

SPELMAN Messenge



Healing Hands

Alumnae helping to make the world a better place – mentally, physically and spiritually.

SPELMAN Messenger

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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 NOTES

Take Notes is dedicated to the following alumnae achievements:

- Published
- Appearing in films, television or on stage
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Book Notes is dedicated to alumnae and faculty authors.

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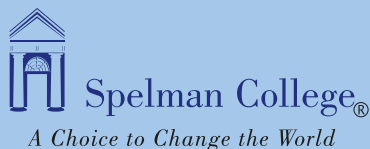
IN MEMORIAM

We honor our Spelman sisters. If you receive notice of the death of a Spelman sister, please contact the Office of Alumnae Engagement at 404-270-5048 or Sharon Owens, director of Alumnae Engagement, at sharon.owens@spelman.edu. *For verification purposes, please include a printed program, newspaper acknowledgment or electronic link with your submission.*

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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.





Healing Hands

Our cover (from bottom left) features Drs. Lezli Levene Harvell, Juvonda Hodge, Hazel Dean, Deborah Prothrow-Stith, and Loren Robinson Abebe

COVER PHOTO BY JULIE YARBROUGH, C'91



A Tribute to Donald M. Stewart

A kind and gentle man, he took Spelman College to new heights in fundraising and programming.



Saving the World

Visit www.spelman.edu/healthcareheroes.

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Saving the World

A featured online list of Spelman women who make it their mission to serve others. Visit www.spelman.edu/healthcareheroes.

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Spelman Women as Healers: The Noble Tradition Continues

This year, Spelman College celebrates Homecoming 2019 with a first-of-its-kind healthcare summit. Titled “Multidimensional Perspectives on Healthcare in the 21st Century: Delivering the Spelman Promise,” the summit welcomes back to campus many of the College’s outstanding alumnae healthcare professionals. The summit also provides an opportunity for alumnae, students, faculty and industry representatives to examine current issues in healthcare and map out how best to prepare our students for careers in the field.

This year’s celebration reminds us of Spelman’s longstanding primacy in providing excellent healthcare in our Black communities. In 1886, when our beloved school was still the Atlanta Baptist Women’s Seminary, we became the nation’s first institution of higher education to offer a nurse training program for Black women. In 1902, after the school became Spelman Seminary, we were the first institution to establish a hospital for Blacks in Atlanta. For more than 25 years, MacVicar Hospital, in what is now MacVicar Hall, was a training ground for Black nurses and provider of quality healthcare for the city’s Black citizens.

In 1900, Georgia Dwelle completed high school at Spelman Seminary and went on to graduate from Meharry Medical College, becoming our first alumna to become a physician. In 1920, she founded Dwelle Infirmary, Atlanta’s

first private hospital for Blacks and first “lying-in” (in-patient obstetrics) hospital for Black women.

In the century since these important milestones, Spelman women have continued to distinguish themselves as health career professionals. Our eighth Spelman College president, Audrey Forbes Manley, C’55, who was also the first alumna president, was the first Black woman to achieve the rank of assistant surgeon general, in 1988, of the United States.

Today, Spelman leads the nation in preparing Black women for careers in the health professions — thanks to our Health Career Opportunities Pipeline Preparation Program, which celebrated its 10th anniversary this year. Almost 140 Spelmanites have participated in the program. Many have earned advanced degrees and now work in medicine, medical research, dentistry, pharmacy, public health and other wellness fields. This fall, we will welcome 15 new HCOPPP scholars to the College.

Our healthcare summit is a critical conversation about Spelman’s continuing role in healthcare and our mission to continue to produce outstanding healthcare professionals. The conversation is as timely as ever. Black people in the United States and around the world still rank lower than other groups on almost every measure of wellbeing. And, because health disparities persist, it is imperative that we have healers who are not only



well-trained, but are also committed to addressing these inequities and caring for our communities.

At the summit, and in this issue of the *Spelman Messenger*, we celebrate the contributions of our alumnae who are doing just that: carrying on with compassion and excellence the noble tradition of Spelman women as healers.

With gratitude and pride, we salute them.

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

COMMENCEMENT 2019

BY TIERRA MCCLAIN, C'2021

Keisha Lance Bottoms, the mayor of Atlanta, delivered the commencement address to a group of 474 graduates and their families Sunday, May 19, 2019, at the Georgia International Convention Center. Bottoms, who grew up in the West End community of Atlanta and is a graduate of Florida A&M University, was also the recipient of this year's National Community Service Award.

While met with unrest by a group of Spelman graduates in protest of police brutality and gentrification, Bottoms delivered her address and celebrated the likes of Spelman alumnae in her family, including her aunt Ruby Doris Smith-Robinson, C'65, a founding member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

Others celebrated at the 2019 commencement include honorary degree recipient Sonia Sanchez, acclaimed poet, writer, and lecturer on women's liberation, justice, and culture in the Diaspora. In addition, the commencement platform included Rosalind Gates Brewer, C'84, last year's commencement speaker and the chair of the Spelman College board of trustees; valedictorian Ariana Benson C'2019; as well as other student leaders, trustees and special guests.

Tierra McClain is a third-year English major with aspirations to become a public interest lawyer.



Atlanta mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms delivered the commencement address.



Spelman 2019 graduates pose for a selfie.



Pictured top left to right: Bria Page, C'2019, SSGA president and board student representative; Mikia Frazier, C'2019, senior class president; Mark Lee, associate professor of biology and board faculty trustee; Gena Hudgins, C'83, trustee; Tara Buckner, C'87, NAASC president; Helen Smith Price, C'79, trustee; Nia Malone, C'2020, student trustee; Mary Lynne Diggs, C'77, trustee; Bonnie Carter, C'89; trustee; Vickie Palmer, life trustee; Kristen Walker, C'2019, class salutarian; Ariana Benson, C'2019, valedictorian; pictured bottom left to right: Suzanne Shank, trustee; President Mary Schmidt Campbell; Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms; Rosalind Brewer, C'84, board chair; Cynthia Jackson, C'81, trustee.

A TRIBUTE TO DONALD M. STEWART: UNDAUNTED BY THE FIGHT

BY RENITA MATHIS

In August 1976 when Donald Stewart arrived at Spelman to become the College's sixth president, it was under a cloud of controversy. After a sequence of White women presidents and then a Black man, Albert Manley (whom Stewart was replacing), students rallied for a Black woman president. Several hundred students, along with some faculty and staff, showed their displeasure by locking trustees in a board room for 26 hours.

"It was a time when we were defining ourselves, and we wanted a woman," said then-director of freshman studies Jane Smith, C'68, Ed.D., While the attempted coup settled down and Stewart was confirmed as president, this protest would mark the turning point in the future of Spelman College's presidency.

Smith, who would go on to become an assistant to Stewart, has nothing but fond memories of a man she described as a "wonderful, wonderful human being who was transparent and knew when a transformation was needed."

"He took Spelman to new heights and set it on the path to its standing today as a leading liberal arts and historically Black college," wrote Spelman alumna and longtime Stewart family friend, Marian Wright Edelman, C'60, in her July *Child Watch Column* for the Children's Defense Fund. "[In] his first address, Donald promised he would never let male ego get in the way of being the leader Spelman's students needed."

Living through one too many blizzards in Iowa, Jo Moore Stewart (no relation), former director of publications and editor of the *Spelman Messenger*, was looking for a warmer climate and place where "the rest of the Black people were in the country." Passing through Atlanta, she made a pit stop at Spelman and applied as editor of the *Messenger*.

In town for a board meeting at his alma mater, Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa, Stewart arranged to meet Jo Moore at the airport for an interview. The interview revealed they knew some of the same people and had much in common. He hired her, and their work and family relationship blossomed.

"He was a very, very kind man. While he wasn't able to give [raises], he would write personal notes of gratitude to people all the time – from faculty members to the laundry lady," said Jo Moore, who retired in 2017, almost 40



Donald Stewart laid the foundation for much success at the College in terms of programs and fundraising.



The Spelman College board of trustees' release after a 26-hour protest by several hundred students, along with some faculty and staff, regarding the board not hiring a woman to replace outgoing President Albert Manley.



Donald and Isabel Stewart along with sons Jay and Carter in 1976.

years after Stewart hired her in 1978. “I was so impressed and touched that he would come to my retirement party.”

She credits Stewart with creating the vice president role at Spelman, as well as bringing the \$20 million Bill and Camille Cosby gift to the table.

“Don laid the foundation for much success at the College in terms of programs and fundraising,” said Robert Flanigan Jr., former treasurer and vice president for Business and Financial Affairs. “He was very progressive and a true visionary.”



The retirement of Jo Moore Stewart would be Donald Stewart’s final visit to Spelman College. Pictured left to right: Jane Smith, C’68, vice president for College Relations; Robert Flanigan Jr., former treasurer and vice president for Business and Financial Affairs; Donald Stewart; Jo Moore Stewart; and Daniel Socolow, former vice president of Research and Development.

Stewart, who died April 7, 2019, from an apparent heart attack, is survived by his wife of 54 years, Isabel Stewart; sons Jay and Carter Stewart and Gojeb Frehywot; and eight grandchildren: Nicole Stewart, Jonathan Stewart, Corinne Stewart, Michael Frehywot, Isaac Frehywot, Caleb Frehywot, Ulyses Stewart-Torres and Aeneas Stewart-Torres.



Pictured left to right are Martin Meyerson, former president of the University of Pennsylvania and mentor to Donald Stewart; Stewart; and Marian Wright Edelman, first Spelman alumna to hold the College’s board chair position and close friend to Stewart, introducing him to his wife Isabel Carter Stewart.

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS UNDER PRESIDENT STEWART’S LEADERSHIP

- Ushered in many additions to the College’s curriculum and expanded the academic offerings with new majors, minors and the creation of new programs. A full-fledged Department of Chemistry and a comprehensive writing program were established. Spelman offered majors in 26 fields, including prelaw and premed tracks; and computer science was initiated as a major and minor
- In 1978, the Office of Freshman Studies was established, followed by the Spelman College Honors Program and the Continuing Education Program in 1980
- Marian Wright Edelman, C’60, became the first alumna to be elected the chair of the Spelman College Board of Trustees in 1979
- Spelman became the first HBCU to establish a Women’s Research and Resources Center in 1981
- In 1985, the Academic Computer Center opened
- A President’s Council was established to enhance Spelman’s corporate relationships, which helped grow the endowment from \$9 million to \$41 million during his presidency
- In 1986, during his last year as president, the Donald and Isabel Stewart Living-Learning Center was dedicated in his and his wife’s honor

Read Stewart’s bio at: <https://bit.ly/2ZvWXHH>

Read Marian Wright Edelman’s entire tribute to Stewart at: <https://bit.ly/2L7eAEV>

Renita Mathis is director of marketing and communications for College Relations.

SPELMAN INNOVATION TAKES FLIGHT WITH BIO-DRONE PROJECT

BY CONNIE GREEN FREIGHTMAN

Blustery wind and rain are not ideal conditions for flying aircraft.

But the weather conditions did not deter Spelman College's bio-drone team from earning a top spot in the U.S. Army's inaugural HBCU/MI Design Competition in April at the University of Texas at El Paso.

Computer science major and drone pilot Mumbi Whidby, C'2022; art history major Cornelia Stokes, C'2019; art major Jordan Dantzler, C'2021; along with biology majors Chloe Ambrose, C'2021, Loren Cobb, C'2019, and Ashley Shanelle Townsel, C'2019, came in fourth place and won a \$2,000 prize for their unmanned aerial vehicle's flight and design.

They were the only all-female team among the 11 historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions participating in the event.

Spelman's drone prototype was an interdisciplinary effort supported by faculty advisers Tiffany Oliver, Ph.D., associate professor of biology; Robert Hamilton, art and visual culture senior lecturer; and Jerry Volcy, Ph.D., director of Spelman's Innovation Lab, the Brown-Simmons professor and interim chair of the Department of Computer and Information Sciences.

"Given that Spelman has no on-campus engineering program, our ability to design and build a working biological drone with a team of undergraduate students from biology, computer science, and the arts is an accomplishment in its own right," Volcy said. "Our fourth-place finish is evidence of the many technical challenges that Team Spelman was

able to overcome more successfully than most of the other teams."

The competition was designed to introduce HBCU/MI students to Army research and technical challenges, while exposing them to opportunities for internships, fellowships, and employment in Army research labs.

Student teams were judged on their ability to describe the details of their design, how well it addressed one of the proposed Army challenges, their plan for how it could be commercialized for Army use and the success of their flight demonstration.



