

# SPELMAN Messenger

STARBUCKS COFFEE

## Cultivating Black Girl Magic Since 1881

Like a Spelman Woman

*Roz Brewer Operates the Nation's  
No. 5 Most Admired Company*

*Rosalind G. Brewer, C'84  
Group President and  
Chief Operating Officer of  
Starbucks Corp.*

# 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 NOTE!

Take Note! is dedicated to the following alumnae achievements:

- Published
- Appearing in films, television or on stage
- Special awards, recognition and appointments

*Please include the date of the event in your submission.*

## BOOK NOTES

Book Notes is dedicated to alumnae and faculty authors.

*Please submit review copies.*

## IN MEMORIAM

We honor our Spelman sisters. If you receive notice of the death of a Spelman sister, please contact the Office of Alumnae Affairs at 404-270-5048 or Sharon Owens, director of alumnae engagement, at [sowens5@spelman.edu](mailto:sowens5@spelman.edu).

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

## CORRECTION

Spelman Messenger Fall 2017, Vol. 127 No.1

On page 25 and 31, Fleda Mask Jackson, M.D., should be Fleda Mask Jackson, Ph.D.

## CREDO

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



**On the Cover**

Rosalind “Roz” Brewer, see page 12.

COVER PHOTO BY SCOTT KING



**Spelman Scenes**



**Black Girl Magic**

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## The Spelman Embrace

**M**y favorite quote from our cover story about alumna and board chair, Roz Brewer, is her description of the College. She says: “Spelman is small enough, intimate enough, and caring enough to wrap its arms around you. Each relationship is a personal one at Spelman.”

Roz is highlighting what I call the Spelman embrace — that unique feature of a Spelman education that kindles close connections among members of this large, diverse and loving community. Our alumnae, including Roz and many others, openly extend that embrace, and, in the process, create the conditions for student development and academic excellence at the College.

Our Office of Alumnae Engagement makes sure Spelman students feel the warmth of that embrace even before a new student steps foot on campus. At local alumnae chapters across the country, Spelman graduates host send-off events for the young women from their hometowns who plan to attend the College.

The embrace gets stronger during New Student Orientation when some 200 alumnae return to campus to help introduce our 500-plus first-year students to the history and traditions of the College.

One of the most moving moments of this celebration occurs during the parting ceremony. As students say goodbye to parents and friends, every year there is a group of students, who for one reason or another, have come to campus alone. And every year, there are alumnae present who embrace them and assure them: “You have a family here, and you are at home here.”

At the induction ceremony that closes New Student Orientation, alumnae formally welcome students into the Spelman Sisterhood. Hundreds of alumnae, dressed in their white attire, line the front of the stage of Sisters Chapel. I am always so moved as they greet, pin and hug each new Spelman sister.

Throughout their matriculation, Spelmanites feel the sisterly alumnae embrace. They work together on community- and College-service projects

during homecoming, the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, Founders Day and Reunion. As part of our Sister2Sister Professional Mentoring Program, students are paired one-on-one with alumnae based on their career interests for cultural, educational and networking activities.

Our signature Spelman on the Hill event takes 25 students on an annual, five-day excursion to Washington, D.C., to learn about public service by shadowing legislators and meeting alumnae who work on the Hill.

Our alumnae prepare seniors for graduation and lead them in their first official ceremony as alumnae — a sacred acknowledgement that when a student graduates, she may leave Spelman, physically, but wherever she goes, Spelman never leaves her.

Proof of the strength and endurance of the Spelman embrace is that, throughout their lives, alumnae give generously of their time, talent and treasure to their alma mater. In the case of Roz Brewer, her support of Spelman includes the Rosalind Gates Brewer Scholarship,

which makes nine awards each year to first-generation College students.

In addition, Roz has served for 12 years as a member of the Spelman board of trustees — the past six as chair. Having been on many boards during my career, I can attest that Roz' leadership is superlative. With openness and honesty, with vision and clarity, with compassion and commitment, she embraces Spelman, as we embrace her.

This year, more than 9,000 young women applied to Spelman for a class of about 500. One reason for our steady enrollment is that students have come to expect from Spelman something beyond the ordinary educational experience they might receive elsewhere — and we deliver. We deliver because we are just what Roz says we are: small enough, intimate enough, caring enough.

I am so grateful to be a part of this extraordinary sisterhood.



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



## DIWALI, ALLOWING YOUR INNER LIGHT TO SHINE

BY JOY E. IKEKHUA, C'2018

While Spelman College was founded in the basement of Friendship Baptist Church in 1881, today its campus represents a mixture of religious affiliations and celebrations. On Monday, Oct. 30, the Spelman community celebrated the Hindu equivalence to Christmas, Diwali, or Deepavali, the Festival of Lights. Getting its name from the row (avail) of clay lamps (deepa), Diwali is marked by four days of celebration and represents the acknowledgment and wishes of triumph of “light over darkness, good over evil, knowledge over ignorance, and hope over despair. Diwali is celebrated globally, including some Caribbean and African countries.

Spelman’s Diwali program was a collaborative celebration among students, faculty and staff and supported by, among others, the Asian Studies program, the African Diaspora and the World program, the Gordon-Zeto Center

for Global Education, and the Wisdom Center. The observance was marked with activities that included a panel discussion on Indian development issues, student poetry reading, a puja (prayerful ceremony), traditional Indian Bharat Natyam dances, and an Indian dinner.

“Although I had passed through the Diwali ceremonies in years’ prior, 2017 was my first year actively participating. I couldn’t have imagined a better time – the food was fantastic, the decorations were transformative, and the speeches were absolutely dynamic,” said Chonise Bass, a senior English major who participated in the event. ▲

*Joy E. Ikekhua is a graduating senior who plans on working as an Africa development strategist.*



## 'DEBORAH ROBERTS: THE EVOLUTION OF MIMI' EXHIBITION EXAMINES BLACK GIRLHOOD

BY CONNIE GREEN FREIGHTMAN

Over the past decade, artist Deborah Roberts has created an acclaimed series of provocative collages that spark crucial conversations about ideals of beauty and Blackness.

This spring, an original exhibition of her work made its Southeast debut at the Spelman College Museum of Fine Art.

"Deborah Roberts: The Evolution of Mimi" features more than 70 collages, paintings, and hand-painted serigraphs that examine Black girlhood, self-image, vulnerability, popular culture, and the dysfunctional legacy of colorism.

To celebrate the exhibition's opening Jan. 25, the Museum hosted a conversation between Roberts and Andrea Barnwell Brownlee, Ph.D., C'93, Spelman Museum director and curator of the exhibition.

Using found photographs, paintings and drawings, Roberts' collages feature composite figures of young Black girls with rearranged facial features and interchanged limbs. The exhibition examines the impact global notions of beauty have on Black girls.

"The ideal of beauty is blond hair and blue eyes," Roberts told opening night attendees. "I want little Black girls to have the conversation that I don't need your ideal of beauty to be beautiful. I want to show their innocence and their power."

The exhibition also represents Roberts' artistic evolution.

For years, the Austin, Texas-based artist had a thriving career painting idyllic scenes of Black life. Then a decade ago, her work shifted to more complex, socially conscious pieces.

In 2011, she began a series of collages titled "The Miseducation of Mimi," a blend of the albums "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill" and Mariah Carey's "The Emancipation of Mimi." The confidence and vulnerability presented by the two artists resonated with Roberts.

"To me, Lauryn Hill was powerful and knew who she was. That's something I wanted to come through with the work – that you can be your dark-skinned self and be powerful," Roberts said. "Mariah Carey seemed not so sure of her Blackness and how she was received in the world. And I thought that, too, is the Black experience. So, I wanted to combine those two dynamics."

The exhibition also features hand-painted serigraphs that address the stigma attached to names that stereotypically sound like those of Black girls, such as "Shonique," "Queenlana" and "Shiqunda."

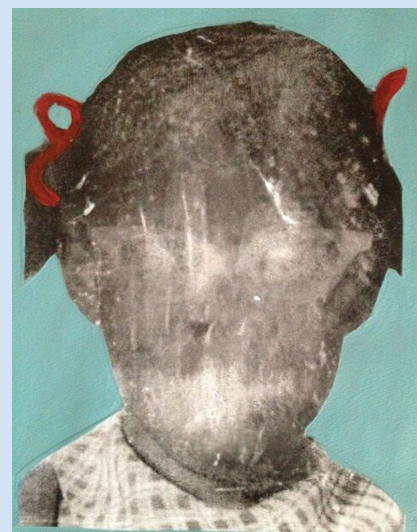
"These names are just as American and should be respected just like any other names," Roberts said. "It's OK to have a name no one else has that was made by your parents."

"The Evolution of Mimi" is on view at the Museum until May 19. ▲

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



Deborah Roberts creates collages that spark conversations about ideals of beauty and Blackness.



Witness, 2001



The Rope-a-Dope, 2017

## ALUMNA DELIVERS STIRRING PERFORMANCE OF 'WE ARE CHRISTMAS' AT 91ST ANNUAL HOLIDAY CONCERT

BY CONNIE GREEN FREIGHTMAN

The crowd began assembling outside Sisters Chapel about two hours before the start of the 91st Annual Spelman-Morehouse Christmas Carol Concert.

As dusk fell and Christmas lights glimmered across campus, attendees waited patiently to hear the acclaimed glee clubs perform a medley of contemporary and traditional carols, and holiday tunes from around the world.

It is an experience that thousands of metro Atlanta residents look forward to each holiday season.

“Every year the Spelman College Glee Club and the Morehouse College Glee Club make this their gift to Atlanta and their gift to the nation,” Spelman president Mary Schmidt Campbell, Ph.D., said in her welcome to the packed house Dec. 2. “But, this concert is also a celebration of the spirit of our two colleges.”

The highlight of the 2017 concert was the return of glee club alumna Sarah Stephens Benibo, C’2007, to mark the 10th anniversary of the audience favorite, “We Are Christmas,” which she co-wrote with glee club director Kevin Johnson, D.M.A.

Benibo’s highly anticipated performance did not disappoint. As her voice reverberated through the chapel, attendees waved uplifted arms and swayed to the music. By the time she belted out the last stanza, the audience was on its feet, cheering and applauding.

Earlier that day, Benibo had spoken at a brunch on campus for glee club members and alumnae, reflecting on her Spelman experience and encouraging another generation of Spelman sisters.

“It feels empowering to be back here,” she said while awaiting her preconcert sound check in Sisters Chapel.

This was Benibo’s second guest performance at the holiday concert as an alumna. A year after receiving her bachelor’s degree in music, she returned to the Sisters Chapel stage to reprise her rendition of “We Are Christmas” for the 2008 concert.

She co-wrote the song during the fall of her senior year, and it has been a mainstay on the Christmas Carol Concert program since its 2006 debut. Two years later, Benibo wrote the lyrics and collaborated with Dr. Johnson on the music for another glee club favorite, the College theme song, “A Choice to Change the World.”



*Sarah Stephens Benibo, C’2007, performed her rousing Christmas favorite “We Are Christmas.”*

Since leaving Spelman, Benibo has traveled the world singing and teaching the fundamentals of gospel music. Also, she has served as a worship leader for her father’s church in her hometown of St. Louis as well as a church in Chicago.

A year ago, she co-founded Jubal’s Cover, a business that helps St. Louis area churches book musicians. Now living in Dallas, she plans to pursue a master’s degree in sacred music. Her third album with the gospel trio God’s Chosen will be released this spring.

“Dr. Johnson nurtured us to become creators and not just performers,” Benibo said. “Even with music, you can contribute to the conversation and make a positive impact. That’s really what music has brought to my life, and Spelman has helped develop that in me.” ▲



## CREATING AUTHENTIC SERVANT LEADERS: WEL CLASS OF 2018

Since 2001, nearly 600 Spelman women have honed their leadership skills in the Women of Excellence Leadership Series. Designed by the College to train students for roles in the global community, WEL is a program of the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement open to juniors and seniors who have demonstrated leadership and have at least a 3.0 GPA while attending Spelman.

After approximately 120 interviews with juniors and seniors from all majors at Spelman, Jane Smith, Ed.D., vice president for College Relations, selected 49 young women as the Women of Excellence Leadership Series class of 2018.

“This is an especially exciting year for WEL because we are growing from 34 to 49 students,” said Dr. Smith, who personally interviews each applicant. “We get such a dynamic and talented pool of young women, which is a reflection of our application pool.”

Many organizations and programs at the College can boast of leadership as an offshoot of their training; however, the WEL Series’ primary purpose is leadership development. This includes studying the leadership skills demonstrated by various leaders, particularly African-American women.

“Our mission is simply to assist WEL students in developing the values needed to become authentic servant leaders who chart new courses for change. Thus, we are deliberate around leadership,” said Dr. Smith. “From business titans and entrepreneurs to noted faculty and community leaders, our goal is to introduce and investigate individuals and events through a leadership lens.”

Meet the new WEL Class of 2018 on the website at [bit.ly/SpelWELScholars](http://bit.ly/SpelWELScholars) . ▲

### 2018 WEL Class Majors by the Numbers

Political Science	12
Biology	9
Economics	4
International Studies	4
English	3
History	3
Psychology	3
Sociology	3
Chemistry	1
Computer Science	1
Early Childhood	1
Environmental Science	1
Mathematics	1
Music	1
Philosophy	1
Theater	1



*Since 2001, nearly 600 Spelman women have honed their leadership skills in the Women of Excellence Leadership Series.*

## 'SHE'LL EVER FAITHFUL BE' KILLIAN RETIRES, BUT NOT REALLY LEAVING SPELMAN

After seven years as vice president for the Division of Student Affairs, Darnita Killian, Ed., C'79, made the decision to step away from the post. The career higher education professional felt it was “spiritually” time for her to step aside.

“For me, quite frankly, in the biblical sense, seven is the number of completion,” said Killian. “In my spirit, I felt like my time here for this phase of my life is completed. Spelman has a special place in my heart, so I’m not really leaving; I’m just leaving this portion of my life at Spelman.”

As Killian packs up office mementoes, including a copy of her Aunt Mattie L. Neal’s 1897 diploma, she reflects on the family legacy of her beloved alma mater. According to Killian, there were 16 women in her family who made Spelman their educational home; she was No. 12.

Killian first attended Spelman in 1959 – the College nursery. But, it was fall 1975 when the smiling sparkly eyed 17-year-old from Atlanta walked through the gates to become a first-year Spelman student. For her mother, aunts, cousins, sister-in-law and niece, attending Spelman was somewhat intentional. For her, it was determination.

“Spelman was the only place I applied to when I was looking for a college to attend,” said Killian, who received an MBA from Atlanta University in 1982 and a doctor of education from the University of San Francisco in 1996. “It did not occur to me that I would not get in, and I say that in a sense of ignorance and not arrogance. I thought why waste my parents deposit money and application fees when I only want to go to Spelman.”

