

The cover of the Spelman Messenger magazine features a photograph of Kafie Haile, a smiling woman with short dark hair, wearing a blue and white striped top and blue leggings, sitting on a light-colored couch. Behind her are several abstract paintings in various colors like orange, red, blue, and green. The title 'Spelman Messenger' is prominently displayed at the top in a large, white, serif font, with 'SPELMAN' in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font above it.

SPELMAN Messenger

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Alumnae Shine
Behind the Scenes

ALSO INSIDE:
2014 Reunion
Founders Day 2014

Kafie Haile, C'2002,
Screenwriter/Artist

THE ALUMNAE MAGAZINE OF SPELMAN COLLEGE
VOLUME 124 NUMBER 2 FALL 2014



Spelman College®

A Choice to Change the World

SPELMAN

Messenger

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The *Spelman Messenger* is published twice a year 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

All submissions should be sent to:

Spelman Messenger

Office of Alumnae Affairs

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Atlanta, GA 30314

OR

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Submission Deadlines:

Fall Issue: Submissions January 1 – May 31

Spring Issue: Submissions June 1 – December 31

ALUMNAE NOTES

Alumnae Notes is dedicated to the following:

- Education
- 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
- Special awards, recognition and appointments

Please include the date of the event in your submission.

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.

CREDO

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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ON THE COVER

Kafie Haile, C'2002, Screenwriter/Artist



LegendaryVoices



Soledad O'Brien



Maya Angelou (1918-2014)



Ruby Dee (1924-2014)

2 Voices

Legendary Voices of Soledad O'Brien, Maya Angelou, Ruby Dee



8 The Campaign for Spelman College

FEATURE

10 Rising Stars

Arts & Entertainment Alumnae Shine Behind the Scenes

BY LORRAINE ROBERTSON



32 2014 Reunion

4 Books & Papers

7 Book Notes

18 Founders Day 2014

20 Alumnae Notes

36 In Memoriam



Legendary Voices



"... It is an honor to be with the class of 2014. You embody for me my own hopes and dreams. ...

"Carve your own way. Don't listen to conventional wisdom, but listen to yourself and your dreams. ...

"Don't let other people's vision of what is possible or what is true sway you from what you can do, because by not listening, you can figure out what your heart is telling you to do. ...

"We are much more alike than different, so you need to break through walls you think exist between people who don't look like you or don't act like you because those walls do not have to exist. You need to seek to understand why people act like they do. Seek to know people where they are. You don't always have to agree but having conversations is the only way to bridge the distance. ...

"Be that person who risks voicing an unpopular position. Say this is not OK. This is not OK, America. ...

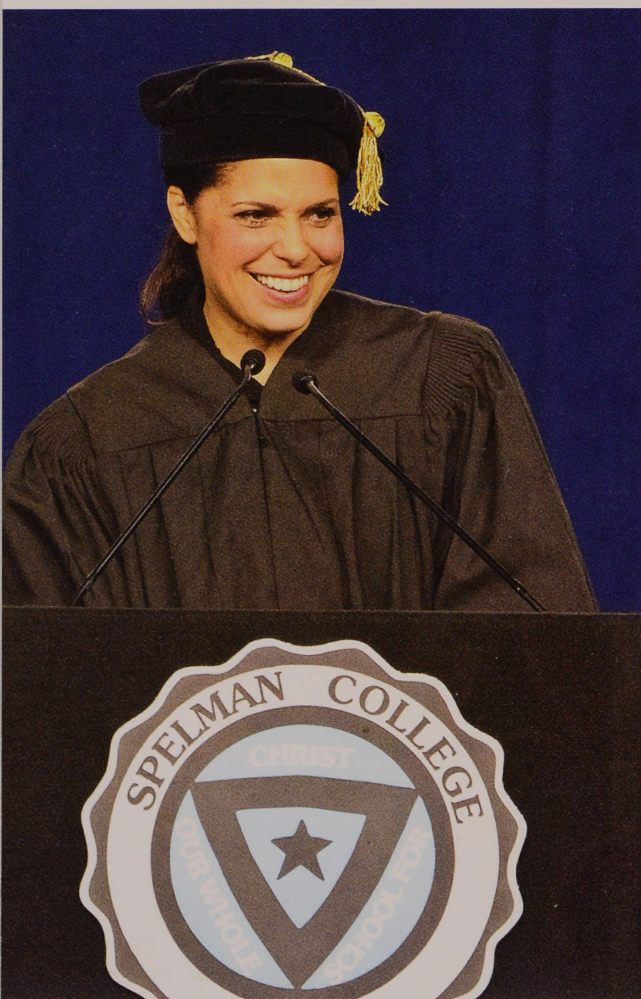
"You have had a great education, really one of the best that money can buy, and that means that you have obligations, because not everyone has been given the chance you got. That obligates you to use the power that you have been given to help others, who have not been quite so lucky, to use your voice in defense of others who cannot speak for themselves. ...

"That means that you need to lead with an open heart. I guarantee you that you will have an incredible experience. ... Figure out your dream and be brave enough to go and live it. ...

"Do great things, but if you do the service of others, you will discover that selflessness is ultimately what makes you great."

Soledad O'Brien

Excerpts from Spelman College Commencement Address, May 18, 2014, by Soledad O'Brien, an award-winning journalist, documentarian, news anchor, producer 2014 Spelman College honorary degree recipient, doctor of humane letters



PHOTOS: JULIE YARBROUGH, C'91

"You are phenomenal. You are quite phenomenal. It is a marvelous thing. Yes. And the reason you are phenomenal I suggest, young women, is because you come from phenomenal people. That is really so. It is wise to remember where you came from. It is always wise. Then you can see your past as a mirror so you can see yourself. ...

"So here we, *you*, have come from a healthy and lusty people, a people loving life and loving love. So that when you need to see yourself, see who you bring onto the stage with you. You must see who is with you up here, or in that office when you go to be interviewed, or in the school when you go for your next degree. Take everybody on the stage with you at all times, everyone who has ever loved you, take them with you. Take every idea (the person or thing does not have to be something tangible). It can be an idea. An idea with God constitutes the majority. It's a fantastic idea so take it on the stage with you. Take it down the street with you. ...

"There are numerous people who are with me all the time. When you are the most frightened, think immediately. Think of some particular teacher or some new idea. Think of some piece of poetry or an aunt or grandmother. Think. Think of a minister. Think and pull them to you and in that moment, you are steady. You are fine. You are just fine. Thanks. ... And, you are absolutely phenomenal."



Maya Angelou spoke at both the 1983 and 1992 Spelman Commencement ceremonies under the presidential administrations of Donald M. Stewart and Johnnetta B. Cole.

Maya Angelou (1928–2014)

Excerpt from Spelman College Commencement Address, May 21, 1983

*by Maya Angelou, actress, playwright, poet, author
1983 Spelman College honorary degree recipient,
doctor of humane letters*

"We are all students of each other."

"Racism shortens our reach and stomps on our daring."

Ruby Dee (1922–2014)

*Award-winning actress, author and
civil rights activist
1991 Spelman College honorary degree recipient,
doctor of humane letters*



Ruby Dee is pictured with President Johnnetta B. Cole during the 1991 Commencement.

Book Reviews

Timeless Truth: For the Sisters Who Came Before Us and Those Who Will Follow After

by Amelia Kay Hamilton-Morris, C'75. (AuthorHouse)

Poetry, Amelia Hamilton-Morris writes, has been her special hobby and love. This book of poetry, her first, delves into several areas of her personal development as a woman and the development of the many women she has encountered over the years. It is about growing up and growing old. She's had a career as a professional writer in public relations, marketing, and TV producing, but writing poetry has been an outlet all of her life.

In *Timeless Truth*, Hamilton-Morris covers broken hearts and disappointment and, in one poem, "Long Life," she writes of life, death and spiritual strength: "There is no crying in this house/ Because we understand the spirit and the soul./ It moves out of one life and into another/ Into the realm of the everlasting, there is nothing new or old."

Understanding the rites of passage of all women, Hamilton-Morris counsels young ones in one provocative poem, "Holy Hymen." "I see why God says save sex for marriage/ the act itself is such an intensely, personal thing./ a trusted invasion of your deepest sanctuary,/inside you; where only the Holy Spirit and life should grow..." In



closing, she writes: "...Girl, it is your most powerful possession/ if handled incorrectly, your whole world can be shaken./ a gift from God that is so potent, it will drive a man crazy..."

Titles of other poems will give the reader the depth of this poet's thinking. She covers "The Mistress," "I've Got a Black Man," "Somebody Write a Love Song" and, in the last chapter titled, "Freedom Renaissance Revolution," her poems cover: "Thank You Africa," "I Thought We Was Free?" "Tribute to Billie," and "Did the Revolution Die?"

Amelia Hamilton-Morris, who is chief communications officer for the city of Des Moines, has shared her many observations of life as it affects

women of all ages and experiences. Her own faith and insight will enrich the readers of *Timeless Truth*.

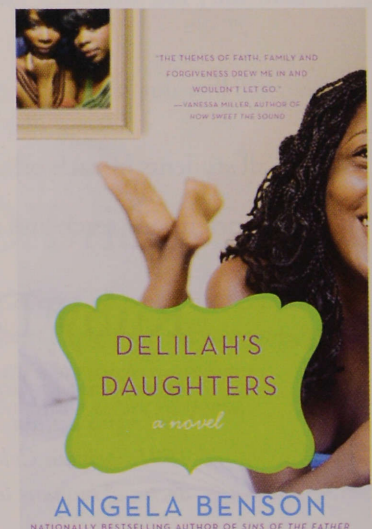
Delilah's Daughters

by Angela Benson, C'81.
(William Morrow)

In the latest of her inspirational novels, Angela Benson, C'81, once again touches on popular issues and infuses them with moral values.

Delilah's Daughters is a gospel singing trio of sisters working hard to make a name for themselves in a less than spiritual industry. Competing in a nationally sponsored TV program, "Sing for America," Roxanne, Veronica and Alisha Monroe are hoping to win the \$300,000 recording contract offered to the first-place winner.

The ghost of their father, Rocky, a musician who died suddenly, is watching over them as his wife, Delilah, guides the girls to gain the success she and Rocky planned for them. But waiting in the shadows are family secrets that if revealed, threaten to destroy their plans.



Fame, love affairs, jealousy, ambition and greed are the sins that stack up to kill the future of Delilah's Daughters, and only learning how to forgive – unconditionally – can save them. But can that be done? How can forgiveness wipe out pain? Is there enough love in the family to reach beyond their hurts and mistrust?

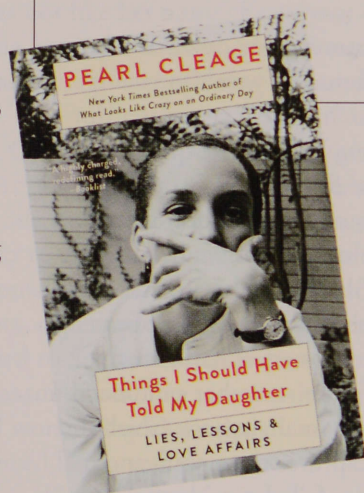
How the family struggles to survive will capture the reader as Benson leads them through the pitfalls of the music industry, marital fidelity, and the need for individual independence along with family unity. Who can they trust? It's the kind of story that will provide hours of entertainment and inspiration – great for reading while lounging poolside, or for stimulating conversation at book clubs.

Benson, author of numerous best-selling books including novels, novellas and nonfiction, is an expert at weaving together a web of mystery, emotions, human error and faith, keeping readers in suspense, while still teaching the power of love. Her award-winning books include *The Amen Sisters*, *Sins of the Father* and *Up Pops the Devil*. Benson, who has been writing since childhood, studied mathematics at Spelman and holds a doctoral degree in instructional technology from the University of Georgia. Benson teaches educational technology at the University of Alabama.

"In this brilliant, inspiring, memoir, [she] lives out loud and in living color. And before you know it, Sister Pearl has changed your world!"
—ANDREA HAIRSTON, author of *Redwood and Wildfire*



PEARL CLEAGE is an award-winning playwright whose *Flyin' West* was the most-produced new play in the country in 1994, and she is also a bestselling author whose novels include *What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day*, *I Wish I Had a Red Dress*, *Some Things I Never Thought I'd Do*, and *Baby Brother's Blues*, among others. She lives in Atlanta, Georgia, with her husband, the writer Zaron W. Burnett, Jr.



Things I Should Have Told My Daughter – Lies, Lessons & Love Affairs
by Pearl Cleage, C'71
(Atria Books)

All the courage, strength and truth-telling that writer Pearl Cleage is noted for in her award-winning plays, novels and essays, she now offers in this personal memoir to her daughter and eventually, to ours.

A keeper of journals all of her life: "There is a reason why I saved them all these years, carting them from my baby girl bedroom, to my college dorm, to a series

of apartments and finally home," Cleage writes, after her daughter suggests that she should burn the journals because she would rather not know about her mother's personal thoughts and life. But "There is a reason they have survived..." Cleage writes as she embarked on this journey.

Culling through her journals, Cleage decided to break the memoir down into two decades – the 1970s and 1980s – that cover most of the changes in her life that brought her to who she is today.

Now think about it: How many of us would want our children or grandchildren to read our private thoughts and to try to understand the times we lived in and how we fought for or against a prescribed way of life, or to peek into our loves, our fantasies, our angers? For this, we can be thankful that Cleage picks up the mantle and charges forth for many of us.

