

SPELMAN COLLEGE



History and Traditions
2025 REFERENCE GUIDE



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Cover: 1920 Teacher's Professional
Training Course participants

Left: Induction Ceremony of 2013

SPELMAN COLLEGE HYMN



Words and music by
Eddye Money Shivery, C'34

Spelman, thy name we praise
Standards and honor raise,
We'll ever faithful be
Throughout eternity.
May peace with thee abide
And God forever guide
Thy heights supreme and true.
Blessings to you.

Scan the QR code or visit the
link below to hear the
Spelman Hymn.



<http://bit.ly/SpelmanHymnFound->

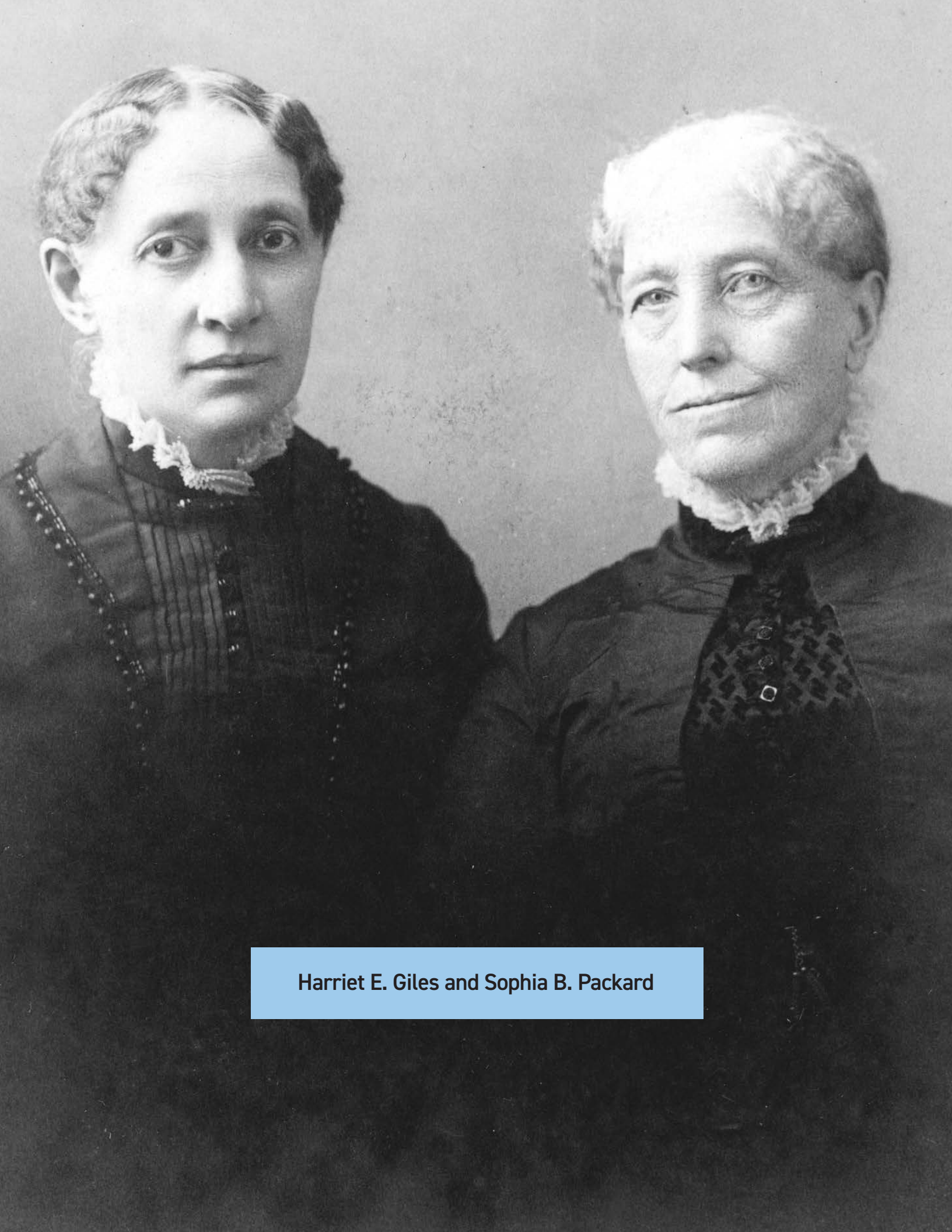
Through years of toil and pain
May thy dear walls remain
Beacons of heavenly light,
Undaunted by the fight;
And when life's race is won,
Thy noble work is done,
Oh God, forever bind
Our hearts to thine.



Read Hall

MISSION STATEMENT

Spelman College, a historically Black college and a global leader in the education of women of African descent, is dedicated to academic excellence in the liberal arts and sciences and the intellectual, creative, ethical, and leadership development of its students. Spelman empowers the whole person to engage the many cultures of the world and inspires a commitment to positive social change.



Harriet E. Giles and Sophia B. Packard

Spelman College History

Spelman College is recognized nationally as a leading educator of African American women. Spelman has grown from its beginnings as a Seminary to a pace setting undergraduate liberal arts institution that enrolls more than 2,598 (excludes eSpelman) students from 42 States and U.S. Territories, and 7 Foreign Countries. The College employs 173 full-time faculty; and offers a challenging liberal arts curriculum that has prepared more than six generations of African American women to reach the highest levels of academic, community and professional achievement. Undergraduate degrees are offered in the Fine Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences. As a member of the Atlanta University Center (AUC) Consortium, Spelman students enjoy the benefits of a small college while having access to the faculty and physical resources of four historically Black institutions.

Spelman is classified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as a Baccalaureate College with an Arts & Science focus. It is one of only four undergraduate HBCUs to be awarded a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society; and is one of only six colleges in the country designated by the National Science Foundation and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration as a Model Institution for Excellence in undergraduate science and mathematics education. Spelman is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and holds memberships in the Coalition of Women's Colleges, National Association of Schools of Music, The College Fund/UNCF, and the National Association for College Admissions Counseling. Spelman is ranked consistently in national publications as a best college buy amongst liberal arts, women's and minority-serving colleges.

Sophia B. Packard and Harriet E. Giles, Founders of Spelman College

On April 11, 1881, in the basement of a Black Baptist church in Atlanta, Sophia B. Packard and Harriet E. Giles embarked upon an educational mission, the creation of a school for Black women and girls. Caught up in the wave of Northern missionaries coming South to provide education and Christian training to more than 1 million freed people, Packard and Giles left the comforts of their New England home to fulfill what they believed was their role in bringing a divided nation together. They formed a powerful dream that they shared and pledged their lives to implement. Theirs was a bold vision, a daring dream. It was this mission that led to the founding of the Atlanta Baptist Female Seminary.

Sophia B. Packard and Harriet E. Giles were pioneers in the cause of women's education. Both women born in New Salem, Massachusetts, began their early education at local district schools and at New Salem Academy. From the age of 16, Packard, the senior of the two women, alternated between going to school and teaching. She graduated from the Female Seminary in Charlestown, Massachusetts, in 1850. While a student at New Salem Academy, Harriet Giles met Sophia Packard, who returned as Preceptress of the Academy in 1854. After Giles graduated in 1856, the two began teaching in small Massachusetts towns, including Fitchburg, where they opened the Rollstone School in March 1859. In the fall of 1859, Packard and Giles closed their small school to accept teaching positions at the Connecticut Literary Institution. An established academy, the Institute was grounded in liberal Baptist principles, where Christian living and high academic standards were emphasized. They remained in Connecticut until 1864, when they joined the faculty of the Oread Collegiate Institute in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Founded in 1849, Oread was one of the first institutions in the country to offer a college education to women. At Oread, Packard taught Metaphysics and Literature and Giles taught Ornamentals and Music. Packard also held the position of co-ordinate principal with the Rev. John Shepardson. Reluctant to give up his pastorate at the Baptist Church in Petersham, Shepardson spent very little time at Oread, leaving primary responsibility for instruction and discipline to Packard, who was more than competent to assume such responsibility.

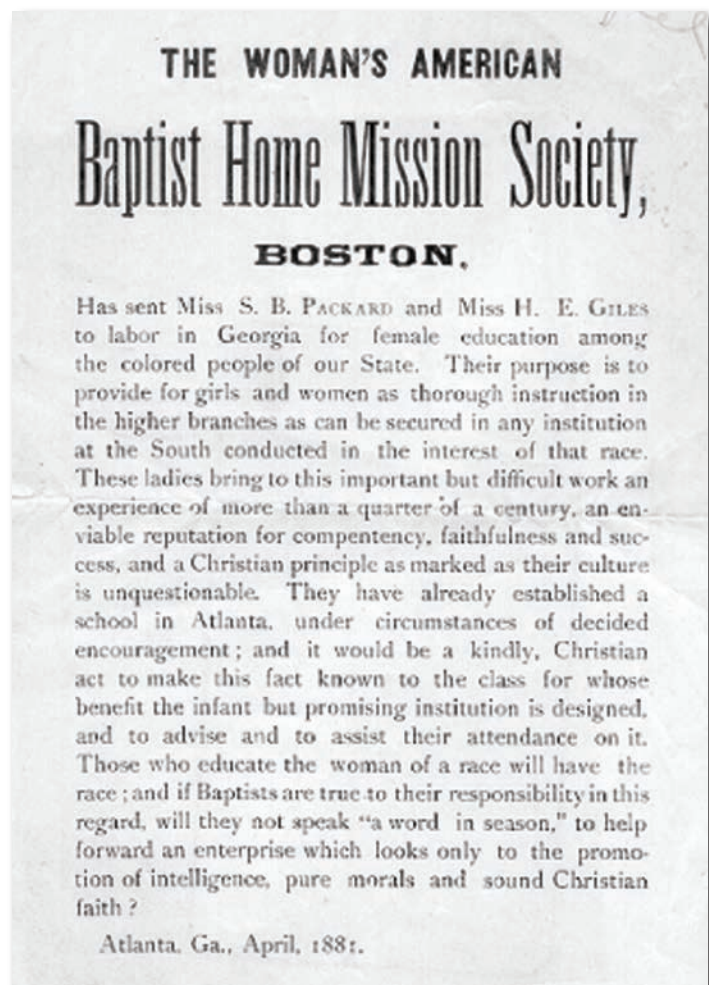
While the experience at Oread gave Packard the opportunity to develop her skills as a teacher and administrator, the experience also proved to be personally traumatic. She was forced to resign her position at Oread by Harris Greene, Shepardson's replacement, who did not want to share the administrative duties of the school with her. Both Packard and Giles believed it was in the best interest of the school and their careers to leave Oread rather than engage in a power struggle with Greene. Packard chose not to return to the classroom and accepted a managerial position at the Empire Insurance Company in Boston. Giles continued her work as a music teacher giving private lessons and concerts in Boston and surrounding towns.

Dr. George C. Lormier, pastor of Shawmut Avenue Baptist Church, noticed Packard's work at the Empire Insurance Company. In 1870, he persuaded Packard to give up her position at the insurance company and convinced his congregation to offer her the appointment as pastor's assistant, an uncommon job for a woman. In 1873, the Rev. Lormier left Shawmut Avenue Baptist Church for Tremont Temple, one of the most prominent Baptist churches in the country. Packard followed as his assistant. The work as pastor's assistant nurtured her interest in people, her practical sensibilities and teaching skills. (Read, 30). This sustained and broader contact with people also fostered her growing interest in Christian reform movements.

In 1877, working along with a group of Baptist women, Packard and Giles organized the Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society as an auxiliary to the American Baptist Home Mission Society. This Society of more than 200 women was united in its support of women missionaries laboring in the field to bring education and Christianity to Native American and African American communities.

Packard was first elected treasurer, then corresponding secretary. She served on all of the organization's committees. As corresponding secretary, she worked diligently to support home mission work and to organize women's groups in churches throughout New England. In 1880, the Woman's Society sent Packard on a trip to assess the living conditions of Black people in the South.

Packard visited homes, schools and churches in the Black communities of Richmond, Nashville, and New Orleans. Harriet Giles joined Packard in New Orleans. Taking the opportunity to tour the city, Giles found living conditions in the Black communities deplorable. She also learned from Packard that similar living conditions among Black people existed throughout the South. The most overwhelming need that Packard and Giles saw was the need for educational opportunities, especially for Black women. Packard and Giles returned to Boston to report the bleak findings of their Southern pilgrimage. Determined to effect change, they put forward their plan to return south to start a school for women



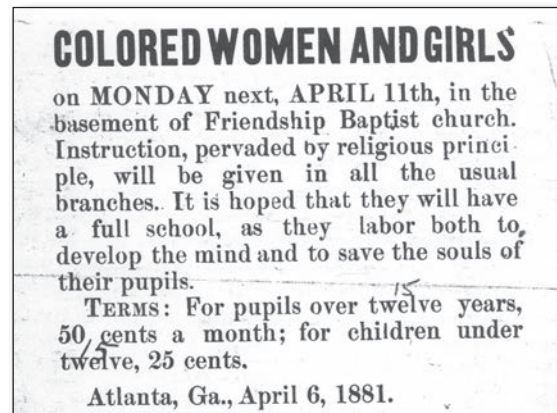
and girls and asked for the Society's support. Unwilling to support the idea of a new school, the members of the Society reasoned that even if such work were needed, the South was too hostile, the treasury was empty, and Packard, 56, and Giles, 48, were too old to undertake such a venture.

Though discouraged, their resolve to return south deepened. However, they needed money for travel expenses and salaries. Giles sold her piano. Then, with the help of friends, Packard and Giles secured a \$100 pledge from the First Baptist Church of Medford, Massachusetts, and other small gifts of cash, including \$15 from the Ladies' Society of Everett, Massachusetts. Now that they had the needed funds, Packard and Giles fixed their intention to establish the school in Georgia. They chose Georgia because it was the state with the largest population of Black Baptists and was without provisions for the education of Black women and girls. In addition, the Atlanta Baptist Seminary (now Morehouse College), supported by the American Baptist Home Mission Society, had relocated from Augusta to Atlanta and held the promise of offering a supportive environment.

After further consideration, the Woman's Society reversed its original decision and in late March 1881, commissioned Packard and Giles as missionaries and teachers to begin a school in Atlanta. Using their experiences and successes in New England schools as a model, and with an offer from Pastor Frank Quarles to use the basement of Friendship, Atlanta's largest Black Baptist Church, the Atlanta Baptist Female Seminary opened with 11 students—ten women, some former slaves, and one girl—on April 11, 1881.

The Atlanta Baptist Female Seminary

In the beginning the Seminary was an ungraded school, and instruction began at the first grade with the alphabet and children's bible stories. Giles taught arithmetic by breaking up small sticks for the students to count. As well as offering instruction in academic subjects, Packard and Giles also taught hygiene and health care. Many of the students had never seen a toothbrush and most were uncertain about bathing in the wintertime. Undaunted by such challenges, the two women persevered, slowly working their way up from these rudimentary lessons of existence to the highest levels of an arts and science program. The catalog printed in the first year of the Seminary lists a Normal Department offering a sound secondary curriculum and an Academic Department that



included courses in rhetoric, psychology, algebra, chemistry, and Latin.

As Packard and Giles labored in their basement with students at the most basic level of the educational process, they began planning a full-scale liberal arts college. (Pearsall, 17).

As news of the work these women were doing spread throughout the community, students came in increasing numbers. The school's enrollment so exceeded capacity that all girls under 15 years of age were sent to the public school. Within three months of its opening, enrollment had grown from 11 to 80. By the end of the first year, 175 women and girls between the ages of 15 and 52 were enrolled in the school. In 1882, two more teachers commissioned by the Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society, Sarah Champney and Caroline Grover joined Packard and Giles. The basement school was now too crowded for the work to be effective. It was obvious to all that they could not continue under such cramped conditions. A building with proper classrooms and living quarters was badly needed. Packard and Giles turned to the Woman's Society for assistance, but found little help, so they petitioned the American Baptist Home Mission Society.

In February 1882, the Home Mission Society secured an option on nine acres and five frame buildings used as barracks by the Union Army during the occupation of Atlanta for the Atlanta Baptist Seminary (Morehouse). Sensitive to the needs of the Female Seminary, but unable to support two schools, a merger was proposed, the Atlanta Baptist Female Seminary would become the "Girls' Department" of the Atlanta Baptist Seminary. Packard and Giles needed the property but rejected the proposal. It had been their experience that in co-educational schools the courses were designed primarily



Basement of Friendship Baptist church

COURSES OF STUDY.			
NORMAL DEPARTMENT.			
FIRST YEAR.		SECOND YEAR.	
FIRST TERM. Reading and Spelling, Primary Arithmetic, Geography, Writing.	SECOND TERM. Reading and Spelling, Intellectual Arithmetic, Geography, Writing.	FIRST TERM. Reading and Definition, Written Arithmetic, Geography, Writing.	SECOND TERM. Reading and Definition, Practical Arithmetic, Geography, Writing.
THIRD YEAR.		FOURTH YEAR.	
FIRST TERM. Practical Arithmetic, English Grammar, History of the United States, Composition and Recitations.	SECOND TERM. Practical Arithmetic, English Grammar, History of the United States, Composition and Recitations.	FIRST TERM. Higher English Grammar, Algebra, Physiology and Hygiene, Essays.	SECOND TERM. Higher English Grammar, Algebra, Physical Geography, Essays.
ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT.			
FIRST YEAR.		SECOND YEAR.	
FIRST TERM. Latin or English Analysis, Rhetoric, Geometry, Essays.	SECOND TERM. Latin or Political Economy, Universal History, Geometry and Trigonometry, Essays.	FIRST TERM. Latin or English Literature, Natural Philosophy, Constitution of United States, Essays.	SECOND TERM. Latin or Chemistry, English History, Botany, Essays.
THIRD YEAR.		FOURTH YEAR.	
FIRST TERM. Latin or English Literature, Natural Philosophy, Constitution of United States, Essays.	SECOND TERM. Latin or Chemistry, English History, Botany, Essays.	FIRST TERM. Astronomy, Mental Philosophy, Zoology, Essays.	SECOND TERM. Moral Philosophy, Evidences of Christianity, Geology, Essays.

for men, and the training for women received only ancillary consideration at best. They also believed that the educational needs of women could best be served removed from the distractions caused by the constant contact and interaction with men. (Read, 80)

As news of the proposed merger spread, Packard and Giles rallied their friends and supporters to help kill the plan. The Home Mission Society was inundated with appeals from the Woman's Society and other friends of the Female Seminary not to consolidate the two schools. The two women held firm to the dream that had brought them south from New England—to educate Black women and girls in a school of only Black women and girls. The Home Mission Society deterred action

on the merger plan on the condition that Packard and Giles assume the remaining debt due on the property.

