

RESONANCE



SPELMAN COLLEGE GLEE CLUB NEWSLETTER



TRIUMPHENT

SEPTEMBER 2020



Spelman College®

A Choice to Change the World

Message from the Director

DR. KEVIN P. JOHNSON

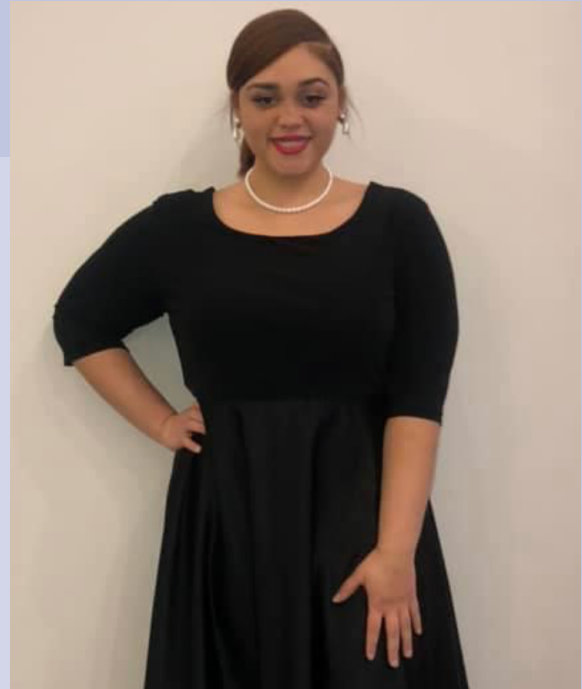
Our virtual learning experience has been a very interesting adjustment for music programs around the world. Choral programs and glee clubs thrive most from in-person instruction. As musicians, we are aware that our energy is just as important as the excellence of our musicality. Due to COVID-19, we are unable to be physically present with one another. However, we are encouraged as an organization because we refuse to let anything dim our light. We are charged to 'amaze and inspire' and the members of the glee club have made me extremely proud to be their leader due to the tenacity they have exhibited during this trying time. We are blessed to still find joy in a space of darkness, and hope that our resiliency will bring joy to your homes.



Message from Madam President

IMANI DIGGS, C'2021

Greetings SCGC alumnae sisters, family and friends! I am Imani Diggs, a graduating senior Comparative Women's Studies major from Staten Island, NY and I serve as the Spelman College Glee Club president for the 2020-2021 academic year. For the first time this year the position of president is now joint with alumnae liaison! That means that I will have the opportunity to serve both my current SCGC sisters and my alumnae sisters! This month's edition of *Resonance* discusses COVID-19's impact on the Glee club. Although our mode of learning this year is virtual, Glee is standing strong! In this newsletter, you will see sentiments from current students and from an alumna who have combated COVID-19 with safety, perseverance and love. I am privileged and honored to serve glee in this capacity and I pray that you all will find joy and love in *Resonance*! Thank you for being a consistent source of love and light for us!



Spelmanite Spotlight

Elycia Woodham, C'2024

First Year Member, Music Major, Alto 2



What is one academic and one creative accomplishment that you achieved in quarantine?

In quarantine, it was harder to be motivated to complete my final assignments for high school in general and having a severe case of senioritis did not help this issue. However, I had the privilege of competing in and winning third place in the national Blacks in Government oratorical competition. Similarly, I also competed in the Washington D.C. NAACP Act-So regional competition for singing and I won second place in the classical category and third in the contemporary category.

How have you celebrated yourself during this pandemic?

I graduated during quarantine, so I had about a month-long celebration for my graduation along with a month-long celebration of "going off" to Spelman College by my mom and aunt who are Spelman alumnae. Also, I came to realize that celebrating any accomplishments, no matter how small, I made during the pandemic was essential to a healthy and positive mindset while being at home.

What are some new things you've learned about yourself in quarantine?

I have learned that I am a workaholic and I need take time in my week or day just for me personally to prevent burn out. By taking time for myself, I have learned that I can become more mentally stable and happy when I'm in stressful situations. I also learned that I still have zero to little athletic ability because I managed to sprain my ankle while running in place, at home.

How have you stayed encouraged and motivated during this pandemic?