After Spelman and Atlanta University, Killian began a career trajectory that would define her professionally. She became the resident hall director at Spelman College. From 1982 until 1989 – remember the seven years’ time of completion – Killian moved from resident hall director to dean of residential life at Spelman. From Spelman, she would work at Harvard as an administrator overseeing its fellowship program; the University of San Francisco as assistant, then associate vice president for student affairs; Emory University as dean of students; A Better Chance as executive director; and Pace University as vice president for student affairs, before returning to Spelman in 2010 as vice president for student affairs.

In November, from near and far, about 200 well-wishers



*Darnita Killian will spend her retirement days traveling the world, remaining active with her sorority Delta Sigma Theta and her beloved Spelman, and helping others who want to retire before 65.*

gathered for Killian’s retirement celebration. A diehard lover of judge shows, her celebration was highlighted by a mock “The People’s Court,” with her direct reports as bailiff and jury; students as plaintiff and defendant, and family and friends as witnesses, who argued whether she should stay or go.

“Dr. Killian is scheduled to call the names at commencement. At the very least, I am asking her to be here to call my name,” said Andrea Williams, C’2018, who represented the

prosecution. “On behalf of the class of 2018, we do not take your presence here lightly. Dr. Killian, you are a part of what has molded me into the woman I am today.”

A teary-eyed Killian smiled and awed, but defense attorney Joi Stewart, C’2020, had a very different take on the retirement.

“Dr. Darnita Killian has earned the right to retire,” said Stewart. “Not only has Dr. Killian been a dedicated employee of Spelman for seven years, she is our beloved sister. She has spent sleepless nights guiding us through storms and comforting us through hardships, so she has earned a right to retire.”

A parade of family and friends agreed she had earned her right to retire, but it was Spelman College President Mary Schmidt Campbell, Ph.D., who eloquently painted a picture of a needed respite.

“What really strikes me for the two years I have been here is that Spelman College has someone who at midnight or 4 a.m. is alert, and is caring, and on it in every detail you can possibly imagine,” said Dr. Campbell. “We have been so fortunate for all these years to have had this wonderful woman and her wonderful career at Spelman and to tell her how grateful we are for all the wonderful service and love she has given us.”

Killian will spend her retirement days traveling, remaining active with her sorority Delta Sigma Theta and her beloved Spelman, and helping others who want to retire before 65. ▲

## SWAGS INTERCULTURAL PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS

Kathleen Phillips-Lewis, Ph.D., associate professor of history and director of cultural orientation, designed a program to be part of the study travel seminar experience. Thus, Spelman Women and Global Study was borne.

“SWAGS was created to get students more engaged in observing and reflecting upon their own intercultural competency development as they travel abroad,” said Dr. Phillips-Lewis. “While participation is optional, students earn bonus points toward their STS 100 course for participation in the competition.”

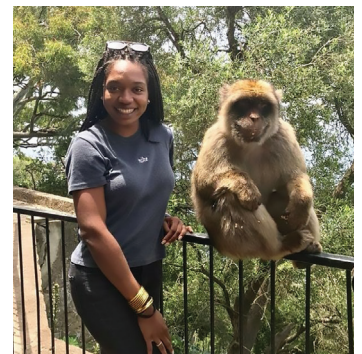
In December, students were asked to submit a photo representative of their intercultural experience along with a brief description. Students, staff, and faculty voted on the best photos. The SWAGS competition will run annually and winners announced during International Week in the fall semester. Here are the fall 2017 winners:



*Aliicia Bouligny, C’2019, CIEE-Spelman, Morocco, first place*



*Brianna T. Harris, C’2019, Malaga, second place*



*Toria Hill, C’2018, Costa Rica, third place*

## SPELPRENEUR HOSTS FIRST PITCH NIGHT TO EMPOWER ASPIRING ENTREPRENEURS

BY CONNIE GREEN FREIGHTMAN

Most millennials don't expect to spend their careers climbing the corporate ladder in a traditional company.

Dubbed the entrepreneur generation, they are passionate about self-employment and making a social impact. They also are highly sought after by employers looking for go-getters and innovative problem-solvers with an entrepreneurial spirit.

A 2014 Bentley University survey of millennials from ages 18 to 34 found that two-thirds are interested in starting their own businesses. Black women-owned businesses are the fastest growing sector in the U.S. economy, according to *Fortune* magazine.

To prepare students, Spelman College has expanded its Spelpreneur program, a 4-year-old initiative that fosters entrepreneurship and innovation by exposing students to real-world problem solving, design thinking, and guided, hands-on teamwork.

"The world has changed. Millennials are not looking to settle into one job," said Erika Preval, C'98, founder of Charm Etiquette and the initial funder for Spelpreneur. "They have ideas on how to solve problems in their communities and want to fill those gaps."

This year, Spelpreneur hosted its first Pitch Night where 24 aspiring entrepreneurs presented problem-solving ideas developed during an intensive 10-day startup competition that began Feb. 18.

Throughout the rigorous, fast-paced competition, participants formed teams and worked with alumnae mentors and other entrepreneurs to hone the skills needed to select a problem, find a solution, and identify the resources to make their idea a viable product.

On Feb. 28, eight teams took the stage in the Living



*Economics majors Venus Montgomery, C'2020, and Alyssa Daniel, C'2019; education studies major Jade Lockard, C'2020; and political science major Simone Howard, C'2019, created the winning startup InHous, a fundraising application focused on increasing alumni giving by providing potential donors to colleges and universities a convenient way to round up their purchases and donate the spare change.*

and Learning Center II Auditorium to pitch their projects before a panel of three judges and an audience filled with students, faculty, staff, alumnae, entrepreneur mentors, and representatives from the local tech startup community.

The top prize went to InHous, a fundraising application focused on increasing alumni giving by providing potential donors to colleges and universities a convenient way to round up their purchases and donate the spare change.

The first runner-up was Wheretu, an app to help Black college women find affordable beauty salon services. The second runner-up was Lights 4 Bites, a social enterprise that uses a color-coded lighting system to connect homeless people to shelters and other organizations with available food.

The top three teams received educational stipends of \$1,000 for the grand prizewinner, \$500 for first runner-up, and \$250 for second runner-up.

Read more about the Spelpreneur competition at [bit.ly/Spelpreneur2018](http://bit.ly/Spelpreneur2018).

**THE REV. DR. NEICHELLE R. GUIDRY**

Ordained to ministry in 2010, the Rev. Neichelle R. Guidry, Ph.D., is the new dean of Sisters Chapel. She is a graduate of Clark Atlanta University (2007,



bachelor's, Lambda Pi Eta) and Yale Divinity School (2010, master's), where she was the 2010 recipient of the Walcott Prize

for Clear and Effective Public and Pulpit Speaking. She is also a 2017 graduate of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, where she completed her doctor of philosophy in liturgical studies with a concentration in homiletics.

For six years, Dr. Guidry served as the associate pastor to young adults and the liaison to worship and arts ministries in the office of the senior pastor at Trinity United Church of Christ on the South Side of Chicago, where the Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III is the senior pastor. She served as the 2016 Preacher/Pastor-In-Residence at the Black Theology and Leadership Institute at Princeton Theological Seminary.

Dr. Guidry was listed as one of "12 New Faces of Black Leadership" in *TIME* magazine (January 2015). She was recognized for "quickly becoming one of her generation's most powerful female faith leaders" in *Ebony* magazine's 2015 Power 100 list (December 2015), and one of "Ten Women of Faith Leading the Charge Ahead" by *Sojourners*.

She is a contributor to "What Would Jesus Ask? Christian Leaders Reflect on His Questions of Faith" (*Time* Books, 2015), and the author of "Curating a World: Sermonic Words From a Young Woman Who Preaches" (self-published, June 2016).

**DARRYL HOLLOWAN, PH.D.**

On April 2, Darryl Holloman, Ph.D., joined Spelman College as vice president for the Division of Student Affairs.

As vice president for student affairs, Dr. Holloman will be responsible for supporting a student life agenda that promotes the growth and development and academic success of the Spelman student. Dr. Holloman joins Spelman from Georgia State University, where he was associate vice president for student affairs and dean of students.



Prior to Georgia State, he was assistant vice president for student life and an assistant professor at Columbus State University. During his four years at Rutgers University-Newark, he was assistant dean of student affairs for the College of Arts and Sciences and was later promoted to associate dean of students and director of the Paul Robeson Campus Center. He has also served as a full-time faculty member at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock.

An Atlanta native, Dr. Holloman earned three degrees from Georgia State: a doctorate in educational policy studies; a master's degree in human resource development; and a bachelor's degree in English, with a concentration in creative writing.

He has presented more than 80 research papers at conferences, including the Association for the Study of Higher Education and the American Educational Research Association Division F and J. Dr. Holloman's research agenda examines how cultural identities and cultural distinctions shape college experiences. He has authored several articles and book chapters.

**TIFFANY WATSON, PH.D.**

Named associate provost for executive projects and initiatives in October, Tiffany S. Watson, Ph.D., holds a bachelor's degree in exercise science/sports medicine from Norfolk State University, a master's in educational leadership from Old Dominion University, and a doctorate in higher education leadership from Mercer University.



Before Spelman College, Dr. Watson spent 12 years at Georgia Institute of Technology where she served in several leadership positions, including judicial coordinator in the Office of Student Integrity, program coordinator in the Georgia Tech Police Department, and institute policy specialist for the vice president in Legal Affairs and Risk Management.

Dr. Watson's research interest includes the internationalization of higher education, intercultural competence and cross-cultural communication, and higher education policy.

At Spelman College, her responsibilities include working with the provost to develop and advance strategic priorities and special initiatives of the College and the Division of Academic Affairs.

Dr. Watson will assist the College's efforts to "Deliver the Spelman Promise, Elevate the Spelman Difference, Enhance Operational Excellence and Promote Academic Innovation" by conducting needed research, analyzing impediments, and providing additional support for the office of the provost in its work with the academic departments to accomplish those goals.

# LIKE *a* ★ SPELMAN WOMAN

Alumna and Board Chair  
Rosalind 'Roz' Gates Brewer  
Parlays Her Spelman  
Experience Into  
Life and Career Success

BY ADRIENNE S. HARRIS



**R**osalind Gates Brewer, C'84, chair of the Spelman College board of trustees, believes Spelman is an institution for such a time as this. In an era when the rest of the world is waking up to the importance of women's voices, she is proud her College has always been a place where women are encouraged to have their say.

"Spelman is important at this point in time to our culture and our world," said Brewer, who joined the board in 2006 and has been chair since 2012. "It meets an important need for African-American women. You will not be ignored at Spelman.

"You leave Spelman knowing yourself because you see yourself every day," she said. "What we do for our students makes our brand more relevant today than it was when I was there."

Brewer, 55, became chief operating officer and group president for Starbucks Corp. in October 2017 — the first woman and first African-American to hold this post. She is a shining example of *exactly* what Spelman does for its students — a graduate who is using the knowledge, confidence, and adaptability she learned at her alma mater to create a successful life and career.

### **Nurtured by a Caring Community**

Born in Detroit, Brewer is the youngest of five children. She and her siblings are the first generation in their family to attend college. Her parents had hourly assembly line jobs in the auto industry; eventually, her father worked his way into management.

Brewer attended a technical high school and was interested in a career in optometry. Her counselor, a Spelman College alumna, Dr. Geneva Carter, told her about Spelman. From her first days on campus, Brewer enjoyed the combined benefits of a rigorous academic program and a close-knit community.

"Spelman is small enough, intimate enough, and caring enough to wrap its arms around you," she said. "Each relationship is a personal one at Spelman."

Those relationships were decisive when Brewer thought she might have to leave Spelman in her sophomore year. Despite her father working three jobs, her parents could not afford to pay tuition for her and three siblings who were also in college. They told her when she came home for the Christmas break, she should plan to stay and enroll at a less expensive, local college.

Brewer shared her dilemma with the financial aid office and was told about a scholarship for students like

her who were actively involved in community service. She got the scholarship — the essential support she needed to continue her studies. "Spelman understood all of who I was and the issues that affected me as a young, African-American woman," she said.

Brewer's Spelman relationships became especially important again when she was a senior. Six weeks before graduation, her father passed.

"It was a pretty difficult time, but the entire Spelman community rose up to support me," she said. Her professors rescheduled her finals, and the chaplain offered prayers for her and her family.

Brewer, who graduated with a degree in chemistry, understands the importance of giving back. In 2010, she started the Rosalind Gates Brewer Scholarship for first-generation College students. It makes nine awards per year — eight at \$10,000 and one at \$20,000 — to these "purposeful students."

"They're on a mission, and most of them are out there on their own," said Brewer. "They made a deliberate decision to come to Spelman, and I think they should have that opportunity. My goal is to lift that kind of female up."

Lovette Twyman Russell, C'83, a philanthropic consultant who also serves on the Spelman board, notes that Brewer has an even larger goal.

"Roz wants Spelman to be recognized for the institution it already is — one that, unlike any other, produces self-confident women who are ready to go out and change the world," she said. "Even more so, she wants Spelman to be known as an institution that gives every young woman who qualifies the opportunity for a Spelman education.

"Her work on the Spelman board has nothing to do with helping just *any* school," said Russell. "For Roz, it's *my* school that I love and cherish and that I got great things from. So, I want to give back to it as much as I can."

### **From Chemistry Major to C-Suite Exec**

After leaving Spelman in 1984, Brewer joined Kimberly-Clark Corp. as a scientist, and became president of the company's Global Nonwovens Sector in 2004.

In 2006, she went to Walmart Inc. as regional vice president overseeing operations in Georgia. She was promoted to division vice president of the Southeast and later president of Walmart East. In 2012, she was named president and CEO of Sam's Club and became the first woman and first African-American to lead a Walmart division.

Never afraid to speak the truth, Brewer drew criticism from

“At most organizations, I had to carry the diversity flag. Starbucks has a naturally diverse environment. Instead of bringing diversity, I get to amplify it.” — ROZ BREWER

some customers who threatened to boycott Sam’s Club after a December 2015 CNN interview in which she called out the lack of diversity among the company’s suppliers. “I felt totally empowered,” she said. “I didn’t shy away from that issue.”

Today, Brewer leads Starbucks’ operating businesses across the Americas (Canada, the United States and Latin America), as well as the global functions of supply chain, product innovation, and store development organizations. Not only was Brewer in the right *place* at the right time, but she also was the right *person* at the right time for the Starbucks opportunity.

It all started in late 2016 when Brewer stood in for Walmart CEO Doug McMillion, who, at the last minute, couldn’t participate in a panel discussion with Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz. She and Schultz “hit it off.”

A few months later, Brewer took her Sam’s Club team to visit Starbucks in Seattle. What was supposed to be a 10-minute, drop-in meeting between her and Schultz turned into an hourlong conversation. He invited her to join the Starbucks board of directors — an offer she declined, at the time, because her plate was already full.

