothers and shared the college's history and traditions, as well as to recognize the personal legacy of families like the Gentrys.*

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### ALUMNAE ON BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO ENSURE BRIGHT FUTURE

*Ten Trailblazers Committed to Serve as Spelman Launches Largest Fundraising Campaign*

By Lorraine Robertson

Spelman College is proud to announce that ten alumnae have been elected to the Board of Trustees. These women are committed to ensuring a bright future for the college and its students. In this article, we meet the new trustees and learn about their backgrounds and their commitment to Spelman.

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# Voices

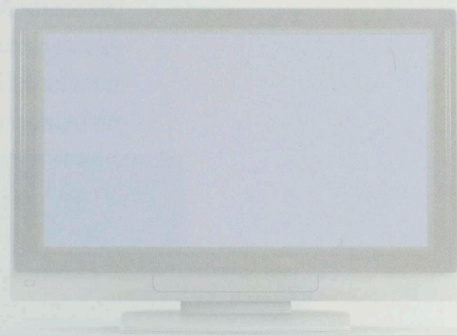
A bird doesn't sing because  
it has an answer, it sings  
because it has a song.

— MAYA ANGELOU



# Alumna 2 Student Conversation: From Spelman to the Studio

## *Shaping Careers of Women in Television*



**R**eturning to Sisters Chapel was nostalgic for this past year's homecoming convocation speakers. On October 22, 2009, four of television's most powerful female executives — Michelle M. Bailey, C'89, vice president of corporate market research at BET Networks; Traci Blackwell, C'90, vice president of current programs at The CW Television Network; Jamila Hunter, C'96, head of programming for OWN, the Oprah Winfrey Network; and Brucetta M. Williams, C'88, vice president of off-channel marketing and promotions for BET Networks — took center stage in Sisters Chapel to talk about their careers, the importance of giving back, and how Spelman has helped them shatter the glass ceiling.

### **Michelle M. Bailey, C'89**

In her current role as vice president of corporate market research at BET Networks, Ms. Bailey supports senior executives in research, programming and scheduling, development, corporate communications, business strategy, marketing and sales, keeping them abreast of trends in television media along with any changes in audience viewing patterns. Her team's analysis and recommendations have helped drive the company toward unprecedented audience growth for several years.

A native of Nashville, Tenn., Ms. Bailey holds a bachelor's degree in economics with a marketing concentration and is also a graduate of the University of Southern California where she earned a master's degree in business administration in marketing with a certificate of completion in entertainment management as a McCabe Fellow. She credits her time at Spelman for much of her success and urges current students to take full advantage of the Spelman experience to build a career in broadcasting or any path they choose to follow.

"What Spelman has done for me through nurturing and its liberal arts education has made me think I can do anything. From a support network standpoint, most of my dearest friends are those that I met once I entered the gates of Spelman. When I left Spelman, I felt like whatever I wanted to do I could achieve it.

"In order to change there has to be action. I'm a firm believer of mentoring. I mentor a lot of students and I have a mentoring program. I know the importance of this program because I wouldn't be where I am if I did not have the support of those who give back. I know the importance of reaching while we climb. I'm a very big proponent of 'each one must reach one and teach one.'

"Spelman was a huge turning point for me. It means the essence of womanhood. A Spelman woman embodies the motto 'Our Whole School For Christ.' She's someone who sees herself as invincible. I just can't imagine how things would be if I hadn't been here. Spelman really completed me. It exposed me to so much and opened my eyes to a lot of different things, endless possibilities, and I just know that I wouldn't have had this kind of exposure had I chosen any other school."





### Brucetta M. Williams, C'88

As vice president of off-channel marketing and promotions for BET Networks, Ms. Williams leads the development and execution of award-winning strategic advertising and marketing initiatives in support of BET's original programming and specials. A multi-faceted professional, Ms. Williams also manages the BET Radio Network and the syndicated "106 & Park Radio Countdown Show" that can be heard in more than 50 markets. During her 15-year career at BET, she has held various marketing positions including the BET Publishing Group, which published *Emerge*, *Heart & Soul*, *BET Weekend* and *YSB* magazines.



Hailing from Houston, Ms. Williams used her degree in economics from Spelman and her marketing master's degree in business administration from the University of Iowa to help fuel her success. She believes the foundation she received at Spelman prepared her for her career in television and feels strongly about giving back to her alma mater.

"I tell people all the time, going to Spelman was one of the top three decisions I made in my life. It really shaped me into the woman that I am — to have the confidence to seek out opportunities, to know that I can do the job when it's presented to me, to be an interesting person — and it helped me to develop my skill set to go out there and be the leader and be able to accomplish.

"When I think of a Spelman woman, I think of someone who's confident, who's diverse in her interests, who's a leader in whatever it is she chooses to do, and someone who is thoughtful, caring and disciplined. I feel proud to know the women that I matriculated with here at Spelman and those who've come before and after me.

"I've always given back to Spelman, monetarily and with my service. I feel it's important for every student who's crossed these gates to do so. Since someone paved the road for us, we should in turn give back in any way that we can."

### Jamila Hunter, C'96

Named head of programming for OWN in June 2009, Ms. Hunter oversees all aspects of programming development for the network. Prior to joining Oprah Winfrey's new network, Ms. Hunter held several executive positions including senior vice president, alternative and digital programming, for NBC Entertainment; vice president, Comedy Development, at 20th Century Fox Television; and vice president, development and production, for Bravo.

In addition to her English degree, Ms. Hunter says the qualities instilled in Spelman women, and a helping hand, catapulted her to excel in the entertainment industry.

"A Spelman woman means strength, courage, self-awareness and spirituality. It means going into the world with a sense of self but a willingness to change things and the desire to do so, to take the best of what you are and do something with it, and loving and appreciating yourself. Absolutely what I got from Spelman, and what I think this school represents, is as women of color we should embrace that and celebrate it and take that as an asset in the world. Don't ever play small. I learned it here. I felt it here, and I take it with me wherever I go. We're phenomenal, we're awesome and through being unique in ourselves we can actually impact people. Be yourself, be proud of it and celebrate it, and hopefully inspire people to do that as well.

"Instead of being the naysayer, be the change, act and do something about it. It's of the utmost importance to me to make sure that the opportunities we were given are given to someone else, and not just to one person but as many as we can. Yes, financial gifts are important to keep the campus and community thriving as it was when I was here. I also think in terms of creating opportunities. I was given opportunities to do everything I'm doing now because someone said, 'I'm going to give you a shot.'"





## Traci Blackwell, C'90

Recently promoted to vice president of current programs at The CW Television Network, Ms. Blackwell oversees the day-to-day production of some of the most buzzed-about shows on television, including the breakout hit drama "90210." She cultivated her expertise in network TV programming working for UPN. She began her career there as assistant to then-president of entertainment Tom Nunan, who served as her mentor and encouraged her aspiration to become a current programming executive. Prior to UPN, Ms. Blackwell worked as an assistant to director/producer and former BET president of programming Reginald Hudlin.

Armed with a bachelor's degree in English and a strong Spelman foundation, Ms. Blackwell built a successful career in broadcast television and is passionate about helping others do the same. She is an active member of Colour TV, a networking and support group for television executives, and the Spelman College Alumnae Association, and she dedicates much of her time to helping groom the next generation of aspiring television executives.

"This place really helps you grow and really helps you learn what it takes to be a strong, independent, career-minded woman; it prepares you to go out into the world. If you didn't come here with those skills and that sense of confidence, understanding that your integrity is important

and how you present yourself is important, I think you leave here with just that, knowing that you're ready to step out to do what is necessary to reach whatever goal. You're told here, 'Don't limit yourself, know that the possibilities are endless.' They teach you to be strong, they teach you to be confident and you need all that, especially in the industry I'm in. Spelman arms you with everything you need to go out to flourish and meet your goals.

"Spelman women are the epitome of class, grace and power, and Spelman women can do anything. That's one of the things that they teach you when you come here. It's a sisterhood. We are a legacy of women who believe in no limitations.

"I'm so proud to have come to this school. Being here today is one of the highlights of my life. We've all been in Convocation where you watch these amazing orators, these amazing iconic figures come and speak and motivate, and you leave Sisters Chapel feeling rejuvenated and energized. To be asked back to speak here today, I can't even describe how fantastic it is." •



*Brucetta M. Williams, C'88; Michelle M. Bailey, C'89; panel moderator, Gabrielle A. Richards, C'2011, vice president, American Women in Radio & Television (AWRT); Traci Blackwell, C'90; Jamila Hunter, C'96.*



## BOOK REVIEWS

ANGELA BROWN TERRELL

### The Edge of Change — Women in the 21st Century Press

*Edited by June O. Nicholson, Pamela J. Creedon, Wanda S. Lloyd, C'71, and Pamela J. Johnson. (University of Illinois Press)*

In the foreword, nationally renowned, prize-winning journalist Ellen Goodman writes, "*The Edge of Change* is a collection of voices from pre-baby boomers to Generation Y, from foreign correspondents to sports writers, from print reporters to Internet bloggers. [The editors] have included the tales we want to pass on to the next generation and the problems we hope the next generation will solve."

The tales that Goodman alludes to include the blatant racial and

gender discrimination faced by women in newsrooms beginning in the 1930s and 1940s and focusing particularly on the 1960s and 1970s. It took the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the women's rights movement, and lawsuits filed by minorities (*The Washington Post*), and women (*The New York Times*), to put a crack in the wall of white-male-dominated news. Changes began to be seen by the 1980s. Perseverance, persistence and feminist determination were the hammers that broke through to make the difference in allowing well-trained newswomen to compete, develop their capabilities, and excel.

In 1961, Dorothy Butler Gilliam became the first Black woman to work full-time at *The Washington Post*. The educator, diversity activist and mentor writes a chapter with the provocative title: "On the Cusp of Feminism With a Dark Brown Skin." She documents the history of women in the Black press and their entry into the mainstream, and the struggles faced by her White colleagues, noting some of the great achievements she's seen during her 47-plus years career in the media.

"I'm writing this essay as a tribute to those women who jumped into that ocean (of White-male-controlled media) with me and swam through shark infested waters to ... chart new courses for the generations that followed," Gilliam writes.

"Yes, I faced a double whammy," Gilliam continues, "and yes, I had a hard row to hoe. But I was not alone. The army of White

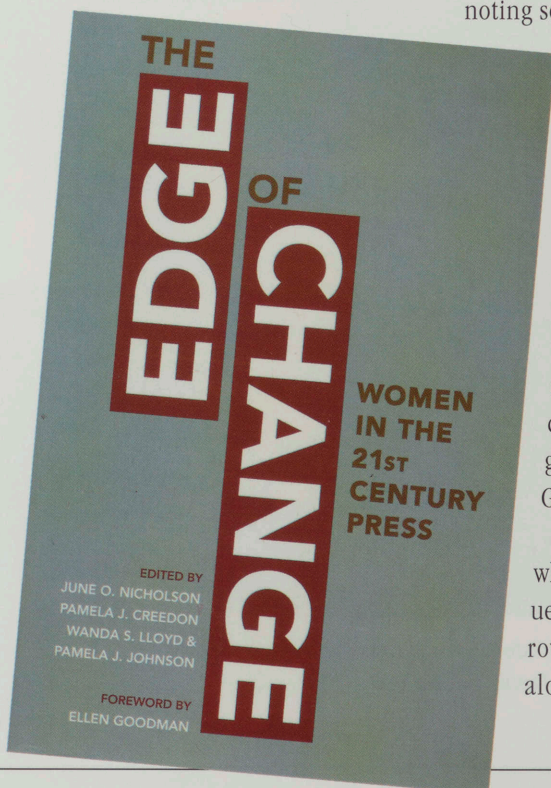
women and women of color who followed me continue to break barriers — and they know how to swim competitively."

The list of other contributors reads like a who's who of diversity and pioneering among American women in journalism: Peggy Simpson, Deb Price, Geneva Overholser, Pamela Johnson, Arlene Notoro Morgan and Catalina Camia are just a few. The editors of this book also have excelled as reporters, editors, managers, educators, publishers and activists in furthering diversity — from top to bottom — in the news business.

Spelman alumna and former trustee Wanda S. Lloyd, C'71, has held some of the top management positions in newspapers (*USA Today*, *The Washington Post*, *Greenville, (S.C.) News*, *Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser*, and major news organizations, fostering diversity, and winning two of the industry's most prestigious diversity awards. Lloyd writes on the importance of diversity to the future of journalism:

"Moving forward in the twenty-first century, most news organizations are building a strong component of multimedia journalism." But, she warns, "Whether diversity becomes top of mind during these waves of change remains to be seen. So far diversity has not been articulated as part of the strategy for survival."

*The Edge of Change* delivers a powerful message to anyone dedicated to keeping media devoted to freedom and a voice for all people. We need to take heed of the survival tactics presented in this volume. And it needs to be read and digested by every journalism educator, student and working professional.





## Same Difference

by Calida Garcia Rawles, C'98.  
([www.samedifferencebook.com](http://www.samedifferencebook.com))

Spelman alumna and former Artist-in-Residence Calida Garcia Rawles, C'98, has written and illustrated a children's book that highlights the beauty of diversity.

*Same Difference* tells the story in poetry and pictures of two little girls, Lida and Lisa, first cousins, who enjoy each other's company so much they dress alike, talk alike, and do absolutely everything together.

"Lisa and Lida were just the same. Practically twins, even down to their names. They were first cousins who loved to play. They were never apart, not even for a day."

Then one day, during play, they look in the mirror and see that they

don't look alike! Dismayed, they begin to pull apart, afraid that what they see will make a difference: Light skin, dark skin. Wavy hair, kinky hair.

"Is one better?" asked Lida. "Is one worse? If this was a contest, who would come in first?"

But their wise grandmother comes to the rescue and assures them that they are each beautiful in their own way.

Sometimes adults forget about the things that cause stress in children, especially as they grow up in today's multicultural society among people who don't necessarily look like them.

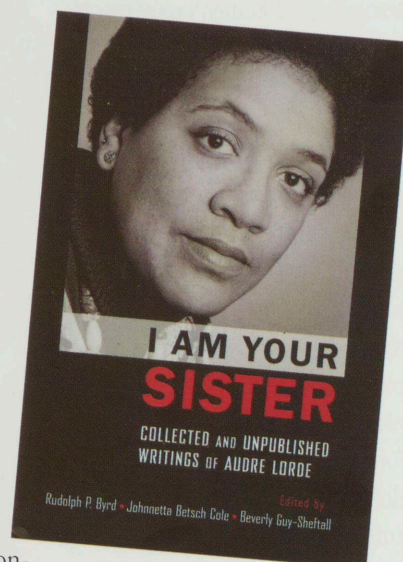
Calida Garcia Rawles' beautiful, colorful drawings and easy-to-read story will delight children as they learn to feel good about themselves.