Pictured are Mumbi Whidby, Chloe Ambrose, Cornelia Stokes, Loren Cobb, Ashley Townsel and Jordan Dantzler.

"Though I was well aware of the competition aspect of the event, I was more focused on ensuring opportunities for students to collaborate and learn new skillsets," Hamilton said. "Artists and designers are first of all makers. The skills learned will most certainly inspire more exploration in biological fabrication and drone technology."

To create Spelman's drone prototype, biology majors grew biodegradable bacteria cellulose in carrot juice. Dried cellulose

mats were then covered in clay and baked to harden. After shaping the quadcopter drone with a laser cutter, the team used a gelatin mixture to attach motors, propellers, a circuit board and battery to the body of the drone. The final product, which took two months to complete, was assembled in the Innovation Lab.

"We believe our compact design, maximal use of cellulose, incorporation of natural materials, and piloting capabilities helped our design stand out during the competition," said Oliver. "One of the College's strategic-plan goals is to ensure that every Spelmanite graduates with a competitive edge. Participating in the Army research laboratory design competition gives our students a competitive edge."

Townsel, who graduated in May with a biology degree, can attest to the benefits. She left the competition with an invitation to join the Army's Research Associateship Program in Adelphi, Maryland. The aspiring research physician began the post-graduate program in July.

"I have always been interested in molecular biology, but this drone competition has influenced my appreciation for biotechnology and synthetic biology," she said. "Spelman exposed me to a wide array of opportunities, gave me the freedom to carve a path that best suited my dreams, and blessed me with a community of people who supported my decisions."

Connie Green Freightman is an Atlanta-based freelance writer and editor.

VALERIE JARRETT FINDS HER VOICE

BY SHANTORIA VANCE, C'2007

Valerie Jarrett captivated the audience during a return visit April 24, 2019. In a conversation with President Mary Schmidt Campbell, Jarrett spoke candidly about her life, her journey to the White House and her new book, *Finding My Voice: My Journey to the West Wing and the Path Forward*. Her words of wisdom and encouragement echoed throughout the Camille Olivia Hanks Cosby, Ed.D., Academic Center Auditorium as she inspired students, faculty, staff and alumnae alike.

In discussing her book, Jarrett gave the audience a glimpse of what they could expect to learn through her story. From being born in Iran to living in London and later moving to the United States while in elementary school, Jarrett lets readers in on her early moments of isolation as she tried to adjust to her new environment in America. She shared that although the United States was home to her parents, it was a foreign land to her. Facing verbal attacks from her peers, she experienced bullying because of her British accent and even endured colorism. Jarrett did not allow this mistreatment to discourage her, but later used these experiences to fuel her work in public service for diversity and inclusion. She credits her second-grade teacher for making her feel that she belonged and for easing her transition. She has used this lesson throughout her life to strive to make others feel valued and accepted, as well.

Coming from a lineage of high-achieving scholars, Jarrett understood the value of education and a strong work ethic. As the great-granddaughter of the first African American to attend MIT, the granddaughter of a renowned architect, and the daughter of a pathologist and geneticist, Jarrett recognized that she was standing on the shoulders of individuals who chose to make a difference in the lives of others.

Starting her career as an attorney and hating it, Jarrett remembered the legacy of her descendants as she left her law firm, took a pay cut and began working for the first African

American mayor of Chicago, Harold Washington. This leap of faith, coupled with her love for people, enabled her to find continuous success as a public servant. She has found and used her voice in each part of her journey, including her role as senior adviser to the Obama Foundation, advocate for social justice, and former government official.

Jarrett's story is both poignant and relatable. With all of her successes, she has persisted through divorce, raising her daughter as a single mother, and working in environments

where she was the only woman and Black person in the room. Despite these challenges, she maintained a heart for people and a desire to help them succeed. As doors have opened for her, she has sought to keep them open by bringing others in while providing mentorship and support.

Although her time in the White House has ended, she is still using her voice to affect change for the voiceless. Today, she focuses her work on preparing future generations to lead. She teaches at the University of Chicago Law School, challenging students to think critically about today's issues. She also serves on several boards, including as co-chair of the board of The United State of Women.

When she is not running a board meeting, she is tackling social justice issues like criminal justice reform and reducing gun violence. In addition to

being the longest-serving senior adviser in the White House to date, she is also a respected and sought-after political voice who gives advice and counsel to political candidates and Silicon Valley tycoons. Jarrett's story is an example of how others can garner strength and triumph through their own testimonies. In sharing her story, she hopes to empower readers to do the same.

Her book was released earlier this year and is available in stores and online.



*President Mary Schmidt Campbell, Ph.D., welcomed former Barack Obama top adviser Valerie Jarrett to campus for a conversation on her new book: *Finding My Voice: My Journey to the West Wing and the Path Forward*.*

PIPELINE PROGRAM MARKS 10 YEARS OF INCREASING DIVERSITY IN HEALTH CAREERS

BY CONNIE GREEN FREIGHTMAN

On her office wall in the Science Center, Rosalind Gregory-Bass, C'92, M.S., proudly displays a diploma earned by Georgia R. Dwelle, C'1900, M.D., the first Spelman College alumna to obtain a medical degree.

The diploma serves as an inspirational reminder of Spelman's pioneering legacy in healthcare.

"I tell students that if she could overcome obstacles and achieve her goals in the early 1900s, so can they," said Gregory-Bass, director of Spelman's Health Careers Program and chair and associate professor of Environmental and Health Sciences. "We're here to support them along the way."

One of the ways Spelman supports aspiring health professionals is through its Health Career Opportunities Pipeline Preparation Program, which celebrated its 10th anniversary in April.

HCOPPP, created by Gregory-Bass, identifies highly motivated, first-year students who desire to be change agents in health care. She and Alayna Blash, C'94, D.P.M., associate director of the Health Careers Program, work to develop programming and experiences for students throughout the academic year.

HCOPPP grew out of a summer science program funded by the federal government's Health Resources and Services Administration and Health Careers Opportunity Program. While the summer program ended in 2009, Gregory-Bass hopes to bring it back, as well as a Health Careers Living and Learning Community. As an alumna of the summer program, she knows it was highly effective in preparing incoming first-year students for a successful undergraduate experience, and acceptance to the nation's top graduate and professional schools.

Studies have shown cohort models like HCOPPP to be successful in enhancing the retention and graduation of students at the undergraduate level, she noted.

The goal is to assist students in making a successful transition into graduate and professional schools, as well as into health professions.



HCOPPP Johnson & Johnson Scholars.

HCOPPP scholars receive mentoring, exposure to internship and research opportunities, professional development, test-preparation options, and assistance with graduate and professional school applications.

Through articulation agreements with 23 graduate and professional schools, the program offers students opportunities for advanced study in medicine, dentistry, nursing, public health, pharmacy, as well as veterinary, chiropractic and exercise sciences.

Last spring, the program accepted 15 new scholars for its 11th class, which commenced fall 2019. To date, the program has worked with 137 HCOPPP scholars, many of whom have graduated and are working in their chosen fields.

Biology major Amani Lee, C'2018, a 2016 HCOPPP scholar, said the program prepared her for the academic rigor she now faces in the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine.



Health Careers student Racquel Cannon, C'2021, (left), is pictured with Rosalind Gregory-Bass, M.D.



Class of 2023 HCOPPP graduates.

"Being a part of HCOPPP was a great opportunity because it exposed me to various health professionals and events that targeted people of color," said Lee, who is in her second year at Tuskegee. "This program helped me find my calling and passion for veterinary medicine."

"The new strategic plan states that it wants us to look at how we're providing a competitive edge for our students, and this definitely is doing so," said Gregory-Bass. "It's just been great to know that when we send these students to post-graduate programs, they have what they need to be successful."

FIRST COHORT OF NEW HEALTH SCIENCES MAJOR GRADUATES

BY CONNIE GREEN FREIGHTMAN

When the Class of 2019 marched down the aisle at the College's 132nd Commencement Ceremony in May, the first cohort of new health sciences graduates were among the 474 receiving degrees.

Spelman launched the health sciences major in fall 2015 to provide aspiring health professionals with the knowledge, foundation and research experience to succeed in their chosen careers. It also was designed to prepare students for the competitive academic environment of graduate and professional school.

One advantage of the major is its direct connection to the advising and initiatives provided by the Health Careers Program. Each of the program's pre-health advisers teaches one course in the major. Spelman faculty, including clinicians and public health specialists, use an applied learning approach that exposes students to real-world problems and hands-on projects.

"We desire to have students prepared for 21st-century challenges in healthcare," said Rosalind Gregory-Bass, C'92, M.D., M.S., director of the Health Careers Program and chair and associate professor of Environmental and Health Sciences Program.

Since its start, interest in the major has grown steadily and currently has 127 declared students. Also, early outcomes are encouraging.

By their senior year, 100% of the health sciences majors had participated in a clinical or public health shadowing experience; 100% had conducted scholarly research; and 90% had studied abroad. The recent graduates also included three Ethel Waddell Githii Honors Program students and four Phi Beta Kappa inductees.

In addition, many already have received graduate and professional school acceptances.

Gabrielle Milton, C'2019, is headed to the Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. Aliecia Boulogny, C'2019, will pursue a master of science in medical physiology at Case Western Reserve University and then plans to attend medical school. Alanna Davis, C'2019, is the first Spelman alumna to gain acceptance to the University of Chicago's Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics Program.

"Spelman has phenomenal students, faculty and staff," Gregory-Bass said. "This major is ensuring that we preserve our legacy in preparing the next generation of health professionals."



Spelman's first cohort of new health sciences graduates were among the 474 receiving degrees at the 2019 commencement ceremony.

NEW EXHIBITION CAPTURES THE ABSTRACT VISUAL LANGUAGE OF MILDRED THOMPSON

BY LARRY CALHOUN

Like many African American artists of her time, Mildred Thompson spent the early part of her career in Europe for more opportunity and to avoid the sting of Jim Crow and racism, topped off by gender discrimination. Eventually returning to the states, Thompson accepted an invitation in 1986 to be an artist-in-residence at Spelman College. A new solo exhibition captures her years in Atlanta.

“*Mildred Thompson: The Atlanta Years, 1986 – 2003*” is the artist’s first large-scale, interdisciplinary solo exhibition in Atlanta. It honors Thompson (1936-2003) and her lifelong

commitment to creating abstract work are at long last receiving long-overdue attention — something she and many Black artists never received during their lifetimes.”

Thompson, a Jacksonville, Florida, native and Howard University graduate, lived in Atlanta for the remainder of her life, where her practice of abstraction flourished. The visual artist, writer and musician was committed to affirming humankind’s common bond to the systems of the universe. Through shapes, colors, lines, forms and patterns, Thompson explored space, sound and other elements that were not visible to the naked eye.



Mildred Thompson



“*Magnetic Fields*,” 1991. Oil on canvas. 70.5 x 150 inches. Courtesy the Estate of Mildred Thompson and Galerie Lelong & Co., New York

commitment to creating a universally resonant abstract visual language. More than 30 paintings, drawings, and prints demonstrate her affinity for exploring the rhythms and patterns of science and music, as well as interpreting the workings of the cosmos and other natural phenomena. The exhibition is presented by the Spelman College Museum of Fine Art, curated by museum director Andrea Barnwell Brownlee, C’93, Ph.D., and Melissa Messina, curator of the Mildred Thompson Estate.

“As the Museum’s 25th anniversary in 2021 approaches, we are even more focused on continuing our legacy of presenting thought-provoking exhibitions and expanding the visual arts landscape of Atlanta,” said Brownlee. “Thompson made an indelible imprint on our city. Her engagement with a variety of media, her focus on making the invisible visible, and her steadfast

This selection of works represents the scale, complexity, dynamism and energy of her unique visual vocabulary, as well as her ability to translate these concepts across media.

“The Spelman College Museum of Fine Art is a remarkable and unique resource for the cultivation, exploration and celebration of art by Black women,” said Mary Schmidt Campbell, Ph.D., president of Spelman. “We are thrilled and deeply grateful for the opportunity to present the work of Mildred Thompson to visiting scholars, students, faculty and the arts community at large.”

The exhibition is open through Dec. 7, 2019.

Larry Calhoun is a strategic communications consultant and longtime volunteer for UNCF.

SPRING INTO THE CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

An annual festival at Spelman College, the spring Cherry Blossom Festival promotes not only beauty but an interest in Japan and enhances the Asian Studies Program through hands-on learning of Japanese culture.

