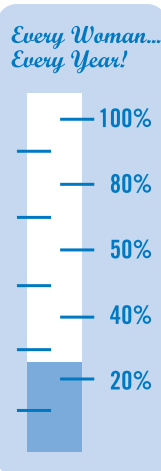


INSIDE SPELTMAN

SPRING /
SUMMER
2007

EWY Landmark

On June 30, the “Every Woman...Every Year!” Campaign for Annual Participation reached a landmark 27.55 percent - the highest-ever participation for an annual giving campaign at the College. More than 3,900 alumnae donors made gifts to the College between July 1, 2006, and June 30, 2007, totaling \$1.2 million. This year's alumnae participation rate nearly doubled alumnae giving in 2006 at 16 percent. “On behalf of the Office of Annual Giving, I want to thank everyone for making this a historic year for Spelman College,” said Reshunda Mahone, director of Annual Giving. “This was a tremendous project with great vision from President Tatum and Eloise Alexis, vice president of Institutional Advancement. We could not have accomplished this success without their support and assistance.”



The Bank of New York Establishes \$1 Million Endowment at Spelman College

The Bank of New York is establishing an endowment at Spelman College in the amount of \$1 million to provide financial support to academically deserving women studying computer and information sciences, economics and mathematics. The endowment will also create a lecture series to expose students to prominent speakers on a broad range of topics relevant to people of African descent and others around the world. The first scholarships will be awarded during the 2008–2009 academic year with the lecture series launch.

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Spelman LEADS Hosts Historic Lessons to Building Bridges

The Spelman College Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement, also known as the LEADS Center, brought together descendants of two historic leaders, Mary McLeod Bethune and Eleanor Roosevelt, the evening prior to the opening session of the fourth annual Spelman College Leadership and Women of Color Conference, May 8–10, 2007 in Atlanta.

This year's conference, “Building Bridges: Issues, Practices and Solutions,” continued to build on the Center's reputation for fostering frank and engaging dialogue between women of diverse backgrounds and brought forward innovative methods to shape their environments. Highlighting this year's conference was “A Conversation on

Race, Class and Gender,” featuring Mazie Ferguson, a great-grandniece of educator Mary McLeod Bethune, and Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, granddaughter of former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt and a Spelman Trustee. Moderated by award-winning poet and Spelman alumna Pearl Cleage, C'71, 2006–2007 Cosby endowed professor of humanities, the discussion took place May 8 as a pre-conference event sponsored by the UPS Foundation.

Ann Fudge, former chairman and CEO, Young & Rubicam Brands and former president, Beverages, Desserts and Post Division – a \$5 billion unit of Kraft Foods – gave a keynote address on

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Award-winning poet, playwright and novelist Pearl Cleage, C'71, (left) leads Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, granddaughter of former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt (center) and Mazie Ferguson, a great-grandniece of educator Mary McLeod Bethune (right) in “A Conversation on Race, Class and Gender” during the pre-conference event for the fourth annual Spelman College Leadership and Women of Color Conference. The two women, who bear a remarkable resemblance to their ancestors (shown right), reflected on their rich heritage and the close friendship of these two exceptional women.



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A Choice to Change the World

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Inside Spelman

is published four times per academic year for a readership that includes alumnae, trustees, parents, students, faculty, staff and friends of the College. The newsletter is dedicated to informing our readers about news, upcoming events and issues in the life of the College.

A DIALOGUE WITH DR. T.

Strengthening the Core – Planning for Our Future

The summer of 2007 was a time of construction, renovation and renewal at Spelman College. The roads were excavated to update the underground systems that are key elements of our heating and cooling infrastructure. Meanwhile, the restoration of another historic building – Rockefeller Hall – was completed. Our new residence hall, designed with sound environmental principles in mind, steadily rose from the ground as crane operators lifted the steel beams high in the sky and the skeleton of the building took shape, promising to increase our housing capacity by 300 beds when it is completed in 2008 and expanding the footprint of the campus for the first time in many years. As these physical changes took place, admissions and financial aid staff worked diligently to complete the process of enrolling the class of 2011, selected from more than 5,400 applicants – the highest number of applications in Spelman's history. And, on June 30, 2007, we ended our 2006–07 fiscal year with nearly 28 percent of our alumnae renewing their commitment to Spelman with a gift to the annual fund – a dramatic increase from the 16 percent who made gifts in the previous year – creating great momentum for us to build on as we continue our quest for 100 percent alumnae participation through our *Every Woman...Every Year* annual fund effort. Each of these accomplishments conveys a sense of excitement about Spelman's future and serves as the backdrop for the strategic planning we must do to ensure that the *core* of Spelman's strength – the academic program – is also growing and expanding to meet the needs of our students and the world they will lead in the 21st century.



Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum

Many of the goals of *Blueprint for the Future*, the 10-year strategic plan created in 2000, have been achieved, as highlighted in the recent Spelman ALIVE Five-Year progress report distributed this past June. We have reached our optimal enrollment size. We have improved many of our facilities. We have introduced technology to all parts of the campus operation. We have sharpened our focus on student leadership development and we have enhanced support for faculty through an improved sabbatical program, just to highlight a few of the *Blueprint* goals. Some goals, such as the increased presence of international students on campus or expanded service learning opportunities, are still in progress and are in need of updating. As we strive to continually improve, we need to consider new goals. What should our academic aspirations be beyond 2010? 2015? 2020? What new or enhanced programs will best meet our students' educational needs? What initiatives will further strengthen the academic core of Spelman College?

Now is the time for us to begin that conversation. To that end, a campus planning group made up of faculty, staff and students was appointed in May 2007, to be led by Dr. Johnella Butler, provost and vice president of academic affairs, and faculty co-chair, Dr. Sylvia Bozeman, professor of mathematics, with the support of strategic planning consultant Michelle Matthews, C'82. The goal of the planning committee is to engage in a highly inclusive process in which all of our stakeholders – on campus and off – have the opportunity to share their perspectives on the current state of the College and its future needs and direction. Using a combination of individual interviews, focus groups, town hall meetings and Web-based surveys, our planning team will solicit feedback and ideas about what matters most to the future success of Spelman College. More information about ways to participate in the strategic planning process is forthcoming. Log onto www.spelman.edu for updates. Information will also be shared through the Spelman Connection, our e-mail newsletter.

We have a wonderful and inspiring mission – to cultivate the intellectual, ethical and leadership potential of our students and send them forth into the world as Spelman women – women who appreciate the many cultures of the world and who are committed to positive social change. The strategies for implementing that mission have varied with each generation but one goal has remained constant – to be nothing less than the best! Thank you for all you have done and will do to help us achieve this enduring goal of excellence. ●

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Africa's First Female Head of State, Addresses Spelman Commencement Class of 2007

Often referred to as “The Iron Lady” by political supporters, Ms. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the first Black woman president of Liberia, addressed the Spelman College Class of 2007 during commencement, Sunday, May 20, at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Decatur, Georgia. President Johnson Sirleaf also received an honorary degree.

Keeping in line with the College's longstanding tradition of cultivating women who change the world, President Johnson Sirleaf inspired the graduating class to continue this legacy during her address, “Making a Difference in Your Life and the Lives of Others: How Small Actions as Well as Large Movements Contribute to Changing the World.”

She began her address with the premise that humankind is an enduring agent of change – change for a better world, sometimes change for a world uncongenial to human happiness.

“... But as rational beings most times than not, we opt for positive change – change that makes the world a better place for all humanity; change that actualizes the universal values of freedom, liberty, justice, equality; change that ensures the unity and progress of the human family. For positive change to make a difference

