

SPELMAN Messenger

First Lady
Michelle Obama
Inspires 2011 Grads



*Spelman Commencement 2011
President Beverly Daniel Tatum
First Lady Michelle Obama
Kristen Jarvis, C'2003, special assistant
for scheduling and traveling for the First Lady*

ALSO INSIDE:

Alumnae Judges Change World



Spelman College

A Choice to Change the World

SPELMAN

Messenger

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Submission Deadlines:

Fall Issue: January 1 – May 31

Spring Issue: June 1 – December 31

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Alumnae Notes is dedicated to the following:

- Education (advanced degree)
- Personal (birth of a child or marriage)
- Professional

Please include the date of the event in your submission.

TAKE NOTE!

Take Note! is dedicated to the following alumnae achievements:

- Published
- Appearing in films, television, or on stage
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BOOK NOTES

Book Notes is dedicated to alumnae authors.

Please submit review copies.

IN MEMORIAM

We honor our Spelman sisters. If you receive notice of the death of a Spelman sister, please contact the Office of Alumnae Affairs at (404) 270-5048 or Sharon Owens, director of alumnae affairs, at sowens5@spelman.edu.

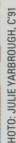
For verification purposes, please include a printed program, newspaper acknowledgment or electronic link with your submission.

The *Spelman Messenger* is published twice a year (Fall and Spring) by Spelman College, 350 Spelman Lane, S.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30314-4399, free of charge for alumnae, donors, trustees and friends of the College. Recipients wishing to change the address to which the *Spelman Messenger* is sent should notify the editor, giving both old and new addresses. Third-class postage paid at Atlanta, Georgia. Publication No. 510240

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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Upon receiving her honorary degree from Spelman College:

“I am a Spelman Woman!”

First Lady Michelle Obama

Commencement Speaker

Honorary Degree Recipient, Doctor of Laws

(Editor's Note: The following is an excerpt from First Lady Michelle Obama's keynote Spelman College 124th Commencement Address – May 15, 2011, at the Georgia International Convention Center – to the Spelman women in the Class of 2011.)

Voices

Let me tell you it is a pleasure and an honor to be with all of you today. And I want to thank President Tatum for her leadership. She is such an inspiration to all of the women who are part of the Spelman family. And I want to give a special shout out to one of my people, one of my staff members, Ms. Kristen Jarvis of the Spelman Class of 2003. Look, ladies, you want to know what Spelman does for you? Kristen is my right-hand woman. She travels with me all across the country and around the world. I don't know what I would do without her. She has been with me from the very beginning, looking after my girls, taking care of my mom. So I want to thank Spelman for giving me Kristen.

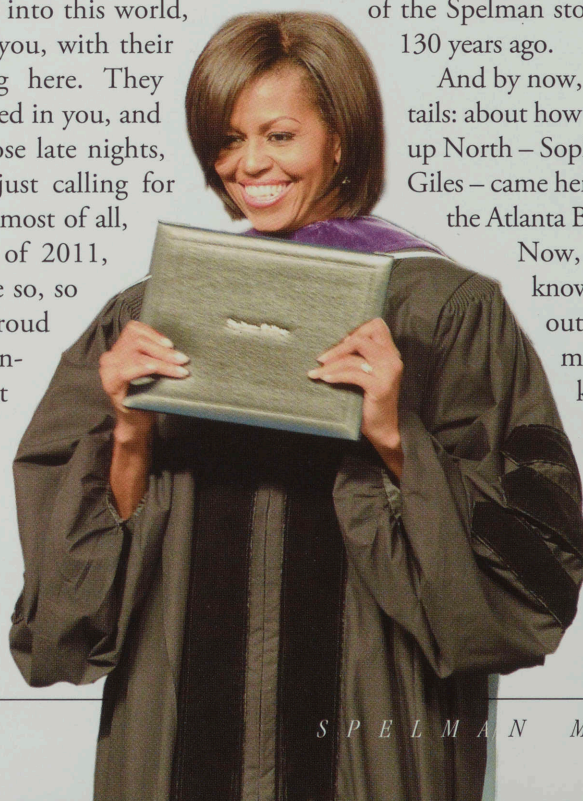
And again, let's take a moment to thank all of those beautiful families sitting behind you all today and standing behind you every day, the folks who brought you into this world, the folks who showed you, with their love, that you belong here. They pushed you, they believed in you, and they answered calls those late nights, even when you were just calling for money. And of course, most of all, to the Spelman Class of 2011, congratulations! We are so, so proud of you. We're proud of the effort you've invested and the risks that you took. We're proud of the bonds that you forged, the growth that you've showed. We're proud of how, for the past four years, you've immersed yourselves in

the life of this school and embraced all that it has to offer. In doing so, you didn't just write a chapter in your own life story. You also became part of the Spelman story – a story that began 130 years ago.

And by now, all of you know the details: about how two white women from up North – Sophia Packard and Harriet Giles – came here to Atlanta to establish the Atlanta Baptist Female Seminary.

Now, we want the world to know this story. They started out in a dank church basement loaned to them by a kindly preacher named Father Quarles. And their first class had just 11 students, many of whom were former slaves.

Back then, the thought of an African



PHOTOS: JULIE YARBROUGH, C'91



Honorees Debbie Allen, Michelle Obama, and Phylicia Rashad



Former Spelman board chair Yvonne R. Jackson, C'70, (left) applauds Michelle Obama.

American woman learning to read and write was, to so many, laughable at best, impossible at worst. And plenty of people tried to dissuade Miss Packard and Miss Giles from founding this school. They said the South was too dangerous. They said that at the ages of 56 and 48, these women were too old.

But these two ladies were unmoved. As Miss Giles put it – and these are her words – they were determined to lift up “these women and girls who have never had a chance.”

It's a story that has been told and re-told, enacted and re-enacted, in every generation since the day that Spelman first opened its doors. In a time of black codes and lynching, this school was training African American women to be leaders in education, in the health professions. In a time of legalized segregation, this school was establishing math and biology departments and training a generation of Black women scientists. At a time when many workplaces were filled with not just glass ceilings, but brick walls, this school was urging Black women to become doctors, lawyers, engineers and ambassadors.

Now, that is the story of Spelman College: that unyielding presumption of promise, that presumption of brilliance, that presumption that every woman who enrolls at this school has something infinitely valuable to offer this world.

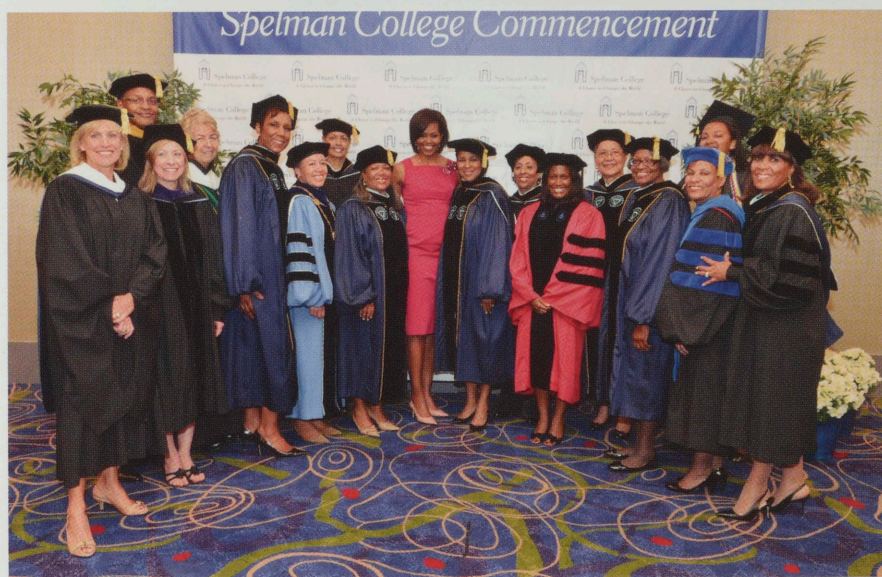
And ladies, that is now your story. That legacy is now your inheritance. And I've chosen that word inheritance very carefully, because it's not an entitlement that you can take for granted. It's not a gift with which you can do whatever you please. It is a commitment that comes with a certain set of obligations, obligations that don't end when you march through that arch today.

And that's really what I want to talk with you about this afternoon. I want to talk about the obligations that come with a Spelman education and how I believe you all might fulfill those obligations going forward. So let's go back again to those first 11 women in that church basement all those years ago. Their teachers started with nothing but a couple of Bibles, some notebooks and some pencils. When it rained, it got so damp in that church that grass started growing on the floor. Often, the stove was so smoky and the light was so poor that students could barely see their teachers. But still, week after week, more women showed up to enroll. Some walked eight or nine miles each way. Many were older, in their 30s, 40s and 50s. And often they were ridiculed. But they kept coming.

One student, a woman named Mary Ann Brooks, simply stated – and these are her words: “I spoke of going to school, and people laughed at me and said ‘You go to school? You're too old!’

“I want to talk about the obligations that come with a Spelman education and how I believe you all might fulfill those obligations going forward.”

— FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA



You're so old you'll die there.' But I told them it was just as good a place to die in as I ever wanted and I knew Miss Packard and Miss Giles would bury me, so I just came right along." Now, that spark, that spirit, that odds-defying tenacity has defined the alumnae of this school from its very first graduating class.

I mean, think about one of my heroines, Marian Wright Edelman, Class of 1960, working as a young civil rights lawyer down in Mississippi. Attorneys in judges' chambers refused to shake her hand. The sheriff locked the doors against her when she came to visit her clients in jail. She was always careful to leave the door open when she started her car in the morning. That way, if

somebody had planted a car bomb, she had a chance of being injured rather than killed. But through it all, she continued to represent her clients. She continued to resist unjust laws with every fiber of her being.

Then there's Janet Bragg, Class of 1925, who was determined to be a pilot. When she was barred from flying out of segregated airports, she worked with her flying school classmates and instructors to build their own airfield. When she was rejected from the Women Airforce Service Pilots because of her race, she enrolled in a civilian training program instead. But when she completed her training, an instructor unfairly prevented her from receiving her license, so she picked up and moved to Chicago, passed the exam and became the first African American woman to earn a commercial pilot's license. Of her experiences, she said: "There were so many things they said women couldn't do and Blacks couldn't do. Every defeat to me was a challenge."

And for six generations, that is what Spelman women have done. They have seen every defeat as a challenge. Now, did they have moments of doubt, anxiety and fear? Did they have moments of despair when they thought about giving up, or giving in? Of course they did. We all do.

And I am no exception. I mean, some of you may have grown up like me, in neighborhoods where few had the chance to go to college, where being teased for doing well in school was a fact of life, where well-meaning, but misguided folks questioned whether a girl with my background could get into a school like Princeton.

Sometimes, I'd save them the trouble and raise the questions myself, in my own head, lying awake at night, doubting whether I had what it took to succeed. And the truth is that there will always be folks out there who make assumptions about others. There will always be folks who try to raise themselves up by cutting other people down. That happens to everyone, including me, throughout their lives. But when that happens to you all, here's what I want you to do. I want you to just stop a minute. Take a deep breath, because it's going to need to be deep and I want you to think about all those women who came before you, women like those first 11 students. Think about how they didn't sit around bemoaning their lack of resources and opportunities and affirmation.

I want you to think about women like Marian Wright Edelman and Janet Bragg. They didn't go around pointing fingers and making excuses for why they couldn't win a case or soar above the horizon. They were Spelman women with the privilege of a Spelman education. And instead of focusing on what they didn't have, they focused on what they did have: their intellect, their courage, their determination, their passion.

And with few advantages and long odds, with doors closed to them and laws stacked against them, still they achieved, still they triumphed, still they carved a glorious path for themselves in this world.

And graduates, every single one of you has an obligation to do the same. You have an obligation to see each setback as a challenge and as an opportunity to learn and grow. You have an obligation to face whatever life throws your way with confidence and with hope. And don't ever let anyone get into your head, especially yourself, because if it's one thing I can promise you, it's this: With a Spelman education, you all have everything you need, right here and right now, to be everything you've ever wanted to be.

But let's be clear, the Spelman legacy isn't just about those first 11 women. And it's not just about the generations of students and alumnae who came after them. It's about everyone who believed in those women, it's about everyone who invested in those women, right from the beginning. I mean, make no mistake about it, Miss Packard, Miss Giles, they were ambitious for their students. Even as they started their classes at a first-grade level, teaching the alphabet and basic arithmetic, they had big dreams. They were planning to build a full scale liberal arts college for African American women.

I mean, think about that. They could barely afford to keep their doors open. Their students could barely read or write. But already, they were planning to build something big, a college. And in those early years, they actually rejected an offer to merge with the Atlanta Baptist Seminary, the school that eventually became Morehouse. Yep, said, "No thank you, brothers!" because this move would have — may have solved all their financial problems. But they were afraid that a coed school — their students would be treated as second-class citizens. And they weren't going to stand for that. No.

Then there was Father Quarles, the preacher who lent them his church basement. He undertook an arduous journey north to raise money for the school. And his last words to the students were: "I am going north for you. I may never return. But remember, if I die, I die for you and in a good cause." And those words turned out to be prophetic. In the end, the harsh climate was too much, and he got sick and passed away not long after.

Miss Giles, Miss Packard, Father Quarles, they weren't the only ones who believed in these students. In those early years, thousands of dollars of donations poured in from the Black community itself. I mean, these were folks who likely didn't have a dime to spare, digging deep into their wallets to support this school. See, that fierce devotion to the potential of others, that commitment to give even when you're barely getting by yourself, all of that is your legacy as well.

That is your mission now too. Your mission is to find those 11 women wherever in the world your journey may take you. Find those folks who have so much potential, but so little opportunity, and do for them what Spelman has done for you. Maybe it's a group of kids in your community. Maybe it's a struggling family at your church. And I'm not just talking about here at home. Maybe it's folks in a village or an inner city halfway around the world. Wherever you go, I guarantee you that you will find folks who have been discounted or dismissed, but who have every bit as much promise as you have. They just haven't had the chance to fulfill it. It is your obligation to bring Spelman to those folks — to bring that same presumption of value and worth, to make that same kind of sacrifice, to be as ambitious for them as Spelman has been for you. And in so doing, I can promise you that you won't just enrich their lives, you'll immeasurably enrich your own lives as well.

1ET

RAVEN

Sounds Off
On The Press,
Fans & Her
Perfect Man

Hats Off

Words of wisdom from commencement speakers to the 2011 graduates at Historically Black Colleges and Universities

"That is the story of Spelman College: that unyielding presumption of promise, that presumption of brilliance, that presumption that every woman who enrolls at this school has something infinitely valuable to offer this world. And ladies, that is now your story. That legacy is now your inheritance."
— First lady Michelle Obama
Spelman College, Atlanta



"Do not miss your time to do extraordinary things. Don't let people distract you right now. This is your opportunity to get it together."
— Atlanta Mayor M. Kasim Reed
Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, FL



FALL 2011

5



The Atlanta Journal-Constitution Monday, May 16, 2011

Metro

Westminster debate team scores national three-peat. B3

Michelle Obama visits

TRANSPORTATION
Georgia among few to measure spending

Georgia is one of just 12 states that measure the benefits of their transportation spending, according to the new Center on the States and the Brookings Foundation.

Under Gov. Sonny Perdue, the state joined the consulting group McKinsey to draft a plan showing Georgia's transportation needs and how they were served by roads. That research showed that more than 200,000 potential jobs over the next 30 years could be lost if the state did not invest more in transportation projects and better planning. *John Lee*

HIGHER EDUCATION
Texas educator to lead North Georgia College

The state Board of Regents selected Bonnie Jacobs, an administrator at the University of North Texas, to be the new president of North Georgia College & State University. She begins July 1.

Jacobs is the executive director of the National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students at the Texas college. She replaces David Foster, who is retiring. *John Lee*

Engineering schools establish consortium

Five Georgia colleges with engineering programs have formed a new consortium to promote the professions and provide the education they need on the challenges they face, officials said.

The founding members of the Georgia Consortium of Engineering Schools are Georgia Tech, Georgia Southern University, Mercer University, Southern Polytechnic State University and University of Georgia.

First lady: Your turn to repay the favor

First lady Michelle Obama receives an honorary degree of Doctor of Law at Spelman College's graduation Sunday. The commencement took place at the Georgia Interfaith Convention Center in College Park and drew 9,000 people. Some arrived as early as 11:15 a.m. for the 3 p.m. start. *Photo by Tom Tang for the AJC*

550 Spelman graduates told to 'do big things'

By Rachel Tobin
rtobin@ajc.com

First lady Michelle Obama spoke about community service, helping others and overcoming obstacles when she addressed 550 Spelman College graduates.

