VIRTUAL
UNDAUNTED

Founders Day @ Spelman
Celebrating 140 Years
SPelman COLLege
FOUNDERS DAY
SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2021
1:00 P.M.
In the spring of 1879, New England teachers and missionaries, Sophia B. Packard and Harriet E. Giles journeyed south to study living conditions among freed persons. Appalled by what they found, particularly the lack of educational opportunities for females, they pledged to return to the South to open a school for Black women and girls. Many showed interest in their vision but lacked financial capital to support it. Yet, equipped with $100 from the First Baptist Church of Medford, Massachusetts, and funds they raised themselves, Packard and Giles arrived in Atlanta, Georgia. On April 11, 1881, in a church basement with 11 students, some of whom were not far removed from slavery, and all eager to learn, they began the Atlanta Baptist Female Seminary, encouraged and assisted by Reverend Frank Quarles, pastor of Friendship Baptist Church.

On this 140th anniversary of our founding, Spelman College celebrates a long-standing commitment to academic excellence and service to others, inherited from the Founders. Grounded in the vision of Packard’s charge to build “for a hundred years hence,” Spelman is unwavering in her commitment to deliver an outstanding education for our current students, while ensuring our ability to deliver on this promise for generations of students to come. Empowering leaders since 1881 through an intellectual and ethical course, we pause to pay tribute to our past.

On August 1, 2015, Mary Schmidt Campbell, Ph.D., began her tenure as the 10th president of Spelman College. A leading liberal arts college for women of African descent located in Atlanta, Georgia, Spelman has long enjoyed a reputation as the nation’s leading producer of Black women scientists.

Prior to arriving in Atlanta, Dr. Campbell was a major force in the cultural life of New York City. Her career in New York, which included various challenging roles, began at the Studio Museum in Harlem where she served for 10 years. Her role there began at a time when the city was on the verge of bankruptcy and Harlem was in steep decline. However, under her leadership, the museum was transformed from a rented loft to the country’s first accredited Black fine arts museum. Dr. Campbell also established herself as a staunch supporter who championed the need for professional development opportunities for women and people of color in the arts.

When she left the Studio Museum of Harlem in 1987, the organization was recognized as a linchpin in the economic revitalization of the 125th Street corridor and a major center for the study of the visual arts of the Black Atlantic.

New York’s late Mayor Edward I. Koch invited Dr. Campbell to serve as the city’s cultural affairs commissioner in 1987. In this role, she led the Department of Cultural Affairs which oversees the operations and capital development of the city’s major cultural institutions. As a commissioner, she gained a reputation as an indefatigable advocate for large and small arts organizations throughout all five boroughs.

Dr. Campbell returned to the private sector to become dean of New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts in the fall of 1991. In her more than two decades as dean, the Tisch School gained a reputation for producing artistic trailblazers in theater, film and interactive media. Tisch students, faculty and alumni have won virtually every major award in the arts, including the Oscar, Palmetto Prize, Tony Award, Grammy, Emmy, Peabody, Golden Globe, Guggenheim Fellowship and more. As dean, Dr. Campbell diversified both the student body and the faculty fourfold, and she incubated several new arts and technology divisions within the school and the university. Among the new academic programs, she developed the NYU Game Center, The Clive Davis Institute of Recorded Music, The Moving Image Archiving and Preservation Program, and a joint MBA/MAE Graduate Film and Business program.

Additionally, she doubled the size of the school’s Interactive Telecommunication Program and founded and chaired Tisch’s Department of Art and Public Policy, which examined the intersection of art, politics and public policy as it impacts individual artists and the institutions that support them in a democratic culture.

In September 2009, former President Barack Obama appointed Dr. Campbell as the vice chair of the President’s Committee on the Arts and Humanities, a non-partisan advisory committee to the President of the United States on cultural matters. As vice chair, Dr. Campbell took an active role in reaffirming the arts as one of the ingredients essential to effective public school education.