Throughout the day, Spelman students, faculty, staff and volunteers from the Japanese American community will conduct workshops on origami, calligraphy, dance, and sushi-making, just to name a few.



Origami is the Japanese art of paper folding.



The kimono (singular and plural) is a traditional Japanese garment tied with a sash called an obi, knotted at the back, though it is a series of ties called koshihimo that keep the kimono closed. It is traditionally worn by women, especially on special occasions.



A much-loved food, sushi is a Japanese dish made of small balls or rolls of vinegar-flavored cold cooked rice served with a garnish of raw fish, vegetables or egg.





Healing Ha

Spelman alumnae helping to make the world a better place – mentally, physically and spiritually.



INTRO BY TIERRA MCCLAIN, C'2021

Combating gun violence, tackling the AIDS/HIV crisis, addressing health disparities in Black and marginalized communities — these are just some of the ways Spelman alumnae have forged their careers in STEM with their passions for social change.

Our “Healing Hands” cover features Drs. Loren Robinson Abebe, Hazel D. Dean, Juvonda Hodge, Lezli Levene Harvell, and Deborah Prothrow-Stith, who are examples of the endless possibility that amasses when one pairs their “Choice to Change the World” with medicine and health. In their respective careers, these Spelman women are shaping and shifting the ways a STEM-related liberal arts education can alleviate health inequity, analyze the social and structural determinants that affect health, cure diseases within at-risk communities, and increase Black women’s representation in healthcare and medicine.

Each of these alumnae have made innovative changes in their fields, some even shifting the organizational structure of their disciplines to promote “pipelines” and opportunities for more women of color to enter these professions. Passionate and ardent about their work, their dreams of being healthcare professionals and researchers began at a young age. As you will learn, they brought their budding interests in the sciences to Spelman, where they blossomed into full-fledged careers and leading initiatives.

These women are being featured for their timeless work and dedication to the upliftment of their communities both within and outside of their careers. Through philanthropic endeavors, promoting equal access to health services, regardless of one’s race, socioeconomic or health status, or seeking to understand how institutional racism and oppression affect health disparities, these Spelman sisters truly represent selflessness and advocacy for the greater good.

Hazel D. Dean

Public Health Equity Advocate and Leader Paves the Way for Others

BY SHANTORIA VANCE, C'2007

Hazel D. Dean, C'83, MPH, ScD, FACE, is a thought leader and change agent whose primary interests are promoting health equity, both nationally and internationally, and ensuring that underserved communities receive the healthcare they need. As deputy director for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention in Atlanta, Dean strives daily toward these goals.

Dean was born in the Bahamas and grew up in Miami, where she was an honor student and a member of the school district's Academic Achievement Program, a select cohort engaged in accelerated coursework for college and career preparation. While in high school, Dean considered herself a "science geek" who loved to explore unanswered questions. Through the accelerated curriculum, she conducted research for a physician in audiology. Later during her senior year, she was a Silver Knight Award nominee for science, which recognized her for community involvement and academic achievements. A high school English teacher she remembers fondly, Ellen Heidt, had an affinity for historically Black colleges and universities. Dean credits Heidt with influencing her decision to apply to Spelman.

After her early exposure and successes with scientific research, Dean decided to major in biology with the intention of becoming a medical researcher. Spelman professor emerita Nagambal Shah, Ph.D., sparked Dean's interest in biostatistics, which eventually led to Dean's earning an MPH in international health and biostatistics and an ScD in biostatistics at Tulane University. Dean is grateful to Shah for encouraging a sense of discovery among her students and inspiring them to explore lesser known areas of statistics.

Throughout her two decades in public health, Dean has used her education and experience to address health-equality gaps in both population health and workforce development. Because few women of African descent are in leadership roles in federal public health agencies, Dean has become a strong advocate for more and improved training opportunities for staff on all levels, especially for racial and ethnic minorities. She regards this as

the best way to fill the public-health leadership pipeline. She continues to lead her organization in identifying new strategic approaches to health equity and workforce development, and many of her initiatives have been adapted by other centers across the CDC.

Dean's advocacy reaches far beyond the CDC, however. She has authored or coauthored more than 130 publications in five principal areas: prevention and control of infectious and chronic diseases; public health surveillance; applied epidemiologic methods; social and structural determinants of health; and the public health workforce. She also has served on diverse national and international advisory working groups and committees that have sought to address infectious and chronic diseases among underserved populations. Dean often participates in national and international conferences, where she promotes inclusion of social determinants of health and health-equity language among state, local, tribal and international partners, such as the World Health Organization. She encourages them to consider this approach when designing prevention programs and regards this area of research as the most influential of her career.

Because of her efforts and recognition as a public health leader, Dean has received numerous awards and honors, including, among others, Spelman College's Alumnae Achievement Award in the Health Sciences, Tulane University's Champion of Public Health Award and the CDC's Health Equity and Diversity Champion Award. She received the nation's highest civil service award, the 2012 U.S. Presidential Rank Honor Award for Distinguished Service and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Distinguished Service Award — the highest honor awarded by the department and granted only to senior leaders for their sustained excellence. In 2014, she was elected a fellow of the American College of Epidemiology in recognition of her substantial and sustained contributions to the field of epidemiology.

Dean encourages parents and educators to expose youth — especially girls — to math and science early. She believes that

engaging them in these subjects in elementary school will help them discover new and emerging careers while still young. As for those who are either in college now or in a career and considering a role in public health, she says, “Anyone can decide to come into public health because it is multidisciplinary.” Those who are interested should “look at public health as an extension of what they already do.” Finally, she adds that potential public health leaders should know that when “working in the public arena, you give up some things, but the reward is so much greater.”

Dean believes strongly in the mission of Spelman College and investing in Spelman students. For this reason, she has established a scholarship for Spelman students and often returns to share her journey with students.

Shantoria Vance, C’2007, has worked at Spelman College since 2012 assisting with various projects that support the mission of the College and regional engagement efforts. She is a coordinator for the Division of College Relations.



Juvonda Hodge

Spelman's Medical Pioneer

BY MAYNARD EATON

As a Spelman sophomore and junior in the early 1990s, Juvonda Hodge volunteered at Grady Memorial Hospital working with newborn babies and talking to teen mothers. Twenty-seven years later, the New Jersey native is still treating babies but she does it as the assistant medical director in Grady's acclaimed Burn Center.

Hodge believes she is the first-ever surgeon to graduate from Spelman College. "I've not met a Spelman woman who has become a surgeon who is older than me," she said. "Some people have come after me, but before me, I've not met anyone I know. I'm probably the first."

"There is at least one more person I can remember who came before Juvonda -- Ruby Alice Skinner, Class of 89," said Barbara Bell, Ph.D., former director of the Health Careers program. "But, I can remember Juvonda being a wonderfully conscientious student."

Hodge grew up in a predominantly White neighborhood, which is why her parents wanted to make sure she had a historically Black college experience. "When I went to Spelman, I wasn't the only Black kid. I wasn't an anomaly," she recalled. "I was not the smartest one here. There were a lot of smart women here, and I liked the feeling of sisterhood I got here."

The 1992 graduate remembers being inspired by activist Angela Davis and other riveting lecturers during the required weekly Sisters Chapel sessions. "They brought us messages about being a strong Black woman, which I would not have gotten at a PWI," she said. "Exposure to those kinds of things were priceless; iron sharpens iron. That's why everyone in my class is now doing fabulous, fabulous things."

So, too, is Hodge.

Grady Memorial Hospital is the largest in the state of Georgia and the public hospital for the city of Atlanta. It is the fifth-largest public hospital in the United States. Hodge has been the top burn unit surgeon there for the past five years, following a 13-year stint at USA Health University Hospital in Mobile, Alabama. Her "first paying job" out of Rutgers University Medical School was for five years with Howard University Hospital.

"I was the first Black female surgeon they ever had in Mobile," she said. "I didn't think I was going to be a surgeon. I was never exposed to it. I'd never seen a Black female surgeon nor a Black

male surgeon, to be honest, but Spelman gave me the mindset to know that I could do it."

Now, burn victims look at Hodge in awe. Black female surgeons remain a rarity. To compare the numbers, 61.6% of physicians and surgeons are male, according to Data USA, while 37.5% are female. Skewed differently, 69.8% of physicians and surgeons are White, 21.1% are Asian, and 5.82% are Black, according to the 2017 data.

"I've always been interested in serving underserved, underprivileged and underinsured populations, which is why I'm not at a fancier hospital making a lot more money," Hodge said. "I like working with this population. When someone sees [someone who] looks like them, the pride on their face says, 'Wow, she's a doctor.' And, you still get that even today, which to me is sad."

Hodge admits her race and gender also engender skepticism, though it doesn't dismay her.

"Excellence of performance will transform any artificial barriers created by man," she remembered being taught. "Just be good, just be excellent. That was always drilled into us as surgeons. Do your best."

Elnora Williams, a child life specialist and a member of Hodge's team for the past five years, opined that Hodge is "extra special" in her treatment of burn victims.

"It takes someone who is straight from heaven to work with burn patients because a lot of people don't hear about the tragedy and trauma that comes from burns," Williams explained. "She can take care of the 5-week-old as well as she can take care of the 69-year-old. Her knowledge of burn care [is very vast]. Dr. Hodge is very passionate about her work. She is also very compassionate when it comes to her patients, and she advocates for them."

Burn victims are transferred to Hodge's care from all over Georgia, east Alabama, North Carolina and east Tennessee. Most of them are flame, chemical and scald burns. House and grease fires are common causes. Thirty percent of her patient case load is pediatrics.

"I got into burns unexpectedly, but you never know what places God will put you into," she said.

There is a lot of taxing critical care involved with burn victims, she admitted. "You get used to it. To me it's nothing.

“I like seeing the patient from start to finish,” Hodge continued in the busy burn unit’s outpatient office. “You develop a relationship with the patients because some of them you see for months. I had one patient here for a year. You know them; they know you. Watching them get better and getting back to their normal state of life is very satisfying.”

Losing a patient weighs heavily on her professionally and personally. “Some patients will affect you, and some patients you will remember the rest of your life.”

Surgeons hold a special status with the medical profession. “She’s really an inspiration of what a doctor and a surgeon should be,” said Shelley Anderson, a physician assistant who has worked with Hodge since 2017.

In the medical profession, surgeons are the most revered physicians. “As far as the hierarchy goes, definitely surgeons are considered on top as far as doctors are concerned,” added Anderson.

Working in the Grady burn unit is a “very emotionally taxing roller coaster” ride that Anderson said Hodge handles expertly. Outside of her of world as “Dr. Hodge,” she exhales.

“Now, on my down time, I just want to be known as Juvonda for people who really know me,” said Hodge. “I’m called a doctor all day long. You want to keep your perspective, and that’s what keeps me human.”

Hodge is active in the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College, and had two Spelman students shadow her last semester from the school’s pre-health program.

Maynard Eaton is an eight-time Emmy Award-winning TV reporter, who is managing editor of the SCLC National Magazine and executive editor of “The Maynard Report” and “Newsmakers Live/Journal.” He is also president of The Eaton Media Group and a journalism professor at Clark Atlanta University.



Lezli Levene Harvell

Strong Family Ties Guide Her Service to Others

BY ALICIA SANDS LURRY

Growing up as a proud, first-generation Jamaican-American, Lezli Levene Harvell, C'2000, M.D., was raised in a home where family helped one other and the idea of giving back was commonplace.

This philosophy continues to shape Harvell's work and remains the driving force for why giving means so much to her.

"My mother established herself in this country before some of her siblings and extended family members migrated here. As a result, there was an expectation that you don't go through the door and close it behind you," said Levene Harvell, whose parents migrated from Jamaica. "It's expected that if you have a home that is large enough, you open your house to a relative who is trying to establish him or herself in this country. It was just how I was raised. You don't throw things out. You send things back home. That's how it was going to a school like Spelman. There were so many opportunities to give to the surrounding community that encompasses the College."

A pediatric dentist and passionate food devotee based in New Jersey, Levene Harvell is widely known within the culinary community for her successful and well-respected Iconoclast Dinner Experience. She established the fundraiser in 2015 to recognize trailblazing culinary and beverage professionals of color while benefiting students from Jamaica and sub-Saharan African countries attending Spelman College. The annual series of curated culinary events, which are hosted in New York, Chicago and Martha's Vineyard, has raised \$110,000 in scholarships since its inception.