But, Brewer had been thinking about the next phase of her professional life and decided she would leave Sam’s Club in February 2017. That freed time for her to join the Starbucks board, which she did in March.

Then one day Brewer got a call from Kevin Johnson, who had succeeded Schultz as Starbucks CEO. Johnson appreciated that as a member of the board Brewer had been a trusted strategic counselor to him. He valued her insight, business acumen, and leadership expertise and asked her to join the company as COO. She accepted.

“Starbucks is a fantastic company,” said Brewer, who continues to serve on its board. “I finally found something that matches my skills *and* my voice. At most organizations, I had to carry the diversity flag. Starbucks has a naturally diverse environment. Instead of bringing diversity, I get to amplify it.”

Some would say that with the name Brewer, her job at Starbucks is kismet. A self-described “passionate consumer of the brand,” her favorite drink is Grande Iced Green Tea,

unsweetened — although since joining the company she has developed a taste for Blonde Espresso.

To celebrate her first day on the job, Brewer’s Spelman and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority sisters planned a surprise for her. They rallied people to go to Starbucks stores, order drinks using the name, Roz, and put photos and congrats messages on social media. “When I saw all the posts, all the love and support, I just burst into tears,” she said.

### Her Heart Belongs to Spelman

Brewer’s reputation as a high-impact business strategist — a role she balances with unwavering devotion to her family — has earned her a long list of accolades, including recognition on the *Forbes*, *Fortune*, *Working Mother*, and *Black Enterprise* magazine lists of the most powerful women in business.

“She is a typical genius in that she gets it,” said the Rev. Olu Brown, lead pastor of Impact Church in Atlanta. “But she is also an atypical genius. Her distinction as a leader and a genius is that she gets it *and* can

explain it. Then, she can bring people along until they get it.”

Because she also has a reputation as a people person and generous giver, Brewer receives lots of invitations to work with other organizations, but her heart belongs to Spelman. “I’ve got my girls,” she said. “I see them come in and watch them graduate every year — 500 of them.”

Brewer takes good care of her girls in big ways — such as leading the board to ensure the College delivers on its promise that every Spelman woman will graduate with a competitive edge — and in small ways, too.

During a photo shoot at the Starbucks on campus, Brewer noticed that the process was holding up a long line of students who were trying to get their orders and make it to class on time. She gave the cashier \$200 to pay for their drinks.

“I wanted to make up for the delay,” said Brewer, “plus I wanted them to enjoy a great Starbucks beverage.” ▲

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





# Black Girl Magic

Something special happens once a young woman enters the gates of Spelman College. An indoctrination begins. For some, it begins with “A Day in Your Life: Open House at Spelman.” For others, it happens once they become students. They receive a special brew of nurture, academics and moxie, which creates what some call the “Spelman Kool-Aid,” or the “secret sauce.” One thing is for sure, it is a formula that yields almost magical results for women educated at Spelman.

Look at some of the stats:

- 77 percent graduation rate (six-year average), the highest among historically Black colleges and significantly higher than the national graduation rate for African-American students
- Ranked the No. 1 HBCU for more than a decade and among the top 100 National Liberal Arts Colleges by *U.S. News and World Report*
- Ranked No. 1 by the National Science Foundation of the top 10 baccalaureate-offering institutions in producing Black women doctorate recipients in STEM
- Ranked among the top 10 colleges by *College Magazine* for activists
- Ranked No. 6 by *Essence* magazine among the top 50 colleges and universities in the country for Black students
- Ranked No. 1 by Teach for America for small colleges as the top contributors of alumnae to the teaching corps
- Ranked No. 2 among the top volunteer-producing HBCUs by Peace Corps

Spelman women make a difference in the world. On the next six pages eight alumnae will share how attending Spelman College shaped their womanhood and inspired them to change the world.

# Black Girl Magic

BY KIA SMITH, C'2004

## JAMILA HUNTER, C'96 SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, COMEDY, ABC ENTERTAINMENT

As senior vice president of ABC Comedy, Jamila Hunter, C'96, has played an integral role in bringing laughs into our living rooms. During her time at ABC, Hunter's projects have included the



Emmy-nominated and Peabody Award-winning "black-ish," the cultural phenomenon "Fresh Off the Boat," and the cult favorite "Last Man Standing."

"I've always been around storytelling and entertainment in some form. I was an avid reader who loved stories," shared the Southern California native who grew up watching her mother tell stories as a theater director and producer. Between her natural love for storytelling and recognizing the impact television had on the lives of her and her peers, Hunter knew she wanted to be a part of this industry.

Not only has Hunter told stories, but she has altered the culture. The second executive to join the nascent

alternative department at NBC, her team developed iconic series like "Fear Factor," "The Apprentice," and "Last Comic Standing." As vice president of Development and Production at Bravo, she was responsible for seminal programming like "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" and "Project Runway." Additionally, Hunter was a vital member of the creative team who launched The Oprah Winfrey Network.

Hunter, who entered the world of television as an intern with NBC's Olympic Division, recognizes her self-confidence has been advantageous throughout her career. "Knowing my voice matters, that saying something unique is an asset and not a liability is something that I attribute directly to my Spelman experience," she shared.

As magical as Hunter is, she names her community as the source of that magic. "You can't do this by yourself. You can't go into these rooms, be the only one, and do that on your own," she confessed. "So, Black girl magic to me is not a solitary thing. It's your community; the community of women I can always call on."

## JAUNICE SILLS, C'2008 SENIOR DIRECTOR, CONTENT STRATEGY, E! ENTERTAINMENT

Jaunice Sills, C'2008, did not become the senior director for content strategy at E! Entertainment by accident. All of her career moves have been purposeful and strategic. "People often ask, 'When did you start taking your career seriously?' For me it was my first week at Spelman," shared Sills, who majored in English.

During first-year orientation, the fourth-generation Spelman student attended a Career Planning and Development session where she recalls director Harold Bell saying, "Today is the first day of your career. Every day between now and the next four years, you have to make certain

decisions that are going to set you up for when you leave Spelman. Your parents did not send you to college not to have a job, a fellowship, or a grad school acceptance letter.

"It stuck with me, but it also scared me in a good way. I didn't come here to play. I didn't come to party," the Wilmington, Delaware, native told herself as a first-year student. "I came to set myself up and establish a legacy for myself."

After working six internships in four cities, Sills joined BET Networks where she was instrumental in the launch of "The Game"; championed the debut of Kevin Hart's "Real Husbands of Hollywood"; and helped the network acquire "Scandal," "The Wendy Williams Show," and "The Cosby Show." After leaving BET, she joined REVOLT TV's inaugural team in Los Angeles, developing strategies to schedule and deploy all programming content across linear,



digital and emerging platforms.

Sills is always looking for a way to sprinkle her magic into the world. "That's the thing about Black girl magic; it's always speaking to you," she shared. "It's constant, but it's also ancestral. There are people before me who also had Black girl magic, so I think about them and the path they've been able to carve. I think that keeps me going. Someone's going to get this Black girl magic today."

**KIMBERLY HOGG MASSEY, C' 2008  
MARKETING MANAGER,  
SOUTHEAST REGION, PEPSICO**

When PepsiCo's marketing manager Kimberly Hogg Massey, C'2008, graduated from Spelman College, she planned to build a career in investment banking. But, after a year on Wall Street, Hogg Massey found herself contemplating a new start.



After recalling how much she enjoyed her marketing experiences, Hogg Massey reached out to her Spelman sister and mentor Jerri DeVard, C'79, who shared her industry expertise and helped Hogg Massey prepare for her transition. Before long, she was an analyst at PepsiCo, and for the past eight years has been a part of their brand management and marketing team.

During her time at PepsiCo, she earned many promotions, advancing from analyst to associate brand manager to marketing manager, and she credits her Spelman experience with enabling her to make these transitions.

"Being an economics major at Spelman taught me how to think, to be nimble, to be intuitive, and to always ask questions," explained Hogg Massey, who was named a "Top 40 Under 40 Rising Star" by *Black Enterprise*. "These skills gave me the confidence to go for that role in marketing."

Her secret weapon is Black girl magic, which is synonymous with her supportive community. "Black girl magic is having a place to go and retreat, being able to reach into your arsenal and know that at any time you can get the push you need to keep moving, the reassurance you need to put a situation in perspective, or the check you need to get out of what you're feeling," she said. "Black girl magic is always present, never judging, and it wants to see you go to the next level."

The Spelman community has assisted her in building a personal and professional brand of excellence. "Whatever field you're going into, you are building your brand, your reputation, and your knowledge base," said the mentor to Big Brothers Big Sisters. "Be known as excellent because that's the only choice we have as Black women. Be excellent, but stay humble and give back."

**JERRI DEVARD, C'79  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
& CHIEF CUSTOMER OFFICER,  
OFFICE DEPOT**

Jerri DeVard, C'79, brings over 30 years of experience to her current position as executive vice president and chief customer officer at Office Depot, where she leads e-commerce and customer service functions as well as the marketing and communications departments. Throughout her career, DeVard has worked as a marketing executive with numerous global brands, including ADT, Nokia, Verizon, Citi and Revlon. However, she believes being promoted to director was a pivotal moment in her career.

"I realized that I had the opportunity to lead people, take on more responsibility for the organization and have a greater impact on the direction of the company," said DeVard, who majored in economics at Spelman and received

an MBA from Atlanta University. "That was my first step up the ladder."

DeVard is so successful in her career partly because she follows her two rules for success: 1) love what you do, and 2) be good at it. "Put yourself in situations where you can excel. I don't think you can be good at it if you don't love it, and you're not going to love it if you're not good at it," said the philanthropist who has made three significant gifts to Spelman totaling \$2 million. "I would not be a CFO of an organization because that's just not where my passion is. I'm a chief customer officer who runs marketing and a \$1.5 billion e-commerce business because those are the things I enjoy doing and I'm good at."



While DeVard is aware of her magic, she also recognizes that it's not a substitute for hard work and excellence. "Nobody cares about that when you walk into the office," she said. "You better walk in there, know your stuff, straighten your back, have the confidence to lead an organization and make a difference in the top and bottom line. And you can call it whatever you want, but come prepared. There's no substitute for this."

*Kia Smith, C'2004, is a writer, music fan, culture freak and communications consultant.*

# Black Girl Magic

BY JASMINE ELLIS, C'2015

“As a leader, you have a responsibility to support and develop others behind you. And always remember humility goes a long way in leadership.”

— Kim Davis, C'81

## **KIM DAVIS, C'81** **EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT,** **NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE**

The world of business played an integral part in the childhood of Kim (Browne) Davis, C'81. Davis' grandfather was an accountant in the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression and held several roles in the church. Davis credits her grandfather as her first mentor and leadership example.



“I was very interested in math and business,” said Davis, who majored in economics at Spelman. “As a little kid, even when I didn't know what that meant, people would always say, ‘What do you want to do?’ I would say, ‘I want to be in business.’”

Davis' determination and hard-work ethic paved the way to her success, while working for three major institutions – JPMorgan Chase & Co., Teneo Holdings, and now as the executive vice president for the NHL – because of her adaptive “comfort with change.”

“Over my 35-plus years in corporate life, I've distinguished myself as a change agent, an innovator – someone who ‘disrupts’ in a positive/constructive manner,” said Davis. “I think most people would say I've left the organizations different than I found them.”

While at Spelman, Lois B. Moreland, Ph.D., professor emerita of political science, made a lasting impact on Davis through her public speaking class. Being comfortable with speaking in public continues to serve as an asset for Davis in her career.

“That class made such a difference in my understanding the importance of how you present yourself and the importance of public speaking in the world of work,” she said. “I am grateful to her.”

Davis said her Spelman education emphasized the importance of being a continuous learner. Also, she shared she's indebted to Spelman for the opportunity to interact with many instructors who looked like her.

“To be in a place where everyone – the professors, administrators, and the institution broadly – was committed to not only your academic success, but what I call your ‘psycho-social’ success, meaning they were invested in you, nurtured your mind and soul – the whole person.”

It goes without question Davis would choose Spelman all over again. She shared that people outside of the College are often in awe of the unique bond and sisterhood that comes from the Spelman experience.

“I can't imagine any other place that could have prepared me for the life I've had from a career point of view as a leader, a mother, a ‘sister-friend’ to bring my authentic self to all that I do,” said Davis, a Spelman trustee from 2008 to 2012.

For those interested in following in Davis' footsteps, she shared this advice on leadership.

“As a leader, you have a responsibility to support and develop others behind you,” she said. “And always remember humility goes a long way in leadership. Showing your vulnerability is actually the ultimate demonstration of strength and building trust.”

**NZINGA SHAW, C'2001**  
**SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF**  
**COMMUNITY, CHIEF DIVERSITY**  
**AND INCLUSION OFFICER,**  
**ATLANTA HAWKS**

Nzinga Shaw, C'2001, made history as the first chief diversity and inclusion officer in the NBA — an accomplishment she is exceptionally proud of and believes is a catalyst for change in the world of sports. Her glowing career accomplishments include working for organizations such as the Yankees, the NFL and Edelman.



Shaw worked for the Yankees as a manager in human resources before going to work for the NFL. She became one of the founding members of the diversity council for the NFL. While working on the council, she made sure the company was attracting people of color and that women were able to advance in the company. She spent three years with the NFL. Next, Shaw served as the senior vice president for Diversity and Inclusion for Edelman, a position she held for under five years in Atlanta before going to the Atlanta Hawks and securing her current role. Shaw's been working for the Hawks for a little over three years.

"I think the position I've taken on over three years is signaling to the sports community we can no longer operate a homogeneous business environment,"

said Shaw, who operates within a team of five people responsible for diversity and inclusion and responsibility. "Homogeneous environments are so fragile and not going to survive in the future. I've been blessed that I was given a golden key to unlock opportunities for people of color and women across the entire sports industry."

The Spelman College English major did not necessarily consider having a career in diversity and inclusion. Instead, she wanted to be a writer and land a job at *Essence* magazine. Well, she did land at *Essence*; however, it was in human resources. Shaw spent three years working for *Essence*. Although this was a deviation from her plans, Shaw still views herself as a writer and continues developing her writing with op-eds and blog posts. More importantly, it opened her mind to a new career path in human resources and helped her understand how Spelman had prepared her to achieve this success.

"Spelman helped me understand diversity very differently than the world perceived it. A lot of people think diversity and inclusion were talking about race relations and Black and White," said Shaw. "What I learned was that all of the women at Spelman brought so much diversity to the table in our courses. While we looked the same from an external perspective, we actually had a lot of dimensional experiences we brought through life."

At Spelman, Shaw said she encountered thought-leader women — Cynthia Neal Spence, Ph.D., Beverly Guy-Sheftall, Ph.D., and Tarshia Stanley, Ph.D. — movers and shakers who changed the narrative for the way Black women approach academics.