She is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and was elected to the Unity Technologies Board in September 2020. She served as a member of the Alfred P. Sloan Board from 2008-2020, and she currently sits on the boards of the J. Paul Getty Trust, the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, and the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, as well as on the Advisory Boards of the Bronner Foundation and the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges.


She recently completed a book, An American Odyssey: The Life and Work of Romare Bearden, for Oxford University Press. For this work, Dr. Campbell received the 2018 Hoku National Book Award from the Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change at the University of Memphis. In 2019, she was a finalist for the 55th Georgia Author Hooks National Book Award from the Benjamin L. Hooks Press. For this work, Dr. Campbell received the 2018 Mary Schmidt Campbell Life and Work of Romare Bearden Book Award.

Dr. Campbell received her B.A. in English Literature from Swarthmore College. She earned her M.A. in Art History as well as her Ph.D. in Humanities from Syracuse University. She holds numerous honorary degrees, including one from her alma mater, Swarthmore.
Throughout the course of our 140-year history, Spelman College has been guided by 10 dynamic presidents that have brought Spelman to heights supreme and true. Through the Jim Crow era, world wars, civil rights, as well as pandemics, these visionaries have carried Spelman to a horizon that allowed her to become a beacon of heavenly light to women of African descent. These Spelman women continue to achieve firsts in a variety of disciplines, to become change agents, and to make the daily choice to change the world. On this anniversary of our founding, we would like to take a moment to honor our founders and all 10 of our institution’s presidents whose undaunted spirits led us to being the number one institution in the education of Black women since 1881.

**Beverly Daniel Tatum, Ph.D., Ninth President**
On August 1, 2002, scholar, teacher, author, administrator and race relations expert, Beverly Daniel Tatum, Ph.D., 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.

**Audrey F. Manley, M.D., Eighth President**
Audrey Forbes Manley, M.D., became the first alumna to lead her beloved alma mater when she was appointed Spelman College’s eighth president in 1997. Dr. Manley’s unwavering dedication, experience, and intimate knowledge of the institution served Spelman well as she successfully guided the College into the new millennium.

**Johnnetta B. Cole, Ph.D., Seventh President**
In 1987, Johnnetta Betsch Cole, Ph.D., became Spelman College’s seventh president and the first Black woman to lead the College that was founded specifically for the education of Black women. A dynamic leader, Dr. Cole led the College during a time of heightened visibility as the school’s rankings and endowment increased.

**Donald M. Stewart, Ph.D., Sixth President**
In 1976, Donald M. Stewart, Ph.D., became Spelman College’s sixth president and would continue the tradition of academic excellence and the cultivation of leaders during his decade in office.

**Albert E. Manley, Ed.D., Fifth President**
Albert E. Manley, Ed.D., became the first Black and the first male president of Spelman College in 1953. An advocate for equality and education, he believed women were as capable of leadership as men and emphasized the achievement of excellence in all aspects of life.

**Florence M. Read, Fourth President**
Florence Matilda Read exemplified and embodied the audacious leadership skills necessary to continue the vision of Spelman College’s previous presidents. Her determination and strategic thinking continued to catapult the College into unprecedented territory.

**Lucy Hale Tapley, Third President**
Elected Spelman College’s third president, Lucy Hale Tapley’s love, dedication, and service to Spelman spanned 37 years and continued to elevate the founders’ mission of educational opportunity and academic excellence for Black women.

**Harriet E. Giles, Co-Founder and Second President**
A pioneer and advocate for women’s education, Harriet E. Gile’s bold dream of creating change and more educational opportunities for Black women culminated in her co-founding Spelman College and leading the institution as its second president.

**Sophia B. Packard, Co-Founder and First President**
Vision, courage and the extraordinary determination to create change in a racially divided nation paved Sophia B. Packard’s pathway to co-founding Spelman College and becoming the institution’s first president.
FOUNDEES DAY 2021 AWARDS

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT
Judge Brenda Hill Cole, C'63

Judge Brenda Hill Cole was valedictorian of her class at Weldon High School, Gladewater, Texas, in 1959. She received the B.A. from Spelman College in 1963 where she majored in English and minored in French. She was an honor student, participated in the Spelman Glee Club and the AMS players, served as vice president of the student government and was an exchange student at Connecticut College. She was elected as Miss Maroon & White by Morehouse College students for 1961-1962.