## "I Am Your Sister: Collected and Unpublished Writings of Audre Lorde"

Edited by Rudolph F. Byrd, Johnnetta Betsch Cole, Beverly Guy-Sheftall, C'66. (Oxford University Press)

We can't expect everyone to know about Audre Lorde, even those who are well-read and consider themselves literate, including yourself. Unless you're familiar with the community of Black women feminist writers, the brilliance and forthrightness of this gifted writer may have escaped you. This book will not only help make up for your loss, but will enrich the lives of scholars, students and all of us who read it.

A proponent of contemporary feminist activism, the outspoken Lorde openly defined herself as: "Black Lesbian Feminist Poet



Mother Warrior..." In all of her writings, beginning with her first book of poetry published in 1968, Lorde stood firm in her right to self identity, and was active in promoting alliances between groups that struggled for the civil rights of all people around the globe, no matter their color, gender, sexuality, class or nationality.

She was a teacher, lecturer, activist, as well as a writer, at colleges and universities, including Hunter College, from which she graduated in 1959, Spelman College and Tougaloo College. She taught at symposiums and workshops worldwide, including South Africa and Germany; she co-founded The Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press. Her third book of poetry, published in 1973, was nominated for a National Book Award. In 1991, Lorde was named Poet Laureate of New York State.

This volume celebrates some of Lorde's unpublished writings, given to Spelman College following her death in 1992. Included are personal essays about her long battles with the cancer that finally ended her life at age 58, her lectures, poetry, her involvement with





transnational women's movements, and gay and lesbian rights issues.

There are tributes from scholars and writers whose lives she touched, including alumna Alice Walker, bell hooks and Gloria Joseph.

The editors of this volume also share their knowledge of Audre Lorde and reflect on her contributions to the world. Rudolph P. Boyd is a noted professor of American studies and African-American studies, and founding director of the James Weldon Johnson Institute for Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies at Emory University. Johnnetta Betsch Cole is president emerita of Spelman College and Bennett College, professor emerita of Emory University, and director of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African Art. Beverly Guy-Sheftall, C'66, is founding director of the Women's Research and Resource Center, Anna Julia Cooper Professor of women's studies at Spelman College, and adjunct professor of women's studies at Emory University.

In 2006, at the Spelman's Women's Research and Resource Center 25th anniversary, a celebratory symposium was held titled: "Remembering Audre Lorde: In Celebration of Black Women Writers, Scholars, Artists and Activists." Dr. Guy-Sheftall writes, "In the ... 'Personal Political' roundtable, all of us spoke candidly in response to the following question: What have you been doing as a feminist activist/scholar that continues to shape your perspectives and vision of the spaces or communities you inhabit?"

From this group came a commitment to craft "a new Black feminist manifesto...that would provide a framework for our collective transnational struggle in the years ahead," Dr. Guy-Sheftall continued. "... We named ourselves the

Transnational Black Radical Feminist Think Circle. ... When our deliberations were over... we celebrated our remarkable journey together and basked in the memory of Audre Lorde, who reminded us, 'Without community, there is no liberation.'"

## The New Welfare Bureaucrats: Entanglements of Race, Class, and Policy Reform

by Celeste Watkins-Hayes, C'96.  
(The University of Chicago Press)

Anyone who has ever encountered a visit to a welfare benefits office — either as a recipient or a professional — will appreciate this study by Celeste Watkins-Hayes, C'96. It covers the effects of welfare reform on the bureaucrats who make policy, those who manage it, and those on the frontline — called "street-level bureaucrats" — who actually come face to face daily with people in need.

Using research and statistics, as well as firsthand observations, while working in two Massachusetts state benefits offices, Watkins-Hayes also interviewed street-level staffers to get their personal views on how the welfare reform system has affected their outlook of their chosen careers. This book offers a glimpse into the gains and pains of those people most closely affected by the welfare reform system.

The questions is, do social workers who choose their careers in order to help people in need, really get the opportunity to do so? Or, does the daily grind — heavy case-loads, meeting demands of less-than-caring managers, oppressive paperwork — lead to apathetic atti-

tudes toward the needs of clients?

Getting people off welfare and into the work force involves meeting the challenges of education, skills training, childcare, housing, and other benefits for their clients. The workers often have to deal with underlying issues facing clients including abuse, health, addictions and more, which stall the transition from welfare to self-reliance.

While caseworkers no longer are required to make home visits to their clients, not seeing how a family functions in their environment takes away some of the understanding and bonding, some older caseworkers say. Now, it's all about interviewing to see what job a person may become suitable for, where to place them for training, how to get them off the welfare roles.

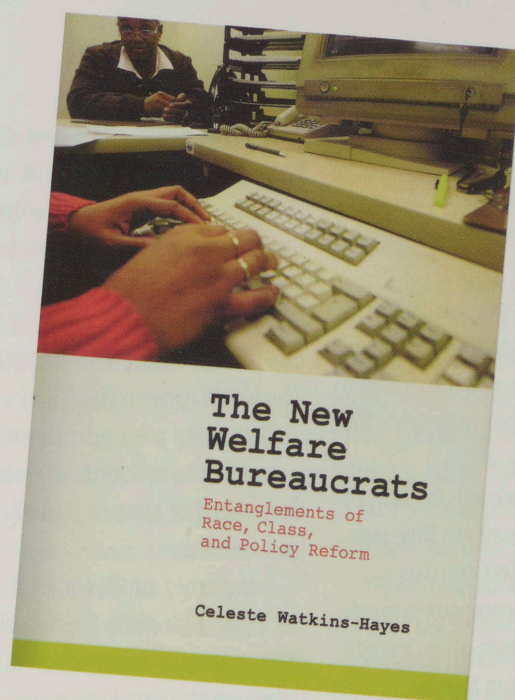
How race, social standing or class, and gender affect the professional opportunities offered the street-level bureaucrats also plays an important part in how a person views their job. Some workers entered the field because a government job is supposedly a "safe" job. But that safety also can lead to a dead end, causing apathy or quick

turnovers as better jobs arise. Should African-American or Latino workers be expected to care more or less for their clients of the same race? Is that seen as a hazard to career growth? Why are so few minorities promoted to top-level management jobs?

These and other questions are explored in-depth by Watkins-Hayes, now an assistant professor of sociology and African-American studies at Northwestern University. She provides extensive statistics, analyses and cited works to support this study.

Dr. William Julius Wilson of Harvard University, with whom Watkins-Hayes studied, writes, "This timely book is a must read for citizens, domestic policy analysts and scholars concerned about strategies to address the plight of the truly disadvantaged." Katherine Newman of Princeton University writes, "... only Watkins-Hayes has focused attention on the bureaucratic institution that transformed the lives of women on public assistance." •

ANGELA BROWN TERRELL is a writer and editor based in Columbia, Md.

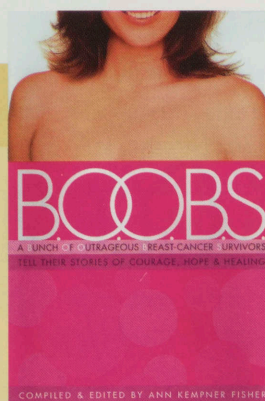




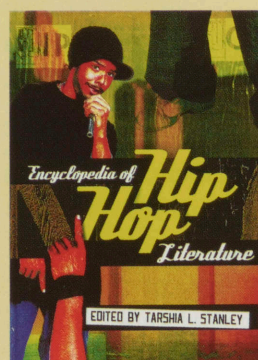
## Book Notes

LORRAINE ROBERTSON

**Beverly Willis-Flowers, C'76**, contributed the first chapter in the book, *B.O.O.B.S.: A Bunch of Outrageous Breast-Cancer Survivors Tell Their Stories of Courage, Hope and Healing* (Cumberland House Publishing, Inc.). The book is a collection of personal stories by 10 courageous women about how they are living with breast cancer, not dying from it. In her piece, Ms. Flowers openly shares her touching story of triumph, from the day she received the devastating news through her journey of conquering this often-tragic disease.

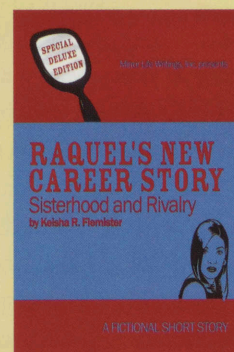


**Tomika DePriest, C'89**, wrote an essay on Joan Morgan for the *Encyclopedia of Hip Hop Literature* (Greenwood Press), edited by Spelman College associate professor of English Tarshia Stanley. Through more than 180 alphabetically arranged entries, this encyclopedia surveys the world of hip hop literature and places it in its social and cultural contexts. Entries cite works for further reading, and a bibliography concludes this comprehensive and informative volume.

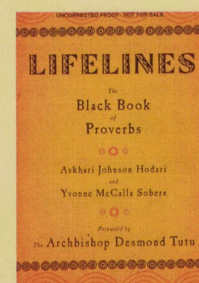
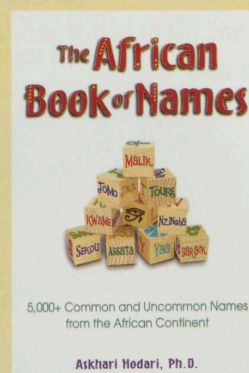


**Keisha R. Flemister, C'96**, released the *Special Deluxe Edition of Raquel's New Career Story: Sisterhood and Rivalry* (Mirror Life Writings, Inc.) in 2009.

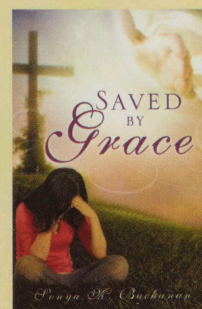
Inspired by the positive feedback she received from the first edition of her book, released in August of 2008, Ms. Flemister decided to write more for this special deluxe edition, which features a bonus chapter and a sneak peek into the untitled original screenplay she is currently writing about Raquel's newest life adventure. *Raquel's New Career Story: Sisterhood and Rivalry* features Raquel returning to her hometown in search of a new career. The story highlights her past life experiences, as well as the new challenges she faces. It examines how favoritism and revenge impact life long relationships.



**Askhari Johnson Hodari, C'90**, published two books in 2009: *The African Book of Names: 5,000+ Common and Uncommon Names From the African Continent* in February (Health Communications, Inc.), and *Lifelines: The Black Book of Proverbs* in November (Broadway Press). For expectant parents or adults looking to change their names, *The African Book of Names* helps readers celebrate their ancestry by selecting an authentic African name. Destined to become a classic keepsake, it's a one-stop resource offering more than 5,000 names from 37 African countries and more than 70 different ethnic and language groups. *Lifelines: The Black Book of Proverbs* travels to all corners of the globe to reclaim and preserve African wisdom. The book offers the remarkably wise heart of Africa and her children to readers experiencing career changes, new births, weddings, death or other rites of passage. Readers will find truth in the African saying, "When the occasion arises, there is a proverb to suit it."



**Sonya M. Buchanan, C'94**, released *Saved by Grace* (Xulan Press) in September 2009. The book is a heart-wrenching tale about passion, love, trust, relationships and self-discovery. It unveils the experiences of a beautiful, young and gifted ingénue named SunnyFaith Christenson, whose life is irreversibly changed because of the choices she makes. Find out how this bright, driven, and professionally astute sorority girl, who seemingly had it all, manages to fumble her way through young adulthood, yet miraculously regroups, tackles her challenges and transforms herself before she self-destructs. Discover her recipe for recovery and be inspired.





# ALEXINE CLEMENT JACKSON, C'56

## *Raising the Bar in the Black Women's Battle Against Breast Cancer*

BY DENISE MCFALL

**T**he recent mammography screening and breast self-examination guidelines issued by the 16-member U.S. Preventive Services Task Force — an independent federal advisory panel of doctors and scientists — have ignited a firestorm of anger and deep resentments among women who, over the years, have felt marginalized by the male-dominated medical establishment.

A resounding voice in defiance of these new guidelines is Alexine Clement Jackson, C'56, who, in March 2009, was named chair of the board of directors of Susan G. Komen for the Cure (formerly known as The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation) — the world's largest breast cancer advocacy organization. A champion of quality health care for all, in her new role, Ms. Jackson, a 23-year breast cancer survivor, puts a Black face on what historically has been a predominantly white advocacy effort.

She is also among a “who's who” list of highly accomplished African-American women and men who serve as national ambassadors of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure's “Circle of Promise” campaign. They are advocates and public spokespersons who are actively engaged in encouraging Black women to “think pink”

— symbolic of the organization's worldwide pink ribbon campaign to raise breast cancer awareness and financial support for continuing research to develop a cure.

Born in Sumter, S.C., Ms. Jackson grew up in Durham, N.C., before enrolling at Spelman and graduating as the magna cum laude valedictorian of the class of 1956. She went on to earn a master's degree in speech pathology and audiology from the University of Iowa.

Armed with an agile intellect, she soon developed a passion for civic affairs and community engagement that was instilled in her by her father, William A. Clement Sr., a senior insurance executive who devoted himself to high levels of service in civic and fraternal organizations. Her stepmother, Josephine Dobbs Clement, C'37, a very strong role model, was active in politics, business and civic affairs. Ms. Clement helped raise and nurture Ms. Jackson, along with an expanding family that included five more children, after Ms. Jackson's birth mother, Frances

Lawson Clement, C'33, died from breast cancer at the early age of 29.



*Alexine Clement Jackson, C'56, (left) pictured with Nancy Goodman Brinker, who founded Susan G. Komen for the Cure in 1982 in memory of her younger sister.*



Having her mother succumb to the disease assuredly put Ms. Jackson at risk. Among the factors that increase the relative risk for breast cancer are certain inherited genetic mutations for the disease or a first-degree relative with breast cancer diagnosed at an early age. Ms. Jackson was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1986. Years later, one of her daughters received a similar prognosis and is now a five-year survivor.

After undergoing surgery, chemotherapy, radiation treatments and hormonal therapy, she became a staunch advocate for early breast cancer detection, education and treatment. "Because I was lucky enough to detect the cancer early, I could be hopeful that my prognosis would be good. Indeed, I am now a 23-year breast cancer survivor," said Ms. Jackson. "I also received courage from the thousands of women who were survivors. I thought, 'If they can do it, so can I,' and I also was comforted by the wonderful and loving support of my surgeon husband and all of my family."

According to the American Cancer Society, breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in the United States, excluding cancers of the skin, and accounts for nearly one in four cancers diagnosed in U.S. women. In addition to family history, other risk factors that predispose women to the disease include advancing age, a prior history of breast biopsy, starting the menstrual cycle before age 12, having no children, having children after age 30 and previous radiation treatments.

*Medical News Today* — one of the leading Web-based outlets for medical news — reveals that epidemiologic studies report a high prevalence of triple-negative breast cancers among younger women and those of African descent. These triple-negative breast cancers are reportedly characterized by unique molecular profiles, aggressive behaviors, distinct patterns of metastasis, and the lack of targeted therapies. Evidence also suggests that the risk factor profile for these types of breast cancers differs from some of the more common breast cancer subtypes, and although sensitive to chemotherapy, early relapse is fairly common.