So let's hunker down and let her guide us through these wonder years. Armed with an innate ability to cut through ego and pretension, and a willingness to write with clarity and sensibility, Cleage makes us laugh, cry and hug ourselves as we rock through memories of Black Liberation, emerging feminism, intellectual growth and leaps of faith.

How could we figure out how not to be our mothers, while all the same loving them for their sacrifices, lessons and love? Or some of us are Daddy's girls, but who is that? And who are we, in

the middle of what the world says, or our lovers say, or our friends' influence on our identity?

Cleage grew up in Detroit as part of a strong African-American family in which the women were encouraged to explore their intellectual gifts. Her father was the renowned Dr. Albert Cleage, the founder of the Shrine of the Black Madonna liberation churches. She attended Howard University and graduated from Spelman College, C'71. She's always been a writer, and it's her struggle to claim herself from among her many selves that serves to enlighten us.

Cleage tells us: "I know for a fact that I left college, moved to Atlanta, got married (to Michael Lomax), finished college, got a job, had a baby, quit a job, wrote a book, helped elect a mayor (Maynard Jackson, the first African-American mayor in Atlanta), quit another job, got divorced, lived by my wits, became an artist, had a play produced, had my heart broken, mended it, found my honor, found my smile, realized I was a lot stronger than I had thought I was...."

Yet despite being associated with a circle of the famous – Shirley Franklin, Phylicia Rashad, Oprah Winfrey, Richard Pryor, Max Roach, Hank Aaron, Avery Brooks, Jesse Jackson, Andrew Young, Jasmine Guy, Karen and A.B. Spellman, Dr. Benjamin Mays, and too many more to mention – Cleage is able to stay focused on her quest to find herself. No pretense allowed.

All who read this memoir will be enriched by the humor, intellect, anger, angst and love shared by this gifted writer. I, for one, had to stop, re-read, laugh, wipe away tears and cheer – in remembrance both of those days in Atlanta and of her friendship. We shared many of the same friends and issues, good times and bad, laughter and tears.

Do yourselves a favor and read this book – it will be an enriching experience for you, your daughters and granddaughters. Thanks, Pearl, for doing this for us.

Cleage is a celebrated author and poet of numerous plays, fiction and nonfiction books, including the Oprah Book Club selection, *What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day*, *Seen It All and Done the Rest*, *A Song for Coretta*, *We Speak Your Names* (with Zaron W. Burnett Jr.), *I Wish I Had a Red Dress*, and *Deals With the Devil*. Her plays include *Flying West*, *Hospice*, *Blues for an Alabama Sky*, and *The Nacirema Society Requests the Honor of Your Presence at a Celebration of Their First One Hundred Years*.

She was a William and Camille Cosby Endowed Professor at Spelman College, and continues to write, teach, enjoy her family, her chosen city – Atlanta – and her life.

ANGELA BROWN TERRELL

is a writer and editor based in Columbia, Maryland.

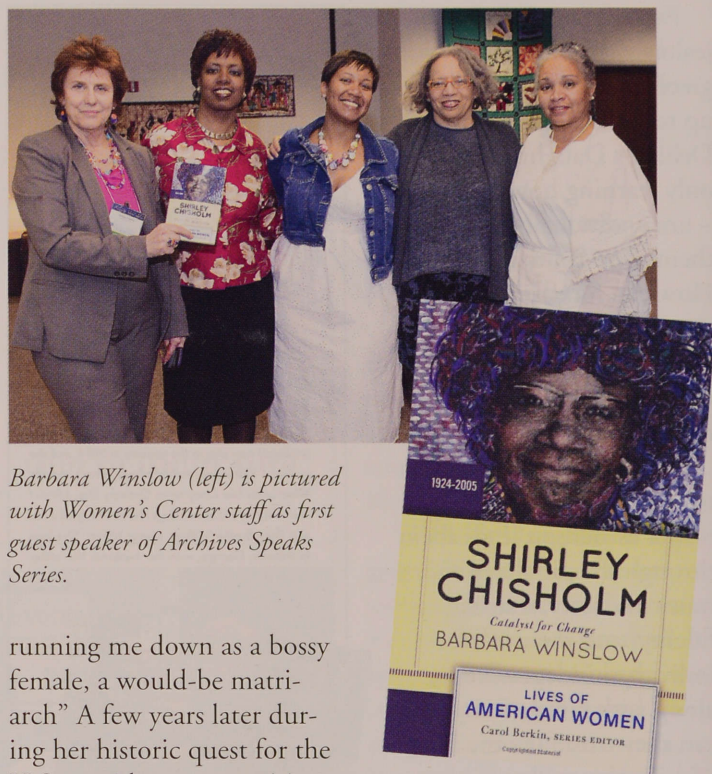
Shirley Chisholm: Catalyst for Change, 1926–2005

by Barbara Winslow.

(Philadelphia: Westview Press, 2014)

Barbara Winslow's provocative monograph is the first full-length biography of Congressman Shirley Chisholm, the first African-American woman to be elected from Brooklyn to the New York State legislature; the first African-American woman to be elected to Congress (Democrat, New York, 1968); and the first African American to run for President of the United States as a major-party candidate (1972) during which she deployed the slogan, "Fighting Shirley Chisholm: Unbossed and Unbought."

In a compelling narrative, Winslow captures Chisholm's unrelenting struggles to eradicate both racial and gender barriers, as well as her passionate advocacy for access to education and equal treatment for all marginalized and oppressed groups in the nation. Without Winslow's painstaking analysis of Chisholm's political journey, we might forget that Barack Obama was not the first Black person to seek the U.S. presidency. We might also forget the blatant sexism that Chisholm experienced throughout her political career about which she refused to be silent. Running against James Farmer in 1968 for the U.S. Congress, she asserted: "To the Black men – even some of those supporting me – sensitive about female domination, they were



Barbara Winslow (left) is pictured with Women's Center staff as first guest speaker of Archives Speaks Series.

running me down as a bossy female, a would-be matriarch" A few years later during her historic quest for the U.S. presidency, opposition mounted, including some among the Congressional Black Caucus. Winslow also chronicles the complicated responses of mainstream feminists to her candidacy. In the final analysis, Chisholm captures the significance of her failed presidential run: "I ran because somebody had to do it first. In this country everybody is supposed to be able to run for President, but that's never been really true. I ran because most people think the country is not ready for a Black candidate, not ready for a woman candidate. Someday . . ."

Spelman College has been a mecca for "unbought and unbosomed" women for over a century. Professor Winslow's biography of Shirley Chisholm, who journeyed to Spelman a few years after her retirement from Congress, is a testament to the rich tradition of Black women's activism and their extraordinary

courage despite seemingly insurmountable odds.

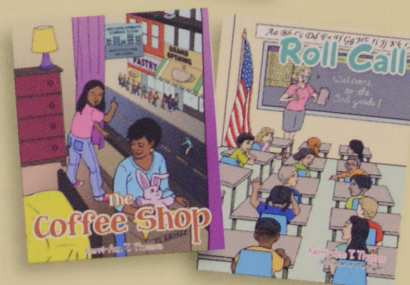
Winslow is a professor in the School of Education at Brooklyn College/CUNY, a member of the women's studies program, and the founder and project director of the Shirley Chisholm Project of Brooklyn Women's Activism. She was also the Women's Research & Resource Center's first guest, April 10, 2014, in the newly initiated Archives Speaks Series during which she discussed the Chisholm biography. It was fitting that Professor Winslow be invited as our first speaker since Shirley Chisholm (1924–2005) was Visiting Professor at Spelman in 1985.

BEVERLY GUY-SHEFTALL, C'66, is the Anna J. Cooper Professor of Women's Studies and director of the Women's Research & Resource Center.

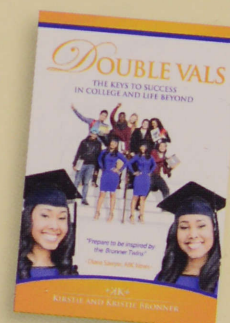
Leah D. Jackson, C'2002, self-published *Daily Manna from the Psalms: Nuggets of Hope for the Hungry Christian*. This daily devotional is a resource for Christians seeking to know more about God, to walk faithfully with and before God, to dig deeper into the Psalms and to relate and apply the Word to their daily lives.



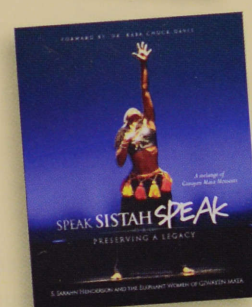
Kerri-Ann T. Thomas, C'2010, released two children's books, *The Coffee Shop* and *Roll Call* (Author House) in February 2014. *The Coffee Shop* tackles the controversial topic of gentrification from a child's perspective. The main character, Clarisse, is a curious and insightful young girl who loves her neighborhood. However, she does not like that she is always moving because her mother can no longer afford the apartment they live in. Clarisse notices that every time a coffee shop opens in her neighborhood, she mysteriously has to move. *Roll Call* tells a story – from two different perspectives – about embracing one's name. Bobbisha (Boh-Bee-Shah) does not like her name. Every year during roll call, her teacher mispronounces it and Bobbisha lets it go. Katie thinks her name is too boring and wishes it was more exciting. Their stories teach the power of being unique and accepting who you are.



Kirstie and Kristie Bronner, C'2013, published *Double Vals: The Keys to Success in College and Life Beyond* (Carnegie Books) in April 2014. In the book the sisters, who were the first twins to graduate from Spelman as double valedictorians with perfect 4.0 GPAs, offer practical yet powerful keys that will guide students to exceptional grades, exemplary balance and extraordinary life fulfillment. They share their journey, including entering Spelman as nervous, doubtful freshmen who, like many college students, experience stress, discouragement and an overwhelming longing. Then the twins fast-forward to Spelman's commencement and the moment they would cross the platform with their diplomas in hand. The pair say their secret wasn't found in genius, but in exceptional habits and hard work. They share tips on studying, time management, scheduling, networking, taking risks, balanced living and more.



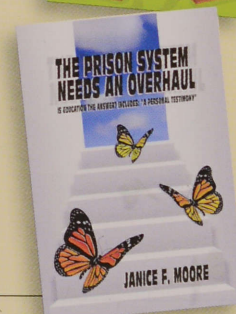
Omelika Kuumba, C'81, is featured in *Speak Sistah Speak: Preserving a Legacy* (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform) written by Sarahn Henderson, co-founder of Giwayen Mata, and the Elephant Women of Giwayen Mata. The picture book, published May 19, 2013, celebrates 20 years of perseverance captured in this melange of Giwayen Mata moments highlighting the journey of more than 75 elephant women who break barriers for "sistahs" who want to drum but have been told not to. Beautiful photographs, words of wisdom and golden nuggets from members of this all-sistah dance, percussion and vocal ensemble make this book an inspirational keepsake for years to come.



Kotina Hall, C'94, released her first children's book, *Patches* (Xulon Press), in September of 2013. Dr. Hall is the president and founder of Partnership Success, Incorporated. She is most noted for her civic outreach and dedication to enriching the lives of children. Dr. Hall has received a number of leadership and academic honors and currently serves as a professor at Belhaven University. She dedicates her book to her winsome daughter, Jekoti-Blake (J-Blake), who is also her source for the creation and life of the character Patches. The book was illustrated by Atlanta native NorViance Henry. Dr. Hall's second book, *Patches Visits the Jungle*, was released in May 2014.



Janice F. Moore, C'83, published her first book, *The Prison System Needs An Overhaul – Is Education the Answer?* (Xlibris) in April 2014. The book is a study about the prison system across the country, especially the Southern states including Georgia, South Carolina, Florida and Mississippi. It includes a personal testimony from an inmate, Christopher Bernard Baker.



Change. Means. Success.

The Campaign for Spelman College

Visionary leadership yields \$157.8 Million

Dear Spelman Community and Friends,

As many of you know, we publicly launched a major comprehensive fundraising campaign in the fall of 2009 — with a goal of \$150 million dollars, the largest campaign effort in our history. Thanks to the hard work of many, and the generous support of our donors, including 71 percent of our alumnae who made gifts during the campaign, we not only met our goal, but we have exceeded it. Today, I am happy to report that we have successfully raised \$157.8 million.

Our generous supporters have helped us to increase faculty and renew our campus with the renovation of Laura Spelman Rockefeller Hall and the construction of a new and improved Read Hall — home of our Wellness Revolution. They have also helped us to extend our global reach and expand our technology. Of critical importance, we have generated \$53 million in new scholarship support, more than doubling the scholarships we are able to offer every year. These and other investments have strengthened the core of Spelman, just as we hoped it would.

One of the most exciting things about our campaign success is the way our alumnae rallied around the effort. Our “Every Woman, Every Year” slogan has truly been embraced by Spelmanites across the country, and we can all take great pride in knowing that 12,348 of our graduates made a financial contribution to this campaign. This year alone we have had the highest number of alumnae donors in the history of the college — 7,060 or 41% gave a gift to their alma mater! Their active participation inspired other donors to give generously as well.

