

SPELMAN Messenger



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Spelman College
125 years

S P E L M A N

Messenger

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Jo Moore Stewart

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PHOTOGRAPHERS

Curtis McDowell Professional Photography

Wilford Harewood

Bud Smith

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Julie Yarbrough, C'91

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C R E D O

The Spelman Messenger, founded in 1885, is dedicated to participating in the ongoing education of our readers through enlightening articles designed to promote lifelong learning. The Spelman Messenger is the alumnae magazine of Spelman College and is committed to educating, serving and empowering Black women.

In Memoriam

1934

Gladys Starling Crockett

Sister of Bernice Starling Marshall, C'31, great aunt of Patrice Paul Robinson, C'76, Launice Paul Sills C'78, Phyllis Paul Jordan, C'86 and great-great aunt of Jaunice N. Sills, C'2008, Gladys Starling Crockett received her bachelor of arts degree in June 1934 and shortly after married the late Dr. Edward David Crockett, Sr. in Washington, D.C. They were married for more than 50 years and had one son, the late Dr. Edward David Crockett, Jr. After graduation, she was a secondary school teacher and worked in the federal government in Washington, D.C., while her husband served in the Armed Forces during World War II. Her numerous club affiliations included the N.A.A.C.P., Medical Society of the District of Columbia, Medico-Chirurgical Society of the District of Columbia, Washington Spelman Club, Military Wives International Club and Welcome to Washington. She joined the Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ in 1967. *Died: February 24, 2006*
Services: March 8, 2006 at Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, Washington, D.C.

1938

Eloise Usher Belcher

Cousin of Dr. Jane Smith, C'68, Eloise Usher Belcher earned a bachelor's degree in English with honors from Spelman College. She went on to earn two master's degrees, the first in Theater Arts from the University of Iowa, and the second in English from Atlanta University. She enjoyed an illustrious teaching career, encompassing experiences in elementary school subjects, high school and the collegiate level. At the collegiate level, she taught speech theater arts and directed the then Spelman-Atlanta University-Morehouse Players at Spelman, Morehouse and Atlanta University. Active in her church, she received a Presentation of Eloise U. Belcher for the Wall of Faithfulness, recognizing her 50 years of service at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in Orangeburg, South Carolina. She was a golden soror of the Beta Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. and a charter member of the Orangeburg Chapter of The Links Inc. On the weekend of October 29, 2004, Mrs. Belcher was celebrated by Morehouse College as its oldest living homecoming queen (Miss Maroon and White, 1937). *Died: June 22, 2005*
Services: June 29, 2005 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Orangeburg, South Carolina.

1945

Agnes Lee Oliver Murdock

After receiving an academic scholarship, Agnes Lee Oliver Murdock attended Spelman and received a bachelor's degree in mathematics and Latin. She began her career as a social worker with the Fulton County Department of Family and Children Services. She later married and was blessed with six children. She joined Westhills Presbyterian Church in 1985. Later in her career, she worked as a faithful case worker for Economic Opportunity Atlanta and, finally, as a devoted math teacher for the Atlanta Public School System until her retirement in 1992. "Aggie Lee," as she was fondly called, had many talents and a creative spirit. Loved by many, she served faithfully in many capacities. She was a seamstress, an artist, a writer and a gourmet cook. She was a chartered member of the Glimmajen Bridge Club for over thirty years until her struggle with Alzheimer's in 1999. *Died: February 23, 2006*
Services: March 1, 2006 at Murray Brothers Cascade Chapel, Atlanta, Georgia.

1946

Bobbie C. Flanagan Houston

Bobbie C. Houston was born in Lumpkin, Georgia on January 7, 1925 to William and Marjorie Flanagan. She attended Booker T. Washington High School and graduated as valedictorian of her class. In 1942 she joined the freshmen class of Spelman College. On April 24, 1945, she married George C. Houston, Sr. in Washington, D.C. They had three children, George Cornell, Theron Corwin, and Valorie Gail Houston. Her career began at the Department of State in Washington, D.C. where she remained for over 40 years, retiring as an economist from the Allowances and Cost-of-Living Division. Her duties there took her globetrotting to many countries around the world. She was also a Lifespring graduate and a volunteer counselor at the Good Shepherd and Laurel Pregnancy Centers (LPC). She was President of the LPC Board until the interruption of health complications. She leaves behind one of her siblings, William S. Flanagan, her 10 grandchildren, and her five great-grandchildren. *Died: March 21, 2005*
Services: March 26, 2005 at First Baptist Church, Laurel, Maryland.

