

SPELMAN

# Messenger



The Inauguration of  
Mary Schmidt Campbell, Ph.D.  
Tenth President, Spelman College



# SPELMAN Messenger

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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](mailto:sowens5@spelman.edu).

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

## CORRECTIONS

Spelman Messenger Fall 2015 Vol.125 No.4

### Title corrections:

Rosalind Bass, M.D., C'92, is assistant professor in the Spelman College Environmental and Health Sciences Program and director of Health Careers Program.

Maci Peterson attended Spelman during the 2007-2008 school year as a former student not as an exchange student.

### Name spelling correction:

Howardena Pindell – artist presented in the Spelman College Museum of Fine Art's 2015 fall exhibition.



Spelman College®

*A Choice to Change the World*

## CREDO

Founded in 1885, the *Spelman Messenger* is the alumnae magazine of Spelman College and is committed to educating, serving and empowering Black women. The content of the Messenger is designed to share news and events about the College and alumnae, as well as discuss Spelman's leadership role in addressing a wide range of issues relevant to our community.





On the Cover  
Founders Day 2016



Spelman Scene  
Commencement 2016



The Inauguration of  
Mary Schmidt Campbell, Ph.D.

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Striving to Reach an  
Ideal of Equality

BY CONNIE GREEN FREIGHTMAN



## Spelman Women Lead

**A**s a student of leadership, I am always looking for models of inspired leadership. In this election season, I am mindful of the fact that no matter who wins this presidential election, the world will still need courageous and just leaders in all aspects of our civic life.

Spelman College is filled with women who aspire to be just and courageous leaders. During our opening convocation in August, when I welcomed the members of the class of 2020 to Spelman College, I asked the class how many of them expected to become leaders. Almost all of them raised their hands. I told them that they had come to the right school because leadership is fundamental to a Spelman education. Our mission states – we educate women of African descent to become global leaders.

Every aspect of their Spelman education is designed to equip them to develop solutions to 21st century challenges.

They will be the physicians who will eradicate health disparities. They will be the math majors, who, not unlike the now 98-year-old Katherine Johnson, a Black mathematician who plotted the trajectory of the first manned trip to the moon, will plot our course to yet unnamed planets.

Some will be environmental scientists and claim as their territory the battleground of compromised environments. Some will be English majors and write the poems that awaken us to a truth we refuse to

otherwise see. Some will be philosophy majors who will go to law school and, from their moral and ethical center, repair what is broken in our criminal justice system.

As they began their academic career, I asked them to consider what the word leadership means. What do leaders do? How do we measure the success of a leader? In thinking about what makes a good leader, I invited our Spelman sisters to consider three principles.

First, a leader knows the change she wants to see and speaks that change clearly. This was beautifully illustrated by Pearl Cleage, C'71, poet, writer and producer, as she joined forces with Imani Dixon, Spelman Student Government Association president, and Mary-Pat Hector, SSGA co-director of leadership and civic engagement, to host a sunup-to-sundown voter registration campus event. Sister Cleage stated their goal clearly and emphatically: "I have only one mission between now and Election Day and that is to make sure everybody I know is ready to vote." Our Spelman sisters registered 400 new voters that day!

The second principle recognizes that leadership is a call to action, a call to do the hard work that results in meaningful change. Spelman College's call to action will be its new strategic plan. The plan is a covenant the institution forges with its stakeholders. As we continue our ascent as a top-ranked liberal arts college, the plan will chart the arc of our path forward. In the coming weeks we will provide

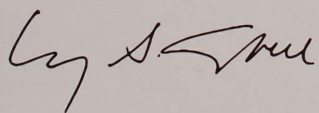


opportunities for members of our Spelman community to convey their ideas about how to continue building Spelman's greatness. Based on what we hear, based on what the data tell us about our current and future students, based on what we believe is the power of education, we will construct a plan that launches us into the next 135 years.

The third and final principle of leadership calls for a leader to leave behind something enduring for the generations that follow. As I talk to students, when I walk around campus, or chat with them in the dining hall, or discuss Alice Walker's *The Temple of My Familiar* in the course of the President's Book Circle, I am well aware that I am speaking to the women who will shape our future. Each will have to decide what change she wants to see. Each will decide her call to action and each will determine what she will leave behind for future generations. Our job is to make sure that the Spelman we leave behind is a place that allows our Spelman sisters to be the best version themselves. Their job is to defy our expectations and reach heights we cannot even begin to imagine.

As I told the class of 2020 – this is a great time to be Black and a woman.

And don't forget to VOTE!



Mary Schmidt Campbell, Ph.D.  
President, Spelman College







## SISTERHOOD

### A SEASON OF CELEBRATION: REUNION 2016 PHILANTHROPIC AWARDS

With a record-breaking 850 alumnae returning for their 2016 Reunion, the class members had plenty

to celebrate. For starters, Edith Arnold Hambrick, C'41, celebrated her 75th Reunion and was honored for being the most consistent donor in her class. The Golden Girl Class of 1966 earned the Four-Year Cumulative Class Gift award with a contribution of \$1,238,950, as well as the Every Woman ... Every Year! Class Participation award with 66 percent of class members making gifts. Former Spelman President Johnnetta B. Cole joined the Class of 1991 as their members claimed the highest number (148) to return for their 25th Reunion.



Members of the Reunion Class of 2011 document their fifth anniversary in Sisters Chapel.



Spelman College Director of Alumnae Affairs Sharon Owens, C'76, celebrates her 40th Reunion.

Director of the Women's Research and Resource Center at Spelman College and Anna Julia Cooper Professor of Women's Studies Beverly Guy-Sheftall, Ph.D., C'66, comes through the Alumnae Arch.



Former Spelman President Johnnetta B. Cole, Ph.D., holds Class of 1991 pennant.



## BLACK CHRONICLES II

*Black Chronicles II* made its Southeast debut at the Spelman College Museum of Fine Art this spring. This exhibition explores the Black presence in late 19th century Victorian Britain through the prism of studio portraiture. Organized by the London-based arts agency Autograph ABP and curated by Renée Mussai and Mark Sealy, the exhibition features 100 photographs of Black Victorians including The African Choir, which toured throughout Britain to raise money for its' school in South Africa, the actor and boxer Peter Jackson and Sarah Forbes Bonetta, a slave from West Africa who became Queen Victoria's god-daughter.

This stunning mix of rare and mostly never seen images depicts both ordinary and prominent citizens and includes artists, dignitaries, servicemen and women, missionaries, students, performers and international royalty.

*Black Chronicles II* invited Spelman and broader regional communities alike to consider the range of Black people that were in Britain during the Victorian era. "*Black Chronicles II* makes the archive, which is often viewed as a static place for researching the past, come alive," said Andrea Barnwell Brownlee, Ph.D., C'93, director of the Spelman College Museum of Fine Art. "While the Black subjects in the

portraits hail from the Victorian era, it provokes a variety of pressing discussions about tracing our ancestry, maintaining family albums, the various ways that photographs continue to shape views about race and the under-considered relationship between photographers and sitters."

*Black Chronicles II* is an Autograph ABP exhibition produced in collaboration with the Hulton Archive (a division of Getty Images), and features the collections of Autograph ABP, the Hulton Archive, Paul Frecker/The Library of Nineteenth-Century Photography, Jenny Allsworth and Val Wilmer. It is supported by the Arts Council of England. Original research funded by Heritage Lottery Fund. Major support for Spelman College's presentation provided by the Wish Foundation, Inc. and the LUBO Fund.



Eleanor Xiniwe, *The African Choir*, London Stereoscopic Company, 1891.

Courtesy of © Hulton Archive/Getty Images.



Sarah Forbes Bonetta. Brighton, 1862. Photographer/Studio: Merrick. Carte-de-Visite, 64x100mm. Courtesy of Paul Frecker collection/The Library of Nineteenth Century Photography



## 2016 COMMENCEMENT AND BACCALAUREATE HIGHLIGHTS

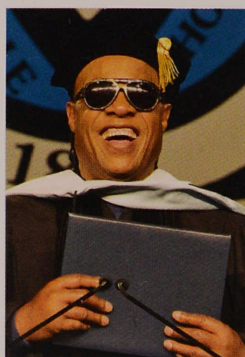
Salutatorian **Bongeka Zuma**, C'2016, was among the 483 members of the class of 2016 to take part in the Spelman College's 129th Commencement on May 15. A biology major, Zuma, who was selected as a member of the inaugural class of students at the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls in 2007, was awarded her degree and honors while **Oprah Winfrey** observed proudly from the audience. Zuma, who avidly pursued her interests in biological research at Spelman, joined the University of Oxford in London this fall to complete a master's degree in medical anthropology. She plans to combine her interests in health care and female empowerment by pursuing a medical degree with a specialty in obstetrics and gynecology.



**The Honorable Loretta E. Lynch**, the first African American woman to be confirmed as attorney general of the United States, shared her inspiring story and words of wisdom with the graduates during her Commencement address. "My faith in our ability to conquer challenges is bolstered by what I see. I see a sisterhood, one that will stand together, every step of the way, no matter the circumstances. I see over 480 strong, motivated women who have decided to use their voices to change the world" Lynch said. "You will create ripples of change that will extend far into the future." Following her address, Lynch received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the College.



In addition, Spelman College recognized American singer, songwriter, musician, and producer **Stevland Morris AKA Stevie Wonder** with a Doctor of Humane Letters. One of the most celebrated figures in popular music, he has won 25 Grammy Awards, the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, a Golden Globe and an Academy Award. Stevie Wonder also has



*Rosalind G. Brewer C'84, Chair of the Spelman College Board of Trustees*



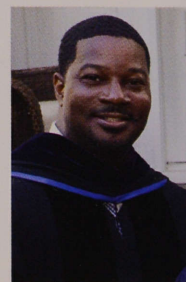
*President Mary Schmidt Campbell*

received numerous accolades for his humanitarian efforts and philanthropic leadership. In 1983, he spearheaded the realization of Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a national holiday. He participated in the 1985 "We Are The World" fundraiser for hunger in Africa and was active in the movement to end apartheid in South Africa.

During the Commencement ceremony, the 2016 Spelman National Community Service Award was presented to **Precious Zywiciel Muhammad**, who started the HAGAR Civilization Training Missionary organization to provide shelter and support services for abused women and at risk children. Now, in an effort to develop affordable housing on Atlanta's Westside, she is collaborating with Invest Atlanta, the city's economic development agency.



On May 14, **The Reverend Jonathan L. Walton, Ph.D.**, (left) Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church at Harvard Divinity School, served as the baccalaureate speaker for the class of 2016. As a social ethicist and scholar of American religions, Dr. Walton told the graduates that Spelman had equipped them to make an indelible impression on the world. "We need you to dictate and determine culture. We need you to refuse to remain silent," he said. "I pray you leave Spelman with a vast imagination and steely determination."



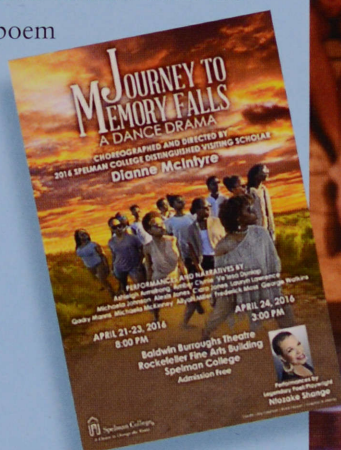


## JOURNEY TO MEMORY FALLS: A DANCE DRAMA

Choreographed and directed by 2016 Spelman College Distinguished Visiting Scholar Dianne McIntyre

Childhood memories and storytelling were the core elements of Spelman College Distinguished Visiting Scholar Dianne McIntyre's culminating performance, "Journey to Memory Falls," held April 21–24. The innovative dance-driven drama blended authentic personal individual narratives and modern dance around a corps of 12 students who shared their stories on a stark and, at times, dramatically lit stage. The empowering production also featured a reading by poet/playwright Ntozake Shange, author of the Tony Award-nominated "for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf."

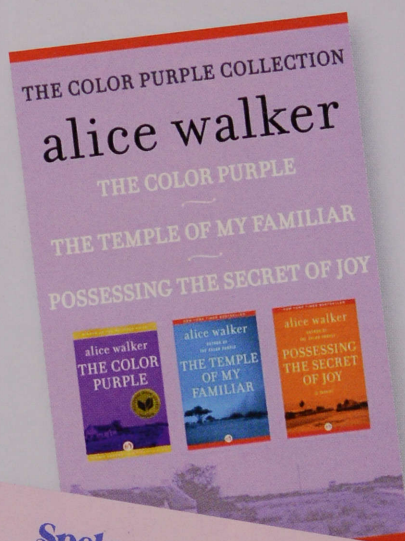
She recited from her newest choreopoem "lost in language and sound: or how I found my way to the arts: essays," her autobiography of becoming an artist. "Journey to Memory Falls" marks the first time McIntyre and Shange, who have collaborated for more than four decades, have performed together at Spelman. McIntyre choreographed the television adaptation of Shange's play "for colored girls."





## ALICE WALKER: ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

During the fall 2016 semester, Spelman alumna and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Alice Walker was an Artist-in-Residence at Spelman from October 3-5. She spoke at a public convocation open to all first-year students and attended select classes as well as a session of the President's Book Circle. This year, President Mary Schmidt Campbell, Ph.D., is inviting students to join her in reading Alice Walker's trilogy – *The Color Purple*, *The Temple of My Familiar* and *The Secret to Possessing Joy*. Twenty-five students were selected to participate in the Book Circle. In 2017, a trip for Book Circle members to see the Broadway musical, *The Color Purple*, will complete the experience.



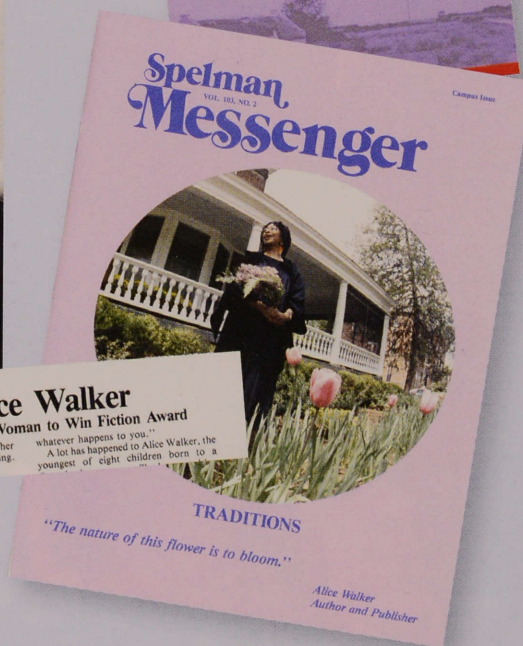
### Pulitzer Prize Winner: Alice Walker

Novel "The Color Purple" Makes Alumna First Black Woman to Win Fiction Award

The following excerpts are from the article "Alice Walker Makes The Big Time" by Pam Abramson

says, "There are so many people like her who make it. Who come from nothing. People who triumph."

whatever happens to you." A lot has happened to Alice Walker, the youngest of eight children born to a



"The nature of this flower is to bloom."