Levene Harvell approaches her work as a board-certified pediatric dentist with the same degree of purpose. She and her husband, Chris, founded Dental Kidz in 2009 with the specific intention of locating to a medically underserved area and creating access to care. Dental Kidz is an 8,000-square-foot, full-service, state-of-the-art dental practice located in downtown Newark. Levene Harvell and her team of dentists provide for all children — regardless of their medical or socioeconomic status.

"When my husband and I opened Dental Kidz, one of the things we wanted to be able to provide was the highest quality of care by culturally competent providers who have strong

connections to the community they serve," she said. "Also, we're not located in an area where parents can't access us. We take all types of insurance. We never want anyone to feel like they cannot come to us. That was also important to us as far as creating access to care."

Levene Harvell is quick to credit her parents, former Spelman professors, as well as the tight-knit Spelman sisterhood and network for helping her become the accomplished woman and professional she is today. As the first person in her immediate family to graduate from college, she found Spelman to be a safe place where she could grow, be affirmed, and vocalize her ideas and opinions while being celebrated as a Black woman. Spelman ultimately gave her the confidence and proved to be the perfect place to fortify herself as a young Black woman entering dental school and eventually the workforce.

"Education was very important to my parents, and it was always something that was stressed in my home," said Levene Harvell, a mother of five daughters — two of whom currently attend Spelman. "My mother worked as a registered nurse at New York University Medical Center and met female physicians who went to Spelman whom she wanted me to emulate. She felt that it was important for me to have that time at Spelman. It was a significant financial commitment, and my parents gave me that gift."

Just as her parents blessed her with the gift of a Spelman education, Levene Harvell remains determined to do her part by giving back to her younger Spelman sisters. Through her Iconoclast Dinner Experience, she hopes to one day have a \$1 million scholarship endowment for students attending Spelman from the Caribbean or the continent of Africa.

"I would hope that what [philanthropist] Robert Smith did for Morehouse will encourage other billionaires to take a look at HBCUs and consider giving," she said. "As for me, I would hope that establishing my scholarship and doing this work encourages other people that they don't have to be Robert Smith or Bill and Melinda Gates to make an impact."

Alicia Sands Lurry is a writer, communications and public engagement officer.



Deborah Prothrow-Stith

Healthcare Shero Breaks Barriers, Cultivates the Next Generation

BY TOMIKA DEPRIEST, C'89

The medical bug bit Deborah Prothrow-Stith, C'75, M.D., in her elementary school years. After a physician's visit, she told all who would listen that she wanted to be a doctor.

"As a kid in the first grade, I wrote a story about becoming a doctor," said the board-certified internist who currently serves as dean and professor at Charles R. Drew University College of Medicine in Los Angeles. "I kept saying I wanted to be a doctor because I loved the way people responded."

That was in the 1950s when Jim Crow segregation had a stronghold on the region where she grew up. Her family relocated twice between Atlanta and Texas, and she completed her high school education at Jack Yates High School in Houston. Then in 1971, Spelman College called her back to Atlanta. Majoring in mathematics, she was taught and mentored by pioneering Black female mathematician, Etta Falconer, Ph.D., and Nagambal Shah, Ph.D., groundbreaking statistician and co-founder of the Infinite Possibilities Conference.

"Spelman was the perfect place for me ... not only [due to] the nurturing [environment], but also because it was challenging," shared the Harvard Medical School graduate. "It was challenging in a context where expectations were high."

Prothrow-Stith, author of four books, added it was a place where she "could reflect on my mistakes, my need to improve without feeling responsible for the race or what's happening with women in math."

She also fondly remembered spending summers after her sophomore and junior years in a UNCF program jointly hosted by Fisk University and Meharry Medical School for students interested in medicine.

"If there was going to be a prize in math or some [prestigious] opportunity, a Black woman was going to get it," she noted. A level-playing field provided her a solid springboard to one of the nation's top medical schools and a stellar career.

Prothrow-Stith devoted a significant amount of her career to gun-violence prevention. Her book, *Deadly Consequences*, is often cited by reporters and in speeches, essays and other literature.

"I learned that homicide was a leading cause of death for Black men," she said. "As a Black woman, I knew too many Black men who were not violent. I couldn't accept it as the way it was."

So, she set out to do something about it, working with others to refocus the lens of the dilemma from a criminal justice problem to a public health crisis.

Prothrow-Stith, who was the first woman to serve as a Commissioner of Public Health for Massachusetts, admitted that her passion for gun-violence prevention waned after the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in New Town, Connecticut, in 2012. Gun control efforts failed in the aftermath.

"I thought, well, if these first and second graders getting killed doesn't change our policies and laws, I don't know what will," she said.

Youth activism in response to the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Florida, that killed 17 and injured 17 in 2018 reenergized her. Prothrow-Stith, recipient of 10 honorary degrees and numerous accolades, including a World Health Day Award, pointed out that voting-age student survivors of the shooting reached across race and class, and worked to get the Florida Legislature to raise the age to purchase a rifle from 18 to 21, extend the waiting period for all gun purchases, and ban bump stocks.

"It wasn't a perfect law, but they got it passed," she said.

Prothrow-Stith is a National Academy of Medicine inductee and a 2015 inductee into the Massachusetts Medical Society's honor roll of women physicians. She has leveraged her background and expertise as a principal with Spencer Stuart, advising healthcare, life sciences, academic and nonprofit clients on executive talent. At Drew College of Medicine, she is cultivating the next generation of physicians poised to make their own marks on the world.

"The most important thing for me is helping students recognize those moments where their specialness, their uniqueness, is able to provide a contribution as we try to solve a problem ... as society tries to solve a problem."

Tomika DePriest is an award-winning expert in reputation management, executive and crisis communication, and media marketing. She is a results-oriented counselor with experience building teams and organizations.



Deborah Prothrow-Stith, MD
Dean, College of Medicine

Loren Robinson Abebe

Union of Social Justice and Medicine

BY KIA SMITH, C'2004

Three weeks after becoming a new mother, Loren Robinson Abebe, C'2003, M.D., found herself at the U.S. Capitol testifying before the House Ways and Means Committee. The congressional hearing focused on how social disparities and racial inequities result in increased maternal mortality rates for African American mothers. Her appearance at the Capitol was a crowning achievement in her dual passions of medicine and social justice — fields she didn't always think could operate in tandem.

"I wanted to be a doctor from a very early age, and then I got to Spelman and completely changed my mind," explained Abebe, whose parents both work in pediatric medicine. "When I got to college, I became interested in a lot of things besides the basic sciences, like social justice, and international and foreign aid."

A self-described "firebrand," Abebe found herself participating in protests and organizing efforts. "I thought these other things weren't compatible with the medical field," she said.

While Abebe felt her passion for social justice pulling her away from a career in medicine, her academic adviser, Soraya Mekerta, Ph.D., associate professor of French, helped her thread social justice into her love of science.

"As I learned about independence movements and roles that women played in all of these fierce social justice movements throughout the world, [Dr. Mekerta] helped me learn about Doctors Without Borders and how there are organizations where physicians haven't lost their fight for social justice and can combine that passion with providing medical care," she said.

Today, social justice is naturally integrated into Abebe's day-to-day work as the deputy secretary for health promotion and disease prevention for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The position allows her to combat social disparities and systemic inequities that negatively impact the health and wellness of Pennsylvania residents.

"I do things like go to D.C. and testify before Congress, but it's also making sure that our staff knows what institutional racism is and what they can do as individuals to address it,

making sure our grantees are addressing these issues in their local organizations," Abebe explained.

A dedicated mentor, Abebe is committed to enabling others the opportunity to make a social impact through medicine. "We have responsibilities to mentor the young people coming behind us," said Abebe, who always wears her white doctor's coat when practicing medicine "because when patients' kids or grandkids see this Black woman in a white coat, that makes a difference."

Committed to making sure the College's premed students receive the support and guidance they need to succeed, Abebe encourages other alumnae to give back to students with ambitions of working in healthcare.

"We have thousands of alumnae who are in the healthcare field. I would ask them to specifically think about giving back to Spelman in the health-related fields, so young women who are coming through can have the support they need to be able to get to the next step," she said. "We have a responsibility to do that."

Abebe currently serves as a member of the Spelman College board of trustees. In 2018, she completed the Presidential Leadership Scholars Program, which provided her the opportunity to meet and learn from Presidents George W. Bush, Bill Clinton and George H.W. Bush.

Abebe has received more than 30 awards, including the 2013 Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society, University of North Carolina chapter; the UNC School of Medicine Henry C. Fordham Teaching Award; the National Med-Peds Resident Association Howard Kubiner Award; and the 2012 National Medical Association's Top 40 Under 40 award. In 2016, she was named to the National Minority Quality Forum's 40 under 40 Leaders in Minority Health, received the National Medical Association's Rising Star Award, and was elected to the College of Physicians of Philadelphia.

Kia Smith is an Atlanta-based writer, communications consultant and cultural critic. When she's not writing or tweeting, she enjoys live music and beach vacations. You can find her at kiaspeaksalso.com.



Spelman Volunteers Help Improve Academic Outcomes at Westside Schools

BY ADRIENNE S. HARRIS

At the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year, only 11 of the 159 students starting their first year at J.E. Brown Middle School were reading on grade level.

To help address this problem, Brown enrolled 25 of the lowest reading proficiency sixth graders, along with 25 seventh graders and 10 eighth graders who struggled with reading, into SpelREADS. The program, sponsored by Spelman's Bonner Office of Civic Engagement, matches Spelman student volunteers — who work one-on-one as reading guides — with students at four Westside Atlanta elementary and middle schools.

Tiauna Crooms, principal at Brown, said that by the end of the school year, 83% of the students who participated in SpelREADS had made significant progress in reading. The sixth graders improved their reading scores by 9 percentage points, the seventh graders by 21 points, and the eighth graders by 17 points.

Jilo Tisdale, director of the Bonner Office, believes that Spelman students' commitment to community service is the key to SpelREADS' success. The program's goal is to have a measurable impact at schools within a 1.7-mile radius of the campus. Last academic year, 156 school children received reading help from 105 Spelman volunteers.

"Data shows that the impact of SpelREADS has been substantial," said Tisdale. "But when principals speak about our programs, they always talk about the energy our volunteers bring and how their students respond to our students."

In fact, SpelREADS was so popular at Brown that some students who didn't need reading support asked to participate anyway. "They saw how their peers were enjoying and benefiting from the program," said Crooms. "The Spelman students are not just meeting with our students and leaving. They are bringing individual instruction and building relationships."

Those relationships are as important to the Spelman volunteers as the school children. "It has been great to develop a bond with the students," said Olivia Patton, C'2021, an education studies major from Tulsa, Oklahoma. "At first,

they were kind of reluctant. Now, they are happy to see me and excited to read."

Emani Figaro, C'2021, an economics major from Chicago, said she likes working with SpelREADS because the program is helping to address a critical issue. "I know the impact of not reading on grade level: The school-to-prison pipeline has to do with literacy," she said. "Having someone to read with changes reading completely. I tell my student, 'Yes, reading is hard but that's OK. I'm here to help you.'"



Diamond Ford (left), Michael R. Hollis principal, presents Jilo Tisdale, director of the Bonner Office of Civic Engagement, with a community partner award.

The Spelman volunteers' positive impact is also felt at Michael R. Hollis Innovation Academy. According to principal Diamond Ford, students who were enrolled in SpelREADS improved their reading skills, and those who participated in Math Masters, another Spelman student volunteer tutoring program, improved their mathematics skills.

"But the real bang is that the Spelman volunteers provide role models," said Ford. "Our students are enamored and in awe of Spelman students — almost starstruck — when they have well-spoken, intelligent, and caring Spelman women in front of them. The Spelman students look like their older sisters or cousins, but our students can see there is something different about them. It gives them a looking glass. They

can see themselves as that person."

At M. Agnes Jones Elementary School, the only elementary school in Georgia that is STEAM and STEM certified, Spelman volunteers are paired with students in SpelREADS and Math Masters. Margul Retha Woolfolk, C'82, Ph.D., principal at Jones, said that thanks to support from Spelman and other local colleges, her students' proficiency in reading and math increased 30% in the last school year.

"We have a great rapport with the surrounding institutions, but when I see Spelman sisters coming to work with us, that's extra special for me as a Spelman alumna," said Woolfolk, C'82. "We were all taught to give back to the community. I am happy to see that mission is still alive."

A commitment to community service is one of Spelman's

THE ATLANTA UNIVERSITY CENTER COLLECTIVE FOR THE STUDY OF ART HISTORY AND CURATORIAL STUDIES OFFERS NEW MAJOR IN ART HISTORY

BY LARRY CALHOUN



Jocelyn Reynolds, C'2020, a Booker T. Washington High School graduate, is a Bonner Office volunteer.

distinctive traits, said Erica Clark, C'93, C'94, Ph.D., a counselor at Booker T. Washington High School.