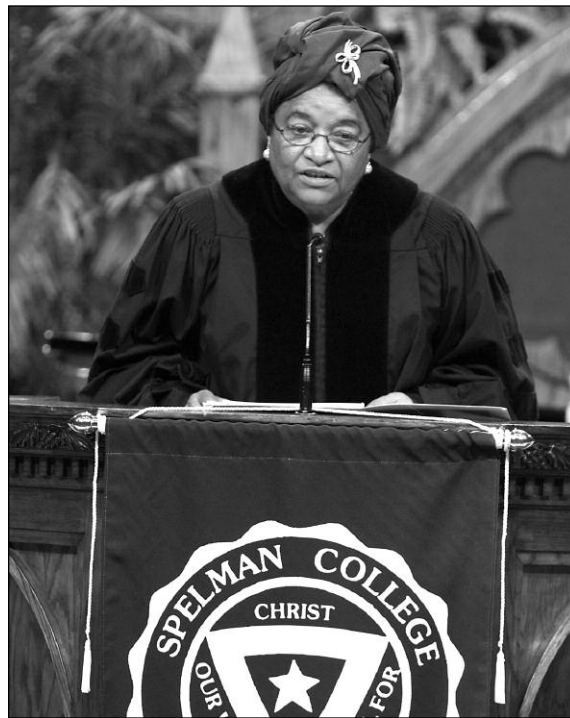
LEADS

Continued from page 1

May 9. “Women are championing significant changes around the world as well as here at home, and it is imperative that we give them tools to build alliances with women and men of all ethnicities,” said Dr. Jane E. Smith, LEADS executive director. “They must tap into their innate and natural leadership skills in order to find cooperative solutions to our most urgent challenges. The “Building Bridges: Issues, Practices and Solutions” conference provided a forum to exchange ideas and share best practices to promote multicultural leadership that these women can apply in the workplace and the world they live in.”

Additional distinguished speakers included: Beverly Wright, Native Digital Smoke Signals; Chief Brenda Commander, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians; Councilwoman Kim Hazard, Narragansett Indian Tribe; Councilwoman B. Cheryl Smith; Jena Band of Choctaw Indians; and Elizabeth Neptune, Passamaquoddy Tribe – Indian Township.

JPMorgan Chase was the premier sponsor of the three-day event held at Spelman College and the Cobb Galleria Centre. ●



Ms. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

in one's life and in the lives of greater humanity, people must be inspired to challenge, reform or transform existing conditions of life, especially where our most cherished universal values are trampled upon by those whose goal often is to circumvent the path of peace and human upliftment, or to wrest the good things of life for themselves at the disadvantage of a weaker humanity.

“In human experience, to make a difference in one's life is to succeed, and success requires a continuing struggle to overcome adversity as a basis for our preparation to serve humankind. . . .”

President Beverly Daniel Tatum stated that “more than 500 graduates who have each made a choice to change the world by attending Spelman College were inspired by the powerful sentiments of this woman who is only the second Black female head of state in the world. Her unwavering resolve – to heal war-ravaged Liberia, educate its women and girls, shore up its deflated economy, rehabilitate ex-rebels, reconcile with former combatants – is the substance

that this year's graduates hope to embody as they venture forward into their lives beyond the gates of Spelman College.”

Dr. Ruth J. Simmons, president of Brown University and former provost of Spelman College, and Elaine R. Jones, the first woman to lead the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, also received honorary degrees at the ceremony. Dr. Gary Orfield, founder of the Civil Rights Project, was presented with the National Community Service Award. ●

Dr. Jo Ann Browning Offers Baccalaureate Speech

A trailblazer for the spiritual empowerment of black women, the Reverend Jo Ann Browning, co-pastor of Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church in Fort Washington, Maryland, served as baccalaureate guest speaker on May 19, 2007, on the campus oval. Dr. Browning is recognized nationally and internationally for her powerful oratory, spiritual teaching and global outreach. She has given vision and leadership to the development of the Ebenezer Women's Resource and Restoration Center, the National Women's spiritual Retreat, now in its 23rd year, and the Spelman College Sisters Chapel WISDOM Center Advisory Board. ●



Founders Day Speaker J. Veronica Biggins Challenges Spelman Women to Become Change Agents

Spelman College celebrated its 126th anniversary with a thought-provoking address from convocation speaker and honorary degree recipient J. Veronica Biggins, C'68, at its traditional Founders Day Convocation on April 11, 2007, at Sisters Chapel.

"... Thinking about coffee and my comment about professors challenging us to step into boiling water reminds me that recently someone I knew well said to me, 'Thanks for being a coffee bean.' I thought to myself, what in the world could he mean? He told me this story about a cup of coffee. I have never looked at a cup of coffee the same way again.

"A young woman went to her mother and told her about her life and how things were so hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed as though when one problem was solved, a new one arose.