Graduates applaud as Michelle Obama takes the stage for Spelman's 144th commencement. As she walked in, many in the ballroom stood.

All of you already know this from your own experiences here at Spelman. Over the past four years, you all have been serving your community in every way possible: tutoring kids, bringing meals to seniors, building homes and so much more. And I can tell you from my own experience just how rewarding it can be to make this kind of work the work of your careers. Back when I was sitting right where you are, I was certain that I wanted to be a lawyer.

I knew it. So I did everything I was supposed to do. I got my law degree. I got a prestigious job at a fancy law firm. Had a nice big ol' paycheck and was finally making a dent in my student loans. My friends were impressed. My family was proud and relieved. By all appearances, I was living the dream. But all the while, I knew something was missing, because the truth is, I didn't want to be up in that tall building, alone in an office writing memos. I wanted to be on the ground, working with the folks I grew up with. I wanted to be mentoring young people. I wanted to be helping families put food on the table and a roof over their heads. I wanted to be out there giving folks the same kind of chances that I had.

So, much to the surprise of my family and friends, I left that secure, high-paying job and eventually became the executive director of a nonprofit, working to help young people get involved in public service. I was making a lot less money – a lot – and my office was a lot smaller. But I woke up every morning with a sense of

purpose and possibility. I went to work every day feeling excited because with every young person I inspired, I felt myself becoming inspired. With every community I engaged, I felt more engaged and alive than I'd felt in years. Now, I'm not saying that you have to devote your entire career to public service, though I hope that many of you will. The private sector has all kinds of meaningful, satisfying opportunities. And there is nothing wrong with taking home a nice paycheck. And many of you will need that money to help pay off your student loans and support your families. That I know. And it is vitally important that you all rise to the highest ranks of every industry and of profession. But as you climb those career ladders, just remember to reach down and pull others up behind you. That's what so many folks have done for you all. And now it is your turn to repay the favor.

Now, juggling these obligations for yourself and others won't be easy. And I know that along with the pride and joy you're feeling today, you may also be feeling some worry and some anxiety. Some of you may be worrying about getting a job or getting into grad school. Others may be wondering what it will be like to move back home with mom and dad again. And let me tell you there are plenty of moms and dads here who are wondering the same thing.

But today and every day going forward, I want you to remember one last legacy that Spelman has left you. It has left you each other. I mean, look at all these beautiful, magnificent women beside you. It is breathtaking. Think of all the connections that you have and all those experiences that you've shared – the first time you set foot on the campus during Spelbound – crying your eyes out together at the parting ceremony, sweating through the night in those un-air-conditioned freshman dorms, all those classes, convocations, Christmas concerts – ooh, and the late night conversations about some man. You all know you were doing that. You all are the keepers of each other's histories. And the bonds that you've formed here will nourish you and sustain you for the rest of your lives. Now, that is sisterhood.

And look at all these magnificent women around all of you – the alumnae of this institution who led you through that arch on Friday, cheering you on as you start your journey into the world. I'm told that back in the depths of the

recession in 2009, when many seniors here couldn't pay their tuition bills, President Tatum made an appeal to Spelman alumnae, parents and friends asking for help. And even though times were tough for everyone, enough gifts poured in to help 100 seniors graduate from Spelman that year. That is sisterhood.

And finally, think back over the years to all those who have made this day possible: Miss Giles, Miss Packard, Father Quarles and so many others. Think about all those anonymous folks who were just barely getting by themselves, but still found a way to support this school. Those folks never had the chance to get an education themselves – never – but they were determined that other young people would – even if it wasn't their daughters and their granddaughters, because, see, what you all have to understand is that hope, that yearning, that wasn't just about themselves and their own families. It was about a vision for us as a people and as a nation, where every child can develop every last bit of their God-given potential. Graduates, you are their dream come true. You are the culmination of their sacrifice, of their longing, of their love. You are part of a glorious sisterhood – past, present and future. You have a diploma that will take you places you've never even dreamed of.

And no matter what obstacles you encounter, no matter what hardships you endure, all of you have that for life. No one can ever take that away from you. And today, I want to end with some words from Tina McElroy Ansa, Spelman Class of 1971. In one of her novels, she wrote, simply: "Claim what is yours.... You belong anywhere on this earth you want to."

And graduates, if you go out there and make that claim, if you reach back to help others do the same, then I am confident that you will lead lives worthy of your dreams, and you will fulfill that precious Spelman legacy that is now yours. So congratulations, graduates, on all that you have achieved. I am so proud of you, all of you. We are so proud of you. Do big things. Thank you and God bless.

F A L L 2 0 1 1

KRISTEN JARVIS'S WHITE HOUSE BLOG

Returning to Spelman With First Lady Michelle Obama

Today, Mrs. Obama will address the 2011 graduating class of Spelman College, a historically Black liberal arts college in Atlanta for women who seek to change the world in meaningful and inspirational ways. As a graduate of Spelman and as a member of the Obamas' staff since 2004, this trip fills me with a particularly special sense of pride.

When I walked through the gates of Spelman College in 1999, I couldn't have been more excited about the world of possibilities ahead. Four years later, armed with a spectacular education and a Spelman diploma, I was ready to tackle the world. However, never in my wildest dreams did I imagine that I would be returning years later to witness such a magical moment in history: the First Lady of the United States giving the commencement address at my alma mater. And not just any First Lady, but a woman whom I am honored and grateful to work for, a woman I admire and a woman who is a role model for young women like me everywhere.

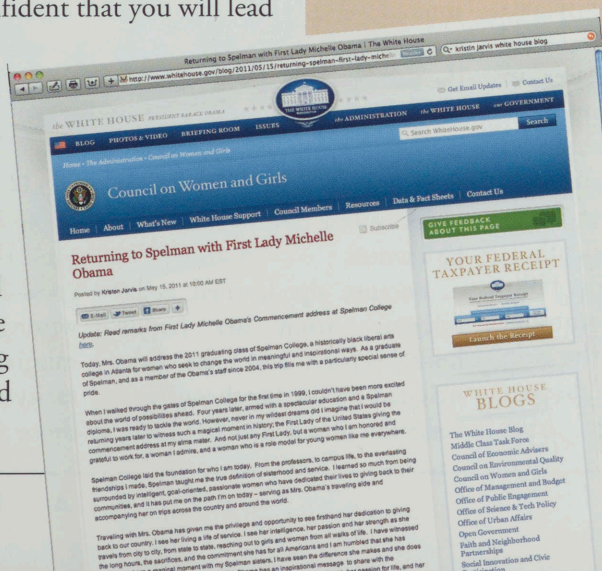
Spelman College laid the foundation for who I am today. From the professors, to campus life, to the everlasting friendships I made, Spelman taught me the true definition of sisterhood and service. I learned so much from being surrounded by intelligent, goal-oriented, passionate women who have dedicated their lives to giving back to their communities, and it has put me on the path I'm on today – serving as Mrs. Obama's traveling aide and accompanying her on trips across the country and around the world.

Traveling with Mrs. Obama has given me the privilege and opportunity to see firsthand her dedication to giving back to our country. I see her living a life of service. I see her intelligence, her passion, her strength, as she travels from city to city, from state to state, reaching out to girls and women from all walks of life. I have witnessed the long hours, the sacrifice and the commitment she has for all Americans, and I am humbled that she has chosen to share a magical moment with my Spelman sisters. I have seen the difference she makes and that she does it with such grace, intellect and character. Mrs. Obama has an inspirational message to share with the graduating class of 2011, and I am confident they, too, will be inspired by her radiance, her passion for life, and her never-ending quest to improve the lives of not only Black women, but all women.

As Mrs. Obama prepares to come to Spelman, I have a similar level of excitement and anticipation that I did on election night and inauguration day. And that's because a great woman is coming to share a moment with the Spelman sisterhood.

Spelman graduates, we are one of a kind, and there are no limitations to what we can achieve. I learned that during my time at Spelman, and I live that every day, working with Mrs. Obama. I look forward to sharing that same feeling with the graduates this afternoon.

KRISTEN JARVIS is the special assistant for scheduling and traveling aide for the First Lady. She is an alumna of Spelman College, Class of 2003.



Book Reviews

ANGELA BROWN TERRELL

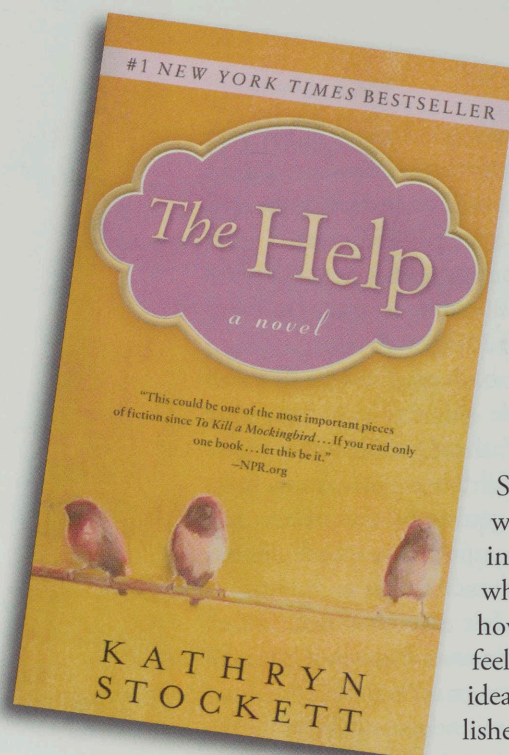
THE HELP

by Kathryn Stockett
(Penguin-Berkley)

Kathryn Stockett's novel about white Southern women and their Black maids in the turbulent 1960s is fiction, of course, but it has struck a chord of truth that has some people enthralled and others irritated.

A day in the life of Black housekeeper Aibileen goes something like this: Get up early, feed and get her children off to school, then trudge off to Miss Leefolt's house, clean up and pacify the crying baby, Mae Mobley, who can't get her mother's attention, clean the bathrooms and the kitchen and then, at her white employer's request, iron her dress, fix some chicken salad, set the dining room table, sort the napkins, clean the silverware, and prepare to answer the door and serve the visiting friends who come for lunch, cards and the latest gossip.

While Aibileen tends to her duties, the women talk as if she is invisible. She overhears them bashing her friend Minny, another maid who is always losing jobs because she dares to "mouth off" to her employers about any mistreatment – even though she's the best cook in town. But the greatest insult Aibileen has to bear silently is when the snobbish Miss Hilly won't use the guest bathroom because it is "where the help goes." As a supposed "disease-preventative measure," Miss



Hilly proposes "a bill that requires every white home to have a separate bathroom for the colored help."

And that's how the author presents the racial dilemma of Jackson, Miss., and the rest of the South in the Civil Rights era. The Jim Crow attitudes reigned supreme, and fear, pain and death awaited those who went against the grain.

Into this mix comes Skeeter, a young white woman recently graduated from college, who returns home to a mother who looks forward to her joining the status quo. And even though she hails from a society that thinks a Junior League membership and marriage into the right family is the end-all of existence, Skeeter thinks differently about what women should be doing with their lives and about racial attitudes as well. She also wants to be a writer.

Because she learned racial tolerance from her family housekeeper, and she was irritated by the luncheon conversation about maids' toilets,

Skeeter decides to write about the prevailing attitudes of the white employers and how their maids really feel about it. She sells the idea to a New York publisher and then embarks on an unpopular and improbable mission.

Since its debut in early 2010, the book has been the recipient of accolades and anger. From its best-seller status, it was made into a first-rate, critically acclaimed movie starring Viola Davis as Aibileen, Octavia Spencer as Minny and Emma Stone as Skeeter. Many have supported the book for disclosing how white employers and Black maids "really" dealt with one another: their perceptions and attitudes.

On the other hand, critics, mostly African Americans, have questioned the validity of a white Southern writer being able to give an accurate account of how Black maids felt when being forced to work in menial jobs for low wages and, too often, racist employers.

I had mixed reactions to the book. First, I thought Kathryn Stockett knows how to tell a good story and I enjoyed her writing. On the other hand, my misgivings arose about the veracity of the story set during those volatile times. Would a

book on this subject have been published in the 1960s, even by a Northern publisher? Would it have been available in the South? What would have been the consequences to Skeeter and Aibileen and the other Black women who participated in airing these unsavory intimate details of Southern life?

Certainly, when Skeeter sneaked into the Black neighborhood to hold clandestine interviews with the maids, it did not hold true that no one – white or Black – would have noticed. And Black people would have been afraid of the consequences if she had been discovered there. Everything is noticed in small towns; everybody's business is fodder for gossip or worse.

Most Black people in the United States can remember some family member or friend

who worked as a maid because there were few other opportunities in the past. They heard the tales of disrespect, working long hours and being on call at the whim of their bosses, and the aching feet and backs they suffered. And these same maids tolerated these conditions and abuse in order to feed their kids and send them to college so they could have better options.

The subject has been written about before, in novels by Black women authors including Ann Petry in 1946 (*The Street*) and Alice Childress in 1956 (*Like One of the Family*).

One of the most famous supporters of domestic workers was Dorothy Bolden of Atlanta. A former maid, the *Atlanta Magazine* in May 2006 hailed her as one of "The 45 greatest Atlantans of the last 45 years." Once arrested for dar-

ing to "talk back" to her employer, Mrs. Bolden became a staunch advocate for improving the working conditions of Black housekeepers. In 1968, she formed the National Domestic Workers Union, supporting fair wages, benefits and humane treatment, and she brought national attention to the value and importance of the work. Before she died in 2005, the organization had reported 13,000 members in 10 cities. Her daughter, Dorothy Thompson Ingram, C'73, is an assistant vice president of SunTrust Banks, Inc.

In an *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* article by Rosalind Bentley ("Black and White Atlantans Talk About *The Help*," Aug. 20, 2011), Beverly Guy-Sheftall C'66, director of the Women's Research and Resource Center of Spelman College noted that she had no problem with a white woman writing from her perspective, but added that a Black woman would be less likely to "romanticize the era."

"It's a subservient relationship whether the treatment is humane and includes material support or not. We're talking about the legacy of slavery and it has to be seen in the context of the Jim Crow South in which Black women had no rights," Dr. Guy-Sheftall said.

Patricia A. Turner, professor of African American studies and vice provost for undergraduate studies at the University of California, Davis, warns in a *New York Times* op-ed piece ("Dangerous White Stereotypes," Aug. 28, 2011) about making the mistake in thinking that only one type of white person has

racist attitudes. She adds, "It is unfair to the filmmaker and cast (of *The Help*) to expect a work of fiction to adhere to the standards of authenticity we would want from a documentary." She goes on to say that while *The Help* is good, it fails in balancing the white perspective. A balanced picture of the Civil Rights era needs to be told for the benefit of 21st century students.

Dr. Turner writes, poignantly, "I have dim recollections of watching Dr. King in 1963, with the Black maid who raised me – my mother. ... My parents, and the countless other Black Americans who not only endured but thrived within the limited occupational sphere granted them, would have been proud... but they would not have wanted us to whitewash that earlier world."

No matter your view of *The Help*, it can boast that it has stirred valuable conversations and opened up explorations into the relationships of Black and white people.

NOTE: In addition to the books mentioned by Petry and Childress, there are other books that explore the dynamics of Black maids and white employers. Here are two more, which offer different perspectives.

To Joy My Freedom: Southern Black Women's Lives and Labor After the Civil War, by Dr. Tera W. Hunter, professor of history, Princeton University. (Harvard University Press). Nonfiction.

Wench, by Dolan Perkins-Valdez, assistant professor of English, University of Puget Sound. (Amistad). Fiction.

Change begins with a whisper.

the Help



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SILVER SPARROW

by Tayari Jones

(Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill)

In this third novel by Tayari Jones, C'91, we are again magically transported into a world of reality, so unlike so-called reality shows on TV that the word is hardly descriptive.

Silver Sparrow tells a tale of family – two families, in fact – that exist on parallel levels if not equal ones. James Wither- spoon is a bigamist, with two wives, two daughters, and two homes in Atlanta. His love for two women drives him to marry each and form both a public and a secret family. Selfish or not, his indecision about love causes repercussions that affect each of the families far into the future.