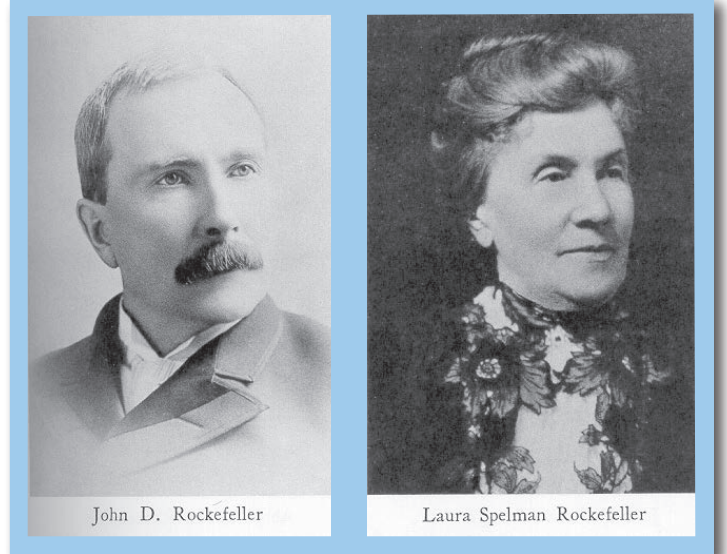
Packard and Giles traveled to the North to begin raising money for the Building Fund. A fortunate change in circumstances occurred when, in June 1882, of their former students, the Rev. George O. King, pastor of the Wilson Avenue Baptist Church in Cleveland, Ohio, invited them to speak to his congregation about the work at the Seminary. King promised the two women he would invite John and Laura Rockefeller to hear them. Packard and Giles had met the Rockefellers in 1864. While on their honeymoon trip, John and Laura Rockefeller stopped at Oread Institute for a visit, meeting two new arrivals to the school, Sophia Packard and Harriet Giles.



Laura Spelman and her sister, Lucy Maria Spelman, had been students at Oread from 1858 to 1859.

On Sunday, June 18, 1882, Packard and Giles addressed the Wilson Avenue congregation. With conviction and eloquence, Packard described their work in Atlanta. She spoke of the students, 175 women and girls, mothers and daughters in the same class eager to learn the simplest lessons, and of their rapid progress. She spoke of their distressing poverty and of the tremendous sacrifices made and risks taken by the women to attend school. She also spoke of their greatest reason for rejoicing, the conversions of more than 20 students to Christ. All of this accomplished in a dark, damp, crowded basement. How much more could be accomplished, Packard advanced, with good classrooms and living quarters for the teachers and the students? Few in the audience were unmoved by the address, including the Rockefellers. John Rockefeller contributed all the money from his pockets to the collection plate, pledged \$250.00 for the building fund, and promised to do more if the two women proved steadfast in their convictions to see the school through.

On the following day, Packard and Giles were invited to spend the afternoon at the Rockefeller's home. Packard's appeal struck a responsive chord with the social-minded Rockefellers. At Oread, the Spelman sisters were exposed to the abolitionist thinking of Eli Thayer, Lydia Childs, and John Brown. Laura Rockefeller was particularly moved by Packard's and Giles' aim



to educate women. John and Laura Rockefeller were active members in a number of organizations that promoted social causes such as the temperance movement and mission work at home and abroad. That afternoon visit also afforded some time for Packard to set forth for Rockefeller her vision for the future of the school. In all likelihood, it was Packard's foresight, financial astuteness, and missionary piety that secured Rockefeller's assistance.

Encouraged by the Rockefellers' support and the move to the barracks property in February 1883, Packard and Giles intensified their efforts to raise the remaining balance for the property but were unsuccessful in reaching the December



The Female Seminary set its sights on nine acres and five frame buildings once used as barracks for the Union Army.

1883 deadline. Henry L. Morehouse, Executive Secretary of the Home Mission Society, although not optimistic about their ability to raise the additional money, obtained an extension from the mortgage holder on the loan until April 1884. In a letter to the women in January 1884, Morehouse urged them to reconsider the offer to merge the two schools because it seemed increasingly unlikely that the funds could be raised.

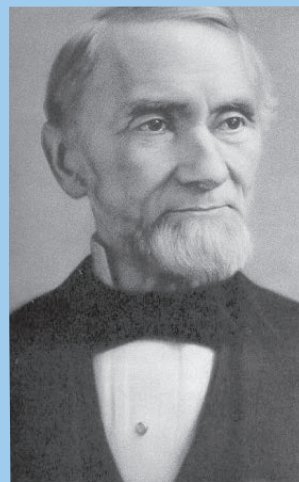
Packard and Giles, perhaps more foresighted and determined than Morehouse thought, had already made another appeal to John D. Rockefeller. Their letter to Rockefeller reiterated their earnest belief that the school must be operated exclusively for women and girls. They believed that any hope of elevating the race had to start with the education of the women, who were the first teachers for the family. They wrote of their wish to incorporate the school under a board of trustees and invited him to Atlanta to see the school. Packard and Giles also offered, in gratitude for his generosity, to give the school his name or a name he suggested. "Can it be, they wondered, that for the lack of a few thousand dollars the Baptist denomination will suffer this school to be given up? Can you not come to our relief and give of your abundance as God has prospered you?" (Read, 80)

Moved again by their fervent call for help, Rockefeller, accompanied by his wife, her mother and sister, and two of the Rockefeller's children, arrived at the Seminary on April 11, 1884, the school's third anniversary. After walking the small campus and meeting the students and teachers, Rockefeller discharged the remaining \$5,000 debt, establishing at last the Seminary as a school for women and girls.

Spelman Seminary

John D. Rockefeller declined the invitation to give the school his name and instead suggested that the honor be given to Laura Rockefeller's parents, Harvey Buel and Lucy Henry Spelman. The Spelmans for many years worked untiringly for the abolition of slavery and to gain equal rights for Black people. Their home in Ohio had served as a safe house for runaway slaves going to Canada. They had also been advocates for public school reform and women's rights.

Packard and Giles accepted Rockefeller's suggestion and the Atlanta Baptist Female Seminary was renamed Spelman Seminary for Women and Girls.



Harvey Buel Spelman



Lucy Henry Spelman

In addition to stabilizing a tenuous financial situation, Rockefeller's gifts gave rise to an interest in and recognition of the school that otherwise might have taken years to effect. Financial support from new sources was received which helped to broaden the school's capacity to involve itself in community, social, and church work. The Slater Fund, already underwriting the cost of teaching courses in cooking, all types of sewing, including millinery and dressmaking, and general housework, provided more funds to set up a printing department. By 1885, the *Spelman Messenger*, the school's first significant publication, typeset by the students, became an important communication. It highlighted the work being done at Spelman and offered articles about literature and history, Sunday School lessons, essays about current events, and practical information such as recipes, medical remedies, and household tips that were thought to be useful to families, especially those in rural areas that subscribed to the paper.

The move to the barracks had provided the Seminary with a permanent home and better facilities. As a result, a boarding department opened, and the Seminary undertook an expansion of its courses and programs. Within two years of the move, the faculty increased to 16 and the student body to 600. The academic courses in mathematics, English grammar and literature, geography, and natural philosophy deepened in content as the students' understanding of the subjects grew. An elementary school for young girls opened in the fall of 1884. An infirmary opened under the direction of Dr. Sophia Jones, the first African American woman to graduate from the University of Michigan Medical College. The infirmary not only took care of sick Spelman students, but also made it possible to offer courses in nursing.



The expanding enrollment taxed the school's modest facilities. Rockefeller responded once more by donating funds for a brick building, Rockefeller Hall, the first major construction on the Spelman campus. Another brick building, Packard Hall, succeeded it in 1888. In 1887, six women completed the Higher Normal and Scientific Course (High School). They were the first to receive diplomas from the Seminary. Through the vision and persistence of Sophia Packard, the Seminary was granted a state charter in 1888. A board of trustees was organized naming Packard as Spelman's first president. By the end of the first decade of the Seminary's existence, enrollment had grown from 11 to 800 students, more than half of whom lived on campus. The faculty now numbered 33, and the physical plant that had once consisted of only nine acres and five wooden buildings now consisted of a campus of 20 acres and buildings valued at \$90,000.

Having seen the Seminary through its humble beginnings and ushered it into a period of stability and extraordinary

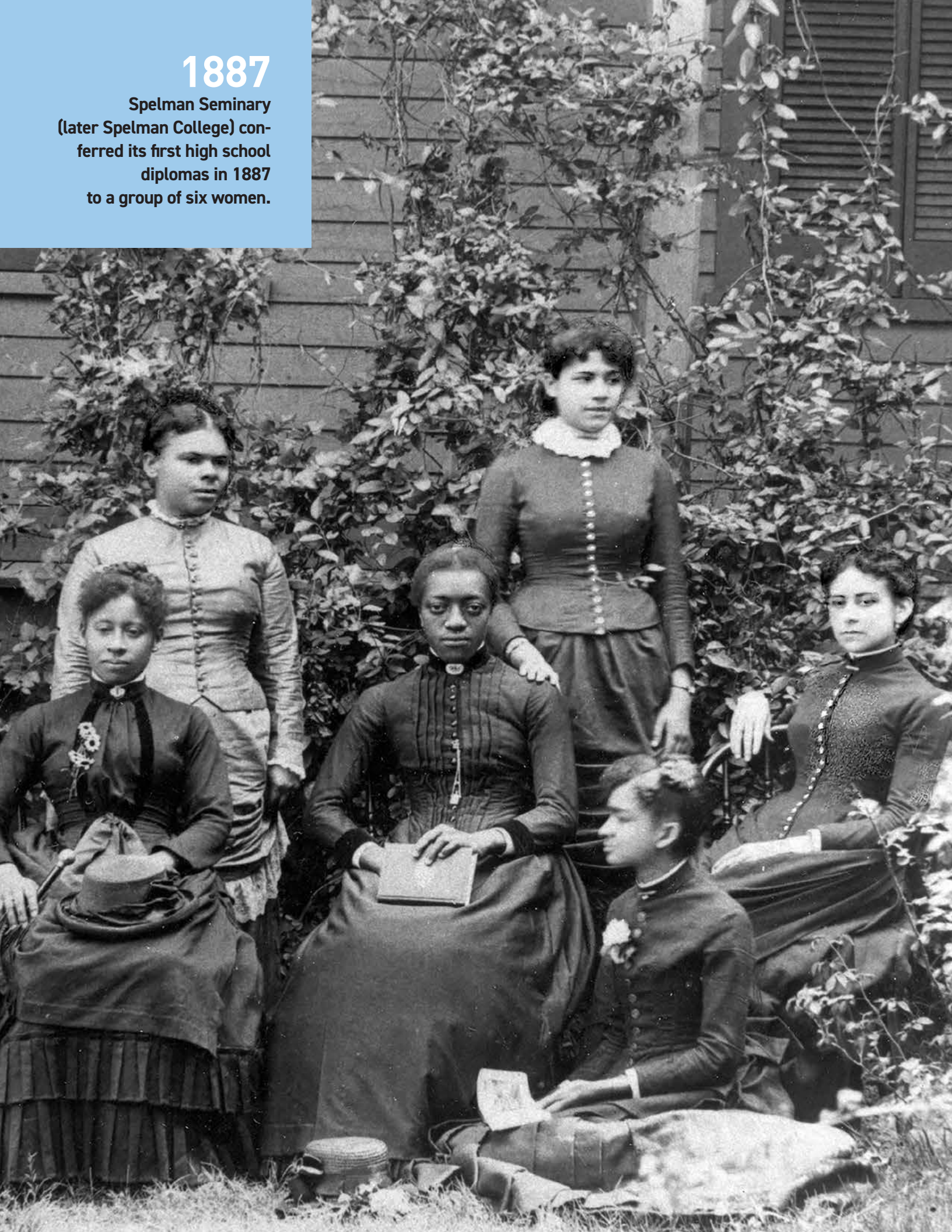
development, Sophia Packard died in 1891 and Harriet E. Giles became the second president of Spelman Seminary. Further expansion and improvement of the Seminary in all areas marked Giles' eighteen years of service. Responsibility for the Seminary's academic direction was now guided by Dean



By the end of the first decade of the Seminary's existence, enrollment had grown from 11 to 800 students, more than half of whom lived on campus. The faculty now numbered 33.

1887

Spelman Seminary
(later Spelman College) con-
ferred its first high school
diplomas in 1887
to a group of six women.



Lucy Houghton Upton. Under Dean Upton's oversight, new departments were established and coursework strengthened and upgraded year after year. In 1891, a Missionary Training Department opened, to prepare students for mission work in the rural south as well as Africa and other countries. The Nurse Training Program was extended to a three-year course, which included academic study and practical training conducted in the newly opened Everts Ward, the Seminary hospital that accommodated both students and outside patients.

In 1892, the Teachers Professional Course was instituted to train teachers for the elementary grades. With the construction of Giles Hall in 1893, the middle and high school offerings were expanded and a college preparatory course was implemented. In 1897, the College Department opened in cooperation with Atlanta Baptist College (Morehouse). The first baccalaureate degrees were awarded in 1901 to Jane Anna Granderson and Claudia T. White. This achievement brought the school closer to Packard's and Giles' dream of Spelman evolving into a four-year liberal arts college.

By 1905, the Domestic Science Program had broadened

its courses to include professional level classes in cooking, dressmaking, and printing. In 1906, the Instrumental Music Department, that prepared students for conservatory study, awarded its first certificates, and in 1908, a night school opened. Giles' death November 12, 1909, marked the end of the remarkable era of the Founders. From their one room basement school, they had built an institution that now filled a spectrum of needs for thousands of Black women — from grade school through college.

Growth of Spelman Seminary into Spelman College

During the winter meeting of the Board of Trustees in March 1910, **Lucy Hale Tapley**, Dean of the Seminary, was elected the third president of Spelman. Born in Maine, Tapley attended a private school in Brooksville and then Buckport Seminary in her home state. She joined the faculty of Spelman Seminary in 1890 as teacher of English and arithmetic. Tapley served as principal of the elementary school before taking charge of the Teachers Professional Course in



Class of 1909

1903. Under her leadership, the curriculum in the areas of teacher training and industrial studies was advanced. In the area of teacher training, special emphasis was placed on the needs of rural schools, and teachers were instructed, trained, and encouraged to return to work in rural areas. Giles Hall, over which Tapley reigned, was renowned in the South for its well-trained teachers and their influence in rural communities. Such substantive achievements, like Lucy Tapley's reform of the Teachers Professional Course, were characteristic of her presidency.

The seventeen years of Tapley's administration as president saw the school answer the challenges of a new century and gradually move away from the concept of a multi-purposed academy. Once the public sector began to provide primary and secondary schools for Black children, Spelman began its concentration on higher-level offerings. The Spelman course of study, always dynamic and ever-evolving in its substance and variety, changed as the needs of the students changed.

During her tenure, more than a thousand students received degrees and diplomas. She brought the school out of debt and the annual budget grew from less than \$35,000 to nearly \$140,000. In consideration of this increase, Tapley recommended to the Trustees that they appoint a treasurer and a finance committee to manage the budget. She also proposed the transfer of the financial administration from the American Baptist Home Mission Society to the school. Further gains were made by the institution in the form of buildings and land being added to the plant. The apex of this significant period in the school's history came in June 1924 when Spelman Seminary officially became Spelman College. With the construction of

Tapley Hall, all of the college work finally could be done on Spelman's campus. The receipt of an "A" rating from the State of Georgia and the Association of Colleges for Negro Youth crowned the school's achievement.

In 1927, Lucy Hale Tapley retired after 37 years of service to Spelman as teacher, Principal of the Elementary School, Superintendent of the Normal Department, Dean of the Seminary and President of the institution. She left a student body well fitted to meet and adapt to any change or expansion. Named President Emerita by the Board of Trustees, Lucy Hale Tapley returned to her home in Maine.

Spelman College and the Rockefeller Philanthropy

John D. Rockefeller maintained an active and personal interest in every phase of the institution's development. He served as a trustee of the Seminary from 1888 until 1907. Throughout his lifetime Rockefeller continued to be Spelman's signal benefactor. However, he insisted that his gifts were meant to act as a stimulus for others to give, requiring the school in some instances to raise matching funds to complete projects. In 1890, eleven acres adjoining the Seminary were purchased, generously financed by Rockefeller. He gave the entirety of the funds for the construction of Giles Hall to house the Elementary and Junior High School classes, as well as providing financial assistance for the construction of a laundry and Upton Hall for the nurses. In 1901, Rockefeller provided more than \$200,000 to build Morgan and Morehouse Halls, dormitories to replace the barracks buildings, Reynolds Cottage, the president's home, MacVicar Hospital, and a power plant.

In 1902, Rockefeller created and endowed the General

Rockefeller Hall



MacVicar Hall



Tapley Hall



Education Board to “promote education in the United States without distinction of sex, race or creed; with immediate attention given to studying and aiding the promotion of the educational needs of the people of the Southern States.” The very first appropriation made by the Board for any purpose was a \$6,000 appropriation toward the expenses of Spelman Seminary. In 1917 and 1918, with funds from the General Education Board, the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial Building for Home Economics and Bessie Strong Hall, which replaced Upton Hall as the residence for the Nurse training students, were constructed as memorials to Rockefeller’s wife and daughter. Funds from the Board also financed the construction of Tapley Hall, the science building, in 1925. In 1927, Sisters Chapel, a memorial to Laura Spelman Rockefeller and Lucy Maria Spelman, her sister, was dedicated. Rockefeller sent his own craftsmen to Atlanta to lay out drives and walks and to install a system for heating and lighting. His landscape architects planned the planting of the campus, purposely selecting trees and shrubs that would make the campus a living laboratory for botanical study.

Successive generations of the Rockefeller family have continued the legacy of giving started by the senior Rockefeller. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. gave to Spelman through the General Education Board and from his personal finances. In 1928, the Institution received an appropriation of \$1.5 million from the General Education Board to establish an endowment given on the condition that the school raised a matching amount. John Rockefeller, Jr. donated one million dollars from the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial to establish the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial Fund at Spelman. The fund facilitated the institution’s transition to a fully realized liberal arts college.

In 1951, he donated \$500,000 more to Spelman for the construction of Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Hall.