"Her mother took her to the kitchen. She filled three pots with water. In the first pot she placed carrots. In the second she placed eggs. And in the last she placed ground coffee beans. She let them sit and boil without saying a word. In about twenty minutes she turned off the burners. She fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. She pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Then she ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl. Turning to her daughter, she asked, 'Tell me, what do you see?' 'Carrots, eggs and coffee,' the daughter replied. Her mother took her close and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they were soft. She then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, the daughter observed the hardboiled egg. Finally, she asked her to sip the coffee. The daughter smiled, as she smelled its rich aroma. The daughter then asked, 'What's the point, Mother?' Her mother explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity, as have we Spelman woman – boiling water – but each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior, but after sitting through boiling water its inside became hardened. The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water, they had changed the water. 'Which are you?'



(Above) J. Veronica Biggins, C'68

(Left) Founders Day Platform 2007

"I ask you, Spelman women ... when adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean? Think of this – which are you?

Are you the carrot that seems strong, but with pain and adversity do you wilt and become soft and lose your strength? Are you the egg that starts with a malleable heart, but changes with the heat? Did you have a fluid spirit, but after a death, a breakup, a financial hardship or some other trial, have you become hardened and stiff? Does your shell look the same, but on the inside, are you bitter and tough with a stiff spirit and a hardened heart?

"Or are you like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water, the very circumstance that brings the pain. When the water gets hot, it releases the fragrance and flavor. If you are like the coffee bean, when things are at their worst, you get better and change the situation around you. When the hours are the darkest and trials are at their greatest, do you elevate to another level?

"Why do I tell you this story? Because our Spelman history dictates that we Spelman women change the boiling water. I am here to ask you to step into the boiling water and change it – to value the Spelman traditions while moving forward to continue in the footsteps of those who came before you with a mission to change the world; to be a Spelman woman; to stand tall, and to stand with dignity. ..."

A key member of the Atlanta business community, Ms. Biggins is currently a partner at

Heidrick & Struggles, a leading executive search and leadership consulting firm. She has held several high-ranking positions in the banking industry and was a member of President William J. Clinton's administration, serving as assistant to the president and director of presidential personnel. Ms. Biggins is a former member of the Spelman College Board of Trustees from 1983–2002, serving as the board's vice chair and as chair of the committee on board affairs, 1988–1991.

During the convocation, June McDonald Aldridge, Ph.D., C'53, was honored with the coveted Founders Spirit Award. Dr. Aldridge, a retired faculty member, served her alma mater for 29 years as a professor, department chair, division chair and advisor in the English department. Still dedicated to Spelman, she urged students and her Spelman sisters to "buy a pair of shoes for Spelman," explaining that the small cost of one pair of shoes they purchase for themselves could be donated in support of Spelman's *Every Woman... Every Year* annual fund campaign for the greater good of the College.

The True Blue Award was presented to Ms. Linda Durden, coordinator of student accounts, controller's office, who has provided Spelman with more than 35 years of dedication and service. The Fannie Lou Hamer Awards for community service outside the College were conferred on faculty member Dr. Lily McNair and staff member Helene Moon. Dr. McNair is associate provost of research, divisional coordinator, science and mathematics, and professor of psychology; Helene Moon is interim assistant registrar. ●

Skirts Convocation Highlights Spelman's Fashion History

Skirts: Petticoat to Crinoline, A Historical Apparel Experience 1887–1959, conceived and directed by Kenneth Green, lecturer, Drama & Dance, Spelman College, was the feature production for convocation on March 29, 2007. Mr. Green explained that fashion is the visual representation of any given historical period and that the prevailing styles of the past decades tell much about those times. *Skirts: Petticoat to Crinoline* celebrates African American women of Spelman College and

their historical apparel from 1887 through 1959. Divided into eight sections – Reflections of Style 1887–1889, Auburn Avenue Marketplace 1889–1900, Style with Substance 1887–1910, MacVicar Years 1886–1927, Seminary to College 1920–1929, Cultural Awakening 1930–1939, The New Look 1940–1949, Social Freedom 1950–1959 – 14 models took the audience on an enlightening and entertaining journey into the past as they strolled a specially crafted runway in historic Sisters Chapel. ●



Skirts models treat the audience to a flapper-inspired dance number during the Seminary to College 1920–1929 segment of the Skirts Convocation.

The Bank of New York

Continued from page 1.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for Spelman because so many – 87 percent – of our students are in need of financial aid, and the lecture series will enrich the learning experience for all,” said President Beverly Daniel Tatum. “I want to thank the Bank of New York and CEO Thomas Renyi for recognizing in a tangible way the tremendous potential of our students to contribute to today’s global economy and for joining with Spelman as an integral partner in their success.”

