College Hymn  ii
Mission Statement  1
College History  3
College Traditions  23
College Symbols  26
Fair Spelman  26
College Buildings and Sites  27
Student Activities Transcript  30
Class Emblems  30
Alumnae Influencers  31

Cover: 1920 Teacher’s Professional Training Course participants
Left: Induction Ceremony of 2013
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.

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.
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.
Sophia B. Packard and Harriet E. Giles
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 2,103 students from 43 states and 6 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
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 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.

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.

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.

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
1887

Spelman Seminary (later Spelman College) conferred its first high school diplomas in 1887 to a group of six women.
areas marked Giles’ eighteen years of service. Responsibility for the Seminary’s academic direction was now guided by Dean 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 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 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
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 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.

In 1943, 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-Harreld 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 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
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., 10th 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 has been 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 has raised more than $250 million, the largest comprehensive campaign in the history of Spelman. The campaign has resulted in several major academic initiatives and outcomes in support of the College’s strategic plan:

- **Over $100M** 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 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 and a planned new academic facility, the Center for Innovation & the Arts

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. ➔
**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 Harrel. Professor Harrel 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 **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 (Harrel), 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. 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.

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.
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 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 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.
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.

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.

Dedicated by the Class of 1888, The Class Tree, a magnolia tree, is planted between Rockefeller Hall and Packard Hall.

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 Willis Laurence James, distinguished musicologist, composer and professor of music, and director of the Spelman Glee Club.

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**, 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 under gone 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.

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-Harreld 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 Harreld, 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.


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.
# 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 the Spelman Hymn!
- Learn the college alma mater, “Fair Spelman.”
- Make an effort to meet and identify a mentor from among your upperclass and alumnae “Big Sisters.”
- Know your class color and symbol.
- Attend special campus events like the Christmas Carol and Glee Club concerts.
- Attend the Founders Day Convocation wearing the traditional white attire. Read and learn the significance of the White Attire Tradition.
- Be a leader! Represent the Class of 2025 as a Class Agent (programs) or SpelAgent (fundraising). Get active with the Pre-Alumnae Council (PAC) and the Student Philanthropy Council.

## 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.
- Know where the Class Tree and College Class Tree were planted.
- 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.

## THIRD YEAR

- Interview an alumna from your hometown or in a career field of interest.
- Know the significance of Class Day.
- Get active with the alumnae network or a chapter of the NAASC in your area.
- 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 a campus drama or dance production and visit the Museum of Fine Art.
- Research Chadwick Hall, Morgan Hall, the Helen Albro Guest House and Upton Hall.
- Choose to be a mentor to an incoming Spelman sister.

## 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.
- Support the Senior Class Appreciation Campaign. Share your contact information upon graduation with the Office of Alumnae Engagement.

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 2022
**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 2023
**YELLOW - THE SPHINX**
The Sphinx points out a definite pattern of progress, obedience, honesty, ethical rules, manners, and unselfishness to its followers.

### CLASS OF 2024
**BLUE - THE OWL**
Let our reach exceed our grasp. The Owl represents a wisdom deeper than the spoken word.

### CLASS OF 2025
**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.
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 0, The Oprah Magazine, Suede, and Seventeen. She has appeared on network and cable television like of ABC, CBS, BET, NBC, TLC, and TV One. Tia has hosted The Grammy and Academy Awards red carpets and is a powerful public speaker. Recently, Beauchamp launched thatlilife.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 Wine Daily. In 2019, Beauchamp is set to co-host a new travel guide series for millennials of color called ‘Lenses of Culture.’ On TV One’s new network, CLEO TV. Beauchamp is currently the co-founder and chief brand officer for BrownGirl Jane, a CBS health & wellness beauty brand. Recently, the brand announced a partnership with Ililane’s Shea Moisture and Vaseline brands to further build Black women-led brands and founders.

WHITNEY GAILE BENTLE, C’2001 – Head of Talent Relations with Spotify, formerly the senior vice president of music and talent at REVOLT TV, the new multimedia television channel founded by Sean Combs. Prior to joining REVOLT, Bente was vice president at MTV News, where she negotiated talent booking across multiple platforms, including television (the Video Music Awards), digital (MTV’s “RapFix Live”) and mobile; co-conceptualized the award-winning MTV Diary documentary “Jay-Z: Water for Life;” managed the series booking for “When I Was 17.” MTVS. “This is How I Made It” and MTV’s “RapFix Live.” Bentle’s efforts in music and media have been recognized through a series of awards and nominations, not limited to Billboard magazine’s Women in Music 2011, MTV Networks’ “Share The Vision” award and the United Nations honoring her work as a part of “Jay-Z: Water for Life.”