The story unfolds from the viewpoint of Dana, the daughter of his “second” wife, who learns precipitously even from the tender age of five, that she has to share her father with his first wife and other daughter, Chaurisse. When she innocently draws a family picture for her kindergarten class, Dana tells the teacher that the five people in the picture are, “My family. My daddy has two wives and two girls.” When her father hears this, he makes sure Dana knows that she is the “secret” part of his conspiracy, never to let on to others who her father is.

From that time on, Dana is drawn to spying on her father's other family, comparing lifestyles and wondering if she is loved as much by him as he says, or if her half-sister is the recipient of more. She vies for her father's attention and assurance of love, while acting out her pain and jealousy in

trying to understand the whole situation. Adding to her confusion is her mother's compliance with leading a hidden life.

As the tale continues, Jones expertly relates the background events that led to this situation and its conclusions, while never apologizing for any of the characters' decisions. Each person's responsibility for the unfolding events is illustrated with precision and feeling and attests to the writer's perception and skill.

In an interview on NPR's “All Things Considered,” Jones attributed an encounter at Spelman College with then president Johnnetta Cole with awakening her interest in writing. Cole, she said, “had heard I was a writer. And she said to me, ‘How's the writing?’ ... it was like someone had touched me with a magic wand. And then I started taking my writing more seriously.”

Tayari Jones continued her education with graduate degrees from the University of Iowa and Arizona State University. She is currently at Harvard University for the 2011–2012 academic

year as a Radcliffe Institute Fellow, researching her fourth novel. Her earlier novels include *Leaving Atlanta*, about children growing up amid the child murders of the 1980s, and *The Untelling*, which explores the consequences of family tragedy and keeping secrets.

Now, through an organization called Girls Write Now that matches teen girls with writing mentors, Jones is paying back Johnnetta Cole because, she understands, mentoring “changes lives.”

MAY THY DEAR WALLS REMAIN: Memoirs of a College Minister at The Sisters Chapel at Spelman College

by Norman M. Rates, D. Min.
(Publishing Associates, Inc.)

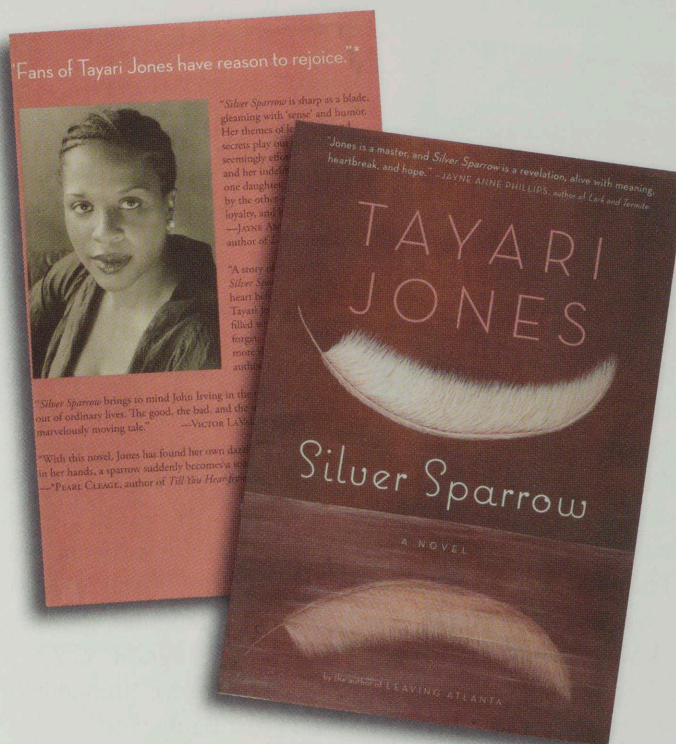
For some 48 years, anyone coming to events at Sisters Chapel on the Spelman College campus in Atlanta was sure to encounter the Rev. Norman Rates, the college

minister. Since his arrival in 1954, few could miss his smile and friendly countenance, or his joyful chuckle. For those many years he has served in various capacities from professor of religion, to college minister, to dean of the Chapel. He certainly can be deemed the “Keeper of the Faith” on the campus, as he played a prominent role in assuring that the Chapel was restored and preserved during a campaign in 2000.

Now Rev. Rates shares his countless memories of campus life from his venue of the Chapel, the Chapel's history and its role in being the center of campus life. Dedicated in 1927, the Chapel (named for the two Spelman sisters, who were the mother, Laura Spelman Rockefeller, and aunt, Lucy Maria Spelman, of benefactor John D. Rockefeller Jr.) was built to support the religious life of the campus.

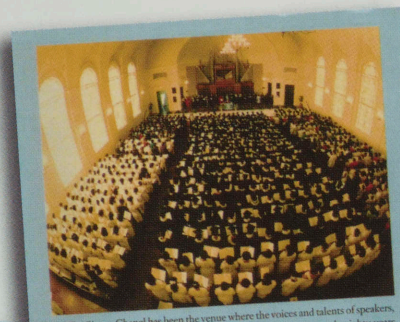
To this day, the Chapel stands – its white Grecian columns gleaming in the sunlight, its broad solid door ready to open to all those seeking wisdom, peace and solace inside.

In addition to serving students in weekly services and convocations, it hosts community events such as musical concerts, the famed Christmas Carol Concerts, dance recitals and theater productions. There have been visits by internationally and nationally prominent civil rights activists, performers, politicians and theologians, including Dr. Howard Thurman, Dr. W.E. B. Dubois, Vernon Johns, Bishop Desmond Tutu, Dr. William H. (Bill) Cosby and Camille Cosby, Dr. Benjamin Mays, the Hon. Andrew Young, Jr. and Dr. Bernice



Book Notes

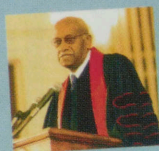
LORRAINE ROBERTSON



MAY THY DEAR WALLS REMAIN

MEMOIRS OF A COLLEGE MINISTER
AT THE SISTERS CHAPEL
SPELMAN COLLEGE
Norman M. Rates

The Sisters Chapel has been the venue where the voices and talents of speakers, and singers have resounded gloriously. In its nearly eighty years of physical changes but its aesthetic character center of one's identity with Spelman line in the Spelman Hymn. More shall never be destroyed by time and sun in the hearts and minds of all who all always be a repository of memories so man and one writer's ability to recapture



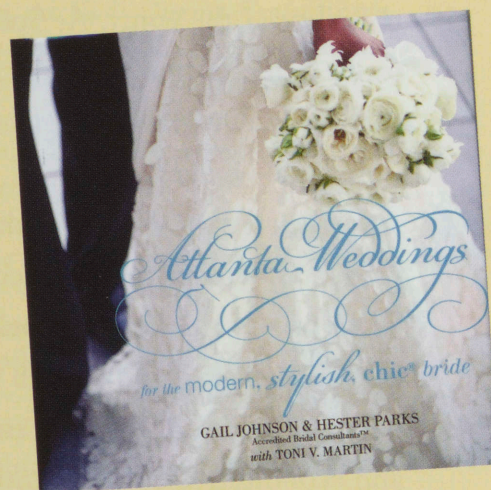
...The ensemble is the largest and most acclaimed all-female college jazz band in the country."

There is so much history packed in this memoir, it's impossible to touch on it all. One interesting portion lists the memories held by some of the alumnae, which vary from lighthearted to profound and reflect the different eras.

Rev. Rates and his wife, Laura, who raised their two daughters on campus, have been as much a part of the development of Spelman College as any of the other notable souls who have graced this campus. Spanning his tenure from 1954 to his retirement in 2002, Rev. Rates' observances recorded in this volume will give readers an inside view that will remain priceless and a testament to the College's history.

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

Delores L. McCollum, C'73, published the book, *If Bible Stories Were Reported in Today's Headlines...* (RoseDog Books), August 2010. The book is a study guide that creatively borrows from contemporary media reporting styles to imagine 21st-century "headlines" for Bible stories and verses. It presents the reader with the opportunity to search for spiritual treasures found within the pages of the Holy Bible and match Bible verses with "headlines" as they might be reported by modern media outlets. Ancient stories are paired with the news information style of 30-second sound bites, headlines, and the "we interrupt" breathlessness that are so familiar in today's world.



Gail C. Johnson, C'95, collaborated with Hester Parks, co-owner of their bridal company, Wedding Soiree, to pen the book *Atlanta Weddings for the Modern, Stylish, Chic Bride*. Published by their company January 2011, the book gives inspiration for creating flawless weddings, how-to advice and insiders' secrets in an indispensable style manual. Johnson and Parks take readers step by step, tapping the absolute best Atlanta vendors and glean insights from their own experiences. With an eye for making wedding design accessible and exciting, the book demystifies the planning process and provides tools for creating weddings that are modern, stylish and chic.

Johnson Reagon, C'70, to name just a few.

It was in Sisters Chapel where the slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. would lie in state for 48 hours as miles of mourners filed by. And in 1987, the Chapel was included in the filming of an episode of "The Cosby Show" as Hillman College. Concerts always attracted a full audience to hear the likes of Marian Anderson, Matti-wilda Dobbs, Wynton Marsalis, Sammy Davis Jr., Shirley Ver-rette, Roland Hayes, Eartha Kitt, Sweet Honey in the Rock and Arturo Toscanini, to list a sampling. Rev. Rates noted, "The Spelman College Jazz Ensemble was founded by Joseph Jennings in 1983, and it became a nationally ac-claimed women's orchestra.

Making a World of Difference

One Case *at a* Time

BY DENISE MCFALL

Lady Justice, the universal symbol of the judiciary that graces many of the nation's courthouses, is portrayed bearing the three cornerstones of the rule of law: a sword, scales and a blindfold, representing the power, objectivity and impartiality of the court. At Spelman College, however, "Lady Justice" is also an esteemed title of honor, distinction and respect, befitting every member of the elite cadre of Spelman alumnae who comprise the majority of the nation's African American female judges.

In their own way and in their respective jurisdictions, these illustrious Spelman graduates demonstrate their commitment to justice and equality, one case at a time. Their important work ensures that America, if not the world, continues on its trajectory of change and growth to maintain the fundamental liberties that are vital to due process. It is through their judicial rulings that the legal system, society, politics and economics are significantly shaped, with particular regard to the issues of race, gender, and civil and human rights.

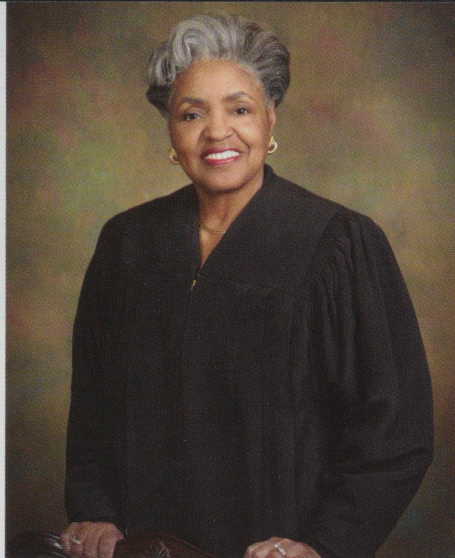
HOLDING COURT

Among Spelman's nearly two dozen judicial trailblazers are **Harriet Mitchell Murphy, C'49; Brenda Hill Cole, C'63; Bernette Joshua Johnson, C'64; Alfreda Talton-Harris, C'73; Denise S. Hartsfield, C'76; Tanya Walton Pratt, C'81; and Daphne Sykes Scott, C'85.** Their pearls of wisdom, knowledge, insight and discernment are cast throughout the nation's judicial system as they advance not only the tenets of the U.S. Constitution, but also Spelman's longstanding legacy of social justice.

Judge Murphy is an Atlanta native who has made Austin, Texas, her home since 1966. After earning a B.A. in history and government from Spelman College, she earned an M.A. from Atlanta University. In 1969, she was awarded a J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law where she was the only African American student in her law school graduating class. She later pursued further study as a fellow at Columbia University School of Advanced International Relations and Johns Hopkins University.



Harriet Mitchell Murphy, C'49



Brenda Hill Cole, C'63



Bernette Joshua Johnson, C'64

In 1973, while serving as head of the government department at Huston-Tillotson University, she was appointed to the Austin Municipal Court as the first African American woman to be appointed to a judgeship in the State of Texas. She rose to become presiding judge of this court where she adjudicated thousands of cases before her retirement in 1993.

Judge Murphy is the recipient of the prestigious Gertrude E. Rush Award, the Raymond Pace Alexander Award, the University of Texas School of Law Pioneer Award, and the Outstanding Service Award awarded by the National Bar Association – the nation's oldest and largest collective of Black lawyers, judges, law professors and law students from around the world. She was inducted into the NAASC Hall of Fame in 2003 and the National Bar Association Hall of Fame in 2010.

Judge Cole, a native of Gladewater, Texas, graduated from Spelman with a B.A. in English. She went on to earn a master's degree in library science from Atlanta University before launching her initial career as a librarian. She later earned a J.D. from Emory University and pursued a second career in law in West Virginia and Georgia. As the wife of President Emeritus Thomas W. Cole, Jr. of Clark Atlanta University, for many years she also served as first lady of that institution.

Appointed to the bench in 1998, Judge Cole was successfully re-elected to serve three additional four-year terms. Prior to being named to the bench, she served as assistant attorney general and deputy attorney general for the West Virginia Office of the Attorney General, and assistant attorney general, senior assistant attorney general, and deputy attorney general for the State of Georgia. A founding member of the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys, Judge Cole is currently a sitting judge for the Georgia State Court of Fulton County.

Justice Johnson, who served as a law intern for the United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, worked for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund after graduating from Spelman. She earned a J.D. from Louisiana State University Law Center in 1969 where she was among one of the first African American women to attend the school.

Elected to the bench in 1984, she was the first woman to serve on the Civil District Court in her hometown of New Orleans. A decade later, she was elected to the bench of the Louisiana Supreme Court. Justice Johnson, who holds an honorary doctor of laws degree from Spelman College, is a member of the National Bar Association Hall of Fame and the Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame. She currently presides as an associate justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court.

Judge Talton-Harris, who earned a B.A. in political science from Spelman, is a law school alumna of American University. Appointed to the bench in 1992, she is currently presiding judge at the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, 5th Judicial District of Virginia. Prior to being named to the bench, she was a law firm partner and a prosecutor.

Before being elected to the bench of the Forsyth County District Court in her hometown of Winston-Salem, N.C., **Judge Hartsfield** served as a judicial law clerk, staff attorney for the Legal Aid Society of Northwest North Carolina, and assistant attorney for the Forsyth County Department of Social Services and Child Support. She is also an adjunct professor at her law school alma mater, Wake Forest University School of Law, where she earned a J.D. in 1991.

A graduate of Howard University School of Law, **Judge Pratt** was elected to the Marion County Superior



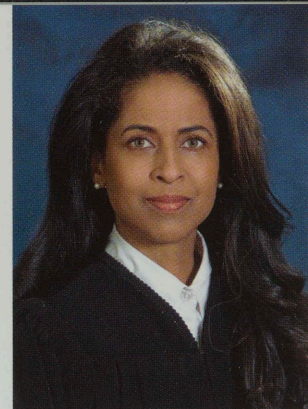
Alfreda Talton-Harris, C'73



Denise S. Hartsfield, C '76



Tanya Walton Pratt, C'81



Daphne Sykes Scott, C'85

"Make sure you are strong, ethically and professionally, and make friends in high and low positions. Even if you do not realize your goal as a judge, you will be a success."

Judge Brenda Hill Cole, C'63
State Court of Fulton County
Atlanta, Ga.

Court for six-year terms in 1996, 2002 and 2008. Before being named to the bench, she was a private practice attorney, a Marion County Superior Court public defender, and a master commissioner, Marion County Superior Court, Criminal Division 1. Judge Pratt currently chairs of the Standing Committee on Professionalism, Indianapolis Bar Association. In 2010, she was nominated by President Barack Obama to the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Indiana, and confirmed unanimously by the United States Senate. Her new position carries with it a lifetime appointment.

Judge Scott, a Compton, Calif., native, is a law school graduate of The City University of New York. She began her legal career in 1990 with the Office of the Los Angeles County District Attorney. Judge Scott later joined the Office of the Compton City Attorney as a prosecutor before serving as an assistant U.S. attorney, a law firm partner, and a private practitioner. In 2007, she joined the Office of the Orange County District Attorney and in 2010, she was appointed to the bench of the Orange County Superior Court of California by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

FAIR AND EQUAL UNDER THE LAW

Spelman alumnae judges are ever mindful that the long arm of the law carries with it the enormous responsibility to render judicial decisions that are fair, equal, effective and humane. Each of the hundreds of thousands of cases they adjudicate, therefore, carries with it the potential for substantive, meaningful and lasting change.