The Bank of New York focuses its philanthropic involvement on ensuring access to the four essential building blocks of a strong community – educational opportunities, wellness resources, the arts and humanities, and housing. The Bank has been actively involved in supporting the mission of Spelman College since 1996.

“This donation to one of the country’s leading educational institutions highlights our philosophy of contributing to organizations that provide individuals with access to high-quality educational opportunities and enrich their ability to contribute to society in lasting and meaningful ways,” said Thomas A. Renyi, chairman and chief executive officer of The Bank of New York. ●

New Cosby Endowed Professors Named

Renowned Egyptian feminist author, physician and activist Dr. Nawal El Saadawi and historian, curator, author and educator Dr. Lisa Farrington are the new Cosby Endowed Professors for the 2007–08 academic year. Dr. El Saadawi, who is well known in Arab countries and other parts of the world, and Dr. Farrington, a leading scholar on women artists of the African Diaspora, are appointed as Cosby Chairs in the social sciences and humanities, respectively.

A notable Islamic feminist whose works have widened the boundaries of the Arab novel, Dr. El Saadawi writes about the oppression of women and women’s desire for self-expression. She studied medicine at Cairo University, graduating in 1955. In 1966, she received her master’s degree in public health from Columbia University. She has served as a visiting professor at many colleges, including Smith College and Duke University. The recipient of numerous national and literary awards, Dr. El Saadawi is also founder and president of the Arab Women’s Solidarity Association.

A multi-faceted scholar, Dr. Farrington is the author of *Creating Their Own Image: The History of African-American Women Artists*, the first comprehensive history of African-American women artists from slavery to the present day. She received her doctorate in art history from the Graduate School and University Center of the City University of New York. Prior to her doctoral work, Dr. Farrington attended American University, earning a master of arts degree; and Howard University, where she received a bachelor of fine arts degree. She is a Ford Foundation Fellow as well as an Andrew W. Mellon Fellow. ●

Students Speak Out on The Oprah Winfrey Show

Seven Spelman students spoke out against the depiction of Black women in hip-hop videos and popular culture as they participated in *The Oprah Winfrey Show*'s two-part town hall series "Now What?" and "The Hip-Hop Community Responds," on April 16 and 17, 2007, respectively.

The shows were sparked by radio personality Don Imus' controversial comments about the Rutgers's University Women's basketball team whom he referred to as "nappy-headed hos." Oprah assembled a variety of journalists and leaders in the Black community to discuss racism, sexism, the role hip-hop plays in the denigration of Black women, and where we go from here. Panelists included the Reverend Al Sharpton; Bruce Gordon, former president of NAACP and a member of the CBS board of directors; Russell Simmons, founder of Def Jam, Phat Farm and chairman of the Hip-Hop Summit Action Network (HSAN); Kevin Liles, vice president of Warner Music Group; Dr. Benjamin Chavis, former CEO of the NAACP and CEO of HSAN; Stanley Crouch, *The New York Daily News* syndicated columnist; Diane Weathers, former editor in chief of *Essence* magazine; and Grammy Award-winning artists India.Arie and Common.

Leana Cabral, C'2007, Kelli Haywood, C'2008, Laura Rahman, C'2007, Deven Sanders, C'2010, Cashauana Lattimore, C'2008, and Angela Boudreaux, C'2009, sat down with Gayle King, television personality and editor-at-large for *O, The Oprah Magazine*, in the Women's Center in the Camille Olivia Hanks Cosby Academic Center on Spelman's campus for a live remote. They candidly shared their views and called for change in the way Black women are treated in today's society. The students said Imus's comments were "not acceptable" and challenged one of the hip-hop panelists, explaining it's disrespectful for them (the panelists) not to acknowledge that they are a part of the problem. The engaging and sometimes heated dialogue came full circle on Day Two when the students asked the Hip-Hop panelists "What is it that we as Spelman women can do to help you reach the goal of making change?"

Spelman students have been publicly striving for change since 2004, when a group of students headed by Asha Jennings, C'2004 and Moya Bailey,



Spelman students share their views on the denigration of Black women with Gayle King before their appearance on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*.

Oprah assembled a variety of journalists and leaders in the Black community to discuss racism, sexism, the role hip-hop plays in the denigration of Black women, and where we go from here.