KATHLEEN JACKSON BEATRICE, C’77 – Renowned jazz vocalist and writer, performing for Atlanta professional sports teams and former president. Her love for the arts extends to film. She is the executive producer and founder of the Bronze Lens Film Festival. Bronze Lens is a founding partner of Ava DuVernay’s African American Film Festival Releasing Movement, now known as ARRAY. After Beatrice graduated from Spelman, she started working in the Office of Alumni Affairs, where she served as the director from 1975-1976. In 1983, she began her career at the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau, serving 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 Visitors 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 its 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”, “Woo,” “One Tree Hill,” “SuperNatural” and “Vampire Diaries,” named 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 a “Everybody Hates Chris” and “The Game,” award-winning series “Girlfriends,” and “Eve,” and “Hall and Hall,” which now appear in syndication.

SHAYNA SEUMOUR CARR, C’98 – Emmy-winning journalist and is co-anchor for WCBS-TV’s award-winning nightly newsmagazine, “Chronicle.” Shayna has been nominated for several Emmy Awards and recently received another honor at the 38th Annual New England Emmy Awards; Shayna was a weekend reporter for the ‘Eyewitness’ on NewsCenter 5 and a radio personality on WORC-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 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 Name” commissioned for Oprah Winfrey’s Legends Weekend in 2015. Her latest play for the Alliance Theatre, ‘Angr, Racistus 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 Theatres Mellon Playwright in Residence; received the August Wilson Playwright Award at the 56th annual National Black Theatre in Winston-Salem, North Carolina; Cleage is currently the Alliance Theatres Mellon Playwright in Residence. Recently, named City of Atlanta’s first poet laureate. Awarded Spelman College’s 2020 Community Service Award.


PHYLICIA FANT, C’2000 – Head of Urban Music for Columbia Records, formerly the Senior vice president of publicity and Lifestyle development for Warner Bros. Records. Where she oversees and assists in campaigns and alliances for Mybach Music Group, Common, Cher, Dole Eamhardt Jr., Gary Clark Jr., Lianne La Havas, Jason Derulo and Andra Day. Fant is the official of the United States and the United Kingdom’s official Cultural Ambassador to the US. Fant is the founder of a non-profit organization for young girls, Kamp Kizzy; creator of Keisha’s Kingdom, and 2010 NAACP Image Awards for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series, Gangstar 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 Apprentices,” “My Name is Earl,” “How I Met Your Mother” “Queer Eye for the Straight Guy” and “Project Runway.”

SMERRIE MEGGIE McCOVNEY, 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 “Kenyon Ivory Wayans” late-night show, publicist for Fox family channel, travel managing “Rolanda Watts” and “Tempestt Bedtime” 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, Keshia 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 “Seasame 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, Mikewa, 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, Kuzzy Productions; founder of a non-profit organization for young girls, Kampus Kizzy, creator of Keshia’s Kitchen Collection, a spice line.

SHAIRYN 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 Billboard Music Awards and the NAACP Awards; hosted the official pre-shows for BET’s 106 and Park, the 16th Annual Showtime 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 for the Harlem Black Film 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.

ANNIE JEWELL MOORE, C’63 – Fashion designer and entrepreneur, opened Annie Moore Couture in DC in 1963, the only black-owned haute couture salon in the city; a pioneer in the fashion industry, Moore is one of the best-known American designers who have worked in numerous trials, arbitrations and other forms of alternative dispute resolution; recipient, Chief Justice Leah S.ears Award for Distinction in the Profession; recognized by Chambers USA: Guide to Leading Business Lawyers.

D’RITA MELINDA ROBINSON, C’97 – Founder and CEO of Chatty Girl; Robinson is a social impact entrepreneur and philanthropist, founder of Chatty Girl, a free app that encourages collaboration, marshals and global dialogue across disciplines; and for tea, the app has been downloaded in more than 51 counties; responsible for the creation of two scholarships at the College – the Annie Bell Hager Scholarship and the B’Rilla Robinson Finer Life Scholarship, since the scholarships inception, more than 120 Spelman students have benefited from her support, elected as a trustee of the College in the fall of 2015.

COLLEEN TAYLOR, C’99 – 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 Bank Enterprise magazines Top 75 Women in Business, as one of PaymentsSources Most Influential Women in Payments, and to American Banker Magazines 25 Women to Watch. Elected as a trustee of the College in the spring of 2016.

ALICIA FERRABRUGGA TAYLOR, C’96 – Founder, SIKARI; SIKARI, meaning ‘sweet’ or ‘sugar’ in Swahili, is a line of luxurious and sophisticated handbags and accessories that are handcrafted by local artisans and can be found in Bergdorf’s, Barneys, and Henri Bendel’s. http://www.sukainewyork.com; former model with career highlights including work with famedphotographer Fadil Barisha and with Essence magazine as a fit model for Halle Berry and Ti and Tamera Mowry; received her J.D. from Northwestern University School of Law with a concentration in entertainment law, which she practiced for several years before launching SUKARI.

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 whistleblower and wrongful termination claims, and has obtained dismissals via summary judgment in countless cases; a settlement commissioner, AAA

Andrea Hene Evans, C’65 – Launched The Law Firm of Andrea Hene 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 a patent examiner and trademark examining attorney; principal of NUINcove, 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 STEAM Champion of Change Award; received the National Book of the Year Foundation Award from the National Bar Association and IMPACT; honored as one of the National’s Best Advocates: 40 Lawyers Under 40 (2013).