In 1961, the sons of John Rockefeller, Jr., through the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, presented a gift of \$750,000 for the construction of the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Fine Arts Building and, in 1981, gave the College a centennial gift of four million dollars for the endowment. Spelman College trustees, Mary French Rockefeller (1946-1970) and Laura Rockefeller Chasin (1965-1990), wife and daughter of Laurance Rockefeller, and Peggy Rockefeller Dulany (1982-1989), daughter of David Rockefeller, were also generous benefactors of the College. Spelman has enjoyed the patronage of five generations of Rockefellers to the Board of Trustees.

Development of Spelman College

On June 15, 1927, the Board of Trustees appointed **Florence Matilda Read** to succeed Lucy Hale Tapley as president. A graduate of Mount Holyoke College, Read served in several capacities at Mount Holyoke, including work as her alma mater’s Alumnae Secretary. In 1911, she joined the faculty of Reed College in Oregon where she also served as Secretary of the College. Prior to her appointment as Spelman’s fourth president, Read was employed as Executive Secretary of the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation.



Laura Spelman Rockefeller Hall



Sisters Chapel



Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Hall



As a condition of her acceptance of the Spelman presidency, Read insisted that the Board establish an endowment fund for the school to free it “from the whims of foundation boards and other entities.” (Read, 212) The trustees used this proviso as a reason to seek and raise funds that eventually totaled more than \$3,000,000. During her tenure as president, Read set in motion the institution’s development as a liberal arts college. Within the first three years of her presidency, the elementary, junior high, and high school classes and Nurses Training Program were brought to conclusion or handed over, thereby concentrating all of the institution’s resources and facilities on the enhancement of the college program. Spelman’s high school division was transferred to Atlanta University and operated as the Atlanta University Laboratory School until 1942.

Florence Read also presided over another significant event in the College’s history. It was in April 1929 that the signing of the “Agreement of Affiliation” between Spelman College, Morehouse College and Atlanta University occurred, establishing the foundation of the Atlanta University Center. Of particular importance to the Center was the presence of Atlanta University. The University’s inclusion gave the undergraduate institutions immediate access to graduate programs in an era when graduates from Black colleges were still denied entrance to southern universities. With the addition of Clark and Morris Brown Colleges in 1957, the Interdenominational Theological Center in 1959, and the Morehouse School of Medicine in 1983, the Atlanta University Center became the largest consortium of Black colleges and universities in the country.

In the 1920’s, Spelman and many other Black colleges and universities looked to the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools to evaluate their institutions against the recognized standards of universities and to offer constructive suggestions for improvements. Thwarted by the color line that excluded Black schools from its membership, the Association was finally persuaded in 1930 to alter its practice of only rating member institutions. The Southern Association undertook the inspection of Black colleges and universities, awarding status to seven institutions including Spelman. With Class A status awarded two years later in 1932, Spelman College was able to have its course credits and degrees accepted by institutions where Spelman students might wish to continue their studies.

Throughout the 1930’s and 1940’s, Spelman made substantial advances in strengthening the curriculum. On November 6, 1930, the Spelman Nursery and Kindergarten were opened, giving student teachers from the College opportunities for practical training. The school was the first of its kind at a woman’s or Black College. In addition to the work of caring for and teaching young children, the school also served as an instructional center for parents, a place of preparation for college students interested in professions dealing with young children, a research site for graduate students in education, home economics, and psychology, and an observation center for those interested in the care and training of young children.

Along with the development in the education program of the College, there was also a noticeable emphasis placed on the arts. For many Spelman students, their first solid exposure to the fine arts, especially in music, art, drama, and dance, took



Giles Hall



**Camille Olivia Hanks Cosby, Ed.D.
Academic Center**



**Albro-Falconer-Manley
Science Center**

place at Spelman because of exclusionary practices in the South. The annual Christmas Carol Concert was first performed in 1927 by the Glee Clubs of both Spelman and Morehouse. The concert consisted of traditional American, French, German and Haitian Christmas carols and Negro spirituals. For many in attendance it was their first time attending a concert in the South where the seating was not segregated by race. The College also enjoyed the privilege of seeing and hearing national and international artists and speakers, such as Marian Anderson, Langston Hughes, Roland Hayes, Paul Robeson, Max Bauer, Julius Rosenwald, Ralph Bunche and Mary McLeod Bethune in Sisters Chapel.

This exposure was augmented by new courses in the fine arts. New faculty, such as Anne Cooke and John Ross in drama, Kemper Harreld and Willis Laurence James in music, Elizabeth Prophet and Hale Woodruff in art, and Florence Warwick, who began Spelman's dance program, were also added. Spelman students were also given the opportunity to actively participate in the arts. In the area of music, students could join the Glee Club, the Quartet, the Mixed Chorus, or the Spelman-Morehouse-Atlanta University Orchestra. Those interested in drama could join the Drama Guild or the University Players. Along with these activities in the arts, students were also afforded the chance to engage in literary pursuits. The first student newspaper, the *Campus Mirror*, was conceived and printed beginning in 1928. There was also an outlet for political expression with the institution of the Spelman Student Government Association, organized in 1942.

In 1947, after a thorough survey of the school, the American



1941: March through the Alumnae Arch



1953: Spelman Glee Club performs its Annual Christmas Carol Concert



1950: Fine Arts class

Association of Universities, an organization of graduate schools, placed Spelman on its approved list of colleges and universities. This recognition was tantamount to giving qualified Spelman women access to the best graduate schools in America. Only seven Black schools had met the Association's requirements, and three of the schools were in Atlanta: Spelman College, Morehouse College and Atlanta University.

In 1936, at the death of John Hope, president of Atlanta University, Florence Read, treasurer of the University, was appointed acting president. She served concurrently as president of Spelman and Atlanta University for more than a year until the appointment of Dr. Rufus Clement in July 1937.

On April 25, 1944, Florence Read joined Dr. Frederick D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute and the presidents of 18 other historically Black colleges and universities in establishing the United Negro College Fund (UNCF). Because of her reputation as a strong and capable leader among the presidents of the institutions in Atlanta, Read was asked to join the planning committee for the first UNCF campaign. At the first meeting of the newly incorporated organization in May 1944, Read was elected secretary of the corporation. She served in this position until 1953. On July 1, 1953, an

enormously productive and distinguished career ended when Florence Read retired as president of Spelman. She was named President Emerita. While in retirement, Read wrote a comprehensive history of the College, *The Story of Spelman College*, published in 1961.

Albert E. Manley, Ed.D., Fifth President



Florence Read was succeeded by **Dr. Albert E. Manley**, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at North Carolina College in Durham. Dr. Manley, a graduate of Johnson C. Smith and Stanford Universities, was the first Black and the first male to serve as president of Spelman College. From the first day of

his administration, Dr. Manley demonstrated his belief that women were as capable of leadership as men and that for such leadership to be effective it must be backed by knowledge and experience.

The Albert Manley administration emphasized the achievement of excellence in all aspects of life. The College's curriculum was broadened, spurring on the development of a

number of new programs. Spelman women were encouraged and prepared to enter the fields of medicine, law, international affairs, engineering, business and industry.

With the inauguration of the Merrill Foreign Travel-Study Program, the Student Exchange Program and participation in the Crossroads Africa Program, Spelman students were now afforded opportunities to travel and to study abroad. During Dr. Manley's tenure, campus rules and regulations were relaxed, allowing students more personal and social freedom. New programs in leadership training for students served as a stimulus for an increase in student activism and the revitalization of the student government association into a tremendously effective organization.

Dr. Manley brought the College through the process of accreditation that led to full membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in 1958. He established a system of rank, tenure and promotion for the teaching faculty. The academic program of the College was reorganized into a divisional structure, and the Freshman Studies, Health Careers and Cooperative Education programs were established.

During these years, Spelman's physical plant increased in acreage and buildings to meet the demands of a growing enrollment and expanding curriculum. Classroom buildings were renovated and updated. New construction on campus included the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Fine Arts Building that housed the departments of drama, music, and art; three new dormitories, Dorothy Shepard Manley Hall in 1964, Howard-Harrel Hall in 1968, Sally Sage McAlpin Hall in 1973 and the Albert E. Manley College Center, which replaced Morgan Hall, in 1973.

Dr. Manley also saw the College through the unrest of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s, the rounds of runaway inflation and the feminist revolution of the 1970s. The modern civil rights movement involved Black students from Southern colleges and hundreds of white students in a social upheaval that was unprecedented in the nation's history. Spelman students joined in the development of policy, the planning of strategies and in all types of direct action.

On March 9, 1960, a full-page advertisement crafted by Atlanta University Center (AUC) students was placed in *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and the Black owned *Atlanta Daily World*. The historic ad, "An Appeal for Human Rights," identified

key area (education, jobs, housing, voting, hospitals, movies, concerts, restaurants and law enforcement) in which Black were victims of discrimination and racial injustice, and it promised that students would use every legal and nonviolent means to alleviate these inequities. Though Rosalyn Pope, a Spelman student, is credited with having drafted the major portions of the manifesto, the document was signed by the Student Government Association presidents from each of the six schools in the AUC. A few days later, when 200 AUC students converged on downtown Atlanta to protest segregated eating establishments and public buildings, seventy-seven students were arrested.

During the latter years of Albert Manley's presidency, new courses were added that focused on the experiences and contributions of women, especially those of Black women. Other curricular innovations included the establishment of freshman studies, a new major in philosophy, and new interdisciplinary course throughout all academic divisions. Dr. Manley also began a new initiative in the sciences that moved away from a science program built around the Home Economics program to courses that prepared students to pursue graduate and professional degrees in the sciences. The Division of Natural Sciences was created in 1972, with Dr. Shirley McBay as its first chair.

These were times that severely tested all institutions of higher learning and threatened the continuity and purposes of the predominantly Black colleges. However, Spelman's strong emergence from those challenges attested to the quality of its leadership and the fiber of the whole college community. Dr. Manley retired as president in 1976 after 23 years of service to the College.

Donald M. Stewart, Ph.D., Sixth President



When President Albert Manley retired, **Dr. Donald Mitchell Stewart** became the sixth president of the College. Dr. Stewart, with the A.B. degree from Grinnell College, the A.M. degree from Yale, and the M.P.A. and D.P.A. degrees from Harvard Universities, came to the College having served as Associate Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Director of the College of General Studies, and Counselor to the Provost at the

University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Stewart brought new strengths and experiences to Spelman at a time when Spelman women faced broader opportunities and more complex responsibilities. During his tenure, Dr. Stewart continued Spelman's long tradition of academic excellence. By establishing a full-fledged chemistry department and by strengthening the General Education requirements, Spelman broadened its majors and added career-oriented minors. An Honors Program was developed and a Comprehensive Writing Program was initiated to help students improve their critical thinking and writing skills.

To further enhance the academic environment, a Continuing Education Program, which began with non-credit courses, was introduced for the non-traditional student. The program now includes credit and non-credit courses and a Human Services major. Computers were thoroughly integrated into the campus life. Computer literacy was required for students, and there were ongoing workshops for the faculty. Computer Science was also initiated as a major and minor course of study. Spelman offered majors in 26 fields, as well as special pre-law and pre-medical sequences. Counseling programs and placement services helped students to find graduate and professional schools or job opportunities most suited to their talents and training.

Dr. Stewart instituted a rigorous set of faculty appointments and promotion and tenure policies. With a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the curriculum was strengthened through faculty and course development, increased faculty positions, and a visiting scholars program. A president's council was established to enhance Spelman's corporate relationships, which helped the endowment grow from \$9 million to \$41 million during the decade of Stewart's administration. Under the leadership of Marian Wright Edelman, C'60, the first Spelman alumna to serve as Chair of the Board, the trustees approved a plan for total divestment in South Africa.

Two buildings were erected, the Donald and Isabel Stewart Living-Learning Center I, and the Academic Computer Center. Designed to support the belief that education continues outside the classroom, the Living-Learning Center became the site for lectures, forums, discussion groups, and other

educational activities, including the visit of Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm as scholar in residence. The other building, the Academic Computer Center, originally housed a DECVAX 11/780 for teaching, and a terminal room that contained terminals and microcomputers that accessed the Atlanta University Center computer via a Local Area Network. The Women's Research and Resource Center, the first of its kind on a Black college campus, was also established. Courses in Women's Studies, conferences, symposia, the publication of a journal, SAGE, as well as the management of the college archives, were all activities conducted by the Center.

On April 11, 1981, Spelman College celebrated a full century of service to women who achieve. In December 1986, Dr. Stewart ended his tenure to become president of The College Board. Dr. Barbara Carter, Vice President for Academic Affairs, served as Acting President during the interim period, January 1987 through June 30, 1987.

Johnnetta B. Cole, Ph.D. Seventh and First Black Woman President



At the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees on April 25, 1987, **Dr. Johnnetta Betsch Cole** was selected as the first Black woman president of Spelman College, effective July 1, 1987. Dr. Cole, former professor of anthropology at Hunter College and Director of Latin-American and Caribbean Studies at the City University of New York,

was educated at Fisk University, Oberlin College (B.A.), and Northwestern University (M.A., Ph.D.). Dr. Cole brought a wealth of scholarly achievement and demonstrated leadership to the College. The beginning of her administration was punctuated by a \$20 million gift from Drs. William (Bill) and Camille Cosby for the construction of the Camille Olivia Hanks Cosby, Ed.D. Academic Center.

During her tenure, Dr. Cole positioned Spelman among the top liberal arts colleges in the nation. Programs designed to strengthen the ties between the College and local, national and world constituencies were initiated. The Corporate Women's

Roundtable was established. Dr. Cole spearheaded the most successful capital campaign in the history of the College. The Spelman Campaign: Initiatives for the 90s raised \$113.8 million for the College's endowment. Spelman received national and international recognition and was ranked among the best colleges in the country. Money Magazine ranked Spelman first among women's colleges and fifth in the nation of the Best College Buys for 1988. In 1992, U.S. News and World Report named Spelman the number one regional liberal arts college in the South. In the same year, the College was also ranked fifth among all colleges and universities in the number of Black students accepted into medical school.

Under Dr. Cole's leadership, the Living Learning Center II was erected in 1989, now officially named the Johnnetta Betsch Cole Living Learning Center II, new campus programs were established, including the Physics Department, the International Affairs Center, and the Dow Jones/Spelman College Entrepreneurial Center. Spelman was selected as one of 10 HBCUs to join the New York University Faculty Resource Network, and academic partnerships with Princeton, Harvard, Brown, and the University of Wisconsin were established. A lecture series, Readings at Reynolds, was inaugurated in 1987 featuring prominent scholars and writers, such as Mary Catherine Batson, Chinua Achebe, Cornel West, Nell Painter, Audre Lorde, Mary Helen Washington and Tina McElroy Ansa. The lecture series was designed to augment the academic development of the student body and provide intellectual stimulation for the administration, faculty and staff of the College.

With the Mentorship and Community Service programs, Cole ushered in a new era of commitment to the community. Her personal and unshakable pledge to social awareness and activism inspired a generation to believe that the gift of education was not their own, but must be utilized for the greater community. With this philosophy, she created the Johnnetta B. Cole Institute for Community Service and Community Building as an integral part of life at Spelman. In 1991, the Spelman Community Service Program was designated White House Point of Light #563. In 1993, Spelman received a four million dollar endowment from the Bonner Foundation to establish a Bonner Scholars Program for Community Service, then the first and only at an HBCU. Dr. Cole retired in 1997 as President Emerita. She

subsequently served on the faculty of Emory University as a Distinguished Presidential Scholar in Anthropology, Women's Studies and African-American Studies. In 2002, Dr. Cole was named the 14th President of Bennett College for Women in Greensboro, North Carolina where she led until her retirement in 2007.

Audrey F. Manley, M.D. Eighth and First Alumna President



Dr. Audrey Forbes Manley, appointed the eighth president of Spelman College in 1997, became the first alumna to hold this position. A 1955 graduate, Dr. Manley played an active role in the development of the College in the years since her commencement. She served as a member of the Board of Trustees, a major gift

donor, and, in 1970, she became first lady of the College after marrying Dr. Albert Manley, Spelman's fifth president. In her role as first lady, she initiated the Health Careers Office and chaired the Health Careers Advisory Committee. Dr. Manley also served concurrently as organizer/program consultant of the Family Planning Program and Institute for College Personnel in Family Planning and as medical director of the Family Planning Program for the Atlanta University Center.

Prior to returning to Spelman as president, Dr. Manley enjoyed a 30-year medical career as a physician, clinician, medical academician, and public health professional. Dr. Manley served as Acting Surgeon General of the United States and Deputy Surgeon General. She is the first African American woman to achieve the rank of Assistant Surgeon General (Rear Admiral) and the first to be named Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health and Acting Assistant Secretary for Health. Dr. Manley received her medical degree from Meharry Medical College and holds a Master of Public Health degree from Johns Hopkins University.

On July 1, 1997, Dr. Manley assumed office, invigorated with new ideas for addressing the College's fundamental and emerging needs and challenges. In planning for the

year 2010 and beyond, the Spelman College Strategic Plan: A Blueprint for the Future and The College Master Plan outlined Dr. Manley's goals for her administration - the creation of a student-centered environment, land acquisition for the College, renovation and restoration of campus facilities, alumnae empowerment, access to technology and the institutionalized delivery of community service. One of the initial outcomes of this planning was the establishment of the Media and Information Technology (MIT) Division. Improvements in access to technology resulted in wireless access for one third of campus residential housing, 24-hour student access to computer labs, web registration, and intranet at the College.

During Dr. Manley's tenure, the Epsilon Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's premier honor society, was established on campus. Spelman made an important step toward advancing the mission of educating women leaders in every field when it was approved for provisional membership in the NCAA, Division III. Dr. Manley recruited new and talented faculty. With a significant increase in merit pay and salary adjustments, the College was now competitive with other Baccalaureate I institutions in the nation. Spelman also witnessed a steady increase in student enrollment.

Attention to Spelman's infrastructure resulted in improved living conditions and learning spaces for students. A number of campus buildings were renovated, among them the Upper and Lower Concourses and Dining Services in the Manley College Center, conference and meeting spaces in Living-Learning Center II, the lower level of Morehouse-James Hall, which was refurbished to accommodate commuter students, and the restoration of MacVicar Hall, Tapley Hall and the Academic Computer Center. The campus also saw new construction with the completion of a new infirmary and the \$33.9 million Albro-Falconer-Manley Science Center, dedicated in April 2002.

Dr. Manley worked with the Atlanta University Center (AUC) presidents, neighborhood, and community leaders to strengthen cooperative relationships between the three Neighborhood Planning Units bordering the AUC and the Center's institutions. Dr. Manley was Chair of and the catalyst for the creation of College Partners Inc. (CPI), a corporation formed between Spelman, Morehouse and Morehouse School

of Medicine, to promote positive change and collaboration in the area of community revitalization.

