



RESONANCE

SPELMAN COLLEGE GLEE CLUB ALUMNAE NEWSLETTER

Homage IN THEIR HONOR

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MARCH 2018

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Messages



Dr. Kevin P. Johnson

Director

“ During this month, we were given the opportunity to celebrate along with the rest of the Spelman community the founding of Spelman College. During the Founders Day Convocation our student conductor directed the song "We Are", and after our seniors were excited to sing "Choice to Change the World" along with all of their. For our Annual Spring Concert, we joined in recognizing the impact that Spelman College had on the Black Community after the passing of Dr. Martin Luther King. We said goodbye to our senior class, who took their last bows with the Glee Club and enjoyed a performance at the city Capitol in Atlanta with the AUC. Lastly, we performed with the Georgia Symphony as the final concert of the month. I have to thank the alumnae who visited us this month during each performance or practice. I appreciate all that you have done for the Glee Club. Don't forget to download the Glee Club App at SCGCGLEE available for both iPhone and Android users. ”

“ This time of the semester is very bittersweet in many aspects for me as I am leaving the Glee Club, Spelman, and the comfort of college. Regardless, I am excited to begin a new chapter in my life and I am also eager to see what the Glee Club does in the future. I have spoken to several potential leaders of our organization and they have many great plans and concerts after I leave. To the alumnae, I want to give thanks to all of you who have reached out to me with words of support and encouragement. I look forward to joining you all in alumnae status in the next coming weeks! In my cap and gown for the first time during Founders Day, I sang with my fellow classmates "A Choice to Change the World" looking out to an audience of Spelman women who have changed the world. It has been so inspiring to be a part of a legacy that has left such a large impact on our school and our community. ”



Cora L. Evans

President



EDITOR'S NOTE

DAPHNE JOSEPH

This past month of April has been one filled with reminiscence and honor to our past. This past which includes the contributions that each of you alumnae have contributed to through your service in the Glee Club as well as your time here as students. From our Founders Day celebrations to our last performance of the month with the Georgia Symphony Orchestra, the Glee Club has been actively playing its role in the preservation of the legacy that you have carved out for us.

With this year being the 50th anniversary of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., each performance has been dedicated to cherishing his impact on the Black community. Recognizing the role that Sister's Chapel served as the nation mourned the loss of a great leader, it was there that the Glee Club performed the Annual Spring Concert as a means of paying homage to Dr. King. During the performance, Dr. Joyce Finch Johnson shared an arrangement of Wade in the Water on the organ, just as she had done fifty years ago for the thousands of people who came to view his body in the Chapel.

Today, the Glee Club continues to fulfill the mission that has been passed down from year to year: to Amaze and Inspire. Through hours of rehearsals and countless performances, all of which each of you have

experienced in the past, we remember the "shoulders that we stand upon" who paved the way for us.

As you engage in this issue, it is important to remember the the legacy that you have left with the Glee Club. This month of April has served as a reminder of the history that you have inadvertently written by merely existing as Black women through various time periods. The role that you have played by investing your time,efforts, and talents into this organization continues to transcend through each incoming and outgoing class. For that , we thank you.

Please take the time to read of the words from the First-year students who performed at their first Founders Day Convocation and the graduating Seniors cherished this as their last. This issue will also highlight the works of Glee Club alumna, Professor B. E. Boykin and current member, Jessica Hansberry. As always, I welcome and value your feedback and look forward to meeting you at future events.

Best,

Daphne Joseph, C'2020
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MONTHLY MELODY

DAPHNE JOSEPH

Founders Day: A Celebration of the Past

In celebration of the 137th year of Spelman women remaining undaunted through time, sisters ranging from the Golden Girls of the graduating class of 1968 to Freshmen of the class of 2021 joined together in Sister's Chapel on April 10th. While the college was actually founded on April 11th, 1881, we celebrated it the day before. As you can imagine, this day bustled with energy as the first-years experienced this tradition for the first time, the graduating seniors who would value this day as their last as students, and the alumnae who remembered the special sisterhood that they found within this institution.

While the era of Civil Rights has come to an end, this Founders Day, we reflected on the current atmosphere of Spelman in comparison to the past, specifically the year 1968. Cora Evans, President of the Glee Club made the observation that "fifty years later we find that things have changed, but also, they haven't. We have police killing unarmed Black men and a president who has publicly shown a disinterest in the problems of Black people". Evans, a graduating Senior, continued to express her respect for the Spelman women of the past, declaring that "As a nation, we like to forget that it was not that long ago

that we were living in segregation. I really appreciate the Golden Girls and I just want to commend the members of that class for doing this thing called college in the midst of it all."

Founders Day marked a day of pure honor for members of the class of 1968. Members such as Dr. Laura English- Robinson and Glee Club coordinator Dr. Jane Smith who remembered the determination it took to finish college during the ending of the Civil Rights Era. Grace Hill Rogers, member of the class of 1968 and honorary guest speaker at this year's End of the Year Banquet distinguishably remembered the her years at Spelman College. Rogers stated that "when I came to school here, Jim Crow laws were just coming to an end. By the time I graduated, we were the first class to graduate with human status".

As we celebrated the past, we remembered the countless number of women who endured the struggles of college while also facing daily challenges in a world that did not celebrate them. We lift our voices and sing just as they did, to uplift and inspire our community.

1968.