However, the task of upholding the law can be both challenging and daunting. "The U.S. Constitution is a living document that lends itself to contemporary society," explains Judge Talton-Harris. "Unfortunately, that means the interpretation and application of the law can

change based upon the changes in society, both good and bad . . . or one's view as to which change is good, or which change is bad."

THE COLOR OF JUSTICE

Among legal professionals of color, it is widely acknowledged that Black judges bring to the legal system a perspective that encompasses the nuances of race and culture. Although retired, Judge Murphy, who occasionally sits as a visiting judge, still believes that justice has yet to be fully realized for ethnic minorities. According to Judge Murphy: "The current jail population around the country clearly demonstrates that people of color get more convictions, less-qualified lawyers, and more biased juries than our white counterparts."

That said, Judge Murphy still acknowledges one truism: "The U.S. Constitution is a *great* document. If there is any fault, it lies in who is appointed by the president and Congress to interpret it."

Judge Hartsfield asserts that the presence of African American women on the bench is a step in the right direction. "I believe the mere presence of an African American female on the bench is a ray of hope for [Black] women to feel as though there is someone who will hear and understand their plight. It is also an inspiration for a young sister to see and witness what *can* be, in spite of what she may be facing."

MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

Spelman alumnae judges are routinely challenged by a wide range of civil and criminal cases ranging from victimless misdemeanors to litigation that focuses on voter rights, civil rights, immigration, access to healthcare, sexual harassment and the establishment of paternity. At the other end of the spectrum are cases that center on drug abuse, child abuse, sexual abuse, domestic violence and murder.

There is widespread agreement among the judges that fighting crime is ineffective without addressing the social causes of crime. During the 1970s, Justice Johnson helped organize household workers to receive Social Security benefits and a minimum wage. Today, she continues her advocacy through her involvement with the Women-in Prison Project of the National Association of Women Judges.

Judge Pratt speaks to the impact her decisions have on not only her community and the State of Indiana, but also on the national judicial landscape. For example, her recent injunctive relief findings prevented Indiana from cutting off funding to Planned Parenthood clinics to provide cancer screenings, family planning, and general health care to low-income women on Medicaid, establishing an important legal precedent.

Many of the judges feel their greatest challenge is in adjudicating cases that involve children, such as child neglect and abuse, custody battles, adoption and foster care assignments. They say litigation involving juvenile delinquency – the result of desperate economic conditions, parental neglect and a lack of education — is equally challenging, and heart wrenching.

COURTING TELEVISION

With the proliferation of courtroom reality programming, the question arises as to whether televised hearings enhance or degrade the judicial process. The unanimous consensus among Spelman alumnae judges is that although television judges are portrayed as decision makers, their primary role is to entertain. Judge Pratt believes the general public maintains a healthy dose of skepticism about courtroom reality programming. “I would hope that the public is aware that television judges are acting – that proceedings are embellished and exaggerated so as to entertain viewers and boost ratings.”

Other judges express concern about the effect courtroom television may be having on the profession. “While judges in the media may be entertaining, they often paint an unfair picture of the profession that can be harmful to litigants who represent themselves in court,” cautions Judge Scott.

“I imagine that there are some personalities on the real-life bench who are animated, witty and provocative like those on television, but I prefer to maintain a more formal and traditional atmosphere.”

GEORGIA TREND ON JUDGE WALKER

Judge Daphne M. Walker, 39

*Chief Magistrate Judge
Clayton County*

Before she became the first African American elected as a Clayton County judge, Daphne Walker began her legal career as a Fulton County domestic violence prosecutor.

She still focuses on child prostitution, human trafficking and related issues. Walker chairs the state-wide Judicial Council Task Force on Domestic Violence Courts, which aims to establish Georgia’s first two such courts in Clayton and Dade counties in 2012.

Walker has “always worked with girl leadership and development organizations,” currently as a board member with Girls Inc. of Atlanta. She sees her volunteer work as “the opposite” of her daily job as chief magistrate judge.

“Every day I put people in jail who have made some really bad choices,” she says. “So it gives me some balance when I’m able to contribute to young people who want to be active participants in our society.” — **BOBBY L. HICKMAN**



A PLACE AT THE TABLE

The road to becoming an African American female judge remains tough, yet not insurmountable. According to the American Bar Association, in 2010 women held only 26.3% of the judgeships on state courts of last resort, 19.2% of federal district court judgeships, 20.1% of federal appellate judgeships and 33.3% of the seats on the United States Supreme Court.

Words of counsel for aspiring judges range from honing one's skills in reading, writing and public speaking to being diligent, timely, respectable and dependable. Judge Murphy's recommendation: "Enter the political arena and give back to the community through volunteer service. Both will give you the opportunity to network with people who will support you if you run for a judgeship or emerge as a nominee for judicial appointment."

A SEAT ON THE BENCH

In its 222-year history an African American woman has yet to serve on the highest court in the land, the United States Supreme Court. Rest assured, however, that throughout the nation's courtrooms – in districts, municipalities, counties and states across the country – there is a host of Spelman alumnae judges, each of them competent, compassionate and committed to social justice. Individually and collectively, they are dedicating their lives to building on the Spelman legacy by helping America fulfill its promise to become a more perfect union with equal protection under the law.

DENISE MCFALL is a contributor to the *Spelman Messenger* and a national freelance writer of articles related to higher education, race and gender, politics and the arts.

Spelman College Alumnae Judges

Editor's Note: *The following roster of alumnae judges reflects an ongoing Spelman legacy. Although this list may not be comprehensive, it is a strong indicator of what Spelman has contributed to the judicial arena that, ultimately, has shaped and will continue to shape our world.*

Name	Class Year	Residence	Jurisdiction/Court
Romae Turner Powell	C'47	Atlanta, Ga.	Fulton County Juvenile Court (<i>deceased</i>)
Harriet Mitchell Murphy	C'49	Austin, Texas.	Austin Municipal Court (<i>retired</i>)
Brenda Hill Cole	C'63	Atlanta, Ga.	State Court of Fulton County
Bernette Joshua Johnson	C'64	New Orleans, La.	State of Louisiana Supreme Court
Ernestine Steward Gray	C'68	New Orleans, La.	Orleans Parish Juvenile Court
Savannah Potter-Miller	C'68	Atlanta, Ga.	Administrative Law (<i>former</i>)
Alfreda Talton-Harris	C'73	Franklin, Va.	Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
Carole Catlin Smitherman	C'73	Birmingham, Ala.	Birmingham Municipal and 10th Judicial Court (<i>former</i>)
Patrice A. Hinnant	C'74	Greensboro, N.C.	Guilford County Superior Court
Sandra Farragut-Hemphill	C'75	Florissant, Mo.	St. Louis County Circuit Court
Denise S. Hartsfield	C'76	Winston-Salem, N.C.	Forsyth County District Court
Zinora Mitchell-Rankin	C'76	Washington, D.C.	Superior Court, District of Columbia
Jennifer Peters Wilson	C'77	Conway, S.C.	Myrtle Beach Municipal Court
Genece Evette Brinkley	C'78	Philadelphia, Pa.	Court of Common Pleas, 1st Judicial District
Denise Marshall	C'78	Albany, Ga.	Albany-Dougherty County Superior Court
Tanya Walton Pratt	C'81	Indianapolis, Ind.	U.S. District Court, Southern District of Indiana
Daphne Sykes Scott	C'85	Lake Forest, Calif.	Orange County Superior Court
Melynee Leftridge	C'88	Atlanta, Ga.	State Court of Fulton County
Geronda Vertasha Carter	C'93	Jonesboro, Ga.	Clayton County Superior Court
Daphne Melinda Walker	C'94	Fayetteville, Ga.	Magistrate Court of Clayton County
Laurel Anne Beatty	C'96	Columbus, Ohio	Franklin County Court of Common Pleas

Change. Means. Action.

The Campaign for Spelman College

News

FALL 2011

Reaching \$100M...

The Campaign for Spelman Pushes Toward Goal

Thanks to the commitment and generosity of donors to Spelman, the College has passed the \$100 million mark in The Campaign for Spelman College and is off to a great start in securing the remaining \$50 million. The funds raised support faculty and academic programs, campus environment, the College's annual fund, and scholarships.

With more than 80 percent of our students meeting federal guidelines for financial aid and nearly 50 percent being Pell-grant eligible (with an average household income below \$40,000), contributions to scholarship funding are critical. Just ask Sequoia Boone, C'2013.

The first in her family to attend college, Boone was able to complete her first year at Spelman because of several scholarships she received from her high school foundation and sororities. "I always wanted to come to Spelman. But my mom and dad couldn't afford to send me," said the chemistry/pre-med major from Baltimore who plans a career as a neonatal nurse. "My second year here was very stressful – working two jobs on campus to try to stay in school. When I went home on Christmas break, I didn't think I was coming back."

Boone is the recipient of scholarship assistance from the President's Safety Net Fund, created in 2008 to assist students who were impacted by the credit crunch precipitated by the economic downturn.

"Our vision for the campaign is to enhance the educational opportunity for every Spelman student scholar, and we've made significant progress toward our goal of raising \$150 million," said Cassandra Kimbriel Jolley, vice president, institu-

tional advancement. "To produce forward-thinking, socially conscious change agents, we need the continued investment of each and every member of the Spelman community, including alumnae, parents and friends."

Along with supporting scholarships, there are numerous other ways that gifts from contributors during the campaign have allowed Spelman to uphold its reputation as a leading national liberal arts college for women. More students have been able to travel abroad; faculty and students have had more research opportunities; important campus initiatives such as the endowment for the Women's Research and Resource Center and support for the Spelman College Museum of Fine Art have flourished; and the institution



was able to break ground on the renovation of Laura Spelman Rockefeller Hall, which will meet the LEED national sustainability standard.

These achievements are even more important because they were attained in great part through the increase in alumnae participation, which has nearly doubled from 21 percent to 41 percent since the 2004 campaign launch. This participation supports the campaign goals, which are aligned with Spelman's 2015 strategic plan. Campaign priorities include providing access to a global education for every deserving young woman as well as the financial means to support their journey. Other primary objectives are to attract and retain exceptional students, foster leadership, expand undergraduate research and career-related internships, enhance the College's alumnae connections, and increase service learning.

Action By the Goals

Global engagement

Three students participated in the Creative Minds program at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival in France in May.

Opportunities for internships

In 2010–2011, the first 11 Catholic Healthcare West Scholars for Healthcare received support in the form of scholarships, internships, international service trips, and research and conference opportunities.

Alumnae connections

Students gained valuable perspective from alumnae who are luminaries in the art industry in Alumnae Success Stories, a panel produced in October by the department of art and art history.

Leadership development

Alexandria Phillips, C'2012, served as a Haiti Team intern at the Clinton Foundation this summer and as a Clinton Global Initiative intern and Whisper Room logistics assistant responsible for event operations at the 2011 CGI Annual Meeting in September.

Service learning

Over the past year, seven Bonner Scholars mentored 200 children about sustainability at several elementary schools through a partnership with Greening Youth Foundation, an environmental organization owned by Angelou Ezelio, C'92.

For more information about The Campaign for Spelman College, please visit www.changemeansaction.com or contact the Office of Development at (866) 512-1690.

Challenge Grants Fund Leadership Goals

Spelman has received support from several organizations in the form of challenge grants, which enable the College to maintain leadership through the goals of the Strategic Plan for 2015 in the areas of sustainability, diversity and faculty development.

Kresge Foundation Supports Sustainability

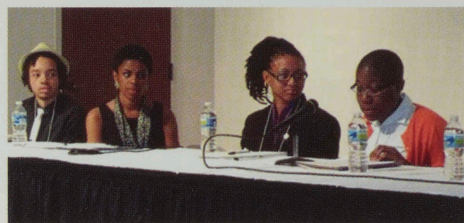
A \$500,000 challenge grant from The Kresge Foundation moves Spelman College closer to its goal of turning Laura Spelman Rockefeller Hall, one of the oldest buildings on campus, into an energy-efficient green building. Creating community excitement to spur growth of the College's donor base, this grant helps stimulate efforts to secure the remaining \$1.7 million needed to complete the total \$9.9 million Laura Spelman renovations.



Spelman was the only organization to receive a challenge grant for a capital project this year from Kresge. The grant reflects the foundation's Education Program to strengthen institutions.

"This grant will enable us to attract other donors to support the intellectual and co-curricular activity that takes place in our living-learning communities at Spelman," said Kassandra Kimbriel Jolley, vice president for Institutional Advancement at Spelman.

The renovation of Laura Spelman is designed to achieve the national sustainability standard LEED Silver Certification, including a more comfortable residential space with ethernet/Wi-Fi access. While the 24-hour study commons exclusively for Spelman students has been named the Yvonne R. Jackson Academic Resource Center in honor of Spelman's former board chair, there are numerous other naming opportunities for spaces, such as the grand foyer, study and lounge areas, an exercise room and a psychology lab, as well as a technology conference room.



Women's Center Leads in Diversity

The Women's Research and Resource Center is the preeminent center for Black feminist thought leadership. The development of the center, known for its diverse scholarship and programs, is supported by a \$1 million Ford Foundation Endowment Challenge grant. With nearly \$650,000 already raised, the Women's Center board members have been actively involved in fund-raising, hosting events at their homes, embarking on specific campaigns tied to affinity groups.

Gifts toward the Ford challenge grant directly support the Women's Center's ground-breaking academic research and programs around diverse topics and populations. In March 2011, the center celebrated the 11th anniversary of the student-organized Toni Cade Bambara Conference, and in April 2011, under the auspices of Digital Moving Image Salon, it hosted the Seventh Annual Student Documentary Showcase. During the upcoming academic years (2011-12 and 2012-13), the center will partner with the Teaching Resource and Research Center to launch two new faculty development seminars, one on gender and the other on sexuality in Black communities.

The Audre Lorde Black Lesbian Feminist Project, funded by the Arcus Foundation, is particularly important for the Women's Center as this four-year project culminated with a historic summit in April 2011 that focused on "Facilitating Campus Climates of Pluralism, Inclusivity and Progressive Change at HBCUs." The event was the first time that historically Black colleges and universities have convened in a national symposium to discuss lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer issues on any HBCU campus.

"We are committed to facilitating climates of institutional change at HBCUs that acknowledge, value and respect difference," said Dr. Beverly Guy-Sheftall, the WRRRC founding director and the Anna Julia Cooper Professor of Women's Studies.

Mellon Grant Strengthens Faculty Development

Nearly \$4 million has been secured in gifts and pledges toward the \$9 million that will result in a \$3 million Mellon Foundation grant. The grant, as well as the funds from the 3:1 matching gift component, will provide budgetary support for six current faculty positions in the computer science department.

With approximately one-third of Spelman students majoring in science, technology, engineering and/or mathematics (STEM), Spelman is consistently recognized as the leading producer of African American women who go on to earn doctoral degrees



in mathematics and/or the sciences. Carmen Sidbury, Ph.D., recently named as the associate provost for research and resources, is responsible for developing multidisciplinary collaborations and securing opportunities and resources to support research initiatives for faculty and students in the STEM programs, including the department of computer science.

"The Mellon Challenge grant, when matched for CIS, will ensure that we can retain our best faculty and have opportunities for future growth," said Johnnella Butler, provost and vice president for academic affairs. "Strong, well-supported faculty are the wellspring of student success, and Mellon and matching donors are providing a tremendous opportunity for Spelman to ensure that success."

The Mellon match will also provide budgetary support for three faculty positions in the African Diaspora and the World program. During the 2010-11 academic year, the College hired an endowed full-time, tenure-track faculty member to teach ADW.

Spelman Leads the Way

Steve and Marjorie Harvey Establish \$1M Endowed Scholarship

A conversation that Steve and Marjorie Harvey had with a special Spelman student led them to establish a \$1 million en-

dowed scholarship at the College in May of 2010. The scholarship provides financial assistance for juniors and seniors who are struggling to pay tuition and related educational expenses due to depleted financial resources.