During this time, the College enjoyed a balanced budget, an increased asset growth of more than \$30 million, and a physical plant growth of more than \$50 million. She raised \$6.5 million toward the \$7.8 million shortfall for the science center and raised \$2.1 million for the restoration of Sisters Chapel. Under her watchful eye, the College endowment grew by more than \$63 million. She also raised more than \$70 million in private and federal funds.

Dr. Manley also pledged her support for the products of the Spelman experience – the alumnae. At the forefront of her agenda for alumnae empowerment was strengthening the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College. She increased alumnae recognition and involvement in all aspects of campus life. As a result, alumnae participation and philanthropy to the College rose to greater numbers than at any other time in the College's history.

Beverly Daniel Tatum, Ph.D., Ninth President



On August 1, 2002, scholar, teacher, author, administrator and race relations expert,

Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum became the ninth president of Spelman College. She set an expectation that Spelman College would be recognized as one of the finest liberal arts colleges in the country — a place where young women of

African descent could say, "This place was built for me, and it is nothing less than the best!" Spelman is now widely recognized as one of the leading liberal arts colleges in the nation.

Dr. Tatum is the former acting president of Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts, where she served as a professor of psychology and education and later as chair of the Department. In 1998, Dr. Tatum was appointed Dean of the College and Vice President for Student Affairs. While in that position, she directed the offices of the Dean of Students, Religious and Spiritual Life, Career Development and Health Services. She also managed the academic



The Beverly Daniel Tatum Suites

advising system and advocated for students' interests among faculty and senior staff. Prior to serving at Mount Holyoke, Dr. Tatum was a faculty member at Westfield State College from 1983-1989 and a lecturer at the University of California at Santa Barbara from 1980-1983. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at Wesleyan College and Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in clinical psychology from the University of Michigan, as well as the Master of Arts degree in religious studies from Hartford Seminary.

A nationally recognized authority on racial issues in America and a licensed clinical psychologist, she has toured extensively, leading workshops and presenting papers and lectures on racial identity development. Dr. Tatum is the author of the critically acclaimed book, *Why Are All The Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? And Other Conversations About Race*, which was released as a fifth anniversary edition in January 2003. Since its original publication in 1997, the book has been listed

on the Independent Bookstore Bestseller list and was selected as the multicultural book of the year in 1998 by the National Association of Multicultural Education. *The New York Times* recommended the book as required reading for private school teachers and administrators in the greater New York area who were dealing with issues of race and class. Dr. Tatum is also the author of *Assimilation Blues: Black Families in a White Community* (1987) and has published widely in social science and education journals. In May 2007, Dr. Tatum released *Can We Talk About Race?: And Other Conversations in an Era of School Resegregation*.

During her tenure, the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement (LEADS) was created, and it established an annual Women of Color Leadership Conference. In 2008, the Gordon-Zeto Fund for International Initiatives was established with a gift of \$17 million that increased opportunities for international travel for students and faculty and provided

additional financial aid for international students. Overall, scholarship support for Spelman students has doubled since 2002, and opportunities for faculty research and development have expanded significantly. Through the *Every Woman, Every Year* Initiative launched in 2006, alumnae support of the annual fund has grown to close to 40 percent.

Building on this momentum, the College implemented *Strengthening the Core: The Strategic Plan for 2015*, which focuses on enhancing its academic core curriculum through Global engagement, Opportunities for research and/or internships, Alumnae connections, Leadership development, and Service Learning (GOALS). In addition, a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), “Going Global,” has been created to enhance the College’s infrastructure to connect global experiences that cultivate international awareness and cross-cultural competencies in a more intentional way.

Campus improvements during Dr. Tatum’s tenure include the award-winning renovation of four historic buildings and campus expansion. The 2008 completion of a new “green” residence hall increased residential housing capacity on the campus by more than 25 percent and signaled the College’s commitment to environmental sustainability. The Suites is the first ever LEED Silver certified building on a historically black college or university. Strengthening its commitment to environmental sustainability, the Spelman College Board of Trustees adopted the policy that all new construction and renovations would be completed at no less than LEED Silver standards. The renovation of Laura Spelman Rockefeller Hall, completed in the fall of 2012, received a LEED Gold Certification. In recognition of Dr. Tatum’s significant impact upon the capital improvement of the College during her tenure, The Suites were dedicated as The Beverly Daniel Tatum Suites in spring of 2015.

Under Dr. Tatum’s leadership, Spelman College launched its Wellness Revolution in 2012. The Wellness Revolution is a holistic initiative designed to empower and educate Spelman women and the communities they will influence on key components of lifelong wellness – eating better, moving more and sleeping well. In 2013, the Carnegie Corporation of New York named Dr. Tatum as a recipient of its 2013 Academic Leadership Award, recognizing her as an exceptional president of a U.S. college or university. She was the first president in the

state of Georgia and the first at an historically black college or university to win the award.

In 2014, Spelman College announced that it exceeded its comprehensive fundraising campaign goal, generating \$157.8 million and raising the largest amount in the history of the institution. The campaign attracted support for scholarships, academic initiatives, and campus renewal. Of the more than 18,000 campaign donors, a record-breaking 12,000 alumnae, representing 71 percent, made a gift to the campaign.

Dr. Tatum retired in July of 2015 as President Emerita to focus on her work as an author, speaker and expert on issues related to racial identity.

Mary Schmidt Campbell, Ph.D., Tenth President

In March of 2015, Mary Schmidt Campbell, Ph.D., was named Spelman’s 10th president. She began her career, over 40 years ago, as the director of the Studio Museum in Harlem at a time when the city of New York was on the verge of bankruptcy. Under her leadership, the museum became the country’s first accredited Black fine arts museum and a linchpin in the redevelopment of Harlem. She then served as commissioner of cultural affairs for New York City under two mayors, and from there entered the world of academia as dean of New York University’s renowned Tisch School of the Arts, where she served for over two decades. In 2009, President Barack Obama appointed her vice chair of the President’s Committee on the Arts and Humanities. Currently, a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, she serves as a trustee of the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, the J. Paul Getty Trust, and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the advisory board of Guild Education, and as a director of Unity Technologies.

Viewing Spelman as a “necessity” to “reach an ideal of equality,” Dr. Campbell launched *Imagine. Invent. Ascend.* a bold new strategic vision for the institution that builds on the College’s legendary legacy to educate Black women for the 21st century. Her focus was on ensuring that every Spelman student graduates with a competitive edge, expanding Spelman’s strategic partnerships, deepening its excellence in STEM, wedding that strength to art, innovation and technology, and expanding signature



academic programs that leverage Spelman's scholarly and creative excellence. To support this vision, under Dr. Campbell's leadership, the College increased financial aid by 320%, increased the endowment by 50%, raised more than \$320 million, exceeding the \$250 million campaign goal, the largest comprehensive campaign in the history of Spelman. The campaign also resulted in several major academic initiatives and outcomes in support of the College's

strategic plan:

- Over \$135M in new scholarship aid
- Five new endowed faculty positions
- Extensive technology upgrades, including a new campus fiber optic network, new email system and a new learning management system
- Addition of new academic initiatives in data science, art history and curatorial studies, Spelman College Museum of Fine Art, artificial intelligence, machine learning, quantum computing, Institute



Mary Schmidt Campbell Center for Innovation & the Arts

for the Study of Gender and Sexuality, and a Center for Black Entrepreneurship

- Additional funding for existing programs such as Food Studies and Social Justice
- Major new facilities improvements including an upgrade of Rockefeller Fine Arts theater and Abby Residence Hall.
- In 2025, a new 82,500-square-foot academic facility, the Mary Schmidt Campbell Center for Innovation & the Arts opened in her honor.

Dr. Campbell has a B.A. in English literature from Swarthmore College, a master's in art history and a Ph.D. in humanities from Syracuse University. She is the author of the award-winning book, "An American Odyssey: the Life and Work of Romare Bearden," (Oxford, 2018) and frequently speaks on issues of higher education and African American art and culture. She is the mother of three sons, seven grandchildren and lives in Atlanta with her husband of 53 years, George Campbell, Jr., Ph.D., president emeritus of The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Art and Science.

Dr. Campbell retired on June 30, 2022, as President Emerita.

Helene D. Gayle, M.D. M.P.H., Eleventh President



Helene D. Gayle, M.D., MPH., began serving as the 11th president of Spelman College on July 1, 2022. Dr. Gayle previously served as president and CEO of The Chicago Community Trust, one of the nation's oldest and largest community foundations, from October 2017 to June 2022. Under her leadership, the Trust adopted a new strategic

focus on closing the racial and ethnic wealth gap in the Chicago region.



For almost a decade, Dr. Gayle was president and CEO of CARE, a leading international humanitarian organization. A pediatrician and public health physician with expertise in economic development, humanitarian, and health issues, she spent 20 years with the Centers for Disease Control, working primarily on HIV/AIDS prevention. She led the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's programs on HIV/AIDS prevention and other global health issues.

Dr. Gayle serves on public company and nonprofit boards, including The Coca-Cola Company, Organon, Palo Alto Networks, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Brookings Institution, Center for Strategic and International Studies, and New America. She is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, National Academy of Medicine, Council on Foreign Relations, American Public Health Association, National Medical Association, and American Academy of Pediatrics. She was appointed by President Biden to serve on the President's Advisory Council on African Diaspora Engagement in the United States and also serves on the CDC Advisory Committee to the Director. Dr. Gayle is from Buffalo, New York. She earned a B.A. in psychology at Barnard College, an M.D. at the University of Pennsylvania, and an MPH. at Johns Hopkins University. She is a tenured full professor in the Department of Environmental and Health Sciences at Spelman College and has received 18 honorary degrees.

Dr. Gayle is married to Stephen Keith, the First Gentleman of Spelman College, who is also a physician and a proud Spelman dad.

Rosalind “Roz” Brewer, C’84, Interim President and Chair Emerita



Rosalind “Roz” Brewer is a renowned corporate executive celebrated for her visionary leadership, transformative impact, and unwavering dedication to advancing positive change in global business. As one of the few Black women to reach the C-suite in a Fortune 100 company, her groundbreaking career has cemented her status as one of today’s most influential

figures. Recognized among Fortune’s “Most Powerful Women in Business” for her strategic acumen and commitment to excellence and equity, Brewer drives powerful results across corporate, educational, and cultural initiatives.

In a homecoming that bridges corporate leadership with academic stewardship, Brewer recently returned to her alma mater as Interim President of Spelman College. Drawing on her proven executive experience, she now leads this prestigious historically Black women’s college through a pivotal transition while advancing her broader professional endeavors. Her vision for Spelman combines institutional stability with strategic advancement, as she builds on the college’s legacy of excellence to prepare students for an evolving global landscape.

With a career marked by impactful leadership, Brewer has driven innovation and digital transformation across

healthcare, retail, and hospitality. As President and CEO of Walgreens Boots Alliance, she redefined the company’s strategic direction, guiding it through the complexities of the COVID-19 pandemic and expanding access to essential healthcare services.

During her tenure as COO of Starbucks, she led operational excellence initiatives and spearheaded technological innovations that elevated customer engagement globally. At Sam’s Club, she served as President and CEO, implementing digital solutions that transformed the customer experience and strengthened the brand’s market position. Brewer’s earlier work at Kimberly-Clark further underscores her versatility, where she strengthened market presence and drove breakthroughs in nonwoven materials.

Beyond the corporate sector, Brewer’s influence extends through her board positions with United Airlines, the KIPP Foundation for Public Chartered Schools, and the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture. Her past corporate board experience includes Amazon, Starbucks, Lockheed Martin, and Molson Coors. As a limited partner in her hometown team, the Atlanta Falcons, Brewer is one of only three Black women with an ownership stake in an NFL team, reflecting her far-reaching influence across corporate and community arenas.

True to her roots as a chemistry graduate of Spelman College, Brewer’s role as Interim President and Chair Emerita underscores her enduring commitment to educational advancement, equity, and future leadership development. She remains actively involved in philanthropic initiatives supporting academic opportunity, healthcare, and economic empowerment.

College Traditions

Founders Day is celebrated each April. A major highlight of Founders Day is the Founders Day Convocation, a formal program first held in 1896. Convocation is preceded by the pageantry of an academic procession from Rockefeller Hall to Sisters Chapel, including the Senior Class, wearing academic regalia for the first time, and the Freshmen Class, both classes observing the white dress tradition. Founders Day brings the College family and community together to honor the Founders, recognize the daughters of Spelman—the alumnae—and celebrate a legacy of excellence and service.

The National Alumnae Association of Spelman College (NAASC) was established in 1892 and serves as an independent non-profit organization comprised of Spelman alumnae who, through the payment of national and local dues, support the programs of the NAASC for the purpose of providing networking opportunities for alumnae, financial support for students and the College, and encouraging awareness and visibility of the College beyond the gates.

In 1910, Lucy Upton, Dean of Spelman Seminary, founded the **Granddaughters Club**. The club was originally comprised of students whose mothers and aunts attended Spelman. Membership is now extended to students whose alumnae relations are grandmothers, mothers, aunts, sisters and cousins. The purpose of the Granddaughters Club is to study and preserve Spelman's history and



traditions and pass this knowledge on to all students. On Founders Day, members of the Granddaughters Club make a symbolic presentation, usually a choral reading, followed by the decoration of plaques that honor the Founders.

The first **Spelman-Morehouse Christmas Carol Concert** was sung in 1927 in Sisters Chapel, under the direction of concertmaster Kemper Harreld. Professor Harreld headed the music departments of both Spelman College and Morehouse College for 27 years (1927-1954). The annual Christmas Carol Concerts consist of three evenings of performance, alternating between The Martin Luther King Jr. Chapel, on the campus of Morehouse College, and Spelman's Sisters Chapel.

On **Class Day**, the Senior Class reflects on their years at Spelman. The program

features the Ivy Oration. The oration serves to encourage and challenge the members of the Senior Class as they leave Spelman and go forth into the world. The theme incorporates the characteristics of the ivy — strength and tenacity. Following Class Day, the Senior Class proceeds to the March through the Alumnae Arch.

The **Senior Legacy Campaign** was created to inspire members of the Senior Class to leave their legacy of giving for decades. This tradition introduces students to the philanthropic-based efforts at Spelman, motivating them to give back to the College before they graduate. Each member of the Senior Class is encouraged to give to the President's Safety Net Fund in the amount that commemorates the year of their graduation and in return receive their Spelman charmed Blue Tassel.

The **Alumnae Arch** is located within the campus Oval, near the walk between Rockefeller Hall and Reynolds Cottage. The Senior Class takes part in the March Through the Alumnae Arch to symbolize graduating from college and moving into greater service. Spelman alumnae, observing the white dress tradition, precede the Senior Class through the Arch.

The formal ceremony for the conferring of diplomas and degrees is **Commencement**. Spelman Seminary first issued diplomas in 1887. The first baccalaureate degrees were given in 1901 to Jane Anna Granderson and Claudia T. White (Harreld), the first college graduates. Diplomas were awarded to graduates from the High School, Teachers Professional and Nurse Training Courses. Certificates were given in Home Economics and Household Arts and Missionary Training.

The first organized **Reunion** was held in 1915. Reunion serves to encourage alumnae to return to campus during the



time of Commencement to demonstrate support for the College, visit with attending classmates and friends and conduct class activities. Presently, each class is invited to Reunion the fifth year following graduation and every subsequent fifth year.

The **White Attire Tradition** consists of the wearing of white dresses for formal Spelman College ceremonies and

dates back to 1900. This tradition was established during a time when white was the most available and affordable among fabrics. The white dress was worn with hosiery made of cotton until the invention of nylons in the 1940's, which came in two colors – beige and tan. This led to the wearing of flesh or neutral-toned hosiery. Having one pair of black, closed-toe shoes that could be worn for multiple purposes was a part of the clothing requirements for Spelman students. This recommendation was made in an effort to avoid overwhelming students and their families with the cost of having to provide more than one pair of shoes.

In the spirit of this tradition, all first-year students wear this traditional white attire ensemble for the New Student Orientation Induction Ceremony and the Founders Day Convocation, and graduating seniors wear this ensemble underneath the academic regalia for Founders Day, Class Day, Baccalaureate and Commencement Exercises.



Reunion 2025

Additionally, alumnae wear this same ensemble when attending the Founders Day Convocation and related Founders Day activities hosted by alumnae and chapters of the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College (NAASC) around the country, and for the March through the Alumnae Arch held during Reunion.

Seniors who participate in the Senior Legacy Campaign receive a Spelman charmed Blue Tassel that can be worn during Senior Week at Founders Day, Class Day, and Baccalaureate events. Each year, members of the Senior Class donate the commemorative amount of their graduation year to the President's Safety Net Fund, a fund created to support juniors and seniors who are at risk of not graduating from Spelman.

The **Morehouse-Spelman Brother/Sister Tradition** is founded on more than a century of historical cooperation and partnership between Morehouse College (founded in 1867) and Spelman College (founded in 1881). The uniqueness of purpose and proximity of these two educational institutions has resulted in a tradition of collaborative involvement that is unparalleled in this nation and the world.

During the early years of each institution, both Morehouse and Spelman held classes in the basement of Friendship Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia. In the early 1900's, Spelman students began taking courses at Morehouse that were required in order for Spelman to confer the Bachelor of Arts degree. Spelman, in turn, assisted Morehouse in conducting

summer school by offering the use of the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Home Economics Building for this purpose. This partnership later evolved into a jointly operated summer school arrangement. Throughout this history of collaboration, faculty members were often employed jointly by the two colleges, and there was a constant exchange of teachers. Later, elected courses at Spelman were opened to Morehouse students, and elected courses at Morehouse were opened to Spelman students, enriching the academic offerings of both colleges.

Shared facilities naturally led to shared educational and co-curricular experiences for Morehouse and Spelman students. For example, in music and fine arts, Morehouse and Spelman students have performed



Founders Day Senior Processional



together in a number of noteworthy productions, including outstanding plays and musical productions. In 1927, the first Christmas Carol Concert was held in Sisters Chapel, featuring the glee clubs of both Morehouse College and Spelman College, a joint tradition that continues today. Morehouse and Spelman have held joint Baccalaureate services, as well as chapel services, convocations, assemblies and Homecoming activities. Consistently, since 1936, Spelman women have been crowned as **Miss Maroon and White, the Morehouse College Homecoming Queen**. Spelman women have also supported their Morehouse brothers as cheerleaders, marching band members, and queens and attendants of the Homecoming courts. The men of Morehouse and the women of Spelman have also stood side-by-side in experiencing, analyzing and changing the world. They have seen

each other through world wars and racial segregation, the protests of the Civil Rights Movement and the Black Power Movement, as well as the tragedy of September 11, 2001 and the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. Brought together by the common pursuit of academic excellence, leadership and service, both within and outside of the classroom, Morehouse men and Spelman women have gone forth to positively impact the world, both individually and collectively. Morehouse alumni and Spelman alumnae are excelling in every career field and industry, and making a difference in families and communities everywhere. The examples of Morehouse men and Spelman women who live, work and serve together in successful harmony are too numerous to name here. Yet, these examples prove that the Morehouse-Spelman Brother/Sister tradition and legacy is a powerful

one, built on common goals, mutual respect, and unconditional support. It is a bond that lasts a lifetime.