1948

Pearl Melvee Bellinger

After earning a degree in religious education from Spelman College, Pearl Melvee Bellinger furthered her studies earning degrees from Scarritt College in Nashville, Tennessee and Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. She became one of the first African American women to do missionary work in India for the Methodist

Church. Her later career was in the Detroit Public School System where she taught kindergarten until her retirement. She was dedicated and devoted to her family and to her church. One of her last statements was that she felt she had done the work that God had called her to do.

Died: December 11, 2005

Services: December 17, 2005 at Metropolitan United Methodist Church, Detroit, Michigan.

1958

Betty Carrol McCracken Jones

After attending Spelman, Betty Carrol McCracken Jones married her husband in the mid-sixties and gave birth to their only son, Ivan, in 1966. Due to the nature of her husband's work, they lived in several different states and countries all over the world including Japan, England and southwest Germany. No matter where she lived in the world, she was very active in volunteer work and work within the church. She was the head of Red Cross volunteers in England and Germany. During the later part of her life she found a church home in Christian Fellowship Baptist Church in her native Atlanta, a church her mother had helped charter.

Died: June 12, 2006

Services: June 20, 2006 at the Roswell Street Baptist Church, Marietta, Georgia.

1974

Rheatha Grace Yancey-Hix

Sister of Roseland P. Yancey-McLarin, C'71, and cousin of Dr. Carolyn Yancey, C'72. Rheatha Grace Yancey-Hix graduated cum laude with a bachelor of arts degree and received her master of business administration degree from Atlanta University. She was joined in matrimony to John S. Hix, Jr. on June 30, 1979. This union was blessed with three sons, John III, Jerald and Jarrett. A devoted wife and mother, Rheatha placed a high priority on the needs of her children and subsequently became an active parent/volunteer and PTSA member of their schools. Her life work and passion centered on the education of children. She was an excellent and devoted teacher, beginning her career at Thomasville Heights Elementary School in the early 1980s. Later, she taught at R.N. Fickett Elementary School where she was a model teacher for 13 years. She was honored as Teacher of the Year at Thomasville Heights and R.N. Fickett Elementary Schools. Rheatha remained involved in the numerous activities sponsored by Jack and Jill of America, Inc. and was a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Died: January 29, 2006 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Services: February 3, 2006 at Saint Paul A.M.E. Church, Atlanta, Georgia.

1975

Valerie Brewer Jones-Bland

She received a bachelor of arts from Spelman College and went on to become a teacher. She later married Melvin Bland and became an assistant principal of an elementary school. She was a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. *Services: July 7, 2006 at St. Joachim Catholic Church, Chicago, Illinois.*

1984

Gwendolyn Theresa Dyson

Gwendolyn Theresa Dyson graduated from Spelman with a degree in psychology. A proud Spelman alumna, she encouraged other young women to attend her alma mater when representing Spelman at college fairs. She was employed at TIAA-CREF Insurance and Annuity Company in New York for 20 years during which time she held the positions of manager, group administration specialist and senior individual planning consultant. She earned a New York State Life Insurance Agent's License. She was a notary public for New York and New Jersey and was studying to become a certified financial planner. Gwen was an active and faithful member of Second Baptist Church in Roselle, New Jersey. In 1988, she was recognized for her outstanding ability, accomplishments and service to the community as an "Outstanding Young Woman of America" by the Outstanding Young Women of America.

Died: April 5, 2006

Services: April 10, 2006 at the Second Baptist Church, Roselle, New Jersey.