"It would be a lot easier to live a comfortable life and do academic work at a majority institution where you just focus on the content of the coursework versus going outside of that to fight for

marginalized people," said Shaw, who received her master's degree in communication and media studies from the University of Pennsylvania and also studied abroad at Oxford University in England. "They have taken a path on the road less traveled, and they're making a difference."

Shaw believes the support system and relationships she built at Spelman could not be duplicated anywhere else. She was accepted to the University of Kentucky and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill but chose Spelman.

"When I came to Spelman College, my mom had just passed away," said Shaw, who also hopes her daughter will one day attend Spelman. "When I stepped on campus, those women, those professors, were almost like maternal figures. They stepped into my life in a way that I would not have had at a big Ivy League school."

She reflected that her own academic and social experiences at Spelman gave her a competitive edge.

"When you are about to go into the corporate world, chances are you will be in the minority in race and gender. You have to be strong," said Shaw. "I think when you're surrounded by people who look like you and have been through the things you have been through and embody the challenges you have faced in life, I think it makes it a lot easier to develop self-esteem."

When thinking about her future career, Shaw plans on staying in the moment.

"It would be very hard for me to have a guesstimate of what will end up happening in my life. I hope to be successful at whatever I am doing," she said. "I hope to champion the cause of elevating conversations so that marginalized people and demographics can start to have a voice that matters, a voice that counts."



“I learned from Dr. Cole how to stand up against stereotypes. There were a great number of people who questioned whether Dr. Cole was ready to lead. I watched her navigate the leadership of Spelman to new heights.”

— Rep. Stacey Abrams, C’95

**STACEY ABRAMS, C’95  
CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR,  
FORMER HOUSE MINORITY  
LEADER FOR THE GEORGIA  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND  
FORMER STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
FOR THE 89TH HOUSE DISTRICT**

Former House Minority Leader for the Georgia State Assembly, Stacey Abrams, C’95, has set her sights on making history as the first African-American woman governor in the United States.



The former state representative for the 89th House District was inspired to become a politician after witnessing how government leaders handle issues like poverty.

“Growing up in a working-poor family made me realize how important it is to have political leaders who understand the needs of every community,” said Abrams, one of six children who grew up with her parents in Gulfport, Mississippi. “I tell people I find poverty to be immoral and economically inefficient, and I realized I needed to be involved in politics to tackle this issue.”

When Rep. Abrams saw that 800,000 people of color in Georgia were not registered to vote, she created The New

Georgia Project to increase voter registration and get people involved politically within the state. She views this as “the pinnacle” of her accomplishments in the civic sector.

“I led an organization that submitted 200,000 voter registration applications from people of color and helped fight against voter suppression,” said Rep. Abrams. “As the daughter of civil rights activists, it means a lot to me to be part of a legacy of service, particularly when it comes to protecting people’s rights to vote.”

While at Spelman, Johnnetta B. Cole, Ph.D., the College’s seventh president and first Black woman to lead the institution, supported Rep. Abrams’ political endeavors.

“I learned from Dr. Cole how to stand up against stereotypes,” said Rep. Abrams, who also is a romance novelist, tax attorney and entrepreneur. “There were a great number of people who questioned whether Dr. Cole was ready to lead. I watched her navigate the leadership of Spelman to new heights.”

Being at Spelman gave Rep. Abrams experiences she did not have growing up as one of the few African-American students in her classes in Georgia and Mississippi. The politician credits Spelman for giving her the space to learn more about herself as a Black woman in a historically Black setting, and find new passions while at a liberal arts institution.

“Spelman allowed me to explore all the facets of my mind, all of the interests I had,” said Rep. Abrams. “Because of that, I have been able to build a successful career as an entrepreneur, as an attorney, as a writer, and now as a politician who stands to potentially be the next governor of Georgia.”

**MIRIAM ARCHIBONG, C'2009**  
**ASSOCIATE AT TROUTMAN**  
**SANDERS, LLP AND FORMER**  
**LAW CLERK TO A UNITED STATES**  
**DISTRICT JUDGE**

From birth, Miriam Archibong, C'2009, was destined to serve. Her maternal grandfather, Nathaniel Mosby, a Morehouse College alumnus, was the second African-American Dekalb County Commissioner. Her paternal grandfather was one of the first land



surveyors for the Nigerian government. Archibong's mother, Natalyn Mosby Archibong, since 2001, serves on the Atlanta City Council; and her uncle, Howard Mosby, serves in the Georgia Legislature. Her maternal grandmother, Gwendolyn Mizell Mosby, C'51, was an Atlanta Public Schools' teacher.

Archibong began her leadership role in high school. Underwhelmed with lunch choices for vegetarians, she, along with other students, petitioned for more vegetarian options. Lobbying before the school principal and then the Atlanta Board of Education, Archibong successfully lobbied for the first government-funded vegetarian lunch line in a U.S. public school.

Once at Spelman, the political science major hit the ground running, first by becoming freshman, then sophomore class president. By Archibong's senior year, she was elected Student Government Association president. It was a surprise because fear almost kept her from running. In the end, she won the election by a landslide.

Outside of Spelman, Archibong worked in the political arena by intern-

**“I think when you come out of a space where you are loved, supported and uplifted, you naturally feel empowered to go into the real world ready for whatever challenges you face.”**

— Miriam Archibong, C'2009

ing for President Barack Obama's administration, not once but twice. She also managed her mother's successful re-election bid in 2017. However, it was her time as a Spelman student that provided a strong foundation for her personal and professional development. In a political science class taught by Marilyn Davis, Ph.D., Archibong learned the importance of being prepared.

“Dr. Davis reminded me a lot of my grandmother. Dr. Davis was very dignified and had high expectations for all of her students,” said Archibong. “She stressed the significance of being

a Spelmanite, and that we would one day become trailblazers. I have a deep admiration for Dr. Davis.”

For Archibong, becoming a lawyer happened naturally. Watching her mother open a law practice in a union building helped Archibong discover her calling. This revelation heightened while she was in Singapore as a recipient of a Fulbright research fellowship award.

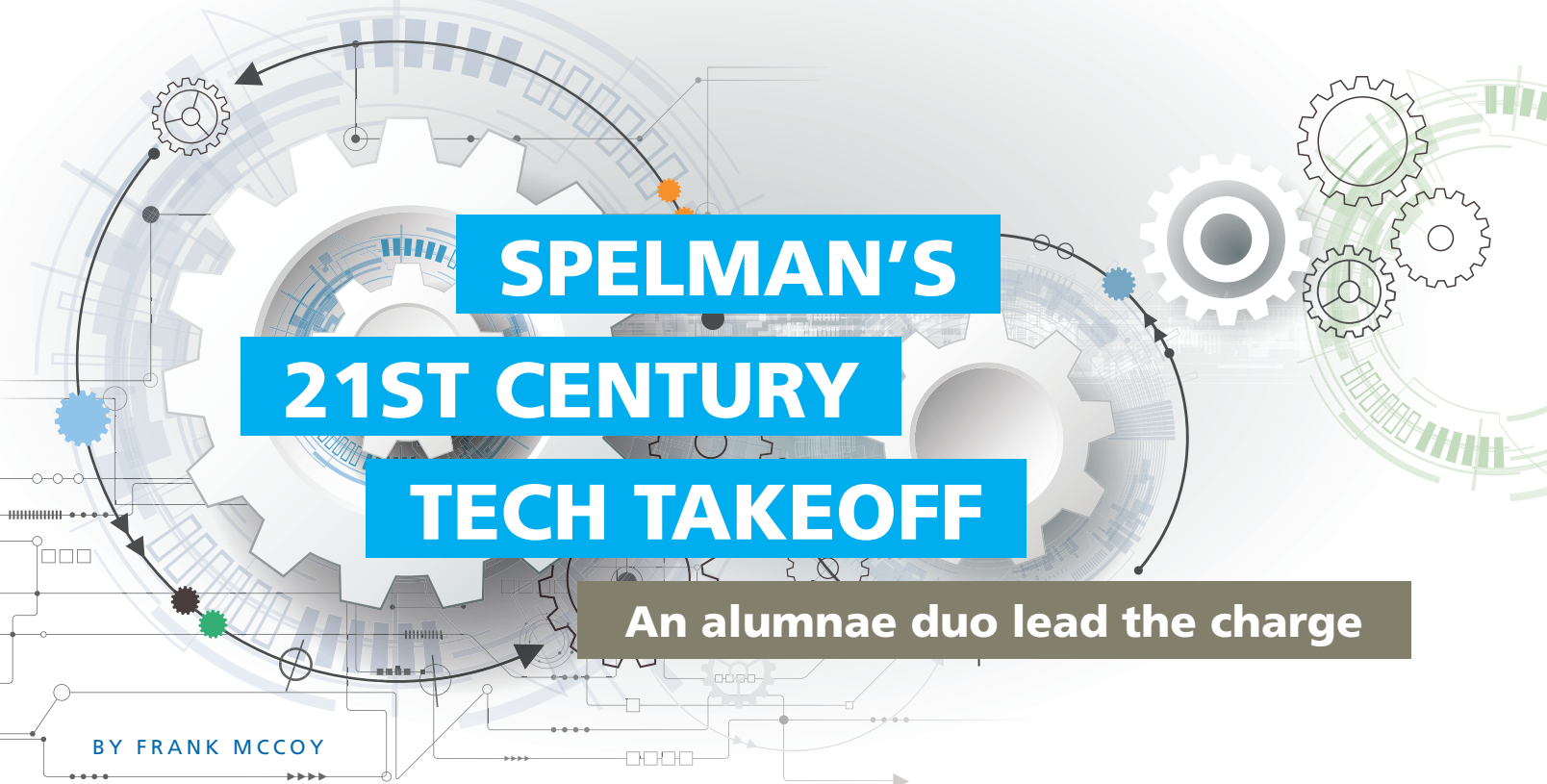
Archibong now works as an energy lawyer at Troutman Sanders LLP and was a former law clerk to U.S. District Judge Raymond A. Jackson in Virginia. She was also a Teach for America Corps member in Atlanta Public Schools.

Reflecting on her own experience at a historically Black college and university and liberal arts institution, Archibong believes HBCUs play an essential role in African-American students' lives.

“I think when you come out of a space where you are loved, supported and uplifted, you naturally feel empowered to go into the real world ready for whatever challenges you face,” said Archibong, who holds a master's degree in education policy and management from Harvard University, and a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania. “As an African-American female, we are often told that we cannot. At Spelman College, we are celebrated, and we leave there knowing we can.”

Right now, Archibong's mind and heart are focused on law; however, given her experience with politics, she does not rule it out. ▲

*Jasmine Ellis, C'2015, is a 2016 Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University graduate who is passionate about covering political and social justice issues.*



# SPELMAN'S 21ST CENTURY TECH TAKEOFF

An alumnae duo lead the charge

BY FRANK MCCOY

Since 1881, Spelman women have been leaders in disruptive innovation. By dint of grit, nerve, and brilliance they have burst through societal and patriarchal walls to achieve leadership in most industry sectors and created a global network of sisterhood.

To maintain this dynamism, two Spelman board of trustee members and summa cum laude alumnae, Celeste Watkins-Hayes, C'96, and Gena Ashe, C'83, are enlisting 50 sister alumnae to assist funding the College's timely information technology overhaul.

Part of the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan: Delivering the Spelman Promise, Elevating the Spelman Difference, Enhancing Operational Excellence and Promoting Academic Innovation, the Spelman Technology and Innovation Initiative revamp will include data-driven decision-making; security best practices; learning via mobile tech; and using IT to leverage recruitment, which hits all of EdTechmagazine.com's 2018 EdTech trends list.

"It is impossible to be a cutting-edge institution, with attendant success accelerators and connections, without world-class technology to drive it," said Ashe, a techie with a master's in electrical engineering from Georgia Tech.

## WHAT 50 ALUMNAE CAN RAISE

In 2009, Watkins-Hayes led Spelman's 10@10 campaign that solicited 10 alumnae to donate \$10,000. Ultimately, the campaign raised almost \$400,000 for the Women's Research and Resource Center matched by the Ford Foundation.

"Alumnae realized that their ability to make five-figure Spelman gifts had an impact that was galvanizing and had an almost magical impact on campus," said Watkins-Hayes, vice president for research and associate professor of sociology and African-American studies at Northwestern University, and vice chair for the Spelman board of trustees, about the 2009 campaign.

That success is the catalyst for a 25@25 challenge. It tasks alumnae to give more than double the 10@10 amount, and thereby inspire other Spelman alumnae to also give back. Ashe and Watkins-Hayes have each committed to identifying 25 alumnae who will each make a \$25,000 contribution to STII.

The total alumnae contribution by the group, including \$25,000 donations by Watkins-Hayes and Ashe, is \$1.3 million. These donations each can be made as a single payment or in the form of a multiyear pledge of up to five years.

The campuswide IT upgrade is slated to cost over \$3 million. During the first two-years, \$838,000 will be subsidized, in part by a grant under the federal Title III program. The sources for the remainder are yet to be identified.

"All 25@25 donors will become part of a Spelman special circle of benefactors who will receive recognition and access to select events at the College throughout the year," said Ashe, who is a board of directors' member of two publicly traded companies, XPO Logistics and XPO Europe, and was senior vice president and chief legal officer of Adtalem Global Education.



“All 25@25 donors will become part of a Spelman special circle of benefactors who will receive recognition and access to select events at the College throughout the year.”

— GENA ASHE, C'83

### SPELMAN'S TECH MAKEOVER

Mario Berry has been busy since joining Spelman in 2017 as vice president and chief information officer for Spelman Technology Services. He has analyzed the IT infrastructure and business processes; consulted with contracted education specialists from the global professional service firm Deloitte, and Ellucian, a higher education tech solutions firm, and begun the revitalization and super-charging of the College's IT infrastructure and business processes.

While there were purchases of wireless access points in 2013-14, this is the first major IT undertaking for Spelman.

“There has not been a renovation of this magnitude before,” said Berry, who joined Spelman with 16 years of IT experience, including 13 in higher education. “Our environment is outdated, and we have challenges in processing our day-to-day operations and maximizing our capabilities and capacity to enable innovation and research.”

He said current, and prospective, students will be delighted by an IT modernization process that will impact them in areas ranging from registration to curriculum to campus activities.

The upgrade will provide Spelman with its first campuswide digital metrics on academic, administrative, research, and other types of performance.

“Everything we are doing is in direct support of our strategic plan and specifically geared to delivering on the Spelman promise and enhancing our opportunity for excellence,” said Berry.



Gena Ashe, C'83



Celeste Watkins-Hayes, C'96

#### Spelman moves include:

- In January, started a three-year process analysis project to redesign business practices and workflow, and re-engineer a more streamlined and automated system.
- By June 2018, placing all administrative resource planning and student information in the cloud.
- Physically and logically connecting the campus IT network, server, security and storage systems.