MONTHLY MELODY

AMARIAH SLEDGE

A Dream of Unity

The month of April is very important in Spelman's history. While we take this month to celebrate the founding of our beloved institution, we also take this time to commemorate the passing of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King was assassinated on April 4, 1968 and we celebrate his life and legacy every year; however this year, 2018, marks the 50th anniversary of his passing. Such a milestone calls for us to take the time to acknowledge Dr. King and his legacy in all that we did throughout the month of April, because in many ways without his leadership and determination we would not be where we are today. This is, in part, just one of the reasons why this year's annual spring concert was titled "Resilience". It was the resilience and strength of Dr. King and other Civil Rights trail blazers that brought us a step closer to achieving the overall goal of unity for the human race.

The Annual Spring Concert was held on Sunday, April 8th in Sisters Chapel. Spelman students, faculty, alumnae, and those in the Atlanta community gathered in Sisters Chapel to listen to the Spelman College Glee Club dedicate a concert to the passing of Dr. King. Throughout the concert, members of the glee club had the opportunity to introduce songs and explain what the word resilience meant to them.

Audience members were also reminded of Dr. King's legacy through their repertoire and sharing the fact that for a period of time, Dr. King's body laid in Sisters Chapel so that students, faculty, and members of the community could see him. For two of the three days Dr. King's body laid in Sisters Chapel, Dr. Joyce Johnson played the organ to provide a calm atmosphere for onlookers. To commemorate that moment this year at the Spring Concert, Dr. Joyce Johnson performed a piece on the organ. As the concert drew to a close, Spelman students and alumnae were invited to the stage to sing the Spelman Hymn.

The Spelman College Glee Club was fortunate enough to have several esteemed guests in the audience. Dr. Christine King Farris and members of her family were in attendance as part of the celebration of Dr. King's life and Spelman's Founders Day festivities. Dr. Farris is not only the sister of Dr. Martin Luther King, she is a proud Spelman alumna, Spelman College Glee Club Alumna, and the grandmother of Farris Watkins--a current Junior in the glee club. Also in the audience were members of the class of 1968, Golden Girls who returned to celebrate their 50th reunion.



Spelmanite Spotlight

Interview by Daphne Joseph and Amariah Sledge

Since graduating Spelman College with a B.A. in Music in 2011, Glee Club alumna, Brittney Boykin continued her studies at Westminster Choir College. It was there that she received her masters degree, started her own publishing company-- Klavia Press-- and pursued a career as a composer, conductor, and pianist. Boykin is currently working on her PhD in Teaching and Learning all while serving as the Assistant Director for the Spelman College Glee Club. In this capacity, Boykin stated that "working with the Glee Club as the Assistant Director has deepened my love and respect for the organization. It's sometimes hard to appreciate something when you're actually in it as a student But outside looking in, having seen and worked with other ensembles and organizations, I'm proud to have been part of something that is so special." In honor of Founders Day, Boykin recalls how special the occasion is, how seeing her younger Spelman Sisters appreciate such a moment reminds her of how special Spelman is and how the Spelman sisterhood has a powerful bond.



B. E. Boykin
C'2011

As a Spelman alumna, Boykin thanks the Glee Club for contributing to her future as a professional musician. When asked what the organization meant to her, she stated that "there are certain values that are instilled in you when you have the opportunity to attend Spelman, as well as participate in the Glee Club. For me, the main one was compassion. The world is so much bigger than what and how we know it to be". Boykin believes that "with compassion being in the forefront of your mind, knowing the world is the way that it is, you can understand your role in it and focus on what really matters." Ms. Brittney Boykin always sings Spelman's praises and is always sure to give back to the place that gave her so much.





Spelmanite Spotlight

Interviewed by Daphne Joseph

Sophomore Education Major, Jessica Hansberry serves as the Co-Librarian of the Glee Club. Hailing from the city of Chicago, Illinois, Hansberry has been familiar with the Spelman sisterhood for most of her life. She has met all of her mother's friends from her time at Spelman and attended Homecoming events prior to coming to the school. "My mom always told me that I would be going to Spelman while i was growing up, and eventually, it was time for me to go to college and I applied to Spelman College and got accepted. I didn't really look at any other college", stated Hansberry.



Jessica Hansberry
C'2020

Hansberry has been singing in choir since she was 10 years old. Although she was very active in dance and drama throughout high school, none of those activities appealed to her as much as singing has, hence she joined the Glee Club. Hansberry has grown to respect and admire the history of the Glee Club, stating that, "This organization is so much bigger than me, so I try my best to uphold the legacy that the women before me have established.

As a student ambassador for the college, Hansberry has been developing her roles in leadership in and out o the Glee Club. After Spelman, she wants to go back to her hometown of Chicago to become and educator of elementary school children. Hansberry states that Glee has helped become a better leader, as previously, she had only been an active member of the organization.



Retrospective



APRIL SHOWERS OF SISTERHOOD This month, the Glee Club participated in a series of events showing respect to the people of the past. First, they performed for the community at the Annual Spring Concert, honoring the life of Dr Martin Luther King Junior. After, on April 11th, the Glee Club performed at the annual Founders Day Convocation. There, the seniors and first year members performed in front of their peers, celebrating the founding of Spelman College. They then sang at the capitol adjacent to the Glee Clubs of the AUC, and lastly, the Georgia Symphony requested the voices of the organization to sing with their orchestra.



UPCOMING EVENTS

MUSIC STUDENTS' RECITALS

Dianna Sanders (Jr.)

Tuesday, May 1st - 6:00pm

LLC 2 Auditorium

Brooke Joynes/Farris Watkins (Jr.)

Friday, May 4th - 2:00pm

LLC 2 Auditorium

Courtney Marshall (Sr.)

Friday, May 4th - 6:00pm

LLC 2 Auditorium

Britni Ruff (Jr.)

Saturday, May 5th 12:00 noon

LLC 2 Auditorium

BACCALAUREATE SERVICES

Saturday, May 19th

COMMENCEMENT

Sunday, May 30th



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