Alice Walker  
Author and Publisher

## SPELMAN WELCOMES NEW BOARD TRUSTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES



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Price, C'79,  
Trustee**

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of Global  
Community Affairs  
of The Coca-Cola  
Company/President  
of The Coca-Cola  
Foundation*



**Colleen Taylor,  
C'90, Trustee**

*Executive Vice  
President and  
head of Treasury  
Management and  
Merchant Services  
at Capital One  
Bank*



**D'Rita Melinda  
Robinson, C'97,  
Trustee**

*Civic Leader and  
Entrepreneur*



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C'2017, Student  
Representative**

*2016-2017 President  
of the Spelman  
Student Government  
Association*



**Kathleen  
Phillips-Lewis,  
Ph.D., Faculty  
Representative**

*Associate Professor  
and Chair of  
the Spelman  
Department of  
History*



**Tara Buckner,  
C'87, Alumnae  
Representative**

*President of the  
National Alumnae  
Association of  
Spelman College*



CELEBRATE THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
SPELMAN COLLEGE MUSEUM OF FINE ART

*Africa Forecast: Fashioning Contemporary Life*  
September 15 – December 3, 2016



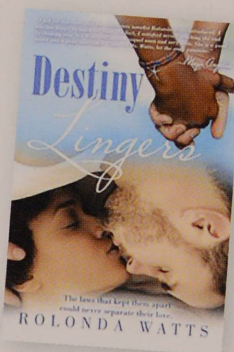
Fabiola Jean-Louis  
*Marie-Antoinette is Dead*, 2016  
Archival pigment print on hot press bright paper  
33 x 26 inches  
Courtesy the artist and Alan Avery Art Company

SPELMAN COLLEGE  
20th Anniversary  
museum  
OF FINE ART



Evelynn Hammonds, C'76, published *The Nature of Difference: Sciences of Race in the United States from Jefferson to Genomics* (The MIT Press) in 2009. *The Nature of Difference* documents how distinctions between people have been generated in and by the life sciences. Through insightful commentaries and a wide-ranging selection of primary documents by the editors, it charts the shifting boundaries of science and race through more than two centuries of American history.

Rolonda Watts, C'80, published the new book *Destiny Lingers* (iUniverse) on March 15, 2016. In this contemporary romance, a heart-broken journalist embarks on a journey of self-discovery where she must overcome her personal pain and find tranquility before she can realize true love.



Crystal Brown-Lewis, C'87, published her first children's book, *My Mama Is an Angel* (Heavenly Enterprises Midwest, Limited) on February 20, 2016. The



book tells the tender story of the relationship of a young girl and her mother who has breast cancer. *My Mama Is an Angel*, can open the door to

healthy communication in times such as this, because it deals with this topic in a way that is both thoughtful and touching.

Riche Barnes, C'95, recently published the book, *Raising the Race: Black Career Women Redefine Marriage, Motherhood* (University Press) in December 2015.

This is the first scholarly book to examine how Black, married career women juggle their relationships with their extended and nuclear families, the expectations of the Black community, and their desires to raise healthy, independent children. Drawing from extensive interviews with 23 Atlanta-based professional women who left or modified careers as attorneys, physicians, executives and administrators, the author found that their decisions were deeply rooted in an awareness of Black women's historical struggles. Departing from the possessive individualistic discourse of "having it all," the women profiled here think beyond their own situation – considering ways their decisions might help the entire Black community.



Veronica N. Chapman, C'2003, published the children's book *I Know I Can!* (Boxxout Enterprises) in 2015. Paired with vibrant illustrations, the book centers around Faith, the class valedictorian, who shares her childhood dreams and the lessons that served as the foundation for her courage at her high school graduation speech. As a child she dreamed of touching the stars, going back in time to sing with Mahalia Jackson, and meeting other African-American heroes. During



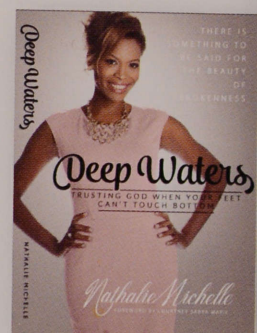
the speech she also discusses her childhood dreams of things that are more attainable, such as visiting the Louvre in Paris, France, and embarking on a safari in South Africa.

Courtney Clayton, C'2004, published *Stepping Back to Step Up: A Six-Week*

*Devotional to Recharge, Refresh and Refuel Women in Ministry* (Team Jenkins; 1 edition), on September 10, 2015. It is all too easy to be consumed by the rigorous personal and professional demands that come with ministry: in just six weeks, *Stepping Back to Step Up* offers a clear path through this challenging, rewarding and enjoyable calling while also offering personal benefits in a well-paced, balanced life in which women clergy take care of themselves as much they do their flock.



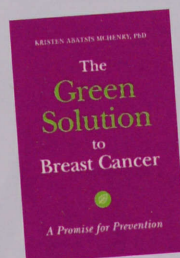
Nathalie Michelle Coward, C'2006, wrote *Deep Waters: Trusting God When Your Feet Can't Touch Bottom*, (Nathalie Michelle) on February 5, 2016. Whether you are struggling with your own tragic moment or walking with a loved one through theirs, this book will uplift you to overcome whatever you are facing. Through practical insight and genuine transparency, her tale of resilience is a timely example of a renewed life.





## faculty BOOKS AND PAPERS

**Kristen McHenry, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of women's studies/women's health, comparative women's studies program, has written a unique, research-based book, *The Green Solution to Breast Cancer: A Promise for Prevention* (Praeger, September 2015). Dr. McHenry's critical and revealing text investigates breast cancer activism in its two forms – the “pink movement” that focuses on coping with and managing breast cancer, and “the green movement” that strives to determine the possible environmental causes of breast cancer – such as pesticides, chemicals, and water and air pollution – and thereby hopes to prevent cancer.



**Lisa Hibbard, Ph.D.**, associate professor of chemistry, recently published an article in the *Journal of Chemical Education* titled, “Examining the Effectiveness of a Semi-Self-Paced Flipped Learning Format in a College General Chemistry Sequence.” The paper, co-authored with Shannon Sung, Ph.D., assistant professor in the education studies program, reported on a longitudinal study of the effectiveness of this pedagogy on student learning outcomes in the general chemistry courses taught by Dr. Hibbard.

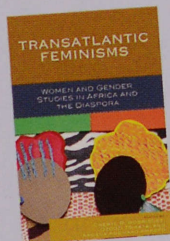
**Rosetta E. Ross, Ph.D.**, professor of religion, published and co-edited the volume *Unraveling and Reweaving Sacred Canon in Africana Womanhood*, (Lexington/Rowman and Littlefield, December 2015). In this collection, co-edited with Professor Rose Mary Amenga-Etego of the University of Ghana, continental and diasporan African women interrogate the concept “sacred text” and analyze ways oral and written religious “texts” intersect with violence against African-descended women and girls.

**Michael Gradoville**, lecturer of Spanish and coordinator of 100-level Spanish, has published “Social and Stylistic Variation in the Use of Phonetic Variants of Fortalezense Portuguese Para” in the journal *Sociolinguistic Studies* (Vol. 9, No.4, 2015), where he explores social constraints on use of the phonetic variants of para ‘to, for’ in the educated spoken Portuguese of the city of Fortaleza, Brazil. The results of Dr. Gradoville’s research have also recently appeared in the journal *Corpus Linguistics and Linguistic Theory* (Vol.10, Issue 2, 2014), and he currently has two chapters accepted in refereed volumes.

**Mason Kim, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of international studies, recently published his first book, *Comparative Welfare Capitalism in East Asia: Productivist Models of Social Policy*. In this book, Dr. Kim argues that social welfare in East Asia has been largely driven by productive elements such as education and job training for economic growth.

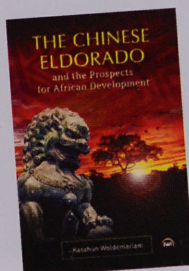
**Yonas Tekle, Ph.D.**, along with sophomore biochemistry major Lydia Gorf, published a peer-reviewed research article describing a new species of amoeba isolated from freshwater at Arabia Lake in Lithonia, Georgia. The new species, which was discovered from samples students collected during a class excursion, is named after the lake “Arabia,” *Cochliopodium arabinum*. Lake Arabia is a popular field trip site for Spelman’s introductory course, BIO 110. In a related work, Dr. Tekle also published two well-received research articles with different undergraduate coauthors.

**Erica L. Williams, Ph.D.**, associate professor of anthropology, recently authored “Mucamas and Mulatas: Black Brazilian Feminisms Representations, and Ethnography,” a chapter in the book, *Transatlantic Feminisms: Women and Gender Studies in Africa and the Diaspora*, published by Lexington Books.



**Anne Carlson, Ph.D.**, senior lecturer of French, traveled to Germany in June to attend the 41st annual African Literature Association conference at the University of Bayreuth. At the conference, Dr. Carlson presented a paper titled, “Envisioning a Future in Algeria: Nassira Belloula’s La Revanche de May,” that focused on the work of the Algerian feminist author Belloula.

**Kasahun Woldemariam, Ph.D.**, associate professor of political science, recently published the book, *The Chinese Eldorado and the Prospects for African Development* (Africa World Press, Inc.) The book examines whether the African countries’ trade and investment relations with China and the other emerging economies have improved the development potential of the African countries.



## NEW TENURED AND PROMOTED FACULTY

During her State of the College address on May 11 in Sisters Chapel, **President Mary Schmidt Campbell** recognized the following faculty members who had been awarded tenure and promotion:



**Tracy Lang, MFA** was promoted from assistant professor to tenured associate professor in the Department of Dance.



**Xuexin Liu, Ph.D.** was promoted from associate professor to full professor in the Department of World Languages and Literature.



**Jacqueline Alvarez-Ogbesor, Ph.D.** was promoted from assistant professor to tenured associate professor in the Department of World Languages and Literature.



**Yonas Tekle, Ph.D.** was promoted from assistant professor to tenured associate professor in the Department of Biology.



**Unislawa Williams, Ph.D.** was promoted from assistant professor to tenured professor in the Department of Political Science.

## RECOGNITION OF FACULTY PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS



**Kimberly Jackson, Ph.D.** Excellence in Mentoring Award, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry



**Pushpa Parekh, Ph.D.** Excellence in Teaching Award, Professor, Department of English



**Anastasia Valecce, Ph.D.** Presentation of Vulcan Materials Company Teaching Excellence Award, Assistant Professor, Department of World Languages and Literature



# EQUALITY

*Excerpts of the Inaugural Address by  
Mary Schmidt Campbell, Ph.D.  
Tenth President of Spelman College*

APRIL 9, 2016



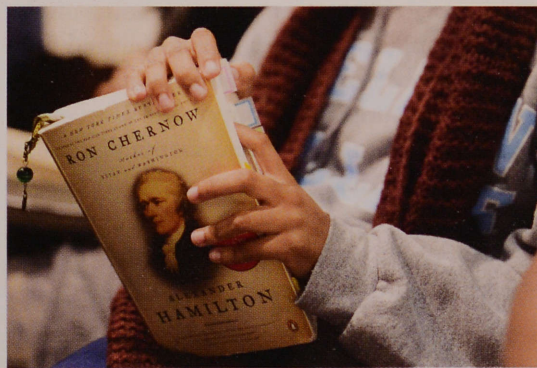
*Rosalind Brewer, Ronda Stryker, Mya Harvard, Dr. Celeste Watkins Hayes and all of the members of the Spelman College Board of Trustees, last year this time, you elected me the 10th president of Spelman College. I accept this presidential medallion now, as a symbol of the trust and authority you vested in me.*



Last fall, I had a transformative experience with members of my Spelman community. As many of you know by now, I invited Spelman students and a half dozen faculty and staff to come together for a shared reading experience. About 30 women from all classes and all disciplines joined the group. Our common text – Ronald Chernow’s biography, *Alexander Hamilton*. (Those who attended the reading sessions and did the writing assignments got to go to New York to see the Broadway musical, *Hamilton*.)

On several evenings last fall, we gathered at Reynolds Cottage, the president’s residence, to discuss the book and discuss the life of Hamilton.

“As we sat in Reynolds, and I listened to our Spelman women, I thought to myself – when the founding fathers birthed this country, when they insisted on equality never in their wildest dreams could they have imagined this room full of free-thinking Black women. Never could they have imagined a roomful of our beautiful Black Spelman women having debates about *them*.



“Equality, over 200 years ago, was a private club; the Founding Fathers were among the exclusive members, and their rooms were closed. There were a few, like Hamilton, who could see beyond those closed rooms. A few could look out over the oceans of time and see the possibility of full equality, a tiny speck in the distance, an unknown destination. Most could not have imagined a Spelman College, an entire school full of free-thinking Black women.

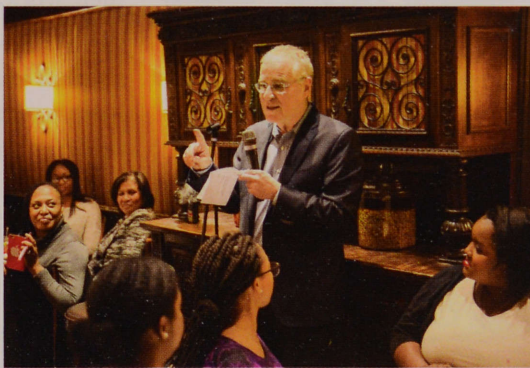
“It would take almost a hundred years after the country’s founding, a civil war and emancipation before a school like Spelman was even a possibility. Like the founding of the coun-

try itself, there was no precedent for Spelman, there were no models, no blueprints. Spelman was an act of the imagination, a realization of an ideal of equality, the belief that women, Black women could receive an outstanding education.”

“Here we are in the 21st century, looking back over shoulders to see what Spelman College, over the past 135 years, has brought us. As we look backward, we can see the work of the nurses and teachers and missionaries. We can see, too, a world renowned opera star, a Fortune 500 CEO, the editor of seven major newspapers, the mayor of an American city, a leading cancer researcher, a Pulitzer Prize-winning artist, a former Surgeon General, an aviator, an award-winning Broadway producer, successful business women, lawyers, physicians, educators, community activists, mothers, grandmothers,

aunts, nieces, daughters, and spouses. During one of my one-on-one sessions with students, one of our Spelman women, a senior, told me recently, that she plans to become the first woman president of Nigeria. I don’t doubt it for a minute.

“After 135 years, we glow with pride for Spelman College. And why shouldn’t we? At Spelman, the six-year graduation rate is 76 percent, over 35 percentage points higher than the national graduation rate for African Americans. At a time when we lament the scarcity of women and under-represented minorities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), Spelman produces more Black



women who go on to complete Ph.D.’s in STEM fields than any other college or university in the country.

“But there is a paradox. The paradox is that, as good as we have become, and as successful as our women may be, it is not enough. The paradox is that, despite the success of any number of individuals, that destination of equality is fading for many others. The paradox is that as successful as Spelman College may be, the problems that face this country now may be as daunting as the problems that faced the country when the first 11 women showed up as students in the basement of Friendship Baptist Church on April 11, 1881.