Miss Spelman and her Court serve as ambassadors to Spelman College. Miss Spelman represents the college to perspective students, alumnae, parents, donors and other external constituents. Miss Spelman and her Court travel throughout the year making personal appearances that enhances the image of the College, hosts events on campus throughout the year including the Miss Spelman Tea. The Court projects the ideals of academic excellence, ethical leadership, appreciation of diverse cultures and commitment to positive social change. ➔

College Symbols

The **College Motto**, embedded in the Spelman Seal, is “Our Whole School for Christ.” It serves as a testament to the faith of the Founders. Though Spelman was founded in the basement of a Baptist church, it has no formal ties to any denomination and has always been open to women, regardless of race or religious affiliation.



The original **Spelman Seal** consisted of the Star of Service. The original star of Spelman Seminary represented service through the

school's six departments of instruction: College, Teacher Training, Nurse Training, Music, High School and Home Economics. The triangle shape represents the triangle of life: the intellectual, spiritual and industrial. When Spelman Seminary became Spelman College in 1924, a new seal was designed, which we still use today, to reflect the change.

Fair Spelman is the College alma mater. It was written in 1895 by the Rev. Samuel F. Smith (also the author of “America”). He married Nellie M. Kemp, a music teacher who taught at

Spelman for four years. The music was written by Marjorie Stewart Curry, C’32.

The **Spelman Hymn** was written by Spelman student, Eddye Mae Money in 1933. Officially adopted as the school's hymn in 1934, the Spelman Hymn is sung at all ceremonial events on campus, as well as convocations and chapel exercises. It is also sung at the conclusion of other special College and alumnae events and chapter meetings of the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College (NAASC).

The **Spelman Messenger** was established in 1885 to inform College supporters and the community of the progress of Spelman. In the 1880s the publication was typeset and printed by students. Today, as the alumnae magazine of Spelman College, the *Messenger* is published twice a year and is committed to educating, serving and empowering African American women.



The Spelman Connection is a weekly e-newsletter dedicated to informing the supporters and constituency of Spelman College about the accomplishments



and initiatives of the College, faculty, students, staff and alumnae. More than 20,000 readers receive the Spelman Connection each week.

The Class of 1941 dedicated **The Senior Bench**. Reserved for members of the Senior Class, the bench was made from two beams taken from the old Spelman Seminary barn. The current bench is made from Sisters Chapel pews and is placed near the Alumnae Arch each April, where it remains until after Commencement.

Seniors who participate in the Senior Legacy Campaign receive a Spelman charmed **Blue Tassel** that can be worn during Senior Week at Founders Day, Class Day, and Baccalaureate events. Each year, members of the Senior Class donate the commemorative amount of their graduation year to the President's Safety Net Fund, a fund created to support juniors and seniors who are at risk of not graduating from Spelman.

The school's colors are **Columbia Blue and White**. ➔

FAIR SPELMAN

College alma mater written in 1895; Words by the Rev. Samuel F. Smith; Music by Marjorie Stewart Curry, C’32

Dear Spelman, thy daughters rejoice in thy fame.
Acknowledge thy beauty, and honor thy name;
How fondly we praise thee wherever we roam,
And love thee and cheer thee, our school and our home.

How lovely the landscape outspread at thy feet,
Where hill, vale and streamlet in harmony meet;
Oh, long may thy children with gladness return,
To bless the fair spot where they signal lights burn.

Thy daughters are known with the brave and the free,
The world is made richer, fair Spelman, by thee;
Be brave, then, in effort the wide world to bless,
God's hand shall support thee and give thee success.

Fair Spelman, sit crowned in a beauty thine own.
A beacon of grace, and a queen on her throne;
The wreaths for thy brow are not perishing bays,
But love of thy children and their grateful praise.

College Buildings and Sites

1886: Named for John D. Rockefeller Sr., **Rockefeller Hall** holds the distinction of being both the first brick building and the oldest building on the Spelman College campus. Completely renovated in 2007, the facility houses most of the major administrative offices, including the Office of the President, the Office of Communications and the Divisions of Academic Affairs, Institutional Advancement and Business and Financial Affairs. **Howe Memorial Hall**, formerly located in Rockefeller, served as the first College chapel. Dr. William Howe, Spelman College trustee, donated funds for the chapel in memory of his wife.

1888: Named in honor of Sophia B. Packard, **Packard Hall** is the second brick building built on campus. Until May of 2001, it served primarily as a residence hall. Packard Hall originally served as a multi-purpose building, housing the **Quarles Memorial Library**, the College's first library, music rooms, the post office and snack shop. Since its comprehensive renovation in early 2004, Packard Hall now houses the Office of the Controller and the Division of Enrollment Management, including the Office of Admissions, the Office of the Registrar, and Student Financial Services.

In 2022, renowned film director, producer, and actor Spike Lee, along with his wife—attorney, filmmaker, author, and activist Tonya Lewis Lee—renamed the College's Admissions Office in honor of Spike Lee's grandmother, Zimmie Reatha Shelton, C'29, and his mother, Jacquelyn Shelton Lee, C'54. Packard Hall previously served as the residence hall for both his grandmother and mother.

1893: Named in honor of Harriet E. Giles and home of the practice school and high school, **Giles Hall** was dedicated to teacher training. Today the facility contains classrooms and offices for the Division of Social Sciences, the Education Program and Quarles Auditorium. The top floor houses art studios and a computer graphic arts lab.

1901: Located between Sisters Chapel and Rockefeller Hall, **Reynolds Cottage** is the official residence of the President. The 22-room, Victorian-styled home is named in honor of Mary C. Reynolds, corresponding secretary of the Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society (WABHMS). Erected as a dormitory for 100 girls, **Morehouse-James Hall** is named in honor of Dr. Henry L. Morehouse, corresponding secretary of the American Baptist Home Mission Society (ABHMS) and president of the first

Spelman College Board of Trustees, and William Laurence James, distinguished musicologist, composer, and professor of music, and director of the Spelman Glee Club. In 2025, the dormitory was completely reconstructed to include modern amenities like central air conditioning, an elevator, a ground floor entrance, micro fridge units in each room, and added security and access measures.

Initially the practice school for the students in the nurse training program, **MacVicar Hall** opened as a hospital to serve the African American community. After nurse training was discontinued in 1928, the hospital became the College infirmary, serving both Spelman and Morehouse students. MacVicar Hall is named in honor of Dr. Malcolm MacVicar, Superintendent of Education of the ABHMS. Dr. MacVicar was the architect of the curriculum for the nurse training and teacher professional courses at Spelman. Completely renovated in 2000, MacVicar Hall houses the College infirmary, counseling department and offers residential housing for students.

The **Albert E. Manley College Center** replaced **Morgan Hall** (1901), which was destroyed by fire in 1970. Morgan Hall, named in honor of General Thomas J. Morgan, corresponding secretary of ABHMS, was a dining and residence hall.

The **Steam Heating Plant**, built in 1893, was enlarged, rebuilt and expanded to provide electric lights for the campus. Currently the facility houses **Facilities Management Services**.

The **College Class Tree**, a water oak tree dedicated by the Class of 1901, was planted between Reynolds Cottage and Sisters Chapel.

1905: Upton Hall, originally a dormitory for students in the nursing program and isolation ward, was used as a faculty residence in later years. The building then served as a student residence hall and housed the Office of Community Service. The building, adjacent to the post office, was removed in July 2004. It was named in honor of Lucy Houghton Upton, Dean of the Seminary.

1917: Bessie Strong Hall, named for Elizabeth Rockefeller Strong, the eldest child of John D. Rockefeller Sr. served as housing for student nurses taking classes at MacVicar Hall. It now houses the Sisters Chapel Center for **WISDOM**

(Women in Spiritual Discernment of Ministry) with a dormitory for Sisters Chapel scholars on the upper level.

1918: Laura Spelman Rockefeller Hall, named for the wife of John D. Rockefeller, was originally the academic building for Home Economics. From 1930 to 2010 the Spelman Nursery School was located on the ground floor. It was the first such school to be organized at a historically Black college. In 1997, the Nursery School was named in honor of Marian Wright Edelman, C'60. In 1978, the third and fourth floors were converted to residential housing for students. As part of Spelman's commitment to excellence, renovation and upgrades were completed in 2011 to ensure the building functions optimally in the 21st century. The renovation of Laura Spelman Hall provides improved residential space for 40 upper class students and achieved LEED™ Gold Certification. Along with providing more residential space, the building houses the offices of and the students enrolled in the Social Justice Fellows Program, a leadership development program in social policy advocacy. Additionally, the ground level of Laura Spelman Hall was converted into a 24-hour study commons named in honor of Spelman alumna and former board of trustee chair, Yvonne R. Jackson, C'70.

1925: Tapley Hall was named in honor of Spelman's third President, Lucy Hale Tapley. The building was completely renovated in 2001. It houses offices for the departments of Science and Mathematics and the Health Careers Office. Also included are classrooms, a lecture hall and laboratories for chemistry, biology and physics.

1927: Sisters Chapel honors the lives of Laura Spelman Rockefeller, and her sister, Lucy Maria Spelman. It serves as a reminder to all of the centrality of faith in the founding and continuance of the institution. With a seating capacity of 1,050 at the time of construction, the facility had the largest seating capacity available in the Atlanta University Center. Sisters Chapel has undergone restoration and renovation to become a state-of-the-art facility, including air conditioning, 21st century media capabilities and restrooms.

Conceived and dedicated by the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College (NAASC), the **Grover-Werden Memorial Fountain** represents a fountain of waters, a fountain of knowledge, and a fountain of Life Eternal. Built to provide cold water on hot summer days. Named for two former Spelman teachers, Caroline M.

Grover and Evelina O. Werden, the fountain is located in the center of the Oval.

1945: Acquired from Atlanta University, **Chadwick Hall** (previously located next to Tapley Hall) was originally the Leonard Street Orphans Home. The building, named for Amy Chadwick, Director of the Orphans Home (1903-1936), was later used as a residence hall. The building was removed in 1987, and the Science Center is now where Chadwick once stood.

1951: Read Hall, named for Spelman's fourth president, Florence Matilda Read, housed the department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation. Read Hall contained a fully equipped gymnasium, named after Marguerite Simon, C'35, swimming pool, bowling alley, training room, fitness lab, offices and classrooms. The facility also housed the Dance Program with offices and three full dance studios. Demolished in 2014 and completed in the summer of 2015, a new Read Hall was designed to house the Spelman College Wellness Center.

1953: Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Hall, a dormitory for first year students, was named in honor of Abby Aldrich Rockefeller, the wife of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., a philanthropist and renowned patron of the Arts. In 2025, the dormitory was renovated to include modern amenities like updated restrooms and central air conditioning.

1964: In recognition of her assistance in planning the furnishing and decor of the dormitory, **Manley Hall** was named in honor of Dorothy Shepherd Manley, the deceased president, Albert E. Manley. Originally an upper-class residential facility, Manley Hall now houses first-year students.

The **John D. Rockefeller Jr. Fine Arts Building** houses the departments of Art, Dance, Drama and Music. This facility has classrooms, a recital hall, listening labs, practice rooms, art studios, a music library, the Baldwin Burroughs Theatre, The Maya Angelou Practice Theatre, and a small art gallery in the lobby.

1968: Howard-Harrelld Hall, a first-year residence hall, was named in honor of two Spelman graduates, Clara Howard from the first high school class (1887), and Claudia White Harrelld, a member of the first college class (1901).

1973: Named in honor of Spelman College's fifth and first African

American president, the **Albert E. Manley College Center** houses the Division of Student Affairs, the offices of the Spelman Student Government Association, the student newspaper (*The BluePrint: A Spelman Spotlight Publication*), and the yearbook (*Reflections*). It also contains the campus eating facilities: the Alma Upshaw Dining Hall and The Manley Center Food Court, located on the lower concourse. Additionally, there are conference rooms, an ATM machine, a game room, student lounge, and facilities for commuter students, all of which are located on two concourses bearing the names of Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman.

Named for Spelman's first woman chair of the Board of Trustees (1970-1975), **Sally Sage McAlpin Hall** is a residence hall for upper-class students.

1983: The **Donald and Isabel Stewart Living-Learning Center I (LLC I)**, was conceived as a residential facility for students involved in the honors and living and learning programs. Named in honor of Spelman's sixth president and his wife, LLC I also contains a conference room and living quarters for visiting lecturers, scholars and artists.

1985: Dedicated in April, **The Academic Computer Center** is a two-story structure located between Laura Spelman Rockefeller Hall and Tapley Hall. The Computer Center houses the computer room, a terminal room, a computer laboratory, faculty and staff offices, a study area and classrooms.

1988: Extensions of Manley Center, the **Spelman College Bookstore** and **Mail Center** are located directly across from Manley Center.

1989: The **Johnnetta B. Cole Living-Learning Center II (LLCII)** houses 200 students. In addition to residential space, the adjoining building has administrative offices, including Housing and Residential Life. The Living-Learning Center II also has conference facilities and an auditorium.

1995: **The Parking Deck** houses the Office of Public Safety and the Parking Office.

1996: The **Camille Olivia Hanks Cosby, Ed.D. Academic Center** houses the Humanities: English, foreign languages, philosophy, religion and history. It also includes the Writing Center, International Relations Office, Educational Media Center, Women's Research and Resource Center, College Archives and the Spelman Museum of Fine Art. Where the Camille Cosby Center now stands, the **Helen Tucker Albro Guest House** once stood. Named for a former chair

of the Biology Department, it was used to host visitors and housed the superintendent of the campus grounds.

2000: The **Albro-Falconer-Manley Science Center** was designed to create an interdisciplinary learning and research center for the natural sciences, mathematics and computer science. The complex encompasses a 116,000-gross-square-foot laboratory wing and central pavilion and is connected to Tapley Hall. The building was named in honor of Dr. Helen T. Albro, Dr. Etta Z. Falconer and Dr. Audrey F. Manley.

2005: The **Milligan Building** houses the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement, the Gordon-Zeto Center for Global Education, the Departments of Fine Arts and African Diaspora and the World, the Digital Moving Image Salon, the Centers for Learning Resources, and Study Abroad, Career Planning and Development, Advancement Services, and Institutional Research, Assessment and Planning, and Title III and Government Relations.

2008: **The Beverly Daniel Tatum Suites**, dedicated in the spring of 2015, consists of 300 suite-style beds, parking for 100 cars underneath the building, dining for 150, and other amenities. The College's first "green" residence hall construction of the 21st century is certified under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System, making it the first of its kind at a historically Black college or university, as well as the first in the state of Georgia.

2025: Named in honor of Mary Schmidt Campbell, Spelman's 10th president, the **Mary Schmidt Campbell Center** for Innovation & the Arts (CI&A) represents an investment in community and an eye toward the future with its commitments to technology, the arts and a collaborative approach to both. At the Center, women in the vaunted tradition of Spelman are encouraged to develop their talents and break barriers to emerge as future leaders. Here, students get exposure to emerging fields and preparation for careers that will put them on the leading edge in design, art and STEM careers — areas where women of African descent are often underrepresented. ➡

Student Activities Transcript

FIRST YEAR

Know the Spelman Founders and their mission. Learn the meaning of the College Seal and the Star of Service.

Know Spelman's pride points which can be found in the Mini Fact book on Spelman.edu.

Know the Spelman Hymn verbatim and when it is sung. See page ii.

Learn the college alma mater, "Fair Spelman." See page 28.

Make an effort to meet and identify a mentor from among your upperclass and alumnae "Big Sisters."

Know your class color and symbol. See Class emblems below.

Attend special events like Homecoming and the Spelman-Morehouse Christmas Carol Concert.

Attend the Founders Day Convocation wearing the traditional white attire. Read and learn the significance of the White Attire Tradition. See pages 25 and 26.

Be a leader! Represent the Class of 2029 as a Class Agent (programs) or SpelAgent (fundraising). Get active with the Pre-Alumnae Council (PAC) and the Student Philanthropy Council.

Volunteer with the Office of Annual Giving and learn about Spelman Strong.

SECOND YEAR

Visit the Office of Alumnae Engagement in Rockefeller Hall, 2nd floor, Suite 205 and consider volunteering in the office.

Learn several Spelman rally songs.

Contact the alumnae network or a chapter of the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College (NAASC) in or near your hometown.

Visit the Mural inside Laura Spelman.

Visit the Spelman Archives in the Camille Olivia Hanks Cosby, Ed.D. Academic Center, 2nd Floor, Suite 200.

Join at least one campus organization.

Be of service! Participate in community-based activities.

Research the history of Friendship Baptist Church.

Begin giving of your time, talent and resources to Spelman as a volunteer and donor.

Get active with the Student Philanthropy Council and donate to Spelman Strong.

Add Get active with the Pre-Alumnae Council (PAC) as a general body member

THIRD YEAR

Interview an alumna from your hometown or in a career field of interest.

Know the historical significance of Class Day.

Get involved with a local chapter of the NAASC in your area by volunteering.

Know the three oldest buildings on Spelman's 39-acre campus.

Learn more about the Spelman alumnae, women, and men after whom the buildings and rooms around campus are named.

Attend an Office of Campus Life and Engagement or Spelman Student Government Administration (SSGA) event and also visit a Museum of Fine Art exhibit.

Research Chadwick Hall, Morgan Hall, the Helen Albro Guest House and Upton Hall.

Choose to be a mentor to an incoming Spelman sister.

Represent your class on the Student Philanthropy Council (SPC) and encourage your sisters to donate to Spelman Strong.

FOURTH YEAR

Access the Spelman Messenger (alumnae magazine) and Spelman Connection online.

Read a book authored by a Spelman alumna.

Visit the Grover-Werden Fountain, Laura Spelman, and the Living Learning Center I lounges where alumnae and notable women of achievement are honored.

Attend the Founders Day Convocation wearing the traditional white attire & academic regalia.

Participate in Class Day, including the Ivy Oration, followed by the March through the Alumnae Arch.