The tone and tenor of the new guidelines, which call for the elimination of mammography screening until age 50 and the discontinuance of breast self-exams, appear to roll back efforts to dramatically increase the research into what works and what doesn't, while raising more questions about the way breast cancer treatment is delivered and paid for.

The federal task force now recommends against routine screening in women age 40–49 and recommends mammograms every two years for women ages 50–74,

claiming that the risks of false-positive mammograms and the ensuing biopsies outweigh the benefits of the tests. The basis for their conclusion is that early and frequent screenings often lead to false alarms and unneeded biopsies, without substantially improving the odds of survival.

The group also claims that there is not enough evidence to support that breast self-exams are beneficial and that health care providers should stop teaching the technique to women. Ironically, if not regrettably, there are no radiologists, breast oncologists or breast surgeons on the task force, according to the group's Web site.

As it is with many physical diseases, research indicates that the mortality rate for African-Americans is troubling. "I want my Spelman sisters and all African-American women to know this alarming fact: that while the incidence of breast cancer in African-American populations is lower than found in Caucasian populations, the survival rate for African-American women is significantly lower — 77 percent as compared to 90 percent for Caucasian women," states Ms. Jackson.

"This higher mortality rate in African-American women may be related to later stages at diagnosis, treatment differences, socioeconomic factors, such as not having health insurance, and more aggressive tumors, which are difficult to treat. This is why it is so important that we address these breast cancer disparities by spreading the information in our communities."

According to Ms. Jackson, "Susan G. Komen for the Cure is in complete disagreement with the recent recommendation to delay mammography until age 50. Many of us know women who discovered their cancer in their 40s and/or found their own tumors with self-breast examinations. We urge all women to continue with the current guidelines, which direct women to start yearly mammographies at age 40."

As the wife of the equally accomplished Morehouse alumnus Aaron G. Jackson, M.D., who recently retired as chief of the Division of Urology at Howard University Hospital, and as the proud mother of five adult children (one son now deceased) and 11 grandchildren, she has miraculously carved out time in her busy life to be a volunteer, administrator, and board member for numerous other organizations.

*A champion of quality health care for all, in her new role, Ms. Jackson, a 23-year breast cancer survivor, puts a Black face on what historically has been a predominantly white advocacy effort.*



"Spelman was my earliest window to the world," claims Ms. Jackson. "Through the international students (primarily African) who were enrolled and the visiting lecturers and artists who came often, I began to understand the concept and importance of global connectedness. Through the years, it has become one of my core values and goals in all of the organizations in which I volunteer."

She not only has survived the specter of breast cancer and society's disparities of race and gender, she also has led the charge for equity and parity, concentrating her energies on empowering women. She has worked tirelessly to provide crucial services for women, such as shelters for victims of domestic abuse, childcare centers and the underlying economic issues that cause women to struggle in disproportionate numbers.

A current board member and past chair of the Intercultural Cancer Council, an organization whose mission is to promote policies, programs, partnerships, and research to eliminate the unequal burden of cancer among racial and ethnic minorities and medically underserved populations, she is also a board member emerita of the Prevent Cancer Foundation, where she focuses her energies on universal quality health care and minority cancer education and prevention.

A must-read recommendation from Ms. Jackson for *all* women, both those diagnosed with the disease, as well as those who are not, is the book *Uplift: Secrets from the Sisterhood of Breast Cancer Survivors* by Barbara Delinsky, a popular novelist and breast cancer survivor who also lost her mother to the disease. Delinsky's collection of survival secrets "have nothing to do with doctors, machines or drugs and everything to do with women helping women" remain strong — physically, psychologically and emotionally.

Referring to herself as a "professional volunteer who pays to work," she has devoted 35+



*"At Komen, we have pledged to ensure that African-American women are empowered with the information and tools they need to take charge of their own health and serve as ambassadors in their own communities."*

ALEXINE CLEMENT JACKSON, C'56  
BOARD CHAIR  
SUSAN G. KOMEN FOR THE CURE

years to volunteer service, 30 of these to the Washington, D.C., community, building relationships and gathering resources. Prior to her appointment at Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Ms. Jackson served a five-year term as national board president of the YWCA.

Garnering numerous awards for her work, in 1998, she received an honorary doctorate of human letters from Spelman College. She is also a recipient of the Community Service Award by

the Black Women's Agenda, Women of Courage and Distinction Award by the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Cultural Alliance Founder's Award for Distinguished Service to the Arts, *Washington Woman* magazine Woman of the Year, and, in 1994, was named a *Washingtonian* of the Year by *Washingtonian* magazine.

Today, in the midst of the awareness and education controversy, Ms. Jackson and her organization are more focused than ever on breast cancer advocacy. While the debate rages on whether some women may be getting too many mammograms, there is empirical evidence that there are some women — many of whom are African-American — who are getting too few, and dying unnecessarily as a result.

In the final analysis, your breast health rests with you and your personal physician. For now, health insurance companies across the country have indicated that the task force guidelines will not impact coverage and treatment practices. But there is no guarantee as to what the future holds for health care services provided by the government, such as Medicaid and Medicare.

"Komen for the Cure's 'Circle of Promise' campaign is designed to engage African-American women to help end breast cancer forever by fostering increased awareness, support, empowerment and action," says Ms. Jackson. "Get information. Share it with others. Tell your own story. Become involved by going to [www.circleofpromise.org](http://www.circleofpromise.org). And, sign up to become a "Promise" ambassador today!" •

**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.





Alexine Clement Jackson, C'56, volunteered for this breast cancer awareness advertising campaign in 1999.



## Breast Cancer Risk Factors

Some breast cancer risk factors influence risk more than others, and your risk for breast cancer can change over time due to factors such as aging or lifestyle. Even if you do not have any of these risk factors, you can still develop breast cancer.

- Personal history of breast or ovarian cancer
- Family history of breast cancer
- Inherited genetic mutation
- A biopsy showing hyperplasia
- Lobular carcinoma in situ (LCIS)
- High breast density
- Early onset of menstrual cycle before age 12
- Never having children
- Having your first child after age 35
- Starting menopause after age 55
- Significant weight gain or adult obesity
- Hormone replacement therapy
- High or frequent radiation exposure
- High bone density
- Aging
- More than one drink of alcohol per day

The best course of action is to consult with your health care provider about your personal risk.

Source: Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

## Breast Cancer and Race

While the overall breast cancer mortality rate has steadily declined over the past decade, the mortality rate for minority women has not declined at the same pace.

- Breast cancer is the cancer with the second-highest death rate for both African-American women and American women nationwide.
- The overall lifetime risk of being diagnosed with breast cancer is 10.14 percent for African-American women and 13.83 percent for Caucasian women.
- African-American women are slightly more likely to develop breast cancer before age 50, and Caucasian women are more likely to develop breast cancer after age 50.
- About 31 out of every 100,000 African-American women die from the disease each year compared to just 27 out of every 100,000 Caucasian women.
- Despite a lower incidence rate, African-American women have a 32 percent higher death rate from breast cancer than Caucasian women.
- A recent study found tumor cells in African-American women growing more rapidly, and concluded that this could lead to more aggressive cancers at an earlier age. The study also found that African-American women may be less responsive to hormone treatment.
- The five-year breast cancer survival rate for African-American women is 69 percent, whereas it is 84 percent for Caucasian women.
- Researchers have shown that African-American women who have regular mammograms have the same excellent chances of surviving breast cancer as all other groups of women.
- African-American women are less likely to receive appropriate treatment, according to a study published in the *American Journal of Public Health*. Whether they were young or old, in early or late stages of breast cancer, African-American women were more likely than Caucasian women to go untreated by physicians and to be treated by non-surgical methods.
- In a recent study, when Caucasian, African-American, and Hispanic women were provided equal access to high-quality mammography screening, all groups had similar rates of breast cancer survival.

Sources: Susan G. Komen for the Cure, University of Cincinnati, The Ohio State University, Case Western Reserve University, NetWellness.



# GRANDDAUGHTERS CLUB

## *Celebrates*

# 100 YEARS

*A Legacy of Love for Spelman Endures  
Through a Century of Change*

BY MAE WHITLOCK GENTRY, C'73



*Dobbs sisters, 1948*

**A**s a young girl, Dr. June Dobbs Butts dreamed of leaving her home in Atlanta and traveling to Nashville, Tenn., to attend Fisk University. Her father, John Wesley Dobbs, had other ideas.

"My father said, 'If you pay for it, you can go anywhere you want, but I'm sending you to Spelman,'" recalled the 81-year-old retired educator, who graduated from Spelman College in 1948.

Dr. Butts said her father, who hailed from Savannah, Ga., chose to settle in Atlanta "in the hope that his girls could go to Spelman and learn to be ladies."

He and his wife, Irene Thompson Dobbs, sent all six of their daughters to Spelman. Since 1925, when the eldest, Irene, arrived on campus, four generations of the Dobbs-Jackson family have gone to Spelman. One of them, third-generation descendant Alexine Clement Jackson, C'56, said she "grew up with Spelman."



*Founded in 1910 by acting Spelman president Lucy Houghton Upton, the Granddaughters Club was organized to preserve and share the College's history and traditions, as well as to recognize the generational legacy of families like the Dobbs-Jacksons.*

"I had a cousin there; my aunts Mattiwilda and June were there," she said. "So it was about trying to continue the tradition. And it has carried through to my daughter and my granddaughter, Simone Sarter, who's a junior this year. She likes the idea of being at a women's college and the kind of support you receive as a woman at Spelman."

The Dobbs-Jackson family's dedication to Spelman has made it one of the College's best-known "legacy families" and established for succeeding generations the right to join an exclusive membership society known as The Granddaughters Club, an organization for students whose family members previously attended Spelman.

Founded in 1910 by acting Spelman president Lucy Houghton Upton, the Granddaughters Club was organized to preserve and share the College's history and traditions, as well as to recognize the generational legacy of families like the Dobbs-Jacksons. Its membership was originally limited to students whose mothers and aunts had attended Spelman Seminary; today it is open to those whose grandmothers, mothers, aunts, sisters, or cousins went to Spelman.

This spring, the College will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Granddaughters Club, which has about 200 members this year, according to club president Melissa Akinlawon, C'2011. Plans are under way but currently include a "white dress tradition" fashion show, a community project with alumnae, and other activities that stress legacy and history, said Ms. Akinlawon, a junior from Chicago whose mother, Laurie Sanders, graduated from Spelman in 1979.

"We have officially declared Granddaughters Club Week from March 28 through April 2, the week before Founders Week," she said.

Every year, members of the Granddaughters Club take a prominent role in Founders Day. They pay homage to those who established Spelman College by placing a wreath or other decoration on the Founders Plaques, markers that originally hung in Howe Memorial Hall, but were moved to Sisters Chapel in the 1950s.

That tradition will take on deeper meaning during this centennial year as the College celebrates the oldest student organization on campus and recognizes the generations of families who have chosen to send their daughters to Spelman.

Over the years, the Granddaughters Club had a fairly small percentage of students among its active membership, although Ms. Akinlawon counts some 75 active members this year.

Deirdra Yarbrough, C'77, is a fifth-generation Spelmanite and a member of one of the oldest and continuous legacy families, the Quarles-Yarbrough

family. Her ancestor Selena Quarles, C'1888, was one of the first graduates of the College (named Spelman Seminary in 1884) and the wife of the Rev. Frank Quarles, who served as pastor of Friendship Baptist Church, in whose basement Spelman was founded as Atlanta Baptist Female Seminary in 1881.

Ms. Yarbrough's mother, aunt, sisters and nieces also attended Spelman.

"When I came along, it was understood that you were going to Spelman," Ms. Yarbrough said. "I didn't even spend any time applying to other colleges."

That attitude was shared by members of the Simmons-Usher-Smith family, said Dr. Jane E. Smith, C'68.

"When I was ready to go to college in 1964, I was accepted and recruited to two or three other women's colleges," she said. "My parents allowed them to come to our home to recruit, but we knew I was coming to Spelman."

Dr. Smith, who now is executive director of the Spelman College Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement, says it was "very important" to her family that she go to Spelman for her post-secondary education.

"It was because Spelman was an institution worthy of attending. We think of Spelman as being like Wellesley," she said, comparing the historically Black women's college to one of the Northeastern liberal arts colleges known as "the Seven Sisters."

Five generations of the Simmons-Usher-Smith family have been affiliated with Spelman since Victoria Maddox Simmons graduated from the high school in 1888.

That five or six generations of one family have attended college is of major significance, especially when so many people are the first in their families to continue their education beyond high school.

In 2008, about one in five freshmen were first-generation college students, according to "The American Freshman," an annual survey published by the Cooperative Institutional Research Program at the UCLA's Higher Education Research Institute. The percentage of first-generation female college students is slightly higher than for men — 20.9 percent and 17.4 percent, respectively. Today, 43 percent of the Spelman students enrolled are first-generation college students.

The McKinney-Bynum-Glass family's connection to Spelman arose from its belief in the value of higher education. George Patterson McKinney, president of Florida Memorial Institute, sent all eight of his children to Atlanta for college, according to his granddaughter, 83-year-old Eloise McKinney Johnson, C'47, of San Francisco.

"There were five boys and three girls — the five boys all went to Morehouse Academy, and the three girls went to Spelman Seminary," said Ms. Johnson, whose mother, Martha Lloyd McKinney, finished Spelman Seminary in 1919.





1920



1953



Founders Day 1950



1965

The family's legacy at Spelman began with the graduation of Annie Ruth Berry McKinney from the College in 1921 and Ethel McKinney Seldon from the High School in 1924. It continued through the 20th century with the graduation from the College of Flora McKinney Randall in 1930; Lavaughn Force Elkins in 1949; Phyllis McKinney Bynum in 1958; Virginia Ruth McKinney Henderson and her twin sister, Dr. Mary McKinney Edmonds, in 1953; and Monica McKinney Upton in 1980, among numerous others.

Two members of the extended McKinney-Bynum-Glass family, freshman Taylor Carter and sophomore Britne Hart, are currently enrolled at Spelman and are granddaughters in the Granddaughters Club.

One of the elders of the family, Dr. Julia McKinney Glass, C'40, recalled that she wanted to attend Talladega College in Alabama.

"I didn't know a thing about Talladega. I just wanted to get out of

Atlanta," she recalled. "My father said, 'Spelman is here. Your aunts went there, and that's where you will go.'"

This spring, the 90-year-old Dr. Glass will celebrate her 70th class reunion while her daughter, Diedra Mitchell Wright, C'70, celebrates her 40th. Dr. Glass said both plan to be on hand for the Granddaughters Club centennial.

Although aware of the McKinney-Bynum-Glass family's long and deep ties to Spelman, another descendant was seriously considering Howard University before attending a Spelman recruitment presentation that highlighted the Granddaughters Club.

"I wanted to — I needed to apply to Spelman, having the rich family history that I had," said Omelika Kuumba (formerly known as Avis Bynum), C'81. "Everybody was so impressed with the education that each of the women [in the family] received that it only made sense to continue to do that."