She received a M.A. in Library Science from Atlanta University (now Clark Atlanta University) in 1967 and worked as a librarian at Georgia State University and Atlanta University before attending law school at Emory University School of Law. She received her J.D. degree from Emory in 1977 and served as an assistant attorney general with the Georgia State Law Department for 5 years.

After moving to West Virginia, she served with the West Virginia Attorney Generals Office from 1983-1988. She and her family returned to Atlanta in 1988 and she returned to the Georgia State Attorney General's Office where she served for an additional 10 years, the last of which she had been promoted as deputy attorney general, the first Black woman to hold that position.

In 1998, Judge Cole was appointed as judge of the State Court of Fulton County by Governor Zell Miller and after being reelected for four terms, served until 2012. She was appointed by Governor Nathan Deal as a senior judge in 2013. She also served as a neutral at JAMS, an international mediation and arbitration firm until 2016.

Judge Cole’s past professional memberships include president of the Council of State Court Judges, founding member of the Judicial Section of the Gate City State Bar, founding member of the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys (GABWA), member of the Lawyers Club of Atlanta, member of the Chief Justices Commission on Professionalism and member of the Atlanta Bar Association. She was a member of the West Virginia State Bar and is currently a member of the Georgia State Bar.

Her past board memberships include the Executive Committee of the Carlos Museum, Emory University, Board of Trustees, Gammon Seminary; Board of Trustees, Children’s Museum of Atlanta; Atlanta Women’s Foundation; Atlanta Community Food Bank and Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Metro Atlanta. She served on the Magistrate Judge Selection Panel of the United States District Court, Northern District of Georgia.

Judge Cole has been very active in her community and is an alumnae member and former president of Dogwood City Chapter of the Links, Inc.; member of Kappa Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; member of Cascade United Methodist Church; member and former president, Chautauqua Circle; member of the Spelman College Alumnae Association, Atlanta Chapter; member, Leadership Atlanta, founder and member CAU Guild and former vice-chair, Atlanta Student Movement Committee of the Atlanta City Council. She is currently the chair of the Board to Determine Fitness of Bar Applicants of the State Bar of Georgia.

Judge Cole has received many honors during her legal career for her service to the community and the legal profession. She is a member of HistoryMakers and was recognized by the Center for Civil and Human Rights and the State Bar of Georgia in celebration of Civil Rights Milestones and was selected as a member of the Emory 100 for the Emory Centennial. She received the following awards: Ogden Doremus-Kent Lawrence Award, Council of State Court Judges, Distinguished Leadership Award, UNCF; Distinguished Alumnus Award, Emory Law Alumni Association; Leah Ward Sears Award for Distinction in the Profession by GABWA and was selected as a member of the Gate City Bar Association Hall of Fame and the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame. In 2003, the YWCA of Greater Atlanta selected Judge Cole as a Woman of Achievement and the Gate City Bar Judicial Section awarded her the Judge Clarence Cooper Legacy Award. She received a Proclamation of Honor from the Atlanta City Council in 2013 and was the Law and Justice honoree of the Spelman College Alumnae Association in 2001.

Judge Cole is married to Dr. Thomas W. Cole, Jr., president emeritus, Clark Atlanta University and is the mother of two children, Kelley Cole Graham and Thomas W. Cole, III, and the grandmother of Ava Margaret Graham and Samantha Brynn Graham.

HONORARY DEGREE
Spelman College awarded its first honorary degrees in 1977. Degrees are awarded at Founders Day and at Commencement. Spelman alumnae recipients are generally awarded the honorary degree during the Founders Day Convocation; however, there are alumnae who are awarded at Commencement. The recipients of these awards, the College’s highest honor, also serve as keynote speakers for Founders Day Convocation and Commencement, respectively.