*My friends, colleagues and fellow foot soldiers – Spike Lee, Alfre Woodard – in the ongoing fight for equality, in your life's work, you have carved out the necessary spaces that press our men and women to create and think boldly, and excel and soar. You honor this occasion with your presence.*



*Inaugural greetings from Demetria Holloway, staff representative and Kathleen Phillips-Lewis, Ph.D., faculty representative.*

"As good as Spelman has become, we have to do more, we have to be more.

"...But the 21st century demands more. The 21st century demands that our women speak the language of technology fluently and creatively.

"If we expect our women to confront the problems of environmental and criminal justice, rebuild our nation's public schools; work at the frontiers of science, develop new sources of energy, take on projects to empower women worldwide, they will need tools of technology to amplify and expand their work.

"I have been on this campus for almost a year now and I can see that the arts are the beating heart of Spelman College. I have watched the way the arts call us out of our silos, out of our comfort zones, call us to collaborate across disciplines and class rank. I have watched how they invite us to take risks, make mistakes, fail and create the unimaginable. They are conscience, memory, the truths we need to tell. They are a source and shaper of our collective purpose and will.

"We will not rest until a new fine arts building honors the creative and essential role of the arts on a liberal arts campus.

"We still have work to do on our own campus to keep all of our women safe and supported.

"We will not rest until Spelman College is a model of Title IX compliance.

"We will not rest until the entire AUC is a model of mutual respect and love among all of our students."

"Black Lives Matter. Black lives always matter here, and because they matter, we have sustained for 135 years a fervent coalition of faith and purpose and will."





*Dr. Tatum, Dr. Cole, Dr. Manley, I accept this medallion as a symbol of the nine past presidents. Your presidential leadership was as sterling and as full of grace as it was determined and purposeful. It is a privilege to follow in your footsteps.*

“To reach the destination of equality, our country needs Spelman College, needs our circle of faith.”

“In the 23 years that I served as dean at the Tisch School of the Arts, I came to believe that while there is certainly a part of education that is about the acquisition of skills and competencies and expertise in a subject area, there is also a part of education that is about love. There is a part of education that cares about each and every student. There is that part of education that even as it makes demands, it deeply desires that the student sitting in front of you succeeds. I see the love on this campus every day, a deep abiding love on the part of Spelman faculty, staff, student to student, administrators, trustees, alumnae, friends and supporters. I see a love that is radiantly alive.

“This afternoon I want to leave you with a symbol of that radiant aliveness. When you came into the hall today, you received a lapel pin. These pins were designed, prototyped and the process documented by first-year Spelman student Rahni Bell, along with art and art history faculty members Joe Bigley, Robert Hamilton and our computer science faculty member, Jerry Volcy.

“A group of Spelman women worked diligently to assemble 1,000 of these lapel pins. This, by the way, is an example of STEAM but more importantly, it is a symbol of the meaning of Spelman.

“Now, may I ask that we have the lights dimmed? On your lapel pin is a yellow tab. At the count of three, I want you to pull that tab. One, two, three.



*George has been my best friend, presidential advisor, confidante, running buddy, the wisest man that I have ever met and love of my life for more than 50 years. Even as you have been my ballast and compass, you have never stopped challenging me to explore further, reach higher, try a more challenging ski run and I love you for it.*

“Look around you. You can see the light.

“When I walk the campus of Spelman College I see the light.

“I see the light in the eyes of every woman I meet.

“I see the light.

“I see the light of her promise.

“I see the light of our faith in her.

“I see the light of our belief in her.

“I see the light.

“Spelman women, you are our beacons.

“I see the light in you and a fierce determination fills my heart today.

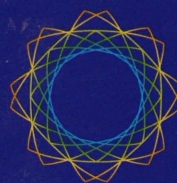
“I see the light in you and I know that it will lead you, lead me, and lead us.

“I see the light and I know that we are already on our way undaunted to unimaginable new heights.

“Thank you. God bless you.”



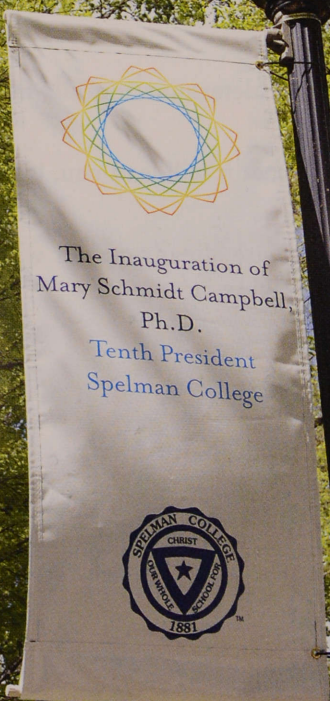




The Inauguration of  
Mary Schmidt Campbell, Ph.D.  
Tenth President, Spelman College

## THE INAUGURATION LAPEL LIGHT — A SYMBOL OF SPELMAN INNOVATION

To commemorate the installation as Spelman College's 10th president, celebrants entering the Georgia World Congress Center for the April 9 inauguration of Mary Schmidt Campbell, Ph.D., received lapel pins along with their programs. The lapel pins, etched with the inauguration symbol, were designed and prototyped by first-year student Rahni Bell, C'2019, who also documented the process. Her project, supported by a sisterhood team of Spelman women and the pedagogical innovativeness of faculty members, was produced through the College's Innovation Lab under the direction of computer and information science lecturer Jerry Volcy. The design features the engraving on an acrylic plate illuminated with LED edge lighting. A small strip affixed at the bottom of the pin serves as the on switch. When the strip is pulled, light travels through the acrylic plate and scatters where it strikes the engraving. Dr. Campbell ended her inaugural address by recognizing the creativity and ingenuity of the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) initiative. This College inaugural project provided an exceptional and empowering experience involving the collaboration of faculty members in the departments of computer science, art and art history as well as the research and diligence of undergraduate students who hand-assembled 1,000 lapel pins for the occasion.





## 2016 FOUNDERS DAY

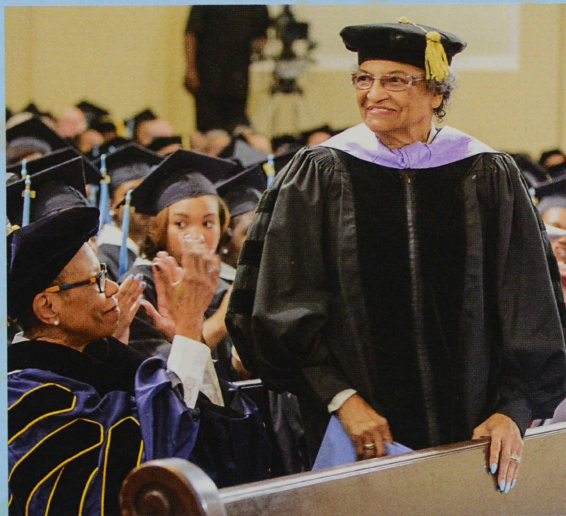
For Founders Day 2016, celebrants marked Spelman's 135th anniversary with tributes, songs and moving spoken word. During the Convocation in Sisters Chapel, President Mary Schmidt Campbell, Ph.D., presented an honorary degree to award-winning journalist **Wanda Smalls Lloyd, C'71**, chair and associate professor at Savannah State University and past member of the Spelman Board of Trustees. The Founders Spirit Award recipient was retired educator **Jean LaRue Scott Foster, C'53**. **Geneva Lane**, executive assistant in the Division of College Relations, received the True Blue Award.

After the Founders Day Convocation, festivities moved to the Oval for a student-centered campus celebration. Amid colorful balloons, celebrants enjoyed a sunny afternoon filled with music, inflatable games, food, dancing and more. As the parade proceeded around the Oval,

marchers waved equality flags to honor the inauguration theme "Equality" followed by the Morehouse College drum line. Students, staff and alumnae joined President Mary Schmidt Campbell, for the ceremonial cutting of the College birthday cake.



*Award-winning journalist Wanda Smalls Lloyd, C'71, was presented an honorary degree.*



*The Founders Spirit Award recipient was retired educator Jean LaRue Scott Foster.*



*Geneva Lane, executive assistant in the Division of College Relations, received the True Blue Award.*



## FACULTY SYMPOSIUM ON EQUALITY

Administrators, scholars, civic leaders and community activists gathered on April 8 for a Faculty Symposium to discuss how Black women are leading efforts to address equality issues in Atlanta, Detroit and New Orleans. During the “Equality and Women Mapping the City” symposium, presenters shared how activists are working to eradicate community blight and displacement, fight environmental racism, and improve access to healthy food and clean water. It was the first in a three-part Faculty Symposium series on equality. On April 18, the second symposium, “Equality: Sacred Spaces, Black Women, Silences and STEM,” focused on equality as it relates to Black women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics in the academy. The third session, “(Re)Making Detroit: Black Women, Art and Sacred Spaces,” was held on Sept. 14.



### EQUALITY: MAPPING ATLANTA

For Black women in Atlanta in the fight for equality, former Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin discussed the importance of political involvement and developing alliances from across the city. Sheri Davis-Faulkner, Ph.D., C'97, director for the Westside Communities Alliance in the Ivan Allen College of the Liberal Arts at the Georgia Institute of Technology, and Na'Taki Osborne Jelks, C'95, Spelman professor of environmental science and board chair of the West Atlanta Watershed Alliance, discussed sustainability initiatives on the Westside. Because of WAWA's efforts, plans for a Proctor Creek cleanup are in the works, urban gardens have sprouted on vacant lots, children play in refurbished parks and enjoy hundreds of acres of woods in their own backyard. “The Proctor Creek watershed used to be a place of pride where people swam, fished and were baptized. We need to clean up this creek. It is now an eyesore,” Dr. Jelks told symposium attendees. “I encourage the Spelman community to continue to use science to advance social change.”

### WESTSIDE COMMUNITY LEADER PRECIOUS MUHAMMAD

Precious Zywieciel Muhammad, the 2016 recipient of the Spelman National Community Service Award, is the founder of HAGAR Civilization Training Missionary, a nonprofit community development dedicated to improving the quality of life for the Atlanta Westside residents. During the Faculty Symposium, Muhammad shared her journey from corporate job to follow her heart for community work. Through a private-public venture, her nonprofit restored the old Bronner Brothers building at the corner of Joseph Lowery Boulevard and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. Through a partnership with Invest Atlanta, her organization is developing affordable housing in the neighborhood. Hagar CTM has provided free meals, home repairs, financial assistance to indigent families, job and life skills training for youth and ex-offenders. “Our children are like lost souls out there,” she said. “Help us to help the children.”



### SIS ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Centenarian Bessie Delany once said: “I never thought I’d see the day that the world would want to hear what two old Negro women have to say.” But she and older sister Sadie lived to see their oral history become the New York Times best-selling book, “Having Our Say.” Since 2001, Spelman’s Independent Scholars Oral History Project has collected stories and given a voice to Black women elders from every walk of life



and across the African Diaspora. During her presentation at the April 8 Faculty Symposium, Gloria Wade Gayles, Ph.D., founding director of the SIS Oral History Project, gave a stirring overview of the program, underscoring the importance of collecting and preserving the stories of Black women elders, like the Delany sisters. “I discovered a new world out there focusing on elders,” said Dr. Gayles. “Age is the 21st-century frontier for research on Black women’s culture and history. If we don’t open the lens of age, we will miss many truths about who we are.”



## FACULTY SYMPOSIUM: MAPPING DETROIT

**Food vs. Phood:** Black women in Detroit are using a food movement to map the city – pushing for policy changes and starting urban gardens to give residents better access to healthy and affordable food. Race is a factor in how people access food (fresh, nutritious and chemical free) versus



phood (unhealthy, processed food), said Monica White, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Community and Environmental Sociology at the University of Wisconsin. “Gardening in Detroit means I can grow my own food and feed my own community,” said Dr. White, who does research on sustainable community food systems. “If the situation has not supported us, we created our own. Detroit has an opportunity to do something different out of economic decline.”

**Detroit’s Water War:** The Flint, Michigan, water crisis prompted nationwide outcry. When Detroit began shutting off the water of more than 3,000 of city residents each week several years ago, community activist

Monica Patrick and other Detroit women organized an action plan to galvanize the community to fight back. They opened water stations around the city affected by the shutoffs and delivered water to sick, elderly and shut-in residents. “We mobilized the community to be a part of the solution. My job is to protect my community,” she said. With gentrification on the rise in the city, the Detroit water war was systematically and strategically created to drive Black people out of their communities, said Patrick. “Water is a right. Shutting off water is an act of war. This is a good fight, and it’s the fight we’re fighting,” she said.

## FACULTY SYMPOSIUM: MAPPING NEW ORLEANS

Mora Beauchamp-Byrd, Ph.D., visiting assistant professor of art history and curatorial studies, presented a collection of images that capture Black life in New Orleans from the 1800s and early 1900s, including an



exhibition she organized in 2008 at the New Orleans African-American Museum on the Sisters of the Holy Family of New Orleans, the nation’s second oldest order of Black nuns. Other presenters included Deon Haywood, executive director of Women With a Vision Inc., a social justice nonprofit in New Orleans, and Alix Chapman, visiting professor of Black Queer Studies at Spelman. Chapman discussed his research on Black queer politics in post-Hurricane Katrina New Orleans. Haywood talked about her group’s work to address the displacement of Black residents after Katrina and laws that target the city’s most vulnerable

citizens. “Katrina was a manmade disaster,” Haywood said. “It destroyed neighborhoods and families and left land for the taking. We felt we could not sit back. We decided to stand up and fight.”



## FILM SCREENING DURING FACULTY SYMPOSIUM

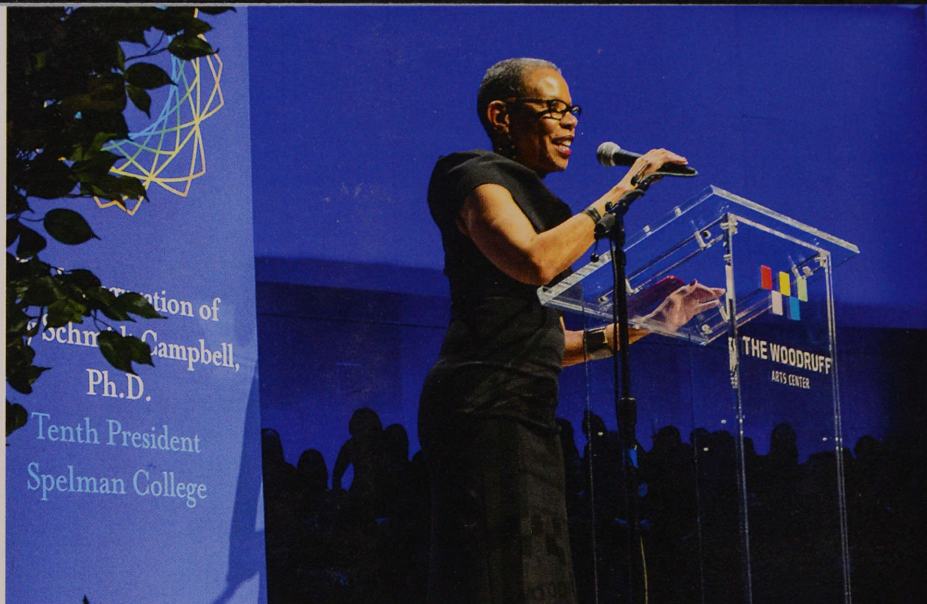
Ayoka Chenzira, Ph.D., founding director of Spelman’s Digital Moving Image Salon founding director professor and chair of the Division of Arts and Humanities, and filmmaker Olivia LaFlamme, C’2014, presented “Fertile Oasis,” a documentary on Black women entrepreneurs in Atlanta’s West End neighborhood. Noting that the West End is a food desert, the film features Haylene Green “the Garden Queen,” who started the West End Community Urban Garden Nursery to address the dearth of fresh fruit and vegetables in the neighborhood and to encourage healthy eating. “These were stories that had never been told,” said LaFlamme, a co-producer of the film. “It’s important to share our stories. The media of film can reach a lot of people.”