I have stayed encouraged by doing daily affirmations during the pandemic. It was difficult to see the positives in being at home at the beginning of quarantine, but by doing daily affirmations and keeping a positive mindset it became easier to find the positive within our situation. This also went the same for keeping motivated. I was motivated by my drive to do well and excel in my courses despite being online. So, by keeping a positive outlook on life and wanting to be the best I can be I have managed to stay encouraged and motivated during this pandemic.

Spelmanite Spotlight

Avery Berkley, C'2023

Second Year Member , Music & English Major, Soprano 1



What is one academic and one creative accomplishment that you achieved in quarantine?

During quarantine, I had the opportunity to participate in the inaugural Connect Together Mentorship Program led by She Is The Music. This organization focuses on creating opportunities for women who want to work in the music industry. As an A&R mentee, This program helped me clarify my career interests and connected me with industry professionals I can continue learning from. On the creative side, I played a lot of guitar and got back into painting, which I didn't do much when I was physically at college.

How have you celebrated yourself during this pandemic?

Once each month during the summer, I got dressed up even though I had nowhere to go. I stayed in pajamas during the majority of the lockdown, so this practice helped boost my spirits and created some normalcy in my life. I've also gotten into taking care of plants, which has been an outlet for me. It's nice to be able to maintain something and watch it grow and flourish.

What are some new things you've learned about yourself in quarantine?

Throughout the summer portion of quarantine, my family didn't go out to eat. It got tiring eating the same things, so I began trying out many new recipes to make meals that I had been craving. I made sushi, wings, fried green tomatoes, plantains, chicken tikka masala, burgers, and many other foods that I used to only order at restaurants. It surprised me how simple it is to make many of these foods at home.

How have you stayed encouraged and motivated during this pandemic?

I have reached out to old friends and stayed in touch with family members over the past few months. Being virtually connected when physically isolated has been helpful for me! Also, throughout quarantine, it was easy for me to stay in the house all day. I decided to be intentional about going outside and feeling the air, and biking was something that allowed me to feel refreshed and motivated.

Spelmanite Spotlight

Dr. Brittany O. Idusuyi, C'2013 Glee Club Alumna, Biology Major, Alto 2



As an essential worker in the medical field, what are some of the new job requirements that you have been tasked with?

On labor and delivery, every mother admitted to the unit has to be tested for COVID. If tested positive, the baby has to be separated from the mother immediately after delivery. As you can imagine, mothers are very emotional after hearing this and having this conversation with the mother can be very difficult when trying to explain the rationale behind the infant having to leave the mother after delivery. Additionally, symptomatic mothers with signs of respiratory distress require me to stay in constant communication with the infectious disease, cardiovascular, and pulmonology teams to assure our patients are well cared for throughout their pregnancy and labor course.

What are some tips that you may have for people as states begin to open back up?

Besides wearing your mask, washing your hands often, and carrying hand sanitizer with you at all times, I would be especially mindful about how many people you plan to encounter during a given outing by being cautious about being in large groups, especially in closed spaces. If you are going to a social gathering, inquire about how many people the host is expecting and if it will be outdoors. If you have to go out to a restaurant, mall, or grocery store, I would go during a time when it is less crowded to maintain social distancing.

Brittany Idusuyi, a Springfield, Illinois native is currently a second year resident physician at Rush University Medical Center's Obstetrics and Gynecology Program in Chicago, IL. She obtained a Bachelor's of Science degree in Biological Sciences from Spelman College in 2013. Her ultimate goal is to not only serve the community as Obstetrician and Gynecologist, but as a mentor, public health leader, and community advocate that works towards eradicating many of the disparities that lie within the healthcare field.

How have you accessed your creative outlet during quarantine?

I just purchased my first condo a couple months ago, so I have had fun during quarantine selecting decor and wall art to make this place feel more like a home. Working around 80 hours per week often makes it difficult to make time for creative endeavors. However, I have found that by taking just a couple minutes each day to look up a new piece of art work or purchase a record player from Amazon, adds so much to my wellness.

How have you celebrated yourself during this pandemic?

I celebrate myself through affirmations. This especially helps when I've had a difficult day at the hospital. I have found a lot of comfort speaking out loud about what I did well on a particular day and how I can improve. Writing down positive notes to myself keeps up my stamina and inspires me each day to provide great patient care. My demeanor has the ability to impact my patients, so I try my best to elevate my mood by speaking positive affirmations over myself on a daily basis.