“The Spelman volunteers come ready to work. They are already vested in the school and vested in our students,” she said. “When they come in the door, after I ask them their name and where they are from, I ask them their major and put them to work where they can best use their knowledge and skills.”

So far, Clark has assigned Spelman volunteers to work with students in math and social studies classes, as well as the career readiness center to help with college applications and essays.

At Washington, Spelman volunteers also work with students in B-Connected, a program through which Spelman Bonner Scholars mentor girls at the high school. This fall, Atlanta native MacKenzie Hornsby C'2023, now a Bonner Scholar herself, started her first year at the College.

“My Spelman mentors talked with me about empowerment and being comfortable with myself,” said Hornsby, a health sciences major. “I learned that I have something to offer and how important it is not to sell myself short.”

Adrienne Harris is an Atlanta-based strategy and communications consultant.

A new major in art history will hopefully position the Atlanta University Center as the leading incubator of African American museum and art-world professionals in the nation within the next decade and beyond.

With key support from the Alice Walton Foundation, the initiative, which began this fall, provides new paths to professional opportunities for students at Spelman College, Morehouse College and Clark Atlanta University who are interested in careers in art history and curatorial studies. The Department of Art and Visual Culture at Spelman will build the program, maximizing the resources of the Spelman College Museum of Fine Arts, the Spelman Innovation Lab, the Clark Atlanta University Art Museum, and the Robert W. Woodruff Library.

“This undergraduate program will offer a dynamic new curriculum that pairs a strong art history major with a minor in curatorial studies,” said Cheryl Finley, Ph.D., director of the Atlanta University Center Collective for the Study of Art History and Curatorial Studies. “As the only program of its kind, the Collective will be instrumental in diversifying museum leadership and arts professions.”

Finley said the initiative’s interdisciplinary learning approach and cross-registration also will allow an even larger pool of students to benefit, even those in other majors. “Students who are business majors might consider pursuing a career at an auction house, in commercial gallery management, as the director of a museum or as an art hedge-fund manager,” she said. “A science major could pursue a career in the materiality of the art-making process or a position in the conservation field. This initiative would encourage AUC students who love and appreciate art to think about their majors and careers in an unconventional way in that art could be a part of their vocation.”

“For decades, the Atlanta University Center art collections have been enjoyed by campus stakeholders and visitors from across the nation and the world,” said Todd Greene, executive director of the Atlanta University Center Consortium. “We are fortunate to be able to build on the unique strengths of our art assets and talented faculty and staff members to develop the art history major and curatorial studies minor. Our AUC students will be well-positioned to influence art, art education and the business of art.”

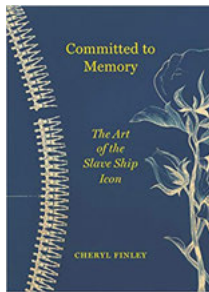
During their matriculation, students will be supported by paid summer internships, scholarships, field work and mentorship. They also will be directed on the pursuit of graduate studies.

For post-baccalaureate work at other universities, graduates could pursue the master’s degree in art history, curatorial studies, museum studies, art therapy and conservation studies. A doctoral degree is offered in art history. Ultimately, careers could also lead to arts foundations, arts research institutions, artists’ studios and private collectors.

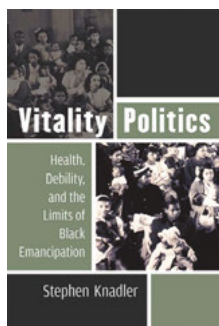
As a way to create a pipeline of talent and provide educational and enrichment experiences to a younger generation, the AUC Collective Summer Program for high school students was launched in June. Twelve youths were engaged in unique arts education activities coupled with site visits to area museums during the four-week program.

Larry Calhoun is a strategic communications consultant, a Morehouse Man and Spelman Uncle.

Committed to Memory: The Art of the Slave Ship Icon (Princeton UP, 2018), by Cheryl Finley, Ph.D., director of the Atlanta University Center Collective for the Study of Art History and Curatorial Studies, won the 2019 Horowitz Prize given by Bard College Graduate Center in New York for the best book published in 2018 on the topic of art history, design and material culture. In the book, Finley traces how the slave ship icon became a powerful tool in the hands of British and American abolitionists, and how its radical potential was rediscovered in the 20th century by Black artists, activists, writers, filmmakers and curators. She demonstrates how the icon was transformed into poetry, literature, visual art, sculpture, performance and film—and became a medium through which diasporic Africans have reasserted their common identity and memorialized their ancestors. Finley offers provocative insights into the works of Amiri Baraka, Romare Bearden, Betye Saar and many others. Beautifully illustrated, **Committed to Memory** features works from around the world, taking readers from the United States and England to West Africa and the Caribbean. It shows how contemporary Black artists and their allies have used this iconic 18th-century engraving to reflect on the trauma of slavery and come to terms with its legacy.

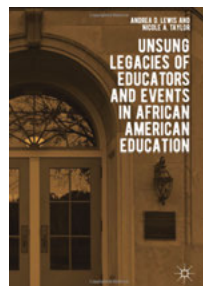


A winner of the Tobin Siebers Prize for Disability Studies in the Humanities at this year's Modern Language Association Conference, **Vitality Politics: Health, Debility, and the Limits of Black Emancipation** (University of Michigan Press, 2019), by Stephen



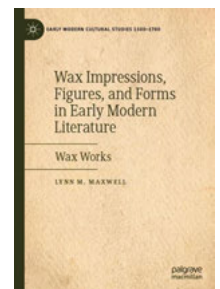
Knadler, Ph.D., Spelman College chair and professor of English, focuses on a slow racial violence against African Americans through every day, accumulative, contagious and toxic attritions on health. The book engages with recent critical disability studies to recognize that debility, or the targeted maiming and distressing of Black populations, is a largely unacknowledged strategy of the U.S. liberal multicultural capitalist state. This politicization of biological health serves as an instrument for insisting on a racial state of exception in which African Americans' own unhealthy habits and disease susceptibility justify their legitimate suspension from full rights to social justice, economic opportunity, political freedom and equality. The book brings together disability studies, Black studies and African American literary history as it highlights the urgent need and gives weight to a biopolitics of debilitation and medicalization to better understand how Black lives are made not to matter in our supposedly race-neutral, multicultural democracy.

Andrea Lewis, C'96, Ph.D., associate professor and Department of Education chair, and Nicole Taylor, C'2004, Ph.D., associate professor of education, are co-editors of **Unsung Legacies of Educators and Events in African American Education** (Palgrave Macmillan, 2019). The book describes the contributions of 22 educators and events that have shaped the field of education, often receiving little to no public recognition. Among the educators are Edmonia Godelle Highgate, Nannie Helen Burroughs, Selena Sloan Butler and Alonzo Aristotle Crim, as well as institutions such as Sabbath schools and African American boarding schools. A current or former student of the Spelman College Education Department authors each chapter of *Unsung*.

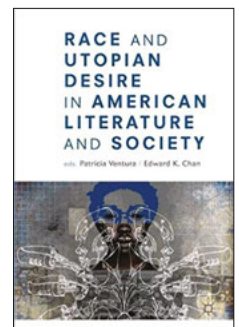


These individuals and events have established and sustained education in communities across the United States. This book serves to foster a renewed sense of importance both for those considering teaching and for teachers in classrooms across the country.

In **Wax Impressions, Figures, and Forms in Early Modern Literature: Wax Works** (Palgrave Macmillan, 2019), author Lynn Maxwell, Ph.D., assistant professor of English, explores the role of wax as an important conceptual material used to work out the nature and limits of the early modern human. By surveying the use of wax in early modern cultural spaces, such as the stage and the artist's studio and in literary and philosophical texts — including those by William Shakespeare, John Donne, René Descartes, Margaret Cavendish and Edmund Spenser — Maxwell shows that wax is a flexible material employed to define, explore and problematize a variety of early modern relations, including the relationship of man and God, man and woman, mind and the world, and man and machine.

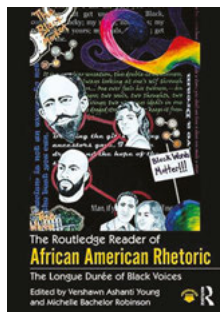


Bringing together a variety of scholarly voices, **Race and Utopian Desire in American Literature and Society** (Palgrave Macmillan, 2019), argues for the necessity of understanding the important role literature plays in crystallizing the ideologies of the oppressed, while exploring the necessarily racialized character of utopian thought in American culture and society. Written by Patricia Ventura, Ph.D., associate professor of English at Spelman College, and Edward Chan, associate

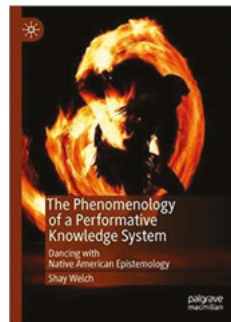


professor in the School of Culture, Media, and Society at Waseda University, Japan, Utopia in everyday usage designates an idealized fantasy place, but within the interdisciplinary field of utopian studies, the term often describes the worldviews of nondominant groups when they challenge the ruling order. In a time when White supremacy is reasserting itself in the U.S. and around the world, there is a growing need to understand the relationship between race and utopia as a resource for resistance. Utopian literature opens up that relationship by envisioning and negotiating the prospect of a better future while acknowledging the brutal past. The collection fills a critical gap in both literary studies, which has largely ignored the issue of race and utopia, and utopian studies, which has said too little about race.

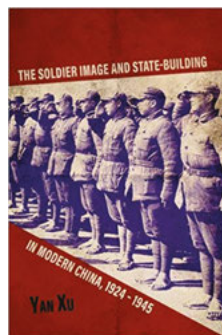
The Routledge Reader of African American Rhetoric: The Longue Duree of Black Voices, 1st Edition (Routledge, 2018) is an anthology of primary texts designed for use by students, teachers, scholars of rhetoric and the general public interested in the history of African American communication. Michelle Bachelor Robinson, Ph.D., professor of English and director of the Comprehensive Writing Program at Spelman, and Vershawn Ashanti Young, Ph.D., a faculty member at the University of Waterloo in Canada, are editors of the anthology. The volume and its companion website include dialogues, creative works, essays, folklore, music, interviews, news stories, raps, videos and speeches that are performed or written by African Americans. Both the book as a whole and the various selections in it speak directly to the artistic, cultural, economic, gendered, social and political condition of African Americans from the enslavement period in America to the present, as well as to the Black diaspora.



The Phenomenology of a Performative Knowledge System: Dancing with Native American Epistemology (Palgrave Macmillan, 2019), by Shay Welch, Ph.D., associate professor of philosophy and religious studies, investigates the phenomenological ways dance choreographing and dance performance exemplify both truth and meaning-making within Native American epistemology, from an analytical, philosophical perspective. In Native American communities, dance is regarded both as an integral cultural conduit and “a doorway to a powerful wisdom.” Welch argues that dance and dancing can both create and communicate knowledge. She explains that dance — as a form of oral, narrative storytelling — has the power to communicate knowledge of beliefs and histories. In addition, Welch argues that dance is a form of embodied narrative storytelling. She provides analytic clarity on how this happens, what conditions are required for it to succeed, and how dance can satisfy the relational and ethical facets of Native epistemology.

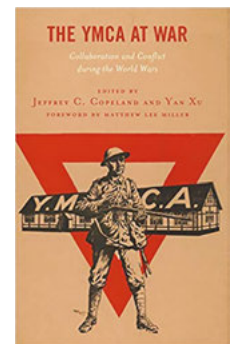


The Soldier Image and the State Building in Modern China, 1924-1945, by Yan Xu, Ph.D., assistant professor of history, is a 2019 monograph by the University Press of Kentucky. This monograph is part of UPK’s Asian in the Millennium series. It is the first focused study in English that presents the untold story of the soldier imagery in early 20th-century China and offers insights into the fundamental issues of state-building and civil-military relations in modern Chinese history. Based



on Xu’s research, the monograph provides an examination of extensive imagery of the soldier figure in early 20th-century China war culture. The project moves away from the traditional military history perspectives; instead, focusing on the neglected cultural aspect of the intersection of war and society in China during a period that led to the eventual victory of the Chinese Communist Party over the Nationalist Party. Integrating the disciplines of history, literature and arts, the book narrative reveals multiple meanings of the soldier figure created by different political, social and cultural forces in modern China. Thus, a new area in modern Chinese history and military history is open by revealing the cultural discourse on the soldier image to understand Chinese nationalism, state-building, and civil-military relations in the early 20th century.