“Currently student-teacher online interaction is not what it could be. It is a one-way system,” said Moneka Young, C'2018, economics major.

Also, the Flint, Michigan, native said in the past, class registration could shut down without warning. An IT revamp will fix that, and provide students with enhanced nonacademic connections that will galvanize their professional opportunities.

“Plus, future students will graduate adept at IT tools that will provide valuable use in the workplace,” said Young, who is currently interviewing with GEICO and Booking.com for positions in data analytics.

The final clarion fundraising call for the Spelman IT upgrade comes from Watkins-Hayes and Ashe.

They said that for Spelman to continue as the premier institution of higher learning for women of African descent, its “faculty, administration, staff, and students must have tools to increase their competitive advantage and maximize impact on society.”

A new IT system keeps Spelman women innovating disruptively. ▲

Frank McCoy is executive producer of *STEMRules.com*.

# A Champion FOR Change

Na'Taki Osborne Jelks, Ph.D., C'95,  
Answers Call to Help Communities of Color

BY ALICIA SANDS LURRY

Na'Taki Osborne Jelks, Ph.D., C'95, knows that she is blessed to be a blessing to others.

While sitting in the West Atlanta Watershed Alliance – the nonprofit organization she co-founded nearly 20 years ago in Southwest Atlanta – Dr. Jelks quietly contemplates the vast impact that her career and advocacy work has had on the African-American communities she serves.

A nationally recognized environmentalist, activist, educator and urban ecologist, Dr. Jelks is passionate about communities of color having access to clean water, clean air, and healthy foods grown in clean soil. This passion fuels her desire to make a difference in communities and the world around her.



*Na'Taki Osborne Jelks at  
Proctor Creek Grove Park*

“I feel blessed, and I’m just grateful to be used,” said the soft-spoken Dr. Jelks, a lecturer for environmental health and sciences at Spelman and a visiting professor of public health at Agnes Scott College. “This is a calling, and I am thankful God can use me to help my community and to help others. Even as a Spelman student, I felt that working with communities was where I wanted to make my impact.”

Dr. Jelks has devoted her career to doing just that. Last fall, she received the 2017 Spelman College Local Community Service Award for her work in environmental justice and advocacy to improve the quality of life for people living in West Atlanta communities.

Widely known for her advocacy work with WAWA and other local and national organizations, Dr. Jelks began her pursuit of environmental justice issues at the age of 19, shortly after her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. At the time, her family lived in a section of Louisiana known as Cancer Alley, which was home to more than 150 petrochemical plants and a vast number of cancer cases.

It didn’t take long for her to connect the dots.

“That’s when things began to connect for me, and I realized that the quality of our environment could have an impact on our health,” said Dr. Jelks, whose mother is a breast cancer survivor. “When I learned there were so many other communities like that one, I knew there was potential for me to use my scientific training to make a difference.”

Dr. Jelks continues to work tirelessly to give voice and vision to residents’ concerns about discriminatory practices and environmental hazards in their Southwest and Northwest Atlanta communities. Collaborating with community residents and city leaders, Dr. Jelks and WAWA have championed several environmental

issues, including the closure of a sewer facility in the Proctor Creek watershed and establishing community citizen science programs.

Her work with the National Wildlife Federation has garnered her just as much national recognition. During her 20-year tenure, she worked with communities to address environmental issues, developed education programs in communities and schools, and implemented K-12 STEM education initiatives.

“I loved that work, especially with

**“EVEN AS A SPELMAN STUDENT, I FELT THAT WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES WAS WHERE I WANTED TO MAKE MY IMPACT.”**

— NA’TAKI JELKS

getting young people engaged,” said Dr. Jelks, whose work with NWF led to her being named a White House Champion of Change in 2014 for her conservation efforts. “A number of students graduated from the program, came back, worked as peer mentors, and pursued environmental careers. That was meaningful work to impact the next generation.”

Just as Dr. Jelks has influenced future environmentalists, she, too, was inspired by individuals who profoundly impacted her life and career. As a student, Dr. Jelks credits Cornelia Gillyard, Ph.D., chemistry professor emerita, and Victor Ibeanusi, Ph.D., founding chair of the Spelman College Environmental Science and Studies Program and former Spelman

professor, for their support and the foundation she needed to be successful.

“Dr. Ibeanusi helped me develop a strong environmental research background and was instrumental in helping me earn an undergraduate fellowship and internship with the Environmental Protection Agency,” said Dr. Jelks, whose parents are both professors at Mississippi Valley State University. “As for my chemistry professor Dr. Gillyard, she was my inspiration to excel. She was a powerful example of an African-American female scholar, professor and researcher. She was definitely a role model.”

According to Dr. Jelks, her Spelman professors’ influence proved priceless.

“They embraced my choice to advocate for environmental justice,” said Dr. Jelks, who considers her work as science in service of social good. “Even though their paths may have been more linear, my professors embraced the fact that research can be disciplinary, have social benefits, as well as answer scientific questions. I received the encouragement to do whatever it was I could to make a difference.” That’s how Spelman had an indelible mark on my life, growth and development, and on the choice I made to make a difference. I learned that it is our duty and responsibility to speak up, to stand for social justice. To me, it’s about making that change.”

She remains committed to making the environment a better place.

“I’m very passionate about making sure that communities are healthy and that the environment is not impaired to the degree that it impacts people’s health and quality of life in a negative way,” she said. ▲

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

# ART

at

# History's Crossroads

Spelman faculty member spotlights both

BY FRANK MCCOY



**C**harmaine Minniefield connects past, present, and future Black achievement.

The Jan. 5 launch of her instructive mural — created by Minniefield to hail the life of Adrienne McNeil Herndon — on the Westside Trail of the Atlanta Beltline was both timely and a longtime coming.

Herndon, an Atlanta University alumna and the school's first woman of color faculty member, was a theatrical performer, director, an architect and W.E.B. du Bois colleague, and made Atlanta "a regional center for dramatic arts."

Minniefield, whose artwork explores African and African-American ritual from a feminist perspective, was commissioned by Spelman College, DoSomething.org, and Hands On Atlanta to create a topical mural.

"The Westside Mural Project is an initiative that is spearheaded by my community partner and fiscal sponsor, Culture Centers International, whose mission is to collect the history of African-American businesses, educate the community through the arts, and sustain the legacy of the African Diaspora

through historic preservation," said Minniefield, a Spelman College lecturer. "The Adrienne Herndon mural is the first in a series of public murals planned for the Westside. [Through the project], I will engage Spelman students in murals on the Westside just right outside their campus borders."

The artist, part of the Spelman Art & Visual Culture faculty, said her "My New Freedom Project," uses art to affect change in dynamic communities by preserving Black narratives, both historical and contemporary.

"Herndon's mural reminds us of the important history of its historic Westside homes within the changing landscape which is being affected by redevelopment and a project like the BeltLine," said Minniefield, who has worked for the National Black Arts Festival, the High Museum of Art, and the Fulton County Department of Arts and Culture. "We must remember history inspired by our cultural past's intersections to make meaningful future connections rather than participating in systems of erasure. This is my radical act of social justice in the face of progress. My remembrance is my resistance."

Kupenda Auset, aka Joette Harland Crosby, C'89, cultural historian and Atlanta publicist, met Minniefield while working for Atlanta's National Black Arts Festival almost 20 years ago. In planning the mural, Minniefield was inspired by Auset's research and scholarly work around the history of Adrienne Herndon and her dedication to preserve and tell her story.

"The mural links the history of Black women, AU and Atlanta," said Auset, who received her advanced degree from Clark Atlanta University in Africana women's studies. "Its bold colors command one to see a very important African-American woman who lived at the turn of the century. It makes visible what was invisible."

The mural's "finalized design" was inspired by and expands

**THE MURAL'S "FINALIZED DESIGN" WAS INSPIRED BY AND EXPANDS ON GLOBAL SOCIAL CHANGE GROUP DOSOMETHING.ORG'S NATIONAL CAMPAIGN: MISSING IN HISTORY.**

on global social change group DoSomething.org's national campaign: Missing in History. The group's members replace incidents of misrepresentation and erasure by inserting handmade bookmarks, depicting historical facts and untraditional individuals, into textbooks.

The 40-by-100-foot bright mural displays the "missing history" of Adrienne McNeil Herndon and includes Atlanta and other DoSomething.org's young members' quotes. With over 5.6 million members involved in community service, DoSomething.org finds ways to mobilize young people in every U.S. area code and in 131 countries.

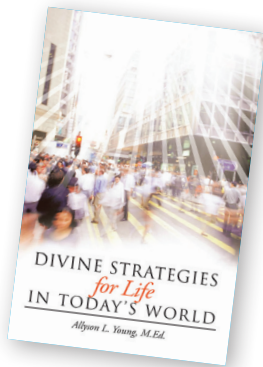
Minniefield's other Atlanta murals include "Watch Me Learn," a collaboration with activist and documentary photographer Doris Derby, Ph.D. It is a wall designed in the King Historic District on Edgewood Avenue.

"For this project, I use public art to push back against erasure as a contemporary social justice issue by celebrating the Civil Rights history of the changing area," said Minniefield, who also was inspired to do the Herndon mural by Karcheik Sims-Alvarado, Ph.D., a Herndon scholar with the Herndon Home Museum and author of "Atlanta and the Civil Rights Movement."

What's next? The Adrienne Herndon mural is the first in a series of public murals on the Westside. Minniefield plans to continue to engage Spelman students. ▲

# book NOTES

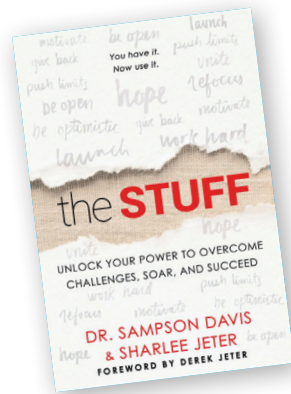
Compiled by Lorraine Robertson



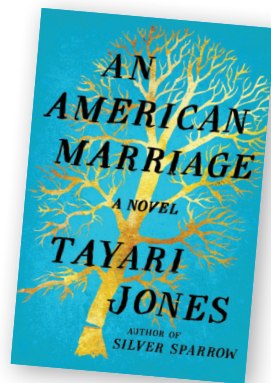
Allyson Young, C'86, published *Divine Strategies For Life In Today's World* (CrossBooks) in May 2014. The book connects complex life issues with fresh perspectives from the Word of God. Each life scenario presented in this devotional includes personal prayers and targeted scriptures to defeat the enemy on the battlefield of the mind, and provides specific tactics for survival in this present day. *Divine Strategies for Life In Today's World* will inspire believers to discover the high place in God that enables them to smile in the face of adversity, try again after disappointment, and give to others in times of their own lack, knowing God's grace is truly sufficient.



In March 2017, P.K. Wayne, C'2006, published two children's books, *A Bad Hair Day* and *Booger Bites: A Nose Picker's battle with an Icky, Sticky Habit* (The Write Aide). Both books feature rich, vivid illustrations by Eternal Blackness. *A Bad Hair Day* takes a journey through a bad hair day that may just end up being the best hair day ever; while *Booger Bites* invites you to tag along with an avid booger eater as he tries to kick the icky, sticky habit of booger eating. This is a story sure to delight even your pickiest of readers.

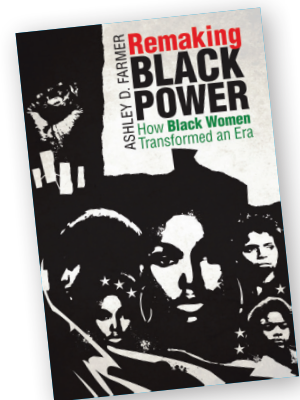


Sharlee Katrina-Marie Jeter, C'2001, co-authored the self-help book, *The Stuff: Unlock Your Power to Overcome Challenges, Soar, and Succeed* (Jeter Publishing) with New York Times bestselling author Dr. Sampson Davis. Released in May 2018, *The Stuff* highlights eleven core concepts that will help readers not only survive but thrive despite life's complexities, hurts and disappointments. The book features men and women who have "the Stuff" – athletes, entrepreneurs, parents and others – and whose stories will inspire readers to realize that no matter how difficult their lives may be, they can employ core practices found in the book to find hope, happiness and fulfillment.

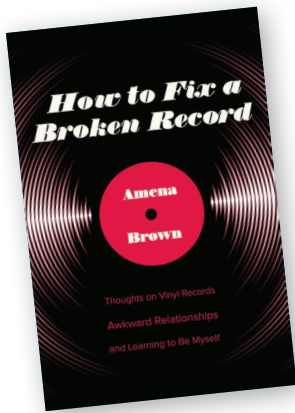


Tayari Jones, C'91, released her latest novel, *An American Marriage* (Algonquin Books) in February 2018. Selected for the coveted Oprah's Book Club, this thought-provoking book tackles some of today's toughest issues including race, loyalty, resilience, love and injustice. Celestial and Roy, a recently married African-American couple living the dream of the New South that Atlanta offers, seem to have it all. He is an ambitious executive on the rise, she is an artist on the verge of a promising career. But, their lives are turned upside down

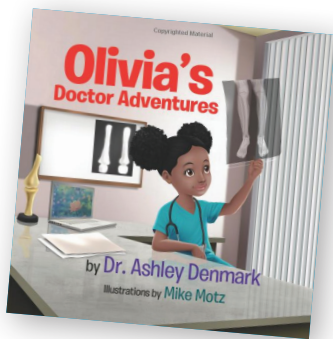
when Roy is arrested for a crime he did not commit and sentenced to 12 years in prison. While he was incarcerated, Celestial, blindsided and unmoored, takes comfort in the company of Andre, a childhood friend and Roy's best man at their wedding. When Roy is released, the future prospects of the couple's life together have been compromised, perhaps irreparably. Jones also released the highly anticipated anthology, *Atlanta Noir* (Akashic Books), which she edited and contributed the piece "Caramel" in October 2017. The book is a compilation of several stories revealing many sides of Atlanta only known to its residents.



In November 2017, Ashley Farmer, C'2005, released *Remaking Black Power: How Black Women Transformed an Era* (University of North Carolina Press). In this comprehensive history, Farmer examines Black women's political, social, and cultural engagement with Black Power ideals and organizations. Complicating the assumption that sexism relegated Black women to the margins of the movement, she demonstrates how female activists fought for more inclusive understandings of Black Power and social justice by developing new ideas about Black womanhood. This book shows how the new tropes of womanhood that they created – the "Militant Black Domestic," the "Revolutionary Black Woman" and the "Third World Woman," for instance – spurred debate among activists over the importance of women and gender to Black Power organizing, causing many of the era's organizations and leaders to critique patriarchy and support gender equality.