Marjorie Harvey shares how the Spelman experience of her daughter, Morgan Townsend, C'2009, inspired the couple's generous support:

What was it about Spelman that made you choose this institution to launch the Steve and Marjorie Harvey Endowed Scholarship? My daughter Morgan attended Spelman College and received an amazing education. She made lasting relationships and friendships, and we have all seen the positive impact that it has had on her as a young woman, both personally and in her blossoming professional career.

How did your personal connection to Spelman affect your decision to make such a gift to the College?

While she was a student at Spelman, Morgan noticed that there were many girls who started school with her that could not complete their education due to a lack of personal funding. To not be able to obtain a degree from this institution when you are putting in the hard work, only because of a lack of personal funding, is heart-wrenching. And my husband and I felt that it was our responsibility to do our part in not only helping our own children to succeed, but also to help someone else in our "village" to fulfill their dream of graduating from Spelman College as well. We decided that creating a scholarship for students in this predicament was the necessary thing to do.

How do you envision your gift helping Spelman students?

The purpose of this scholarship is to help a young woman to be able to finish one of the most important milestones in her life. Education is so paramount to success. We believe that financial assistance is pivotal. We want students to be able to focus on attaining a wonderful education and not worry about the massive amount of debt they are incurring for trying to better their futures.

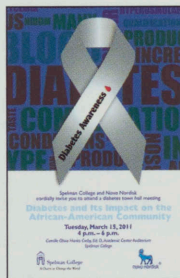
What is the impact of such a contribution on your own lives?

One of our greatest joys was receiving "thank you" letters from the recipients of our scholarship the first year that it was put in place. The young women were so overjoyed that they could continue to be students at this amazing institution. Helping those young ladies make it to graduation day is the ultimate gift for us.

NEWS BRIEFS

Novo Nordisk Supports Health Careers and Diabetes Education

Thanks to a \$25,000 gift from Novo Nordisk, a focused healthcare company and world leader in diabetes care, Spelman was able to host a town hall discussion about diabetes. Featuring doctors, student health leaders, and diabetes educators and innovators, the event informed the audience about diabetes in the African American community and empowered them to lead more healthy lives. "Novo Nordisk, Inc. was honored to partner and participate in the Diabetes Town Hall held at Spelman College," said Albert Vicario, the company's regional business director. "This event provided a way for students from Clark Atlanta, Morehouse and Spelman, as well as people from the Atlanta Metropolitan area to be involved and address the disparity of diabetes that exists among African Americans."



Strong Student/Faculty Connections Build Legacies

The connection between a Spelman student and a dedicated professor can produce a ripple effect that allows other students to experience the College's educational excellence. The relationship between Dr. Kyendria Banks, C'95, and Dr. Jann Patrice Primus, C'81, an associate professor of biology, led Dr. Banks to financially support the Jann Patrice Primus Scholarship.

"Dr. Primus had such an impact on my education, both at Spelman College and during my first two years in medical school," said Dr. Banks of Dr. Primus, whose named scholarship supports juniors and seniors majoring in biology, biochemistry or those interested in biological research. "She was a magnificent teacher who inspired greatness from her students. Dr. Primus taught with passion for the subject matter and about inspiring young African American women to be scientists and physicians."

The daughter of parents who attended historically Black colleges, Dr. Banks understands the importance of giving back. "My parents stressed the importance of making financial contributions to the schools we attended. My time at Spelman College had a profound effect on my life. I believe it's important to give back with my time and my wallet," said Dr. Banks, a pediatrician in Griffin, Ga., who wants to share with others the inspiration Dr. Primus gave her.

"I hope the recipients of the Jann Patrice Primus Scholarship will continue the legacy of being an African American woman in the science field and that they will become so inspired by attending Spelman College that they, too, will inspire other women to reach greatness."



Dr. Kyendria Banks, C'95

Correction

Dr. Nicole LaBeach, C'93, was inaccurately identified in a photo in the Spring 2011 issue. We regret any confusion the misidentification may have caused.

Giving Opportunities – Scholarships

Spelman is producing leaders, from students who are creating award-winning iPhone apps to those documenting human rights and social justice movements on film. Many of these gifted young women are among the nearly 50 percent who are Pell Grant eligible, meaning they typically have a family income of less than \$40,000. Because Spelman for the most part can meet only 25 percent of all student financial needs, our young women often must take on debt to finance their education. Continuing credit restrictions keeping doors of opportunity shuttered are forcing many students to drop out or postpone their education.

Spelman's ability to continue to attract and retain the most talented young women is directly related to our ability to compete with other top liberal arts institutions in providing scholarships and financial assistance. Our capacity to meet students' financial needs over the course of their undergraduate careers is of paramount importance. Giving opportunities include:

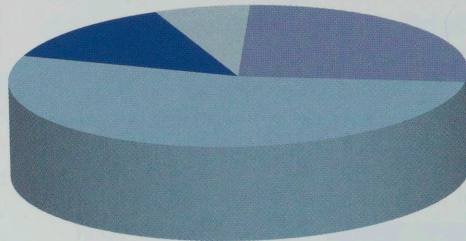
- Named endowed funds start at \$50,000
- Named current use/annual scholarships start at \$5,000 (minimum three-year funding commitment preferred)
- Gifts to the President's Safety Net Fund, an opportunity to directly support sophomores, juniors and seniors in need, encouraged at \$1,000 and above
- General scholarship gifts encouraged at \$1,000 and above (five-year commitment preferred)

For more information about The Campaign for Spelman College, please visit www.changemeansaction.com or contact the Office of Development at (866) 512-1690.

Goal by Priority

Goal: \$150 Million

Total Raised: \$104.5 Million



Scholarships

\$80 Million (53%) - Total Raised: \$37.9 Million

Faculty and Academic Programs

\$40 Million (27%) - Total Raised: \$36 Million

Campus Environment

\$10 Million (7%) - Total Raised: \$9.5 Million

Annual Fund

\$20 Million (13%) - Total Raised: \$20 Million

Data as of October 31, 2011

The Campaign for Spelman College Donor List

www.changemeansaction.com

Spelman College gratefully acknowledges the following contributors for providing a solid foundation of support for The Campaign for Spelman College. Recognition period, July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2011.

\$20,000,000 and above

Ronda E. Stryker and William Johnston

\$5,000,000—\$9,999,999

Theodore and Barbara Aronson
Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation
United Negro College Fund, Inc./UNCF
Special Programs Corporation

\$1,000,000—\$4,999,999

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
Anonymous
Bank of New York Mellon
Catholic Healthcare West
Jerri L. DeVard, C'79
ExxonMobil Foundation/ExxonMobil Corporation
Ford Foundation
Marjorie and Steve Harvey/Harvey Family Foundation
Howard Hughes Medical Institute
Lehman Brothers, Inc.
Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation, Inc.
New York Chapter, National Alumnae Association of Spelman College
Paula Caruthers Renfro, C'74
Bradley Sheares and Adrienne Simmons
The Coca-Cola Foundation/The Coca-Cola Company/
Coca-Cola Refreshments

\$500,000—\$999,999

Anonymous
Arcus Foundation
Atlantic Philanthropies
Anne Cox Chambers
Kimberly Browne Davis, C'81
Delta Air Lines Foundation/ Delta Air Lines, Inc.
Estate of Cherie Stawasz
George Link, Jr. Foundation, Inc.
JP Morgan Chase Foundation/JP Morgan

Chase
Pfizer Foundation/Pfizer, Inc.
Southern Education Foundation, Inc.
Jon Stryker
The Kresge Foundation
The Riversville Foundation
Eleanor Williams Traylor

\$250,000—\$499,999

AT&T Foundation/AT&T, Inc.
Ruth Etta Baines, C'57
Cracker Barrel Old Country Store, Inc.
David, Helen & Marian Woodward Fund
Robert Holland, Jr. and Barbara Holland
John K. Hurley
Yvonne R. Jackson, C'70
Lilly Endowment, Inc.
Morgan Stanley & Company
Vicki R. Palmer
Beverly Daniel Tatum and Travis T. Tatum
The David Geffen Foundation
The Starr Foundation
Tull Charitable Foundation
United Parcel Service/UPS Foundation, Inc.
Walmart Foundation/Walmart
George T. Wein
Xerox Corporation/Xerox Foundation

\$100,000—\$249,999

Anonymous (2)
Abrams Foundation, Inc.
Associated Colleges of the South (new)
Arthur Vining Davis Foundations
Atlanta Journal and Constitution
Jacqueline A. and Clarence Avant
BMW of North America, Inc.
Jean Beard
Bernard Osher Foundation
Boeing Company
Rosaling Gates Brewer, C'84
Cummins Foundation /Cummins, Inc.
Emory University
Empire Office, Inc.
Velda Givens Erie
Estate of Jennie Marshall
Estate of Ida Peterson, C'46
Federated Corporate Services, Inc.

General Motors
Georgia Power Company, Inc.
Goldman, Sachs & Company
Google, Inc.
Honeywell, Inc.
IBM International Foundation/IBM Corporation
Institute for Higher Education Policy
Rose Harris Johnson, C'57 and Robert Johnson
Terry L. and Marcella Jones
Merck Partnership for Giving
Merrill Lynch & Company Foundation, Inc./Merrill Lynch
National Alumnae Association of Spelman College
Gwendolyn and Peter Norton
PepsiCo Foundation, Inc.
Publix Supermarkets
R. Howard Dobbs, Jr. Foundation, Inc.
SunTrust Bank Foundation and Trustee Foundations
Florence & Harry English Memorial Fund
Harriet McDaniel Marshall Trust
The Falcon Fund
The Hearst Foundations, Inc.
The Home Depot Foundation
The Isambard Kingdom Brunel Society of North America
The Rich Foundation, Inc.
The Vasser Wolley Foundation, Inc.
The Thomas J. Watson Foundation
Eleanor Williams Traylor, C'55
Isabella McIntyre Tobin, C'45 (dec.)
UBS Financial Services, Inc./UBS Investment Bank
Verizon Foundation/Verizon

\$50,000—\$99,999

Eloise Abernathy Alexis, C'86
AGL Resources, Inc.
Anne Ashmore-Hudson, C'63
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra
Bank of America Foundation/Bank of America
Boehringer Ingelheim Cares Foundation, Inc.
Janine Brown

Joy San Walker Brown, C'52
Bush Foundation
Cambridge Academic Group
Charles A. Frueauff Foundation, Inc.
Kaye Foster-Cheek
Ruby Handspike Clay, C'54
Alice Gaston Combs, C'53 and Julius V. Combs
Pauline E. Drake, C'58
Electronic Arts, Inc.
Energy Systems Group
Estate of Maude Gaines
Fuller E. Callaway Foundation
Fund for Southern Communities
General Electric Company
Georgia-Pacific Foundation/Georgia-Pacific Corporation
Marcelite Jordan Harris, C'64
Jack and Jill of America Foundation, Inc.
John and Rosemary Brown Family Foundation
LaTanya Richardson Jackson, C'74
Darnita R. Killian, C'79
Bernice A. King, C'85
Theodora Rochelle Lee, C'84
Limited Brands Foundation
Winnie & Henry Loftin Trust
Lorraine Thomas Trust
Macy's
Mary Allen Lindsey Branan Foundation
Rick and Anna Mills
David and Joyce Price
Procter & Gamble
Prudential Financial/The Prudential Foundation
Anne Roosevelt
Rosenthal & Company LLC
San Antonio Area Foundation
Grace McKivay Scipio, C'46
Jonathan Smith and Sherrill Blalock
Colleen Janessa Taylor, C'90
The Community Foundation For Greater Atlanta, Inc.
The Getty Foundation
The Kendeda Fund
The Henry Luce Foundation
The Philanthropic Collaborative, Inc.
The Teagle Foundation
Jesse and Cheryl Tyson
US Bank National Association

Nicole Yvonne Venable, C'91
Alice M. Walker, C'65
Josie Latimer Williams, C'47 (dec.)

\$25,000—\$49,999
American Family Mutual Insurance Company

Annexstad Family Foundation
Gena Hudgins Ashe, C'83
Claire Lewis "Yum" Arnold
Sandra Baccus
Ernestine Walker Baylor, C'49 (dec.)
J. Veronica Williams Biggins, C'68
Juel Pate Borders-Benson, C'54
Carrie Buggs, C'56
A. Toy Caldwell-Colbert, C'73 (dec.)
Bonnie S. Carter, C'89
Janice Chappelle, C'65 (dec.)
Laura and Richard Chasin
Chick-Fil-A, Inc.
ConocoPhillips
Camille O. Cosby
William H. Cosby, Jr.
Angela Birch Cox, C'81
Mary Lynne Diggs, C'77
Lisa Egbuonu-Davis
Danyale Price Dumas, C'91
Estate of Loyce Bynum
Estate of Charles Hicks
Estate of Dianne H. McDonald, C'33
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Johnnie Hunter Foxworth, C'43
Frances Wood Wilson Foundation, Inc.
Jean McArthur Grant, C'53
Nina Echols Greenwood, C'85
June Gary Hopps, C'60
Edith Jackson-Hunter, C'63
Cynthia E. Jackson, C'81
Kelly-Ann Iola Henry
Ida Alice Ryan Charitable Trust
John Wieland Homes, Inc.
Edgar J. Johnson
Ralph L. and Davida Johnson
Virginia Harris Johnson, C'58
Kassandra Kimbriel Jolley
Key Foundation
KeyBank Foundation/KeyBank
Kimberly Clark Corporation
Martin Luther King, III

Lockheed Martin Aeronautical System
Adrienne Lance Lucas, C'90
Traci Hartfield McKie, C'89
Susan A. McLaughlin
Merchants National Properties, Inc.
Charles E. Merrill, Jr.
Microsoft Corporation
National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education
Northern New Jersey Chapter, NAASC
Novo Nordisk, Inc.
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Panasonic Corporation of North America
Willie Mae Pearson-Butler, C'49
Sarah Peter
Pitney Bowes, Inc.
Anna Kathryn Ponder, C'86
Helen Smith Price, C'79
Robert W. Woodruff Library of the Atlanta University Center
Jacqueline Jones Royster, C'70
Loretta Twyman Russell, C'83
ScholarshipAmerica
Donna M. Stafford, C'86
David N. Sundwall
SunTrust Bank
Target Stores
Kathleen Mavis Tait, C'88
The Chrysler Foundation
The Liman Foundation
Theobald Foundation
Andrea Abrams Turner
Kathy N. Waller
Celeste Watkins-Hayes, C'96
Valerie Rockefeller Wayne
Trojanell B. Wilson, C'74 and Brent Wilson
Yum! Brands Foundation

Giving levels reflect Campaign gift commitments received during the period July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2011.

Alumnae Notes

“Do not wait for leaders;
do it alone,
person to person.”

— MOTHER TERESA

1942

Georgia Dickens

Professional: Honored for her years of dedicated service to the citizens of Fulton County by the High Museum of Art and the Fulton County Board of Commissioners at a tribute on July 2, 2011, at the High Museum of Art in Atlanta.

1948

Christine King Farris

Professional: Spoke at the Women's Division Celebration at Antioch Baptist Church North on March 27, 2011, in Atlanta.

1956

Alexine Clement Jackson

Professional: Recognized at the Gala Benefit Dinner Honoring 21 Leaders for 21st Century 2011 in May 2011, at the Jumeirah Essex House in New York City.

1969

Carolynne Williams

Professional: Participated in the Annual Seven Women at the Cross Lenten Worship Service on April 20, 2011, in Sisters Chapel.

1971

Beverly Brown Shaw

Professional: Named transitional pastor for Emmanuel Lutheran Church effective December 1, 2010. She is the first female to lead the congregation.

1975

Deborah Prothrow-Stith

Professional: Participated in Morehouse College's Founders Day Week. On February 18, 2011, she took part in the 3rd Annual Black Male Summit that examined the theme "Boys to Men: Interrogating Assumptions About Black Male Development."

1979

Cassandra Aline Jones

Professional: Served as guest professor at two theological seminars in Wenzhou and Yiwu, China, in May 2011, through the organization "Theologians Without Borders." Since graduating from Spelman she has traveled and served in educational missions in 56 countries around the world.

1980

Wendie Ann Willis

Education: Received her doctor of philosophy in higher education administration from the College and Graduate School of Education, Health and Human Services of Kent State University on December 16, 2010, in Kent, Ohio.

1981

Ramona Hill

Professional: Named vice president for enrollment management at Spring Hill College in Mobile, Ala. She is responsible for admissions, financial aid and student success initiatives and will continue her management responsibilities for graduate and continuing studies.