*candelighting ceremony 1985*



*choral reading 1989*



*1970*



*commencement 2000*

Claudia White Harreld, C'02, one of the first two women graduates of Spelman College and the wife of renowned musician Kemper Harreld, also believed Spelman provided the kind of education she would want for her child.

In 1929, she penned an essay titled, "Why Do I Send My Daughter to Spelman College?"

In it, she wrote that being at a women's college "gives the girls a chance to discover their capabilities unsupported by the masculine presence, also to head their organizations instead of simply taking those offices that impose work, and this creates among them a certain feeling of confidence in their own executive ability, a cohesiveness of feminine morale and independence of thought."

Josephine Harreld Love graduated in 1933 and in 1969 co-founded Your Heritage House Fine Arts Museum for Youth, a Detroit institution she headed for more than three decades.

Parents like Claudia White Harreld, who believed Spelman was the ideal place for her daughter, paved the way for those who have been privileged to belong to the Granddaughters community for the past century. Those families will be celebrated this spring during Granddaughters Club and Founders Day weeks.

To learn more about the organization or to update your family's history, visit [www.spelman.edu/alumnae/granddaughters](http://www.spelman.edu/alumnae/granddaughters) or send an e-mail to [spelmangdc@gmail.com](mailto:spelmangdc@gmail.com). •

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# ALUMNAE ON BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO ENSURE BRIGHT FUTURE

## *Ten Trailblazers Committed to Serve as Spelman Launches Largest Fundraising Campaign*

BY LORRAINE ROBERTSON

**A**s Spelman College strives to make history with its recently launched \$150 million fundraising campaign, the largest in the school's history, it is also breaking records with the leadership of the institution. Of the 24 members of the Spelman College board of trustees, 10 are alumnae, the highest number of Spelman women to ever serve as trustees at the same time. Poised to ensure that Spelman continues to be the premier global liberal arts institution for women of African descent, these diverse trailblazers share their thoughts about serving their beloved alma mater, their hopes for its future and the role they play in securing its success.

### **Aurelia Brazeal, C'65**

I'm delighted with the decision to make the school more international, both in giving language skills as well as an experience overseas and in giving them the ability to have a major role in international affairs. We live in a global world and our graduates have to be able to compete and live anywhere in the world comfortably and with some cultural awareness. They need to be able to be flexible and adjust and that's what a choice to change the world means — that you've embraced a view that you're not just a Southern school or a U.S. school but you're operating globally.

I believe the launching of the campaign comes at a good time. Even in an economic downturn there are opportunities, and people are willing to support a school or something else that is meaningful to them. I'm delighted that we have the "Every Woman Every Year" approach because I think that is involving more alumnae in supporting the College. I know the campaign will be a success. I also hope it will provide graduates a reason to give and become accustomed to giving, and current students a viewpoint of how they should support the school when they leave.

### **Rosalind Gates Brewer, C'84**

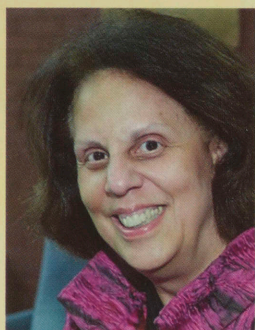
Working on the Spelman College board of trustees is probably the most meaningful work that I do. It's a tough job that has a lot of emotional ties to it because you want so much for the women of Spelman to succeed. My hope is that we can be successful over multi-generations so that we can continue to educate African-American women for a long time. I also hope that they benefit from the sense of family and nurturing that you get from being at a single-sex HBCU. I believe the campaign is timely and much needed. It is aligned with a strategic plan, and we know exactly what

we need to do with the money — improve the infrastructure of the College, maintain a very strong faculty base, and ensure that the accommodations for these young women are up to par. My role in that is purely to raise funds. I'm part of the process here and I know what my financial goals and targets are. The ability to fund more scholarships is exciting in this economic time. It is \$150 million of much-needed money that will be well stewarded. We are a financially sound institution. Every dollar is mindfully spent and well taken care of. That's why I am so confident about raising funds for Spelman because I know it will be well managed. This is an investment for the future of Spelman. We want to ensure that we've got a strong Spelman.



*In October 2009, the Campaign for Spelman College co-chairs Frank Blake, chairman and CEO, The Home Depot, and J. Veronica Biggins, C'68, managing partner, Hodge Partners, LLC, announced the public phase of Spelman's groundbreaking \$150 million fundraising effort supported by ten dedicated alumnae on the board of trustees.*





*Brazeal*



*Brewer*



*Davis*



*DeVard*



*Hammonds*

PHOTOS: JULIE YARBROUGH, C'91  
PHOTO OF KIMBERLY B. DAVIS: J.P. MORGANCHASE FOUNDATION

### **Kimberly B. Davis, C'81**

It's particularly gratifying for me to be an alumna trustee. Having been a part of the Leadership Center and spending a year actually working on the campus has given me an even deeper appreciation for the inner workings of the school and an understanding of what I think the trustees can bring to help advance the mission of Dr. Tatum and of the school. The campaign is an important step in the life of the College, and it's important for people to understand that campaigns like this don't just happen overnight. There is a tremendous amount of work that goes into developing, envisioning and then launching a campaign. And for trustees it's vitally important because we play a critical role in helping to identify sources of funding from foundations, corporations and individuals.

Many view Spelman as a school that has resources. While we may have more resources than other HBCUs, our stage is broader than most HBCUs. In order for us to compete and win in this global market place, we have to be able to provide all the resources that our competitors can provide. Often other women's colleges and liberal arts colleges can provide full scholarships to students, particularly minority students, and that's the pool from which we are selecting. It's critical that we have a campaign to be able to build up our resources, particularly our scholarship resources.

### **Jerri L. DeVard, C'79**

I feel a deep connection to the students, having been one, a deep connection to the campus, having lived there, and a deep connection to the faculty. I feel that Spelman is a part of my DNA. It has

helped shape the woman that I have become and that I continue to grow into, so there is this sense of it being a part of me and not me just being a part of it. We have a very high-performing and strong board; all of our trustees are outstanding individuals in their own communities in their own right; they bring all of that power and talent to the boardroom, and Spelman is better for it.

With the launch of the \$150 million campaign, it really is about the legacy of what Spelman is, making sure that we have even more money for scholarships because we have a large number of our students that need financial aid. Eighty-two percent of our students are on some form of financial aid, so the more money that we are able to raise, the more we can close the gap on the unmet needs that students have as well as continue to compete and attract the best and the brightest. When we accept the top students that apply to Spelman, they are accepted at other schools, too, and what happens sometimes is that we lose them because we cannot provide as much financial aid as another institution. We want to be more competitive in being able to meet that financial need, and I believe the campaign will help us do that.

When you come to Spelman, you're going to get an outstanding education that provides you with the tools and the resources to go out and make a difference in the world. It's not just about a great education but what you do with it. When these young girls come to Spelman, what we graduate is a woman who has the confidence and the abilities to go out in the field that she has chosen to make a significant difference on not just the community, but the global environment.

### **Evelynn Hammonds, C'76**

My hopes and dreams for Spelman are that we have a very successful campaign and that we can put the College on a very strong economic footing for the future, because I think the world needs a Spelman College more than ever. Once we achieve that, I'd like to see Spelman expand its offerings in a number of areas. Right now only a small group of students get to study abroad; I would very much like to see Spelman become a place where an international experience is something that's available to all the students. I think if Spelman is a place that educates Black women leaders, and it is, then those leaders would have to understand the world, not just Atlanta, not just the United States, not just the Western world but the entire world.

I like the theme "A Choice to Change the World" because it shows that the mission of Spelman is an intentional one: to inspire young women, African-American women, to achieve and to do so in the context of making the world a better place and in many respects to remember where they came from. I think that's an incredibly important mission and aspiration. Current Spelman students and alumnae need to constantly recognize that Spelman is a very special institution. Nothing that happens there should be taken for granted, and everything that we do should be organized toward improving and building upon probably the most incredible foundation one can find in an educational institution that has inspired generations of African-American women to be leaders. There's no other institution with that focus and that mission and that commitment and that has been as successful at it as Spelman.



### **Yvonne Jackson, C'70**

It's been a privilege to serve as chair of Spelman's board of trustees. My experience has been extremely rewarding for me, personally and professionally. As an individual, I am always focused, and focused on strategy. This has served the College, it has served me and hopefully it has served to build the kind of foundation that the next chair will take her leadership from in terms of taking Spelman to the next place.

My hopes and dreams for Spelman are that we take our rightful place in higher education. We are an HBCU; we are a unique institution; we serve women of African descent; and we deliver an extremely high quality education. We compare to Ivy League schools in that regard. What I hope for America is that it wakes up and understands the relevance and importance of what an HBCU like Spelman can deliver to this country. I also hope that Spelman College will have the kind of financial support that we need in order to ensure that the students that are coming to Spelman today can continue to come and that we can continue to provide this kind of rich education.

The role of the board chair is to guide the board in developing the thinking for the campaign, to develop the groundwork for the campaign and to provide the leadership gifts for the campaign. My goal was to get us to this place. I feel good that we've gotten to this point. We've raised approximately \$84 million, and I'm certain that we'll meet our goal.

### **Rose Harris Johnson, C'57**

I feel a very special connection with Spelman and feel very proud being a graduate of the school. I've never had this particular feeling about any of my other boards. This is different because of the Spelman sisterhood and the closeness I feel with the College. I started here in September of 1953, and there has been some association with Spelman ever since then. Not only have the other Spelman alumnae trustees been role models for me, but the other people on the board, too. I have been very, very impressed with the love that every member has for Spelman.

The message that I got when I was going to Spelman was that you are privileged to be able to come to this fine institution, and I've always felt

that way. Once you've achieved what you went there for, then you really owe it to your community to get out and give back; that's what a choice to change the world means. I remember what Audrey Forbes Manley said when she was showing us through the new science building. There's a lab that Avon established and she told us, 'Wouldn't it be remarkable if one of our young women discovered a cure for breast cancer?' That kind of change can come because we have some women with some awesome brains — women

who make a choice to change the world in whatever positive way they can.

### **Lovette Twyman Russell, C'83**

There are a number of boards that I do serve on but this one is incredibly special and close to my heart because not only did I come through Spelman, but I know it, and I have passion for the Spelman woman. I have a strong sense of personal responsibility for making sure that Spelman continues to be the kind of college that it is. It means

## **Spelman College Board of Trustee Alumnae History**

- The Spelman College Board of Trustees was established March 7, 1888.
- The first Board had 16 members.
- The first alumna trustee to serve the board was Hannah Howell Reddick, H.S. '92, T.P.C. '94; from 1921–1927.
- Other alumnae to serve:
  - Hattie Rutherford Watson, H.S. '03, C'07: 1930–1964
  - Ethel McGhee Davis, H.S. '19: 1940–1964
  - Sayde Harris Powell, H.S. '07: 1947–1964
  - Audrey Forbes Manley, C'55: 1966–1970
  - Marian Wright Edelman, C'60: 1973–1990 (1991-Life Trustee)
  - Eleanor Ison Franklin, C'48: 1973–1979
  - Virginia Turner Dowell, C'47 (alumna trustee): 1979–1985
  - Shirley Marks-Brown, C'69: 1982–1991
  - J. Veronica Biggins, C'68: 1983–2002
  - June M. Aldridge, C'53 (faculty trustee): 1986–1989
  - Deborah Prothrow-Stith, C'75: 1988–1997
  - June Gary Hopps, C'60: 1988–2007
  - Wanda S. Lloyd, C'71: 1988–2008
  - Aurelia E. Brazeal, C'65: 1989–1996; 2003–present (second term)
  - Yvonne R. Jackson, C'70: 1997–present
  - LaTanya Richardson Jackson, C'74: 1999–2006
  - Lisa Cook, C'86: 2000–2008
  - Rosa King Kilpatrick, C'70: 2001–2007;
  - A. Toy Caldwell-Colbert, C'73: 2002–2008
  - Mary Olivia Brookins Ross, C'28: (honorary trustee)
- Alumnae who have served as Board Chair include:
  - Marian Wright Edelman, C'60: 1980–1988
  - June Gary Hopps, C'60: 1997–2004
  - Yvonne R. Jackson, C'70: 2004–present





Jackson



Johnson



Russell



Spence



Watkins-Hayes

a lot to me that I can help to continue to shape Spelman and help to strengthen the sisterhood.

I'm excited about the opportunity to support the campaign. Even though economic times are challenging right now, I believe that anything is possible. If you have a passion in your heart and share it with others, they will be very inclined to give. Spelman is a great investment for anybody. I know the money will be spent carefully and purposefully and that's key.

Within all of us there is something that we can find a passion for, to go out and make a difference in someone's life — even if it's just one person. Even if it's just one young lady at a time, through her experience at Spelman, she will go out and do something to make a difference in a person's life, even if it's just her own.

### **Dr. Cynthia Neal Spence, C'78**

I'm just elated to be on the board of trustees at Spelman College because through this role I can help lead the institution to the next phase. It's an honor to share the driver's seat with fellow alumnae who know this institution from the inside, because it comes out of our core, our being. Who we are is because of Spelman.

I am deeply committed to reaching our campaign goal because I know that we cannot achieve the initiatives of the strategic plan unless we have sufficient resources. As a trustee, my role is to support the president and all of her initiatives, and to be able to tell the story of Spelman, to be able to enlarge the number of individuals who see Spelman as a worthwhile investment. I also see my role as a faculty member to work with other faculty members to make certain that we are in fact doing all that is necessary to make cer-

tain that we can support the strategic initiatives that the campaign will support. I think it's also important for me to be an educator in terms of working with alumnae across the country, for me to share what's happening at Spelman and to talk about how as an alumna and a faculty trustee, I am invested in the future of Spelman. Since both my mother and daughter graduated from Spelman, I'm also invested in the history of Spelman. Our future and past must co-exist. We must have continuity and change.

Our job at Spelman is to continue to equip young women with the confidence and the skills to be in charge of their own lives but also to be able to see the need for change in society and be able to go out and join with others to effect change.

### **Celeste Watkins-Hayes, C'96**

I was a student trustee when I was at Spelman. I definitely didn't dream that I would be back to serve a second term, but it's a huge honor. I'm the first alumna to serve as both student trustee and as a member of the board of trustees. I have to say being on the board is one of the things that I am proudest of in my professional career. It makes my heart sing because it's an opportunity to give back to the institution that really has given so much to me.

I particularly really want to encourage younger alums to think about their giving to the College. Even if you can only give a small amount to the College — five or fifty dollars — we're excited about that because we've got to be able to report to our funders what percentage of our alumnae are giving. They need to see who is actively involved and that we support our own institution. As a younger alumna, I really want for them to think

about making this the opportunity to contribute their first major gift to the College and to ask themselves, 'Am I in the position now where my \$100 per year gift can be changed to a \$5,000, \$10,000 or \$15,000 commitment that I pay out over time?' We often don't get approached until we get much older, but many of us are in the position to make major gifts now.