## ARTS CELEBRATION

On the evening of Dr. Campbell's investiture, celebrants gathered at Atlanta Symphony Hall for an Arts Celebration that uplifted the inauguration's equality theme through song, drama and dance. The event was hosted by Shaun Robinson, C'84, journalist and television personality. In the spoken word performance "The Eleven," Spelman students presented a tribute to the College's first 11 students. Introduced by actor and producer LaTanya Richardson Jackson, C'74, Atlanta playwright and author Pearl Cleage, C'71, presented an excerpt from her play, "The Nacirema Society Requests the Honor of Your Presence at a Celebration of Their First One Hundred Years." The evening was capped with a collaborative dance performance, "Equality," choreographed and performed by 2015-2016 Distinguished Visiting Scholar Dianne McIntyre and featuring the Spelman College Glee Club and the Urban Bush Women, a New York performance ensemble dedicated to exploring the use of cultural expression for social change. Prior to the Arts Celebration, T. Lang Dance performed on the grounds of the Woodruff Arts Center.



T. Lang Dance



Spelman College Glee Club performs "Equality."



LaTanya Richardson Jackson, C'74



Pearl Cleage, C'71



Scene from Pearl Cleage's play, "The Nacirema Society Requests the Honor of Your Presence at a Celebration of Their First One Hundred Years."



Shaun Robinson, C'84





*Urban Bush Women*



*"The Eleven" spoken word*



*"Equality," choreographed and performed by 2015-2016 Distinguished Visiting Scholar Dianne McIntyre.*

## SPIKE LEE RETROSPECTIVE

Before an audience of mostly students, award-winning filmmaker, author and educator Spike Lee expressed pride in his HBCU heritage as he recalled his legacy as a Spelman and Morehouse son. He congratulated President Mary Schmidt Campbell, Ph.D., on taking the helm at the alma mater of his mother and grandmother. While dean of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, Dr. Campbell hired Lee as a professor. To honor the inauguration's equality theme, Lee presented his documentary, "2 Fists Up," which chronicles student protests against racism at the University of Missouri in fall 2015.



## INAUGURAL INTERFAITH SERVICE

The four-day inauguration celebration wrapped on April 10 with an Interfaith Service and message on faith and equality and a blessing for the College's 10th president by The Reverend Dr. Calvin O. Butts III, senior pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York City. After delivering a sermon on equality motivated by love and service, the Rev. Butts, joined by Dr. Campbell's family and Spelman administrators, offered a prayer of consecration for the president.





# STRIVING TO REACH AN IDEAL *of* EQUALITY

With a legacy of equality that led to the College's founding, President Mary Schmidt Campbell, Ph.D., takes a comprehensive look at the past to inform her plans going forward.



*“Spelman College is more than an educational institution; to reach an ideal of equality, Spelman is a necessity.”*

— DR. MARY SCHMIDT CAMPBELL

BY CONNIE GREEN FREIGHTMAN

When Mary Schmidt Campbell, Ph.D., arrived at Spelman College in August 2015, she encountered a campus bustling with preparations for a new school year and a new president.

Amid the excitement and anticipation on campus, a groundswell of protest was stirring among the newly constructed eco-friendly buildings and the neatly landscaped Oval.

She witnessed a Spelman community actively engaged in demonstrations sweeping the country in the wake of deadly police shootings of unarmed Black citizens and an acquittal in the Trayvon Martin murder trial that sparked the Black Lives Matter movement. One of the youth leaders was first-year Spelman student Mary Pat Hector, C'2019.

When Spelman founders Sophia B. Packard and Harriet E. Giles, missionaries from the Northeast, arrived in Atlanta 135

years ago to start a school for Black women and girls, they, too, encountered a city roiled by protests.

Nearly two decades after slavery ended, thousands of Black women had put down their washboards. Realizing their own worth, they took on the Atlanta political and economic establishment to demand higher wages, better working conditions and respect during the city's 1881 Washerwoman Strike.

The issues raised by the laundresses still echoed in 1968, when Atlanta civil rights organizer and domestic worker Dorothy Bolden, mother of SunTrust Bank's Assistant Vice President Dorothy Thompson Ingram, C'73, started the National Domestic Workers Union to push for fair wages, benefits and humane treatment of Black housekeepers.

They still resonate today.



## ACTING ON THE CALL FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

As Dr. Campbell marks her first year as Spelman's 10th president, she has found that the College's legacy of advocating for equality has never been more relevant and necessary.

Her inauguration on April 9 launched a year of renewed commitment to Black women's intellectual and activist history at Spelman. She has made equality a top goal of her administration.

As Spelman has ascended from educating its first 11 students in the basement of Friendship Baptist Church to the world's premier liberal arts college for Black women, preparing women leaders of social conscience continues to inform its mission.

"For the past 135 years, Spelman has created a space where women could acquire the tools, skills and wisdom to close our country's equality gap," she said.

Grounded in the College's heritage of social change, expectations of excellence and tradition of sisterhood, Spelman women of today continue to embrace that mission. They are leading the charge in breaking down 21st-century barriers,

creating an open and inclusive environment and forging new pathways to success.

ering environment that supported her passion for social justice while fostering an incomparable coming-of-age experience that promotes critical thinking, builds confidence and encourages global studies and travel.

"I believe that I did make a choice to change the world," said Hector, a comparative women's studies major minoring in political science. "Even with the Flint initiative, there was a sense of urgency. People need help. So what are we going to do about it? As a Spelman woman when you hear that call, it's important to act on that call."

She follows in the footsteps of other Spelman change agents who have answered the call and devoted their lives to fighting injustice.

For Black women activists, it has been a multi-pronged battle against racism, sexism and classism. Many supported the suffrage movement to help all women gain the vote in 1920, only to face obstacles at the ballot box because of their race.

Social activist and community organizer Lugenia Hope, wife of former Morehouse College president John Hope,

## Timeline

### TEN SPELMAN ADMINISTRATIONS CHAMPION EQUALITY

## Packard

#### 1. Sophia B. Packard: 1881 – 1891

**1881 April 11:** Founder of Atlanta Baptist Female Seminary with 11 students of all ages but most were women out of slavery who were eager to learn to read the Bible and to write well enough to send letters to their children. The primary aim was to provide training for teachers, missionaries and church workers. Industrial training was a secondary agenda.

**1881 July:** Washerwomen's Strike in Atlanta is an early origin of civil rights movements for better pay and working conditions.

creating an open and inclusive environment and forging new pathways to success.

That mission – along with a focus on leadership development and an inspirational community of faculty, administrators and alumnae – is what drew Hector, now a sophomore and Social Justice Fellow, to the College. Even before entering Spelman, several alumnae were among her mentors, including Bernice King, C'85, CEO of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, and former Georgia State Rep. Alisha Thomas Morgan, C'2000.

Hector's activism began at age 9 when she started an organization to encourage young people to take a stand against bullying, gun violence and drugs. Earlier this year, she organized a local effort to collect and deliver bottled water to residents affected by the contaminated water crisis in Flint, Michigan. She also serves as youth leader of the Rev. Al Sharpton's National Action Network, and has received numerous honors for her advocacy and community service. *Atlanta Magazine* recently named her one of its 2016 Women Making A Mark.

At the College, she encountered an educational and empow-

taught millinery at Spelman from 1904 to 1912. She became a suffrage advocate through her work with the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs.

Coloratura soprano Mattiwilda Dobbs, C'46, soared to international fame as an opera singer in the 1950s, but she refused to perform before segregated audiences and didn't perform in her Atlanta hometown until 1962. Nearly a half-century after Dobbs became the first Black opera singer to land a long-term contract at New York's Metropolitan Opera, soprano Janinah Burnett, C'2000, also has gained worldwide acclaim in the opera world, joining the roster at the Met in 2008.

#### STUDENT ACTIVISM AND THE RISE OF BLACK FEMINISM

During the 1950s and 1960s, Spelman women were leaders on the front lines of the Civil Rights Movement. They co-founded civil rights groups, participated in marches and sit-ins, organized voter registration drives and went to jail alongside their male counterparts.

Standing at the vanguard of that movement were activists



such as Roslyn Pope, C'60, who wrote "An Appeal for Human Rights," the 1960 official manifesto of the Atlanta Student Movement that ran as a paid advertisement in three Atlanta newspapers, including *The Atlanta Constitution*.

Other influential figures include Atlanta Student Movement participant Ruby Doris Smith Robinson, C'65, who attended the founding conference for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and later became the only woman to serve as the organization's executive secretary. Robinson also was a Freedom Rider who served 45 days in Parchman Penitentiary after her arrest in Jackson, Mississippi. Singer, composer and scholar Bernice Johnson Reagon, C'70, was a member of SNCC's Freedom Singers and founder of the Sweet Honey in the Rock a cappella ensemble.

The award-winning documentary film "Foot Soldiers: Class of 1964 – An Atlanta Story that Changed the World" recounts the story of a group of first-year Spelman students who participated in the Atlanta Student Movement, the largest series of coordinated civil rights protests in the city's history.

en's Research and Resource Center. Established in 1981, it is the first women's center at a historically Black college and university.

"I'm pleased about the resurgence of student activism around race, but I have been focused at Spelman on the more controversial issues around gender and sexuality, including LGBTQ issues at Black colleges," said Dr. Guy-Sheftall. "I'm not sure that historically Spelman's equality mission has been focused on feminist issues in the ways that the Center has been focused on these issues."

As the College has evolved over the years, Spelman women have continued to make groundbreaking achievements in a wide range of fields – nationally and globally.

"In the early years, Spelman women were our teachers, nurses and missionaries," said Dr. Campbell. "Now they are also Fortune 500 CEOs, big-city mayors, judges, medical doctors, research scientists, astronauts, opera stars, social activists and Pulitzer Prize-winning writers. The College has charted multiple itineraries for women intent on traveling the

## Giles

### 2. Harriet E. Giles: 1891 – 1909

1901: MacVicar Hospital built as practice school for nurses training and to fill need for Black women's health treatment.

1906 Atlanta Race Riot becomes an origin of Civil Rights Movement.

### 3. Lucy Hale Tapley: 1910 – 1927

1919: Ludie Clay Andrews, NT (Nurses Training) '06, becomes first Black registered nurse in Georgia.

1926: Selena Sloan Butler, HS '88, Founder of Black Parent Teacher Association

## Tapley

## Read

### 4. Florence Matilda Read: 1927 – 1953

1942: The Women's Army Auxiliary Corps formed. Sarah Murphy, C'37, and Dovey Johnson, C'38, were among the first women to become soldiers in the U.S. Army.

"Women were the ones with the most courage," former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young noted in the documentary.

Another influential change agent was civil rights activist Marian Wright Edelman, C'60, founder and director of the Children's Defense Fund. Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton's first job after law school was working with CDF, and she later served as head of the organization's board.

To encourage students to get registered and ready to vote in the upcoming presidential election, Atlanta author and playwright Pearl Cleage, C'71, and the Spelman Student Government Association hosted a voter registration drive on Aug. 25. Nearly 400 students registered during the event.

Also during the 1960s and 1970s, Black feminism emerged in response to sexism in the Civil Rights Movement and racism in the women's rights movement. Although criticized early on as divisive and "race traitors," Black feminists persevered in their focus on their equality issues, which are distinct from white women and Black men and reflect their unique struggle as women and African Americans.

One of the pioneers of Black feminism is Beverly Guy-Sheftall, Ph.D., C'66, the Anna Julia Cooper Professor of Women's Studies and founding director of the Spelman Women's

road to equality."

Even as the institution struggled financially its first few years, Packard and Giles remained committed to their long-term plan to provide Black women with a quality education.

In 1883, the founders declined a proposed merger with the Atlanta Baptist Seminary (now Morehouse College), voicing concern that women's education would become secondary to men in a coed setting. The College remained independent and eventually found its footing.

Along the way, Spelman, at times, has turned the lens of equality on itself in an effort to create a campus environment where inclusiveness and diversity is represented within its own gates.

In 1885, the school hired its first Black female faculty member, Sophia Jones, M.D. More than a century later, the College would install its first Black female president, Johnnetta Cole, Ph.D.

In 1976, after the Spelman Board of Trustees announced that Donald Stewart, Ph.D., would become the sixth president, several hundred students and a few faculty members locked the trustees in the Manley College Center Board Room for more than 20 hours in an effort to convince the board to



reconsider his appointment and select a Black woman leader.

Although Dr. Stewart went on to complete a 10-year tenure at the College, the protesters left an indelible impression. In 1987, Dr. Cole became the seventh president and first Black woman to head the institution.

### WOMEN'S STUDIES PUSHES THE EQUALITY ENVELOPE

In ensuing years, Spelman women have forged new paths in the equality fight, from improving access to education and healthcare to addressing violence against women and misogyny in music.

In 2004, Spelman women protested the misogyny and demeaning portrayal of Black women in lyrics and music videos – particularly “Tip Drill” by rapper Nelly, who was scheduled to attend a bone marrow drive for his sister on campus that spring. In



#### 5. Albert Manley: 1953 – 1976

**1953–1976:** The Manley administration encouraged Spelman women to enter the fields of medicine, law, international affairs, engineering, business and industry.

**1960:** The Atlanta Student Movement was established in support of the Civil Rights Movement. **Roslyn Pope, C'60**, writes “An Appeal for Human Rights,” the official manifesto of the Atlanta Student Movement.

**1960s:** During the Civil Rights Movement, **Ruby Doris Smith Robinson, C'65** is cited as one of the earliest legendary civil rights activists.

Manley

response to the outcry, Nelly canceled the event. The activism eventually led to a nationwide initiative, “Take Back the Music,” developed by *Essence* magazine.

Eight years later, controversy erupted again when a group of Spelman students started a petition to ban misogynistic lyrics in music played on campus during Market Fridays, a weekly festival for students on campus.

The College's nurse training department, which began in 1886, was the first in the nation available to Black women. In 1983, Spelman hosted the first National Conference on Black Women's Health Issues.