As is often the case, after a major milestone has been achieved, it is a natural impulse to step back and reflect on what has happened and to think about what lies ahead. “What’s next?” is a commonly asked question. I have been reflecting on this question quite a lot myself, and have concluded that now is the right time for me to begin planning the next chapter of my life, and for the College to begin planning for a leadership transition. In September, I will celebrate my 60th birthday, and as I prepare for the next decade, I have decided to return to my life as a scholar and a writer. And with that in mind, I have informed the Board of Trustees of my intention to retire from this position at the end of the academic year on June 30, 2015.

It has been a tremendous honor and privilege to serve as the president of Spelman College for the last 12 years. I have cherished the opportunity, and I take great pride in what we have accomplished together. There is of course more to do — Spelman must always continue to grow and evolve in order to remain the vibrant learning community that we want it to be.

The momentum of our campaign will be the wind at our back. Together, we will prepare the way for the success of our next leader. I want to thank all of you for your love and support thus far, and look forward to thanking as many of you in person as I can in the coming year.

Sincerely,
Beverly Daniel Tatum, Ph.D.
President

\$157.8 MILLION



Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum

Greetings,

On behalf of the Spelman College Board of Trustees, let me extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our donors who made this campaign possible.

To our alumnae community, your involvement with the College has soared to new heights. As a graduate myself, I am particularly proud of the dramatically increased investment of time, talent and treasure made by my Spelman sisters during this focused campaign effort.

This is truly a historic moment for the College, and indeed an incredibly critical time for higher education as a whole. Despite the various and serious challenges facing today's students and the institutions that support them, Spelman has been able to stay the course and exceed an ambitious and historic fundraising goal for the institution.

The Board truly appreciates and highly values the significant strides made during Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum's tenure. Under her visionary leadership, the college expanded its campus and our capacity to house our students with the construction and renovation of two LEED — certified residence halls, conducted a robust campus-wide strategic planning process which resulted in new curricular and co-curricular offerings such as international

education, the social justice fellows program and our Wellness Revolution, and is now widely recognized as one of the nation's top liberal arts colleges.

As she prepares to retire from Spelman in June 2015, our charge will be not to rest on our laurels. In fact, this is an optimal time to build on Spelman's strength and innovation as a leader in higher education. We must continue the momentum gained under Beverly's visionary leadership.

Simultaneously, the Board will be preparing for the formal search for a new president. More details about that process will be available in early fall.

Until then, let's celebrate this precious moment in the history of Spelman College, and join me in thanking Dr. Tatum for her service.

Sincerely,
Rosalind Gates Brewer, C'84
Chair, Board of Trustees
Spelman College

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.spelman.edu/presidentialsearch>

Rising Stars

Arts & Entertainment Alumnae Shine Behind the Scenes



BY LORRAINE ROBERTSON

In the male-dominated entertainment industry known for its cut-throat culture and billion-dollar budgets, Spelman women are running the show, taking on power positions behind the scenes and navigating their way to the top of this notoriously challenging business.

Not only are these women shining brightly, but they're cultivating talent, creating change, and diversifying our culture through the arts. They represent different fields across television, film, music, and theater, but they share an immeasurable passion for what they do, the desire to impact others through their craft and an unshakable confidence fueling their journeys. Here are their stories.

Alia Jones-Harvey, C'95

"Broadway is feast or famine," says Alia Jones-Harvey, about the opportunity to produce on Broadway. "You strike when the iron is hot."

And she should know. Jones-Harvey is the only African-American woman lead producer currently on Broadway. She and her Front Row Productions Company partner, Stephen Byrd, have been heating up the Great White Way since 2008 when they co-produced the revival of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. Directed by Debbie Allen, the duo's debut effort featured a star-studded all African-American cast including James Earl Jones, Terrance Howard, Phylicia Rashad and Anika Noni Rose.

"I had no idea I could combine my background in business with the arts," says Jones-Harvey, who parlayed her former financial career into producing. She credits the dual-degree engineering program at Spelman for her foundation in mathematics leading her to become a financier.



PHOTO: LISA PACINO

Alia Jones-Harvey, C'95,
producer, Front Row Productions

When she was growing up, her parents would take her to New York to see shows, and she recalls annual field trips to the theater with her middle school. "In business school, I had a little bit of exploratory course work in arts administration but didn't think I would make a living in that field." For admirers of the arts, she says there's an opportunity in the business side of the theater, acknowledging the billions of dollars Broadway generates annually. Determined to raise awareness, Jones-Harvey has taken her own role at City College of New York, flagship of the City University of New York, where she's teaching the course, Producing for Broadway. "I want people to be aware of what it is and how they can get into it."

Jones-Harvey got into it in 2006 when she received a call from Byrd asking if she would partner with him to produce *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. "I immediately jumped at the opportunity," she recalls. The show opened in March 2008 and became the highest-grossing play of that season. It was so successful

that they were invited to bring the show to London's West End where it earned a coveted Olivier Award, making the pair the first African-American producers to win that award.

Front Row Productions' other credits include *A Streetcar Named Desire* and, most recently, *The Trip to Bountiful*, which received four Tony Award nominations, including Best Revival of a Play. Next up for the power-producers is the Brazilian classic, *Black Orpheus*. They acquired the rights to the film and are in the early stages of developing it to present as a musical on Broadway.

"I have to say that it's quite addictive," Jones-Harvey confesses about her love for producing and collaborating with theater royalty. "Working with people so passionate about what they do and so invested in doing excellent work on the stage, and having a transforming experience with an audience is a rush. I have it running through my veins now; it's something I want to keep doing."

Jamila Hunter, C'96

"The power of what the media can do was very evident to me at a young age," says Jamila Hunter. "I was the kid who grew up in the suburbs, the only Black girl in my honors classes." The actual impact the groundbreaking television shows, *The Cosby Show* and *A Different World* had in her life, and on the way people perceived her, was something Hunter says she lived. "That's a lot of what drove me to figure out how to work in an environment that merged creative story-telling with making an impact."

Since figuring it out, Hunter has become a power player in television for more than 17 years. She's held several influential executive positions with some of the industry's most recognizable networks, channels and production companies, including NBC Entertainment, Bravo, 20th Century Fox Television and OWN: The Oprah Winfrey Network, where she was a key member of the development staff. Throughout her career she's been instrumental in the success of several hit shows, including *Fear Factor*, *The Apprentice*, *My Name is Earl*, *How I Met Your Mother*, *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* and *Project Runway*. Currently, Hunter is the vice president of ABC Comedy Development and spends her days overseeing the production and development of new comedy series for the Disney-owned

network. Getting more diverse comedies on the air is a priority for Hunter, who says three of the network's five new comedies have diverse casts, including *Black-ish*, starring Tracee Ellis Ross and Anthony Anderson. The show, slated for the fall 2014, is about an upper-class Black family dealing with success and assimilation in the suburbs.

Hunter is passionate about making an impact off the screen, too, by helping others live their stories. "My approach to the industry has always been to work really hard, to work with purpose, and to reach back and open the door," explains Hunter, who praises Spelman for instilling and cultivating that mindset in students. "Spelman gives you such a sense of foundation in who you are and what's meaningful about the work you do."

Appreciative of her show accomplishments, Hunter says it's really discovering new talent, providing opportunities, and seeing that talent soar that makes her most proud. "When you know something is there and can be a part of them getting the tools to create their own voice in the world – that's the best part of my job. The important thing to me is believing in people, advocating for them, and seeing their careers grow."

In a business that's extraordinarily difficult to break into, Hunter recognizes and respects the responsibility she faces. "Many people opened the door for me," says Hunter. "While I'm in this seat, I do as much as I can."



Jamila Hunter, C'96, vice president of ABC Comedy Development



Jamila Hunter is pictured on set with production crew.

Phylicia Fant, C'2000

Confidence, determination, and courage is what fueled Phylicia Fant early in her career, powering her past barriers to become one of the music industry's most successful global game-changers.

"Urban, pop, independent rock – I can work any genre, just give it to me," says Fant, vice president of Publicity & Lifestyle Development for Warner Music Group. Fant escaped the traditional typecasting that would tie her to one genre – a rarity in an industry notorious for profiting from and often glorifying gender, race and sexual stereotypes.

A second-generation alumna (her mother is Margaree Cheek Fant, C'76), Fant set her sights on a career in public relations after completing several internships while studying at Spelman. After graduation, she accepted a job and relocated to New York. When the position fell through, Fant was determined to stay in the city and started pounding the pavement for work. Fearless, she knocked on veteran publicist Terrie Williams' office door because "she was the best."

"When you're 22 and you don't know fear and you don't have inhibitions in you, you do things," explains Fant whose effort earned her an internship and letter of recommendation from Williams. She started temping at Universal Music Group in the radio department, then in the executive office, but Fant says she knew that wasn't for her. "I didn't want to cut apples for someone at four o'clock and spread peanut butter on their toast – that's what I was doing."

"Spelman prepares you for a diverse corporate structure. It prepares you for confidence. When you grow up and don't see people who look like you, [then, at Spelman,] you see all these wonderful Black women like Dr. [Johnnetta] Cole, or you sit with our current president, Dr. [Beverly] Tatum, or you have a class with Dr. [Beverly] Guy-Sheftall, then you're like, 'I'm bad,'" boasts Fant. "Spelman prepared me for the real world by giving me the confidence to take it on."

Armed with that confidence, Fant went to the human resources office and asked them to look at her resume. "I started at CNN, UPS, MTV, Hot 97, and I have a letter from Terrie Williams; is there not a PR position in this



PHOTO: JENNIFER COOPER

Phylicia Fant, C'2000

*"Urban, pop,
independent rock –
I can work any genre,
just give it to me."*

—PHYLICIA FANT, C'2000,
VICE PRESIDENT OF
PUBLICITY & LIFESTYLE
DEVELOPMENT FOR
WARNER MUSIC GROUP



Warner Music Group artists

company? This is not where my skill set is nor is it the path I want to take.” By the end of that week she was temping in the public relations department.

Fant has gone on to work with some of music’s biggest stars, including Prince, India Arie, Amy Winehouse, Kelly Rolland, Michael Bolton, Jason Derulo, Swizz Beatz and Common, but she says it was JoJo, then a 13-year-old White pop artist, who changed her life. “She opened up doors for me,” says Fant who was a coordinator in her early 20s, still learning the business at the time. She was tasked with leading the star’s publicity campaign that exploded into international success. That success exposed Fant to a publicity perspective that was not limited to traditional television and print, but included charity events and endorsements as well. “I was able to do everything,” explains Fant. “It strengthened my skill set as a publicist because I was balancing lifestyle, marketing and PR.”

After 10 years and several positions with Universal, Fant made a power move to Warner Music Group, which landed her in Los Angeles. She credits her experiences at Spelman and early in her career with helping her to become one of the youngest vice presidents at her company. “They put me in a position to move through life without color and to move through the industry without looking at myself as an urban executive but as a great executive. Age doesn’t matter and color doesn’t matter.

“Spelman prepared me,” she says. It instilled the belief, “You’re good. Go out there with confidence.”

Traci Blackwell, C’90

“I never want to be seen as a great ‘Black’ executive, I want to be seen as a ‘great’ executive,” says Traci Blackwell, vice president of Current Programs at The CW Network. “I’m African-American; I’m a woman, and I’m very proud of that, but I want people to say she’s really great at what she does – period.”

And they do.

Confidence, an impeccable work ethic, and an unwavering faith in God have helped Blackwell navigate her way through a stellar career in entertainment, earning her a spot among the most successful programming executives in broadcast television. Blackwell built her career in television from the ground up, starting as an assistant at the former UPN network, rising to her current position at the

“I never want to be seen as a great ‘Black’ executive, I want to be seen as a ‘great’ executive.”

— TRACI BLACKWELL, C’90, VICE PRESIDENT OF CURRENT PROGRAMS AT THE CW NETWORK



Traci Blackwell, C’90

CW Network, where she oversees the day-to-day production of some of television's most talked-about shows including *Vampire Diaries*, *The Originals* as well as the prequel to *Sex and the City*, *The Carrie Diaries*. Other shows Blackwell has shepherded include *Everybody Hates Chris*, *The Game*, *Girlfriends*, *Eve* and *Half and Half*.

No stranger to hard work, Blackwell says her parents would insist she have a job or internship during summer breaks. "No lounging around," recalls Blackwell. She credits her parents along with her alma mater for her attitude of excellence. "Spelman women don't believe in being mediocre; we believe in being the best," say Blackwell. "We're taught to think excellence is your greatest weapon. Always operate in an attitude of excellence, not entitlement. Excellence."

After participating in an exchange program during graduate school that relocated her to Los Angeles, Blackwell took an assistant position with Academy Award-nominated producer/director Reginald Hudlin, known for the hit movies *House Party* and *Boomerang*. It was through that connection that she met her mentor, Rose Catherine Pinkney, a top television development executive, and discovered her dream job. "I knew I wanted to be her," recalls Blackwell, who was looking to merge her desire to work in a corporate environment with the creative side of television. "I wondered what kind of career you could have where you could impact what you see on the screen every day but also be in a corporate environment. I wasn't sure if that actually existed."

Now, Blackwell is not only impacting what's on the screen but also opening doors for others. Her ability to move more writers and directors of color to work in scripted television, and the mentoring projects she does with young women, are among her proudest achievements. "We're here to be a blessing to other people and to live out the life that God intended," she says. "I'm very clear on what I consider to be success – living and walking out your purpose. "It's not about money, about career, about fancy titles, or finding your dream mate," explains Blackwell, who says all those things are wonderful and, in proper perspective, necessary. But first and foremost, for this media maven, it's about following God's script.