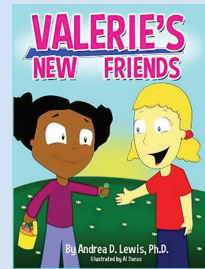


Amena Brown, C'2002, published, *How to Fix a Broken Record: Thoughts on Vinyl Records, Awkward Relationships, and Learning to Be Myself*, (Zondervan) in November 2017. This spoken word poet's broken records played messages about how she wasn't worthy to be loved. *How to Fix a Broken Record* chronicles her journey of healing as she allows the music of God's love to replace the scratchy taunts of her past. From bad dates to marriage lessons at Waffle House, from learning to love her hair to learning to love an unexpected season of life, from discovering the power of saying no and the freedom to say yes, Brown offers keep-it-real stories the soul can relate to.

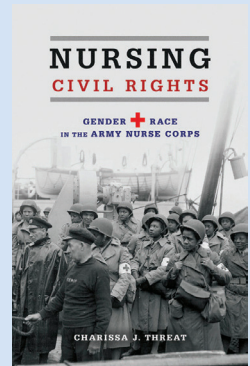


Ashley Denmark, C'2007, published her first children's book, *Olivia's Doctor Adventures* (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform) in February 2018. The book, illustrated by Mike Motz, allows children to explore the world of medicine by learning about different types of doctors through the eyes of a child. Take a journey with Olivia as she dives in and learns about surgeons, pediatricians, cardiologists, and so much more! This is a great STEM book for children of all ages, and will plant the seeds of possibility in their minds that they, too, can become doctors. ▲

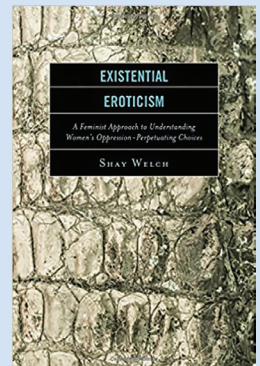
Andrea D. Lewis, Ph.D., assistant professor and chair of education, published the children's book, *Valerie's New Friends* (RATHSI Publishing, LLC) in December 2016. The book invites you to travel with Valerie as she meets new friends in her new neighborhood with different backgrounds. Can they be friends?



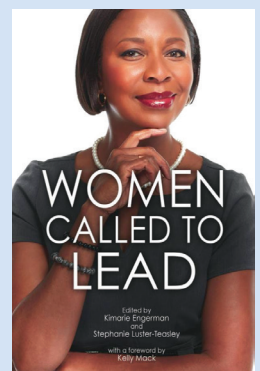
Charissa Threat, Ph.D., assistant professor of history, published her first book, *Nursing Civil Rights: Gender and Race in the Army Nurse Corps* (University of Illinois Press, 2015). In the book, Threat investigates civil rights within the context of the Army Nurse Corps, focusing on the campaigns of both Black women and White men to gain access to the corps. It's the winner of the 2017 Lavinia L. Dock Book Award from the American Association for the History of Nursing.



Shay Welch, assistant professor of philosophy, published the book, *Existential Eroticism: A Feminist Approach to Understanding Women's Oppression-Perpetuating Choices* (Lexington Books) in July 2017. The book offers a unique lens aimed at the underbelly of the lady through which feminists can reorient discourses on rationality and moral responsibility related to women's oppression-perpetuating choices. The book aims not only to construct an analysis of self-perpetuated oppression that will broaden feminist understandings of experiences that motivate many women to choose as they do, it serves as a means of understanding the marginalized.



Leyte Winfield, Ph.D., associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry, contributed a chapter in the book *Women Called to Lead: Empowering Women of Color in Academic Leadership* (Engerman K., Luster-Teasley S. Eds.; Fielding University Press) 2017. This book is a unique collection of individual stories by women who describe their challenges in achieving academic leadership positions.



Rachel Chung, associate professor of music, released the CD "My Cherished Garden: Piano Works by American Women Composers" (Studio Jeeb: 191924354932) Nov. 1, 2017.



Lorraine Robertson is an Atlanta-based freelance writer.



## alumnae NOTES



Mary Piernas photographed on the left.

### 1939

#### Mary Piernas

**Personal:** Celebrated her 100th birthday Sept. 4, 2017, with a huge party, including balloons, cake and live entertainment.

### 1975

#### Brenda C. Siler

**Professional:** Named an International Association of Business Communicators 2017 fellow. The organization's highest honor is awarded to communication professionals for exceptional leadership and service to IABC. Siler is a communications/marketing/branding professional who has worked with national associations and nonprofits including AARP, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, the Council on Competitiveness, the American Red Cross, United Way,

and UNCF-the United Negro College Fund. Currently she writes for the Washington Informer, the oldest Black-owned newspaper in the Washington, D.C., area.

### 1962

#### Maggie Patricianne Hurd

**Personal:** The Ivy & Roses Community Fund Inc., the Foundation of Pi Alpha Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., has renamed the IRCF scholarship to the Maggie Patricianne Hurd Scholarship.

### 1976

#### Carolyn Evans-Shabazz

**Professional:** Re-elected to her position as Houston Community College board of trustees member. She represents District 4, which stretches from the Texas Medical Center to parts of Sunnyside, Third Ward, Sharpstown, and Chinatown up to Boone Road.

### 1979

#### Keva Wright Berry

**Professional:** Accepted a new position as senior finance business partner at the University of Southern Maine in August 2017.

### 1981

#### Omelika Kuumba

**Professional:** Co-founder of Giwayen Mata celebrated the ensemble's 25th anniversary in 2018.

### 1993

#### Jean Harvey

**Birth:** Son, Charles Lawrence Johnson, born Dec. 12, 2017.

### 1994

#### Kanya Cornish

**Education:** Earned doctor of education degree in educational leadership, administration, and policy from the University of Georgia.

### 1995

#### Eumeko Kawana Fuller-Barrow

**Education:** Received her doctorate in business administration, industrial organizational psychology, Aug. 29, 2017, from Northcentral University.

### 1996

#### Adrienne Edwards

**Professional:** In February, the Whitney Museum in New York appointed Edwards as its Engell Speyer Family Curator and Curator of Performance. Well-known for her work with Performa, where she has helped curate performance commissions since 2010, Edwards has organized various thematic presentations, and she has helped engineer partnerships with New York institutions such as the Anthology Film Archives, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Museum of Modern Art.



# alumnae NOTES

## 1998

**Racheal Denise Johnson**

**Professional:** Elected judge, Orleans Parish Civil District Court May 29, 2017.

## 1999

**Melanie Bennett-Sims**

**Personal:** Received the YMCA of Metro Atlanta's 2018 Volunteer of the Year award for her exceptional service at the Wade Walker Park Family YMCA.

## 2002

**Maya Cody**

**Professional:** Accepted new position at Emory University as the events manager for campus and community relations in May 2017.

**Maiya N. Hollie**

**Professional:** Had her opening night at Jubilee Theatre in Texas for the play "Dueling Divas," which she wrote and co-directed.

**Maranda C. Ward**

**Professional:** Accepted a visiting assistant professor position at the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences. She was also elected to serve as the District 3 member of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission 7B Washington D.C., in 2017.

## 2003

**Monique Anthony**

**Professional:** Named director of the Office of Minority Health and Disparities Elimination at the Tennessee Department of Health in March 2018. Anthony served as interim director of the TDH Office of Minority Health and Disparities Elimination since July 2017.

**Asha Daniels-Harris**

**Professional:** Started a new role as executive director of global product marketing at Aveda in January of 2018.

**Lynnette D. Espy-Williams**

**Professional:** Appointed chief diversity officer of Cozen O'Connor in February 2018. Espy-Williams, the former Atlanta vice chair, office managing partner, will relocate to the Washington, D.C., office and will continue practicing in the Litigation Group.

## 2005

**Tracee Coleman**

**Married:** Gregory W. Coleman, Sept. 30, 2017, in Decatur, Georgia.

## 2006

**Chris (Crystal) Royal**

**Married:** D'Lynn Jacobs, C'2007, in November 2017.

**Lauren Sullivan**

**Professional:** Began her position as assistant professor Emergency Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, Emory University School of Medicine on July 1, 2017, after completing a three-year Fellowship in Pediatric Emergency Medicine at Emory University School of Medicine in June 2017.

**Shellie N. Johnson**

**Birth:** Son, André Howard Lacey, born Nov. 6, 2017.

## 2007

**Amanda Aiken**

**Professional:** Named chief of External Affairs for the New Orleans Public School System.

**D'Lynn Jacobs**

**Married:** Chris (Crystal) Royal, C'2006, in November 2017.

## 2008

**Julienne Vinson**

**Birth:** Daughter (with Jamel Vinson Morehouse C'2008) Juliana Adele Vinson, born Sept. 8, 2017.

## 2010

**Alicia and Tameka Mckenzie**

**Professional:** Created their own publishing company ALTaMiRa Books. They aim to promote social diversity in literature and offer differing positive images to youth. Some of their featured book series are: *The Anti-Socialites Diaries*, *The Kippington Town Secret Series* and *RBI Girls*.

## 2011

**Avante Smack**

**Professional:** Delivered the keynote address at the Summer Research Symposium at Spelman College July 14, 2017.

## 2013

**Camesha Jones**

**Professional:** Launched a new blog BoldandBipolar.com that celebrates the brilliance, beauty, and boldness of people living with bipolar disorder around the world.

**Danielle Winfrey**

**Education:** Received her doctor of chiropractic degree in September 2017 from Life University.

**Samantha Major**

**Birth:** Daughter, Reign Melissa Major, Aug. 6, 2017.

## 2014

**Anita Salley**

**Education:** Received her master of fine arts degree in acting May 6, 2017, from Regent University. She also completed her third-year thesis role as Lady Augusta Bracknell in Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest."

## 2017

**Carolyn Blasingame**

**Professional:** Selected to intern with Studio Gang Design Firm, the award-winning architecture and urban design practice selected to design the College's new Center for the Arts and Innovation.

**Elizabeth King, C'43**, celebrated her 100th birthday Feb. 3 in Athens, Georgia. Coverage about her centennial celebration, organized by her former students, was featured in the article, "Celebration for revered educated Elizabeth King's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday," posted Jan. 28, 2018, on *OnlineAthens.com*.

Mother and daughter, **Muriel Yarbrough, C'49**, and **Sheri Yarbrough, C'83**, were featured in *AARP's* article, "Caregiving Roles: The Personal Chef, a fondness for cooking helps a daughter create appealing nutritious meals for her diabetic mother."

**Marian Wright Edelman, C'60**, founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund, was the 2017 recipient of the Inamori Ethics Prize at Case Western Reserve University. Edelman delivered the Recipient Lecture, "The State of America's Children," at the Inamori Ethics Prize Ceremony Sept. 14, 2017, at the Milton and Tamar Maltz Performing Arts Center at The Temple – Tifereth Israel. An article previewing the event posted Aug. 29, 2017, on *The Daily*.

**Former Spelman Board of Trustees Chair, June Gary Hopps, C'60**, received the Council on Social Work Education's Significant Lifetime Achievement Award at the CSWE's award luncheon in Dallas on Oct. 22, 2017. Hopps is the Thomas M. "Jim" Parham Professor of Family and Children Studies at the UGA School of Social Work.

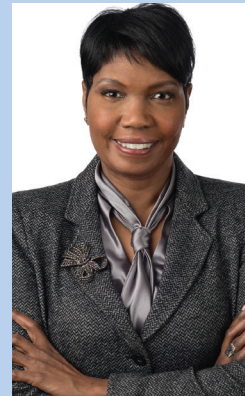
**Maxine Hayes, C'68**, received the Martha May Eliot Award, at the APHA 2017 Annual Meeting & Expo Nov. 7, 2017, at The World Congress Center in Atlanta. Hayes, a former Washington state health officer, was honored for being an advocate for improving maternal and child health and implementing public health approaches to solve population health issues in the state.



On March 12, **the Rev. Bernice King, C'85**, had a private audience with Pope Francis at the Vatican. The youngest child of the late Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. presented the pontiff with the sixth volume of the civil rights leader's published papers, subtitled "Advocate of the Social Gospel, September 1948-March 1963." The meeting was covered in several media outlets including the article "MLK's daughter, Bernice, has private audience with pope," in *The Washington Post* March 12.



In July 2017, **Riché Barnes, C'95**, was appointed dean of Pierson College, the largest residential college at Yale. Most recently Barnes served as the assistant dean of social sciences and a professor of sociocultural anthropology at Endicott College. Her book, *Raising the Race: Black Career Women Redefine Marriage, Motherhood and Community*, won the 2017 Race, Gender and Class Section Book Award from the American Sociological Association.



As part of its annual Law and Justice Awards, *Women Looking Ahead* magazine has recognized **Anita Wallace Thomas, C'86**, a partner in Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP's Atlanta office, as one of "Georgia's Most Powerful & Influential Women." The article, "No Legal Limits," ran in the Law and Justice issue 31.



**Allegra Lawrence-Hardy, C'93**, founding partner of Lawrence & Bundy LLC, was recognized by the Atlanta Business League as one of "Atlanta's Top 100 Black Women of Influence." Lawrence-Hardy was honored at the 22nd Annual Women of Vision Breakfast.



**Sonya Malunda, C'84**, was appointed the eighth president of the Associated Colleges of the Midwest by the consortium's board of directors. She assumed her role Oct. 2, 2017. Previously, she served at the University of Chicago for nearly 20 years, most recently as senior associate vice president for Civic Engagement.



**Jeanne Morris, C'53**, and her husband Charles Morris were honored by McLeon County Museum of History in Bloomington, Illinois, for their contributions to the community. The event took place June 15, 2017, at the museum's annual History Makers Gala. An announcement about the event ran in the May 18, 2017, issue of *The Post*.

Founder of Uniquely You Summit, **Shaleah Lache Sutton, C'2002**, was highlighted in the article, "These Four Women Are Helping The Next Generation Of Leaders Find Their Calling," in *Forbes.com* posted Jan. 3, 2018.

**Jana J. Edmondson-Cooper, C'2005**, is the recipient of the 2017 American Bar Association Wm. Reece Smith Jr. National Outstanding Young Lawyer Award. She received the award in February 2018 at the ABA midyear meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia. Edmondson-Cooper is a current member of the State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division board of directors, and is a bilingual prosecutor with the U.S. Department of Labor.

# take NOTES

**Gwendolyn Willis, C'72**, endowed chair of the Elizabeth City State University education, psychology, and health department, was quoted in the article “Elizabeth City State University receives \$300K education,” July 11, 2017, on *10 on Your Side wavy.com*.

**Fleda Mask Jackson, C'73**, joins BlackMamasMatter movement, which is bringing awareness to maternal mortality rates.

Business builder and innovator, **Kimberly Davis, C'81**, executive vice president for the National Hockey League, recently co-authored an article in the *Harvard Business Review*, “CEOs Explain How They Gender-Balanced Their Boards,” Oct. 6, 2017.