Earlier this year, the College was named to the Great Value College's 2016 list of 20 Great Recreation Centers at Small Colleges for its new state-of-the-art Wellness Center at Read Hall. The LEED-certified facility was noted for providing a wide range of fitness and wellness programs that benefit the entire College community.

Spelman's research-rich faculty serves as strong mentors in providing students with challenging, academic research

opportunities that are rarely found on the undergraduate level, which has led to numerous award-winning projects that have been recognized nationally and globally.

Following her first year at Spelman, Mamasa Camara, C'2015, collaborated with the vice president of The Gambia to organize an annual, televised women's health conference in the country to provide health screenings while also giving local women a voice in the discourse on female circumcision and health disparities.

This fall Camara will study at the University of Cambridge in London as Spelman's first Gates Cambridge scholar.

Since its inception, the Women's Center has gained national prominence as a leader in the development of Black feminist scholar activists and for its local and global community outreach and advocacy.

It has helped shaped the local, national and international

Stewart

#### 6. Donald Stewart: 1976 – 1986

**1981:** Women's Research and Resource Center founded by **Beverly Guy-Sheftall, C'66**.

**1983:** First National Black Women's Health Conference held on campus with 1500 participants.

**1984:** Collaborative project produced working paper series “Southern Women: The Intersection of Race, Class and Gender”

**1986:** In protest of apartheid, the College divested from South Africa companies, including The Coca-Cola Company. The movement was led by Spelman Board of Trustees and Delta Sigma Theta student activists.

dialogue on issues ranging from addressing pay equity, health-care disparities and sexual violence against women to supporting full acceptance of LGBTQ people.

Five years ago, the Women's Center hosted “Facilitating Campus Climates of Pluralism, Inclusivity, and Progressive Change at HBCUs,” the first LGBT summit at an HBCU. The historic summit brought together HBCUs to explore diversity, gender, sexuality and inclusiveness on Black college campuses.

In May, the Center hosted a follow-up symposium to assess progress on LGBTQ issues at HBCUs. Symposium participants noted that more work needs to be done to improve inclusiveness on their campuses.

For its part, the Women's Center continues to move forward, hiring its first tenure-track faculty this year to teach courses in Black queer studies and women's health. It also continues to be at the forefront of activism on gender and sexuality issues.

In April, Dr. Guy-Sheftall participated in the 2016 Tribunal of the U.S. Black Women's Truth and Reconciliation



Commission at the United Nations in New York City to address sexual violence against African-American women. Next spring, the Women's Center will host a conference at Spelman on the one-year anniversary of the historic tribunal.

"The Center has been the most feminist site on campus tackling radical gender and sexuality issues that were resisted," said Dr. Guy-Sheftall. "I believe the College has to be more vocal and outspoken about a range of equality issues, including poverty, sexual assault, queer and transgender issues."

After a student's anonymous account of sexual assault went viral on social media and prompted protests in May, Dr. Campbell took to social media to offer assistance and announce an investigation.

In her first year, she has initiated an expansion of the Title IX office, established faculty and student advisory groups on

fall, under the direction of Francesina Jackson, Ph.D., director of Spelman's Center for Academic Planning and Success, and Jimmeka Guillory, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychology.

They are supported by an interdisciplinary faculty team, comprised of experimental economist Angelino Viceisza, Ph.D., sociologist Bruce Wade, Ph.D., and quantitative psychologist A. Nayena Blankson, Ph.D., as well as an advisory committee of researchers and educators from around the country.

The program trains faculty and peer tutors in metacognitive learning techniques to help students gain a greater self-awareness of their own thinking and learning. The goal is to keep students in college and help them to graduate while preparing them to take on some of the world's most complex challenges as global change agents.

## 7. Johnnetta B. Cole: 1987 – 1997

Cole

**1990:** National Conference on Black Women Studies held on campus.

**1987:** Women's Center hosted 10th Anniversary National Women's Studies Association Conference, "Weaving Women's Colors: A Decade of Empowerment."

**1994:** Spelman received a Ford Foundation grant on "Race, Gender and the Sciences at a Black Woman's College."

**2003:** *Gender Talk: The Struggle for Women's Equality in African-American Communities* by Beverly Guy-Sheftall, C'66, and Johnnetta Betsch Cole published.

sexual violence, and has been sending periodic updates to keep the Spelman community informed of progress.

"We still have work to do on our own campus to keep all of our women safe and supported," Dr. Campbell said. "Sexual violence of any kind is destructive to our students, our academic environment and our sense of social justice. Our goal at Spelman is to be a model for Title IX leadership."

To raise awareness of political, economic, health and social issues facing women in the South, the Women's Center hosted a panel discussion in February to announce findings of the first-ever Status of Women in the South Report by the Institute for Women's Policy Research. One key finding: Closing the gender wage gap would cut poverty for working women in the South by more than half.

Education also is key to cutting poverty. As a result of the pedagogical innovativeness of Spelman's faculty and expectations of excellence, the College has attained one of the nation's highest graduation rates among colleges that serve a high percentage of low-income students.

In 2015, Spelman was awarded a highly competitive First in the World innovation grant by the U.S. Department of Education to incorporate new teaching and learning strategies into the curriculum. Implementation of the \$2.7 million grant began last

## 8. Audrey Forbes Manley: 1997 – 2002

**1997–2002:** Partnerships with Rockefeller University and University of Delaware

- Women of Excellence Leadership (WEL) Lecture Series
- Revitalization of Bonner Scholars program
- Community Revitalization: College Partners, Inc.
- West End Medical Centers, Inc./Collaborative Project
- Spelman soars to top STEM rankings

**1999:** The Association of Medical Colleges ranks Spelman as No. 2 for placing African-American students in medical school.

**2001:** The College holds the first Annual Toni Cade Bambara Scholar-Activism Conference.

**2002:** The Albro-Falconer-Manley Science Center opens

Manley

"We are excited about working on this project because it continues the Spelman tradition of providing outstanding instruction," said Dr. Jackson. "Participation in the FITW program gives Spelman an opportunity to expand its reputation as an instructional leader by testing the efficacy of metacognitive strategies with the Spelman demographic. Research shows that one reason students leave college is because of poor academic performance. Metacognition has shown to improve academic performance and confidence in some populations."

The program also will have a far-reaching impact. The Spelman FITW team is planning two regional conferences on metacognition in college teaching – one in 2018 and another in 2020.

Another initiative that promotes equality is the College's Social Justice Fellows Program. Launched in 2011, the living-and-learning program equips students with an understanding of how to create change nationally and globally through internships, monthly seminars, book discussions and an international spring break social justice advocacy experience as well as through faculty and alumna mentoring.

Although limited to 10 fellows, the program has attracted so much interest that a social justice associates program was



added to give an additional 50 students a chance to participate in some of the activities, said Cynthia Neal Spence, Ph.D., C'78, program director and associate professor of sociology.

"The issues that we confront locally, nationally and globally require Spelman women's voices. As an institution, we have to remain committed to supporting these students," Dr. Spence said. "They see Spelman as a space where they can get leadership development training so that they can make their mark. We want our students' activist leanings to be supported by bodies of knowledge so that when they are out there they understand the history and the sociopolitical context of the issues that they are speaking out against. This is an academic institution. Their intellectual development is key and critical to their development as scholar activists."

There are different opinions on what equality means and looks like within the College community, which has led to some

with "people who don't look like us or like us" in addressing community issues.

"Each of us has to decide where we serve best and where we need to serve," Franklin told the gathering. "If African-American women want to move the needle on public policy, the best place is where the buck stops."

The second symposium on April 18, "Equality: Sacred Spaces, Black Women, Silences and STEM," discussed challenges faced by Black women scholars and students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields.

The final session on Sept. 14-15, focused on art and lived experiences in Detroit, featured Aku Kadogo, an international choreographer, performer, cultural arts curator, former direc-



## 9. Beverly Daniel Tatum: 2002 – 2015

# Tatum

**2003 March:** Inauguration Symposia, In Search of Social Justice: Liberal Arts Education in the 21st Century.

**2004 April:** Spelman students launch active protest against Nelly's misogynist music video, "Tip Drill." They tapped into the negative representation of women in some rap music.

**2006:** Women's Center established LGBT program with Arcus Foundation grant to facilitate a climate of institutional change at HBCUs that acknowledges, values and respects difference.

**2008:** Spelman hosts Documentary Series on Equality & Justice: Episode Two: "When the Bough Breaks" by alumnae **Fleda Mask Jackson, C'73**, and **Mona Taylor Phillips, C'76**.

**2011:** Laura Spelman Rockefeller Hall renovated to house Social Justice Fellows Program under the leadership of **Cynthia Neal Spence, C'78**.

**2015:** Spelman College Wellness Center at Read Hall opens to empower entire campus community around health issues.

difficult dialogues, Dr. Spence noted. "I'm really proud that we have created spaces for students who want to push the envelope on issues," she said. "We still have many difficult dialogues because we have very conservative students and staff members at Spelman. We are evolving in that area. Spelman has to remain committed to providing space to everyone."

## INAUGURATION DEDICATED TO EQUALITY

In the days leading up to Dr. Campbell's inauguration celebration, Spelman rolled out #10DaysofEquality, a social media campaign to highlight important events and people who have contributed to the College's pivotal role in the fight for equality.

On April 8, scholars, activists, artists and civic leaders gathered for the first of a three-part Inaugural Faculty Symposium Series on equality.

During "Equality: Black Women Mapping the City," presenters shared how Black women in Atlanta, Detroit, and New Orleans are leading efforts to address community blight and displacement, environmental racism, and to improve access to healthy food and clean water.

The morning session featured former Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin, who expressed the need for more women to run for public office and the importance of developing alliances

tor of the Black Theater Program at Wayne State University in Detroit, and Spelman chair of Drama.

Inauguration weekend also featured events that promoted youth activism and equality through the arts.

Award-winning filmmaker Spike Lee presented a screening of his documentary "2 Fists Up," about student protests against racism at the University of Missouri last fall, followed by a lively Q&A. "I think it's very appropriate to have this screening here. As you will see in the piece, Black women are at the forefront of the movement," said Lee, who reflected on his own Spelman legacy. His mother and grandmother are alumnae. He's also a third-generation Morehouse man.

Performers at the Arts Celebration lifted up equality themes in song, drama and dance before a packed house at Atlanta Symphony Hall. The event ended with an inspiring dance performance by Distinguished Visiting Scholar Dianne McIntyre who commanded the stage dressed in flowing sky blue, accompanied by the Spelman College Glee Club and the Urban Bush Women. She twirled as the Glee Club sang words from a poem by Maya Angelou titled, fittingly "Equality," and set to music by Glee Club director Kevin Johnson, D.M.A.

"It was clear staging with improvisational elements," said McIntyre. "I wanted people to get a sense of freedom and that there are no barriers, that people can feel that they can



go as high as they like when they see a woman with white hair going for it.”

Later in the month, McIntyre would revisit the equality theme in her culminating event – “Journey to Memory Falls: A Dance Drama,” featuring poet/playwright Ntozake Shange. The performance captured powerful life experiences of students and guests artists, interpreted through drama, dance and song.

“The students’ stories could be about everyday life, but they all had an intrigue to me. Their stories had something to say about them that was a lesson to them and to the audience,” said McIntyre. “I wanted the world and them to see the greatness in their background and their own experiences. You are not lesser because you may be a woman. You are not lesser because your skin may be brown. We have to recognize that within ourselves.”

In her April 9 inaugural address at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, Dr. Campbell lauded Spelman’s 135-year history of groundbreaking achievements and shared her goals for building on that legacy.



## Campbell

### 10. Mary Schmidt Campbell: 2015–current

**2015:** AUC student activists participate in Black Lives Matter protest at a Hillary Clinton rally in October.

**2016:** Mary Schmidt Campbell, Ph.D., names equality as the theme of the inauguration

“Spelman College is more than an educational institution; to reach an ideal of equality, Spelman is a necessity.”

While the College has the nation’s highest four-year graduation rate (67 percent) among 54 ranked HBCUs, Spelman will not rest until every woman who enters the College leaves with a degree, she told investiture attendees.

Spelman graduates not only will be equipped to tackle complex topics and to think, write and speak with clarity and with the courage of their convictions, she said. They also will leave Spelman as “masters of technology,” ready to take on the global challenges of the 21st century.

“If we expect our women to confront the problems of environmental and criminal justice, rebuild our nation’s public schools, work at the frontiers of science, develop new sources of energy and take on projects to empower women worldwide, then they will need tools of technology to amplify and expand their work,” Dr. Campbell said.

As the College continues to build on its strengths as a science, technology, engineering and mathematics powerhouse, Spelman also aims to strengthen the arts. That includes the construction of a new fine arts building that honors the essential role of the arts as the heartbeat of the College and spark of creativity and collaboration across disciplines, she added.

Spelman Board of Trustees faculty representative Kathleen Phillips-Lewis, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of the history department, said that the faculty looks forward to collaborating with the president and to greater inclusivity of all departments as she pursues her STEAM dream. “We know that we have a long and arduous road ahead, but we know that together we can get this job done,” Dr. Phillips-Lewis said in her greetings during the investiture ceremony.

The announcement of a new fine arts building also drew cheers from the crowd, some students calling it equality for the arts.

“It’s long overdue,” political science major Rache’l Oatis, C’2018, a member of the Student Inaugural Planning Committee, said after the ceremony. “Each president brings something different. To see Dr. Campbell bring in the arts component,

**2016:** Women’s Research & Resource Center hosts discussion on report “The Status of Women in the South.” The data was presented to highlight women’s progress and obstacles that they continue to face and to encourage policy and programmatic changes that can improve women’s opportunities.

**2016:** First-year student **Mary-Pat Hector** leads effort to deliver bottles of water to Flint, Michigan, residents.

**2016:** Fall Opening Convocation with Imani announces voter registration. **Pearl Cleage, C’71**, poet, writer and producer, joins forces with **Imani Dixon, C’2018**, president of the Spelman College Student Government Association, and her staff to register 400 new voters.

I’m excited for her. Dr. Campbell will definitely leave a footprint with this.”

In his remarks during the investiture, Freeman A. Hrabowski, Ph.D., president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, underscored the College’s legacy of seeking equality for women through education.

“I want you to know, Sister President, that you stand on the shoulders of wonderful, wonderful giants, of African-American women presidents showing this country what is possible,” Dr. Hrabowski said. “The idea is that you, the president, will set the tone for the institution, that you will be the best representative of the institution in the outside world. When people come to Spelman to consider giving ... they will know that they are coming to a very fine liberal arts college, and that they are there to just make it better and better.”





## alumnae NOTES

**1963**

**Bettie J. Durrah**

*Professional:* Served as speaker for the Lucy Craft Laney Luncheon sponsored by National Black Presbyterian Women on June 19, 2015, at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**1969**

**Laura English-Robinson**

*Professional:* Performed at the Love, Rosebuds, and Chocolate Pre-Valentine's Day recital at Spelman on February 12, 2016.