Whitney-Gayle Benta, C'2001

"It's an opportunity to make history," says Whitney-Gayle Benta who left music's most iconic network, MTV, to help one of music's most iconic moguls, Sean "Diddy" Combs, create his own. "It's very rare that new networks are being built, especially by African Americans. As a music lover, I can provide an outlet for people who really appreciate music as much as I do."

Benta is the senior vice president of music and talent for Revolt TV, Combs' network, launched in October 2013. She's responsible for all the celebrity and music talent on the channel and oversees a staff of bookers on the East and West Coasts. "My job is to develop relationships with artists, managers, and publicists, and to find out ways to maximize artists' exposure on the channel – to bring attention to their art."



Whitney-Gayle Benta, C'2001, and Flavor Flav at the Red Carpet of the MTV Movie awards.



Whitney-Gayle Benta, C'2001

It's no coincidence that Benta's career rocketed to success at such an early age, since her introduction into entertainment was an internship at age 15. "My Mom forced me to go to a job fair," recalls Benta. It was there that she met a wardrobe stylist and couldn't understand why people paid her to dress them. "I was intrigued by that," says Benta, who began interning for the stylist and assisting her on photo shoots. "It gave me the opportunity to learn about different aspects of the entertainment business."

Although Benta was ready to skip college, it was her mother again who insisted on her earning a degree. With older cousins at Spelman and a brother at Morehouse College, Benta says Spelman was a natural fit. "Atlanta was the music hub at the time, so it made sense that that was the place for me."

Already focused on a career in entertainment, she continued to add internships to her resume including the legendary Motown Records, and she created her own major at Spelman. "It was an independent major," recalls Benta. "I wanted to do entertainment business, so I combined music, economics and visual arts from Clark [Atlanta University] and developed my own curriculum."

Before she marched through the Alumnae Arch, Benta had a job waiting for her in New York. "Two weeks after graduation, I was an assistant at Def Jam." Her next move was an interview for a talent manager position in the news department at MTV. "At the time MTV was trying to beef up its urban presence. I was 23 and they asked if I would be willing to come in as a coordinator and prove myself."

That's exactly what she did, reaching vice-president status by the end of her 10-year span with the company.

"Spelman really helped me to solidify my own identity. The entertainment industry can take you in many different directions, especially for women," says Benta, who believes that foundation protected her from the pitfalls of the business. "Spelman brought out the 'I am woman, hear me roar' in me. You have to stick to your principles and follow your dreams," adds Benta. "Don't compromise them for anyone."

Kafia Haile, C'2002

"You're a good writer, but until you learn to use the word 'I,' you'll never get an A."

Writer and director Kafia Haile remembers hearing those life-changing words from her Introduction-to-Philosophy professor, Dr. James Winchester, at Spelman. "He wanted us to use our own voice and talk about what we believe," recalls Haile. "Up until then, I was always told not to speak my own opinion as if it wasn't valid." At the time, Haile didn't realize how much those words would impact her career.

When Haile was young, her parents encouraged global awareness and often used movies as vehicles to view the world. "They wanted me to know different experiences of people of color in different countries." After graduating from Spelman in 2002, Haile studied international affairs at The Fletcher School at Tufts University then landed a job at the Department of Defense. In 2008, she was deployed to Iraq. "At the Pentagon I was just reading about people. When I got to Iraq and saw the people, I realized I didn't have the power to affect people as much as I wanted to because I was a civilian," she shared. "That was something that really bothered me."

"After Iraq, I couldn't figure out what made me happy," says Haile, who resigned from her position shortly after she returned. She carried a notebook with her and jotted down things that made her happy in one section and things she was good at in another. "The only things that kept coming up on my list were writing and movies," recalls Haile.

She penned her first screenplay in six months and was offered a new job the day after completing it. Haile took the position and kept writing. Her play, *Pickin' Up Strays*, earned a spot in the D.C. Black Theater Festival in 2011. "It was my first time writing and directing something, and working with actors," recalls Haile. "I loved it."

Passionate for visual arts as well, Haile began painting scenes from her plays. In 2012, she was asked by her Spelman class reunion committee to create a piece in honor of the event. "As someone who was still transitioning to a career

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"The movies that I want to do are socially conscious films, political films about little-known figures in history that are doing things to change the world..."

— KAFIA HAILE, C'2002

In addition to being a writer and director, Kafia Haile, C'2002 is also a visual artist.

in the arts, it was incredibly encouraging to know that my Spelman sisters believed in me."

Surprisingly, it was her role as a cultural analyst back at the Pentagon that helped solidify her passion to pursue film work. "I would show soldiers different clips of movies," says Haile, who watched the impact film had in influencing people's perspectives.

In 2012, she started the screenwriting program at University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts, where she's currently taking directing classes. "Dr. Winchester taught me to embrace my own voice in my writing, and that's one of the things that has helped me the most here," explains Haile, the only African-American student in her program of study for her class year. "It's helped me get meetings with different production companies. If you read my script, you know it's something I wrote because it's very distinctive in terms of the issues that I'm talking about."

Haile recently finished the short *Go in Peace* about an Iraqi refugee living in the United States being pressured to return home. She plans to start filming her screenplay, *SATTAR*, next year. The work is based on a true story about an Iraqi tribal leader who became a target of his government. "I want to write and direct films; that's where my heart is," says Haile,



Kafia Haile (far right) on set

determined to make a difference using her own voice. "The movies that I want to do are socially conscious films, political films about little-known figures in history that are doing things to change the world, but if nobody ever sees the names on the big screens their legacy might be forgotten." ▲

LORRAINE ROBINSON is an Atlanta-based author, freelance writer, and a regular contributor to the *Spelman Messenger*.

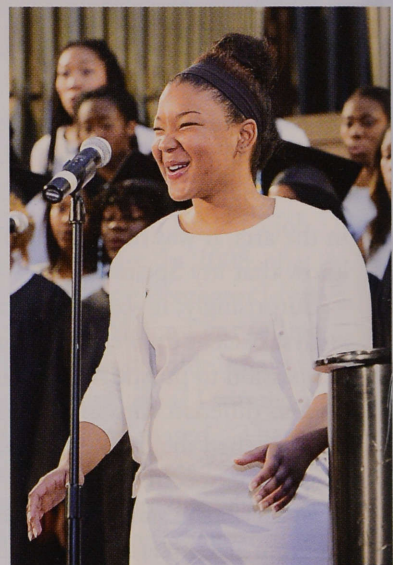


SPELMAN COLLEGE FOUNDERS DAY 2014

A Praise Song for Spelman

Thursday, April 10, 2014 • 10:00 a.m. • Sisters Chapel
President Beverly Daniel Tatum, Presiding

Processional*	Trumpet Tunes	J. Stanley, D. Johnson, A. Sherman	Music	Wings	
Prelude*	Aria	S. Bingham		Performed by	Nyala Carter, C'2017, Britney Inge, C'2011, Hali Larkins, C'2016 and Anita Salley, C'2014
Invocation		Rev. Lisa D. Rhodes, D.Min.		The Charge	
The Occasion		President Beverly Daniel Tatum		Performed by	Peter Chen, Ph.D., Jakel Osborne, C'2014, Mona Phillips, Ph.D., C'76 and Colia Reid
Music	We Sing As One	Spelman College Glee Club		Memorial Ceremony	The Spelman Testimony
	Written and composed by	Brittney Boykin, C'2011, Ashley Graham, C'2012 and Sarah Stephens, C'2007			Written and directed by Gloria Wade Gayles, Ph.D.
					Performed by
					Cameron Bets, C'2014, Canale Henderson, C'2015, Kateriles Jones, C'2015, Zoe Turner, C'2015, Tara Tyner, C'2014, and Jordan Watters, C'2015
					Accompanied by
					RESONANCE - Kiminichae Harbert, C'2015, Tabatha Holley, C'2016, Courtnie Mack, C'2015, and Tobi Shannon, C'2016
					Catherine Fletcher Rollins, C'89, Solist, and Arthur McClellan, Flutist
					A Choice to Change the World
					Spelman College Chamber Choir
					Written by
					Kevin Johnson, D.M.A. and Sarah Stephens, C'2007
					The Spelman Hymn
					Eldye Money Shivers, C'14
					Benediction
					Rev. Lisa D. Rhodes, D.Min.
					Recessional*
					Carillon of Westminster
					L.Vierne



Presentation of Honors
Honorary Degree Hazel D. Dean, Sc.D., M.P.H., C'83 Provost Johnella Butler
Doctor of Public Health

Founders Spirit Award
Georgia Nette "Gee Gee" Smith Dickens, C'42

True Blue Award
Nagmbai Shah, Ph.D.

*During the Processional, Prelude and Recessional, no cell phones during ceremony.



A PRAISE SONG FOR SPELMAN



*“Spelman, thy name we praise
Standards and honor raise...”*

THE SPELMAN HYMN (1934)
WORDS AND MUSIC BY
EDDYE MONEY SHIVERY, C'34

Founders Day 2014 celebrants commemorated their 133rd anniversary with a praise song for Spelman. Expressing praise through song, dance, spoken word, and commitment to scholarship, sisterhood and service, alumnae were inspired anew through the words and music of the traditional Spelman Hymn written 80 years ago by Eddye Money Shivery, C'34. This year, the College presented an honorary degree to internationally recognized scientist and author Hazel D. Dean, Sc.D., M.P.H., C'83. The Founders Spirit Award recipient was Georgia Nelle “Gee Gee” Smith Dickens, C'42, retired teacher and community volunteer.

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT

Hazel D. Dean, Sc.D., M.P.H., C'83

Deputy Director, National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention

Hazel D. Dean, Sc.D., M.P.H., is an internationally recognized leader in HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (CDC).

Dr. Dean is an internationally recognized leader in HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (CDC). She is the author of several books on HIV/AIDS, STD, and TB, and has been instrumental in addressing health disparities and promoting scientific and programmatic excellence in growing the next generation of leaders.

In 1998, she established the Dr. Dean's Leadership Institute at Spelman College. Students from countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America have been mentored by Dr. Dean.

Dr. Dean is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Distinguished Service Award from the American Public Health Association, the Distinguished Service Award from the American Public Health Association, and the Distinguished Service Award from the American Public Health Association.

Spelman College's Health Equity and Diversity Champion Award, Spelman College's Health Equity and Diversity Champion Award, Spelman College's Health Equity and Diversity Champion Award, Spelman College's Health Equity and Diversity Champion Award, Spelman College's Health Equity and Diversity Champion Award.

Tulane University.



FOUNDERS SPIRIT AWARD RECIPIENT

Georgia Nelle “Gee Gee” Smith Dickens, C'42

Retired educator and community volunteer Georgia Nelle Smith Dickens was born on December 24, 1920, in Atlanta, Georgia. She was the daughter of Smith and Stella Bryant Smith, and was raised in the South.

She was educated in Atlanta, Georgia, attended E.R. Smith High School, and graduated in 1937, at the age of 17, from Spelman College where she was voted Student Body President.

Dickens started her career as a teacher at Morehouse College, then moved to teaching at Young Street Elementary School. She was active in the Alliance Theater Guild, chaired the Teachers' Telephone Committee and the Public School System for forty-three years.

Dickens won several awards for her outstanding volunteer by the United Negro College Fund, the President's Award by the Atlanta Magazine's Ambassador Award, in 2003, and the Service by Spelman College.



Take Note!



Newly elected Spelman College trustee Gena Hudgins Ashe, C'83 (left) is pictured with trustee board chair Rosalind Brewer, C'84, and Ingrid Saunders Jones, chair of the National Council of Negro Women.

SGA PRESIDENT WINNER OF GLAMOUR 'TOP TEN' COMPETITION



Gena Hudgins (C'83) Dual-Degree Engineering Student, President of SGA 1982 and Glamour Winner.

Gena L. Hudgins, a Spelman senior, was selected from over 900 applicants as one of *Glamour* magazine's 'Top Ten College Women for 1982'. She was featured in the 1982 August issue of *Glamour* and received a \$1,000 grant from the magazine.

Gena is a math and electrical engineering major and a participant in Spelman's Dual Degree Engineering Program (in conjunction with Georgia Institute of Technology). Based on academic excellence, she was awarded a five-year scholarship from Bell Telephone Laboratories which includes a summer internship in Whippany, New Jersey.

A native of Atlantic City, New Jersey, Ms. Hudgins will graduate in December of 1983. She is president of Spelman's Student Government Association. An active student leader, Gena participated in Spelman's Pre-Freshman Summer Science program where she was selected 'Most Outstanding Chemistry Student'. During her sophomore year, Gena was selected 'Most Outstanding Engineering Graphics Student' listed in *Who's Who Among Colleges and Universities* her j

She also holds membership in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Pi Mu Epsilon (Math Honor Society) and Beta Kappa Chi (Scientific Honor Society).

Commenting on the philosophy of her studies Gena explains, "Books are a priority; however, you need all facets of a college life, especially socially. By being a leader at Spelman, my interests or concerns sometimes cause negligence of my studies. But, I feel because of them, I am a more well-rounded student."