Sheron C. Patterson

Professional: Preached at the Sisters Chapel Worship Service on March 27, 2011, cosponsored by the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College, Atlanta Chapter.

1982

Arita R. Edwards

Professional: Sworn in as an officer of the court and court appointed special advocate (CASA) to represent the best interests of abused and neglected children in the Santa Barbara County Juvenile Court in California on June 9, 2011.

Natasha Rowland

Professional: Received commendation from the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Kathleen Sebelius, in recognition of dedication, professionalism and initiative in furthering the goals of the HITECH Act through the expeditious award of contracts and the issuance of regulations to benefit our health care system in June 2010.

1983

Shawnee Daniels-Sykes

Professional: Elected to the faculty executive board at Mount Mary College; and selected as an external reviewer for the Institute for Catholic Bioethics at Saint Joseph University, Philadelphia.

Michelle Fielder

Professional: Presented with the Girls Scouts Heart of New Jersey Outstanding Volunteer Award on May 23, 2011, in Watchung, N.J.

1985

Brenna DeLaine

Education: Received her master's degree in business administration from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in May 2010.

1987

Ann-Maria Rice

Professional: Named #1 Sales Person in National Fast Break Contest: Time Warner Cable, in 2010.

1988

Mia Fuse Chidebelu-Eze

Education: Received her master's degree in business administration from Ashford University in November 2010.

Melvina Lloyd

Professional: Promoted to vice president, housing investments, JPMorgan Capital Corporation, on January 21, 2011.

Subriana Pierce

Professional: Named as one of The Network Journal's "25 Influential Black Women in Business 2011."

1989

Terri Davis

Professional: Appointed executive director of Rutgers Business School – Newark and New Brunswick's Scholars Training and Enrichment Program, announced in April 2011.

Jacqueline Jenkins

Professional: Named as one of The Network Journal's "25 Influential Black Women in Business 2011."

Alonia Jernigan

Professional: Served as the keynote speaker for Women's Day at Greater Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Atlanta, on May 22, 2011. The day before, May 21, she presented her own live DVD recording at the Burgess Peterson Academy in Atlanta.

1990

Tonya Austin-Braxton

Married: A. Thomas Austin-Braxton on October 9, 2010, at the Pristine Chapel in Atlanta.

Mary Brown

Professional: Joined the Richmond Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau's Sales and Service team in July 2011.

Sabrina Finney

Professional: Promoted to associate program director of family medicine program at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tenn., on June 1, 2011.

Adrienne Lance Lucas

Professional: Participated in Voorhees College Annual Honors Day Convocation on March 31, 2011 in Denmark, S.C.

1991

Rita Sinkfield Belin

Professional: Promoted to counsel at the law firm Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, in New York City, in May 2011.

Tayari Jones

Professional: Held a series of readings and signings for her novel, *Silver Sparrow*, in Atlanta and Decatur, Ga, June 8–12, 2011.

1992

Hillary Gaskins

Professional: Completed a fellowship in integrative medicine under Dr. Andrew Weil at the University of Arizona – Tucson, in June 2011.

Francesca (Toni) Herron

Married: Mark Savage on October 30, 2010, in Chicago.

1993

Elyce Strong

Married: Seith Mann, Morehouse C'95, on April 3, 2010, in Atlanta.

Maricia Woodham

Professional: Promoted to administrative law judge with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on January 3, 2011.

1994

Watechia Lawless

Professional: Minority Business Coordinator of the Year; INROADS Alumnus of the Year and 2011 Teacher of the Year in Nashville, Tenn.

Leah Taylor

Married: Anthony C. Taylor on December 31, 2010, at the Texas State Capitol in Austin.

Chrystal Williams

Professional: Promoted to vice president, IP Strategy, at American Express in New York in May 2011. She will help develop strategies to commercialize and license American Express intellectual property as well as support the launch and operation of the company's new Intellectual Property Zone through marketing, business development and relationship management.

1995

Loren Compton-Williams

Professional: Director at Kuramo Capital Management in New York City; an investment fund which focuses on private equity growth opportunities in Sub-Saharan Africa.

1996

Jill Kelly

Education: Received her doctor of medicine degree from The David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA on June 3, 2011. She is continuing with her residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Md.

Binta Robinson

Education: Passed the Washington D.C. Bar and the New Jersey Bar in 2011.

Talitha Washington

Professional: Featured at The Department of Mathematics Seventh Annual Etta Z. Falconer Mathematics Lecture: "Axioms for Success, a Spelman Woman's Mathematical Journey" on April 19, 2011, in the Science Center NASA Auditorium at Spelman College.

1997

Christina Bennett

Married: Todd Amato on November 13, 2010 in Orlando, Fla.

Tasha Deen-Pettaway

Birth: Son, Nicholas Edward Pettaway, born on April 17, 2011.

Leah Gray

Professional: Opened an optometry practice, Visions Family Eye Care & Optical Boutique, in the Raleigh area of Memphis, Tenn., in November 2010.

1998

Stephanie Cunningham

Birth: Son, Logan Alexander Cunningham, born on May 27, 2010.

1999

Jennifer Haile

Education: Graduated from University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law in Memphis, Tenn., in May 2011.

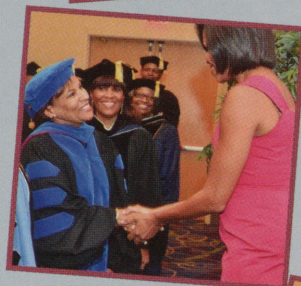
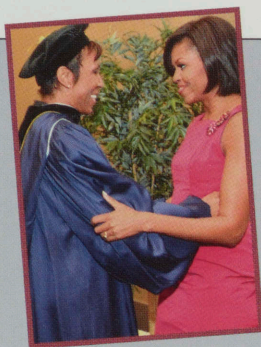
Kelly Morgan

Birth: Daughter, Malia Noelani, born on January 21, 2011.

Take Note!



Authors Pearl Cleage, C'71, and Tayari Jones, C'91, were both featured in *Essence* magazine, May 2011, in the "News & Culture" section for their latest literary contributions. Both books, Cleage's *Just Wanna Testify* and Jones' *Silver Sparrow*, were chosen as Patrik's Picks. Jones also participated in the 2011 *Essence* Music Festival; and Cleage penned the forward for the *Essence* magazine October 2011 cover story on First Lady Michelle Obama.



Jane Smith, C'68, with Phylicia Rashad and Alexine Clement Jackson, C'56



Actresses Jasmine Guy and LaTanya Richardson Jackson, C'74, at Commencement brunch



Debbie Allen with Christine King Farris, C'48, and Bernice King, C'85



Tomika DePriest, C'89, with the First Lady

Several alumnae participated in First Lady Michelle Obama's visit to Spelman when she served as the 2011 Commencement speaker. Trustees Jerri DeVard, C'79, Cynthia Spence, C'78, and Kimberly Davis, C'81, were in attendance along with Cathy Daniels, C'83, Heather Hawes, C'89, Tomika DePriest, C'89, Jeanne Meadows, C'64, DaNita McClain, C'2003, Andrea Lawrence, C'68, Geneva Baxter, C'77, Jane Smith, C'68, Alexine Clement Jackson, C'56, Christine King Farris, C'48, Bernice King, C'85, and LaTanya Richardson Jackson, C'74.

Tomika DePriest, C'89, the executive director of the Office of Communications at Spelman wrote the cover story on First Lady Michelle Obama for the September/October 2011 issue of *Up-scale* magazine. In the piece, "National Treasure," she shares some moments from the First Lady's visit to Spelman as the 2011 Commencement speaker.

Take Note!

On April 15, 2011, President Beverly Daniel Tatum, the Board of Trustees of Spelman College, and several members of the faculty and staff surprised **Yvonne R. Jackson, C'70**, with a reception honoring her upon her retirement as chair of the board. The event was held in the lower level of Laura Spelman Hall in a space that is undergoing renovations to become the Yvonne R. Jackson Academic Resource Center. Jackson first joined the Spelman College board of trustees as an alumna trustee in 1996. She then moved on to become a regular trustee and in 2004 was elected chair. She is the third alumna chair, preceded by **Marian Wright Edelman, C'60**, and **Dr. June Gary Hopps, C'60**. The gathering also recognized Research Day 2011, "Sustainable Spelman: From Personal to Global Perspectives."



Retiring board chair Yvonne Jackson, C'70, (center) is shown with new board chair, Rosalind Gates Brewer, C'84, (left) and President Beverly Daniel Tatum at Jackson's last board meeting.



Author and Publisher **Tina McElroy Ansa, C'71**, received an honorary degree from the College during Founders Day Convocation on April 7, 2011. Ansa has penned five novels; *Baby of the Family*, *Ugly Ways*, *The Hand I Fan With*, *You Know Better* and her most recent, *Taking After Mudear*, the sequel to her bestselling *Ugly Ways*. *Taking After Mudear* is the lead title of her independent publishing company, DownSouth Press. A few days earlier, on March 31, Ansa paid tribute to her classmate and friend, the late Varnette Honeywood, C'72. Ansa recalled dreaming that Honeywood would one day create the book jackets for her novels, which she did for all five. "Dreams are like that," she shared, "too far-fetched to be tangible, yet too perfect to be abandoned."



On the front porch of Reynolds Cottage, President Beverly Daniel Tatum celebrates 2011 Founders Day with **Sheri Yarbrough, C'83**, **Muriel Ruth Ketchum Yarbrough, C'49**, and **Deirdra Yarbrough, C'77**. Mrs. Yarbrough and her daughters are the fourth- and fifth-generation descendants of The Reverend Frank Quarles, pastor of Friendship Baptist Church where the College began on April 11, 1881.



During the 2011 Founders Day celebration, "The Sustaining Vision: 130 Years and Leading," the College paid tribute to **Varnette P. Honeywood, C'72**, through music and dance. Under the title "A Celebration in 16-Sustaining Colors," the Honeywood painting, "Greens for Money, Peas for Luck," was brought to life by dancers of The Color Assemble — **Lilia Howard, C'2014**, **Cristina Ruffins, C'2014**, and **Whitney Woods, C'2013**.



Spelman College Board Trustee, **Jerri L. DeVard, C'79**, was featured in the Spring 2011 issue of *Savoy* magazine for her recent appointment as the executive vice president and chief marketing officer of Nokia. Her announcement has appeared in several print, television and online media outlets.

2000

Kearstin Piper Brown

Birth: Son, Miles James Warren, born on July 1, 2011

Shani Croom-Muriithi

Birth: Son, Koome Khary Muriithi, born on March 3, 2011.

Raena Harwell

Education: Received her Ph.D. in African American Studies from Temple University on May 12, 2011.

Joslyn Chandler Jackson

Professional: Launched her company, Miss Fitbliss and Fitbliss Organics, in April 2010. The company began as a blog, www.missfitbliss.com, and has recently begun selling her personal eco-friendly products to Whole Foods Market and other retailers.

Kraytina Lawrence

Professional: Promoted to catastrophe claim support service supervisor with State Farm Insurance Companies in Jacksonville, Fla., on January 10, 2011.

Kia-Jacquelyn Omotalade

Professional: Accepted the position of program manager of California Pacific Public Health Training Center at University of California – Berkeley, in partnership with the University of Hawaii and University of California – Davis programs in public health and the Central Valley Health Policy Institute at California State University, Fresno.

Kenique Penn

Professional: Promoted to annual giving officer at Spelman College in March 2011. **Married:** George Thomas Freeman, Jr., Morehouse College, C'2000, on April 16, 2011 at The Atrium in Atlanta City Hall.

Erika Stallworth

Professional: Participated in the Law Day celebration sponsored by the La Porte County Bar Association and League of Women Voters of La Porte County on May 6, 2011. Stallworth was mentioned in an article about the event in *The News Dispatch*, Michigan City, Indiana on April 30, 2011. She was also quoted in *The News Dispatch* article, "Ghosts of Trials Past," on May 7, 2011.

2001

Trichita Chestnut

Professional: Featured in the Spelman College history department lecture "When Gender Didn't Matter: The Lynching of Women in the United States, 1837–1946," on March 17, 2011, in Quarles Library, Giles.

Erikka Dzirasa

Education: Graduated from residency in psychiatry/child psychiatry from Duke University Medical Center in June 2011.

Stevie Gray

Birth: Daughter, Nyla Gabrielle Gray, born on February 19, 2011 in Richmond, Calif.

Dionne Griffiths

Professional: Received the Lillian Yeager Service Award in October 2010 and the Kentucky Foundation for Women Art Meets Activism grant for 2010–2011; she also created the program, "Rediscovering My True Self: Black Women; Body Image and Dance." She was the Kentucky Foundation for Women Artist Enrichment grant recipient for 2010–2011 and performed a dance solo as part of the class of 2001 ten-year Spelman College reunion convocation program in Atlanta in May 2011.

Tamaria Kai Perry

Married: Dr. Jimmy Davis on May 27, 2011, in Rose Hall, Jamaica. Name change: Tamaria Kai Davis.

Professional: Selected as Spelman's secretary of the College, effective October 3, 2011.

2002

Tameka Cooksey

Married: Curtis Horton on October 10, 2010, on the shores of Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

Shannon Rector Council

Birth: Sons, Eric and Kaden Council, born May 8, 2011, in Atlanta.

Alyson Shumpert Dorsey

Birth: Son, Kamari Kyon Dorsey, born July 12, 2011, in Mableton, Ga.

Kafia Haile

Professional: Held a sold-out reading of her play, "Pickin' Up Strays," at the D.C. Black Theatre Festival and a second reading immediately following at the Theatre Alliance's Hothouse on H Reading Series in Washington, D.C., on June 21, 2011. She was also interviewed by Diana Veiga, C'2003, for her blog, www.aworknprogress.com.

Leah Jackson

Professional: Participated in the Annual Seven Women at the Cross Lenten Worship Service on April 20, 2011, in Sisters Chapel.

Amishi McMorris

Birth: Daughter, Alyn Jean McMorris, born on February 13, 2011.

2003

Asha Daniels

Education: Graduated with a master's degree in fragrance and cosmetics marketing and management from the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York. Her team's final Capstone presentation was covered in *Women's Wear Daily*.

Natane Eaddy

Education: Received her juris doctor degree from Northeastern University School of Law in May 2011.

Vera Musgrove

Professional: Traveled with the show DRUMLine Live! From August 2010 to March 2011 as a dancer and dance captain. **Married:** Kenan Woods at Liberty Baptist Church in Atlanta on January 1, 2011.

2004

Jessica Davenport

Professional: Preached at the Sisters Chapel Worship Service on February 13, 2011.

Shakira Fardan

Married: Brooks Pollard on October 9, 2010.

Jon'a Fogle

Married: Taurean Joiner, Morehouse College, on October 30, 2010, in Louisville, Ky.

Ashanti Hollingsworth

Education: Earned her master's degree in public administration from The City College of New York on June 2, 2011.

Alia Smith

Education: Attending Columbia Business School in the fall 2011 as a Feldberg Fellow. She's the first African American to be awarded CBS's "most prestigious award."

2005

Sheena Cochran-Marzo

Birth: Daughter, Mya Marzo, born on December 3, 2010.

Ashli Herbert

Birth: Son, Hyon Min Herbert II, born on October 17, 2010.

Erica Snell

Professional: Promoted to vice president, Hotspot FX Sales in August 2010.

2006

Erin Barksdale

Professional: Awarded News Leaders for New Schools – Cohort 10 and was a Person Foundation Fellow in 2010.

Rheaclare Fraser

Professional: Spoke at Spelman College MBRS-RISE Program's "Straight Talk About Life as a Scientist in Research and Academic Careers," on April 14, 2011, in Tapley.

Jenise Fletcher McKinney

Birth: Son, Mason James McKinney, born on September 23, 2010.

Lauren Sullivan-Larke

Education: Earned her doctor of medicine degree from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tenn., on May 21, 2011. She was inducted into Alpha Omega Alpha National Medical Honor Society in 2011.

Kamille Williams

Professional: Participated in the Annual Seven Women at the Cross Lenten Worship Service on April 20, 2011 in Sisters Chapel.

2007

Chantel Monique Bryant

Professional: Mental Health Court monitor, January 2011.

Alicia Lane

Professional: Awarded the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Woodrow Wilson Michigan Teaching Fellowship in 2011.

Jasmine Phillips

Education: Earned her doctor of medicine degree from the University of South Alabama in Mobile on May 14, 2011. She received the Student National Medical Association Leadership Award and will continue her clinical training in internal medicine with the University of Mississippi Hospital System in Jackson, Miss.