Know the significance of the Senior Bench.

Participate in Senior Class activities and meetings. Attend the Senior Soiree.

Know when to return to Spelman for your Reunion - every fifth year after graduation.

Leave a lasting legacy with your sisters by participating in the Senior Legacy Campaign and donating \$20.29 to the President's SafetyNet Fund. Share your contact information upon graduation with the Office of Alumnae Engagement.

CLASS EMBLEMS

Class emblems and colors are passed from the graduating class to the incoming first-year class. The tradition of identifying classes by emblem and color began in 1927. The Class of 1928 began the practice choosing the color blue and the wise owl as their symbol.

CLASS OF 2026 RED - THE EAGLE

The Eagle inspires its followers to a superior wingspread of knowledge and urges them to fly high to mountains of noble achievements.

CLASS OF 2027 YELLOW - THE SPHINX

The Sphinx points out a definite pattern of progress, obedience, honesty, ethical rules, manners, and unselfishness to its followers.

CLASS OF 2028 BLUE - THE OWL

Let our reach exceed our grasp. The Owl represents a wisdom deeper than the spoken word.

CLASS OF 2029 GREEN - THE LAMP

The Lamp represents light and guidance. Just as the lamp dispels the darkness, so the members of this class strive to send forth their light.

Alumnae Influencers

ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

TAI BEAUCHAMP, C'2000 – Style and lifestyle expert, on-air personality, entrepreneur, brand ambassador, motivational speaker, writer, editor, producer; Beauchamp is a veteran journalist and editor and began her editorial career interning at Good Housekeeping and Harper's Bazaar magazines. She went on to work as a beauty editor at O, The Oprah Magazine, Suede, and Seventeen. She has appeared on network and cable television like of ABC, CBS, BET, NBC, TLC and TV One. Tai has hosted The Grammy and Academy Awards red carpets and is a powerful public speaker. Recently, Beauchamp launched thetailife.com, a fashion, lifestyle and beauty website to inspire women to live an empowered life. Beauchamp was a judge on GSN's retail competition show "Window Warriors." In 2015, she was named on the Top 50 Most Influential in the Multicultural Market List by Women's Wear Daily. In 2019, Beauchamp is set to co-host a new travel guide series for millennials of color called "Lens of Culture," on TV One's new network CLEO TV. Beauchamp is currently the co-founder and chief brand officer for Brown Girl Jane, a CBD health & wellness beauty brand. Recently, the brand announced a partnership with Unilever's Shea Moisture and Vaseline brands to further benefit Black women-led brands and founders.

WHITNEY GAYLE BENTA, C'2001 – I Head Artist & Talent Relations for Spotify amplifying creator experiences through customized content assets on and off platform for initiatives including podcasts, tentpole events and more. I lead a team that has been instrumental in shaping how artists are integrated

into these initiatives - including Spotify's Best New Artist campaign with notable nominees such as H.E.R. Jorja Smith, Chloe x Halle, Cannes Lions activation with Nas, Swizz Beatz, Bebe Rexha and Tove Lo, Spotify House at Essence Fest, etc. - and how they come to life.

KATHLEEN JACKSON BERTRAND, C'73 – Renowned jazz vocalist and writer, performing for Atlanta professional sports teams and former presidents. Her love for the arts extends to film. She is the executive producer and founder of the Bronze Lens Festival. Bronze Lens is a founding partner of Ava DuVernay's African American Film Festival Releasing Movement, now known as ARRAY. After Bertrand graduated from Spelman, she started working in the Office of Alumnae Affairs, where she served as the director from 1976-1978. In 1983, she began her career at the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau, retiring as the senior vice President of community and governmental affairs in 2015. She has dedicated much of her career to promoting Atlanta as the cornerstone for diversity. In 2018, she was one of four inductees into the (Atlanta Convention and Visitor's Bureau (ACVB) Hospitality Hall of Fame.

TRACI BLACKWELL, C'90 – Award-winning scripted programming executive; Blackwell is the former Executive Vice President for Scripted Programming for BET Networks where she oversees the development of original scripted programming and casting for BET and it's recently launched streaming service BET+; former senior vice president for current programming for The CW Television Network, responsible for the day-to-day production of scripted

program hits "Hart of Dixie", "90210", "One Tree Hill", "Supernatural" and "Vampire Diaries"; earned the People's Choice Awards in both 2010 and 2011 for "Vampire Diaries" and "Supernatural" Blackwell's 10-year track record of success at the network also includes shepherding "Everybody Hates Chris" and "The Game," award-winning series "Girlfriends" and "Eve," and "Half and Half," which now appear in syndication.

LORIELLE BROUSSARD DAVIS-MCGEE, C'2003 – Creative Director at Landline Pictures; Executive director of Women in Film & Television Atlanta; former General Manager of E-Commerce at Broome Street General Store & Co.; former General Manager of First East Circular; former Marketing and Communications media manager, Office of Entertainment, City of Atlanta and CEO and designer of Barack the Vote, LLC; The Office of Entertainment is the official film office for the City of Atlanta, which support the city's rapidly expanding film industry; As CEO of Barack the Vote, LLC she was responsible for managing and executing the creative direction of the company as well as overseeing its day-to-day operations; previous career positions include producer/costume designer at Purple Stuff TV, costume coordinator "Body of Proof" ABC Studios, costume production assistant "Law & Order: Los Angeles", production assistant BET Networks.

SHAYNA SEYMOUR CARR, C'98 – Emmy-winning journalist and is co-anchor for WCVB-TV's award-winning nightly newsmagazine, "Chronicle;" Seymour has been nominated for seven local Emmy Awards and recently received another honor at the 38th Annual New England Emmy Awards; Seymour was a

weekend reporter for the "Eyeopener" on NewsCenter 5 and a radio personality on Lowell's 980 WCAP-AM.

PEARL CLEAGE, C'71 – Writer, novelist, playwright, poet, essayist, and journalist; author of numerous novels, whose debut novel, *What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day* (1997), was an Oprah's Book Club selection, her most recent works are *Things I Should Have Told My Daughter: Lies, Lessons & Love Affairs* (2014) and *Just Wanna Testify* (2011); Other works include 14 plays, three books of poetry, two collections of essays, a book of short fiction, as well as articles, essays, newspaper columns and the poem "We Speak Your Name" commissioned for Oprah Winfrey's Legends Weekend in 2005. Her latest play for the Alliance Theatre, "Angry, Raucous and Shamelessly Gorgeous" opened in March 2019. Cleage served as the 2005 William and Camille Cosby endowed professor in the humanities at Spelman; and received an honorary degree of Fine Arts from Spelman College in 2010. Cleage is currently the Alliance Theatre's Mellon Playwright in Residence; received the August Wilson Playwright Award at the 16th biennial National Black Theatre in Winston-Salem, North Carolina; Cleage is currently the Alliance Theatre's Mellon Playwright in Residence. Recently, named City of Atlanta's first poet laureate. Awarded Spelman College's 2020 Community Service Award.

CASSI DAVIS, C'88/2009 – Davis' acting career began in 1988 with a supporting role in the Spike Lee comedy film *School Daze*. Her early television credits include appearances on *Living Single*, *Married... with Children*, *Kenan & Kel*, and *The P.J.'s*. She established her acting career by appearing in Tyler Perry productions such as *Madea's Family Reunion*, *Madea Goes to Jail*, *Daddy's Little Girls*, *Madea's Big Happy Family*, *Boo! A Madea*

Halloween and A Madea Family Funeral. Best known for her role as Ella Payne in the TBS sitcom *Tyler Perry's House of Payne* from 2007 to 2012. She received two NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Actress in a Comedy Series for her performance. In 2018, she starred in *House of Payne* spinoff *The Paynes* that aired on Oprah Winfrey Network. In 2020, a revival series of *House of Payne* was ordered on BET.

PHYLICIA FANT, C'2000 – Established herself as a preeminent executive in the entertainment industry. Her current role as Head of Music Industry and Culture Collaborations at Amazon Music seems to bridge culture and music across the zeitgeist. At Columbia Records, oversaw a roster which included Beyoncé, Lil Nas X, Raphael Saadiq, Pharrell, Chloe and Halle, Polo G, Lil Tjay, Joey Bada\$\$, The Kid Laroi and more.

LATANYA RICHARDSON JACKSON, C'71 – Actress of stage, film and television, producer; 2016 NAACP Image Award nominee for Best Actress in a Mini-Series for HBO's "Show Me a Hero;" 2014 Tony Award nominee for Best Lead Actress in a Play for her performance in "A Raisin in the Sun;" movie credits include "Kill Bill 1&2," "Sleepless in Seattle," "Fried Green Tomatoes," "Malcolm X," "U.S. Marshals," "Fighting Temptations" and "Lorenzo's Oil;" appeared in the HBO movie, "Introducing Dorothy Dandridge," and the documentary, "Unchained Memories: Readings from the Slave Narratives;" television roles include a starring role in "100 Centre Street" on A&E Television and guest star billing on "Law & Order," "Boston Public," "NYPD Blue," "Judging Amy," and "Grey's Anatomy," "Show Me a Hero," "Blue Bloods;" stage performance in August Wilson's "Joe Turner's Come and Gone;" and Aaron Sorkin's Tony Award winning

play "To Kill a Mockingbird"; honored by the Children's Defense Fund in 2016; served on the Spelman College Board of Trustees, 1998-2006; Spelman College honorary degree recipient of Fine Arts, April 2012; Along with husband, Samuel L. Jackson, gave the largest alumna donation to Spelman of \$5 million dollars to renovate the Rockefeller Fine Arts Building.

TAYARI JONES, C'91 – Writer, author, novelist, professor; author of *Silver Sparrow* (2011), *Leaving Atlanta* (2002), and *The Untelling* (2005) and *An American Marriage* (2018); a 2021 Guggenheim Fellow and recipient of numerous awards and accolades recipient of numerous awards and accolades for *Leaving Atlanta* including the Best New Author by Black Issues Book Review, Hurston/Wright Award for Debut Fiction, "Novel of the Year" by Atlanta Magazine, and The Atlanta Journal-Constitution and The Washington Post both listed it as one of the best of 2002; Former associate professor in the Master of Fine Arts Program in Creative Writing at Rutgers - Newark University and currently an Andrew D. White Professor-at-Large at Cornell University and the Charles Howard Candler Professor of Creative Writing at Emory University; Spent 2011-2012 academic year at Harvard University as a Radcliffe Institute Fellow researching her forthcoming novel, *Dear History...*; A recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award in Fine Arts from the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. Her writings have appeared in *Tin House*, *The Believer*, *The New York Times*, and *Callaloo*. *Silver Sparrow* was named a #1 Indie Next Pick by booksellers in 2011, and the NEA added it to its Big Read Library of classics in 2016. Jones' newest novel, *An American Marriage* is an Oprah's Book Club Selection and also appeared on Barack Obama's summer

reading list as well as his end of the year round up. The novel was awarded the 2019 Women's Prize for Fiction (formerly known as the Orange Prize), Aspen Words Prize, and an NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work in Fiction. selected as the 2018 Book of the Year by Apple Books, the 2019 Black Caucus American Library Association Literary Award for Fiction and the. 2019.

ALIA JONES-HARVEY, C'95 – Producer, Front Row Productions; In her Broadway debut, she co-produced the first African American revival of “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof,” the biggest grossing play on Broadway in spring 2008; Jones-Harvey also co-produced the play in London, which garnered the 2010 Laurence Olivier Award for Best Revival of a Play. Other projects include “A Street Car Named Desire” (2012), Shakespeare’s “Romeo & Juliet” (2013), Cirque du Soleil’s Paramour (2017), Iceman Cometh (2018), American Son (2019) Get Up, Stand Up: The Bob Marley Musical (2021), and Ain’t Too Proud: The Life and Times of the Temptations, “The Trip to Bountiful” (2013), which received four Tony Award nominations in 2013, and “Eclipsed” (2016), a Tony Award nomination in 2016.

JAMILA HUNTER, C'96 – Executive vice president of original programming and development, for Freeform. Former vice president of ABC Network since 2011 overseeing the development and production of new sitcoms including Tim Allen’s “Last Man Standing,” “Black-ish,” “Fresh off the Boat,” the new prime time television show “The Muppets,” and “Uncle Buck;” a key member of the creative team that launched The Oprah Winfrey Network “OWN”; held several influential executive positions at some of the industries most recognizable networks, channels and production companies, including NBC

Entertainment, Bravo, and 20th Century Fox; started her career with NBC’s Olympic Division after graduating from Spelman; instrumental in the success of several hit shows including “Fear Factor,” “The Apprentice,” “My Name is Earl,” “How I Met Your Mother,” “Queer Eye for the Straight Guy” and “Project Runway.”

SHERRI MCGEE MCCOVEY, C'87 –

Author, journalist, television writer and producer; served as consulting producer of the award-winning gospel talent show, “Sunday Best” hosted by Kirk Franklin and as supervising producer on “Mind, Body and Soul,” a talk show hosted by international pastor, TD Jakes; production credits include but not limited to: Showtime comedy special, “I Could’ve Been Your Cellmate,” the TV-One documentary, “The Story of Gospel Music,” the Fox film, “Doctor Dolittle,” associate producer on “Keenen Ivory Wayans” late-night show; publicist for Fox family channel; travel manager on “Rolonda Watts” and “Tempestt Bledsoe” daytime talk shows, and research assistant to Roots author, Alex Haley; Also, she co-authored Skinny Cooks Can’t be Trusted and Skinny Women are Evil.

KESHIA KNIGHT PULLIAM, C'2001 –

Actress, entrepreneur, philanthropist; Co-founder and chief development officer of Fearless Fund, a capital firm with the mission of investing in minority female entrepreneurs, Keisha is most often remembered as Rudy Huxtable from the 80s television hit, “The Cosby Show”, becoming the youngest actress ever to be nominated for an Emmy, at age six for best supporting actress; roles have included guest appearances on “Sesame Street”, “A Different World” and the reality shows, “Fear Factor”, “Celebrity Mole,” “Celebrity Apprentice” and “The Weakest Link”, from which she

donated her winnings to Spelman; movie credits include Beauty Shop, The Gospel, Motives, and The Last Dragon; joined the cast of “Tyler Perry’s House of Payne”, this role earned her the 2009 and 2010 NAACP Image Awards for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series; CEO of Atlanta-based production company, Kizzy Productions; founder of a non-profit organization for young girls, Kamp Kizzy; creator of Keisha’s Kitchen Collection, a spice line.

SHAUN ROBINSON, C'84 – Television personality, author, producer; former “Access Hollywood” television correspondent; has interviewed Hollywood’s biggest stars and covered the red carpets for the Academy Awards, Golden Globes, Emmy’s and Grammy’s; hosted the official pre-shows for the Oscars and anchored NBC’s coverage of the Tournament of Roses Parade; contributed reports to “NBC Nightly News”, “Today Show”, “MSNBC” and “CNN”; Won an Emmy for her live coverage of A Grand Night in Harlem for the Black Sports and Entertainment Hall of Fame; Author of Exactly As I Am, a book for teen girls about building self-esteem that brings together the collected wisdom of both superstar women and everyday teenagers.

BUSINESS/LAW

GENA HUDGINS ASHE, C'83 – Current EVP, Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary of wireless spectrum holding company, Anterix Inc. (NASDAQ: ATEX). Member of the Boards of Directors of GXO Logistics Inc. (NYSE: GXO) and Cold Bore Capital Mgmt. portfolio company, ALP Partners, LLP. President & CEO of GLA Legal Advisory Group. Former Chief Legal Officer of Adtalem Global Education (NYSE: ATGE) and Brightview Solutions (NYSE: BV). Previously held

executive and senior-level legal positions with large domestic and multinational companies such as IBM, AT&T, Darden Restaurants and PBS. Before her legal career, Ashe was a microcomputer-based design Electrical Engineer for IBM; while at Spelman Ashe was one of Glamour Magazine's Top 10 College Women in America, President of the Spelman Student Government Association, and Valedictorian of her class. National Association of Corporate Directors' ("NACD") 100 Most Influential People in the Boardroom (2018); Women, Inc. Most Influential Directors (2020); Savoy Magazine Most Influential Black Lawyers (2022); Savoy Magazine Most Influential Black Corporate Directors (2019; 2021); National Black College Hall of Fame Inductee (2022). In addition to serving on the Spelman College Board of Trustees (since 2015), Ashe serves on the Board of Directors of the Executive Leadership Council ("ELC") and the Georgetown University Law Center Alumni Advisory Board. Past Chair of the National Black MBA Association Advisory Council; past Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of French company XPO Logistics Europe Ltd. (Euronext: XPO); and past Board Member and Nom and Gov Chair of XPO Logistics Inc. (NYSE: XPO).

ROSALIND GATES BREWER, C'84 –

Rosalind "Roz" Brewer stands as one of the most influential leaders in global business today, recognized for her visionary leadership, strategic expertise, and steadfast commitment to advancing equity. Over a groundbreaking career, Brewer has driven innovation across major industries, serving as President and CEO of Walgreens Boots Alliance, COO of Starbucks, and President and CEO of Sam's Club.

Brewer's impact extends beyond the corporate sphere through her service on the boards of United Airlines, the KIPP Foundation, and the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture. A proud Spelman alumna and chemistry graduate, she also holds a rare ownership stake in the NFL's Atlanta Falcons.

Mrs. Brewer now returns to her roots as Interim President of Spelman College, where she champions educational excellence and prepares future leaders for an evolving world.

Brewer's life's work embodies a powerful legacy of leadership, empowerment, and transformative change.

ASHLEY LAMOTHE MCCUTCHEON,

C'2006 – Franchise owner and operator of Chick-fil-A at 7th and Fig in Los Angeles, CA; youngest Chick-fil-A owner in history, opening her first restaurant at the age of 26; awarded the company's Symbol of Success, an honor reserved for Chick-fil-A operators whose businesses experience particularly high sales growth.

JERRI DEVARD, C'79 – Founder of Black Executive CMO Alliance (BECA); Member Board of Directors at ServiceMaster, a leading provider of essential residential and commercial services, with an extensive service network of more than 8,000 company-owned, franchised and licensed locations; former Executive Vice President and Chief Customer Officer of Office Depot, Inc.; former chief marketing officer for ADT Corporation, responsible for all strategic, operational and financial aspects of the company's integrated marketing programs including brand advertising, digital marketing, communications, lead generation, sponsorships and other initiatives; past

member of the Board of Directors of Belk Corp from 2010-2016; served on the Spelman College Board of Trustees from 2005-2015. She also serves on the Board of Directors for Cars.com and Under Armour and Tommy Hilfiger Company.