1991

Vikki Irvette Richardson

Vikki Irvette Richardson was a native and resident of Newport News, Virginia, before relocating to Detroit, Michigan and then to Dallas, Texas. She was a graduate of Spelman and Hampton University. Employed by Ford Motor Company of Dallas, since 1996, she served as an after market manager for motorcraft and then became a zone manager for the southern region in January 2006. Vikki was baptized at age 10 and became a member of New Beech Grove Baptist Church. She transferred her membership to The Potter's House under the leadership of Bishop T.D. Jakes. There she was an interpreter for the deaf ministry headed by Pastor Rita Twigg and was also a coordinator for the debutante program under the leadership of First Lady Serita Jakes. She was an active member of her community and a diamond life charter member of the Denbigh Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

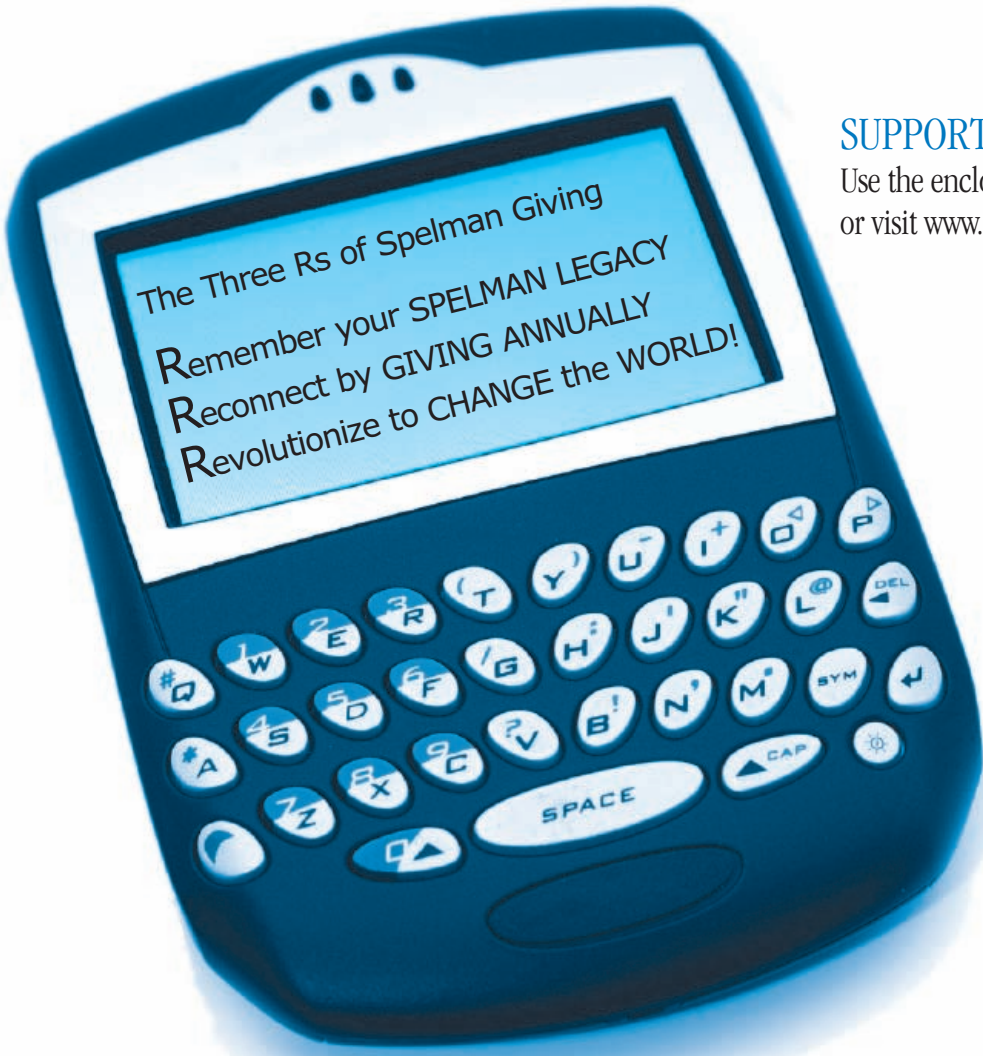
Died: May 2, 2006

Services: May 9, 2006 at New Beech Grove Baptist Church, Newport News, Virginia.



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