2008

Afeishia Julien

Education: Earned her master's degree in social work from Columbia University School of Social Work in New York on May 18, 2011.

Jaunice Sills

Professional: Participated in The Black Women Film Festival, June 17–19, 2011, in Atlanta.

2009

Tanell Allen

Professional: Hosted the 2nd Mocha in My Coffee, Inc. women empowerment conference, "Pregnant with Expectations," on March 19, 2011, in Atlanta. The conference was an empowering luncheon designed to challenge women by raising their level of expectation to manifest their hidden, yet God-given purpose. www.mochainmycoffee.com.

Stacy Marks

Married: Joshua Zant on August 21, 2010, at the Solid Rock Pentecostal Church & Primrose Cottage in Roswell, Ga.

Brittany Shavers

Birth: Daughter, Mackenzie Shavers, born on March 2, 2010.

Zaneta Smith

Education: Earned her master's degree in social work from Jane Addams School of Social Work, University of Illinois at Chicago, in May 2011.

Tiffany Tellis

Married: Robert Blakemore on October 10, 2010, in Alpharetta, Ga.

Ashley Thomas

Professional: Participated in the Annual Seven Women at the Cross Lenten Worship Service on April 20, 2011, in Sisters Chapel.

2010

Courtney King

Education: Earned a nonprofit certificate from the George Bush School of Government and Public Service through Texas A&M University in July 2011.

Professional: Co-founded Team SHIFT, Inc, an educational nonprofit organization. Their mission is to identify and train aspiring young adult urban leaders in order to build local social inclusion and business ingenuity and to share methods and ideas for economic renovation. She also launched the new website www.naturalhairisgoodhair.com, a journey to beauty and loving yourself.

Kimberly Scott

Professional: Participated in the Annual Seven Women at the Cross Lenten Worship Service on April 20, 2011, in Sisters Chapel.

Take Note!

On June 9, 2011 **Kathleen Jackson Bertrand, C'73**, celebrated the release of her latest CD, *KATHARSIS*, at a performance at Loews Hotel Atlanta. Bertrand has recently performed at several events around Atlanta, including Jazz Journeys at the Georgia Aquarium on June 3, 2011, and Jazz in the Spring, a series of jazz events at Morehouse College on April 8, 2011, on the Eugene Mitchell Performance Lawn of the Ray Charles Performing Arts Center. In September 2011, Bertrand hit No. 1 on Gary Lee's www.uksochart.com in the United Kingdom, which charts a weekly list of Top 30 songs by current well-known and lesser-known independent artists. Her songs "All the Love You Need" and "Date Night" had been rising in previous weeks from No. 27 up to the top spot.



On June 24, 2011, President Barack Obama announced his intent to nominate several individuals to key administration posts including **Adrienne O'Neal, C'76**, to serve as ambassador to the Republic of Cape Verde, Department of State. O'Neal is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, and currently serves as the director of the Senior Level Division of

Career Development and Assignments in Human Resources at the Department of State. As the ambassador designate, she made a statement to the Senate Foreign Relations committee on October 5, 2011.

Composer-arranger **Lena Johnson McLin, C'51**, was celebrated for her work on March 27, 2011, at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Chicago. The event was previewed in the March 25th issue of "On the Town" in the *Chicago Tribune*.



LaShanda B. Holmes, C'2006, the Coast Guard's first Black female chopper pilot, was featured in the NBC Nightly News series, "The Griots' 100," profiling African Americans who are making history every day. The piece aired on February 3, 2011.

Eloise A. Alexis, C'86, vice president for college relations at Spelman, was profiled in the August 2011 BriefCASE, the online publication for Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

Brigitte F. Daniel, C'99, received the 2011 40 Under 40 Award from the *Philadelphia Business Journal*. Her profile was published in the *Journal*, along with profiles of the other awardees, on May 13, 2011. Daniel is an executive vice president at Wilco Electronic Systems Inc. in Fort Washington, Pa., a minority-owned provider of cable, telecommunication, remote surveillance and security systems to the Delaware Valley.

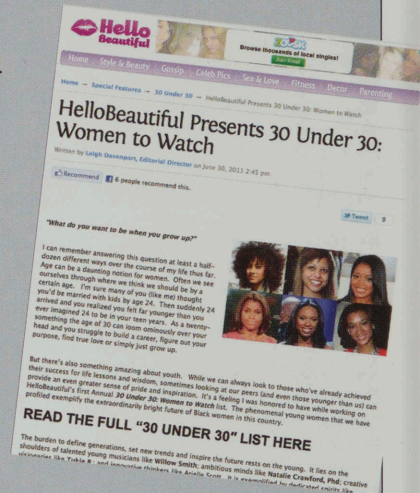
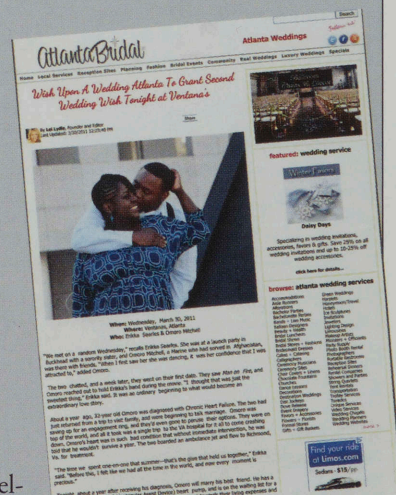
Editorial director of the popular site, HelloBeautiful.com, **Leigh A. Davenport, C'2005**, posted the site's feature, "30 Under 30: Women to Watch" on June 30, 2011. Included on the list were **Kristen E. Jarvis, C'2003**, **Kimberly D. Hogg, C'2008**, **Kelli Coleman, C'2006**, **Natalie D. Crawford, C'2004**, and **Lyanna Newborn, C'2005**.



Spelman Founders Day
Attending the Spelman College Founders' Day celebration at the Greater New Guide Baptist Church April 30 are, from left, Leslie Brown Vincent, Rochelle Letrice Williams, Jacqueline Stewart Campbell, Dorothy Steptean, Mildred Penson, Tanya F. Penson and alumni President Gloria Whiten.

Founders Day at the Greater New Guide Baptist Church on April 10. **Leslie A. Brown-Vincent, C'84**, **Rochelle L. Williams, C'2003**, **Jacqueline Stewart Campbell, C'71**, **Dorothy Myers Steptean, C'63**, **Mildred Wynn Penson, C'51**, **Tanya F. Penson, C'82**, and **Gloria Whiten, C'75**, were among those present.

Erikka Searles Mitchell, C'2000, was granted her wedding wish by Wish Upon a Wedding Atlanta, on March 30, 2011. Mitchell and her husband, Omoro, received the wedding of their dreams after learning of his chronic heart failure diagnosis a year earlier. The couple's story was chronicled on AtlantaBridal.com and was featured on the WXIA-TV 11Alive Atlanta Evening News on May 2, 2011. The couple welcomed a son, Aquinas Jasper Mitchell, born on June 3, 2011.



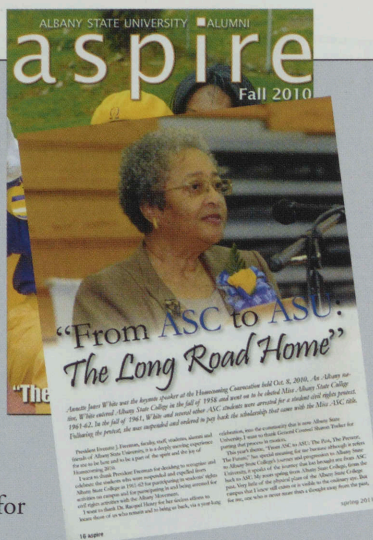
Several members from the National Alumnae Association, Baton Rouge Chapter, were pictured in the "Scenes From Around Town" section in *The Advocate* on May 8, 2011, when they celebrated Spelman's



Take Note!

Annette Jones White, C'64, was recognized by Albany State University (ASU) for her civil rights contributions. In 1961, five months from graduation, she lost a scholarship and the title "Miss Albany State" when she was expelled from the then Albany State College for participating in the Albany Civil Rights Movement. In the summer of 2010, she was notified that ASU planned to invite her back and to apologize to the student civil rights activists it had suspended or expelled 49 years earlier. The University designed a year-long celebration recognizing the students. Ms. White was featured in two issues of the ASU alumni magazine, *Aspire*; her "Miss Albany State" title was restored and she was re-crowned and sashed by the current Miss Albany State University, and she delivered the keynote address at the Homecoming convocation in October 2010. She also recently contributed to the October 2010-released civil rights history book, *Hands on the Freedom Plow: Personal Accounts by Women in SNCC*; she participated in Georgia State University's "22nd Annual National African American Read-In," on February 10, 2011, as one of three guest speakers; and she received a proclamation on March 21, 2011, from the Atlanta City Council (along with 10 other women, including **Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon, C'70**) "for making a difference in this country by protesting civil rights injustices and working towards a social revolution with SNCC... and for an invaluable contribution to racial equality."

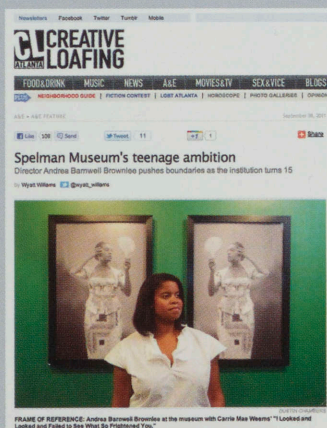
Andrea Barnwell Brownlee, C'93, was featured in the article "Museum's Teenage Ambition: Director Andrea Barnwell Brownlee Pushes Boundaries as The Institution Turns 15," in *Creative Loafing* on September 8, 2011. Highlighting the museum's anniversary, accomplishments and vision, the piece states, "It would be putting it lightly to say the Spelman College Museum of Fine Art's mission, 'to emphasize works by and about women of the African Diaspora,' is unique. 'There's no other place like this in the nation,' is how museum director Andrea Barnwell Brownlee explains it." The museum's anniversary and current exhibition were also featured in the "Culture Notes" section of the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, September 2, 2011.



Rev. Bernice Albertine King, C'85, was pictured in the June 6, 2011, issue of *Jet* magazine. "Honoring Coretta King" highlighted the dedication of the Coretta Scott King Memorial Garden at Sojourner Douglass College in Edgewater, Md. She was also pictured in the May 2, 2011, issue where she poses with Kathy Taylor, associate vice president of community development for Road Scholar/Elderhostel, after signing a copy of her father's book, *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?*



Yaa Walker Stanley, C'2002, and her husband, Quincy, are part of a small team that created the Positively Perfect line of baby dolls available online at Walmart.com. The initial dolls, Adorable Angela for ages 0+ and Beautiful Brianna for ages 3+, are dressed in attire adorned with positive messages to help instill pride including, "I am smart," "I am proud," and "I can do it!"



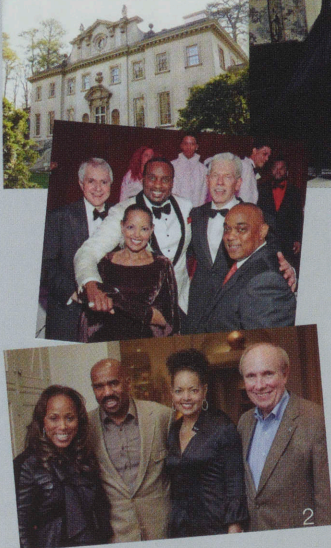
Georgia State Representative **Alisha Thomas Morgan, C'2000**, gave greetings at the General Session during the 2011 National Charter Schools Conference on June 22, 2011, in Atlanta; while founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund, **Marian Wright Edelman, C'60**, provided a riveting keynote address for the event. Morgan was also featured in *The Crisis Magazine's* centennial issue in the article, "NAACP Honors 40 Under 40."



Take Note!

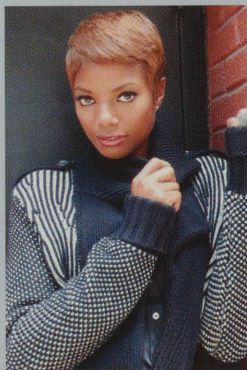


The 2011 Swan House Ball
April 30 at the Atlanta History Center



Philanthropist and Spelman College board trustee, **Lovette Russell, C'83**, was featured on the cover of *Southern Seasons* magazine, late spring 2011 issue, with Swan House Ball co-chair, Jack Sawyer. Russell is featured and pictured throughout the magazine for her leadership and charitable work in the Atlanta community. Also pictured in this issue is **Tina McElroy Ansa, C'71**, at the Dining Out for Life event on April 27, 2011.

Tai Monique Beauchamp, C'2000, is hosting a new web series for Black-Enterprise.com called "High Life." It showcases and profiles luxury living including popular people, places, art, entertainment, culture, travel, philanthropy and style. Beauchamp also appeared on The Style Network's "How Do I Look?" on May 7, 2011, where she lent her expertise to a makeover.



EDITORS' PICKS OF THE WEEK

BOOKS & E-BOOKS

My Uncle Martin's Big Heart: A beloved niece of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Angela Farris Watkins penned this children's book so parents and teachers can introduce Dr. King and discuss his life and legacy with a new generation. With large, colorful photos, *My Uncle Martin's Big Heart* is a story about love – the love Dr. King shared with his family, church members and those meeting him for the first time. Told through Watkins, a Spelman College professor, young readers can discover the story of the man behind the civil rights activist.



Brooke Jackson Edmond, C'91, was pictured in *Jet* magazine, July 4, 2011, in the "Jetsetters" section for Jackmont Hospitality Inc.'s recent donation of \$250,000 to the National Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta. Edmond is the senior vice president of Jackmont Hospitality and daughter of the late Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson.

Singer, songwriter **Kimberly N. Johnson, C'2005**, also known as KimberlyNichole was featured in the December 2010 issue of *Vogue* magazine. Andre Leon Talley gave her a rave review calling her "music fresh" and her "performance magnetic."

Tanika Ray, C'94, is hosting the television series, "HGTV'd." Each episode of the new series features an HGTV star surprising a viewer with a makeover. The show debuted June 6, 2011, and airs Monday nights.



Angela Farris Watkins, C'86, book, *My Uncle Martin's Big Heart* was a *Jet* selection for "Editors' Picks of the Week" in the February 7, 2011, issue.



Tanya Amy Moore, C'95, was featured in the article "Women in STEM: Though Small in Number, These Women Blaze Trails in the Science and Technology Fields," in the March 2011 issue of *Black Enterprise* magazine.



Harlem-based writer **Penny D. Wrenn, C'99**, penned the piece, "Your Best Summer Ever!: Looking for What's Hot in Music, Film and TV This Season? Look No Further," in the "News & Culture" section of *Essence* magazine, July 2011.

Take Note!



THE ADVOCATES



Kimberly B. Davis
51, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF GLOBAL PHILANTHROPY
AND PRESIDENT, JPMORGAN CHASE FOUNDATION,
JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.

Davis is responsible for the global charitable giving strategy of JPMorgan Chase & Co. In 2010 alone, her team managed investments totaling more than \$190 million. She describes herself as a humble servant leader, who believes that ensuring the financial security of women will lead to healthier nations. "As the mother of a strong young woman, I hope that my example is an inspiration to the next generation of leaders," says the woman who brought together nearly 3 million people online to help JPMorgan Chase donate millions to charities around the world, pioneering the concept of crowd-sourced philanthropy. That kind of giving brings together a large group of people or a community to perform a specific task. "In an industry where decisions are made behind closed doors, this type of effort was unthinkable just a few years ago," says Davis. "I'm proud that we led the way and encouraged other corporations to engage online communities in their giving programs."

POWER SECRET: "Being your authentic self to everything you do and success will follow." —N.M.R. >

VISIT ESSENCE.COM

Board Trustee **Kimberly Davis, C'81**, was featured in the October 2011 issue of *Essence Magazine*. Listed in the Work & Wealth Power List, Davis is one of the Advocates and shares her power secret: "Bring your authentic self to everything you do and success will follow."