LYNNETTE ESPY-WILLIAMS, JD,

C'2003 – Vice Chair and Office Managing Partner, and Chief Diversity Officer, Global Insurance Group of Cozen O'Connor, a full-service firm with nationally recognized practices in litigation, business law, and government relations; co-chair of the firm's Diversity Committee and focuses her practice on litigating matters pertaining to the health, life, accident, and disability insurance industry; recognized in Georgia Trend Magazines' Legal Elite, named as a Georgia Rising Star (2012 and 2013); selected as Atlanta Business Chronicle's "People in the News" Chief Diversity Office; IMPACT and the National Bar Association's Nation's Best Advocates: 40 Lawyers Under 40 (2013), Atlanta Business Chronicle 40 Under 40 (2018), Savoy Magazine Most Influential Black Lawyer (2022).

ANDREA HENCE EVANS, C'98 –

Launched The Law Firm of Andrea Hence Evans, a firm that represents solo inventors, entrepreneurs, small, medium and Fortune 100 clients in multiple states and countries; worked in the United States Patent and Trademark Office as both a patent examiner and trademark examining attorney; principal of KidGineer, LLC, a STEM enrichment program that targets students from 5-10 to receive early exposure to the STEM field and received in 2014 the White House STEM Champion of Change Award for its success; received the Nation's Best Advocate of the Year Award from the National Bar Association and IMPACT; honored as one of the Nation's

Best Advocates: 40 Lawyers Under 40; 2020: National Bar Association Women Lawyers Division (WLD) Outstanding Woman Lawyer in a Solo/Small Firm

KRISTEN JARVIS, C'2003 – Head of Executive Operations in the Office of the CEO of Airbnb; Former Chief of Staff Ford Foundation President, Darren Walker; Former White House special assistant for scheduling and travel aide for the first lady, Michelle Obama; former staffer for Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle; Pete Rouse, Daschle's chief of staff and now a senior White House adviser, brought Jarvis into the office of a young senator from Illinois named Barack Obama; Jarvis served as scheduler in Nevada and on the press advance team for the Obama campaign before joining Michelle Obama for the general election; Some of her fondest memories with the first family include trips abroad to Ghana and to Copenhagen, to make the case for Chicago hosting the 2016 Olympics; In addition to managing East Wing affairs, her influence extends to the West Wing, as well, where in Obama's Senate office, Jarvis hired the executive director of the White House faith office and junior staffers.

ALLEGRA LAWRENCE-HARDY, ESQ, C'93 – Co-Founder of the litigation firm Lawrence & Bundy LLC serving clients nationwide from offices in Atlanta and Washington, DC; former partner of Sutherland Asbill & Brennan where she successfully defended Fortune 100 companies throughout the United States and abroad in numerous trials, arbitrations and other forms of alternative dispute resolution; recipient, Chief Justice Leah Sears Award for Distinction in the Profession; recognized by Chambers USA: Guide to Leading Business Lawyers in the area of labor and employment

(2008-2014); Named to "The Best Lawyers in America" in the area of litigation – labor and employment (2012-2014), commercial litigation (2013-2014) and employment law - management (2014). In 2021, recognized by Chambers USA: Guide to Leading Business Lawyers.

ANNIE JEWELL MOORE, C'43 – Fashion designer and entrepreneur; opened Ann Moore Couturiere in Detroit in 1963, the only Black-owned haute couture salon in the city; a pioneer in the fashion industry, Moore was one of the first African Americans to study at the Fashion Academy in New York and the École Guerre Lavigna in Paris; featured designs included in Atlanta History Center's exhibit titled Fashion in Good Taste (2016); president and board member of Benefactors of Education, Inc., an Atlanta-based nonprofit corporation founded in 1990 by Moore that provides scholarships and other assistance to students of all ages in fashion and the arts. Allegra was elected to the Spelman College Board of Trustees in 2022. In 2022, Ms. Moore will celebrate her 103rd birthday.

D'RITA MELINDA ROBINSON, C'97 – Founder and CEO of Chatty Guest; Robinson is a social impact entrepreneur and philanthropist; founder of Chatty Guest, a free app that encourages collaboration, mentorship and global dialogue across disciplines; and to date, the app has been downloaded in more than 51 countries; responsible for the creation of two scholarships at the College - the Annie Bell Huger Scholarship and the D'Rita Robinson Finish Line Scholarship; since the scholarships inception, more than 120 Spelman students have benefited from her support; served as a trustee of the College..

COLLEEN TAYLOR, C'90 – President, Merchant Services, American Express. Previously served as executive vice president, MasterCard, and as executive vice president, treasury management and enterprise payments Capital One Bank; formerly served as senior vice president for Wachovia Bank and JP Morgan Chase, holding many positions over a fifteen year stint; named to Black Enterprise magazine's Top 75 Women in Business, as one of PaymentsSource's Most Influential Women in Payments, and to American Banker Magazine's 25 Women to Watch. Elected as a trustee of the College in the spring of 2016.

THEODORA LEE, JD, C'84 – Senior partner and trial lawyer, Littler Mendelson, P.C.; Shareholder at Littler Mendelson, P.C. and has extensive courtroom experience and practices before all state and federal courts in California and all employment-related regulatory agencies. Additionally, she defends various corporations in cases in state or federal courts alleging Fair Employment and Housing Act violations, wage and hour class actions, and whistleblower and wrongful termination claims, and has obtained dismissals via summary judgment in countless cases; a settlement commissioner, AAA certified arbitrator and mediator, Lee founded Theopolis Vineyards in Yorkville, California in 2003 and has won numerous awards as recent as several at the 2022 Sunset International Wine Competition. In the wine world, Ms. Lee is known as Theopatra, queen of the vineyards.

CIVIC SERVICE

STACEY ABRAMS, JD, C'95 – First African-American woman major party gubernatorial Georgia nominee in the United States; former house minority

leader for the Georgia General Assembly and state representative for the 89th House District; Abrams is the first woman to lead the Georgia General Assembly and the Georgia House of Representatives and to receive the first-ever Gabrielle Giffords Rising Star Award at the 2014 We Are EMILY awards dinner; selected to speak during the first day of the 2016 Philadelphia Democratic National Convention; co-founded NOWaccount Network Corporation, a financial services firm, and serves as senior vice president and chief administrative officer; co-founded Nourish, Inc., a beverage company with a focus on infants and toddlers; owns Sage Works, a legal consulting firm that represents clients including the Atlanta Dream WNBA team; founded Fair Fight Georgia, a 501 (c) (4) that advocates for election reform, engages in voter education, and encourages turnout in order to secure the voting rights of all Georgians. former deputy city attorney for the City of Atlanta, the youngest in Atlanta's history; published several novels under the pen name Selena Montgomery, until 2021 (While Justice Sleeps was published in 2021, under her real name) and is the author of a number of articles on taxation, public policy and charitable organizations. In 2017, received an honorary degree from the College. Recently became the First African American woman to give the official State of the Union democratic response. Named to the Forbes list of The World's Most Powerful Women in 2020. Nominated for the Outstanding Character Voice-Over Performance award at the 2021 Primetime Emmys. Awarded the Local Community Service Award from President Mary Schmidt Campbell, Ph.D. In 2022, awarded the Board of Trustees National Community Service Award when she returned to her alma mater, Spelman College, and delivered the commencement speech.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL PAULETTE BURTON, C'90 – Veterans Law Judge; Former Staff Judge Advocate, United States Army Criminal Investigation Command at United States Army; appointed in 2015 to the U.S. Court of Military Commission Review (USCMCR); serves as a senior judge with the U.S. Army Court of Criminal appeals, the first African-American woman to serve in this position; admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, the U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court of South Carolina, and the South Carolina Supreme Court. Primary legal advisor on all criminal law operations, as well as administrative law, military justice, labor law and contract and fiscal law; serves as the Command's Ethics Counsel and runs the ethics program. Prior assignments include: chief, United States Army Judge Advocate Recruiting Office; deputy staff judge Advocate, U.S. Army Aviation and Warfighting Center; senior defense counsel, National Capital Region; chief of claims, 25th Infantry Division; chief of legal assistance, 25th Infantry Division; trial defense counsel, Yongsan, Korea; trial counsel, Fort Belvoir, Virginia; chief of claims, Fort Belvoir, Virginia; legal assistance attorney, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

ESHE' P. COLLINS, ESQ, C'2002 – Non-profit director, education policymaker and professor; serves as board member, district 6 representative at Atlanta Board of Education, adjunct professor at Georgia State University and senior program director at Jumpstart Atlanta; prior to her current position at Jumpstart, she analyzed national education issues and advocated for accessible healthcare at the Children's Defense Fund; worked in Cape Town, South Africa where she helped refugee women and children access quality

services and enroll in local schools; professional experiences also include being admitted to practice in the State of Georgia, the Georgia Supreme Court, the Georgia Court of Appeals and the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, being an adjunct professor for the Urban Education Freshmen Learning Community at Georgia State University, a registered neutral in the Office of Dispute Resolution for the State of Georgia, a judicial clerk to the Honorable James A. Wynn, Jr. in the North Carolina Court of Appeals; co-author of The Name of the Game is in the Claim: Regulating Intellectual Property Protection and Traditional Knowledge.

LISA COOK, C'86 – Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System member; Associate professor in the Department of Economics and in International Relations at Michigan State University. Elected a trustee of the Economic History Association and serves on the board of editors of the Journal of Economic Literature. Her publications have appeared in other peer-reviewed journals, including the American Economic Review, the Journal of Economic Growth, Explorations in Economic History, and the Business History Review, as well as in several books. A member of the Council of Foreign Relations, the advisory board of the Opportunity and Inclusive Growth Institute of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, the advisory board of the Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation at the Smithsonian Institution, and the board of directors of the Roosevelt Institute. She received the Impactful Mentor Award for mentoring graduate students from the AEA Mentoring Pipeline program in 2019.

LAURIE CUMBO, C'97 – Commissioner of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; Former Majority Leader for the New York City Council representing District 35, the first African American woman to serve in this capacity; Cumbo is responsible for expanding and developing arts and cultural tourism in the 35th district and making better use of public spaces including parks; founder and executive director of the Museum of Contemporary African Diaspora Arts; served as a graduate professor in the School of Art & Design at Pratt Institute from 2001 – 2011 in the Arts and Cultural Management Program; she was appointed to chair the prestigious Women's Issues Committee and selected to serve on the Finance, Cultural Affairs and Libraries, Higher Education, Youth Services and Public Housing committees reform. She also passed the largest cultural legislative package almost tripling the budget for the Percent for Art Program and advocated for the largest increase in the Department of Cultural Affairs' budget in thirty-five years.

EU-WANDA EAGANS, C'94 – Senior Vice President of Workforce Development at Goodwill of the Olympics and Rainier Region; Former Chief operating officer at Northwest Harvest, the only non-profit food bank distributor operating statewide in Washington, providing 1.9 million meals each month to a network of more than 360 food banks, meal programs and high-need schools; prior to Northwest Harvest Eagans held multiple supervisory positions at both Energizer Battery Co. and General Motors Corporation; served as assistant commissioner of the Employment Security Department for the state of Washington.

MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN, JD, C'60 – Founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund (CDF), a private, non-profit child advocacy organization based in Washington, DC; first Black woman to pass the bar in Mississippi where she headed the NAACP Legal Defense Fund; veteran Civil Rights lawyer; recipient of the MacArthur Foundation Fellowship and the Robert F. Kennedy Lifetime Achievement Award for her writings, which include the books: *Families in Peril: An Agenda for Social Change*, *The Measure of Our Success: A Letter to My Children and Yours* and *Lanterns: A Memoir of Mentors*, written in part from a journal kept while she was a Spelman student; President Bill Clinton awarded Edelman the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, in August 2000; received the Harvard Graduate School of Education's Medal of Education Impact, the school's highest award, in March 2013; featured on the three-hour PBS documentary "Makers: Women Who Make America" which premiered February 2013; first alumna to serve as chair of the Spelman Board of Trustees, 1980-1989, and life member of the Spelman College Board of Trustees; Awarded Spelman College's highest honor, receiving the honorary degree of Humane Letters in 2010; Received an honorary doctorate from La Salle University in May 2018. Presented a Ted Talk in May 2019 titled "Reflections from a lifetime fighting to end child poverty; received the Life of Hope Award presented by the Casey Family Programs to recognize her everlasting commitment to ensuring the safety and success of children, families and the communities where they live.

LIEUTENANT LA'SHANDA R. HOLMES, C'2007 – Lieutenant Commander, Deputy Senate Liaison; First lieutenant (junior grade) and first African American

female helicopter pilot in the United States Coast Guard, making history on April 9, 2010, when she had her wings pinned on; Prior to attending officer candidate school, she served on a Coast Guard cutter as an officer; Appointed as a White House Fellow in 2015 by President Barack Obama; In 2015–2016 she was the Special Assistant to the NASA Administrator General Charles F. Bolden.

PAULA HICKS-HUDSON, C'73 – Former mayor of Toledo, Ohio was first African American woman to serve as mayor and the second woman to lead the city of Toledo; past Democratic candidate for District 44 of the Ohio House of Representatives on the primary election in May 2018; worked as assistant Lucas County prosecutor, assistant public defender and assistant state attorney general during her 35-year professional career; served as legislative director of the Toledo City Council from 1998–2002; served as the director and deputy director of the Lucas County Board of Elections and chief legal counsel to the Ohio Office of Budget and Management and appointed to City Council in 2011; became President of Council in 2013 during a special council meeting; Paula was sworn in as Mayor for the City of Toledo in 2015. Recently she was elected to the Ohio House of Representatives to represent District 44.

CHIEF JUSTICE BERNETTE JOSHUA JOHNSON, JD, C'64 – Former Chief Justice, Louisiana State Supreme Court; Johnson made history by becoming the first African American Chief Justice of the Louisiana State Supreme Court when she took her official oath of office on February 1, 2013; chairs the Louisiana Judicial Council and the Human Resources Committee, and is a member of the Judicial Budgetary Control Board;

elected to serve on the Louisiana Supreme Court in 1994, and was re-elected, without opposition, in 2000 and 2010; received honorary doctor of laws degree from Spelman College, and is a member of the National Bar Association Hall of Fame and the Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame. The National Bar Association awarded Johnson the Gertrude E. Rush award which honors lawyers and judges that demonstrate a concern for human and civil rights and provide leadership in legal education, public policy and social activism.

HEATHER JOY THOMPSON ESQ, C'99

– U.S. Department of State foreign service officer for the U.S. Embassy in Mexico; Foreign Officer for the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs; served as Press Officer to the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs; U.S. Department of State Foreign Officer for the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs; serves as Press Officer to the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs Former foreign service officer for the U.S. Embassy in Mexico; served two years at the consulate general in Johannesburg, South Africa, where she was the American Citizen Services Chief; co-founded the Abafazi Ambassadors program, a partnership between the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls and the U.S. Mission to South Africa; instrumental in helping the LEAD Program in Business create its first international summer business institutes in Cape Town and Johannesburg; previously a licensed attorney, worked for Sean “Diddy” Combs, first as his assistant and then as the head of his Vote or Die get-out-the-vote campaign.

BERNICE KING, JD, C'85 – Minister, attorney and author; youngest daughter of the late Coretta Scott King and

Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., she is a nationally and internationally renowned speaker who is acknowledged as having inherited the gift of oratory and ecumenical power for which her father was famous; named Chief Executive Officer of the King Center in 2012; serves as president and CEO of Be A King, Inc.; in 2007, Bernice King established the Be A King Scholarship at Spelman in honor of her mother, Coretta Scott King; King is also the author of several books, *Hard Questions, Heart Answers: Sermons and Speeches, For Each Living Soul: Speeches and Sermons* by the Reverend Bernice A. King and *The Father I Never Knew: The Father I Now Know*. In 2020, King was featured in British Vogue cover story *The 20 Remarkable Activists on Vogue's September Cover Are Ready To Change The World*. In 2022, received an honorary degree from her alma mater, Spelman College.

LOVETTE TWYMAN RUSSELL, C'83

– Senior Consultant, Coxe Curry & Associates and community advocate; at Coxe Curry & Associates, she provides strategic consultation to nonprofits to strengthen their capacity in the critical areas of board development, volunteer engagement and fundraising; currently serves on the boards of Sheltering Arms, Zoo Atlanta, GEEARS (Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students), and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Foundation; named the 2012 Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year by the Association of Fundraising Professionals, 11Alive Boisfeuillet Jones Community Service Award winner and was named the Mary Caan Volunteer of the Year by the Lupus Foundation; recognized by both the YWCA of Greater Atlanta and Atlanta Woman Magazine as a Woman of Achievement; received the Trailblazer Award from the NAACP in 2013; currently serving

as the Chair of the Board of Trustees at Spelman College.

DEAH WARREN, C'2002 – Newly appointed Superior Court Judge for the Douglas Judicial Circuit. Deah will fill the vacancy created by the resignation of The Honorable Judge David Emerson. Deah Warren has served as Chief Assistant District Attorney for the Douglas County District Attorney's Office since January 2021, having previously served as Deputy Chief District Attorney for the Major Case Unit and a Senior Assistant District Attorney. Her experience also includes her work in the District Attorney's Offices of Fulton and Clayton Counties. Warren received her Juris Doctorate from Georgia State University College of Law, and her Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from Spelman College.

EDUCATION

DARIENNE B. DRIVER HUDSON, EDD, C'2000 – Newly appointed President and CEO of the United Way for Southeastern Michigan; former superintendent of Milwaukee Public Schools from 2014 - 2018; served as first permanent female leader of states' largest school district; Dr. Hudson worked with the Milwaukee Board of School Directors and district leadership to improve student achievement and engaged in effective and efficient operations that made best use of district resources; prior to being named superintendent, Dr. Hudson was MPS' first Chief Innovation Officer; Dr. Hudson served as Deputy Chief of Empowerment Schools for the School District of Philadelphia prior to her work in Milwaukee; she served as Coordinator of Strategic Management and Accountability and Special Assistant to the Superintendent; Dr. Hudson began her career as an elementary school teacher in the Detroit Public Schools.