This campaign is significant because so often we talk about what it takes to change the world. Dialogue is important but many people do not want to take the courageous step to move that dialogue into action. It takes courage, and it also takes people who are willing to be uncomfortable at times, people who are willing to go against the status quo and people who are willing take on really thorny issues like inequality, disadvantage, privilege and power. I think that it's revolutionary in that way for Spelman to say change isn't just about dialogue, change is about action and change is about challenging people to give up some things for the good of the whole and in return getting so much back. A Choice to Change the World is about Spelman women making an active decision to set aside their own individual wants and needs and comfort levels and to think more broadly about what can happen in the world and what needs to happen in the world to make it a better place.

**LORRAINE ROBERTSON** is an Atlanta-based freelance writer, author of the book *Help! I'm a Newlywed ... What Do I Do Now? Wife-Saving Advice Every New Bride Must Know to Survive the First Year of Marriage* (30 Miles Media, Inc.) and creator of [www.AskWifey.com](http://www.AskWifey.com). She is a frequent contributor to the *Spelman Messenger* and other national publications including *Upscale* and *Heart and Soul* magazines.



## Sister to Sister:

## CHANGE MEANS ALUMNAE SUPPORT FOR OUR STUDENTS

**I**t is with sincere gratitude that I say thank you to my Spelman alumnae sisters who support our *Every Woman . . . Every Year* initiative. Your generous gifts gave us the necessary undergirding to move forward. On October 16, 2009, we launched the public phase of the largest fundraising effort in Spelman's history. Through this \$150 million effort – Change Means Action – The Campaign for Spelman College – we will secure the funds necessary to educate our next generation of global leaders. We've been planning this campaign since 2004, and thanks to you, our alumnae, as well as parents, friends and supporters, approximately \$84 million in gifts and firm pledges has already been raised. There is still more to be done, and your gifts of time, talent and treasure, each and every year, will ensure our success!

To celebrate alumnae support in this effort, the College hosted an *Every Woman . . . Every Year* Appreciation Brunch during Homecoming 2009. We were delighted that over 275 alumnae from all over the world joined us. It was an ideal setting for sisters to reconnect, rejoice and rejuvenate. We reconnected with old friends and made new ones, and rejoiced that alumnae participation grew from 16 percent to 31 percent. We were overwhelmed with pride as we viewed the campaign video and listened to a talented group of young Spelman sisters talk about how their Spelman education causes them to stretch to new heights and equips them with the skills and tools to excel intellectually in a global environment. This reaffirmed that the sacrifices that alumnae make for Spelman make a difference and ensure that Spelman's future is bright.

The Campaign for Spelman College is built on the foundation outlined in the College's Strategic Plan. Generous gifts will secure access to a global education for every Spelman woman; support her work alongside pioneering scholars and experts who foster leadership and service; broaden her connections with Spelman alumnae who have led the way; and ensure that service opportunities engage her mind and heart to improve communities around the world.



We know our campaign goal is daring. But given the economic climate today, it is essential that we remain positive and focus on solutions. In the short six months since my return to Spelman, I am constantly amazed and humbled by the scholastic achievements of our students, particularly when many of them have been impacted financially by the economic downturn. But just like the alumnae whose shoulders they stand upon, they are dynamic and resilient. Each day I observe students doing their part to overcome obstacles and realize their dream of becoming a Spelman graduate. Knowing that a large portion of the funds we raise will create scholarships and lighten their financial burdens lets me realize that we must continue the work that we have begun, and we must reach our goal.

I invite you to take a moment and reflect upon your Spelman education and how you personally benefited from this experience. Think about our history and traditions, as well as our rich legacy as the premier historically Black liberal arts college for women. Every gift, no matter what the size, moves us closer to our goal. And when you make a gift to Spelman you help the College in two ways; you support our *Every Woman . . . Every Year* initiative and you serve as catalysts to secure corporate and foundation funding. While we were students, we were taught the value of serving others. Is there any better way to serve than to ensure that our legacy of empowering women will continue to flourish?

I call upon you, my alumnae sisters, to demonstrate your pride in and allegiance to our alma mater by investing in this generation of Spelman women who have made a choice to change the world.

Sisterly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sharon E. Owens".

Sharon E. Owens, C'76  
Director of Alumnae Affairs



## ALUMNAE NOTES

1947

### Hattimarie Parks Davis

**Personal:** Named "Artist of the Month" for September 2009 at Park Springs Retirement Community in Stone Mountain, Georgia, where she resides. She was recognized for a presentation in retrospect of her artwork from her freshman year at Spelman to the present — more than 62 years of work.

### Virginia Dowell

**Personal:** Honored at Friendship Baptist Church in Atlanta during their Women's Day 2009 celebration. The service took place on October 25, 2009.

### Eloise McKinney Johnson

**Personal:** Pictured in the article, "Spelman College President Honored at Local Reception," in the *Globe* newspaper, May 6–12, 2009 issue.

1953

### Mary McKinney Edmonds

**Professional:** Received an honorary degree from Spelman College at the Founders Day Convocation on April 9, 2009. Dr. Edmonds was also featured in the DVD, "SoulMate," a cinematic journey into the realities facing today's successful, saved and single African-American women, distributed by Christian Cinema and Cofer Entertainment Group, a company she partners in with her daughter. This group premiered its first television show, "Voices: Women in the Church," on the Gospel Music Channel on May 2, 2009.

1958

### Gladys T. Glass

**Professional:** Retired from Spelman College, department of math, after 50 years of service, in December 2009.

### Shirley Larkins Green

**Professional:** Received the Founders Spirit Award from Spelman College at Founders Day Convocation on April 9, 2009.

1963

### Edith Simmons Jackmon-Hunter

**Personal:** Participated in the Founders Day Worship Service on April 5, 2009, in Sisters Chapel.

1964

### Bernette Joshua Johnson

**Professional:** Selected by the American Bar Association's Diversity Commission as one of five leaders to receive a 2010 Spirit of Excellence Award.

1966

### Judith Fennell Ruffin

**Personal:** Participated in the Lenten Mid-Week Service & Organ Recital on April 1, 2009, in Sisters Chapel. She was the guest organist.

### Beverly Guy-Sheftall

**Professional:** Co-edited the books, *I Am Your Sister: Collected and Unpublished Writings* of Audre Lorde (Oxford University Press), released in April 2009, and *Still Brave: The Evolution of Black Women's Studies* (The Feminist Press at CUNY), released in November 2009. She participated in "Founding the Future: A Conversation with Beverly Guy-Sheftall and Gloria Steinem" on November 5, 2009, as a part of the Feminism, Books & Beyond: Celebrating 35 Years of Charis Community event; and in the Women of Color Conference, on October 9, 2009, presented by the Feminist Majority Foundation. She was also appointed president of the National Women's Studies Association.

1968

### Johnetta Cross Brazzell

**Professional:** Retired from the University of Arkansas and returned to Atlanta.

### Laura English-Robinson

**Professional:** Featured in Heart 2 Heart, a faculty voice recital, with Joyce F. Johnson on October 25, 2009, in Sisters Chapel.

1970

### Janice P. Williams

**Married:** February 9, 2009

1971

### Tina McElroy Ansa

**Professional:** Honored at the Black Women Film Preservation Project Luncheon on March 6, 2009.

### Pearl Cleage

**Professional:** Participated in the True Colors Onstage panel — Between the Rainbows: The Journey to Emotional Wellness, on August 1, 2009, at the Southwest Arts Center in Atlanta. She also was a part of the Feminism, Books & Beyond: Celebrating 35 Years of Charis Community event on November 6, 2009, with the Indigo Girls and Alice Walker.

1972

### Gwendolyn W. Williams

**Professional:** Honored at the Spelman College Appreciation Reception in recognition of the education department faculty and staff on April 28, 2009, in the Manley Center Atrium at Spelman College.

1973

### Kathleen Bertrand

**Professional:** Performed during the Third Kenyetta Festival of Women in Jazz, March 25–28, 2009, at Spelman College.

### Rita Gibson

**Professional:** Elected board chair for The Villages of Carver Family YMCA in October 2009.

### Fleda Mask Jackson

**Professional:** Honored at The Center for Black Women's Wellness, Inc.'s Second Annual Awards Celebration, "Be The Solution!" on November 6, 2009, in Atlanta. She also published *Black Like Me: Navigating Race, Gender, Research and Community* and a chapter in the book, *African-Americans and Community Engagement in Higher Education: Community Service, Service*

*Learning and Community-Based Research*, edited by Stephanie Y. Evans, Colette M. Taylor, Michelle R. Dunlap and DeMond S. Miller. She also appeared in the documentary, "Crisis in the Crib: Saving Our Nation's Babies," produced by Tanya Lewis Lee.

1975

### Kathy Hood Culmer

**Professional:** Featured in the article, "Mission Funding Materials Available Now," in the *Texas Episcopalian*, September 2009 issue. She serves as director of mission funding for the Episcopal Diocese of Texas.

### Annette Hill

**Personal:** Participated in the Founders Day Worship Service on April 5, 2009, in Sisters Chapel.

### Pamela Reed

**Professional:** Published the article, "The House Rules," on the Diverse Blog on October 21, 2009.

1976

### Carmen Gail Williams

**Education:** Received a master's degree with a specialization in Christian religious education from Saint Paul School of Theology in Leawood, Kansas, in May 2009.

1978

### Terece Caldwell-Johnson

**Professional:** Elected to a second term on the Des Moines School Board in Des Moines, Iowa, in September 2009.

### Paula Spence Evans

**Professional:** Appointed as chief of staff elect at Greenwood Lefloor Hospital in Greenwood, Mississippi.

1980

### Taronda Spencer

**Professional:** Interviewed on WABE 90.1 FM on December 4, 2009. During the interview she discussed the history of the Spelman-Morehouse Christmas Carol Concert. The interview was also posted online at [www.publicbroadcasting.net](http://www.publicbroadcasting.net).



1981

**Angela Denise Benson**

**Personal:** Participated in the Founders Day Worship Service on April 5, 2009, in Sisters Chapel.

1982

**Gracie Hutcherson**

**Professional:** Thanked and acknowledged by Spelman College for 27 years of service to the Marian Wright Edelman Center.

1983

**Shawnee Daniels-Sykes**

**Professional:** Gave the Summer Institute Lecture at Xavier University, "Code Black: Theological Ethics in Health Care." She also teaches "Moral Questions in the Black Community" and "Black Approaches to Medical Ethics" in the graduate degree program during the summers at the Institute for Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University of Louisiana.

**Valerie Ann Johnson**

**Professional:** Spoke at the First Congregational Church's Women's Day Celebration, "Women Speak! Channeling the Spirit of Biblical Women Through the Ages" on March 22, 2009.

**Allison Mapp-Richo**

**Professional:** Became the only African-American visual arts teacher to become National Board Certified for Art/Early Adolescence Through Young Adult in Prince George's County Maryland, in 2008. She is the visual arts chairperson at Oxon Hill High School in Oxon Hill, Maryland. She also attended the TICA Institute at the Art Institute of Chicago for painting and was honored by the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation at The Lab School of Washington for her work with learning disabled children. Her art students have won over \$75,000 in awards and scholarships.

**Sebrenia Y. Sneed**

**Married:** Norman A. Farrell, Sr., on June 27, 2009, at The Tabernacle Church in Decatur, Georgia.

1984

**Karen Marie Anderson-Holman**

**Education:** Received a degree from the American University Washington College of Law in May 2009.

**Rosalind Brewer**

**Professional:** Promoted to executive vice president of Walmart U.S. and president of Walmart Stores South in January 2009.

1985

**Patrice Shelton Lassiter**

**Professional:** Published the book, *Barack Obama: On the Shoulders of Ancestors, A Tribute to the First African-American President* (Powerpoint Publishing) in May 2009.

**Carla A. Owens**

**Married:** Dennis Braziel on September 5, 2009, in Las Vegas.

1986

**Dázon Dixon Diallo**

**Professional:** Participated in the Women of Color Conference on October 9, 2009, presented by the Feminist Majority Foundation.

1987

**Dolores Garcia-Blocker**

**Professional:** Received Yale's Sexton Elm-Ivy Award at a ceremony on April 30, 2009, in the President's Room at Yale University.

**Allison Green**

**Professional:** Joined Lincoln Financial Group on November 13, 2009, as chief diversity officer. In her new position she is responsible for the strategic planning and management of Lincoln Financial Group's diversity and inclusion programs and initiatives.

**Take Note!**



**Juliana Montgomery, C'06**, accepted the Emmy Award for Outstanding Commercial on behalf of Wieden + Kennedy at the Creative Arts Emmy Ceremony on September 12, 2009, in Los Angeles. Ms. Montgomery served as associate producer on the Coca-Cola commercial, "The Heist," that originally aired at the 2009 Super Bowl. She was also featured in the April 2009 issue of *Portland Monthly Magazine's* Personal Best.

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan named **Nia Phillips, C'94**, as one of five new members of his leadership team on July 28, 2009. Ms. Phillips is serving as Deputy General Counsel for Departmental and Legislative Services Office of The General Counsel for The Department of Education.