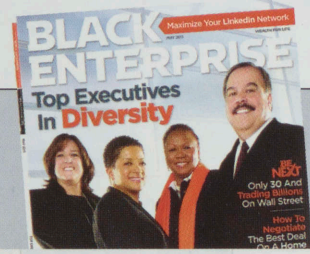
Simone Sarter, C'2011, graduated from Spelman College in May 2011, representing the 4th generation from the lineage of the **Josephine Dobbs Clement, C'37**, family. Ms. Sarter's legacy includes great-grandmother Josephine Dobbs Clement, C'37, grandmother **Alexine Clement Jackson, C'56**, aunt **Emily Jackson, C'84**, and mother **Seila Jackson Sarter, (former student, 1977–78)**. The Dobbs family holds the record with the highest number to graduate from a core family, including her great-grandmother Josephine and her five sisters.



Actress and life stylist **A.J. Johnson, C'85**, founder of THE AJ ZONE, a global healthy living company, performed in the 2011 Founders Day program segment called "The Charge." She connected this past spring with the campus community in support of students participating in the "Active for Life: Campus Style!" challenge. Later, she led the campus in a hula hoop contest on Founders Day 2011.



Kelly S. Beaty, C'2002, was highlighted in *Black Enterprise*'s May 2011 issue in the "Work, On the Move" section for her new position as vice president of marketing and communications for Dress for Success Worldwide.



Work ON THE MOVE



Kelly S. Beaty
New Position: Vice President of Marketing and Communications
Organization: Dress for Success Worldwide
Location: New York

Responsibilities: Kelly will lead all marketing and communications efforts for the organization, including the development of all promotional materials and the management of the organization's social media presence.

Dana M. Gills', C'2001, production company, Brown Paper Dolls, along with actor Idris Elba is producing the TV series "Milk + Honey," a dramedy that follows the spiritual, professional and romantic journeys of four young, ambitious African-American women navigating through the lights, smoke and mirrors of Hollywood. The show is looking to get picked up by a TV network and is in the process of acquiring the one million trailer views needed. www.milkandhoneyseries.com.



Jet magazine featured **Denise N. White, C'98**, also known as AVERY*Sunshine, in their "Who's Got Next: Artist to Watch" feature in the June 20/27, 2011, issue. She was featured in the gospel category along with Tim Bowman, Jr. and Colandra McDowell.

Television personality **Shaun Robinson, C'84**, was featured in *Ebony* magazine's July 2011 issue. The article, "Summer Soiree with Shaun Robinson: Access Hollywood's Popular Host Gives Us Her Recipe for a Fun and Relaxed Afternoon Party," provides a personal peek into her entertaining style. Robinson was also featured on the cover of *Ambassador* magazine's 5th Anniversary issue (June/July) where she dishes on film, fitness and high fashion, and she was pictured in the March 14, 2011, issue of *Jet* with Sherri Shepherd of "The View" and Miami Heat star, Dwyane Wade.



Reunion 2011

THE SUSTAINING VISION: *130 Years and Leading*

2011

Reunion



Revive school spirit...

PHOTOS: JULIE YARBROUGH, C'91

Reconnect with one another...





Golden Girl Class of 1961



*Reminisce
with your sisters...*



... Wise Women who embrace the youthfulness of Golden Girls

1966 1971 1976 1981 1986 1991 1996 2001 2006

The Golden Girl Class of 1961

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| JoAnn Sims Alexander | Elizabeth Howze Hodge |
| Barbara Smith Allen | Barbara Jones Hutchins |
| Sylvia L. Walker Andrews | Joan Blondell Dixon Johnakin |
| Melvis Evans Atkinson | Dolores Hill Lawrence |
| Ruth Morgan Ball | Mary Lester |
| Pauline Hinton Beasley | Gwendolyn Lindsey |
| Mamie Adams Benjamin | Martha Jones Mack |
| M. Clyde Henderson Bennett | Jacqueline Stubbs Marshall |
| Delores Jones Berry | Gwendolyn Ponder Maxie |
| Anne Ruth Borders-Patterson | Madelyn King McKiver |
| Betty Houston Brown | Gwendolyn Harris Middlebrooks |
| Jeanette Smith Brown | Annie Merita Mitchell |
| Rosemary Levant Cannida | Josephine Jackson Neal |
| Floris Barnett Cash | Gertrude Clark Norman |
| Patricia White Chatard | Emma Walker Parks |
| Bette Ann Davis | Marva F. Piggee |
| Esther Benton Davis | Jimmie Hughes Raines |
| Norma June Davis | Lola V. Roberts-Richards |
| Marcia Beavers Days | Doris Shelby-Davis |
| Mary Crew Dennis | Bennie Phelps Sherwood |
| Ovella Jones Ector | Ann Day Smith |
| Gwendolyn Ferrell Elmore | Theoria E. Smith |
| Gloria Banks Ewings | A. Lenora Taitt-Magubane |
| Cora Grantley Graham | Eleanor Haywood Taylor |
| Anne Amelia Grimes | Angel Stewart Taylor |
| Maxie Mae Grubbs | Jean Hill Terrell |
| Lowvincy O'Neal Gulley | Myrtle Ezzard Thomas |
| Constance Wheatley Hall | Eleanor Jeanette Tinnon |
| Henrietta Greene Hamilton | Lois Johnson Toomer |
| Faith Neal Hemphill | Carolyn N. Stinson Traylor |
| Mabel Austell Henry | Betty Lipscomb Walker |
| | Gwendolyn Lawson Williams |



*Mistress of Ceremonies
Keshia Knight Pulliam, C'2011*



*Symphonic drums directed by
Omelika Kuumba, C'81*



*Consistent donor Cynthia Jackson, C'81,
converses with President Beverly Daniel
Tatum during the Blue Note Reunion dinner.*



*Sharon Owens, C'76
Director of Alumnae Affairs*

Reflect on good times... **Blue Note Theatre**



*The Beauty of Giving performed by the Spelman Alumnae Quartet
(left to right): Eloise Alexis, C'86; Catherine Fletcher Rollins, C'90;
Asha L. Parker, C'2004; Jennifer Freeman, C'89.*



Remember Spelman.

Christine R. Sinclair, C'46

June 21, 1922 – June 17, 2011

Christine Geneva Robinson Sinclair was born to the union of the late William Carothers Robinson and the late Aurelia Dorothy Walden Robinson on June 21, 1922, in Mitchell County, Ga. She was the second of 10 children.

Christine received her diploma from Rockdale High School in Camilla, Ga., in 1942. She attended Spelman College where she received a bachelor of arts degree in home economics and a lifetime teaching certificate, graduating in 1946.

In 1950, Christine married the Rev. Abram Samuel Sinclair, D.D., and they lived in Swainsboro, Ga. He was the pastor of Mt. Moriah A.M.E. Church and she was a county home demonstration agent, a position she had held since leaving Spelman. The couple had eight children. The family moved to Jacksonville, Fla., in the mid 1950s, where she honed her entrepreneurial skills by jointly managing a family-owned store with her husband, and later to Tampa, Fla. while managing the careers most important to her – being an incredibly loving mother and dedicated wife.

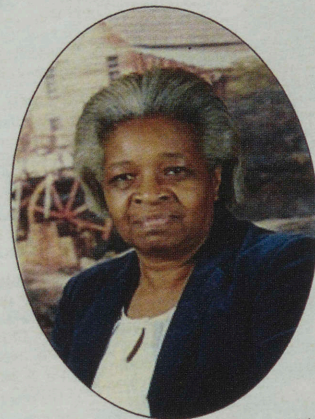
Her career included tenure as a county home extension agent in Thomasville, Ga. She later became an elementary school teacher in Moultrie, Ga., continuing her teaching career in Fitzgerald and Ocilla, Ga. After the death of her husband in 1968, Christine moved to Atlanta with her four youngest children in the early 1970s, where she continued her career as a member of the faculty of the Atlanta Public School System, until her retirement in March 2000.

She was a member of Trinity A.M.E. Church, the SCLC and a lifetime member of the NAACP. She also was a longtime financial supporter of her beloved alma mater, Spelman,

HOMEGOING SERVICES

FOR

Christine R. Sinclair



June 21, 1922 ~ June 17, 2011

Friday, June 24, 2011
~ 11AM -12 NOON EST ~

Trinity African Methodist Episcopal Church
604 Lynhurst Drive Southwest
Atlanta, GA 30311-2206

Rev. Dr. Jeffery B. Cooper, Senior Pastor
Rev. Charles R. Ramsey Jr., Officiating

and of the peaceful movement that is the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center. In the 1946 Spelman year book, she was described by her classmates as, "Hardworking, loyal, sincere in addition, A real Spelmanite, so true to tradition."

Her services were held on June 24, 2011, at Trinity A.M.E. Church in Atlanta.

Willie Juliet Dobbs Blackburn, C'31

January 12, 1910 – July 17, 2011

Willie Juliet Dobbs Blackburn was born into the family of John and Irene Dobbs in Atlanta, Ga., on January 12, 1910. She and her only older sister, Irene, C'29, would be followed by the others of the six Dobbs daughters, Millicent, C'33, Josephine, C'37, Mattiwilda, C'46, and June, C'48. They grew up in the First Congregational Church of Atlanta, where she learned Psalm 23 which became her mantra in her last years.

In spite of the vicissitudes of life at that time for Black Americans, Willie's and her sisters' lives and education progressed under the able watch of determined parents. Her mom was a devoted homemaker and John Wesley was one of the first Negro employees of the Federal Railway Mail Service. Upon retirement, he continued his leadership of the Georgia Prince Hall Masons – most notably organizing all U.S. Prince Hall Masons in seminal financial support of the NAACP school integration victory in 1957. Willie followed his example – dedicating her life to family and the education of others.

The Dobbs educated all six daughters through Spelman College and their master's degrees. Willie attended Houston Street Elementary School, entered eighth grade at Spelman, completed the Latin curriculum and graduated from the College as valedictorian of her class in 1931.

After a year of teaching at Arkansas State, she returned home to earn her master of arts in English with a scholarship from Atlanta University in 1934, second only in that class to her good friend, Hugh Gloster. Sixty-two years later, she returned to Clark Atlanta when her daughter, Juliet, received her terminal degree. Her own further study was done in summer sessions at Columbia and Harvard Universities.

Her career resumed after the Great Depression when she was hired by B.B. Dansby to teach at Jackson College, then a church school, later taken over by the state and renamed twice, and finally becoming Jackson State University. As associate professor and chair of the division of language arts, Willie organized and produced a week-long literary conference presenting Black literary artists including Langston Hughes, Arna Bontemps, Thomas Hayden, and Sterling Brown. She taught English literature and chaired the department of language arts for 40 years. Among numerous awards and honors she was named Professor Emeritus by the State of Mississippi, 1974, and is honored by the naming of the Willie Dobbs Blackburn Hall of Language Arts on the campus. Renowned members of her faculty included prize-winning authors Margaret Walker Alexander, Alice



Walker and William Ferris, who served as chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities. She represented the university often at public and school affairs, delivering honors to presidents and other visiting dignitaries.

Through the secretary of the Mississippi State (Black) Teachers Association, W.W. Blackburn, she had met and married Benjamin Allan Blackburn, Jr., Morehouse, C'28, her husband of 41 years. The couple had two children, Juliet Dobbs and Benjamin Allan, II, both of Atlanta.

Most of all, educating young people was her passion – from student drama productions and proms to publishing the Blue and White Flash and producing the Delta Jabberwok. In these same years she co-founded the Jackson Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc, was co-developer and first president of the Opera/South Guild, and founding member and president of Jackson Chapter, Links, Inc. She joined with her husband at Farish Street Baptist church, Jackson, Miss. Upon retiring, she returned to Atlanta in 1977. She, her daughter, Juliet, and son-in-law, Lafayette Beamon, affiliated with Friendship Baptist Church, joining her nephew, Maynard H. Jackson, Jr., and his family at the church where their father, Maynard H. Jackson, Sr., had once been pastor. She was active with Quality Living Services and a senior citizen literary program of Emory University.

Her services were held on July 28, 2011, at Friendship Baptist Church in Atlanta.

Sadie Sims Allen, C'41

July 25, 1920 – January 26, 2011

After a long life deeply connected to Spelman College, Sadie Sims Allen passed away on January 26, 2011. She was 90 years old. In 1983 she retired as Dean of Students after more than two decades of service to the College as a faculty member and administrator. A Class of 1941 graduate of Spelman, Dean Allen had been intimately associated with Spelman since she was a small child growing up near the campus.

Sadie Jeanette Sims was born on July 25, 1920, to Joseph and Sadi Sims. The family lived on Henry Street where Dean Sage Hall is now located. Here elementary and secondary education took place in schools that were associated with Spelman or Atlanta University and were on or adjacent to the Spelman campus, where she sometimes played as a child. After high school, she entered Spelman and earned a bachelor's degree in biology. Upon graduating she married Robert L. Allen and briefly settled into married life. However, she was soon offered a position teaching biology at Spelman which she accepted and greatly enjoyed.

The position was temporary. Although she had her hands full raising four children, she worked at Atlanta University in business services. A call from Spelman brought her back to the campus, first as a biology teacher and later as an administrator. Over the subsequent decades she served as director of freshman advisory services, registrar, and dean of student affairs. She also made her only educational foray away from the Spelman campus when she earned a master's degree in student personnel administration in higher education at Columbia University. During her long career at Spelman, Dean Allen was highly respected by her colleagues and beloved by generations of students. She retired in 1983.

In 2002 Sadie Allen was selected to be one of 85 outstanding American woman featured in a book of photographs titled, *Wise Women: A Celebration of Their Insights, Courage and Beauty*, by the well-known photographer Joyce Tenneson.



High School 1929

Mildred Clark

Educator

Died: April 28, 2011

Services: May 5, 2011, Mount Zion First Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

1947

Myrtle Mark Kelly

Died: June 23, 2011

Services: June 29, 2011, Zion Hill Baptist Church, Atlanta

1968

Sandra Holliday

Died: June 16, 2011

Services: June 23, 2001, Elizabeth Baptist Church, Atlanta

1989

Lisa Hackett

Died: May 6, 2011

Services: May 7, 2011, Benta's Funeral Home, Inc., New York.



PHOTO: JULIE YARBROUGH, C'91

In Memoriam Letter of Apology

April 18, 2011

Dear Alumna,
On behalf of the Office of Alumnae Affairs of Spelman College, we would like to extend our heartfelt apologies to Mrs. Gwendolyn Kenner-Johnson, C'63, for the egregious error of reporting her death in the "In Memoriam" section of the Spelman Messenger, Spring 2011. The death of Mrs. Kenner-Johnson's husband was incorrectly recorded as her own. We realize that an error of this magnitude has caused undue pain, stress and strain on Mrs. Kenner-Johnson, her classmates and friends that can never be recovered, and for this we are very sorry. We are thankful that Mrs. Kenner-Johnson, an active member of the Chicago NAASC chapter, is well and continues to give her time, talents and treasures to Spelman College.

Although we have a protocol in place to acknowledge alumnae deaths, there was a breach in this process. We are committed to strengthening this protocol to ensure that an incident of this nature does not occur again.

Respectfully,
Sharon Owens, C'76
Director of Alumnae Affairs

Jo Moore Stewart
Director of Publications
Editor, Spelman Messenger

“You may not always have a comfortable life and you will not always be able to solve all of the world's problems at once, but don't ever underestimate the importance you can have because history has shown us that courage can be contagious and hope can take on a life of its own.”

—Michelle Obama, J.D.

First Lady of the United States of America

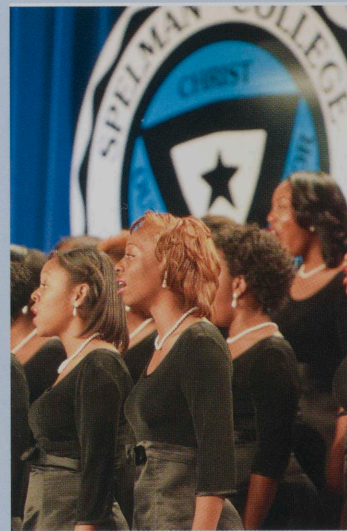
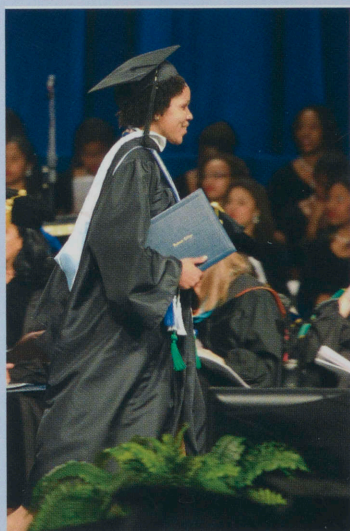


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