**Author Tayari Jones, C'91**, appeared on “CBS This Morning” Feb. 6 to discuss her new novel, *An American Marriage*, which is on Oprah’s Book List. On Feb. 9, Jones and playwright **Pearl Cleage, C'71**, came together for a conversation about *An American Marriage*. The Alliance Theatre event took place on Center Space at the Woodruff Arts Center in Atlanta. Jones was featured in several media outlets surrounding the novel including *USA Today*, and the February 2018 issues of *Essence* and *South Fulton Lifestyle* magazines.



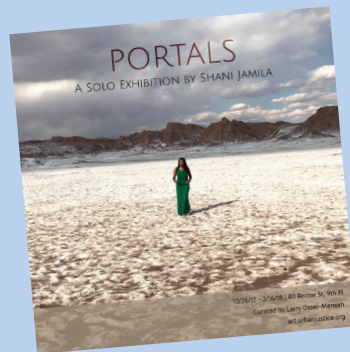
**Kornisha Brown, C'98**, was elected as the 26th Southeastern regional director of Jack and Jill of America Inc. July 15, 2017, at the 30th Biennial Southeastern Region Mothers Conference in Palm Beach, Florida. The article, “Columbus Jack and Jill past president tapped for regional leadership,” ran in the Aug. 12, 2017, issue of the *Ledger-Enquirer*.



**Lillian Bittaye, C'84**, has a new radio program for children between the ages of 4 to 18, every Saturday morning from 10 to 11 a.m. on *visionradio105.com*. She was also featured in *VoyageATL* in October 2017, regarding her nonprofit organization, The Sojourner Truth Observational Study Hometel Inc.



**Andrea Lewis, C'96**, chair of the Department of Education at Spelman College, was awarded an Impact Academy fellowship in August 2017. The yearlong Impact Academy fellowship aims to accelerate field-wide transformation by supporting and empowering a network of leaders who are committed to improving their educator-preparation programs.



Brooklyn-based artist and traveler, **Shani Jamila's, C'97**, work “PORTALS,” a solo presentation of photography and collages, was on display at the Urban Justice Center in New York from October 2017 to February 2018. The exhibition draws on years of her international travel to nearly 50 countries.

**Andrea H. Evans, C'98**, along with her daughter, Nya, was featured on NBC 4 for National STEM Day, Nov. 8, 2017. The duo made a KidGINEER favorite – “Elephant Toothpaste.” Evan also participated in the Momentum In Medicine Telesummit with her session, “Trademark Thyself,” Nov. 29, 2017.



In October 2017, **Charmagne Helton, C'94**, was selected for the Mary Kay 2017 Heart of Courage Award. The award is given to persons who have displayed courage under circumstances of domestic violence. She received the award in Washington, D.C.

**Stephanie Scott, C'98**, was named one of the top 50 Founders to Watch by *Essence* magazine for her business success owning and operating First and Last PR, a beauty-focused public relations and social media marketing firm. She has also been featured in top media outlets including *Hype Hair* and *RollingOut.com*.



**Jaira J. Harrington, C'2007**, earned the prestigious 2017-2018 William J. Fulbright Postdoctoral U.S. Scholar Award to continue her research on domestic work in Brazil. Also, Harrington was honored with the 2017 American Political Science Association Michael Brintnall Teaching & Learning Award to present her research on political science education at the annual APSA Teaching and Learning Conference.



**Celeste Watkins-Hayes, C'96**, began serving as an associate vice president for research at Northwestern University Jan. 1, 2018. Watkins-Hayes became a Northwestern faculty member as an assistant professor, and served as chair of the Department of African American Studies from 2011-13. In addition to her faculty appointments, Watkins-Hayes is a fellow at Northwestern’s Institute for Policy Research, where she is on the executive committee. Also, Watkins-Hayes is vice chair for the Spelman College board of trustees.

In December 2017, **Phyllis Sawyer Anderson, C'81**, joined the board of directors for Andersen Windows, the largest window and door manufacturer in North America. She was also featured in the latest issue of *Black Enterprise* magazine, "300 Most Powerful Executives in Corporate America." She will speak on a panel at the upcoming "Black Enterprise Women of Power Summit."

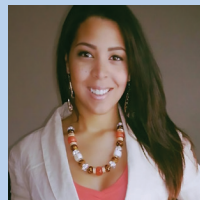
Emmy Award-winning journalist, **Shaun Robinson, C'84**, held "The Empowered Girl: How Not To Be A Victim Of Human Trafficking" event, Feb. 20, 2018, at Sisters Chapel. The event, hosted by her foundation, S.H.A.U.N. Foundation For Girls, discussed sex trafficking and keeping girls safe. Earlier that day, Robinson appeared on the television show "Sister Circle," on 11ALIVE and cable station TV ONE.

**Kendal Whitlock, C'90**, participated in a panel discussion at the Making More Health Convention, a two-day summit at Boehringer Ingelheim (Germany), for social entrepreneurs and business leaders, focused on global health care innovation. Through a partnership with Ashoka, she has conducted infectious disease education for a community health worker train-the-trainer program, and co-created a scalable diabetes digital health solution.

**Lisa Herring, C'94**, was appointed the new superintendent of Birmingham schools in May 2017. Previously, Herring served as chief academic officer with the Jefferson County Public Schools in Kentucky.

Democratic leader in the Georgia House of Representatives, **Stacey Abrams, C'95**, was featured in the November 2017 and the February 2018 issues of *Essence* magazine highlighting her candidacy for governor of Georgia.

**Dionne C. Griffiths, C'2001**, received the Martin Luther King Jr. State Commission Adult Leadership Award for outstanding leadership and achievement to the principles of a just society and continued involvement in support of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Dream on Jan. 4, 2018, in Frankfort, Kentucky. Also, she wrote the July/August 2017 article, "Higher education and racial solidarity," published in *FORsooth*, a Louisville newspaper.



**Erica McKnight, C'2002**, joined the Obama Foundation as associate general counsel. The Foundation is the platform for former President Obama and first lady Michelle Obama's philanthropic activities, and will create programs to engage young leaders from around the world, identify and broadcast innovative approaches to civic engagement, and connect communities by fostering conversations to bridge difference and creatively solve problems. McKnight joins a team of four attorneys responsible for advising the foundation on 501(c)(3) compliance, intellectual property law, employment law, and commercial contract negotiation, among numerous other legal issues impacting the foundation's work.

**Naima Keith, C'2003**, was featured in the article "Naima Keith's Electric Vision: Giving the California African American Museum a Jolt of Energy." The article discusses how Keith, deputy director of the museum, is bringing energy to the once sleepy museum.



**Karen Fields-Lever, C'2003**, was featured on *BlackEnterprise.com* in the article, "This Power Woman Dentist Is Changing the World — One Smile at a Time," posted Dec. 13, 2017. Fields-Lever runs a dental practice in Chicago while also managing a mobile dentistry initiative focusing mainly on children and the elderly in the African-American community. This initiative has provided more than 16,000 people with services that they would have otherwise not been able to afford or have access to.



**Janelle Richards, C'2009**, was awarded a grant from the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting to report on the technology industry in Nairobi, Kenya. She traveled to Kenya in October 2017. This year, she was nominated for two Emmy Awards as a member of the production teams for "NBC's Nightly News with Lester Holt." The team was nominated in the "Outstanding Coverage of Breaking News Story in a Newscast" category for the broadcast coverage of the Pulse Orlando shooting. Also, she was on the "Nightly News" team nominated for the heroin series "Hooked: America's Opioid Epidemic" in the category "Outstanding Continuing Coverage of a News Story in a Newscast." In addition, she was nominated for a 2017 GLAAD award for a story she co-produced about same-sex marriage and the Trump administration. In 2017, she was nominated for an award from the National Association of Black Journalists as a member of the "Nightly News" team that covered the Dallas police officer shootings. In 2016, she received the Star Award of Excellence in Media from the New York chapter of the national alumnae association of Spelman College.



Music industry executive, **Phylicia Fant, '2000**, was featured in season 4 of *MadameNoire.com*'s online show, "She's the Boss." Her episode, "PR Guru Phylicia Fant Speaks on Lack of Minority Execs in the Music Industry," was posted Oct. 5, 2017. "She's the Boss" captures the business savvy, style and spirit of New York City's most successful Black businesswomen.

**Denise M. Cooper, C'99**, was awarded the 18th Annual Justice Robert Benham Award for Community Service presented by the State Bar of Georgia and the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism on Feb. 28, 2017. Coverage of her award ran in the *Savannah Tribune* March 29, 2017, and on *businessinsavannah.com* Feb. 13, 2017.

Dancer, choreographer, actor and teacher, **Ashley Davis, C'2005**, was named artistic director for Delaware Institute of the Arts in Education in August 2017. The article, "Delaware Institute for the Arts in Education appoints artistic director," was posted on *delawareonline.com* Aug. 17, 2017.

Filmmaker and artist, **Kafia Haile, C'2002**, was featured in the February 2018 issue of *South Fulton* magazine. The article, "Kafia Haile, Coming Home," written in her own words, shares her passion for film and how after travelling the world she decided to make Atlanta her home.

On Aug. 12, 2017, **Maya T. Prabhu C'2004**, received the Salute to Excellence Award from the National Association of Black Journalists for investigative journalism at a newspaper with a circulation of 150,000 or less at a gala celebration during NABJ's 42nd Annual Convention and Career Fair in New Orleans. The article, "Post and Courier reporter receives national award for investigation into understaffing at South Carolina prisons," ran August 15, 2017.



Director, Marketing & Creative Services for Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, **J'Aimeka "Jai" Ferrell, C'2005**, was named one of Airport Business Top 40 Under 40. The article, "2017 Airport Business Top 40 Under 40: J'Aimeka "Jai" Ferrell," was published in *AviationPros* on Nov. 3, 2017.



**Fallon Wilson, C'2005**, was featured in the segment "Women 2 Watch" on WRKN 2 ABC TV in Nashville, Dec. 14, 2017. A video of the interview was posted in the article, "Texas native defies odds in technology as CEO of Black Tech in Nashville," on *WRKN.com*.

Playwright **Rachel DuBose, C'2010**, was highlighted in the article, "Haven Theatre Announces Full Line-Up for DIRECTORS HAVEN 2017," on *BroadwayWorld.com*, Aug. 17, 2017. Her play, "THE DEPARTURE" was one of three fully produced productions that ran back-to-back in one program, Oct. 16 – Nov. 1, 2017, at Haven Theatre's resident home, The Den Theatre in Chicago's Wicker Park neighborhood.



**Ashley Derby, C'2006**, left her current post as the franchise owner of the University of Southern California Chick-fil-A restaurant to take the helm of the new location at 660 South Figueroa Street as its franchise owner. In 2017, Derby was awarded the company's Symbol of Success, an honor reserved for Chick-fil-A operators whose businesses experience particularly high sales growth. Derby is the owner and operator of a Chick-fil-A near the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.



**Deandra Cash, C'2009**, launched Organic Soul Kitchen, Atlanta's only all vegan meal prep and delivery service, Dec. 5, 2017. Organic Soul Kitchen's mission is to prepare delicious meals as healthier options to fuel the body.

**Brittany Inge, C'2011**, received a nod for her craft by the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* in the article "8 young Atlanta actors to watch," in the Living Section, Dec. 20, 2017. Some of her credits include roles in "Father Comes Home From the Wars Parts 1, 2, and 3" at Actor's Express, "Blackberry Daze" at Horizon Theatre and True Colors Theatre Co.'s productions of "Holler if Ya Hear Me" and "First Noel." She has had co-starring roles on the television shows "Survivor's Remorse" and "Atlanta."



**Diondria Whitehead, C'2015**, is now a full-time program manager at Waymo, the autonomous car company that produces self-driving cars. Waymo is a subsidiary of Google's parent company, Alphabet Inc.

# in MEMORIAM

**1938**

**Alberta Elizabeth Thomas**

Died: Sept. 1, 2017

Services: Sept. 7, 2017, Wheat St. Baptist Church, Atlanta.

**1953**

**Mary McKinney Edmonds**

Died: Oct. 11, 2017

Services: Nov. 4, 2017, Antioch Baptist Church, Cleveland, Ohio.

**1956**

**Mary Madison**

Died: Jan. 18, 2018

Services: Jan. 24, 2018, Bostick-Tompkins Funeral Home.

**1962**

**Vivien Shivers Stocks**

Died: Dec. 21, 2017

Services: Dec. 28, 2017, St. Paul of the Cross Catholic Church, Atlanta.

**1966**

**Barbara Patricia Webb**

Died: Jan. 1, 2018

Services: Jan. 13, 2018, Calvary United Methodist Baptist Church, Atlanta.

**1967**

**Andriette Peterson Johnson**

Died: Jan. 23, 2018

Services: Feb. 2, 2018, Zion Hill Baptist Church, Atlanta.

**1970**

**Janice Hale**

Died: Sept. 14, 2017

Services: Sept. 30, 2017, The Hartford Memorial Baptist Church, Detroit, Michigan.

**1974**

**Denise Trimier Glanton**

Died: Jan. 20, 2018

Services: Feb. 3, 2018, Murray Brothers Funeral Home, Atlanta.

**Sherod Lynn O'Neal**

Died: Oct. 12, 2017

Services: Oct. 25, 2017, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta.

**1985**

**Mavis Roberts Vann**

Died: May 25, 2017

Services: Park Avenue United Methodist Church, New York.

**1992**

**Maisha Hunter**

Died: July 28, 2017

Services: Aug. 4, 2017, From the Heart Church Ministries of Atlanta, Atlanta.

**2002**

**Taneya Gethers Muhammad**

Died: Nov. 14, 2017

Services: Nov. 27, 2017, Sisters Chapel, Spelman College, Atlanta.

**2004**

**Lorene (Jones-Rucker) Moore**

Died: Jan. 11, 2018

Services: Jan. 20, 2018, Mount Ephraim Baptist Church, Atlanta.

## JANICE ELLEN HALE, C'70

Janice Ellen Hale, Ph.D., was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and grew up in Columbus, Ohio. She is the daughter of the late Dr. and Mrs. Phale D. Hale of Columbus. Her father was the pastor emeritus of Union Grove Baptist Church and an Ohio state legislator, chairman of the Ohio Civil Rights Commission.

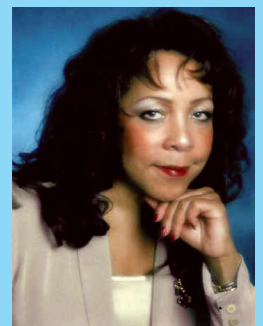
Dr. Hale received a bachelor's in sociology and elementary education from Spelman College in 1970. She went on to earn a master's in religious education from the Interdenominational Theological Center before earning her doctorate in early childhood education from Georgia State University in 1974. She did post-doctoral studies in teaching developmental psychology and African-American studies at Yale University.