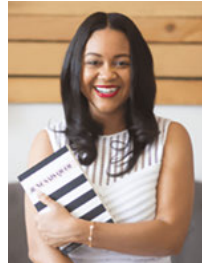
In **The YMCA at War: Collaboration and Conflict during the World Wars** (Lexington Books, 2018), Yan Xu, Ph.D., and a team of international scholars write 11 chapters that present the efforts of the Young Men’s Christian Association during the world wars. For all the support the YMCA offered to soldiers and civilians during the world wars of the 20th century, the conflicts their partnership provoked provide a unique perspective on both the organization and the social history of various 20th-century conflicts and their immediate aftermaths. Curiously, however, as great as the YMCA is for investigating social issues and for all it did during the world wars, there is a significant dearth of focused study on the YMCA in wartime. This volume remedies this gap by discussing the YMCA’s wartime roles in Africa, America, Asia and Europe.



Brittany Armstrong Whittington, C'2006, recently released *Laya the Lawyer*, a book series she hopes will inspire children to enter careers in the legal field. Her book assists kids with problem-solving and understanding consequences for their actions, all while having fun.



In *Je Ne Sais Quoi*, **Devoreaux Walton, C'2012**, uncovers and guides readers along the journey to adding what she calls “je ne sais quoi” to life. She requests readers to remember to use the hashtag #JNSQTheBook on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter to show their elegant self – adding a touch of class to life.



With a foreword written by civil rights advocate Kimberlé Crenshaw, who coined the term *intersectionality*, *Intersection Allies: We Make Room for All*, by **Chelsea Johnson, C'2012**, and **LaToya Council, C'2012**, is a celebration of solidarity. It is a work where community is spoken through the voices of children of varying backgrounds, abilities and identities. Paper images in bright colors show the children in empowering moments, described in upbeat, rhyming verse. A child called Kate, whose “friends defend my choices and place,” prefers a red cape to “skirts and frills.” Gloria, who speaks Spanish and English, describes herself as “a daughter, a partner, and an entrepreneur”; and Heejung, born in Seoul, helps her mother by “translating for her one word to another.” Spreads show allies helping each other in daily life, asserting their individuality, and standing together during protests, while repeating text urges readers to “make room for all.” Back matter and a discussion guide invite readers to learn more about intersectionality as a framework for understanding themselves, their peers, and their broader communities. A welcoming resource for conversations about equality and social justice that shows readers how identities are made up of myriad influences. Ages 6–12.



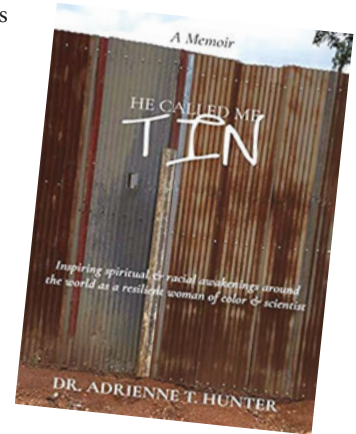
Valeria Vann Cray, C'72, writes her first book, *Following A Feather Trail*, a collection of poems and art centered around three themes: “posterity and lineage,” “self-discovery and life,” and “questions beyond my understanding.” She writes that the book is about the universality of the human experience



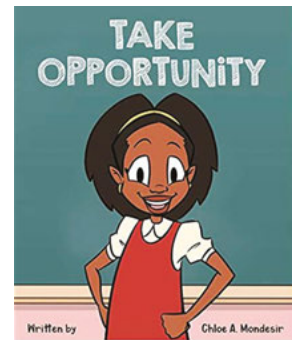
In *Life Plan*, **Sarah Merritt Finley, C'68**, writes a memoir about the life journeys of her ancestors, whose life choices affected her own life. “The manners in which my forebears dealt with tragedies, and their general proclivity to take advantage of available opportunities, provide paradigms of endurance and survival in the context of a faith-based village of extended family members and nurturing friends. Some tragedies and trials derailed the plan I anticipated for my life, but I ultimately realized God’s plans for my life,” she writes.



Adrienne T. Hunter, C'2005, writes *He Called Me Tin: (A Memoir) Inspiring spiritual & racial awakenings around the world as a resilient woman of color & scientist*, is a story of triumph and perseverance. From childhood distress to an attempt at suicide to being scarred by religion to receiving a multiple sclerosis diagnosis to PTSD after working with burned patients to riding a horse up an active volcano as it slipped on lava to the strife of discrimination as a government employee to a car hijacking abroad, she has overcome with peace. Hunter is an award-winning millennial, one of the world’s leading health informaticists, and a courageous global citizen. In *He Called Me Tin*, she shares vulnerable accounts of how one nickname shaped her experiences in 12-plus selected countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. She hopes to influence women of color, working professionals, (dis)abled warriors, veterans, spiritual journey seekers, global travelers, and anyone who wishes to embrace the best in all obstacles.



Take Opportunity, by **Chloe A. Mondesir, C'2016**, is a book that encourages young people to appreciate what they have and use all of their gifts to contribute positively to society. This is a wonderful book to use if you want to expose a young reader to the idea of helping others.



Spelman

REUNION 2019

BY MELODY GREENE, C'2020

Many thanks go out to the supporters of Reunion 2019. We are thankful and grateful to all who contributed their time, money, and other efforts to making reunion possible.

Reunion 2019 celebrated classes ending in four and nine. Over 30% of Spelman alumnae donated \$1.5 million in 2019, compared to over \$1.2 million given in 2018.

This year's reunion welcomed 836 registrants, compared to 545 registrants in 2014, when the classes last had a reunion. The Reunion 2019 Class Gift went to the class of 1984, which had a five-year cumulative total of \$949,699. The three classes receiving the Every Woman...Every Year! five-year aver-

age class participation recognition are C'54, 46.45%; C'49, 43.03%; and C'69, 43.03%.

We thank all those who donated to Spelman College this year and every year to help ensure the institution receives the support it needs. We hope you will continue to stand on the shoulders of your sisters, and pay it forward. As always, we look forward to seeing you at reunion next year.

Melody Greene is a senior English major from Atlanta and an aspiring broadcast journalist.



Reunion 2019 Golden Girls, C'69, at the True Blue Gala, Saturday, June 18, 2019, at the Georgia International Convention Center.

Spelman

138TH FOUNDERS DAY

It was another celebrated year of Spelman's founding in April. On its 138th Founders Day Convocation, Thursday, April 11, the College recognized Virginia Davis Floyd, C'73, MPH, M.D., as its the honorary degree recipient. She serves as assistant professor for the departments of community health and preventive medicine and family medicine at Morehouse School of Medicine. Also, she serves as an adviser to the MSM Office of Global Health Equity. With extensive experience in global health, she served as the Director of Human Development, Sexuality and Reproductive Health for the Ford Foundation. There she provided leadership to a global team of program officers in grant-making activities in the US and overseas focusing on developing countries. Prior to Ford, she served as the Director of the Family Health Branch, Division of Public Health for the Georgia Department of Human Resources.

Alumna Rachel Strickland Cook, C'68, received the Founders Spirit Award. A respected educator and community advocate, Cook has made a commitment to share the value of education, and in particular, the lifelong benefits of pursuing a degree at Spelman College. Her work as recruitment chair for over twenty years for the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College, Columbia Chapter, has placed Maryland in the top five of the Col-



Naima Valerie Porter-Sparks received the True Blue Award.



Rachel Strickland Cook, C'68, received the Founders Spirit Award.

lege's feeder states. She is a consistent donor to the College and co-creator of the Strickland-Cook Study Abroad Scholarship, which was established with her two daughters who are also Spelman alumnae.

Naima Valerie Porter-Sparks received the True Blue Award. For nearly 11 years, Porter-Sparks has served as executive assistant in the Office of Institutional Advancement. In this role, she intricately connects constituents to opportunities to support the financial growth and stability of the College, and ultimately students, programs and resources. In 2012, she was honored as the Administrative Professional of the Year.



Virginia Davis Floyd, C'73, MPH, M.C., M.D., was this year's honorary degree recipient.



What is Founders Day without the president cutting the cake?

1975

Barbara Thompson, Ph.D.

Professional: Received the Inaugural Dissertation of the Year Award from the Mentorship & Mentoring Practices SIG of the American Educational Research Association at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association in Toronto.

1989

Andrea Williams

Professional: Received the Aquatic Voyagers Scuba Club 2018 Photographer of the Year Award.

1990

Tracey Royal

Professional: A 25-year marketing strategist, received the 2019 Juanita Sims Doty Entrepreneur of the Year award from Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., South Eastern Region.

1996

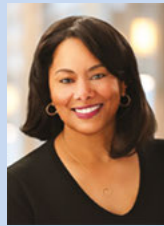
Kimberly Haynes

Professional: Awarded the National Bar Association’s Entertainment & Sports Law Section’s Chairman’s Award 2018 at the 93rd Annual National Bar Association Convention in New Orleans.

2008

Brittany Collins

Professional: Recently wrote an essay for *Education Post* about how her undergrad experience helped shape and influence her career trajectory.



Allison Green, C'87, senior vice president, chief diversity officer, and head of employee engagement for Lincoln Financial Group, was named in *Black Enterprise* magazine’s Most Powerful Women in Corporate Diversity list, which recognizes women who work to implement diversity and inclusion strategies.

The *Chronicle of Philanthropy* published a list of notable appointments, including **Kelly Veney Brinkley, C'91**, who was appointed to executive vice president and chief operating officer at the Executive Leadership Council. She is the first woman to hold this position.



New York Theological Seminary’s board of trustees announced the appointment of the **Rev. LaKeesha Walrond, C'93, Ph.D.**, as its new president. She began her new role as the 119-year-old seminary’s 12th and first African American woman president.

Tandra Taylor, C'2006, was named diversity and inclusion coordinator for Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey, Illinois. She will support faculty and staff developing inclusive practices, working to attract, retain, and graduate more students of color, as well as designing initiatives that expand how the campus and its surrounding communities understand diversity.



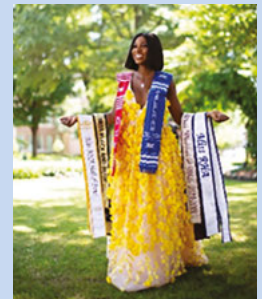
Former assistant U.S. attorney **A. Nicole Phillips, C'98**, recently joined the Philadelphia office of Montgomery McCracken Walker & Rhoads LLP. Phillips will serve as a partner in the firm’s white-collar and government investigations practice group.



Only the second female solo artist with a Grammy nomination for best jazz instrumental album, **Tia Fuller, C'98**, is featured in “Sisters of Swing,” the August 2019 issue of *Vanity Fair*.



Fallon S. Wilson, C'2005, was featured in the *Tennessean* article, “The reason Black in Tech Nashville’s leader fights for girls of color is personal.” She shared her family history of domestic violence and how she started Black In Tech Nashville to help empower minority youth, particularly Black girls, to pursue careers in technology.



Anta Njie, C'2019, is featured in a Forbes’ online civic engagement initiative called Civic Nation where she reflected on her journey to Spelman and how she found her passion for service through pageants. Read her story at: <https://bit.ly/2m0jd9x>.

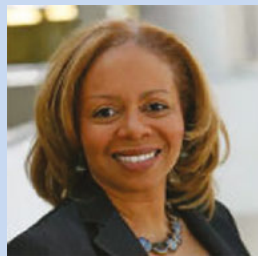


take NOTES

Bonnie Carter, C'89, just became one of the newest members of the Spelman College board of trustees. Carter has more than 20 years of innovative leadership, including serving as president of the Junior League of Montclair-Newark and as chair for four years on the board of trustees for County Court Appointed Special Advocates of Essex County, New Jersey.



On Tuesday, March 12, 2019, Judge **Keisha Wright Hill, C'98**, (pictured far right) joined three of her colleagues on an episode of "The Steve Harvey Show" to share their success story as four Black women judges.



Ann M. McMikel, C'89, was named the new chief development officer and executive director of SIS Circles for the Black Women's Health Imperative. BWHI is a national organization dedicated to improving Black women and girls' physical, emotional and financial health and wellness.

The Australian-American Fulbright Commission recently named **LaShanda Taylor Adams, C'96**, as a 2019 Fulbright Scholar. The Australian Centre for Child Protection, Australia's premier research center for the prevention of child abuse and neglect, will host Adams, a law professor at the University of the District of Columbia and associate dean for Academic Affairs, during her study.