**1970**

**Rosa King Kilpatrick**

*Professional:* Recipient of the 2016 National Alumnae Association of Spelman College (NAASC) Hall of Fame Award at the Reunion Blue Note Banquet on May 14, 2016. Received the 2016 NAASC Hall of Fame Award for her volunteer work and leadership as past NAASC national president, former alumnae trustee, president of the Huntsville Chapter of the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College, outstanding financial support of Spelman College and for excellence during her career as a community relations specialist at NASA.

**1977**

**Mary Burney Bolling**

*Professional:* Elected as vice president for membership for the UNCF's National Alumni Council Board of Directors for

2016–2017 in New Orleans, on February 20, 2016, at the 70th National Alumni Council Leadership Conference.

**1981**

**Tanya Walton Pratt**

*Professional:* Appointed as judge in Southern Indiana District on June 15, 2010. She is the first African-American federal judge in Indiana history.

**1983**

**Vickie Cox Edmondson**

*Professional:* Appointed to the Office of Associate Provost for Student Success at Morehouse College in January 2015.

**1985**

**Siga Fatima Jagne**

*Professional:* Served as a guest lecturer at Spelman College for its African Diaspora and the World program on November 12, 2015.

**1988**

**Brucetta Williams**

*Personal:* Awarded the Trailblazer Award at the 2015 Atlanta Chapter NAASC Spelman College Annual Scholarship Brunch in Atlanta, on October 10, 2015.

**Joi Bostic**

*Professional:* Accepted a new position as the director of career services at Harry Norman Realtors on July 21, 2015.

**1989**

**Tomika DePriest**

*Professional:* Started a new position as senior director of communication at Emory University in Atlanta on January 5, 2016.

**Cathy Hampton**

*Professional:* Received the 2015 Outstanding General Counsel Award from the *Atlanta Business Chronicle*.

**1990**

**Danyelle Loveless**

*Professional:* Chosen as one of Indianapolis's best physicians by *Indianapolis Monthly Magazine*. She was listed in the 2015 Class of Top Doctors in the November 2015 issue.

**1991**

**Cynthia Bowman**

*Professional:* Promoted to chief diversity and inclusion officer with Bank of America in December, 2015.

**1992**

**Angelou Ezeilo**

*Professional:* Recently served as a guest lecturer of a lecture series at the Spelman titled, "The New Face of Conservation." The 10-session course was designed to provide Bonner and Morehouse scholars with guidance and exposure to the options within the environmental sector.



# alumnae NOTES

## Krishna Foster

**Professional:** Received the "100 Inspiring Women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) Award" on September 12, 2015. She serves as the associate director for the Minority Opportunities in Research Programs at California State University in Los Angeles.

## Michelle Thomas

**Professional:** Appointed to the Commission on Retirement Security on September 25, 2015, in Washington, D.C.

## 1993

### Kiran Ahuja

**Professional:** Named the chief of staff at the United States Office of Personnel Management in November 2015.

## 1995

### Stacey Y. Abrams

**Personal:** Awarded the Distinguished Alumna Award at the 2015 Atlanta Chapter NAASC Spelman College Annual Scholarship Brunch in Atlanta on October 10, 2015.

## 1996

### Andrea Lewis

**Professional:** Recipient of the 2016 National Alumnae Association of Spelman College (NAASC) Merit Award at the Reunion Blue Note Banquet on May 14, 2016. Received the 2016 NAASC Merit Award for her leadership as past president of the Atlanta chapter of the NAASC, outstanding service on the NAASC Executive Committee, consistent support of NAASC scholarship initiatives, and for excellence as chair and assistant professor of education studies at Spelman College.

## 1997

### Malika Anderson

**Professional:** Named superintendent of Tennessee's Achievement School District in November 2015.

### Mareesa Frederick

**Professional:** Promoted to partner at Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, LLP, in Atlanta, on November 6, 2015. It is one of the largest intellectual property law firms in the world.

## 1998

### Ashley Deadwyler-Jones

**Professional:** Recognized as a Hometown Hero at the 13th Annual Duffy's Hope Celebrity Basketball Game in Newark, Delaware on August 1, 2015.

### Andrea Hence Evans

**Professional:** Awarded the Prince George's Country Social Innovation Cohort Forty Under 40 honor for her work in science and engineering on Feb 4, 2016. She is the owner of Law Firm of Andrea Hence Evans.

### Erika Preval

**Professional:** Her company, Charm Etiquette, was named Best Classes/Workshops 2015 by *Best Self Magazine*.

### Monica F. Cox

**Professional:** Promoted to professor and chair of the department of engineering education at Ohio State on November 6, 2015.

## 1999

### Chevonne Hall

**Professional:** Appointed principal of the Baltimore Leadership School in Baltimore, Maryland on July 15, 2015.

### Stephanie Mitchell Hughes

**Professional:** Published the article, "You Do Not Walk Alone: Lawyers Living with Depression," in the November/December issue of *Ohio Lawyer*.

### Jakita Thomas

**Professional:** Received the Junior Faculty Scholarship award at Spelman College's Opening Convocation on August 20, 2015.

## 2000

### Chastity Bradley Ware

**Married:** Jermaine Ware on September 5, 2015, at The Lighthouse in Hendersonville, Tennessee.

**Professional:** Co-founded, with sisters, an annual, academic-based scholarship called Footsteps of Three Bradley Doctors. Scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors of Aiken County, South Carolina, who are interested in pursuing STEM majors.

### Elizabeth Blount McCormick

**Professional:** Named by Women for Economic and Leadership Development (WELD) to WELD's 2016 list of Women WELDing the Way on January 4, 2016. She is the president and owner of UNIGLOBE-Travel Designers in Columbus, Ohio.

### Jacqueline Duodu-Burbridge

**Birth:** Daughter, Jordyn Raye Afua Burbridge, born on November 27, 2015.

### Paula Harmon

**Professional:** Joined Pediatric Ear, Nose, and Throat in September 2015 in Atlanta.

### April Sunset Payton

**Birth:** Daughter, Sophia Grace Payton, born on June 27, 2015.

### Rebecca Brown

**Professional:** Inducted as the first woman/woman of color to serve as a major with the Clayton County Police Department in Clayton County, Georgia on June 3, 2016.

## 2001

### Heather Lowery

**Professional:** Recognized as a Hometown Hero at the 13th Annual Duffy's Hope Celebrity Basketball Game in Newark, Delaware, on August 1, 2015.

## 2003

### Joi A. Baker

**Education:** Received her master's of science in education with a focus in higher education from The University of Pennsylvania in May 2015.

### Mariel Howard Virgile

**Professional:** Recipient of the prestigious Department of Justice Civil Division Award for Excellence in December 2015.

### Maya Brooks

**Professional:** Signed to oversee West Coast PR for AMC and Sundance TV. She also serves as vice president of publicity and talent relations, focusing on consumer public relations.

## 2004

### Bridget Bland Bogee

**Professional:** Received a new position as the world head of Social Media Globally at Getty Images based in New York City.

### Rebecca Lynn Chattman

**Married:** Owen Stewart Birkett, Morehouse College Class of 2004, on November 7, 2015, in Atlanta.

### Maya T. Prabhu

**Professional:** Became the statehouse reporter for the Charleston, South Carolina, *Post and Courier* on October 2015.



## 2005

**Walkitria Alexander Smith**

**Professional:** Joined practice at North Atlanta Primary Care in 2015.

**Adrienne Hunter**

**Education:** Became the first graduate of the Medical University of South Carolina's Doctor of Health Administration in Information Systems program (conferred May 2014) where she was also inducted into the Upsilon Phi Delta National Honor Society. <http://globalhealth.musc.edu/blog/dha-graduate-recognizes-global-influences-healthcare-it>.

**Cherese C. Clark**

**Professional:** Named a Top 100 Black Lawyer on February 4, 2016, by The National Black Lawyers. She was also selected to serve on the executive committee for their Top 40 organization, The National Black Lawyers: Top 40 Under 40. <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/national-black-lawyers-announces-cherese-clark-one-ga-black-lawyers>.

**Leigh Davenport**

**Professional:** Published the article, "Spelman College Responds To Buzzfeed Article Exposing Rape Culture At Morehouse" on HelloBeautiful.com on February 7, 2016.

**Sherina Maye Edwards**

**Married:** Michael Vincent Edwards on October 17, 2015, in Chicago.

**Tammeca Rochester**

**Professional:** Became the new owner of Harlem Cycle; Harlem's first ever indoor cycling studio. She is also the founder and CEO of TRG International, a nonprofit organization working in Durban, South Africa, which is celebrating its 10-year anniversary.

## 2006

**Belinda L. Williams**

**Education:** Earned her doctor of philosophy degree in education with a specialization in human development and psychology from the University of California Los Angeles in June 2015.

**Married:** James E. Daugherty, Morehouse College, Class of 2001, on September 12, 2015.

**Jendai Richards**

**Professional:** Was a part of the Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (RISE) Program Seminar Series at Spelman.

## 2007

**Karina Liles**

**Professional:** Won second place in the Choose ATL Campaign, The Ultimate Job Interview, in Atlanta. It was a contest for college students who are looking to make their mark in Atlanta.

**Tjazha Mazhani**

**Professional:** Accepted the position of student life coordinator for the Technical College System of Georgia on February 1, 2016.

**Caren Howard**

**Professional:** Accepted a job offer from the Democratic political fundraising, consulting firm Angerholzer and Broz, in Washington, D.C, on August 10, 2015.

**Bridgette Wright**

**Professional:** Appointed vice president and director of experimental and brand integration at Global Hue on September 11, 2015.

## 2008

**Ashley Robinson**

**Professional:** Recently featured in a Georgia's WIN List "Win Profile" about her involvement with the political action committee. She is the chief of staff for the Georgia House Democratic Office.

**Patrice Capers**

**Professional:** Was a part of the RISE Program Seminar Series at Spelman on March 31, 2016.

## 2009

**Diandria Barber**

**Professional:** Recipient of the 2016 National Alumnae Association of Spelman College (NAASC) Young Alumna Award at the Reunion Blue Note Banquet on May 14, 2016. Received the 2016 NAASC Young Alumna Award for academic excellence in the field of public administration, her leadership as the NAASC Membership Chair and for her consistent financial support of Spelman College.

## 2010

**Pamela Franklin Stegall**

**Professional:** Launched the Pamela D. Franklin Cultural Center for the Performing Arts, a 501(c)3 arts organization in Atlanta. The mission of the center is to provide a performing arts environment

designed to reinforce a positive sense of cultural identity and self-worth through artistic expression of music, dance, theater and creative writing for under-served and neglected youth, ages 10–17 years old.

## 2011

**Terrahney Quave Wilson**

**Education:** Received her D.D.S. from the Columbia College of Dental Medicine in New York, 2015. She was the recipient of The National Leadership Award.

**Mea Boykins**

**Education:** Graduated from University of San Francisco with her second master's in Global Entrepreneurial Management on May 21, 2016.

**Melissa Akinlawon**

**Professional:** Recognized by the Congressional Black Caucus and the National Minority Quality firm as a "40 Under 40 Leader in Health." The winners were honored at the 2016 NMQF Leadership Summit on Health Disparities and CBC Spring Health Brain Trust in April 2016, in Washington D.C.

**Pilanda Watkins-Curry**

**Professional:** Was a part of the RISE Program Seminar Series at Spelman on March 24, 2016.

## 2012

**Sharyn Dougherty**

**Professional:** Hired to serve as the deputy national training director at Enroll America.

**Brianna Bowie**

**Professional:** Moved to West Region, Brand Communications and Sponsorships, as a specialist of LA sponsorships with Delta Airlines. She manages the day-to-day relationships with multi-million-dollar partners and the development and executions of campaigns.

## 2015

**Mamasa Camara**

**Professional:** Awarded the Gates Cambridge Award. This scholarship allows recipients to become a part of a global network of outstanding scholarship and alumni that use education and leadership qualities to improve the lives of others.



# take NOTES



## Remembering Soprano Mattiwillda Dobbs

When the magazine first started, many of its readers were students at the college. The first issue, published in the winter of 1966, was a small, 16-page publication. It was the first of many that would follow, each one a testament to the dedication and hard work of the students who created it. The magazine has since grown into a well-known publication, and its readership has expanded to include alumni and friends of the college. The winter 2016 issue, Vol. 108, No. 2, is a special issue dedicated to the life and career of the late Soprano Mattiwillda Dobbs. The issue features a portrait of Dobbs, a biography, and a collection of memories from those who knew her. The magazine is a valuable resource for anyone interested in the history of the college and the lives of its students.

The late **Mattiwillda Dobbs, C'46**, was honored in the article, "Remembering Soprano Mattiwillda Dobbs," in the winter 2016 issue of *Pan Pipes*, *Sigma Alpha Iota Philanthropies, Inc.* In the article, Spelman College Professor Emerita and College Organist Dr. Joyce Johnson shares memories of her friend and colleague.



Songstress **Kathleen Bertrand, C'73**, received the Georgia Highlight Award at the Fourth Annual Georgia Entertainment Gala, on February 6, 2016. The event was held at the Georgia World Congress Center.

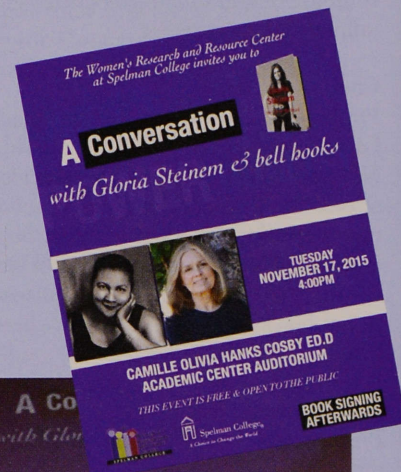
**Phyllis Anderson Sawyer, C'81**, was featured in the spring issue of *Savoy Magazine*, featured as one of the "Top 100 Most Influential Blacks in Corporate America." Sawyer, the vice president of marketing at Scripts, was also featured in the February issue of *Black Enterprise Magazine*, "Top Women Executives in Advertising and Marketing."



L-R: Theresa North Rogers, Joy Andrews, Lashonda Council Rogers, Chiquita Lockley

Women's Research & Resource Center Director and Anna Julia Cooper Professor of Women's Studies **Beverly Guy-Sheftall, Ph.D., C'66**, was featured in the article "Women Studies, Gender Studies Facing Roadblocks at HBCUs," in *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*, on July 28, 2015. The article discusses diversity and gender studies for students at HBCUs.

She was also mentioned in *The New York Times* article, "Gloria Steinem: By the Book," published on October 29, 2015. In the piece, Gloria Steinem includes Dr. Guy-Sheftall, along with former student **Alice Walker**, in her list of the best contemporary feminist writers.



L-R: Beverly Guy-Sheftall, bell hooks, Pearl Cleage, Gloria Steinem.

**Beverly Guy-Sheftall, Ph.D., C'66**, and Author/Playwright **Pearl Cleage, C'71**, pause for a picture with bell hooks and Gloria Steinem at The Women's Research and Resource Center's event, "A Conversation with Gloria Steinem & bell hooks" on November 17, 2015, at Spelman College.