MARLA FREDERICK, PhD, C'94 – In 2019, Dr. Marla F. Frederick joined Emory Candler School of Theology as the Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Religion and Culture. From 2011-2012 at Harvard University, she served as the Morris Kahn professor of African and African American Studies and professor of Religion Chair of the Committee on the Study of Religion; author of *Between Sundays: Black Women and Everyday Struggles of Faith* (2003) and coauthor of *Local Democracy Under Siege: Activism, Public Interests, and Private Politics* (2007), which won the 2008 Society for the Anthropology of North America (SANA) Book Award. Dr. Frederick has studied the activism and faith of Black women in the US South and American televangelism and its impact outside of the US. Currently she is researching the history of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

LISA HERRING, PhD, C'94 – Former Superintendant of Atlanta Public Schools in 2020; former superintendent of Birmingham (Alabama) City Schools (BCS); Under her leadership, BCS received its first award of full district accreditation after being under state takeover and conditional accreditation for several years; in collaboration with Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin and United Way of Central Alabama CEO Drew Langloh, she helped develop and launch The Birmingham Promise to offer new career and college opportunities for any graduate of Birmingham City Schools prior to Birmingham, Dr. Herring served as chief academic officer for Jefferson County Public Schools in Louisville, Kentucky, as well as deputy superintendent of Academics for the Charleston County, South Carolina School District.

JUNE GARY HOPPS, PhD, C'60 – Thomas J. Parham Professor of Family and Children Studies, University of Georgia and dean emerita of the Graduate School of Social Work, Boston College; serves as the School's leading authority in the area of public policy as it relates to families and children in her role as the Parham Professor; serves as School's liaison with state and federal government offices and legislators regarding emerging public policy issues in the field; former dean of the Graduate School of Social Work at Boston College; established three joint graduate and professional degree programs with law, business and pastoral counseling during 24 years at Boston College; started a doctoral program in research-driven, proactive social work; Hopps was also the youngest dean ever appointed at Boston College; received honors that include recognition by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare for outstanding public service and the NASW Presidential Award for Excellence in Social Work Education; Spelman College named the June Gary Hopps Atrium in her honor (2005); served on the Spelman College Board of Trustees, 1988-2007 and board chair 1997-2004; received the honorary degree of Humane Letters from Spelman College in 2015; awarded the Significant Lifetime Achievement in Social Work Education Award by the Council on Social Work Education in 2017.

PAMELA GUNTER-SMITH, PhD, C'73 – President of York College. This historic appointment makes her the College's first female and the first minority person chosen for the position. Her most recent previous position was provost and academic vice president of Drew University in Madison, New Jersey. Prior to her appointment at Drew, Gunter-Smith served as the Porter professor of physiology in the biology department,

associate provost for science and mathematics, and program director for the Center for Biomedical and Behavioral Research at Spelman College.

VALERIE CAMILLE JONES, PhD, C'2000 – For over 20 years, Dr. Valerie Camille Jones has been a mathematics educator, most recently serving as a Pre-algebra, Algebra 1, and Geometry teacher for sixth through eighth graders at the Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta. Jones received 2015 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching – the nation's highest honor for teachers of mathematics and science. Jones has developed a flipped classroom teaching model and has trained more than 17,000 teachers from across the globe on her instructional methods; visit Jones' website at <http://www.drvcjones.com/>.

WANDA LLOYD, C'71 – Former Chair/ Associate Professor, Department of Mass Communications at Savannah State University; served 8.5 years as the executive editor of the *Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser*, a Gannett newspaper; former managing editor at the *Greenville News*; senior editor/days and administration at *USA Today*; served as editor at *The Washington Post*, *Providence Evening Bulletin*, *Miami Herald*, and the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*; four-time juror for the Pulitzer Prize; 2007 inductee into the National Association of Black Journalists' Region III Hall of Fame; served on the journalism advisory boards at Alabama State, Savannah State, Auburn and Virginia Commonwealth universities; former director of the American Society of Newspaper Editors (ASNE), where she chaired the organization's committees on Diversity, Human Resources and Nominations and she was co-editor of the *ASNE Bulletin* (later *The American Editor*); founder and former chair of the National Association of Minority Media

Executives (NAMME); author of “Coming Full Circle: Jim Crow to Journalism;” served on the board of trustees of Spelman College and a member of the Accrediting Committee of the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC); received the honorary degree of Humane Letters from Spelman College in 2015.

JACQUELINE JONES ROYSTER, PhD,

C’70 – Former dean of the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts at Georgia Institute of Technology, Dr. Jacqueline Jones Royster is Professor of English in the School of Literature, Media, and Communication; and Culture in 2010; former Senior Vice Provost and Executive Dean of the Colleges of Arts and Sciences and Professor of English at The Ohio State University, serving the university for 18 years; returned to Spelman College in 1978 to serve as professor of English and administrator; Author of five books including: *Southern Horrors and Other Writings: The Anti-Lynching Campaign of Ida B. Wells-Barnett* (1997) and more than 50 articles on the subjects of the rhetorical history of women of African descent, the development of literacy, and the teaching of writing.

CELESTE WATKINS-HAYES, PhD,

C’96 – Interim dean of the University of Michigan’s Ford School of Public Policy. She currently serves as the associate dean for academic affairs. Watkins-Hayes also serves as University Diversity and Social Transformation Professor, Jean E. Fairfax Collegiate Professor of Public Policy, and professor of sociology (LSA). She is the founding director of the Ford School’s Center for Racial Justice and a research and community impact fellow with the provost’s Anti-Racism Collaborative. Former Associate professor of Sociology

serves as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and founding director of the Center for Racial Justice at the University of Michigan’s Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy; author of *The New Welfare Bureaucrats: Entanglements of Race, Class, and Policy Reform*, 2009; has served as visiting fellow at the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies at the University of California, San Francisco and awarded a two-year postdoctoral fellowship from the National Science Foundation; recognized for her professional achievements with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Investigator Award and featured in articles for *Essence* magazine, “The New Power Generation” and *USA Weekend* magazine “Black History Month Celebration: The Next Generation of African-American Achievers.”

TALITHIA WILLIAMS, PhD, C’2000 –

Associate Professor of Mathematics at Harvey Mudd College; Dr. Williams develops statistical models which emphasize the spatial and temporal structure of data and has partnered with the World Health Organization in developing a cataract model used to predict the cataract surgical rate for countries in Africa; professional experiences include research appointments at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the National Security Agency, and NASA; the mathematician’s breakthrough research has garnered her a following outside of the scientific community; received more than a million views from her popular TED Talk, *Own Your Own Body’s Data*.

HEALTH/SCIENCES

VIRGINA DAVIS FLOYD, MD, C’73

– Faculty at Morehouse School of Medicine; Former Director of Human Development and Reproductive Health

for the Ford Foundation; Dr. Floyd makes a difference by extending medical care to understand populations around the world and integrating indigenous medical traditions with Western methods; served in the National Health Services Corp and established family practice residency program at Morehouse College; served as director of family health for the Georgia Department of Human Resources; as director of Human Development and Reproductive Health (HDRH) for the Ford Foundation in New York, she leads a team of program officers who provide grants in the United States and overseas, coordinating efforts to combat economic and social marginalization, and promote reproductive health; Dr. Floyd received numerous awards for her leadership in health policy, advocacy for the underserved and as a medical educator. Dr. Floyd is also a published poet. In celebration of the College’s legacy of excellence and service, she received an honorary Founders Day degree in 2019.

HAZEL D. DEAN, SCD, DRPH (HON),

FACE, C’83 – Internationally recognized scientist Editor-in-Chief of *Public Health Reports* (PHR), the official, scientific journal of the US Public Health Service and the Office of the Surgeon General. Former deputy director of the National Center; Former deputy director of the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB prevention at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; author of numerous scientific journal articles, reports, and book chapters on HIV/AIDS among racial and ethnic minorities, women, incarcerated populations, and achieving health equity; recipient of numerous awards and honors for her scientific and leadership achievements including 2012 recipient of the United States Presidential Rank Honor Award for

Distinguished Service — the nation's highest civil service award — for outstanding achievements in public service; Tulane University's Champion of Public Health Award; received the honorary degree of Public Health from Spelman College in 2014; Spelman College's Alumnae Achievement Award in the health Sciences in 2010; and CDC's Health Equity and Diversity Champion Awards.

JANINA JEFF, PhD, C'2007 – A human geneticist, educator, and minority science technology engineering math (STEM) activist is currently a senior bioinformatics scientist for Illumina; with expertise in statistical design and interpretation of large-scale genomic data, her research career is largely focused on the discovery of genetic loci that impact admixed populations, Hispanics and African Americans, for complex common diseases; awarded the 2020 Advocacy Award from American Society of Human Genetics, the largest professional genetics organization; a host of "In Those Genes" podcast; Jeff is also an active science communicator and a minority STEM activist; She is the first African American to earn a PhD in Human Genetics at Vanderbilt University.

NA'TAKI OSBORNE JELKS, C'95 – Environmental health scientist; manager, Community and Leadership Development Programs, Southeast Regional Center, National Wildlife Federation; leads NWF's youth environmental education and leadership development program for teens of color (Earth Tomorrow) and various adult civic engagement and advocacy initiatives; In addition to her role at NWF, Na'Taki has served as adjunct professor of Community Health at Morehouse School of Medicine and of Environmental Science at Spelman College; Visiting Assistant Professor in

Public Health at Agnes Scott College; has received numerous awards for her work by the Georgia House of Representatives, the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus, the Environmental Careers Organization, the Turner Broadcasting Systems (TBS), and former U.S. President, Bill Clinton; received the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) the 2010 Costen Award for TheoEcology for her exemplary work in environmentalism; among the first cohort of the Ecological Society of America's Excellence in Ecology Scholars. Honored as a 2014 White House Champions of Change award recipient for her outstanding work in engaging the next generation of conservation leaders.

AUDREY FORBES MANLEY, MD, MPH, C'55 – President Emerita of Spelman College, serving as the eighth and first alumna president of Spelman, 1997-2002; honorary Doctor of Laws degree recipient from Spelman College in 1991; a pediatrician and specialist in public health, in 1976, Manley joined the United States Public Health Service, serving in a number of positions including director of the National Health Service Corps, deputy assistant secretary of health, Department of Health and Human Services. Manley was the first African-American woman appointed as chief resident at Cook County Children's Hospital, Chicago (1962), and the first to achieve the rank of Assistant Surgeon General (Rear Admiral) in 1988.

HEATHER MCTEER-TONEY, JD, C'98 – Vice President, Community Engagement for the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF). She previously served EDF as an Environmental Justice Liaison. President, Resolutions, LLC, a social responsibility management company; Former Regional Administrator for Region 4 of the Environmental Protection Agency;

responsible for the eight southeastern states, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Mississippi, South Carolina and Tennessee, as well as six federally recognized tribes; making first female and African American mayor of Greenville, Mississippi, the largest municipality in the Mississippi Delta. She recently published her first book, "Before The Streetlights Come On: Black America's Urgent Call for Climate Solutions." It will release on "Earthday" April 22, 2023.

LAUREN K. ROBINSON, PHD., C' 2003 - Currently serves as Chief Medical Officer and Vice President of Medical Affairs at CHRISTUS Health. Dr. Robinson formerly served as Secretary for Promotion & Disease Prevention at Pennsylvania Department of Health; She focuses on many aspects of health including lead poisoning, hepatitis and the Zika virus; served as a mentor with the Philadelphia Futures mentoring program, and is an active member of the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College, previously as the Affinity Chair and currently as the Health and Wellness Chair; worked with the American Heart Association on both a national and local level; In 2016 named to the National Minority Quality Forum's 40 under 40 Leaders in Minority Health, Awarded the National Medical Association's Rising Star Award and was elected to the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. She was also selected for LinkedIn's "Next Wave: Game Changers 35 years old and younger in Healthcare." In January 2017, she was featured in Essence Magazine as a "Top Doc" to watch Dr. Robinson has received more than 30 awards, including the 2013 Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society, University of North Carolina chapter; the UNC School of Medicine Henry C. Fordham Teaching Award; the National Med-Peds Resident Association Howard Kubiner Award; and

the 2012 National Medical Association's Top 40 Under 40 award. She currently serves on the Boards of the Food Trust, Project HOME Young Leaders Committee, the Multicultural Leadership Committee, the American Heart Association, Great Rivers Affiliate and the Philadelphia Medical Reserve Corps and the Board of Trustees of Spelman College.

DAPHNE SMITH, PhD, C'80 – A pioneering mathematician and educator; currently a business analytics adviser with Cigna, a global health service company. Former National Alumnae Association of Spelman College (NAASC) President has served at local, regional and national levels of the organization, and is a founding member of the NAASC Louisville Chapter; Data Scientist for Boncura Health Solutions; former Data Scientist for Humana, Inc; prior to her work in healthcare, Dr. Smith's professional background includes mathematics and statistics faculty positions at the University of Georgia, Georgia State University and Spelman College; Earned a PhD in mathematics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the first Spelman graduate to earn a doctorate in mathematics.

SUSAN SPELL, MD, C'88 – Internationally acclaimed health and beauty expert and director of dermatology at her Beverly Hills

practice; Evans is one of Oprah's and Dr. Oz's healthy skin and beauty experts; her unique background, which includes internal medicine dermatology from Harvard Medical School, Atlanta University Center, and New York University equips her with expertise in overall health, skin, and beauty; featured physician on the E! network series "Dr. 90210". She frequently provides her input as the health and beauty expert, commentator, or contributor on "The Dr. Oz Show", "The Oprah Winfrey Show", "Extra Life-Changers", Essence, and "Good Morning America". Evans has offered her health and beauty tips in many mainstream magazines, including People, Parent, Health, Harper's Bazaar, and sister2sister magazines. Her passion for healing inspired her to co-found The Skin Deformities and Research Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides restorative plastic surgery to disadvantaged children and adults with facial injuries and disfigurements. July 2019 she released a new book titled "Remaking a Life: How Women with HIV/AIDS Confront Inequality."

TALITHA WASHINGTON, PHD, C'96 – Noted Scholar, applied mathematician, author, interdisciplinary researcher, and innovator; currently the Director of the Atlanta University Center Consortium (AUCC) Data Science Initiative; she has served as a program director at the National Science Foundation (NSF) in

the Division of Undergraduate Education; Currently serves as the President of the Association for Women in Mathematics. Dr. Washington's experience includes inventive leadership in math education, research methodologies, and partnership development; former tenured associate professor at Howard University; her published authorship includes groundbreaking work on nonstandard finite difference (NSFD) methodologies developed for various systems of differential equations. She has also held academic positions in mathematics and research at Duke University, the College of New Rochelle, and the University of Evansville.

FALLON WILSON, PhD, C'2005 – Currently serves as Vice President of Tech Policy at Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC) and Co-Founder and Principal Investigator at #BlackTechFutures Research Institute; Former CEO and co-founder of Black in Tech Nashville, an organization designed to help tech workers of color advance in the tech industry focusing on four areas – matching members with opportunities and resources, formulating inclusive public policy, networking and source funding; former assistant vice president of Institutional Advancement and Strategic Partnerships at American Baptist College in Nashville, TN.

Suggested Readings:

Florence M. Read, *The Story of Spelman College*. (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1961)
 Albert E. Manley, *A Legacy Continues: The Manley Years at Spelman College, 1953-1976*. (Lanham, MD: University Press of America, Inc., 1995)
 Beverly Guy-Sheftall and Jo Moore Stewart, *Spelman: A Centennial Celebration, 1881-1981* (Atlanta: Spelman College, 1981)
 Harry G. Lefever, *Undaunted by the Fight: Spelman College and the Civil Rights Movement, 1957-1967* (Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 2005)

Yolanda Watson and Shelia T. Gregory, *Daring to Educate: The Legacy of the Early Spelman College Presidents* (Sterling, VA: Stylus Publishing, 2005)
 Robert Pearsall, Review of *The Story of Spelman College*, by Florence M. Read. *Spelman Messenger* 78, (February, 1962)
 Johnetta Cross Brazzell, "Bricks without Straw: Missionary-Sponsored Black Higher Education in the Post-Emancipation Era," *Journal of Higher Education* 63, (January/February, 1992)
 Stephanie J. Shaw, *What a Woman Ought to Be and to Do: Black Professional Women Workers During the*

Jim Crow Era. (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1996)
 Ron Chernow, Titan: *The Life of John D. Rockefeller, Sr.* (New York: Vintage Books, 1999)
 Allison Dorsey, *To Build Our Lives Together: Community Formation in Black Atlanta, 1875-1906*. (Athens, GA: The University of Georgia Press, 2004)
 Leslie Miller-Bernal and Susan L. Poulson, *Challenged by Coeducation: Women's Colleges Since the 1960s*. (Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 2006)

2025 ALUMNAE VITAL STATISTICS

ALUMNA \a-lum-nuh\ singular
ALUMNAE \a-lum-nee\ plural
[feminine of alumnus]

A girl or woman who has attended or has graduated from a particular school, college or university

Spelman alumnae represent **22,248 women**, residing in ***47 states** and **^23 countries** around the world.

* Territories are not included in count of States
^ Not including US
Data is based on 2024

A class year should be written as follows:

Linda Hart Patton, C'88

For alumnae graduating in 2000 or greater it should be written as follows:

Alyson Shumpert Dorsey, C'2002

ALUMNAE AGE DEMOGRAPHICS:

30 years & under: 19%
31-39 years of age: 21%
40-64 years of age: 46%
65-79 years of age: 11%
80 years & older: 3%

* Data is based on 2024

TOP TEN Alumnae Career Fields, in order:

1. Education: Teaching/Administration
2. Law/Legal Services/Lawyer/Judiciary
3. Government: Non-Elected
4. Health Services
5. Management
6. Physician
7. Business: Entrepreneur/Owner
8. Computer/High Technology
9. Financial Services
10. Mental Health Services/Counseling

* Data is based on 2024

The current *student body at Spelman consists of a geographically diverse group of women scholars totaling over 2,598 (excludes eSpelman) from 42 States and U.S. Territories and 7 foreign countries.

* Numbers are based on Spring 2025 enrollment).

TEN *STATES where the largest numbers of Spelman College alumnae reside, in order:

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. Georgia | 6. Florida |
| 2. Maryland | 7. North Carolina |
| 3. California | 8. Illinois |
| 4. New York | 9. Virginia |
| 5. Texas | 10. New Jersey |

* Territories are not included in count of States.

* Data is based on 2024



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2025-2026

The Office of Alumnae Engagement in the Division of Institutional Advancement serves as a liaison between Spelman College and its **22,248 alumnae, represented in 42 States and U.S. Territories and 7 Foreign Countries.** The office is responsible for administering programs and services designed to benefit a diverse group of alumnae and support the mission of Spelman College. Along with activities focusing on alumnae recognition and leadership development, the office also facilitates opportunities for networking and mentorship between alumnae and students. Additionally, the office serves as adviser to the Granddaughters Club, the Pre-Alumnae Council (PAC) of The College Fund/UNCF, and the Lady Buds. The office works in partnership with the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College (NAASC).

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