This is the 26th consecutive year *Glamour* has honored outstanding woman undergraduates. The winners were selected by the magazine for their achievements in scholarship, leadership and involvement in campus and extracurricular activities. *Glamour's* editor-in-chief, Ruth Whitney, said, "The Top Ten College Women of '82 all have one thing in common: They're perfect examples of the hard-driving, goal-oriented spirit of the eighties. Capable, self-confident and ambitious, they have no doubt that it is clear that they



1949

Harriet Mitchell Murphy

Professional: Inducted into the Austin Women's Hall of Fame October 23, 2013. She was one of four outstanding woman leaders to be selected by the city of Austin Commission for Women to receive this distinguished honor. She also received the Distinguished Citizen Award from Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., 78th Southwestern Province Council on March 27, 2014.

1960

Herschelle Sullivan Challenor

Professional: Featured in "Integrating Rich's: How the Atlanta Student Movement Changed a City" panel discussion March 25, 2014, at The Breman Museum in Atlanta.

Roslyn Pope

Professional: Featured in "Integrating Rich's: How the Atlanta Student Movement Changed a City" panel discussion March 25, 2014, at The Breman Museum in Atlanta.

1961

Gwendolyn Harris Middlebrooks

Professional: Featured in "Integrating Rich's: How the Atlanta Student Movement Changed a City" panel discussion March 25, 2014, at The Breman Museum in Atlanta.

1964

Bernette Joshua Johnson

Professional: Honored at an unveiling ceremony of her official portrait February 17, 2014. The portrait joins the permanent collection of portraits of Chief Justices exhibited in the Louisiana Supreme Court Museum located in the Royal Street courthouse.

Malinda Clark Logan

Professional: Featured in "Integrating Rich's: How the Atlanta Student Movement Changed a City" panel discussion March 25, 2014, at The Breman Museum in Atlanta.

Georgianne Thomas

Professional: Featured in "Integrating Rich's: How the Atlanta Student Movement

Changed a City" panel discussion March 25, 2014, at The Breman Museum in Atlanta.

1966

Beverly Guy-Sheftall

Professional: Contributed the article, "Being a 'Good Girl' and the Importance of Talking Back," featured in the *Womenetics* newsletter and website in May 2014.

1968

Maxine Hayes

Professional: Retired from the U.S. Department of Health December 31, 2013, after more than 25 years of state service and 16 years as the state health officer.

Andrea D. Lawrence

Professional: Received the 2014 SIGCSE (Special Interest Group on Computer Science Education) Award for Lifetime Service to Computer Science Education March 6, 2014, at the ACM SIGCSE Conference.

Earnestine Dennis Pittman

Professional: Recognized by Atlanta's *Women Looking Ahead News Magazine* during an awards ceremony in Atlanta February 21, 2014 as one of Georgia's 100 Most Powerful and Influential Women.

1969

Yvonne Robinson Jones

Professional: Featured in the article, "To Engage African-American Art Patrons," in the March 10, 2013, issue of the *Commercial Appeal* in Memphis, Tennessee. Jones served as the president of the Brooks Museum League from 2012–2013. She was the first African American to hold the position.

1970

Gail Paulette Davenport

Professional: Featured as a 2014 honoree in the 15th edition of *Who's Who in Black Atlanta*.

1973

Kathleen Jackson Bertrand

Professional: Featured in "I've Known Rivers: A Legendary Life" in honor of Dr. Joseph E. Lowery's 92nd Birthday Celebration October 6, 2013.

Virginia Davis Floyd

Professional: Spoke on "International Engagement: The Fulfillment of a Career" for the Kimberly B. Davis Leaders on Leadership series at Spelman College April 1, 2013.

1975

Sheilah Patrice Webb Clay

Professional: Recently awarded the 2014 School District Award from the Multi-Cultural Multi-Racial Community Council, was named the 2014 Woman of Excellence by the *Michigan Chronicle*, and is a member of the 2014 Class of Leadership America, a national program of Leadership Women.

1978

Cynthia Atkinson Roberts

Professional: Featured in "I've Known Rivers: A Legendary Life" in honor of Dr. Joseph E. Lowery's 92nd Birthday Celebration October 6, 2013.

1979

Leisa TonieAnn Wagstaff

Professional: Started her position as mission co-worker and education facilitator for the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan in February 2014.

1980

Rolonda Watts

Professional: Featured in "I've Known Rivers: A Legendary Life" in honor of Dr. Joseph E. Lowery's 92nd Birthday Celebration October 6, 2013.

1984

Vida L. Avery

Professional: Given Outstanding Publication award for the 2014 CASE John Grenzebach for Outstanding Research in Philanthropy for Educational Advancement for her book, *Philanthropy in Black Higher Education: A Fateful Hour – Creating the Atlanta University System*.

Sherri Thompson Dickerson

Professional: Featured in "I've Known Rivers: A Legendary Life" in honor of Dr. Joseph E. Lowery's 92nd Birthday Celebration October 6, 2013.

1985

Vickie L. Hughes

Professional: Co-sponsored a domestic violence conference with the W.E. Foundation November 2, 2013, in Charlotte, North Carolina.

1986

Eloise Abernathy Alexis

Professional: Featured in "I've Known Rivers: A Legendary Life" in honor of Dr. Joseph E. Lowery's 92nd Birthday Celebration October 6, 2013.

Georgette Ronye Richardson Peavy

Education: Received her Ed.D. in educational leadership from Chicago State University May 15, 2014.

1987

Kelly Camille Woolfolk

Education: Candidate and the only African-American student in her class, for an L.L.M. (Master of Laws) degree from Berkeley Law May 10, 2014.

1988

Denise Blake

Professional: Named executive director of WINGS for Kids December 4, 2013.

Erin Helene Moore

Professional: Launched *Black Studies Online*, the first and only online educational program dedicated to providing a variety of scholarly courses exploring the history, culture and contemporary experiences of Black people to the general public. The first term began January 20, 2014.

1989

Cheryl Butler-Brayboy

Professional: Named news anchor at WJZY Fox46 Carolinas for the 10 p.m. newscast December 17, 2014.

Tomika DePriest

Professional: Recognized by Atlanta's *Women Looking Ahead News Magazine* during an awards ceremony in Atlanta February 21, 2014, as one of Georgia's 100 Most Powerful and Influential Women.

Cathy Hampton

Professional: Featured as a 2014 honoree in the 15th edition of *Who's Who in Black Atlanta*.

Heather Hawes

Professional: Profiled and featured in the Leaders In Academia section in the 15th edition of *Who's Who in Black Atlanta*. She was also a speaker for the 2014 Event Solutions Conference: A Discussion of Event Industry Business, sponsored by Google+ Hangouts on Air (HOA)! March 25, 2014 in Las Vegas.

Jacqueline M. Jenkins

Professional: Named director of graduate studies at LIM College in New York in December 2013.

Alonia Parks Jones

Professional: Featured as a 2014 honoree in the 15th edition of *Who's Who in Black Atlanta*.

1990**Gretchen Cook-Anderson**

Professional: Awarded the Excellence in Diversifying International Education Award (EDIE) April 1, 2014, during the Second Annual Diversity Abroad Conference, for her contribution to increasing access to, and fostering diversity and inclusion in, international education.

1991**Moraima A. Ivory**

Professional: Featured as a 2014 honoree in the 15th edition of *Who's Who in Black Atlanta*. On November 1, 2013, she moderated a live Web chat at Spelman College, "Advancing the Health of Black Women," a conversation with Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum and Dr. Valerie Montgomery Rice.

Parquita Nassau

Professional: Featured as a 2014 honoree in the 15th edition of *Who's Who in Black Atlanta*.

Lisa Michelle Shepard

Education: Received her M.Ed. from Georgia Southern University in December 2013.

Professional: Appeared on *In Contact* on the WPBA/PBS station October 13, 2013, where she discussed participation in the National Center for Civil and Human Rights oral history project, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington.

Tess Marie Vismale

Professional: Awarded the GaMPI (Meeting Professionals International – Georgia Chapter) Shining Star Award from GaMPI in December 2013. She was recently certified as a Digital Event Strategist (DES). She spoke at the Professional Convention Management Association's Convening Leaders conference in Boston in January 2014, and at the CASE District III Conference in Orlando, in February 2014. She was profiled and featured in the 14th and 15th edition of *Who's Who in Black Atlanta* (2013 & 2014).

1993**Cynthia Gunner**

Professional: Promoted to assistant principal in Atlanta Public School System in August 2014.

Stacii Y. Johnson

Professional: Joined the CBS Radio V103 family as an on-air jock/media personality in March 2014.

1994**Eu-wanda Eagans**

Professional: Featured in the alumnae profiles on *Spelman.edu* on April 11, 2014.

Tisha Renee Hopper

Professional: Featured in the New + Next section of *Jezebel* magazine, November 2013, highlighting her company, Buckhead Berries.

Caya Beth Lewis

Professional: Published a video on her commitment to an AIDS-free generation for aids.gov in honor of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., January 20, 2014.

Tanika Ray

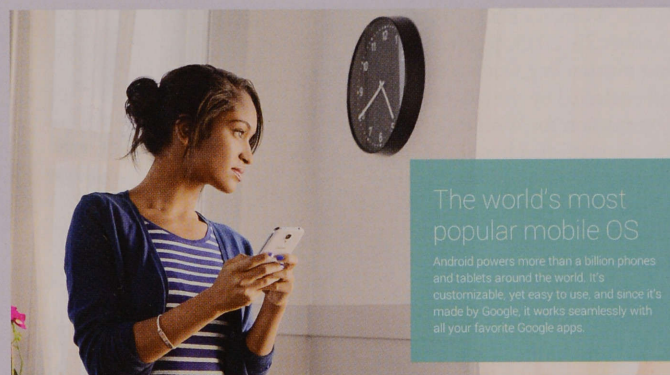
Professional: Moderated a conversation with Tracey Edmonds at Spelman College on Tuesday March 18, 2014.

Christina Joseph Robinson

Professional: Featured in *PR Newswire* for the article, "Media Crossroads: A Daily Newspaper Editor Talks Balance and Sacrifice," written by Brett Savage-Simon C'88.

Meka B. Ward

Professional: Installed as the 50th president of the Gate City Bar Association, the oldest African-American Bar Association in the state of Georgia, January 21, 2014.

Take Note!

Hope Harris, C'2012, recently participated in a commercial print campaign with Android and Google for their online promotions. She is featured acting in the nation's top hit song "Say Something" by A Great Big World, featuring Christina Aguilera. Also, Harris had the opportunity to take a lead role in an Indie horror film, *Club Dead*.



On February 26, 2014, **Andrea Hence Evans, C'98**, was honored with the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Diversity and Access Champion of Change Award by the White House. Evans is principal of KidGINEER, LLC, a creative and unique STEM enrichment program targeting students ages 5–10. She is also the principal of the law firm, Andrea Hence Evans, LLC, an intellectual property law firm in the Washington, D.C., area.

In January 2014, President Obama named **Heather McTeer-Toney, C'98**, former Greenville, Mississippi mayor and attorney, as the Region 4 Administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency. She is responsible for managing the agency's regional activities under the direction of the EPA administrator, promoting state and local environmental protection efforts and serving as a liaison to government officials.



Dawn Mabery, C'99, wrote a column on Nelson Mandela, "The Last Great Liberator of the 20th Century," published on the Center for American Progress website on December 10, 2013. In the piece, she recalls her first visit to South Africa as a study-abroad student from Spelman.

Associate professor **Christine King Farris, C'48**, retired from the faculty of Spelman College after a record-setting 56 years of service in the education department. She was honored at A Celebration of Faculty Retirees by the College on May 2, 2014. Also, the City of Atlanta paid tribute to her on May 16, 2014, at Atlanta City Hall, for 63 years of dedicated service to the academic community of Atlanta. She was one of three recipients of the Legacy of Leadership Awards at the 10th Anniversary Spelman College Women of Color Leadership Conference on May 14, 2014, and she was featured in *THE INSIDER* of the *Atlanta Business Chronicle* in the February 28/ March 6, 2014, issue as an honoree of the 2014 Heritage Celebration, where she received the 2014 Crystal Customer Award in February 2014.



Heritage Celebration 2014

The Hyatt Regency Atlanta hosted its 12th annual Heritage Celebration on Feb. 28, 2014. The event honored...



Farris, Clay the T



The City of Atlanta cordially invites you to join in honoring
Dr. Christine King Farris
as she retires from

Sixty-Three Years of Dedicated Service
to the Academic Community of Atlanta

Friday, May 16, 2014
6:30 p.m.
The Atrium

Atlanta City Hall
55 Trinity Avenue, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

RSVP:
mbond@atlantaga.gov
404-330-6770



Dr. B. LaConyeta Butler, C56, retired from Spelman College after 55 years of service. A previous chair of the department of psychology, Dr. Butler was involved in many of Spelman's signature programs, including the college honors program, women's studies and the Women's Center, the assessment program, counseling services and the faculty governance system. Dr. Butler established the psychology honors sequence, a two-year research training program. During Founders Day 2003, she received the Spelman College True Blue Spirit award.

1995

Reisha L. Raney

Professional: Appointed Non-Resident Fellow, Harvard University, W.E.B. Du Bois Institute, for African and African-American Research at the Hutchins Center. Her research project is "Descendants of Black Patriots and the Daughters of the American Revolution."

R. Nicole Smith

Professional: Discussed biomythography and Black speculative fiction at the Spelman College Museum of Fine Arts Community Conversation on March 20, 2014.