**Mea Boykins, C'2011**, was recently featured in the London website, *WeAreTheCity.com*. The article, "Inspirational Woman: Mea Boykins | CEO, International Public Speaker, Humanitarian," was published on June 30, 2015.

Spelman alumnae collaborated with DeKalb Medical Hospital's Breast Cancer Center to honor 30 women who are survivors with a luncheon at the St. Regis Hotel-Atlanta. The event was sponsored by Council & Associates, a personal injury law firm owned by **Lashonda Council Rogers, C'98**. One of the honorees in attendance was Lashonda's mother-in-law, **Theresa North Rogers, C'70**. Also collaborating with Lashonda were **Joy Lynn Akpan Andrews, C'97**, who provided cakepops as gifts; and **Chiquita Lockley, C'97**, who planned the event – both of whom have mothers who are breast cancer survivors. The celebrity honoree was JaQuitta Williams, a longtime fixture in Atlanta news and a breast cancer survivor.



# take NOTES

**Minister Cassandra Henderson, C'2004; Minister Whitney Bond, C'2008; Minister Camille Henderson, C'2015; and Minister Elizabeth Pollard, C'2012,** participated in the Spelman College Sisters Chapel Homecoming October 2015 Alumnae Preaching Series. The event spanned four consecutive Sundays, October 4 through October 25, 2016.

**Moraima Ivory, C'91,** launched her own radio talk show on H.U.R. Voices, Channel 141 on SiriusXM. "The Mo Ivory Show," a one hour cutting-edge conversation about what is really happening in today's headlines, debuted in August 2015.



**Andrea Jackson, C'2001,** was featured in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, detailing the history and bonds of her membership in Alpha Kappa Sorority, Incorporated, Mu Pi Chapter, as it connects to her and her family. Her article details her archivist works at the Woodruff Library along with her accomplishments as an archivist at Howard University. The article, "Preserving an Alpha Kappa Alpha Legacy," was published February 3, 2016.



**Phyllis Anderson Sawyer, C'81,** was featured in the Spring issue of *Savoy Magazine*, featured as a "Top 100 Most Influential Blacks in Corporate America." Sawyer, the VP of Marketing at Scripts, was also featured in the February issue "Black Enterprise Magazine Top Women Executive in Advertising and Marketing."



The Emergency Department of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Hughes Spalding was recently named for Spelman Board of Trustees member **Lovette Twyman Russell, C'83.** Russell was honored on May 31, 2016, during a reception at the hospital and is featured on the Fall 2016 cover of *Southern Season* magazine. She is chair of the Hughes Spalding Community Board, a member of the CHOA Foundation Board of Trustees, and was born at the hospital. Russell was also featured twice in the April 2016 issue of *Southern Seasons* 10th Anniversary Edition. She was pictured in the coverage for the Swan House Ball on April 16, where she was patron co-chair, and at the Atlanta History Center's dedication of the Louise Richardson Allen Atrium and Atlanta History Museum.



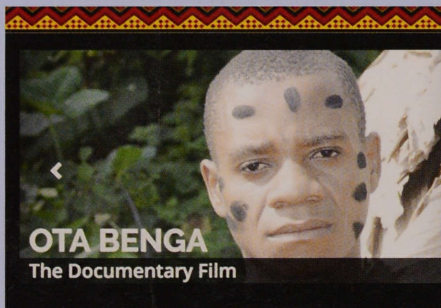
**Precious Williams, C'2001,** was highlighted in a feature documentary from New Line, "Leap." The coaching documentary follows the lives of five people from different walks of life as they take a leap of faith and transform their lives through the power of coaching. It aired January 20, 2016.



**Stephanie Mitchell Hughes, C'84,** was a guest on "Women @ Work," a weekly conversation on how to help women join, stay, succeed and lead in the workplace, on the Wharton School of Business Radio Network on SiriusXM. Much of the interview was devoted to what it means to be a Spelman woman.







**Wilmetta Toliver-Diallo, C'92**, was involved in the award-winning documentary *Ota Bengha*. She provided a narrative voice, including French translations. The film premiered at the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, on November 1, 2015.

The late **Dr. B. LaConyeya Butler, C'56**, was a strong advocate for the Southeastern Teaching of Psychology (SETOP) Conference. She was honored by the organization at their 28th Annual Southeastern Teaching of Psychology (SETOP) conference held in Atlanta on March 4-5, 2016. The program included the B. LaConyeya Butler Memorial Symposium, featuring two of Dr. Butler's former students who are now faculty members themselves. In addition to sharing memories of Dr. Butler, **Rihana Mason, Ph.D., C'99**, of Emmanuel College presented an overview of undergraduate research training at small Southeastern liberal arts colleges, and **J. Celeste Walley-Jean, Ph.D., C'95**, of Clayton State University shared teaching strategies from her gender and sexuality courses.



In the cover story, "The Pick and the Process: Leading a Presidential Search in the Digital Age," for the November/December 2015 issue of *Trusteeship Magazine*, Spelman Trustee **Celeste Watkins-Hayes, Ph.D., C'96**, highlights Spelman's stellar history of good governance by reflecting on the journey of electing Dr. Mary Schmidt Campbell to serve as Spelman's 10th president.

**Alia Jones-Harvey, C'95**, is co-producer of "Eclipsed," a new Broadway play starring Academy Award-winner Lupita Nyong'o. "Eclipsed" opened March 6, 2016, and is the first all-Black and all-female production on Broadway. The show has been nominated for six Tony Awards, including best play.



**Kara T. Olidge, C'92**, was appointed executive director of the Amistad Research Center in June 2015. She is the first woman to lead the Amistad Research Center at Tulane University in New Orleans. An article about her historic position ran in *NBCNEWS.com* on September 2, 2015.

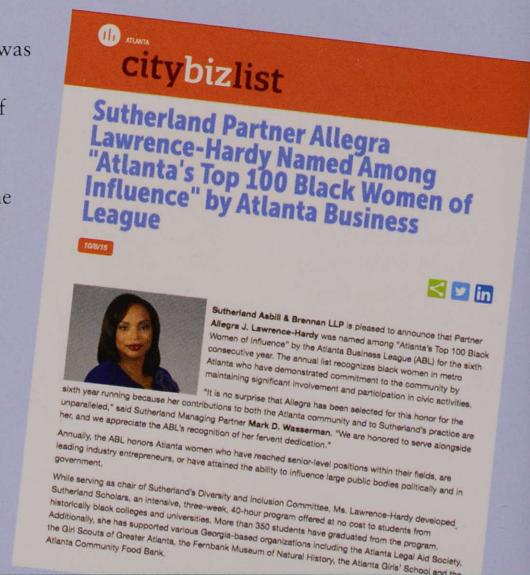
Attorney **Janet C. Scott, C'95**, was elected as 2016 president of the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys, named a 2016 Georgia Super-Lawyer Rising Star and featured in *Rolling Out Magazine's* Top 25 Women of Atlanta in November 2015. She serves as counsel at the law firm of Smith, Welch, Webb & White LLC, specializing in education law.



In 2015, **Allegra J. Lawrence-Hardy, C'93**, was named one of "Atlanta's Top 100 Black Women of Influence" by the Atlanta Business League for the sixth consecutive year. She is a partner at Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP.



**Lyrric Johnson, C'2013**, and **Christian Murphy, C'2007**, were featured on the cover of the February issue of *Atlanta* magazine, "The Millennials Issue: How Atlanta's Boldest Generation Is Shaping Our City." **Anita Foster, C'2013**, was also featured in the issue, in the article, "In Their Own Words, Eight Atlantans Weigh In on Generational Stereotypes, Gentrification, and Their Hopes for Their City."





Burrell Communications was selected as the advertising firm for the Clinton Presidential Campaign. Burrell is co-owned by **McGhee Williams Osse, C'74**, and will assist the campaign in focusing on African-American voters. The announcement ran in several media outlets including NBCNews.com in November 2015.

**Qimma Saafir, C'2002**, was featured in the article, "Meet Hannah, the Magazine Trying to Put Black Women First," in *Fader* on September 18, 2015. She is the CEO/EIC/ Creative Director of *Hannah Magazine*, a bi-annual print publication for Black women launched in 2014.



**Cynthia Bowman, C'91**, was promoted by Bank of America to chief diversity and inclusion officer in December 2015. Her announcement ran in several media outlets including *BlackEnterprise.com*.



**LaTanya Richardson Jackson, C'71**, received an NAACP Image Award for Best Actress in a Mini-Series nomination for HBO's "Show Me a Hero." She also was honored by The Children's Defense Fund on February 29, 2016, in New York. The event was featured in several media outlets, including the article, "Students Shine at Children's Defense Fund Gala: Rosie Perez, Spike Lee and actress LaTanya Richardson Jackson at Beat the Odds Event," in the March 2, 2016, issue of *The Wall Street Journal*.

Children's Defense Fund founder and president, **Marian Wright Edelman, C'60**, was also pictured in the article. On April 13, 2016, Edelman received the Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medal of Citizen Leadership, the highest honor the Thomas Jefferson Foundation at Monticello and University of Virginia bestow. She is the second person to be honored twice with Thomas Jefferson Medals. In 1992, she received the Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medal in Law. On April 21, 2016, Edelman spoke to a thousand child advocates at the Ecumenical Advocacy Days gathering in Washington, D.C.; and earlier in April she was featured in the *Lenny* discussing the importance of advocacy for the underprivileged.



Actress **Erica Tazel, C'97**, starred in the 2016 remake of "Roots," the mini-series based on Alex Haley's 1977 slave narrative that premiered on the History Channel on Memorial Day. On day three and four of the mini-series, viewers watched Tazel in the role of Matilda, the wife of Chicken George, who was the grandson of Kunta Kinte and the great-great-grandfather of Alex Haley. Tazel was also featured in the TvOne movie "Runaway Island" which premiered July 25, 2015.

**Jennyfer Holmes, C'98**, was named one of the "Top 40 Professionals Under 40" in the *Hartford Business Journal* for 2015. Holmes is a scholarship and donor services officer of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. Her honor was also recognized in the article, "Junior League Members Honored with Hartford Business Journal 40 Under Forty Award," in the *West Hartford News*, October 22, 2015.



The captivating photograph of a two-year old caught in the Flint, Michigan water crisis taken by *Detroit Free Press* staff photographer, **Regina H. Boone, C'92**, landed on the cover of *Time Magazine's* February 1, 2016 issue. Her coverage of the water crisis has garnered national attention. Boone shared details about the coverage in the article, "Free Press Photo Helps Define Flint Tragedy for Nation," which ran in the *Detroit Free Press* on January 21, 2016.

**Roslyn Pope, C'60**, was featured in the article, "Life with Gracie: They Couldn't Believe Georgia Sent a Black Girl Scout," in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. The piece, that ran on March 10, 2016, shared her experience as one of the first African-American Girl Scouts in Atlanta and her involvement in the fight to end segregation via her pivotal role with the Committee on the Appeal for Human Rights.







**Onajada Richardson, C'90**, is quoted in the article "Who Gets to Play Tennis? On the South Side of Chicago, a Campaign to Diversify the Game," in the August 26, 2015, issue of *The New York Times Magazine*. Her children, Hugh and Tyra Richardson, are also featured in the article.



**Tamara Waye, C'96**, a vice president in the User Experience (UX) team at Goldman Sachs, was recently highlighted in several recruiting campaigns and online articles featured on GoldmanSachs.com.

**Apryl Renee Brown, C'82**, was elected the 2015–2017 president of the American Public Health Association Black Caucus of Health Workers.



## NOVEMBER RULE

**Candice Childress, C'99**, and her writing partner Juwan Lee (Morehouse Class of 2000) wrote a screenplay together that was optioned and produced by Queen Latifah's Flavor Unit Entertainment. The film, titled *November Rule*, was released in February 2015 and is currently streaming on Netflix.

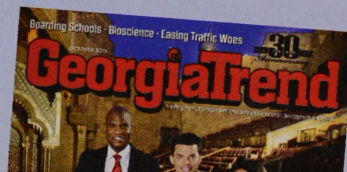


Attorney **Joni Potter, C'2002**, was appointed to the Florida Election Commissions by Governor Rick Scott on January 8, 2016. Her term will run through December 31, 2019.

Lifestyle expert **Tai Beauchamp, C'2000**, was named in *Women's Wear Daily* (WWD) *Beauty Inc.*'s list of the 50 most influential people in the multicultural beauty market. The article appeared in a special issue of *Beauty Inc.* in August 2015.



Spelman Board of Trustees Chair **Rosalind Brewer, C'84**, was named one of the 50 Most Powerful Women by *Fortune* magazine. Brewer was listed as number 15 on the coveted list that was released in September 2015.



**Jawahn (Wragg) Ware, C'98**, was selected for *Georgia Trend*'s 2015 40 Under Forty. The annual list highlights 40 outstanding Georgians under the age of 40 in a variety of fields and disciplines. The list was featured in the October 2015 issue of the magazine. Ware is the first African-American clerk at the Dougherty County Board of Commissioners, Albany, Georgia.

**Anne Collins Smith, C'96**, was featured in the video interview, "60 Seconds With a Curator: Anne Collins Smith," on the Careergirls.org YouTube channel and website. The interview, posted on August 21, 2015, shared career guidance and life advice for girls.







**JLA ANNOUNCES \$100,000 GIFT TO YOUTHSARK**  
by V. Shante Liggins

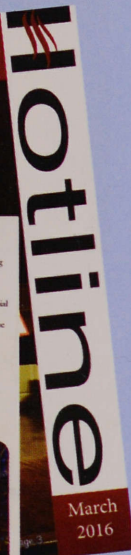
The winter General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 16 was a reminder that our Centennial Year is quickly approaching. Highlights of the meeting were the official sale of the first Centennial Year commemorative item and an eye-opening panel discussion on diversity. The discussion, kicked off by Nzinga Shaw, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer of the Atlanta Hawks & Phillips Arena, included Ann Grier, senior consultant, Grier & Associates and past JLA president, and Dr. Jane Smith, Vice President of College Relations, Spelman College.

However, the biggest reveal of the evening was the announcement of the JLA's \$100,000 grant to youthSpark's Building Better Future campaign. The grant to youthSpark will further its mission to end sex trafficking by serving more vulnerable youth who intersect with the Fulton County Juvenile Court through the new youthSpark Center. In partnership with the JLA, the youthSpark Center will help more than 500 youth each year that pass through the Fulton County Juvenile Court system.

Atlanta is a hot bed for commercial sexual exploitation of children and human trafficking and, according to the FBI, ranks among the top 14 cities for domestic minor sex trafficking. The JLA has actively contributed efforts, resources and enthusiasm to solving this epidemic in our city. The next step in eradicating the sexual exploitation and human trafficking of children in our city was to partner with an organization already doing great work in this area - youthSpark.

youthSpark is currently located in the Fulton County Juvenile Court, to have direct access to youth who pass through the court. However, with limited space and staffing, youthSpark is restricted in its capacity to serve all youth who pass through the court. Youth who are at high-risk for exploitation exhibit factors that can be unmet or prevented by the new Center. Known risk factors include juvenile justice involvement, child welfare involvement, truancy and/or runaway behavior and drug abuse. The Center's expanded services will help address youth who are dealing with one or more of these factors to prevent the risk of exploitation.

