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# RESONANCE

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SPELMAN COLLEGE GLEE CLUB  
ALUMNAE NEWSLETTER



ISSUE III | VOLUME I | APRIL 2017

136 Years of Spelman.  
92 Years of Song.



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2016-2017

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# A Message from the Director and President



Dear Glee Club Alumnae,  
I'd like to wish each of you a Happy Founder's Day Month! It is because of you that this 136 year legacy is so strong! Thank you for laying the foundation on which we stand. In Glee Club, we have expanded our repertoire this year by including student instrumentalists, student compositions and arrangements, and music by contemporary African American musicians. We invite you to join us in Sisters Chapel on April 30th at 5:00 PM for our Spring Concert. We look forward to seeing you there. Enjoy your Founder's Day Edition of Resonance!  
Dr. Kevin P. Johnson  
Director

Greetings to our new readers and welcome back to our faithful readers! You have entered into the GREATEST month ever! Not only because it's my birthday, but it is time for the Annual Spring Concert! I am so excited for you all to have the opportunity to experience the beauty that is the "Undaunted: Annual Spring Concert." I cannot begin to explain the way I feel about my time in the Spelman College Glee Club coming to an end. Everything has been beautiful and I can't wait to see what AMAZING things lie ahead and join you as a Glee Club Alumna!

Love & Light

Rajané Katurah Brown

President

#DREAMBIG





# SPELMANITE

# IGHT

## Current Students



**Summer Young** is a first year Drama major from Atlanta, Georgia and a member of the Alto 1 section in the Spelman College Glee Club. Not only is Summer a Spelman College legacy, but she is a Spelman College Glee Club legacy. Her mother, Rebecca Young, graduated from Spelman in 1994 and was a member of the Soprano 2 section of the Glee Club. Summer's aunt, Jill Harris, is also a Spelman College Glee Club alumna. She graduated in 2009 and was a member of the Alto 2 section. Summer's favorite Glee Club memory is the sister social and singing in her first Annual Spelman-Morehouse Christmas Carol Concert.



**Farris Christine Watkins** is a sophomore music major from Atlanta, Georgia. She is the daughter of Dr. Angela Farris Watkins and Mr. Willie A. Watkins. Farris is a Spelman College and Spelman College Glee Club Legacy. Her grandmother, Ms. Christine King Farris, was a member of the Spelman College Glee Club during her time at Spelman. Farris has been featured in numerous events as a singer including the *Atlanta Hawks* basketball game where she sang the national anthem, the *Emmy Awards Lifetime*



Achievement Program in New York where she sang a special tribute to Ambassador Andrew J. Young, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Annual Freedom Fund Dinner. She has published two original songs, *We Pray* and *We Grow*, distributed nationally by Urban Ministries, Inc. As an orator, Farris is regularly sought after to speak at Youth programs, at local churches, and around the community. She has served many years as host and mistress of ceremonies for The King Center's Annual King Week Youth Expo and youth speaker at the annual televised Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commemorative Service. Farris' civic and social memberships are reflective of her leadership skills and interest in community service. Farris is a volunteer with the Atlanta Music Project, where she teaches young children about the art of music. She also regularly participates in campus service projects at Spelman, including homeless simulations, marches for justice, health walks, and political forums. Farris is committed to a path of academic excellence and positive social change.

# Alumnae

**Dr. Sakinah A. Davis**, a graduate of the Spelman College class of 2009, was a Music major with a vocal concentration. While at Spelman, Davis was a member of the Spelman College Glee Club. One of her fondest Glee memories is singing in her very first Sister Social with her fellow Glee sisters as a first year student. In 2006, also during her first year at Spelman, in the midst of the Glee Club reunion Davis remembers feeling like she was a part of something so special. In that moment she realized that the Spelman College Glee club was a sisterhood within a sisterhood. Davis stated in an interview that she “wanted to sing black music for black people” and being a member of the Spelman College Glee Club allowed her to do just that. Dr. Davis is also Spelman College legacy and Spelman College Glee Club genesis. Her oldest sister graduated in 2005, her younger sister in 2012, and her youngest sister in 2016. Both of Dr. Davis's younger sisters continued in her footsteps and became members of Spelman College Glee Club. Currently Dr. Davis works as an adjunct professor in the Department of Music at Spelman College, giving back to the place that gave her so much.



Spelman College Music Department faculty during their "Black Music Matters" Concert.  
Dr. Sakinah A. Davis pictured second from the left

**Dr. Darnita Killian**, graduate of the class of 1979 is a native of Atlanta, Georgia. She sang in the soprano 2 section with the Spelman College Glee Club all four years at Spelman. While in the Glee Club, Dr. Killian held the position of Secretary on the Executive Board the last few years of her time as a student. Post graduation, she received her MBA from Atlanta University, now Clark Atlanta University, in 1982.

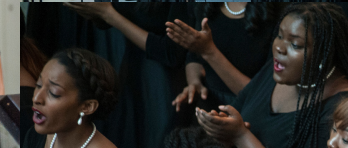


Afterwards, she worked at Spelman as a Resident Director and it was then, that she found her passion for education. She went on to complete a fellowship at Harvard University and received her doctorate of education from the University of San Francisco. Dr. Killian then moved to New York and worked as the Vice President of Student Affairs at Pace University before coming back to Spelman. Currently, Dr. Killian serves as the Vice President of Student Affairs and has held this position since her return to Spelman in 2010. Among her other accomplishments, Dr. Killian has completed two Fulbright programs, the first in Germany in 1997 and the second in 2008 in Japan. Dr. Killian not only graduated and works at Spelman, but she is also a Spelman College and Spelman College Glee Club legacy. In her office at Spelman, she keeps a copy of her Great Aunt Maddie Neal's diploma, who graduated in 1897, with a degree from the Spelman Seminary. Since then, 16 of Dr. Killian's family members have attended Spelman and she was the 12th to graduate. We acknowledge and thank Dr. Darnita Killian for her continued love and support of Spelman College and the Spelman College Glee Club.