1996

Kimberly K. Haynes

Professional: Featured as a 2014 honoree in the 15th edition of *Who's Who in Black Atlanta*.

Kimya S.P. Johnson

Professional: Named the first director of diversity, inclusion and pro bono by the law firm Cozen O'Connor May 21, 2014, in Philadelphia.

Dalila Ali Rajah

Professional: Featured in a list of LGBT African American women people should know on *Autostraddle.com*. She also has a new short film, *Secrets & Toys*, that premiered at Outfest FUSION LGBT People of Color Film Festival in Los Angeles March 15, and in Palm Springs April 4, as a part of The Dinah Film Festival.

Anne Collins Smith

Professional: Featured in "I've Known Rivers: A Legendary Life" in honor of Dr. Joseph E. Lowery's 92nd Birthday Celebration October 6, 2013.

Celeste Watkins-Hayes

Birth: Daughter Harper Lisa Hayes, born October 28, 2013.

1997

Laurie A. Cumbo

Professional: Featured in the *Wall Street Journal* article "Liberal 'Rat Pack' Aims to Alter New York City Council" December 17, 2013.

Shana M. Rooks

Professional: Elected vice-chairman in 2014 for the Clayton County Board of Commissioners. She is the first woman to hold this post.

Omah M. Williams

Married: Married Herbert R. Duncan II, December 14, 2013, in Fredericksburg, Texas.

1998**Stacey Lenore Dougan**

Professional: Opened "Simply Pure by Chef Stacey Dougan," a raw vegan eatery in downtown Las Vegas, December 5, 2013.

Tia Fuller

Professional: Featured in "I've Known Rivers: A Legendary Life" in honor of Dr. Joseph E. Lowery's 92nd Birthday Celebration October 6, 2013.

Allena Willis Kennerly

Professional: Won second runner-up and fitness award during the Mrs. D.C. Pageant on March 8, 2014.

Erika Preval

Professional: Celebrated the one-year anniversaries of her companies, Charm Etiquette and blog – Simply Put, February 8 and March 8, 2014.

Stephanie Scott

Professional: Named Publicist of the Day on May 21, 2014 by Women in PR.

1999**Lashonda Council-Rogers**

Professional: Named as a member of the 2013 Class of the National Bar Association's 40 Lawyers Under 40 at the Annual National Bar Association Convention in Miami, Florida, during the weekend of July 27, 2013.

Ingrid LaFleur Rogers

Professional: Participated in Spelman College art department's Alumnae Success Stories on April 2, 2014.

2000**Kenique Penn Freeman**

Professional: Featured in "I've Known Rivers: A Legendary Life" in honor of Dr. Joseph E. Lowery's 92nd Birthday Celebration October 6, 2013.

Nicole D Monroe

Professional: Accepted a position with the Virginia attorney general's office as the director of information systems February 10, 2014.

2001**Kimberly Avis**

Birth: Son, Kellan Nicolas Stapleton-Lewis, born February 19, 2014, seven pounds, four ounces, 21 inches.

Tish Johnson

Professional: Established a new business, The GroundWork Agency, in February of 2014.

Nzinga Shaw

Professional: Recognized by AOL as a 2014 recipient of the Makers Award at a ceremony in Palos Verdes, California, in February 2014. She was recently named to the board of directors of the Georgia Diversity Council in January 2014 and the board of directors of the Hammonds House Museum in February 2014.

2002**Eshe Collins**

Professional: Won the Atlanta Public School system District 6 school board seat in December 2013.

Tai Dixon

Professional: Recognized as an honoree for the 2014 *Network Journal* 40 Under Forty.

Alyson Shumpert Dorsey

Birth: Daughter Claudia Elizabeth Dorsey born December 16, 2013.
Professional: Promoted to alumnae programs manager in the Office of Alumnae Affairs at Spelman College, December 2013.

Erin Harper

Education: Received her Ph.D. from Georgia State University's School of Psychology doctoral program in May 2013.

Tameka Cooksey Horton

Professional: Received the 2014 Black Women Rock Award in Business and Entrepreneurship by the CDC/ATSDR Chapter of Blacks in Government May 3, 2014, in Atlanta.

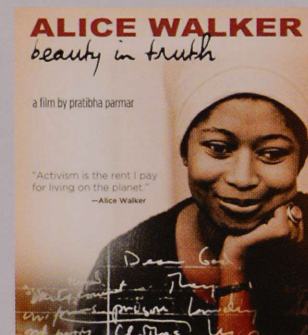
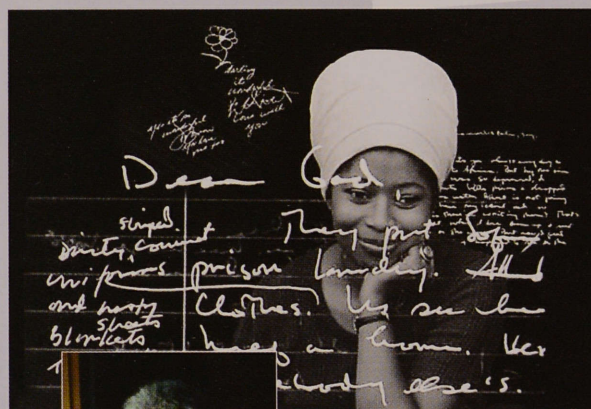
Take Note!

Children's Defense Fund founder, **Marian Wright Edelman, C'60**, was featured in *Ebony* magazine's Power 100 in the December 2013/January 2014 issue. Edelman was named in the "Dream Keepers, Changing the Game" section of the magazine's annual list of influencers and game changers.

THE DREAM KEEPER'S
Changing the Game

Marian Wright Edelman
FOUNDER/PRESIDENT, CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND (CDF)

The brainchild of Edelman, CDF began in 1973 and grew out of the Civil Rights Movement. A national advocacy nonprofit, it continues to be a voice for children and families who are affected by poverty, hunger, educational disparities and incarceration, which were outlined in *Portrait of Inequality*, a CDF 2012 report.



Former student **Alice Walker's, C'65**, documentary, *Alice Walker: Beauty in Truth*, debuted on PBS on March 3, 2014 as a part of its American Masters in partnership with Women and Girls Lead.

The documentary, honoring the Pulitzer Prize-winning author and activist, kicked off this year's #SheDocs online film festival celebrating Women's History Month. It was one of 12 documentaries by prominent independent filmmakers that focus on women and girls who are transforming their lives, their communities and the world.

TV host **Tanika Ray's, C'94**, baby shower was featured on *Essence Magazine's* Baby Bliss on May 20, 2014. The impending arrival of her baby girl was celebrated with an intimate brunch in New York City.

Jamyla Bennu's, C'97, natural beauty line, Oyin Handmade, was made available in select Target stores across the country and at Target.com in April 2014. The launch was covered in several publications including *Fast Company*, *Drug Store News* and *The Baltimore Sun*.

Helen Smith-Price, C'79, and her husband, Dr. Albenny Price, were featured on the cover of the 2014 *Atlanta Tribune* Power Couples Issue. The article highlights the couple's relationship – which began on the campuses of Spelman and Morehouse – along with their careers and dedication to community service.

Attorney **Gaile Pugh Gratton, C'80**, was featured in the article "Good to Know: Six of Alabama's Foremost Women Attorneys Offer Key Insights from Their Business Practice Areas," in *Business Alabama Magazine*, April 2014.

25

MacKenzie Kimbro-Vincent
Professional: Launched her website, www.wedfrenzy.com, March 14, 2014. The site helps brides find daily deals for weddings.

Dione Moultrie King
Education: Received her Ph.D. in social work from the University of Georgia in December 2012.

Deah Warren
Professional: Promoted to deputy chief assistant district attorney in the Clayton County District Attorney's Office in April 2014.

Audrey Waters
Professional: Featured in "I've Known Rivers: A Legendary Life" in honor of Dr. Joseph E. Lowery's 92nd Birthday Celebration October 6, 2013.

2003

Crystal Artis
Birth: Son, Louren Zane Bates, Jr. born March 24, 2014, in New York City at nine pounds, two ounces.

Asha Daniels Harris
Professional: Promoted to director of global marketing for Michael Kors beauty. She develops global brand strategy and development for all beauty categories under the Michael Kors portfolio.

Syreta J. Oglesby
Professional: Featured in the article "Office With a View," in the January 2014 issue of *Sister 2 Sister* magazine.

2004

Cynthia Elaine Brown
Education: Earned a doctorate in dental surgery from Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry May 17, 2014. She is completing a one-year residency in general dentistry at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee.

Christina Dickerson-Cousin
Professional: Published the article, "I Call You Cousins": Kinship, Religion, and Black-Indian Relations in 19th Century Michigan," in the peer-reviewed

journal, *Ethnohistory* 61, No. 1 (Winter 2014), 79–98.
Birth: Son Steven Anthony Cousin, III, born September 9, 2013.

Toni Dixon
Professional: Serves as a chamber partner for the Clayton County Chamber of Commerce.

Maya T. Prabhu
Professional: Received first-place award in March 2013 for the second consecutive year from the South Carolina Press Association, for a short story.

Katrina L. Rogers
Professional: Received the 2013 NAASC Young Alumna Award for her service in the community and the NAASC, for financial support to Spelman College and for high professional achievement, May 18, 2013, at the Blue Note banquet.

2005

Rahila Andrews-Steele
Professional: Featured in the article "Adaptability Helped Doctor in Practice, Life," focusing on her job in occupational medicine, in the January 2014 issue of *The Manhattan Mercury*.

Moya Bailey
Education: Completed her Ph.D. in women's, gender and sexuality studies from Emory University in 2013. She was selected as a post-doctorate fellow in the Africana Research Center at Pennsylvania State University for the 2013–14 academic years.

Melanie Burroughs Cole
Married: Dr. Eddie Cole December 28, 2013, in Memphis, Tennessee.

Adrienne T. Hunter
Education: Received her doctorate in health administration in information systems from the Medical University of South Carolina in May 2014. On March 5, 2014, she defended her dissertation, "Perceived Effectiveness of Clinical e-Learning for Georgia Midwives." She was inducted into the Upsilon Phi Delta National Honor Society and was the first graduate of the program.

Take Note!

Shaun Robinson, C'84, graced the cover of the May/June 2014 issue of *Fitness Magazine*. The "Access Hollywood" co-anchor and weekend correspondent served as host for the 10th Annual Spelman College Women of Color Leadership Conference in May 2014.



Jazz vocalist **Denise Thimes, C'84**, sang for the Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin, at her 72nd birthday celebration on March 22, 2014, at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in New York City.



Actress and fitness guru, **A.J. Johnson, C'85**, was honored at The Black Women Film Network's The Untold Stories Luncheon on March 7, 2014, at the Marriot Marquis Hotel in Atlanta.



Sheila Bronner, C'86, was celebrated as one of the 2014 Women of the Year Honorees by the *Women Looking Ahead News Magazine* on May 3, 2014. The event was held at the Atlanta Marriott Buckhead Hotel. An article featuring Bronner, the founding editor of *Upscale Magazine*, ran in the spring 2014 issue of *Women Looking Ahead News Magazine*.

Weekend Arts I

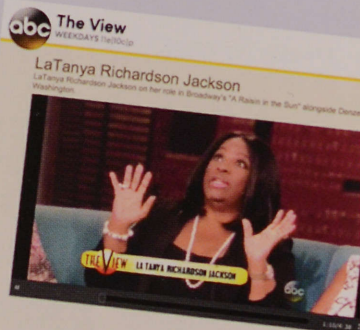
The New York Times



From left, Sophie Okonedo, Denzel Washington, LaTanya Richardson Jackson, Bryce Clyde Jenkins and Anika Noni Rose play members of a family pondering whether to move to a suburb.

Actress **LaTanya Richardson Jackson, C'71**, received a coveted Tony Award nomination for her role as Lena in the Broadway production *A Raisin in the Sun*. Her critically acclaimed performance has spawned an onslaught of media coverage highlighting the veteran actress, including a co-hosting stint on ABC's "The View" on May 8, 2014, and countless other national print, online, NPR and television features.

Jackson was a party guest at First Lady Michelle Obama's 50th birthday in January 2014, and in May 2014, the First Lady also sent a special note for Jackson, which was read to the cast party by actress Julianne Moore, honoring her at Lady Mendl's Tea Salon.



SPELMAN WOMEN OF COLOR CONFERENCE

ESSENCE® was the Official Media Sponsor of the 10th Annual Spelman College Leadership and Women of Color Conference. ESSENCE® Editor-In-Chief, Vanessa K. Bush and Editor-At-Large Mikki Taylor participated in the Festivities.

Clockwise from left: CEO & Principal The Langford Company, Traci Lynn Blackwell - CW Programming Development, & ESSENCE Editor-In-Chief Vanessa K. Bush, Shaun Robinson - Co-anchor and Weekend Correspondent Access Hollywood & Beverly Daniel Tatum, Ph.D. - Spelman President, Editor-At-Large- Mikki Taylor, Shaun Robinson - Co-anchor and Weekend Correspondent Access Hollywood, Michelle Bernard - CEO Bernard Center for Women, Politics & Public Policy, Traci Lynn Blackwell, & ESSENCE Editor-In-Chief Vanessa K. Bush



Photo: Julie Yarbrough

Traci Lynn Blackwell, C'90, and Shaun Robinson, C'84, are pictured along with President Beverly Daniel Tatum in the August 2014 issue of *Essence Magazine* as participants in the 10th anniversary of the Spelman College Leadership and Women of Color Conference.