C'2005, leaders from the College's Student Government Association and Feminist Majority Leadership Association, made national headlines by protesting against hip-hop artist Nelly's "Tip Drill" video. The movement began when the rapper was scheduled to make an appearance on campus with his foundation, 4Sho4Kids to support a bone marrow drive, which he canceled when he learned of the students' opposition to the video.

The movement continued when Spelman and *Essence* magazine joined forces to host the "Take Back the Music" Town Hall meeting on campus in 2005. Later in the year Spelman held Hip Hop Week with rapper MC Lyte that provided a forum for students, activists, industry professionals and entertainment insiders to discuss hip-hop and its effects globally. With each new class, students continue to speak out and advocate for change in the denigration of Black women.

In addition to *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *NBC Nightly News* visited the Campus for their piece – also spawned from the Imus scandal – "Who Can Say What to Whom, About Whom and When" that aired April 13, 2007. Jennings was featured as well as current students Ashleigh Coaxum, C'2008, and Morgan Townsend, C'2009, and Dr. Tarshia Stanley, assistant professor of English.

President Beverly Daniel Tatum, race relations expert and author of the books *Why Are All of the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?* and *Can We Talk About Race?* also made high-profile appearances to discuss Imus's controversial remarks, including a live remote from Reynolds Cottage on the *Today Show* on Founders Day. President Tatum was also a featured expert on ABC's *World News with Charles Gibson* on May 14, 2007. ●

Spelman Scholarships

Fulbright Scholars Selected

2007 graduates Chantal James, Brittany Ray and Leana Cabral, as well as Niambi Young, C'2006, were recently named Fulbright scholars. Chosen for their leadership potential, Fulbright scholars are given the opportunity to study, teach or conduct research in other countries and to develop international competence and cross-cultural expertise.

Ms. James was a philosophy major with minors in French and creative writing; she also served as editor of *Focus* magazine, the College's print literary journal. She received a full grant from Fulbright to spend the 2007–2008 academic year in Morocco working on her novel, which is set in that country. Tentatively titled *Writing the Body's Motion in Morocco*, the novel will explore mass movements of transmigration into and out of Morocco.

Ms. Ray, an English major with a minor in creative writing, won an assistantship to teach English in Thailand secondary or primary schools. An accomplished poet, Ms. Ray also plans to spend time teaching Thai students about African American literature. Both she and Ms. James are currently casting roles for a play that they have co-written.

Ms. Cabral, a women's studies major, is the recipient of a teaching assistantship in Chile. An active member of the Spelman community, Ms. Cabral served as co-president of the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance and studied abroad in Brazil with the School for International Training through Spelman's Study Abroad Program.

Ms. Young, a master's degree student in The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, was awarded a Fulbright grant, Critical Language Award and Islamic Civilization Initiative Award to travel to Egypt this fall to undertake her project, "New Cultures and Old Traditions: Hip-Hop and Islam."

While at Spelman, Ms. Young was an International Studies major and studied both French and Spanish. She spent her junior year abroad: during the fall semester, she was in Strasbourg, France studying the identity of the European Union in Syracuse University's program, and her spring semester was spent in Rabat, Morocco through SIT's Culture and Society program. It was in this program that her current academic focus began to take shape as she both began the study of Arabic and completed her independent study project on Moroccan hip-hop.

2007 Watson Winner

Mayisha Ealey, C'2007, is the recipient of a coveted Thomas J. Watson Foundation Fellowship award. Ms. Ealey, a chemistry/dual-degree major, will travel to Brazil, Peru, Denmark, Ghana and South Africa to further her work on *The Flavors of Jazz Music: Cultural and Generational Influences*. The Thomas J. Watson Foundation

fellowship is a one-year grant for independent study and travel outside the United States, awarded to 60 graduating seniors from 50 participating colleges. The Fellowship provides a grant of \$22,000 for non-married students or \$31,000 for fellows accompanied by a spouse or dependent child.

Two Juniors Receive Rockefeller Brothers Fellowships

Bianca Baird and Kisha Woods, both C'2008, are the 2007 recipients of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund Fellowship for Aspiring Teachers of Color. The RBF fellowship seeks outstanding students of color from selected U.S. colleges and universities to pursue graduate studies and begin teaching in public schools.