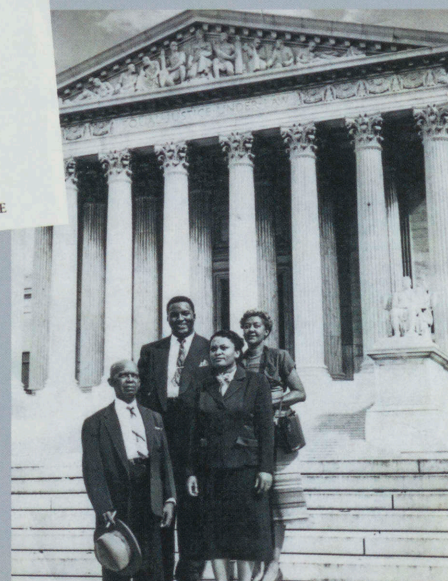
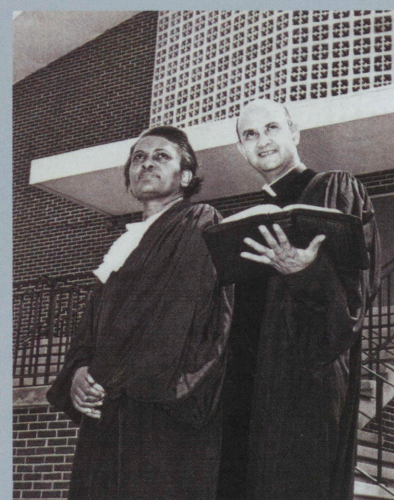
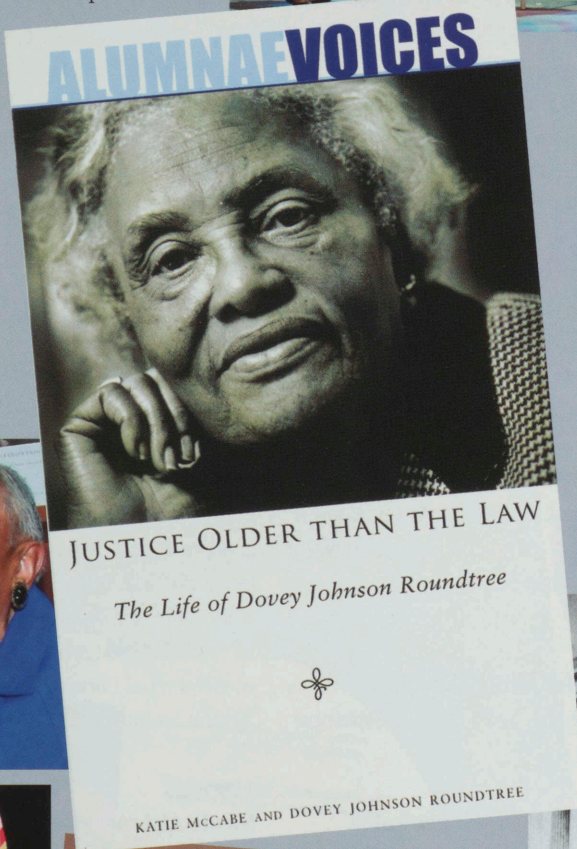
**Traci Blackwell, C'90**, was promoted to vice president of current programming at The CW network in July 2009. In her new role, she continues to act as the network liaison overseeing day-to-day production for scripted programs, "90210," "One Tree Hill," "Supernatural," "Vampire Diaries" and "Life Unexpected". Ms. Blackwell's 10-year track record of success at the network also includes shepherding comedies "Everybody Hates Chris" and "The Game," the award-winning series "Girlfriends," "Eve" – starring the Grammy Award-winning hip hop sensation – and "Half and Half," all of which now appear in syndication.

**Sherri McGee McCovey, C'87**, relocated to Atlanta to work as the coordinating producer on "The Mo'Nique Show," a new late-night talk show starring Queens of Comedy comedienne, Mo'Nique, airing weeknights on BET.



## Take Note!

On October 16, 2009, In celebration of the public phase launch of the Campaign for Spelman College, The Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement (LEADS) presented Alumnae Voices, "Justice Older Than the Law: The Life of **Dovey Johnson Roundtree, C'38.**" Eight alumnae took the stage in the Baldwin Burroughs Theatre on Spelman's campus to serve as readers, including **Tina McElroy Ansa, C'71; J. Veronica Biggins, C'68; Rosalind G. Brewer, C'84; Cassi Davis, C'2009; Cathy D. Hampton, C'89; Marcelite Jordan Harris, C'64; LaTanya Richardson Jackson, C'74, and Tanika Ray, C'94.** Directed by Kenneth Green, actress Jasmine Guy participated as the ninth reader and students from Spelman's department of drama and dance portrayed a young Dovey. Alumnae Voices is an initiative through which the intellectual, ethical and leadership experiences of Spelman College alumnae are celebrated. Dovey Johnson Roundtree was also honored at several events throughout the year including a tribute, book reading and book signing for the 2009 biography, *Justice Older Than the Law*, co-authored by Dovey Johnson Roundtree and Katie McCabe, held by the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia on November 5, 2009, and at the Allen Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C., on September 13, 2009.





**Tammy L. Mann**

**Professional:** Appointed executive director of the UNCF Frederick D. Patterson Research Institute, effective October 5, 2009.

**1989****Michelle Bailey**

**Professional:** Selected as a Women in Cable Television Fellow by The Betsy Magness Leadership Institute. Fellows participate in a year-long educational program which provides direct feedback, personal development and industry involvement. The 2009–2010 year includes two 27-person classes.

**1990****Arlita L. Riley**

**Married:** Robert Anthony Powell II on April 4, 2009, at The Chapel at World Changers Church International in College Park, Georgia.

**1991****Dawna Gardner**

**Professional:** Launched a custom gift-wrapping business, Wrap Around the Corner, in November 2009.

**Shirley Greene**

**Professional:** Named assistant director of admissions at Harvard University.

**Nadeen Herring**

**Professional:** Featured on CBS 6 Albany news regarding the establishment of a charter school for girls in Albany, New York. She will serve as assistant principal for the Albany Leadership Charter High School for Girls scheduled to open in the fall of 2010.

**Karen D. King**

**Professional:** Spoke at the fifth annual Etta Z. Falconer Mathematics Lecture on April 28, 2009, at Spelman College.

**Kimberlee Scott**

**Professional:** Sponsored A Taste of Our Place at The Cellar at Our Place Bakery Café in College Park, Georgia, on October 1, 2009. The event featured an exclusive preview and free tasting of delicious holiday treats.

**Kim Yokely**

**Professional:** Departed for Kimochi Partnership with HealthWorks in Accra, Ghana. She is expanding to ReTreats and Wellness Events both nationally and internationally. Additionally, Yokely launched a health column with *RollingOut* magazine in spring 2009; she is the director of massage programming and spa consultant for Health Centers Salon and Spas and has other Kimochi ReTreats planned for Mexico, Thailand, China and Jamaica.

**1992****Angelou Ezeilo**

**Professional:** Named a finalist for Atlanta's 2009 Cox Conserves Hero in conjunction with founding Greening Youth Foundation to meet an unmet need in her community: environmental education and youth training to cultivate future stewards of the environment. She implemented education programs in various Atlanta-area elementary schools with Eco-Forces and helped create Green Day, a school challenge that led to recycling and the construction of outdoor classrooms.

**Kimberlee Scott Mayes**

**Personal:** Participated in the Founders Day Worship Service on April 5, 2009, in Sisters Chapel.

**1993****Jennifer Williams Benn**

**Birth:** Son, Justin, born on September 2009.

**Andrea Barnwell Brownlee**

**Birth:** Daughter, Isabella Grace Brownlee, born on February 4, 2009.

**Kiesa Dyson**

**Married:** Larry Knotts on May 8, 2009, at the Cator Woolford Garden in Atlanta.

**Njeri Mathis Rutledge**

**Professional:** Promoted to the position of associate professor of law at South Texas College of Law in Houston. She has published two recent law review articles in the areas of domestic violence

and constitutional law. She was also recently nominated by the mayor of Houston to serve as a part-time municipal judge.

**Amy Espy Smith**

**Birth:** Daughter, Avery Elizabeth, born on April 26, 2009.

**CB Smith-Dahl**

**Professional:** "I'm Not Leavin'," a documentary produced by Streetside Productions' "Pro" team, was featured at this year's Los Angeles Film Festival and in a special screening at the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts. In April, the film was given a special judge's recognition for youth media at the Iowa City International Documentary Festival. It also competed in the Santa Monica Film Festival in the fall of 2009. Ms. Smith-Dahl is a filmmaker and instructor at Streetside Productions.

**Alexis Scott**

**Professional:** Honored at the Black Women Film Preservation Project Luncheon on March 6, 2009.

**Marion Sewer**

**Professional:** Spoke at the Howard Hughes & MBRS-RISE Program's Research Talk, Mitochondria on the Move: A Role for Dynamic Mitochondrial Trafficking in Cortisol Biosynthesis, in the Adrenal Cortex on October 22, 2009, at Spelman College.

**1994****Nicole Alston-Abel**

**Education:** Earned a Ph.D. in school psychology from the University of Washington in June 2009. She is the third African-American student to do so in the history of the program.

**Brenda S. Banks**

**Professional:** Received a Governor's Award in the Humanities on May 7, 2009, at the 24th Governor's Awards luncheon at the Old Georgia Railroad Depot, in Atlanta.

**Sonia M. Buchman**

**Professional:** Published the book, *Saved by Grace* (Xulon Press), in September 2009. The book aims to uplift adolescent girls and young women growing into adulthood and independence.

**Kotina Williams Hall**

**Education:** Received her Ed.D. in leadership from Argosy University in Atlanta.

**Personal:** Married to Jeffrey Hall and has one daughter, Jekoti-Blake Hall.

**Professional:** Founder of Partnership Success, Incorporated and President of JKO Consulting.

**Christina Joseph Robinson**

**Birth:** Daughter, Taylor Alana Robinson, born on June 9, 2008.

**Personal:** Elected president of the Northern New Jersey chapter of the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College in September 2009 for a two-year term.

**Danielle Robinson**

**Professional:** Named director of pre-trial services at Clifton T. Perkins Hospital Center, Maryland's forensic psychiatric hospital, in September 2009.

**Bethany Watson**

**Birth:** Son, Jacob Albert Watson, on April 21, 2009.

**1995****Stacey Abrams**

**Professional:** Pictured in the article, "Women Search for Answers at 2009 Women's Initiative Event" in the *Atlanta Voice*, November 20–26, 2009.

**Kristen Bellamy**

**Birth:** Daughter, Kira Sophia Bellamy, born on June 1, 2009.

**Denise Brewley-Corbin**

**Education:** Earned her doctoral degree in mathematics education from the University of Georgia in June 2009.

**Birth:** Son, Solomon Yao Brewley Corbin, born on June 26, 2008.



## Take Note!



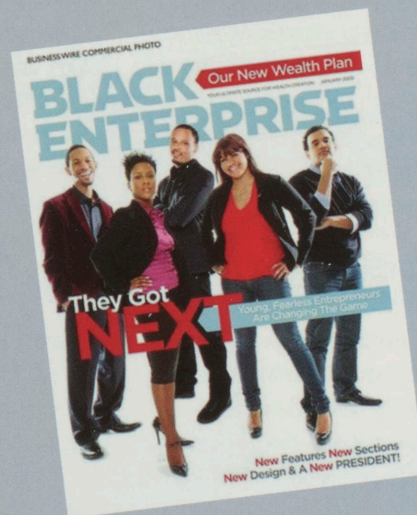
Freedom School Partners hosted a luncheon featuring **Marian Wright Edelman, C'60**, as the keynote speaker to celebrate its 10th Anniversary. Freedom School Partners is the new name of Seigle Avenue Partners, which unveiled its name change at the celebration. Freedom School Partners provides after-school and summer literacy programs to disadvantaged children living in Charlotte, North Carolina. In 2009, Freedom School Partners collaborated with community partners at nine locations serving over 500 children through the Children's Defense Fund Freedom School®. Executive Director Mary Nell McPherson and Board Chair Clay Grubb stated that their goal is to increase the program to serve 5,000 students in Charlotte-Mecklenburg School's high-poverty areas. **Tracey Hembrick, C'90**, has served on the Board of Directors of Freedom School Partners in various capacities for five years. Pictured: **Natalie Beard, C'71**; **Cynthia Wallace, C'93**, president, Charlotte Chapter of NAASC; **Marian Wright Edelman, C'60** (founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund); **Tracey Hembrick, C'90**; **Mimi Forbes Beal, C'86**; and **Michelle Thomas, C'83**.

To honor the 50 years of extraordinary service that **Gladys T. Glass, C'58**, has given to Spelman College, the department of mathematics held the first Gladys T. Glass Annual Mathematics Education Symposium (GGAMES) on October 29, 2009, in the NASA Auditorium, Albrow-Falconer-Manley Center at Spelman College. Other alumnae participants included **Josephine Davis, C'64**; **Mildred Coats, C'63**; **Kim Byner, C'91**; **Tiffanie Scruggs, C'2006**; **Segena Ponder, C'93**, and **Adrienne Boisson, C'2004**.



**Michelle Thomas, C'83**, received the UNCF Maya Angelou Women Who Lead Award for her community involvement and philanthropy as the Microsoft citizenship & community affairs manager. The award was given on June 20, 2009, presented by Maya Angelou. Ms. Thomas was also invited to participate in a 30-second television spot regarding the UNCF that aired the evening of and the evening prior to the national telethon, Evening of Stars, honoring Lionel Richie, in January 2010.

**Evelynn Hammonds, C'76**, was honored by the Science Club for Girls for her vision for gender equality and diversity in the scientific and academic enterprise at their Catalyst Award Ceremony on May 26 at the Broad Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The Science Club for Girls is a nonprofit organization aimed at eliminating the gender and racial inequality in science and technology by offering free after-school programs to girls from K–12th grades.



**Lorielle Broussard, C'2003**, was on the cover of *Black Enterprise* in January 2009 as a part of the cover story featuring a group described as tenacious business people, ages 21 – 35, “representing the cusp of a changing entrepreneurial landscape, which they have the potential to soon dominate.”



**Danielle Baptiste Jackson**

**Married:** Parminder Sing Suchdev in July 2009 in Mattituck, New York. Their announcement ran in *The New York Times*.

**Ayanay Ferguson Smith**

**Professional:** Presented a Test Anxiety Workshop sponsored by Spelman College Counseling and Disability Services on November 19, 2009.

**Teraesa Suzanne Vinson**

**Professional:** Released a music video with Tom Dempsey, "Every Breath You Take."

**1996****Laurel Beatty**

**Professional:** Named judge for Franklin County Common Pleas Court in Columbus, Ohio, in February 2009.

**Najah Drakes**

**Professional:** Launched DiviniCo, a premier inspirational products company dedicated to empowering women by affirming each woman's divine truth through three product lines: *DiviniTEES* apparel, *DiviniSCENTS* candles, and *Divine Java*, personal affirmation journals.

**LaDonna Cheri Hodges**

**Married:** Irvin Christopher Dingle at Hillcrest Baptist Church in Temple Hills, Maryland. Their wedding was featured in the Love and Happiness section of the October 19-26, 2009 issue of *Jet* magazine.

**Marla Posey-Moss**

**Birth:** Daughter, Lillian Isabelle Moss, born on September 6, 2009.

**Dorlisa Young**

**Birth:** Son, Anwar Jackson Young, born on July 25, 2009.

**1997****April English**

**Professional:** Named president of the board of directors for the Community Legal Services and Counseling Center, a nonprofit agency in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She is serving for the 2009-2010 year.

**Zandra Jordan**

**Professional:** Spoke at the Sisters Chapel Worship Service on November 8, 2009, at Spelman College.

**Gloria McClure**

**Birth:** Son, William Alexander McClure, born on June 13, 2009.

**Shani Harris Peterson**

**Professional:** Participated in Spelman College's World AIDS Day Symposium, HIV/AIDS in Black America: Past, Present and Future, on December 1, 2009.

**Carla Stokes**

**Professional:** Held a six-session program from November 5 - December 17, 2009, titled Girls Destined for Greatness, a group coaching program for middle and high school girls. She also held the webinar, "Five Tips to Help Your Daughter Build Healthy Self-Esteem and Self Worth," on October 20, 2009.

**Monisha Taylor**

**Married:** Charles E. Taylor (Morehouse, Class of 1997) on April 4, 2009, in Atlanta.

**1998****Sharon Faulk Jean-Pierre**

**Education:** Received a master's degree with distinction in public administration from Long Island University in May 2009. She also received a certificate in business project management from New York University in January 2009 and project management professional certification in June 2009.