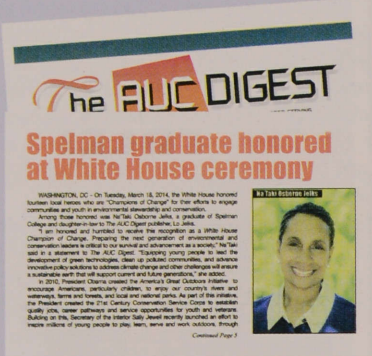
TRACI LYNN BLACKWELL

Vice-president, Current Programs, The CW Network

Thankfully blood, fangs and the undead don't bother Blackwell, who oversees the day-to-day production of The CW's popular series *Vampire Diaries* and its spin-off, *The Originals*. She's responsible for making sure these shows—along with *Sex and the City* prequel *The Carrie Diaries*—continue being fan favorites.

Traci Lynn Blackwell, C'90, was one of 75 women featured in *Essence Magazine's* Hollywood 2014 Hot List, in the March 2014 issue. The VP of Current Programs for the CW Network was noted under the "Queens of TV" section.

Take Note!

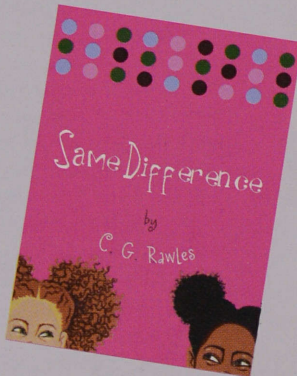


In March 2014, Na'Taki Osborne Jelks, C'94, was named by the Obama administration as one of 14 "White House Champions of Change: Next Generation of Environmental Conservationists" for her efforts to engage communities and youth in environmental stewardship and conservation. Jelks is the manager of education and advocacy programs for the National Wildlife Federation, Southeast Regional Center in Atlanta.



Maia Nkenge Wilson, C'97, was the voice of Bulda, a troll woman, from the Academy Award-winning film, *Frozen*. She is also in the Broadway show, *The Book of Mormon*.

Calida G. Rawles', C'98, children's book *Same Difference* was mentioned in the June 2014 issue of *Miniature Collector* magazine. The book was the inspiration for a miniature roombox designed by Spelman Director of Publications Jo Moore Stewart, which was featured in the magazine.



Jo Moore Stewart, Atlanta, GA

Denise N. White, C'98, known in the music world as Avery Sunshine, talks about her name, history, music and career on VH1 News, posted May 19, 2014. She was also highlighted in *Essence Magazine's* New & Next section online posted on June 10, 2014. The piece features a video clip including a performance of "Why Don't You Try" from her latest album, *The Sunroom*.



Maisha Wynn C'98, lifestyle specialist of LIVE TO WYNN Lifestyle Series was the motivational feature in the April 2014 issue of *Ebony Magazine*. She was on FOX TV in Chicago on March 7, 2014; and again in May 2014 during National Women's Health Week to discuss how to incorporate good choices into your life. Also, Wynn was on WGN News on April 30, 2014, sharing workplace wellness tips.



Brandi Williams Acevedo, C'2000, (top photo, second from right) was featured with her husband, William Acevedo, on the National Multiple Sclerosis website in their Fundraiser Spotlight for her outstanding fundraising efforts for Walk MS. The couple, who both have multiple sclerosis, were married on April 19, 2014. Also, Williams Acevedo was an extra on "Chicago Fire" Season 2, Episode 10 and the movie "Divergent" in 2014.



Morgan

Abrams

Georgia State Representative **Alisha Thomas Morgan, C'2000**, and House Minority Leader **Stacey Abrams, C'95**, appeared on MSNBC's "All in Chris Hayes" discussing the importance of the Common Core state standards and the fight in the state of Georgia to take these higher standards out of Georgia schools. On December 19, 2013, Morgan was accepted into the Broad Superintendents Academy, a national training program designed to prepare experienced leaders for the challenges of supervising urban school districts, state departments of education and high-growth public charter systems. She also adjourned Legislative Day 34 on March 7, 2014, at the Georgia House of Representatives, an honor typically reserved for the House Majority Leader. Abrams recently received the first-ever Gabrielle Giffords Rising Star Award at the 2014 We Are EMILY awards dinner on April 29 in Washington, D.C. The award recognizes women serving in state or local offices who show passion and dedication through advocacy and public service.



Precious L. Williams Esq., C'2000, was featured in an article, "Elevator Pitch Competition," in the February 2014 edition of *Black Enterprise*, as the first-place winner of the 2013 Elevator Pitch contest sponsored by PepsiCo. Her brand, Curvy Girlz Lingerie, LLC, launched on Amazon.com March 31, 2014.



Tomika DePriest, C'89, assistant to the president for strategic initiatives, received a Celebration of Excellence award on April 22, 2014, in honor of the Spelman's Digital Moving Image Salon 10th Anniversary.



Music publicist and Lifestyle Marketing executive **Phylicia Fant, C'2000**, was featured in *E Entertainment* online in the article, "Trendsetters at Work: Warner Bros. Records" on March 17, 2014.



Bridget Bland Bogee, C'2004, and Mychal Bogee's April 27, 2013 wedding was featured in the *New York Beacon*, May 2014.

Former SpelBot Aryen Moore-Alston Vies for 'Food Network Star' Crown



On Sunday, June 1, Spelman alumna Aryen Moore-Alston demonstrated her epicurean prowess on the season premiere of "Food Network Star." Now in its 10th season, the show features culinary stars eager to convince celebrity judges that they have what it takes to host their own Food Network show.

Moore-Alston faced off with 11 other contestants in Los Angeles, and presented herself to a select group of tasters, including *E!* personality Ross Matthews. She prepared her most impressive party bite for the judges — culinary icons Alton Brown, Gada De Laurentis and Bobby Flay — and Food Network executives Bob Tuschman and Susie Fogelson.

Aryen Moore-Alston, C'2005, was one of 12 contestants on the 10th season of *Food Network Star*. The season premiered on June 1, 2014.



April Curry Roberts, C'2009, and husband Anthony's marriage announcement was featured in *Essence Magazine* in April 2014.

2006

Nancy E. Goler

Professional: Named spot announcer for WCLK, 91.9, The Jazz of the City Radio Station, on February 26, 2014. She was appointed ambassador of DeKalb Convention and Visitors Bureau in April 2013, and was cast in *Hank & Frank in the Love Guru* which opened September 7, 2013, at the Southwest Arts Center in Atlanta.

Erika D. King

Education: Earned a doctorate in dental surgery from Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry on May 17, 2014. She is completing a one-year residency in general dentistry at Harlem Hospital in New York. On April 11, 2014, she was named one of Nashville's Top 30 Under 30 Honorees for her professional and philanthropic achievements in the community.

Ashley M. Lee

Professional: Promoted to the International Trade Counsel for The Coca-Cola Company in Atlanta February 1, 2014.

Juliana Montgomery

Professional: Received a Celebration of Excellence award on Tuesday April 22, 2014 in honor of the Spelman's Digital Moving Image Salon 10th Anniversary.

2007

Amanda Leigh Aiken

Professional: Featured as Professional of the Month on nolablackprofessionals.com for the month of April 2014.

Alison Brown

Professional: Presented on food policy and applied nutrition at Spelman College April 8, 2014, as a graduate representative of Tufts University.

Shevaun Culmer

Professional: Honored as promising Bahamian under 40 on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the independence of the Bahamas.

Trinita Ervin-Patton

Professional: Featured as a 2014 honoree in the 15th edition of *Who's Who in Black Atlanta*.

Barbara Furlow-Smiles

Professional: Selected as Cox Communication's Employee Spotlight representing the Atlanta region in honor of Black History Month 2014.

Married: Ernest Smiles July 6, 2013, in Chesapeake Bay, Maryland.

2008

Victoria Beeks

Professional: Named assistant to Yolanda Cochran, executive vice president of physical production, Alcon Entertainment, LLC, in April 2014. She was previously the assistant to Nicole David, William Morris Endeavor, from August 2013 – April 2014.

Whitney Bond

Professional: Participated in the Women's HERstory Month worship service March 23, 2014, in Sisters Chapel.

Alaina Marie Chipman

Professional: Honored as promising Bahamian under 40 on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the independence of the Bahamas.

Janille Chambers Corbett

Education: Won the Edward G. Lewis Award as the champion of the 65th Annual Hale Moot Court Honors Competition at the University of Southern California School of Law March 7, 2014.

Brittney Tyner

Professional: Participated in the Women's HERstory Month worship service March 23, 2014, in Sisters Chapel.

2009

Cassandra "Cassi" Denise Davis

Professional: Featured in "I've Known Rivers: A Legendary Life" in honor of Dr. Joseph E. Lowery's 92nd Birthday Celebration October 6, 2013.

Mary Elizabeth Grimes

Professional: Appointed by the board of directors as the new president of Marian Middle School in St. Louis in December 2013.

Marcuetta Williams

Education: Graduated with a Ph.D. in counseling and student personnel psychology from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, May 15, 2014.

2010

Ashley Cleveland

Professional: Featured in "I've Known Rivers: A Legendary Life" in honor of Dr. Joseph E. Lowery's 92nd Birthday Celebration October 6, 2013.

Eriqah Foreman-Williams

Professional: Panelist for Spelman's Green Jobs... Sustainable Careers Environmental Career Panel April 23, 2014, in honor of Earth Week observance.

Antionette Scott Lias

Education: Graduated from Thomas Jefferson School of Law with a J.D. in May 2013.

Married: Johnathan Lias April 19, 2014, in San Diego.

Topaz Sampson

Professional: Began her term as president of the Student National Medical Association, the oldest and largest student-run organization focused on the needs and concerns of medical students of color, in May 2014.

Pamela Franklin Stegall

Professional: Featured in "I've Known Rivers: A Legendary Life" in honor of Dr. Joseph E. Lowery's 92nd Birthday Celebration October 6, 2013.

2011

Mea Boykins

Education: Graduated from Kings College London on February 3, 2014 with her master's degree.

Megan D. Copening

Professional: Featured in the alumnae profiles on Spelman.edu April 11, 2014, and was honored as a Science Spectrum Trailblazer at the 28th Black Engineer of the Year Awards STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Global Competitiveness Conference in February 2014.

Kelli Michelle Foster

Education: Earned a master of science in public health degree from Meharry Medical College School of Graduate Studies & Research May 17, 2014.

Milan C. Green

Professional: Featured in "I've Known Rivers: A Legendary Life" in honor of Dr. Joseph E. Lowery's 92nd Birthday Celebration October 6, 2013.

Ashley D. Jordan

Professional: Presented at "The Slacker Institute: Who We Are & What We Do" at Spelman College's Graduate School Information session October 24, 2013.

R. Danielle Scott

Education: Graduated from Indiana University with a master of arts degree in speech language pathology May 9, 2014.

2012

Sharyn A. Dougherty

Education: Graduated from Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health with a master's degree in public health, concentrating in behavioral science and health education, May 12, 2014.

Bridget A. Peters

Professional: Elected as the Southeast Region Student Representative for the American College of Sports Medicine 2014–2016.

Lauren Taylor

Education: Graduated from Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health May 12, 2014, with a master's degree in public health in behavioral sciences and health education.

2013

Shannon Frink

Education: Featured on Auburn University's website's Take 5 for her graduate studies in the School of Kinesiology in May 2014.

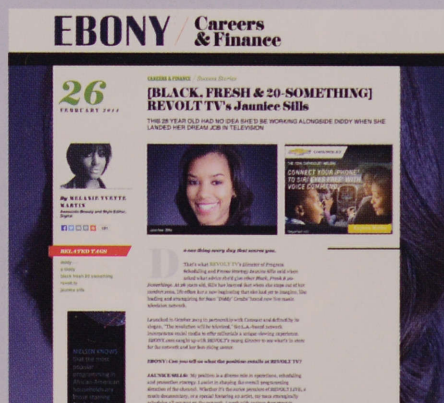
Lyrrie M. R. Jackson

Professional: Featured in "I've Known Rivers: A Legendary Life" in honor of Dr. Joseph E. Lowery's 92nd Birthday Celebration October 6, 2013.

Christin Walker

Education: Featured on Auburn University's website's Take 5 for her graduate studies in the School of Kinesiology in May 2014.

Take Note!



Jaunice Sills, C'2008, director of program scheduling and promo strategy for Sean "Diddy" Combs REVOLT TV was featured on *Ebony.com* in February 2014. The piece in the Careers & Finance section shares insight about her dream job working in television.