What are some practices that you have implemented in your life to preserve your mental, emotional and spiritual health during this time?

Besides the affirmations I mentioned in the previous question, I would say working out has helped preserve my overall health. Even if it's just for 30 mins, I try to find a couple times during the week to move my body and get some endorphins flowing! I continue to stay spiritually connected by tuning in on my online church. Lastly, I stay in contact with my Spelman sisters via a group chat—they have continued to be some of my biggest cheerleaders/support system since college.

SISTERHOOD IN SOLITUDE



During quarantine, one thing I have learned about myself is that I enjoy my alone time. During quarantine, there hasn't been much room to hang out with friends or to go out. I have learned that I like being alone and just having time to relax by myself. Though I often miss the luxuries that I had pre-quarantine, COVID-19 has given me a chance to center myself and focus on going with the flow.- Christian Knox, C'2022

Being quarantined because of covid has brought me closer with my instruments and writing ideas because I actually had the time to focus on them. I was even able to kickstart my desires in filmmaking and started a couple of projects!- Nena Hayes, C'2023



"I encourage everyone to stay focused and goal oriented on whatever it is they are trying to accomplish. In that same breath, know when to pause and rest. Do what works best for you and keep persevering despite the setback. Have faith that it will all work out for the best, and know that you're not alone!" - Bria Adams, C'2021



RETROSPECTIVE

Due to COVID-19, collegiate music ensembles are forced to completely shift the dynamic of choir rehearsals and performances as we have previously known it. The Spelman College Glee Club has been privileged to be able to still run as close to normal as possible! We are meeting at our regularly scheduled class times via **Zoom**. We have implemented a new music platform, **Noteflight** for learning basic music theory and rehearsing assigned repertoire. We are so proud that we have managed to channel the sisterhood that glee brings even through computer and tablet screens.

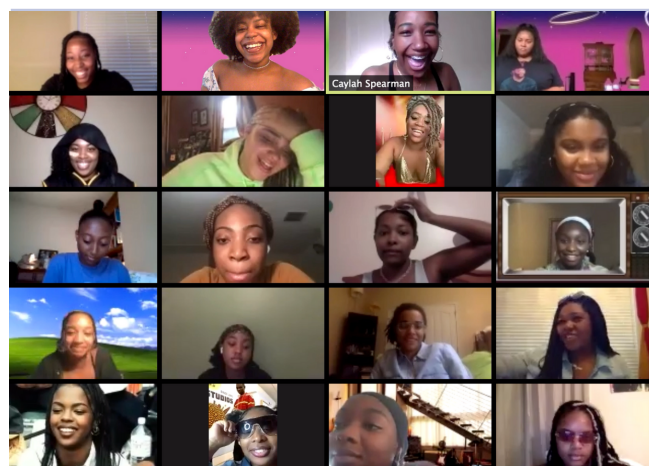
As an organization, we have continued to preserve our traditional bonding events and have created some new ones! We started the semester with a successful **Sister Social**, an annual social event that highlights the talents of the newly accepted first year members and also the time first members are assigned their big sisters in the glee club. Sister Social is the pinnacle event for the SCGC bonding experience. The glee club has reinstated our **First-Year Glee Experience Academic Program**. This program allows upperclassmen members to assist first year members acclimate to the glee club and the rigor of collegiate academics with fire-side chats, panel discussions, and regular study halls. We have also created a new bonding events like **"Lunch with Prez"** which is a social hour that glee students have to eat and fellowship with one another which is led by the glee club president.

We are devastated of COVID-19's impact. Many have lost family members, friends, work, inspiration or motivation in this time. Although it has been difficult, we will allow our voices to bring love and light to the world, following our motto and purpose to "Amaze and Inspire".

This newsletter will keep our alumnae, family and friends in the loop of all things glee! We look forward to sharing with you all and we hope you all feel the love of Glee through Resonance!



Glee Zoom Rehearsal



Sister Social 2020

UPCOMING EVNETS

October 2020

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14TH

SPELCHELLA: A VIRTUAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

Spelhouse Virtual Homecoming
ft. Glee Club Students and Glee Club Alumnae
7:00 p.m. est
More information coming soon

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16TH

GLEE CLUB VIRTUAL HOMECOMING REHEARSAL

5:00 p.m. est
via Zoom
More information coming soon



LET'S STAY CONNECTED!



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