In 1991, Dr. Hale joined the College of Education at Wayne State University as a professor and continued as a 26-year member of the College of Educations' Teacher Education Division. In 2006, she became the founding director of the Institute for the Study of the

African American Child (ISAAC). In addition to authoring numerous articles, Hale wrote three books: *Learning While Black*, *Unbank the Fire* and *Black Children*. Two were nominated for the Pulitzer Prize.

Dr. Hale was dedicated to Spelman, and gave unselfishly her time, talent and treasure to further enhance the mission and goals of her beloved alma mater. Spelman recognized her faithfulness with an Alumnae Achievement Award in 2007, and with the coveted Blue Diamond Award in 2008. She was also awarded an honorary doctorate by the College in June 2018.

Dr. Janice E. Hale passed away Sept. 14, 2017, in Farmington Hills, Michigan. A celebration of life service was held Sept. 30, 2017, at Hartford Memorial Baptist Church in Detroit.



## MARY LOUISE MCKINNEY EDMONDS, C'53

Mary Louise McKinney was born on Feb. 19, 1932, in Cleveland, Ohio to Annie Ruth Berry McKinney and the Rev. Wade Hampton McKinney Jr. She had two older brothers, Wade Hampton McKinney III and Samuel Berry McKinney, and an identical twin sister, Virginia Ruth McKinney. She received her primary education in the Cleveland Public Schools, graduating from John Adams High School in 1949. She was very active in Antioch Baptist Church where her father served as senior pastor.

Edmonds and her sister matriculated to their mother's alma mater, Spelman College. She was very involved with campus life. One of her favorite activities was singing in the renowned Spelman Glee Club. Edmonds was class valedictorian when she and her sister graduated in 1953. From Spelman, Edmonds went to Madison, Wisconsin, to complete her first graduate degree in physical therapy. In 1957, she married Jack Calvin Edmonds, who preceded her in death several years later. The couple had one child, Jacquelyn Calvina Edmonds.

Edmonds continued her education, receiving a master's degree from Western Reserve University in 1962. In 1972, she moved from the hospital to academia, accepting the position of founding director of the physical therapy program at Cleveland State University in 1972. She rose from director to chairman of Health Sciences while earning a second master's degree and then a doctorate in sociology from Case Western Reserve University in 1982.

In 1981, Edmonds left Cleveland for Bowling Green, Ohio, where she became the dean of the College of Health and Community Services; and then vice president for Student Affairs at Bowling Green. The doors to both her office and her home were always open as she welcomed friends, family, other academics and notable figures including Maya Angelou, James Baldwin, John Henrik Clarke, Wynton Marsalis and many others. Edmonds also completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Michigan, Institute for Social Research in 1983.



In 1992, Edmonds joined the administration at Stanford University as vice provost and dean of Student Affairs and later as a clinical professor in the Department of Health Research and Policy at the Stanford University Medical School. After her retirement from Stanford in 2000, Edmonds returned to her beloved alma mater, Spelman College, to serve as special assistant to the president.

Edmonds passed away Oct. 11, 2017, in Los Angeles. A celebration of life service was held Nov. 4, 2017, at Antioch Baptist Church in Cleveland.

## TANEYA DENYELLE GETHERS MUHAMMAD, C'2002

Born in Los Angeles Nov. 2, 1980, to Glenda Williams and Anthony Gethers, Teneya Denyelle Gethers Muhammad graduated from Spelman College in 2002 with a bachelor of arts degree in sociology. Ten years later, she was chosen to represent her graduation class as Spelman's Reunion Convocation Speaker. This honor was a reflection of her devotion and many contributions to her beloved alma mater.



Muhammad was a founding member of Sociological and Anthropological Sisterhood: Scholar Activists for Reshaping Attitudes at Spelman College, affectionately called "SASSAFRAS." As a Spelman Independent Scholar, she participated in the SIS Oral History Project. In 2004, her essay, "Bonding with Mrs. Mable King," was published in *Their Memories Our Treasure, Conversations with African American Women of Wisdom*. It was also at Spelman that Muhammad became a sorority member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.

Following college, Muhammad pursued journalism appointments in various cities across the nation before finally moving to the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn, New York. On Sept. 23, 2006, she married Yusuf A. Muhammad, Jr. Together, they had four daughters: Nia Assata, Amina Asantewaa, Chinua Anasa and Anisa Ayinde.

In 2007, Muhammad earned her master's in library and information science from Drexel University. While at Drexel, the American Library Association recognized her as a Spectrum Scholar. She served as the senior librarian at the Macon Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library where she was known for fusing effective literacy practices with cultural celebration and community empowerment. In 2015, *The Library Journal* named her as a Mover & Shaker, formally recognizing her at the American Library Association's Annual Conference in San Francisco. Her beloved alma mater shared this news with her Spelman sisters via a digital profile of her work, "Taneya D. Gethers Muhammad Honored in Brooklyn for Outstanding Programs."

Taneya Denyelle Gethers Muhammad passed away Nov. 14, 2017. A celebration of life service was held Nov. 27, 2017, at Sisters Chapel.

# Spelman

## NO PLACE LIKE HOMECOMING

Bringing home a whopping \$94,761 in unrestricted funds from alumnae, parents and friends, Spelman proves just how special homecoming is to the College. With 1,434 alumnae making the trek home, the homecoming 2017 celebration was a job well done by the collective efforts of College Relations, Institutional Advancement and Facilities Management Services.

See more homecoming images at [bit.ly/spelmanhomecoming2017](http://bit.ly/spelmanhomecoming2017).







*Lots of fun, dancing,  
and smiling by  
all who attended  
Homecoming 2017.*





# Thank You!

## YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Spelman College students enjoy unparalleled learning opportunities because of our faculty and staff. Each contribution creates an opportunity for our students to excel academically and graduate with a competitive edge. Your investment in Spelman is appreciated and we hope you take pride in how your gift directly impacts the lives of our students. Together, we will continue to steward Spelman toward a bright future.

Faye M. Ainsworth \*  
 Gertrude M. James Allen  
 Gwenevere P. Allen, C'2015  
 Curlyne Andrew  
 April Austin \*  
 Mellonee Axaam  
 Harold R. Banks \*  
 Geneva Hampton Baxter, C'77 #  
 Joy D. Beckwith Bakari, C'2002  
 Harold Bell  
 Montez A. Bell  
 John Anthony Bellamy  
 Don A. Blackston \*  
 Alayna M. Blash, C'94 #  
 Keith Arthur Bolden  
 Steve Bowser \*  
 Brittney E. Boykin, C'2011 \*  
 Erin L. Bradley, C'2005  
 Danita A. Brady-McClain, C'2003  
 Karen E. Brakke  
 Antoinette Bridgewater %  
 Melissa C. Brogdon, C'2008 #  
 Jessie L. Brooks #

Andrea Barnwell Brownlee, C'93 #  
 Joya Brown-Marshall, C'88 >  
 Myra Burnett #  
 John Walter & Johnnella Butler #  
 Sandra W. Butler  
 Mary Schmidt Campbell #  
 Sheres Caines-McKenzie  
 Jamila Canady \*  
 Barbara L. Carter \*  
 Thomas A. Chambliss, III \*  
 Chandra Byrd Chambliss, C'2012 >  
 Durba Chatterjee  
 Peter C. Chen \*  
 Chardina T. Choate %  
 Bernadette Cohen  
 Venetta I. Coleman, C'88 >  
 Cynthia Cooke \*  
 Monica Stephens Cooley, C'91 \*  
 Dorian Brown Crosby, C'91 #  
 Brenda D. Dalton \*  
 Sharon L. Davies %  
 Marilyn A. Davis  
 Hanan Davis, C'2012

Joyce E. Davis >  
 Sakinah A. Davis, C'2009 \*  
 Sheri Dione Davis, C'97 \*  
 Lula S. Dawit  
 Letitia J. Denard >  
 Sanford D. Dennis  
 Danielle D. Dickens, C'2009  
 Crystal D. Dollison, C'2016  
 Alyson Shumpert Dorsey, C'2002 >  
 Laurentiu Dumitriu \*  
 Lauren E. Eldridge, C'2010  
 Laura English-Robinson, C'69 #  
 Daphne Diane Faison %  
 Robert D. Flanigan, Jr. #  
 Charlene R. Fontaine  
 Tikenya Sheree Foster-Singletary, C'97 \*  
 Standrine D. Francis  
 Kenique D. P. Freeman, C'2000  
 Margery A. Ganz >  
 Thresa Gay  
 Erick D. Gilbert \*  
 Veta D. Goler >  
 Deirdre Colston Graddick, C'86 %

Bernice A. Green, C'91 \*  
 Clarence Greene %  
 Helga A. Greenfield #  
 Rosalind Gregory-Bass, C'92 \*  
 Belinda Griffith  
 Paula A. Grissom-Broughton, C'97 >  
 Beverly L. Guy-Sheftall, C'66 #  
 Fannie D. Hairston  
 Carol Hanifa Hakim \*  
 Donna Akiba Harper #  
 Shani Harris, C'97  
 Susan Harvey-Jones \*  
 Eleanor L. Hatton >  
 Heather Lynn Hawes, C'89 #  
 Ingrid W. Hayes \*  
 Lisa B. Hibbard >  
 Demetria N. Holloway \*  
 Tonya M. Holloway >  
 Rhonda L. Honegan %  
 Anne Hornsby %  
 Allison E. Howard \*  
 Nicole A. Hughes-Taylor, C'2004  
 Ronrika Hurst  
 Derrick J. Hylton \*  
 Brittany L. Inge, C'2011  
 Tasha Inniss %  
 Andrea J. Irvin, C'2003 \*  
 Lenora J. Jackson \*  
 Liqueetta S. Jackson  
 Yvonne J. Jackson \*  
 Jacqueline W. James \*  
 Na'Taki Osborne Jelks, C'95 >  
 Ashellie N. Johnson, C'2006  
 Cleveland Johnson >  
 Erika G. Johnson  
 Jennifer S. Johnson  
 Joyce F. Johnson #  
 Nicole L. Johnson  
 Dana Pride Jones \*  
 Jacquelyn JeVaughn Jones, C'2016  
 Cassandra Joseph \*  
 Iretta B.C. Kearse, C'88 >  
 Dwane Keller  
 Celenia P. Kiernan  
 Darnita R. Killian, C'79 ^  
 Nami Kim  
 Omelika Kuumba, C'81 >  
 Fernando Labra  
 Geneva Lane \*  
 Shelese J. Lane %  
 Jihan S. Lang \*  
 Ingrid Lassiter >  
 Andrea D. Lawrence, C'68 %  
 Mark Elliot Lee %  
 Paige Lee  
 Sherrie N. Lee %

B. Renee Leonard  
 Andrea D. Lewis, C'96 #  
 Kathleen Phillips Lewis >  
 Leila J. Lewis \*  
 Xuexin Liu  
 Mary Logan  
 Zadie Long  
 Angela D. Loynes \*  
 Sylvia D. Maddox  
 Frances Madison-Weaver, C'2012  
 Ave' Lindsay Marshall, C'70 >  
 Rihana S. Mason, C'99  
 Renita D. Mathis >  
 M. Akua McDaniel, C'69 >  
 Murdell Walker McFarlin, C'72 >  
 Tanisha Z. McGlothen, C'96  
 Melanie Mims McKie, C'92 \*  
 Selena Harper McLaurin, C'2004  
 Rosa M. McQuay  
 Jeanne Terry Meadows, C'64 %  
 Jamonica L. Deramus Miller, C'2001 >  
 Lynn Miller >  
 Helene Moon, C'2007  
 Opal J. Moore  
 Rhonda Lynn Beatty Moore, C'80  
 Nafeesa H. Muhammad, C'2007  
 Colm K. Mulcahy \*  
 Nandi D. Murphy  
 Paulette Myers-Ervin  
 Vickie Y. Ogunlade  
 Abayomi Ola \*  
 Sharon Elaine Owens, C'76 ^  
 Pushpa N. Parekh  
 Linda Hart Patton, C'88 >  
 Virgil L. Payne \*  
 Desiree Pedescleaux #  
 Moses A. Perdue \*  
 Brandi J. Philpot, C'2001  
 Tamara J. Pinckney, C'96 >  
 Naima Porter-Sparks \*  
 Terri Harris Reed #  
 Jarvis Traylor Ridges, C'89 %  
 April Elayne Curry Roberts, C'2009  
 Karen D. Roberts \*  
 Travis Robinson  
 Mia Denean Robinson-Oliver  
 Arianne D. Ross, C'2009  
 Rosetta E. Ross  
 Cheryl Rouse  
 Barbara Sanders \*  
 Tiffanie V. Scruggs, C'2006 \*  
 Liane Sewell  
 Fatemeh Shafiei \*  
 Dalila de Sousa Sheppard \*  
 Marcuetta W. Sims, C'2009  
 Christine W. Sizemore \*

Allyson F. Smith, C'2005 \*  
 Anne Collins Smith, C'96 %  
 Jane E. Smith, C'68 #  
 Kia G. Smith, C'2004  
 Todd Smith  
 Cynthia Neal Spence, C'78 #  
 Amarri K. Stevens  
 Tammie Stevens-Sloan \*  
 Terrisa Stewart, C'2012 \*  
 Iva DeVaughn Stewart-Barre, C'2011 \*  
 Jack H. Stone \*  
 Akilah B. Taylor, C'99 >  
 Mohammed S. Tesemma >  
 Joyce L. Thompkins \*  
 Albert N. Thompson, Jr. #  
 Bonita Tidwell  
 Jilo M. Tisdale  
 Rasheed Dimeji Togunde >  
 Carmen Travis-Kemp \*  
 Dorita Treadwell  
 Jill R. Triplett >  
 Arviena Twiggs \*  
 Henry Twum  
 Judy Tyree  
 Shantoria L. Vance, C'2007 \*  
 Jerry Volcy %  
 Gloria Wade-Gayles %  
 Beverly J. Walker  
 Ashli J. Washington  
 Angela Farris Watkins, C'86  
 Keith A. Webb %  
 Forrest Webber \*  
 Ani Scott Whitmore, C'2009 \*  
 Valentine T. Williamson, C'2013  
 DeBorah D. Wilson \*  
 Joycelyn N. Wilson  
 Tracey A. Wilson, C'2016 \*  
 Leyte L. Winfield \*  
 Angela P. Wood, C'90 #  
 Yan Xu  
 Sherry Davis Young, C'71 #

#### LEGEND

- \* **Century Club**  
\$100-\$249
- > **Second Century Club**  
\$250-\$499
- % **Founders Club**  
\$500-\$999
- # **President's Society**  
\$1,000-\$9,999
- ^ **Nellie Brewer Render Society**  
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