# RETROSPECTIVE

A look at recent SCGC happenings.





# Spelman thy name we praise...

Sophia Jones, M.D., is the first black female to join the faculty

1885

First Spelman class graduates receiving high school diplomas

1887



Spelman Alumnae Association is organized

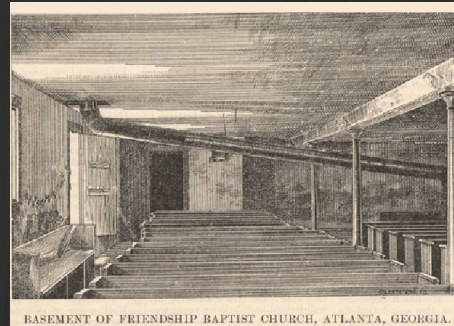
1892

First college degrees granted to Jane Anna Graderson & Claudia T. White

1901

School opens in basement of Friendship Baptist Church

April 11, 1881



BASEMENT OF FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH, ATLANTA, GEORGIA.

Death of Sophia Packard  
Harriet Giles appointed President

1891



MISS HARRIET E. GILES

MISS SOPHIA B. PACKARD

FOUNDERS OF SPELMAN SEMINARY

College department opens

1897

Lucy Hale Tapley appointed President  
Granddaughters Club organized

1910



Name changed to Spelman College

1924

Spelman College Glee Club  
founded

1925

Florence Read appointed President  
Sisters Chapel dedicated  
First Annual Spelman Morehouse  
Christmas Carol

1927

50th Founder's Day celebrated

1931

Albert Manley becomes first Black  
and first male president

1953



75th Founder's Day celebrated

1956

First students arrested following  
sit ins in downtown Atlanta

1960

Donald Stewart becomes President

1976



Marian Wright Edelman (class of '60)  
becomes first alumna elected Chair of  
Board of Trustees

1979



Spelman College Honors Program  
created  
1980



Audrey Forbes Manley (class of '55)  
becomes first Alumna elected President  
of the college  
1997



College celebrates 125th Founder's Day  
2006

Dr. Beverly Daneil Tatum retires, named  
President emerita  
Dr. Mary Schmidt Campbell  
appointed 10th President of  
the College  
2015

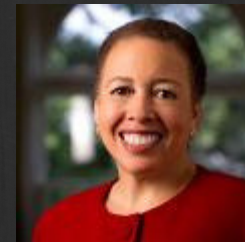


Centennial celebration  
1981

Johnetta Betsch Cole elected as  
the first black woman President  
1987



Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum appointed  
ninth President of the College  
2002



Spelman celebrates the inauguration  
of 10th President, Dr. Mary Schmidt  
Campbell  
2016



# #SCGC4LIFE

First joint concert of the Atlanta Baptist Female Seminary (Spelman) & the Atlanta Baptist Seminary (Morehouse)

1882

Kemper Harreld becomes the chair of the music departments at both Spelman & Morehouse  
First Christmas Carol at newly built Sisters Chapel

1927

Dr. Grace Boggs Smith assumes leadership of the Glee Club

1966-1967

Aldrich Adkins assumes leadership of the Glee Club

1989-1990

Kemper Harreld founds Spelman College Glee Club

1925

Dr. Willis Laurence James assumes leadership of the Glee Club


1953-1966

Roland Allison assumes leadership of the Glee Club

Beginning of Annual Tour

1967-1989





**Dr. Norma Raybon  
assumes leadership of  
the Glee Club  
Expansion of Glee Club  
Repertoire**

**1991-1999**

**Ruth B. Stokes  
assumes leadership of  
the Glee Club**

**1990-1991**

**Dr. Kevin Johnson  
assumes leadership of  
the Glee Club**

**1999-present**

**Spelman celebrates the  
75th Annual Spelman-  
Morehouse Christmas Carol  
Concert**

**2001**

**Historic Inaugural  
performances: Martin  
Luther King Jr.  
Memorial Wreath  
Laying Ceremony,  
Washington National  
Cathedral,**

**Ambassadors Inaugural  
Ball**

**2013**

**Glee Club Performs  
at BET Honors**

**2015**

**The 90th Annual Spelman-  
Morehouse  
Christmas Carol Concert**

**2016**



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# Coming soon

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**April 22 | 2:00 PM | Spelman College  
Phi Beta Kappa Induction Ceremony\*\***

**April 23 | 1:30 PM | Sisters Chapel  
SpelBound**

**April 29 | 7:30 PM | Elon University  
Joint Concert with Elon University Ensembles**

**April 30 | 5:00 PM | Sisters Chapel  
Annual Spring Concert**

**\*\*closed**



# CONNECT WITH SCGC



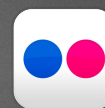
To be featured in the next issue of the Alumnae Newsletter or for information, please contact us at [scgcalumnae@spelman.edu](mailto:scgcalumnae@spelman.edu)



Spelman College  
Glee Club



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Check out our new website: [Click Here!](#)

#SCGC

#SCGC4Life

#Undaunted2017

#SCGCAlumnae