After opening her first Cathy's: Gourmet Ice Cream Sandwiches in Cleveland, Ohio, in 2018, lawyer turned businesswoman



Catheryn Greene, C'2010, recently revealed in *The Atlanta-Journal Constitution*, she is slated to open her first Georgia location at the Interlock, a \$450 million mix-use development located at 1115 Howell Mill Road in West Midtown.

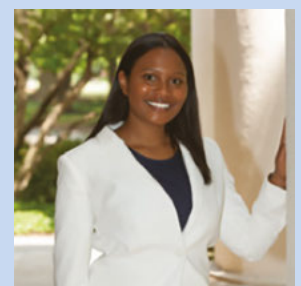
Retired aerospace engineer **Juanita Craft, C'78**, comes back to her first love, singing. She drops three titles: "Rejoyce," "He is King of Kings," and "Hush" from the film "The Home Team."



InStyle magazine has named **Ariel Eckblad, C'2010**, one of the top 50 "Badass Women." The biannual Badass 50 feature spotlights dedicated women from the spheres of science, social justice, law, entertainment, politics and other industries. Eckblad is a legislative director at the U.S. House of Representatives.



Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice **Bernette Joshua Johnson, C'64**, was honored with the National Bar Association's Gertrude E. Rush Award, which recognizes those who embody the pioneering spirit of Gertrude E. Rush, the first African American woman allowed to practice law in Iowa in 1918 and the sole woman co-founder of the National Bar Association.



Former biochemistry major **Chlesa Fearce, C'2017**, was interviewed by *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* for overcoming odds while living as a homeless high school student then graduating with her degree to recently earning a full scholarship and a stipend to attend Yale Medical School.



Metro Atlanta prosecutor **Lauren Travis, C'2007**, and her mom **Cheryl Sueing-Jones, C'82**, were featured in a CBS46 career-path interview. Travis prosecutes homicide cases as a chief assistant district attorney with the Fulton County District Attorney's Office. Her mother is a deputy district attorney with the San Diego County District Attorney's Office in California.

Ko Bragg, C'2015, joins PBS's flagship investigative journalism series, "FRONTLINE" as the lead reporter on an ambitious new interactive documentary project examining civil rights cold cases. Since graduating from Columbia Journalism School and Sciences Po École de Journalisme in Paris, Bragg has been covering criminal justice issues in Mississippi — winning eight awards from the Society of Professional Journalists for her coverage of officer-involved shootings and kids charged as adults.



Victoria Apenteng, C'2014, shares her experience with attending an HBCU in a *Rolling Out Magazine* article highlighting her undergraduate experience at Spelman College.



Nominated for a Tony Award in "A Raisin in the Sun," **LaTanya Richardson Jackson, C'74**, will join Fordham's theater program this fall as the new Denzel Washington Endowed Chair in Theatre. Jackson is known for her extensive career in film, television and theater. Her film appearances include, "Fried Green Tomatoes," "Losing Isaiah," "U.S. Marshalls," and "The Fighting Temptations." Also, she has found TV success with credits including "100 Center Street," "Luke Cage" and "Rebel."

Spelman President Mary Schmidt Campbell, Ph.D., and **Bernice King, C'85**, are among the 85 members of Leadership Atlanta's Class of 2020. Through the signature nine-month executive-level program, members explore critical community issues, examine themselves as leaders and build relationships of trust and mutual understanding.



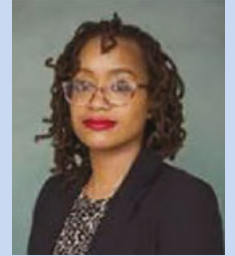
During the 2019-2020 Opening Convocation, President Mary Schmidt Campbell, Ph.D., presented **Cynthia Neal Spence, C'78, Ph.D.**, associate professor of sociology and director of Spelman's Social Justice Fellows and UNCF/Mellon programs, the Excellence in Service Award.



Mayor Keisha Bottoms attended the Bronze Lens Women Superstars Luncheon recently and presented the City of Atlanta's Phoenix Award to **Kathleen Bertrand, C'73**, for her countless contributions to the city and the film and entertainment industry.

Keisha Knight Pulliam, C'2001, actress and entrepreneur, and partner Arian Simone, philanthropist, entrepreneur, author and marketing expert, launched new venture capital fund, Fearless Fund, to make investments in women of color-led businesses seeking pre-seed, seed level, or Series A funding.

Melanee C. Harvey, C'2008, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the Department of Art at Howard University, was recently featured in *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* for her work as an advocate for the study and practice of African American art history. Harvey's work centers on how to recover and preserve the history and impact of Black churches, urban centers and organizational spaces.



Ayanna Robinson, C'2007, Ph.D., participated on a research team that won a national Award of Excellence from the University Economic Development Association. Robinson, along with her colleagues, helped Taylor Regional Hospital in Pulaski County, Georgia, complete a mandatory community health-needs assessment. Without the assessment, the hospital would have lost its nonprofit status and be forced to close.



Jamilah Pitts, C'2012, an English major and first-generation college student, was selected from a pool of educators to serve on the advisory board for Teaching Tolerance, an organization that works to eradicate anti-racist and anti-bias practices in education.



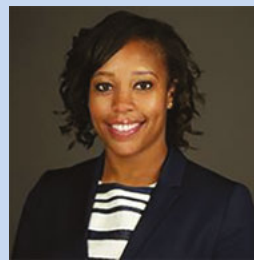
Produced by **Alia Jones-Harvey, C'95**, "Ain't Too Proud," the Broadway musical based on the Grammy Award-winning Motown Recording group, the Temptations, recently won the Tony Award for best choreography. A partner with Front Row Productions Company, Jones-Harvey's Broadway credits include "Eclipsed," starring Academy Award-winning actress Lupita Nyong'o, and Cicely Tyson's Tony Award-winning performance in "The Trip to Bountiful."



Zayd Zori, C'2019, recently landed her dream job as an associate software engineer at Pivotal Software Co. in New York. She is the first hire of Pivotal RISE program, which places graduates of historically Black colleges and universities in full-time, entry-level positions.



Chelsey Sophia Rodgers, C'2005, was admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States, which allows an attorney to practice before the highest court in the nation. Licensed to practice in the District of Columbia, Maryland and New York, Rodgers is currently a senior attorney-adviser and technical compliance officer for the Social Security Administration.



Illinois Gov. Jay Robert "J.B." Pritzker recently appointed **LeDeidre Turner, C'2008**, as a commissioner of the Illinois Human Rights Commission. Currently, Turner serves as an assistant commissioner of prosecution and adjudication in the Chicago Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection.

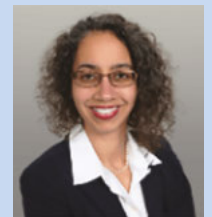


Heather Hawes, C'89, Spelman's director of Events Operations (center), and **Zandraetta Tims-Cook, C'92, M.D.**, infectious disease specialist for WellStar Atlanta Medical Center, were among the 40 women honored as Women of Excellence by *Atlanta Tribune: The Magazine*.

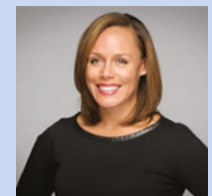
Also, **Tims-Cook**, renowned for her expertise in infectious diseases, particularly in HIV/AIDS, was recently inducted into Marquis Who's Who. Since 1889, Marquis Who's Who has chronicled the lives of the most accomplished individuals and innovators from every field of endeavor, including politics, business, medicine, law, education, art, religion and entertainment.



Talitha Washington, C'96, Ph.D., associate professor at Howard University and program director at the National Science Foundation, recently received the 2019 BEYA STEM Innovator Award during the BEYA STEM Conference. The award is presented to individuals who have made significant advancements in research at HBCUs.



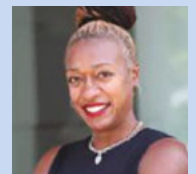
Lizabeth Dunn, C'96, was one of two independent directors to earn a spot on the board of GameStop Corp. After completing a degree in economics at Spelman, Dunn went on to acquire more than 20 years of executive experience in the sports, entertainment and technology industries.



Kelli Coleman, C'2006, and **Anika Jackson, C'2006**, have partnered to create The Ten Nail Bar, a posh modern nail bar, located in downtown Detroit, catered to provide "stellar customer service and workmanship."



Vanessa Robinson-Dooley, C'89, Ph.D., is co-principal investigator of a grant awarded to Kennesaw State University from the National Institutes of Health. The \$404,000, three-year award grant, awarded to Robinson-Dooley, associate professor of social work at KSU, and two other KSU faculty, supports the three researchers in studying health disparities among various rural and urban populations in Georgia.



DR. JUNE DOBBS BUTTS, C'48

Died: May 21, 2019
Service: June 11, 2019, 11 a.m., First
Congregational Church, United Church
of Christ, Atlanta

June Dobbs Butts entered the gates of Spelman College with an understanding of the value of education. With five sisters attending Spelman prior to her freshman year in 1944, Butts indicated in her application her interest in Spelman's cultural background. She knew Spelman would provide high academic training and best prepare her for post-graduate studies. She also stated she knew she would love Spelman as much as her sisters did. Valuing scholarship and sisterhood, Butts pursued studies in sociology and French. She participated in campus clubs and activities such as the Spelman College Glee Club, the Atlanta University-Spelman-Morehouse Chorus and the NAACP. She was crowned Miss Maroon and White, was a member of the Y.W.C.A. and the French Club, and she served as class president during her senior year. Butts graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1948.



She continued her education with graduate studies in history and culture at the University of Mexico. She later earned a master's degree from Fisk University and a doctorate in family life education from Teachers College at Columbia University. With interest and innovation, she built a career filled with teaching, writing and lecturing. Her work included leading Fordham University's Teacher Training Program, her internationally acclaimed work as a sex researcher and therapist,

and notable writings for both academic journals and nationally recognized publications such as *JET*, *Ebony* and *Essence* magazines.

Butts maintained her commitment to Spelman College through alumnae engagement and new-student recruitment, including recruiting family members who continued the Dobbs sisters' legacy. She remained connected to the Spelman community through sisterly connections, consistent giving to further the work and reach of her alma mater and continued engagement with campus activities such as Founders Day events and Reunion.

LATANYA (TANYA) CROOMS, C'89

Died: July 26, 2019
Service: Aug. 5, 2019, Noon, Impact
Church, Atlanta

LaTanya Michelle Crooms, age 51, passed away peacefully in her sleep July 26, 2019, at her home in Atlanta. From her birth Sept. 22, 1967, in Cleveland, Ohio, to her death, she was a light to others, pouring love, faith and prosperity into those she touched. Affectionately known as Tanya, she was truly a gift to her parents, Montgomery "Sparky" and Denise "Taz" Rates.



After graduating from Cleveland Heights High School in 1985, Crooms had her sights set on Spelman College. Also it was where she met the love of her life, John Crooms, a Morehouse College alumnus. The quintessential 'SpelHouse' couple wed in 2003 and for years the pair remained actively involved with

their alma maters. Crooms, who majored in psychology, served on the Spelman College reunion planning committee from 1994 to 2019.

She worked in sales for the Atlanta Hawks, 1999-2004, and, prior to that, for CNN Airport Network as a field operations coordinator. She was a skilled marketer and promoter who honed her skills at Clark Atlanta University in the MBA program, 2001-2003, while holding down a full-time job. In 2007, Fulton County Schools recruited her to lead its school nutrition efforts when it sought to expand its healthy menu in response to the Obama Administration's efforts to provide affordable and better food in public schools. In 2016, Ivy Prep took notice and invited her to join its staff. That same year, she entered the counselor education and guidance services program at Mercer University and earned her master's degree in 2018. Ultimately, she rose to director of school nutrition at Ivy Prep, where she served until her transition.

Crooms was an advocate for the arts and actively engaged in and supported local musicians, visual and literary artists, and filmmakers. She was a strong partner in her husband's photography business. She loved house music and she recently participated in a DJ Master Class to expand her skills as a selector — and she already had one engagement under her belt.

She is survived by her mother, Denise; husband, John; in-laws John and Glorious Crooms, brother-in-law, Keymonte Crooms; sisters-in-law, Deanne Crooms and Daria Crooms; Uncle Wendell and Aunt Michelle Rates; several cousins; a host of nieces, nephews and godchildren; and a loving community of extended family and friends.