**Take Note!**

**Stacey Abrams, C'95**, the state representative for Georgia House District 8, became the chief operating officer of Nourish, [www.nourish-inc.com](http://www.nourish-inc.com), a new company that creates formula-ready bottled water with volume measurements on one side, a large mouth to add formula and a nipple top so mothers away from home can feed baby simply.

Spelman Board Trustee **Lovette Twyman Russell, C'83**, was featured in *Atlanta Social Season* magazine, in the summer 2009 issue. She was pictured in the Social Scene section for the 2009 Beastly Feast, a yearly event to raise money for the Atlanta Zoo that she co-chaired. Ms. Russell was also pictured in the September/October 2009 issue of *The Atlantian* Magazine.





## Take Note!

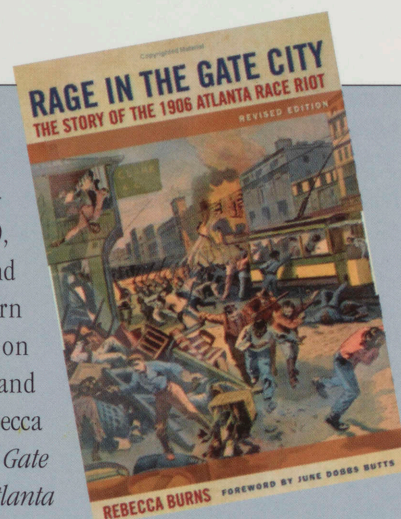
The first public exhibition of papers and other memorabilia from the archives of Pulitzer Prize winner **Alice Walker (former student)** opened at Emory University on April 23, 2009. There was a celebration of the opening and a daylong symposium on the author's art and life on April 24, followed by a public talk with Ms. Walker that evening. "A Keeping of Records: The Art and Life of Alice Walker," is in the Schatten Gallery of the Atlanta University Center's Robert W. Woodruff Library and features 200 items.

**Tanika Ray, C'94**, was featured in the article, "The Root of the Issue: Chris Rock's Documentary, Good Hair Has Sparked a Conversation on the Lengths Black Women Will Go To for Great Style," in the November issue of *Essence* magazine. This round-table discussion moderated by Mikki Taylor also featured singers Ledisi Young and Solange Knowles, actress Nia Long, celebrity hair-stylist Ursula Stephen, and writer and producer Tonya Lewis Lee.

**Deidria Bolden, C'88**, the former deputy director of operations for the Louisiana Workforce Commission, was appointed assistant secretary of the Office of Family Support (OFS), an executive position within the state Department of Social Services. Bolden assumed the post on October 12, 2009. The office of OFS oversees a broad range of services, including food stamps, child support enforcement and the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.

On October 9, 2009, **Dr. LaConyca Butler, C'56**, and **Dr. Gladys Glass, C'58**, were celebrated for 50 years of dedicated service at the 2009 Service Awards Luncheon at Spelman College. Also honored were **Dr. Sandra Patterson, C'70**, 30 years; **Heather Hawes, C'89**, five years; and **Dr. Jane Smith, C'68**, five years.

Author and educator **June Dobbs Butts, C'48**, participated on September 26, 2009, in an authors' discussion and book signing at the Auburn Avenue Research Library on African-American Culture and History. The event featured Rebecca Burns, author of *Rage in the Gate City: The Story of the 1906 Atlanta Race Riot*, and Dr. Butts who penned the foreword for the book.



**Tomika DePriest, C'89**, received an honorable mention for PR Professional of the Year: Academic Institution at PR News' PR People and 15-to-Watch Awards on December 1, 2009, at The National Press Club in Washington, D.C. Ms. DePriest was also appointed vice chair of the board for Profound Women of America Inc., effective August 2009. The organization is an Atlanta-based nonprofit that provides financial literacy and health/wellness services with the goal of enhancing the quality of life for all women. Ms. DePriest was a presenter at the Institutional Advancement Retreat in June at Georgia Perimeter College. She presented "How Spelman College Used Social Media for Pandemic Influenza Educational Outreach."



**Maureen Joyner**

**Birth:** Son, Darrin Christopher, born on October 13, 2008.

**Professional:** Accepted for fellow status in the American College of Emergency Physicians in October 2009.

**Jade Lambert-Smith**

**Professional:** Wrote and directed the play, *The Night Writers*, a Fresh Air Collective Ensemble production that ran from July 29 – August 2, 2009, at the Woodruff Arts Center in Atlanta.

**1999****Althea R. Cherry**

**Professional:** Participated in “Inter-generational Exchange: Experiencing African-American Historic Places” at the Auburn Avenue Research Library on March 14, 2009, in Atlanta.

**India Kyra Phipps**

**Married:** Dr. William James Epps on August 1, 2009, at Peachtree Christian Church in Atlanta.

**2000****Tai Beauchamp**

**Professional:** Received the 2009 Prestige Award in the area of community leadership from the Thurgood Marshall College Fund during the organization’s 22nd Anniversary Weekend Celebration on October 25, 2009, at Saks Fifth Avenue in New York. Ms. Beauchamp was also recently appointed to the New Jersey Performing Arts Center Women’s Board of Trustees.

**Vignette Berkeley**

**Professional:** Promoted to SVP Card Services for Bank of America in October 2009.

**Dana Davenport**

**Birth:** Son, Thomas L. Davenport, III, born on January 13, 2009.

**Lezli Levene Harvell**

**Professional:** Featured as an expert in the article “Kids’ Dental Care: Is brushing time at your house like a

scene out of WWE’s *Smackdown*? We feel your pain. Here, a guide to oral care (and easy brushing) for the feisty 5-and-under set.” by Cara Birnbaum for *Cookiemag.com*.

**Debraca Dean Rodriguez**

**Education:** Received a master of arts degree in teaching from Brenau University in Gainesville, Georgia in May 2009.

**Erika Stallworth**

**Professional:** Quoted in the article, “Juvenile System Sees Revamp,” in the *Herald-Argus* of LaPorte, Indiana, in October 2009.

**Joni Williamson-Turner**

**Married:** Marvin C. Turner on August 30, 2008, at Louisiana’s Old State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The wedding was featured in *Jet* magazine’s Love & Happiness section, the May 18, 2009, issue.

**2001****Tiffany Brown**

**Professional:** Launched a campaign to run for mayor of Atlanta. She was featured in the September 30, 2009, issue of the *Spelman Spotlight*.

**Pia Days**

**Professional:** Produced the short film, “Kai,” that was chosen for the FirstGlance Online Film Contest, in March 2009.

**2002****Maya Cody**

**Married:** Israel Rucker on August 1, 2009, at Cascade United Methodist church followed by a reception at the Four Seasons in Atlanta.

**Akidah H. Felder**

**Professional:** Serving as the Ms. Maryland delegate in the July 2010 Ms. United States pageant. She is an autism advocate and has partnered with GRASP.org to raise money for the awareness campaign. Interactive One

has offered her an opportunity to blog on the topic on *blackplanetrising.com* and she has written for Radio One’s *Frequency* magazine. She also opened Suite Ta Bu, an online suite offering eco-friendly discoveries.

**Leah Jackson**

**Personal:** Participated in the Founders Day Worship Service on April 5, 2009, in Sisters Chapel.

**Aithyni Rucker**

**Professional:** Nominated for a Black-Weblog Award for her blog, POSH life.

**2003****Elena Bell**

**Education:** Received a master of education degree in educational leadership from Mercer University in Atlanta in May 2009.

**Lauren Espy Bell**

**Birth:** Daughter, Kendall Lynne, born on December 31, 2008.

**Camille Clemons**

**Professional:** Named assistant director of admissions for Spelman College in the fall of 2009.

**Makeba Dixon-Hill**

**Professional:** Selected as a fellow by the 2009 – 2010 Americans for the Arts Professional Development Fund for Emerging Arts Leaders of Color.

**Hoganne A. Harrison-Walton**

**Professional:** Joined the Georgia Bar Association and entered into a joint venture with the Law Offices of A.J. Mitchell, LLC.

**Brandi Johnson**

**Married:** Donathan “Gerard” Johnson (Morris Brown, C’2003) on June 13, 2009 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

**Porsche Hodge Page**

**Professional:** Selected by General Dynamics Land Systems as a 2008 Black Engineer of the Year Modern-Day

Technology Leader and promoted to senior systems engineer within two years of joining the company.

**Birth:** Daughter, Maya M. Page, born on September 9, 2009.

**Rashida Rawls**

**Professional:** Promoted to word editor at the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* in April 2009. She was also elected as the National Director of Communications of Theta Nu Xi Multicultural Sorority, Inc. in September 2009 during the Sorority’s annual convention. She will serve in that post for a two-year term.

**2004****Tia Dabney Brumsted**

**Professional:** Received her licensure as an independent clinical social worker in June 2009. She joined the clinical team at Copious Life, LLC, and currently provides individual and group therapy to children and adolescents in the District of Columbia metropolitan area.

**McKenzie Christian**

**Professional:** Produced special events and private parties for the U.S. screening tour for the #1-grossing documentary in the country, “Valentino: The Last Emperor.” She was accepted into the master of arts program in fashion journalism at London College of Fashion, inducted into the associate board of Fashion Delivers Charitable Foundation, Inc. and earned a certificate in fashion event planning from Fashion Institute of Technology in 2009.

**Anatasha Crawford**

**Education:** Received a doctorate in tumor biology from Georgetown University in 2009.

**Robbie Ann Darby**

**Professional:** Her solo performance, “Love and Violence: The Fusion or Eruption,” was co-produced by Synchronicity Theatre Group and made its Atlanta premiere at 7 Stages Theatre on May 15, 2009.



## Take Note!

**Chant'a D. Parker, C'2003**, was featured on the cover of *The Gambit*, February 24, 2009, issue, for the article, "Playing Defense: New Orleans Public Defenders Face Low Pay, Punishing Case-loads and, Now, Uncertain Funding. Is the Sixth Amendment, The Right to Legal Counsel, Becoming Endangered in This City?"



**Christine King Farris, C'48**, was pictured and quoted in *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* article, "King Site OK'd at Last," in the October 30, 2009, issue. The story highlights the newly signed federal construction permit allowing construction of the Martin Luther King, Jr. memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Ms. Farris was also pictured in the June 22, 2009, issue of the *AJC* with her niece, **Bernice King, C'85**, when they attended the preview gala for the "America I Am" exhibit at the Boisfeuillet Jones Atlanta Civic Center. In honor of the reopening of the archive (MLK, Jr. donated his 83,000-item collection to Boston University in 1964) and the Mugar Memorial Library Martin Luther King, Jr. Reading Room, the Gotlieb Center sponsored the inaugural Martin Luther King Jr. Leadership Lecture, given by Ms. Farris on April 3, 2009. Ms. Farris was also pictured in the November 16, 2009, issue of *Jet*, observing the King Memorial construction in Washington, D.C. An article featuring Elder Bernice King being elected as the SCLC's eighth president was featured in the November 23–30, 2009, issue of *Jet*.



Children's Defense Fund President **Marian Wright Edelman, C'60**, testified before Congress at a congressional hearing on the Youth PROMISE Act on July 15, 2009. The Youth PROMISE Act shifts the paradigm from ineffective punishment and incarceration to evidence-based prevention and intervention to address juvenile delinquency. On May 12, 2009, Ms. Edelman participated in a live webcast regarding the health care system. The discussion centered on providing affordable, comprehensive health coverage to everyone — especially children — and what people can do to help make this happen.



**Kristen Jarvis, C'2003**, was featured in a Newsweek Web exclusive, "Michelle Obama's Body Woman: From the Campaign Trail to the East Wing, Kristen Jarvis Helps the First Lady Navigate Each Day," on October 26, 2009. The piece highlights her positions as special assistant for scheduling and traveling aide for the first lady.



**Asha Jennings**

**Professional:** Spoke at The Women's Fund of the Fond du Lac Area Foundation on November 5, 2009. This engagement was featured on [www.fdlreporter.com](http://www.fdlreporter.com).

**Shevon Thomas**

**Birth:** Daughter, Tatyana Chanel Thomas, born on April 27, 2009.

**2005****Adeola Adejobi**

**Education:** Received a J.D. with specialization in international legal affairs from Cornell Law School in May 2009.

**Rahila Andrews**

**Education:** Received a doctor of medicine degree from Duke University in May 2009.

**Toccarra Cash**

**Professional:** Starred in her first New York play, the off-off Broadway production, *Bonfire Night*, in May 2009. She is performing in the United Nations-sponsored production, *Human Affect*, which opened in New York in October 2009 and will tour several countries in both Europe and Africa from November 2009 – March 2010.

**Tanea Chane**

**Education:** Received her doctorate of pharmacy and master's degree in business administration from Mercer University in Atlanta in May 2009.

**Gerel Clayborne**

**Married:** Kishon Clayborne on July 12, 2008, in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

**Erica Brooke Fields**

**Education:** Received a master of science degree in industrial engineering with a dual title in operations research from Pennsylvania State University on May 17, 2009. She also presented a portion of her research at the Institute for Industrial Engineers Annual Conference 2009 in Miami, Florida, from May 30 – June 3, 2009.

**Summer Jackson**

**Professional:** Received a fellowship sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, for 2009–2010, in association with the David & Lucille Packard Foundation in Los Altos, California.

**Shalondra McCullough**

**Professional:** Directed the production, *Will a Real Man Please Stand!*: *Good Things Come to Those Who Wait on the Lord*, on March 27 and 28, 2009, at the Atlanta Community Food Bank.

**Stacey-Ann Palma**

**Professional:** Serving as a lead teacher at Leadership Preparatory Brownsville Charter School in Brooklyn, New York, for the 2009–2010 academic year. Her classroom will be named Spelman College. Throughout the year, she will introduce the scholars to famous Spelman alumnae, as well as many of the opportunities the College has to offer.

**Tiffany M. Polk**

**Professional:** Competed in the 2010 Miss Georgia USA Beauty Pageant on November 12–14, 2009, in Cartersville, Georgia. She was the first African-American woman from Cobb County to compete in the pageant.

**Jessica Scott-Felder**

**Education:** Completed her master of fine arts degree in drawing, painting and printmaking at Georgia State University in 2009. She was awarded with the Director's Award for her work in the 2008 juried student exhibition and nominated for the Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant.

**2006****Kelli Coleman**

**Professional:** Featured in *Black Enterprise* magazine's article "Next in Line, but Don't Say Nepotism: Burgeoning BE 100s leader talks tools for success."

**Adrienne W. Hill**

**Professional:** Spoke at "Prosthetics and Orthotics: Making a Difference from the Very First Step" at Spelman College on October 5, 2009.

**Belinda Williams**

**Professional:** Completed master of arts degree in speech-language pathology at New York University on September 28, 2009. She was also selected to present a research study on child language acquisition along with two prior NYU professors at the annual American Speech-Language and Hearing Association Conference held this year in New Orleans.