Page 3



Spelman College Vice President for College Relations **Jane Smith, C'68**, and **Nzinga Shaw, C'2001**, chief diversity and inclusion officer of the Atlanta Hawks and Philips Arena, spoke at the General Membership

Meeting for The Junior League of Atlanta (JLA) as they announced the organization's \$100,000 gift to YouthSpark. They were also featured in an article about the event in the *JLA Hotline*, March 2016. In a recent video for the City of Atlanta's "The Legacy Lives," Shaw shares how her experience at Spelman prepared her to serve as the first diversity and inclusion officer for the Atlanta Hawks and Philips Arena.



**Keshia Knight Pulliam, C'2001**, garnered media attention for her film, "Will to Love," a romantic TV movie released in June 2015. On June 17, 2016, Knight Pulliam was honored by the Urban League of Greater Atlanta with the Spirit of the League Champion Award. The Spirit of the League Awards Luncheon took place at the Twelve Hotel Atlantic Station in Midtown Atlanta.



In July 2016, **Keshia Knight Pulliam, C'2001**, and Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer of the Atlanta Hawks and Phillips Arena **Nzinga Shaw, C'2001**, collaborated to provide 120 youth from Keshia's nonprofit organizations, Kamp Kizzy Foundation and Project James summer camp, with an entertaining and educational experience at the Phillips Arena.



**Ouleye Ndoeye, C'2007**, married Morehouse alumnus Rev. Dr. Raphael G. Warnock, pastor at Ebenezer Baptist Church. Vows were exchanged in a public ceremony on February 14, 2016. Their proposal was featured in *Essence* on January 5, 2016, in the article, "Morning Feels: Atlanta Pastor Proposes Before Entire Congregation at Historic MLK Church." *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* covered the wedding in "A Look at the Wedding of Rev. Raphael Warnock and Ouleye Ndoeye" on February 16, 2016.



**Michelle Miller's, C'2002**, wedding was featured in *Essence's* Bridal Bliss.

**Mickey Noella, C'2012**, was featured in *O, The Oprah Magazine's* "U.S. of O: Six Fabulous Makeovers to Inspire Your New Look," in the September 2015 issue. Adam Glassman, O's creative director, chose only six women from all over the country to be a part of the spread.

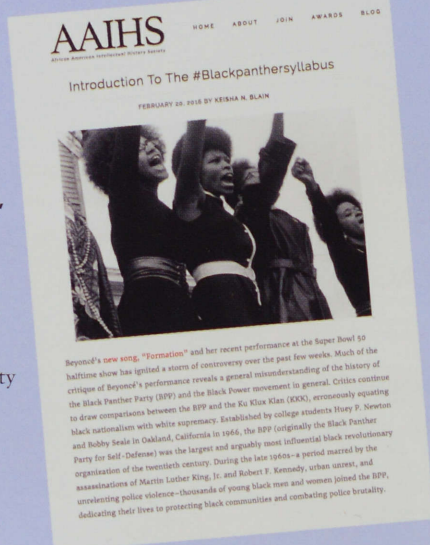


**Courtney Warren, C'2012**, was appointed policy analyst at the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice by Governor Terry McAuliffe on August 21, 2015. Previously she served as a Governor's Fellow in the Secretariat of Public Safety and Homeland Security.



# take NOTES

**Ashley Farmer's C'2005**, scholarly works were mentioned in the article, "Introduction to the #Blackpanthersyllabus," on the African American Intellectual History Society website on February 20, 2016.



**Marcia S. Price, C'2002**, was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates with 76 percent of the votes on November 3, 2015. The news was covered in *The Daily Press*. Price was also featured in *The Daily Press* on February 28, 2016, in the article, "Del. Marcia Price Backs Sanders, Only Virginia Legislator to Do So."



Former state representative **Alisha Thomas Morgan, C'2000**, has been appointed as the executive director of Ivy Preparatory Academies. This announcement ran in the August 9, 2015, issue of the *Gwinnett Daily Post*.



**Chelsea Jackson, C'2001**, was featured in the *Huffington Post* on December 9, 2015, for her work as singer Janelle Monae's personal Yoga instructor; and in the article "One Woman's Journey from Website to the White House," on *New Tricks: Websites & Marketing* on March 30, 2016, for her participation in the White House Easter Egg Roll Celebration.

**Lezli Harvell, C'2000**, was featured in the article, "Dentist Lezli Harvell on Financing Your Dreams," in *Essence* magazine on September 13, 2015.



**Jamyla Bennu, C'97**, owner and creator of Oyin Handmade skin and haircare products, based out of Baltimore, was featured in the article, "Mom on the Move: Jamyla Bennu Talks Her Big Beauty Brand, Oyin Handmade," in the February 19, 2016 issue of *MadameNoir*. She was also featured in the May 2016 issue of *Ebony* Magazine in the article, "A Natural Success."



Alabama Governor Robert Bentley signed an executive order creating the Governor's Office of Minority Affairs (GOMA) on March 9, 2016. At that time he announced the appointment of **Nichelle Williams Nix, C'2002**, as the director of the newly established office, responsible for advising the governor on issues affecting minorities, including women.

**Yondi Morris, C'2004**, was featured in *Elle* magazine on January 14, 2016, in the article, "Inside the Law Firm That Three Black Women Started With a Tweet: Not Old, Not White, Not Men – Keli Knight, Yondi Morris and Jessica Reddick Play by Their Own Rules."



**La'Shanda Holmes, C'2007**, the U.S. Coast Guard's first African-American female helicopter pilot, was appointed on February 26 to the 2015–2016 class of White House Fellows by the President's Commission on White House Fellowships.

**Danielle Cooper Daughtry, C'90**, was named chief counsel for the 2016 Democratic National Convention Committee in January 2016. The convention was held July 25–28, 2016, in Philadelphia.





**Andrea Irvin, C'2003**, manager of community service in the Bonner Office of Community Service and Student Development, was honored at the White House on March 25 as a Champion of Change for the Affordable Care Act. She is one of 10 Champions of Change selected this year for their dedication to improving access to healthcare. Irvin was recognized for engaging Spelman students in healthcare enrollment in the Atlanta community.

**Sherina Maye Edwards, C'2005**, was featured in the article, "Energy Commissioner Sherina Maye Edwards: A Refreshing Color of Change," in *The Chicago Defender*. The article touches on her background and career path while also highlighting some of her proudest achievements in the energy industry. It appeared in the January 20, 2016, print edition of *The Chicago Defender*.



**Gena Ashe, C'83**, has joined the board as an independent director of the company at XPO Logistics, Inc., and will serve as chair of the nominating and corporate governance committee. Ashe's appointment expands the board to nine directors, seven of whom are independent directors.



Advertising and marketing executive **Kelli Coleman, C'2007**, discussed her new platform, *She Who Dares*, in the article, "GlobalHue's Kelli Coleman Talks Female Empowerment and Being a Boss: Young Executive Opens Up About Inspiring Women to Be Their Best Self" in *Black Enterprise* on July 13, 2015.

**Amanda Washington, C'2009**, published the article "Stop Questioning HBCU Relevancy & Learn from Our Success," on December 6, 2015, in *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*.



**Dr. Aisha McKnight-Baron, C'2003**, a plastic surgeon at Crawford Plastic Surgery, is featured on the new reality television show "Atlanta Plastic" that debuted on Lifetime. The October 8, 2015, issue of *Modern Luxury Jezebel* highlighted her beauty secrets in the article, "Glam Patrol."



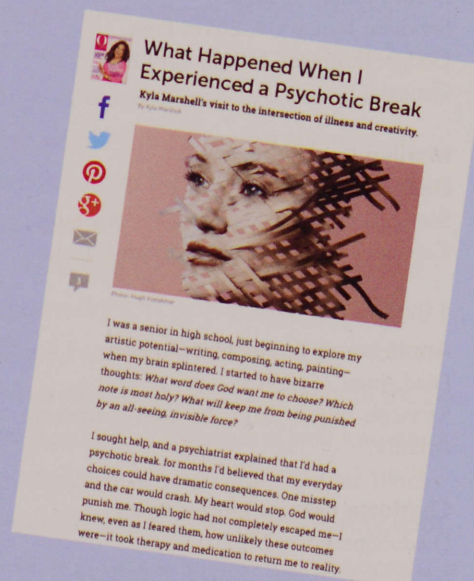
**Joy Brunson, C'2010**, co-stars in the PureFlix film, "Woodlawn: The True Story," which opened in theaters October 16, 2015.



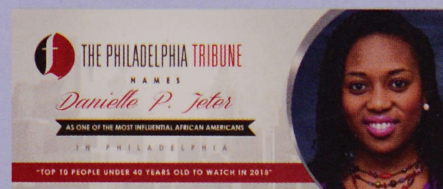
**Bernette Joshua Johnson, C'64**, was inducted into the LSU Alumni Association hall of distinction as Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court, announced in March 2016.



**Jaunice Sill, C'2008**, participated on a panel on February 24, 2016, at the White House for a discussion on HBCUs. She is the vice president of program scheduling and promo strategy at Revolt TV in Los Angeles.



**Kyla Marshall, C'2009**, published a personal essay, "What Happened When I Experienced a Psychotic Break: Kyla Marshall's Visit to the Intersection of Illness and Creativity," in the February 2016 issue of *O, the Oprah Magazine*.



AOI Events & PR founder and CEO **Danielle P. Jeter, C'2010**, was named one of the Top 10 People Under 40 Years Old to Watch by *The Philadelphia Tribune* newspaper in September 2015. She was the youngest person honored at *The Philadelphia Tribune's* 2015 Most Influential African Americans ceremony held at the Philadelphia Convention Center.



# in MEMORIAM

1938

**Dorothy Turner Johnson**

Died: October 29, 2015

Services: November 21, 2015, Community Presbyterian Church, Celebration, Florida.

1941

**Alpha Valerie "Val" Hines Westbrook**

Died: March 18, 2016

Services: March 21, 2016, Broadway Baptist Church, Augusta, Georgia.

1943

**Mozelle Clemmons**

Died: January 4, 2016

Services: January 9, 2016, First Congregational Church, Savannah, Georgia.

**Marilyn Green Epps**

Died: January 8, 2016

Services: January 12, 2016, Orangeburg Cemetery in Orangeburg, South Carolina.

1944

**Annie Laura Cameron Johnson**

Died: June 25, 2015

Services: July 1, 2015, Lincoln Cemetery, Atlanta.

**Charlotte Bernice Linder Perry**

Died: September 27, 2015

Services: October 2, 2015, E.F. Boyd & Son Funeral Home and Crematory, Cleveland, Ohio.

1945

**Arizona Brown Price**

Died: April 18, 2016

Services: April 25, 2016, Cascade Chapel, Atlanta.

**Ernestine Latson Smith**

Died: March 12, 2015

Services: March 21, 2015, Jacksonville, Florida.

**Juanita H. Scott**

Died: December 8, 2015

Services: December 15, 2015, Paradise Reed Street Baptist Church, Atlanta.

1946

**Joyce Cooper Bobo**

Died: March 7, 2016

Services: April 16, 2016, Congregational Church of Chatsworth, Chatsworth, California.

**Thelma Elise Freeman Hurley**

Died: June 4, 2015

Services: June 12, 2015, Atlanta.



**Mattawilda Dobbs-Janzon**

Died: December 8, 2015

Services: December 18, 2015, First Congregational Church, Atlanta.

1947

**Mary Lemon Brooks**

Died: December 31, 2015

Services: January 7, 2016, Covenant Presbyterian Church

1949

**Willie Mae Person Butler**

Died: September 25, 2015

1952

**Dorothy Jean Cole King**

Died: August 19, 2015

Services: August 29, 2015

1953

**Rosalie Raglin Thomas**

Services: July 18, 2015, Antioch Baptist Church North, Atlanta.

1956

**Hellen Calloway Jackson**

Died: July 11, 2015

Services: July 15, 2015, Atlanta.

1965

**Christine Williams**

Died: February 14, 2016

Services: February 23, 2016, Body of Christ Church International, USA.

1967

**Carlotta Campbell**

Died: October 4, 2015

Services: Albany, Georgia.

**Constance Burton Pulliam-Sykes**

Died: September 15, 2015

1969

**Patricia Gertrude Walker**

Died: July 14, 2015

1976

**Gloria Jean Wright Wells**

Died: April 9, 2016

Services: April 15, 2016, Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Atlanta.

1984

**Yvette Fordham**

Died: June 24, 2016

Services: June 30, 2015, Cottonton, Alabama.

**Adrienne Archia Braye**

Died: December 29, 2015

Services: April 17, 2016, South Shore Cultural Center, Chicago, Illinois.

1986

**Deidra Harvey**

Died: October 11, 2015

Services: October 18, 2015, Crisp County Middle School, Cordele, Georgia.

1987

**Elise Wright**

Died: July 19, 2015

Services: July 26, 2015, New York.

1991

**De' Angel Dawson Woodruff**

Died: December 16, 2015

1992

**Consuelo "Buffy" Campbell**

Died: December 28, 2015

Services: January 7, 2016, First Baptist of East Point, East Point, Georgia.

2002

**Felicia Williams**

Died: January 9, 2015

Services: January 13, 2016, Kelly Lake Church of God in Christ, Decatur, Georgia.



A black and white photograph of Mattiwilda Dobbs in an elaborate opera costume. She is wearing a tall, ornate headdress with multiple pointed, feather-like structures adorned with white circular patterns. Her face is painted with dramatic makeup, including dark eye makeup and small dots on her forehead. She is looking slightly to the right with a gentle smile. She wears a dark, heavily beaded necklace. The background is a plain, light color.

## true BLUE

Mattiwilda Dobbs, C'46, enamored audiences around the world as a coloratura soprano while she helped to break the color barrier in opera by appearing in milestone performances at Milan's La Scala and the New York Metropolitan Opera. The valedictorian of her class, Dobbs majored in music and Spanish. She was the offspring of John and Irene Dobbs and the aunt of former Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson. As one of the first Blacks to have an international operatic vocation, her career would catapult when she won an international music competition in Geneva, Switzerland. The next year, Dobbs made her professional debut as the nightingale in Stravinsky's "The Nightingale" at the Holland Festival. In 1955, Dobbs became the first African American to play in the San Francisco Opera. While it is well known that Marian Anderson was the first Black to perform at the New York Metropolitan Opera, it was Dobbs who was the first to be offered a long-term contract. Like Anderson, Dobbs refused to perform before segregated audiences. As a result, it would be 1962 before she performed in her home town of Atlanta. In 1979, Spelman College awarded honorary doctorates to both Anderson and Dobbs. Shortly before her death on December 8, 2015, at the age of 90, the Spelman College Distinguished Visiting Scholar Dwight Andrews, Ph.D., paid a special tribute to the opera singer during his November culminating event "Kindred Spirits: Creativity and Collaboration."





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