Each fellow receives up to \$22,100 for a summer project, graduate school and loan repayment over a five-year period beginning this summer and ending after three years of public school teaching. Ms. Baird, a child development major, and Ms. Woods, an English major minor in secondary education, competed against students from 27 other colleges and universities. Both will travel to Washington, D.C., in August to present their projects at an RBF workshop.

Ms. Baird is a member of the Ronald McNair Scholar Research Program, S.H.A.P.E. (Student Health Associates and Peer Educators) and the student chapter of the Georgia Association of Educators (GAE). A UPS Scholar, Ms. Woods is a member of Sigma Tau Delta English Honors

Society and GAE. Both plan to pursue graduate studies at Harvard University.

Ashley Hall Selected as BMW Scholar for Spelman Class of 2008

Each year, the BMW Corp. looks for a woman they feel best personifies the qualities — drive, power, creativity and intelligence — evident in their high-performance, luxury vehicles. After several competitive rounds of interviews, the BMW representatives selected Spelman philosophy major and political science minor Ashley T. Hall, C'2008.

Ms. Hall completed the Women of Excellence Leadership Series in 2007, and is a member of Phi Sigma Tau, the National Philosophy Honor Society. Her commitment to serve the community is demonstrated by her active involvement in numerous campus organizations including: S.K.I.R.T.S (Sisters Keeping It Real Through Service), the Spelman Junior Class Council, Spelman College Student Service Coalition and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Eta Kappa Chapter. In addition to the BMW scholarship/internship, Ms. Hall is the recipient of the McGuireWoods Law Firm internship.

Upon graduating from Spelman in spring 2008, Ms. Hall will participate in a fellowship that will afford her the opportunity to study at Oxford University for two years. When she returns to the United States, she will pursue her JD/MBA at Stanford University, followed by a career in corporate law. ●

The Gates Foundation Visits Spelman



William H. Gates, co-chair of The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (back center), and his daughters Kristi Gates Blake (second from left) and Libby Gates Armintrout (second from right) were treated to a robotic demonstration by the SpelBots team (with President Beverly Daniel Tatum, front row, and their advisor, Dr. Andrew Williams, back center right) during their first visit to Spelman on April 27, 2007. While on campus, the Gates attended the Gates Millennium Scholars Luncheon featuring "A Conversation with Kristi Blake and Libby Armintrout." Spelman has 38 Gates Millennium Scholars, the highest number per capita for any college or university.

SpelBots Robotics Team Scores Big at RoboCup 2007 Atlanta

SpelBots, the Spelman College robotics team, achieved a major coup during RoboCup 2007 by tying for second with the University of Texas-Austin in the Four-Legged Passing Challenge. Overall, the team came in seventh in the Four-Legged Technical Challenge. Roughly 2,000 students and faculty from top universities and colleges around the world convened at Georgia Institute of Technology July 1–10 for the international robotics competition.

The technical challenge consists of three research-based challenges: an open research challenge that involves using four-legged Sony AIBOs (battery-operated robotic dogs), a passing challenge that requires the robotic dogs to pass and catch the soccer ball autonomously, and an obstacle avoidance challenge with the robots.

“This event was so challenging,” says Dr. Andrew Williams, associate professor of computer and information science and advisor to the SpelBots team, “that only four out of the 16 teams that competed even scored any points in the passing challenge.”

In 2005 and 2006, SpelBots achieved a major milestone by becoming the first all-female and all-Black team to qualify for the international RoboCup four-legged soccer competition.

The 2007 SpelBots team is comprised of team captain Andrea Roberson, a senior electrical engineering and computer science major;

team co-captain Ashley N. Johnson, a junior majoring in computer science; Whitney O’Banner, a sophomore computer science and engineering major; Philana Benton, a sophomore computer science and engineering major; and Katrina Stewart, a senior majoring in computer science.

With the support of companies like General Electric, Boeing and Apple Inc., and an educational partnership with professor David Touretzky

at Carnegie Mellon University through a National Science Foundation Broadening Participation in Computing grant, Spelman College has been able to broaden its reach. The College has brought into the fold three historically Black universities (Hampton University, Florida A&M University and University of the District of Columbia) that are now conducting robotics education and research. ●



The SpelBots take the field at RoboCup 2007 Atlanta.



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