**2007****Janina Jeff**

**Professional:** Spoke at The MBRS-RISE Program at Spelman College's Summer Research Symposium on July 24, 2009.

**Shalonda Price**

**Education:** Received a master's degree in human resource management with a concentration in business from Ashford University.

**April A. Robinson**

**Professional:** Served as an associate in the Office of the Attorney General in Atlanta during the summer of 2009.

**Evan Seymour**

**Education:** Earned a master's degree in broadcast journalism from USC in 2009.

**Professional:** Hired as a 5th grade writing teacher at KIPP Believe College Prep, a top performing charter school for middle-school-aged children in New Orleans.

**2008****Shannon Cumberbatch**

**Education:** Received The Root-Tilden-Kern-Jacobson Public Service Scholarship for Women, Children and Families. The scholarship covers full

tuition for three years of law school to students who have demonstrated outstanding academic ability, leadership potential and a commitment to public service.

**Morgan Friar**

**Professional:** Represented her company, Vistakon, a division of Johnson & Johnson, to recruit from the AUC Career Fair at the Hyatt Regency on September 25, 2009.

**Samantha Houston**

**Professional:** Serving in the Peace Corps as an agriculture extension agent in Mali from July 10, 2009, through September 12, 2011.

**Kendra Patrick**

**Professional:** Joined Tucker Ellis & West LLP as a summer 2009 associate in the Cleveland office.

**Kashara Robinson**

**Professional:** Awarded an education fellowship at Berkeley Repertory Theatre in Berkeley, California. The fellowship begins September 1, 2009, and continues through July 2010.

**Juliette Wilson**

**Professional:** Interned at CARE as a policy analyst during the summer of 2009.

**2009****Cyndee Bayless**

**Professional:** Co-produced the documentary, "Roots to STEM: Spelman Women in Science," that screened on October 7, 2009, in the Albro-Falconer-Manley Science Center.

**Cassi Davis**

**Professional:** Featured in an article on [essence.com](http://essence.com) and [blackamericaweb.com](http://blackamericaweb.com) about her graduation from Spelman College.



## Take Note!

**La'Shanda Holmes, C'2005**, is featured in the *The Atlanta University Center Digest* cover story, "Spelman Graduate on Track to Become First Black Female Coast Guard Helicopter Pilot," in the November 16, 2009, issue of *The*

*AUC Digest*. In the article Ms. Holmes says she's excited about the program and she wants to "share this experience with as many young people as possible and encourage them to stay the course and work to become whatever they want to become."



**Charnelle Holloway, C'79** has published a 2010 calendar of

her handmade artist dolls titled *Doll Baby Angel Spirit*. Several of the calendar images have appeared on Spelman holiday cards and the cover of the *Spelman Messenger*. Ms. Holloway is an associate professor of art at Spelman College. The calendar will be available in the Spelman College Museum of Fine Art gift shop and can be acquired online at [www.cafepress.com/cholloway](http://www.cafepress.com/cholloway) as well.

In June, **Carrie Ellis, C'97**, rolled up her sleeves alongside First Lady Michelle Obama and California First Lady Maria Shriver to build an intergenerational playground at Bret Harte Elementary School in San Francisco. The playground service project kicked off the White House's "United We Serve" initiative. Ms. Ellis is the director of project management for the nonprofit organization KaBoom, spearheading special initiatives, and she oversees a team of 30 project managers committed to ensuring that children learn to appreciate the value of play.

In January 2009, it was announced that the television show, "Lincoln Heights," produced by **Kathleen McGhee Anderson, C'72**, would return for a fourth season. The show airs on the ABC Family network. On September 30, 2009, the Spelman College History Department presented a panel discussion with members from the show's cast in the Cosby Auditorium.

**AF**

**EAP**

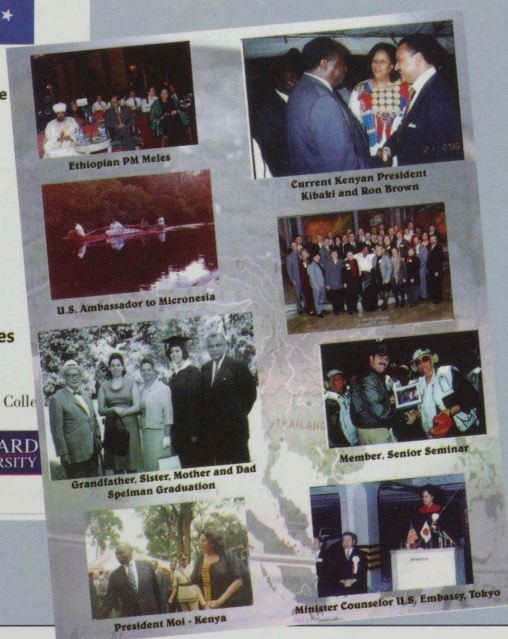
**Celebrating 41 Years of Dedicated Service to the United States Department of State**

**TLG Retirement Luncheon in honor of Ambassador Aurelia E. Brazeal**

**July 17, 2009  
DACOR Bacon House  
12 Noon**

**FSI**

**Universities**

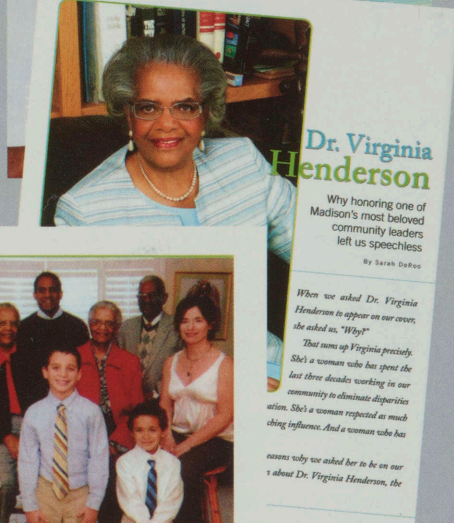


On July 17, 2009, the Thursday Luncheon Group (TLG), the premier organization for African-Americans and other minorities in foreign policy, held a retirement luncheon in honor of Ambassador **Aurelia E. Brazeal, C'65**, as she celebrated 41 years of dedicated service to the United States Department of State. The event was held at the DACOR Bacon House in Washington, D.C. Ms. Brazeal held an impressive list of positions including U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific. She was the first African-American woman career foreign service officer to be promoted into the Senior Foreign Service of the United States. Her personal rank of Career Minister is the second highest in the United States Foreign Service.



## Take Note!

**Virginia Henderson, C'53**, was featured on the cover of *Brava* magazine, the April 2009 issue. The article, "Dr. Virginia Henderson: Why Honoring One of Madison's Most Beloved Community Leaders Left Us Speechless," highlights her accomplishments and outstanding community service. Her twin sister, **Mary McKinney Edmonds, C'53**, is mentioned and pictured in the story. Dr. McKinney Edmonds was honored with an honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, at the Founders Day 2009 convocation.



Virginia and Perry with her sister, Mary, and (clockwise from far left) granddaughter Rebecca Ruth, daughter Sheryl, daughter Jasmine, son Andy, daughter-in-law Judith, and grandsons Adin and Jonah.

**Sharon Patterson, C'81**, is pictured and featured in the Health & Fitness section of *Ebony* magazine, the October 2009 issue. A cancer survivor and activist, Patterson's inspirational story is told in the article, "Testify!" that highlights her nonprofit organization, Breast Cancer Builds, that partners with Habitat for Humanity.



On July 9, 2009, President Obama named **Monica Farmer Cox, C'98** and **Adrienne Stiff-Roberts, C'98**, as two of the 100 recipients of the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers. It is the highest honor bestowed by the United States government on young professionals in the early stages of their independent research careers. They received their awards, including up to a five-year research grant to further their study in support of critical government missions, at a White House ceremony in the fall of 2009.



**Andrea Barnwell Brownlee, C'93**, was featured in the December 2009 issue of *The Atlantan* magazine, as "The Envelope Pusher," who is bringing ambitious exhibitions on subjects from video art to hip hop and being heralded in national publications. She was awarded the 1st Nexus Award from the Atlanta Contemporary Arts Center in January 2010.



## Jenelsie Walden Holloway, C'41

February 10, 1920 – October 15, 2009

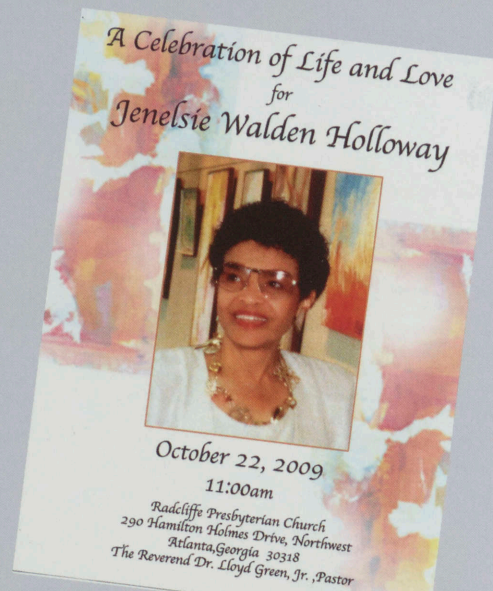
Jenelsie Walden was born in 1920 to Austin T. Walden, a civil rights attorney and Atlanta's first Black judge since reconstruction, and Mary Ellen Denny, a music teacher and homemaker from the Mossell family of Philadelphia. The Mossell family included the renowned artist Henry O'Tanner and Sadie T. Alexander, one of the founders of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Ms. Holloway attended Oglethorpe Elementary, Laboratory High and Washington High Schools. As an art major at Spelman College, under the tutelage of Hale Woodruff and Elizabeth Prophet, Ms. Holloway also participated in the student dance theater and was a writer for the *Campus Mirror*. Upon graduation in 1941, she received a Rosenwald scholarship and was admitted to the Art Institute of Chicago where she received her MFA degree. After chairing the art departments of Prairie View College and Dillard University, Jenelsie Holloway returned to her beloved alma mater, Spelman College, in 1952, where she dedicated 38 years of service teaching traditional, visual arts. She served as department chair for two periods: 1952 – 1963 and 1982 – 1990.

Jenelsie married Charles Holloway, Jr., a musician, teacher, and member of the Tokye Trio, a popular performing music group based in Atlanta in the 1960s. The couple had two daughters, Charnelle, C'79, and Christell, C'80.

A very active member of the Atlanta Arts community, Ms. Holloway was one of the founders of "Black Artists Atlanta" and served as co-chair of Atlanta Life Insurance Company's committee, initiating its national competition and collection of African-American works of art. Ms. Holloway, whose career spanned more than 50 years, was a staunch advocate for African-American art and artists. She served on several advisory boards, and was affiliated with numerous professional organizations at the regional and national level as well as throughout the Atlanta Arts community.

Ms. Holloway was also instrumental in the growth and development of several local art galleries, libraries, museums and arts initiatives, such as the Alma Simmons Gallery at Douglas High School, the Hammonds House Galleries, the Auburn Avenue Research Library, the High Museum of Art, the Atlanta Life Annual Competition/Exhibition, the National Black Arts Festival, the Atlanta Arts Festival at Piedmont Park and many other major exhibitions and festivals. Besides private collections, her own artworks are part of the Hammonds House, Spelman College and Clack Atlanta University art collections. One of several portraits commissioned in Atlanta is displayed in the Georgia State Capitol.



Though a very talented artist, her love of teaching young minds often kept her from her own studio. As a result, she contributed to the success of hundreds of students, some of whom are currently nationally and internationally known artists, educators, art historians and gallery owners. On April 11, 2006, Spelman College paid tribute to Ms. Holloway's love and dedication to her alma mater at the College's 125th Founders Day celebration.

Ms. Holloway was a lifelong member of Radcliffe Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, where her services were held on October 22, 2009.



## In Memoriam

**1939**

**Nada Stewart Fuller**

Died: October 16, 2009

**1940**

**Jean Fontaine Bristol**

Died: September 3, 2009

**Ollie McFarland**

Musician and Educator

Died: August 10, 2009

Services: St. Matthews & St. Joseph's Episcopal Church, Detroit

**1941**

**Johnnie Hines Watts Prothro**

Educator

Died: June 6, 2009

Services: An open house was held on June 12, 2009, at Dr. Prothro's private residence in Decatur, Georgia

**1947**

**Diana Mattison**

Educator

Died: March 12, 2009

Services: April 18, 2009, Allen Temple A.M.E. Church, Atlanta. A private graveside interment was held at Southview Cemetery, Atlanta.

**1949**

**Ernestine Walker Baylor**

Educator

Died: July 4, 2009

Services: Enon Baptist Church, Baltimore, Maryland

**1953**

**Mildred Shirley Howell**

**Johnson**

Educator

Died: July 3, 2009

Services: July 9, 2009, Beulah Baptist Church, Atlanta

**1957**

**Rebecca Gordon Jackson**

Educator

Died: September 6, 2009

Services: September 11, 2009, Beulah Baptist Church, Atlanta

**1958**

**Mildred Eloise Tuggle Gaither**

Educator

Died: August 4, 2009

Services: August 8, 2009, Murray Brothers Cascade Chapel, Atlanta

**Sarah Harrison Martin Grizzle**

Died: June 25, 2009

Services: July 2, 2009, Zion Hill Baptist Church, Atlanta

On September 3, 2009, **Jasmine Marie Lynn, C'2012**, was tragically killed as an innocent bystander struck by gunfire. Ms. Lynn, a Kansas City, Missouri, native, was a sophomore with a 3.8 GPA and the desire to major in psychology pre-law. The Spelman community mourned Ms. Lynn's passing with several memorial tributes, including a candlelight vigil on September 3, a prayer wall during Market Friday on September 4, a special worship service honoring Jasmine Lynn on September 6, a prayer walk and vigil on September 8, and a service of remembrance on September 8 in Sisters Chapel.

**1960**

**Marva Mitchener Tatum**

Died: May 20, 2009

Services: May 26, 2009, Ebenezer A.M.E. Zion Church, Montgomery, Alabama

**1971**

**Pamela Weston Gardner**

Died: November 26, 2009

Services: December 12, 2009, The Banquet Hall, Jonesboro, Georgia

**1976**

**Jacqueline Louise Jacobs**

Administrator, law enforcement

Died: June 18, 2009

Services: June 25, 2009, Faith A.M.E. Zion Church, Atlanta

**1977**

**Andrea Hunt Warner**

Died: April 24, 2009

Services: April 30, 2009, Watkins West End Chapel, Atlanta

**2010**

**Jacqueline Bass Jenkins**

Student, Pauline E. Drake Scholar

Died: June 10, 2009

Services: June 15, 2009, Sisters Chapel, Spelman College



PHOTO: JULIE YARBROUGH, C'91



“Every great work of art has two faces,  
one toward its own time and  
one toward the future, toward eternity.”

— DANIEL BARENBOIM





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PHOTO: JULIE YARBROUGH, C'91

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A C h o i c e t o C h a n g e t h e W o r l d