MIRIAM MARIE HARRIS, C'47

Died: July 13, 2019
Services: July 19, 2019, 6 p.m., Memorial Chapel of Johnson Funeral Home, Houston; July 24, 2019, Noon, Mount Olive Baptist Church, Atlanta

Miriam Marie Harris (Jellins) passed away July 13, 2019, at the age of 92.



In 1947, she graduated from Spelman College, where she was class president. She began her career in the Atlanta Public Schools before joining the United States Navy in 1951, serving as lieutenant junior grade until 1955. She was one of the first African American women to serve as a naval officer without being a nurse. Her doctoral studies in education and reading were completed at the University of Chicago (1973) and in counseling and human development at Atlanta University (1989). She was a member of Delta Sigma Theta.

Harris served as associate professor of reading education at Atlanta University from 1961 to 1985. In 1986, she joined the faculty at Morris Brown College as associate professor of English and reading. She served as chair of the Department of Communications, director of the Learning Resources Center, and dean of general studies until her retirement in 1997. Upon her retirement, she was awarded the status of professor emeritus by the Morris Brown College Board of Trustees.

1940

Marjorie Bessie Ramey Adams
Died: May 24, 2019
Service: May 28, 11 a.m., Paradise Missionary Baptist Church, Atlanta

1945

Barbara Jackson
Died: June 17, 2019
Service: June 22, 2019, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma

1946

Mary Parks Washington
Died: March 27, 2019
Service: April 13, 2019, 11 a.m., Chapel of the Hills, Los Gatos, California

Charlotte Arnold Russell
Died: July 13, 2019
Services: Aug. 24, 2019, Memorial Luncheon, 12 p.m., Assaggi Mediterranean Bistro, Ferndale, Michigan

1951

Fannye Gertrude Hopkins Banks
Died: July 13, 2019
Service: July 18, 2019, 12 p.m., Radcliff Presbyterian Church, Atlanta

Elayne Bush Bell
Died: May 11, 2019
Service: May 24, 2019, 1 p.m., First Congregational Church of Atlanta United Church of Christ, Atlanta

1953

Dr. Ruby Tolbert Richards
Died: Aug. 27, 2019
Service: Sept. 4, 2019, 11 a.m., Radcliffe Presbyterian Church, Atlanta

1965

Dr. Marian C. Shivers
Died: April 15, 2019
Service: April 24, 2019, 11 a.m., Mass of Christian Burial St. Paul of The Cross Catholic Church, Atlanta

1973

Adrian Yvonne Hall Davis
Died: August 5, 2019
Service: Aug. 16, 2019, 10:30 a.m., Swanson Funeral Home, Detroit

1978

Lynne M. Milton
Died: August 9, 2019
Service: Aug. 14, 2019, 11 a.m., Holsey Temple C.M.E. Church, Atlanta

1983

Maria Earl Burrell
Died: April 8, 2019
Service: April 16, 2019, 11 a.m., South DeKalb Chapel of Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Home, Decatur, Georgia

Sheretta Booker
Died: July 17, 2019
Services: July 27, 2019, 1 p.m., Greater St. Mary Baptist Church, Tyler, Texas

1998

Dr. Kia Tucker Mills
Died: July 16, 2019
Services: July 27, 2019, 11:30 a.m., Greater Little Zion Baptist Church, Fairfax, Virginia

2010

Michelle Fench Damon
Died: June 14, 2019
Service: June 22, 2019, 11 a.m., Bethlehem Baptist Church, Covington, Georgia



Paris

From the African American Experience

BY SHARON OWENS, C'76

Our 2019 Spelman College Alumnae Engagement Global Excursion of Paris featuring the African American Experience, June 2-10, was such a success that the first group departure sold out before the brochure was even printed. Fortunately, we were able to secure a second group departure for June 9-17. Together, we hosted 50 alumnae, family and friends. We were delighted to have President Mary Schmidt Campbell, Ph.D., her husband, George Campbell Jr., Ph.D.; Andrea Barnwell Brownlee, C'93, Ph.D., director, Spelman College Museum of Fine Art; Cheryl Finley, Ph.D., director, Atlanta University Center Collective for the Study of Art History & Curatorial Studies; and three Spelman students, all studying to become future museum curators, Clarke Brown, C'2019, Naomi Moss, C'2021, and Cornelia Stokes, C'2019, join the first group for our welcome reception and a museum tour.

In the early 20th century, thousands of expatriates fled across the Atlantic to live in Paris, where African American culture was welcomed and embraced. These writers, musicians, scholars, artist and soldiers brought with them the burgeoning art and music of the Harlem Renaissance, leaving their valuable mark on the cultural fabric of the French capital. The highlight of our Paris excursion was a personalized tour at the Musée d'Orsay of "Black Models: From Géricault to Matisse," provided by Denise Murrell, Ph.D., Columbia University, the exhibit's curator and a colleague of President Campbell. Everyone returned home having enjoyed quintessential Parisian experiences and a new perspective of the African American culture of Paris.

Sharon Owens is director of Alumnae Engagement.



The 2019 Alumnae Engagement Global Excursion of Paris featured the African American Experience June 2-10.



Due to the first trip being sold out, a second Global Excursion of Paris set out June 9-17.

The Guard Our Gates Movement

Alumnae on a Mission to Increase Youngish Alumnae Membership in Spelman's Guardian Society



In the fall of 2018, Carmen D. Harris, Calandra Y. Harris, and Tracey Saulsberry Guinyard, members of the Class of 2002, found it hard to imagine that 20 years had passed since they walked through Spelman's gates as freshmen in the fall of 1998. "We reminisced about standing in long registration lines that wrapped around the Cosby building and hearing Lauryn Hill's debut solo album *The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill* playing out of every Howard-Herald dorm window," said Guinyard. For the three classmates, reminiscing soon turned to brainstorming about how the Class of 2002 could make a mark on Spelman's history and help their beloved alma mater protect its financial future.

As a result, the "Guard Our Gates Movement" was born; and the three alumnae began to rally their classmates to join them as members of Spelman's Guardian Society by making Planned Gifts to the College. The Guardian Society is an esteemed group of alumnae and friends who have made a Planned Gift to Spelman College. A Planned Gift is any gift, made in a donor's lifetime or at death as part of a donor's overall financial and/or

estate plans. These include gifts of equity, inclusion in one's will, retirement assets, life insurance benefits, real estate, personal property, annuities, stocks, bonds, or cash.

"We learned about the Guardian Society after an appeal we heard during our 10-year class reunion in 2012," said Carmen Harris, who made her first Planned Gift to Spelman College at the age of 32. Her sister, Calandra, agreed, "Carmen and I have been giving to the Annual Fund consistently since we graduated from Spelman. We thought making a Planned Gift was the reasonable next step in our giving to the College." Guinyard added, "Several of our classmates were already giving to the Annual Fund regularly; and we thought asking them to join the Guardian Society was the perfect way to increase awareness about this opportunity for the Class of 2002 to leave an indelible impression on Spelman's history."

The "Guard Our Gates Movement" began its mission in September 2018 to increase the number of *Youngish* alumnae who are committed to ensuring our beloved Spelman College continues to thrive long after their lifetimes.

2017-2018 Donor Roll Corrections

See the following corrections for the Fiscal Year 2018 Donor Roll (printed in the Spring 2019 Messenger):

Class of 1987

Andrea Turner ^

Newly Established Scholarships

THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING SCHOLARSHIPS

Bank of America Foundation
Angie Barrington-Jeter, C'91
DeAndrea Beasley Berry, C'91
Heather Boyd Burnette, C'91
Janee Cornelison Camp, C'91
Cherry A. Collier, C'91
CyberGrants, Inc.
Ellen Natasha Davis, C'92
Theresa Ealy-Nobles, C'91
Susan E. Ellis, C'91
Kimberly Warren Franklin, C'91
Lori Ann Guy, C'91
Elna Moore Hall, C'90
Samara Karim Hassan-Reed, C'91
Tonya Michelle Holmes, C'91
Deshaun Giselle Hunter, C'91
Lisa Colette Jenkins Haynie, C'91
Carol Leticelia Jones, C'92
Jennifer LeBrane-Stewart, C'90
Sabrena I. McBride, C'91
Faith Nazaree McCrone-Royal, C'91
Alicia Thompson Pennie, C'91
Stephanie Dianne Poole-Byrd, C'84
Cynthia Todd Quarles, C'82
Tampa L. Rhodes-Bell, C'91
Nicole A. Singletary, C'91
Monique Glover Spaulding, C'91
U. Salon, LLC
J. Wyndy Webb-Doanes, C'89
Christine St. Germain White, C'2000
Stephanie Lynn Williams, C'91

Memorials

IN MEMORY OF THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 1975

Sharon Slocum Greer, C'75
Georgette Woodward Johnson, C'75
Cynthia Walker-Derrico, C'75

^ **Nellie Brewer Render Society**
\$10,000-\$49,999

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information presented in the Spelman College donor listing. Please accept our sincere apology for any errors or omissions.

To date, The “Guard Our Gates Movement” has made Spelman College history by:

- **Increasing the number of *Youngish* members in the Guardian Society.** The Class of 2002 now has the largest number of Guardian Society members among any class in Spelman’s history. The Class grew their membership from 6 members to 25 members in less than 1 year.
- **Increasing Planned Giving among all alumnae.** The Class of 2002 has raised the largest amount of money through Planned Giving in a single year with \$2 million dollars raised.

In addition, the Class of 2002 has issued a challenge to the classes of 1997-2007. “We’d like to see these classes try to beat us!” said Calandra Harris. Carmen Harris, added “the ‘Guard Our Gates Movement’ is ready to engage alumnae beyond the Class of 2002 and set bigger and bolder alumnae engagement and fundraising goals. I’d like to see young alumnae raise over \$10 million dollars through Planned Giving over the next year or two,” said Carmen Harris. “We’re excited to engage other alumnae in the “Guard our Gates Movement”. The biggest hurdle is helping alumnae understand that this is a gift that is realized after your lifetime,” Harris said. For most alumnae, making a Planned Gift is a matter of considering the legacy you want to leave and completing paperwork.

According to Calandra Harris, “There are plenty of young alumnae who are thinking about their estate plans and would love to make a Planned Gift to Spelman.” Now alumnae have been challenged! “We were taught to give early and often to the Annual Fund,” stated, Carmen Harris, and each alumna should make her first Planned Gift before her 25th reunion.”

For more Information on Planned Giving and membership in the Guardian Society please visit the Planned Giving website at www.Spelmanlegacy.org or contact Shenika Swan, Director of Individual and Planned Giving at 404-270-5085. Shenika is also available to discuss how you may become an Ambassador to lead the “Guard our Gates Movement” for your class.

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Raised from Spelman Alumnae

25@25 DONOR CIRCLE

Phyllis Sawyer Anderson, C'81
Gena Ashe, C'83
Bari A. Parks Ballard, C'86
Lasheka Brown Bassey, C'99
Kimberly Edwards Beal, C'96
Kelly Bolden, C'98
Cynthia Harris Bowman, C'91
Jennifer J. Burns, C'96
Nia J.C. Castelly, C'97
Belinda Coleman, C'83
The Powell Foundation
Stacee Bain Crittenden, C'90
Mary Lynne Diggs, C'77
Tara Jaye Frank, C'96
Mareesa Frederick, C'96
Nitsa Gilbert, C'90
Alison Graves-Calhoun, C'90
Lori Guy, C'91

Lillian Hardy, C'2003
Nikki Tinsley Harland, C'97
Kyra Stinson Harvey, C'89
Shari Hicks-Graham, C'96
Anjanette Hogan, C'95
Schuyla Goodson Jeanninton, C'87
Veronica Y. Johnson, C'90
Rani Johnson, C'97
Theodora Lee, C'84
Danyelle Loveless, C'90
Lauren S. Love-Wright, C'87
Joye Lowman, C'96
Elyce Strong Mann, C'93
Margaret Monique McCloud-Manley, C'98
April Plana, C'99
Helen Smith Price, C'79
Williette Robertson, C'90
Loren K. Robinson, C'2003

Kerstin E. Roper, C'2005
Ebonne Ruffins, C'2005
April Savoy, C'93
Suzanne Shank
Maren Golding Shaw, C'2001
Kathleen Mavis Tait, C'88
Colleen Taylor, C'90
Kimberly Taylor-Smith, C'90
Vasanne Tinsley, C'92
Latriece Watkins, C'96
Che' Watkins, C'91
Celeste Watkins-Hayes, C'96
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Shironda A. White, C'2000
Andrea Ford Wilkerson, C'96
Alice E. Falconer Wilson, C'80
Anonymous Donor

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