Recipients are persons of unusual ability, who have distinguished themselves within their profession, whose accomplishments are of national and/or international note, particularly in areas that improve the human condition, or whose lives have had a significant impact on Spelman.

Founders Spirit Award
Est. 1987
This award is presented to an alumna whose life and works are representative of the spirit and determination of the founders of Spelman. It is awarded to an alumna who graduated 50 or more years ago.

True Blue Award
Est. 1998
This award is presented to a Spelman faculty or staff member who exemplifies service to our campus community beyond the call and who has exhibited the “True Blue” spirit through service and commitment to the mission of Spelman.

Honorary Degree
Est. 1977
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Dr. Gwendolyn Harris Middlebrooks, C’61

Born in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Gwendolyn Harris Middlebrooks, Ph.D., moved to Atlanta, Georgia with her family at the age of nine. At the age of 10, she began social justice awareness and religious education as a member of Ebenezer Baptist Church, under the leadership of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. She attended C.W. Hill and John Hope Elementary Schools during these years and later graduated from David T. Howard High School in the Atlanta Public School System in 1957. She continued her educational pursuits, earning a B.S. from Spelman College in 1961, a M.S. in Administration of Physical Education from Springfield College in 1966, and a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from Georgia State University in 1979. She continued with post-doctoral studies at Georgia State University, completing 55 hours and earning the Georgia 7th Level Certificate in Educational Administration.

During her undergraduate years at Spelman, Dr. Middlebrooks was actively involved in the “Atlanta Student Movement”, participated in the first “sit-ins” at restaurants in the City of Atlanta and was arrested at the Georgia State Capitol. Those “sit-ins” and subsequent “picketing” at restaurants and businesses were planned, organized, and initiated by Atlanta University Center students, and resulted in the desegregation of restaurants and other facilities in Atlanta.

Dr. Middlebrooks began her teaching career in the Atlanta Public School System in 1961 and taught at the high school level for five years before returning to Spelman where she was employed for 42 years. As a tenured faculty member and administrator in the Education Department, Dr. Middlebrooks’ research, publications, and presentations throughout the years were focused on teacher leadership, leadership preparation, and teacher education. Her extensive knowledge of educational issues, leadership, administration, and management is demonstrated in her annual service for more than 30 years on national and state teacher accreditation committees.

While equipping future leaders in education, she also served as an academic advisor to first year students and students seeking teacher certification. Dr. Middlebrooks served as Spelman Advisor for the Eta Kappa Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated for 15 years, faculty secretary for 10 years, and chair of the Education Department for 8 years.

She currently serves as the southeast regional coordinator of Kappa Delta Epsilon (KDE), is an active member of the Georgia Association of Teacher Educators (GATE), and the Association of Teacher Educators (ATE); serving as chairperson of the School Violence Prevention Special Interest Group (SIG). Dr. Middlebrooks has annually engaged in community service by serving on the board of the Associated Marine Institute for Kids in Georgia (AMI), the board of the Andrew and Walter Young YMCA, and provided support for the Women’s Shelter for more than 20 years. She is a life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College (NAASC), and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, and is a member of Ebenezer Baptist Church, where she has served as a dormitory director for 8 years, chair of the Education Department for 8 years, faculty secretary for 10 years, and chair of the Education Department for 8 years.

Nettie Ware was born in Meriwether County in Greenville, Georgia. Her early memories are of her mother taking her and her siblings to church, singing in the choir, and her mother always saying how important it is to serve the Lord Jesus. She also recalls walking to school, about five miles each way, in the rain and sometimes in the snow. Yet, she enjoyed walking to school with her brothers and sisters, ten in all. She lived on a farm with her parents picking and chopping cotton, and pulling corn. As a very young girl, she loved cleaning and it became her responsibility within the household to make all the beds. She first watched her older sisters make beds, and then quickly learned how to do this chore so much better than them.