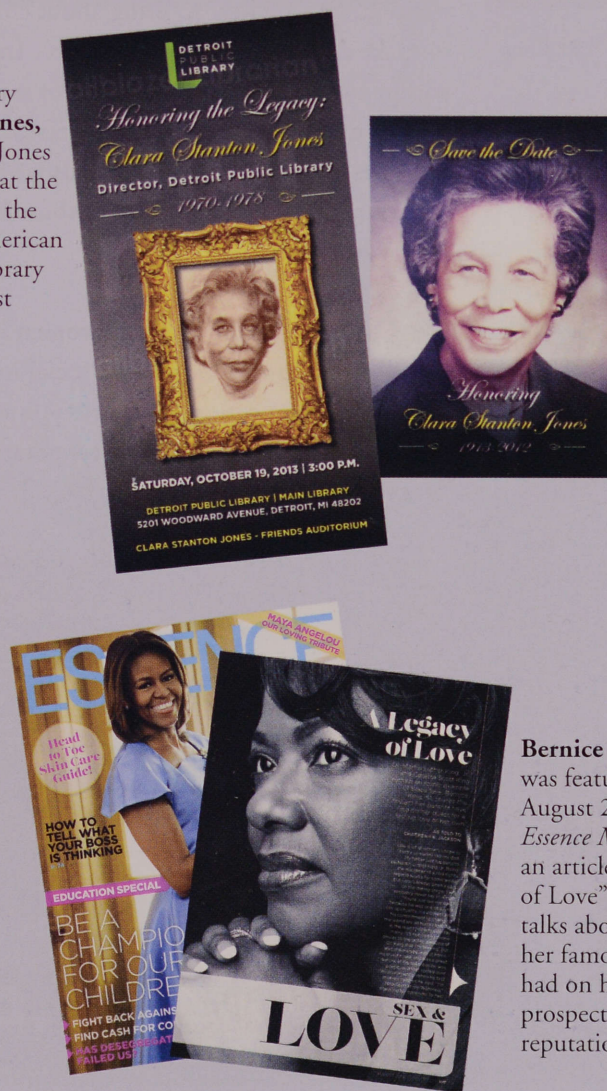


Janet Jones, C'58, and her daughter **Alyson Jones, C'96**, were featured in the article, "Mother-Daughter, Inc.: The Highs and Lows of Working with Your Mom," in the May 2014 issue of *BLAC*. The pair operates Source Booksellers, a unique niche of nonfiction books, located in Detroit. Janet Jones was also featured in the article, "Older Americans: Where They Are, What They're Doing," in the November 2013 issue of *Work & Family Life*.

On October 19, 2013, the Detroit Public Library honored the legacy of the late **Clara Stanton Jones, C'34**, with the dedication of the Clara Stanton Jones Friends Auditorium. Jones had a 34-year career at the Detroit Public Library where she was appointed the director in 1970, becoming the first African-American leader at the institution and in a major urban library system in the United States. She was also the first woman to lead the Detroit Public Library.



Sara Collier, C'2012, along with her twin brother, Sam, reunited with their biological mother and siblings on the *Steve Harvey Show* in May 2014. The pair had asked the show for help finding their biological mother, who was 21 when they were born in Augusta, Georgia, and who gave them up for adoption as newborns.



Bernice King, C'85, was featured in the August 2014 issue of *Essence Magazine* in an article, "A Legacy of Love" where she talks about the impact her famous family has had on her romantic prospects and reputation.

A Praise Song for Spelman: 2014 Reunion

Now, you women, hear the word of the Lord: open your ears to the words of his mouth. Teach your daughters how to wail; teach one another a lament. — *Jeremiah 9:20 (Today's New International Version)*

“... Today there is still a call for wailing women to prick the conscience of a nation. We are the Facebook prophets and the wailing women, who are here to bring about change and to make a difference in the world. ... Inquire within and then raise your voices for our women in prison by name, not by number; teach your daughters how to wail against injustice for the Nigerian girls. Wail for access to those life-saving exams against breast cancer.

Turn yourselves from whining women into wailing women who care about social issues. ... Let's spring into action. Who will you wail for? My Spelman sisters, don't be pew potatoes. Wake up and wail!”

Excerpts from 2014 Reunion Convocation
Rev. Courtney Clayton Jenkins, C'2004
Pastor of Euclid Avenue Congregational Church,
Cleveland, Ohio

*“Oh God, forever bind
 Our hearts to Thine...”*

THE SPELMAN HYMN (1934)
 WORDS AND MUSIC BY
 EDDYE MONEY SHIVERY, C'34





2014

Reunion



A PRAISE SONG FOR SPELMAN





2014 Reunion Philanthropy Awards:

Reunion 2014 Class Gift: Class of 1964, Golden Girls – \$275,373

Every Woman...Every Year! Class Participation

Class of 1964 – 75 percent

Class of 1969 – 65 percent

Class of 1979 – 60 percent

Four-Year Cumulative Class Gift: Class of 1984 – \$653,206

Most Significant Class Pledge: Class of 1989 – \$43,834

The Golden Girls Class of 1964





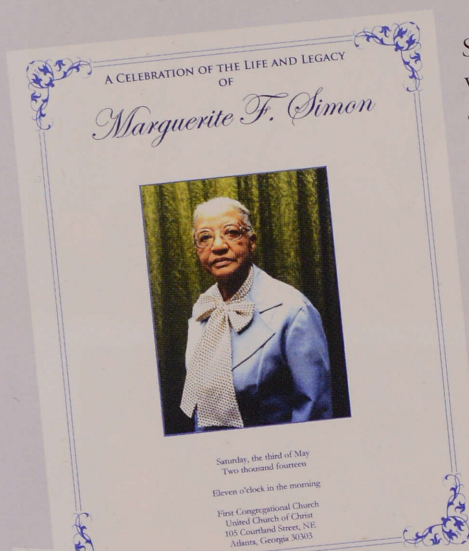
In Memoriam

Marguerite F. Simon, C'35

Miss Simon, as she was respectfully known, taught physical education at Spelman College from 1943–1980, a total of 37 years. She was an advocate and champion for the health and physical education of students and was instrumental in getting Read Hall built in 1951. More than 50 years later, the gymnasium in Read Hall would be named in honor of Miss Simon, for her excellence, advocacy and leadership in physical education and health, and her unconditional love for and commitment to Spelman.

After retirement, Miss Simon continued to dedicate her time and treasure to Spelman. She received numerous honors, awards and accolades from the College, including its highest alumnae honor, the Founders Spirit Award.

In 2003–2004, Miss Simon shared these words with students in the Spelman Independent Scholars program, “I had the privilege of working at Spelman for 37 years, and I loved every one of those 37 years. I never did anything extra. I didn’t have any favorites among my students. I believed in being impartial. I was never late to class, and I supported students in their activities.



I tried to be a part of the total experience they had at Spelman. Everything I did I was supposed to do. So, when you ask me how I felt when Spelman named the gymnasium after me, I will tell you that I was honored. Of course I was honored, but I never thought I should get special recognition for my work at Spelman. I wasn’t working to be honored by the College. I was working to serve the College. I did what I was supposed to do. I loved my work. I loved the students. I love Spelman.”

Upon complete of construction, her name will be mounted in the new Read Hall, to inspire current and future generations of Spelman women to move more in order to increase their quality of life.

Marguerite F. Simon passed away on April 25, 2014, at age 101. A celebration of her life and legacy was held on May 3, 2014, at the First Congregational Church in Atlanta.

Harvenia Mamie Hill, C'57

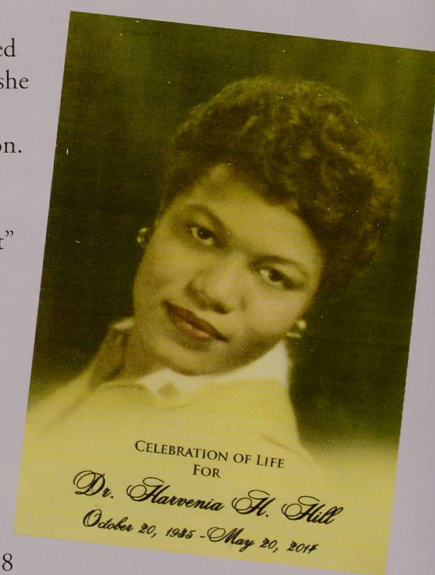
Harvenia Hill was an engaged student while at Spelman — she majored in biology with a minor in secondary education. In the yearbook, her classmates teasingly referred to her as a “chronic biologist” and respectfully noted her modesty and sophistication.

After graduating from Spelman, Harvenia Mamie married Edward Hill, Jr. The couple had two children, Melanie Joi Hill and Edward Hill, III. She had a stellar career as a teacher and principal with 38 years of service in the Atlanta Public School system.

Hill was an engaged community volunteer, and a dedicated member of Ben Hill United Methodist Church. And she did all of this while staying connected and committed to Spelman College.

She was a reunion class agent, serving along with her classmates to solicit gifts to Spelman in celebration of their reunions through the years; she made presentations as part of the History and Traditions sessions for new Spelman students, and she participated in homecoming festivities, Christmas carol concerts and other signature Spelman events. Also, Dr. Hill was an active member of the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College.

Harvenia Mamie Hill passed away on May 20, 2014. A celebration of life service was held on May 24, 2014, at Ben Hill United Methodist Church, in Atlanta.



METRO & OBITUARIES

MARGUERITE SIMON, 101

Teacher leaves a lasting legacy

She had dedicated her entire life to Spelman College.

By Kathy Castle
kcastle@metromedia.com

It is nearly impossible to think about Spelman College without thinking about Marguerite F. Simon. Known by all as Miss Simon, the physical education teacher was beloved for her decades-long dedication to America's oldest historically black college for women, and longtime friend and Spelman alumna, Janet Lane Martin.

“She represented knowledge and had dedicated her entire life to Spelman College,” Martin said. “She was a relic of a time when Spelman was a small college.”

Simon graduated from Spelman in 1929 with a degree in education and as a second grade teacher in Milledgeville, Ga., where she worked as a secretary teacher.

At the same time, background in physical education, (eventually becoming her life), led her to Spelman, she began teaching and eventually served as physical education teacher at Spelman from 1943 to 1980.

During her nearly four-decade career at Spelman, Simon taught everything from anatomy to health and fitness, and she was known for her “old fashioned” approach to teaching, and her students understood and appreciated the importance of health and fitness, Martin said.

“She was a teacher and everyone knew it,” Simon said. “She was a teacher and everyone knew it.”

Understanding the need for more than just a teacher, Simon and some of her colleagues proposed to the college president, Dr. James H. Bevel, that a new physical education building be constructed. Once it was established, Simon began a long-term fundraising project to build Read Hall, Spelman's new and recreation facility, which was constructed in 1981, Martin said.

“The way the architecture was the only one who were there at the time,” Martin said. “She was very instrumental in getting the Read Hall building.”

Simon retired from Spelman in 1980, but her presence at the school remained in the name. She continued serving as a volunteer, mentor and speaker, and her love of Spelman history and tradition continued to serve as an inspiration to several generations of Spelmanians, Martin said.

“She was a teacher and everyone knew it,” Simon said. “She was a teacher and everyone knew it.”

“She was a teacher and everyone knew it,” Simon said. “She was a teacher and everyone knew it.”



Marguerite F. Simon of Atlanta died April 25 of natural causes at Piedmont Hospital. She was 101.

During her nearly four-decade career at Spelman...



In Memoriam

1938

Mary Blackstone Bethely

Died: April 18, 2014

Services: April 24, 2014,
Jackson Memorial Baptist
Church, Atlanta.

1942

Alfred Ables White Smith

Died: January 24, 2014

Services: February 1, 2014, The
First Congregational Church,
U.C.C., Atlanta.

1944

Mariella Ukina Ama Holman

Died: March 17, 2014

Services: March 27, 2014, St.
Augustine's Episcopal Church,
Washington, D.C.

Virginia Tillman Whatley

Died: February 3, 2014

Services: February 8, 2014,
Providence Missionary Baptist
Church, Atlanta.

1948

Emma Louise Roberson Eagan

Died: November 18, 2013

Services: November 30, 2013,
Greater Grace Temple – City of
David, Detroit.

1953

Claire Guy Whalum

Died: March 6, 2014

Services: March 11, 2014, in the
Abbey at Westview Cemetery,
Atlanta.

1955

**Mayme Thomasenor Walker
Pearson**

Died: June 11, 2014

Services: June 14, 2014,
Saint Paul African Methodist
Episcopal Church, Dublin,
Georgia.

1956

Catherine Minor Allen

Died: June 15, 2014

Services: June 21, 2014,
Saint Paul Missionary Baptist
Church, East Point, Georgia.

1958

Gwendolyn Dunnville Page

Died: April 9, 2014

Services: April 19, 2014,
St. Peter Missionary Baptist
Church, Atlanta.

Barbara Fisher Troup

Died: March 27, 2014

Services: April 4, 2014,
Radcliffe Presbyterian Church,
Atlanta.

1962

Dorothy Mae Reid Dalton

Died: May 15, 2014

Services: May 20, 2014, AME
Zion Church on the Hill, New
York.

1965

Vernyce Marvyne Jenrette

Died: January 10, 2014.

Services: January 17, 2014,
Friendship Baptist Church,
Atlanta.

1966

Patricia Travis

Died: June 10, 2014

Services: June 13, 2014,
Murray Brothers Funeral
Home, Atlanta.

1988

Kimberly Lewis

Died: March 5, 2014.

Services: March 14, 2014,
Alfred Street Baptist Church,
301 South Alfred St.,
Alexandria, Virginia.

1990

Donna Millette Batts

Died: June 9, 2014

Services: Saturday, June
9, 2014, Berean Christian
Church, Stone Mountain,
Georgia.

1992

Jayne Angela Beauford

Died: February 10, 2014

Services: February 17, 2014,
Christ Temple Church of
God in Christ, Beaver Falls,
Pennsylvania.



PHOTO: JULIE YARBROUGH, C'91



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