She attended grammar school in Meriwether County and high school in Gay, Georgia. She later moved to Atlanta, and began working at Morehouse College as housekeeper for Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, its president during that time. After a few years, she started working in the cafeteria at Morehouse, and then began working as a cook at Spelman College in the late 1950’s where she worked with Alma Upshaw, the head cook and her supervisor. Ms. Ware remembers serving Dr. Albert E. Manley, fifth President of Spelman, meals in the President’s Dining Hall. After marrying and later moving to Los Angeles, she returned with two daughters, back to Atlanta and applied for a cooking position at Spelman again, and was rehired. After realizing she did not like cooking as much after about 15 years, she applied for maintenance work with John Bowden, the manager in Spelman’s Maintenance Department, and was again hired immediately. She enjoyed cleaning much more and has served in this capacity over the last 35 years under the leadership of five past Spelman presidents, and the, the new current president, Dr. Campbell. Ms. Ware is responsible for cleaning the Living Learning Center II (LLCII) first floor and its guest suites where she ensures the facilities and room are clean and prepared for both students and visitors.

She loves working at Spelman and says it feels like her second home. She finds enjoyment in preparing a cozy and clean place for others. Ms. Ware also delights in assisting students, alumnae, staff, guests, and all people who arrive on campus with whatever need they may have. In her spare time, she likes to garden, maintain her yard, listen to gospel music loudly, and read the Holy Bible.
SPelman College Founders Day
Sunday, April 11, 2021  1 P.M. • A Virtual Event

Processional
Trumpet Tunes
David Johnson
Performed by Joyce Finch Johnson, D.Mus., College Organist

Prelude
Now Thank We All Our God
Sigfrid Karg-Elert
Performed by Joyce Finch Johnson, D.Mus., College Organist

The Occasion
Linda Hart Patton, C’88,
Director, Alumnae Operations,
Alumnae Engagement

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

Music
We Are
Written by Sweet Honey in the Rock
Performed by the Spelman College Glee Club
Class of 2021 Glee Club Members, Soloists

Memorial Ceremony
The Spelman Testimony
Written and directed by
Gloria Wade Gayles, Ph.D.
Camille Henderson, C’2015, Tangelia Mitchell, C’2020,
Rachel Oatis, C’2018, Lydia Pace, C’2019
Accompanied by Omelika Kuumba, C’81, Drums and Arthur McClenton, Flute

Music
Don’t You Let Nobody Turn You Around
arr. Kevin Johnson, D.M.A.
Performed by the Spelman College Glee Club
Avery Blakely, C’2024, Soloist

Presentation of Honors
President Mary Schmidt Campbell, Ph.D.

True Blue Award
Nettie Ware

Founders Spirit Award
Dr. Gwendolyn Harris Middlebrooks, C’61

Honorary Degree
Sharon L. Davies, J.D.,
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Judge Brenda Hill Cole, C’63
Doctor of Laws

Founders Day Address
Judge Brenda Hill Cole, C’63

Music
A Choice to Change the World
Written by Kevin Johnson, D.M.A. and Sarah Stephens Benibo, C’2007
Performed by the Spelman College Glee Club
Sarah Stephens Benibo, C’2007, Imani Diggs, C’2021,
Adleessa Edwards, C’2021, Shelby Marcee, C’2021, soloists

Closing Remarks
President Mary Schmidt Campbell, Ph.D.

The Spelman Hymn
Eddye Money Shivery, C’34
Performed by the Spelman College Glee Club
Ariel Alvarado, C’2021, Conductor

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.

Benediction
The Reverend Neichelle R. Guidry, Ph.D.,
Dean, Sisters Chapel

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.
SPELMAN COLLEGE PRESIDENT
Mary Schmidt Campbell, Ph.D.

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Jambernice Lang, C'2021
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Renee Leonard
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Deseree Pedescleaux
Taylor Peters, C'2023
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Angela Farris Watkins, Ph.D., C'86
President, Faculty Council

Joyce Finch Johnson, D.Mus.
College Organist
Kevin Johnson, D.M.A.
Director, Spelman College Glee Club

The Reverend Neichelle R. Guidry, Ph.D.
Dean, Sisters Chapel
Gloria Wade Gayles, Ph.D.
Writer, Director, RESONANCE and
Spelman College Granddaughters Club