ALLEGRA LAWRENCE-HARDY, ESQ, C’93 – Co-founder of the litigation firm Lawrence & Hardy LLC serving clients nationwide from offices in Atlanta, 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 Waves

Laurie Broussard, C’83 – Executive director of American Express. Previously served as President, Executive Officer of E-Commerce at Brown Broome 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 Barak the Vote, LLC; The Office of Entertainment is the official film office for the City of Atlanta, which supports the city’s rapidly expanding film industry; CEO of Barak the Vote, LLC; she is responsible for managing and executing the creative direction of the company as well as overseeing its day-to-day operations; previous career positions include produce costume designer at Purple Stuff TV, costume coordinator “Body of Proof” ABC Studios, costume production assistant “Law & Order: Los Angeles”, production assistant BNET Networks.

Lieutenant Colonel Paulette Burton, C’90 – Staff Judge Advocate, United States Army Civil Investigative 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. 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 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 Materiel Center; senior defense counsel, North Carolina; Judge Advocate, 25th Infantry Division, chief of legal assistance, 25th Infantry Division, trial defense counsel, Yorktown, Koror, trial counsel, Fort Belvoir, Virginia; chief of claims, Fort Belvoir, Virginia; legal assistance attorney, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Esie P. Collins, ESQ, C’02 – Non-profit director, education policy advisor, member, director & 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/Leadership Program 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. Wyne, Jr. in the North Carolina Court of Appeals, co-author of The Name of the Game is in the Cram: Regulating Intellectual Property Protection and Traditional Knowledge.

Laurnie Cumbo, C’97 – Major 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 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
the first African American Chief Justice of the Louisiana State Supreme Court, who made history by becoming the first African American woman to serve as mayor and the second woman to lead a major American city. She has been an educator for 15 years, most recently serving for four years as a Pre-algebra, Algebra 1, and Geometry teacher for sixth through eighth graders at the Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta. Jones received 2015 Post, Providence Evening Bulletin, Miami Herald, and the Atlanta Journal & Constitution’s 2017 Teacher of the Year award. She has been named 2015 Educator of the Year by the Georgia Association of School Executives and 2016 Teacher of the Year by the Georgia Association of School Administrators. In addition to teaching, Jones has served on the boards of the Atlanta Opera, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the Atlanta Ballet, and the Atlanta Botanical Garden. She has also been an avid supporter of the arts and has served on the boards of the Alliance for the Arts and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. She is a member of the Georgia Women’s Hall of Fame and has been recognized for her contributions to the arts and education.

LISA HERRING, PhD, C’74 – Newly appointed Superintendent of Atlanta Public Schools, 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 Langs. She helped develop and launch The Birmingham Promise to offer new career and college opportunities for students 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 M. Jim Parham Professor of Family and Children Studies, University of Georgia and dean emeritus 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 degrees programs with law, business and pastoral counseling during 24 years at Boston College; started a doctoral program in research-driven, proactive social work; Hops 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 NASPPresidential Award for Excellence in Social Work Education; Spelman College named the June Gary Hops Auditorium in her honor (2006), served on the Spelman College Board of Trustees, 1998-2007 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 at 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 – Educator; Dr. Valerie Camille Jones has been an educator for 15 years, most recently serving for four years 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 https://www.jwvcjones.com/.

WANDA LLOYD, C’71 – former Chair/Associate Professor, Department of Mass Communications at Savannah State University, serves 9 years as the executive editor of the Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser, a Gannett newspaper; former managing editor at the Greenville News; senior editors’ days and administration at USA Today; served as editor at The Washington Post, Providence Evening Bulletin, Miami Herald, and the Atlanta Journal Constitution; two-time faculty at The School of Journalism and Mass Communications at Savannah State University; served 8.5 years as the American Citizen Services Chief; co-founded the Abafazi Ambassadors and Cultural Affairs; joined the Department of State in 2008; served two terms as 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 ecclesiastical power for which her father was famous; named Chief Executive Officer of the King Center in 2012; serves as president and CEO of the King Center, 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 Never Knew. In 2020, King was featured in British Vogue cover story the 70 Remarkable Activists on Vogue’s September Cover Are Ready To Change The World.

LOVETTE TYWANN RUSSELL, C’83 – Senior Consultant, Core Curry & Associates and community advocate, at Core 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 Shiloh Farms, Zoo Atlanta, GEERGS (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; 11-time Bestseller Author Jones Community Service Award winner and was named the Macy Caan Volunteer of the Year by the Lupus Foundation; recognized by both the WOCA of Greater Atlanta and Atlanta Woman Magazine as a Woman of Achievement; received the Trailblazer Award from the NAACP in 2013; currently serves on the Spelman College Board of Trustees.

LIEUTENANT LA’SHANDA R. HOLMES, C’2007 – First African American lawyer to serve as mayor and the second woman to lead a major American city. She has been an educator for 15 years, most recently serving for four years 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 https://www.jwvcjones.com/.


The current student body at Spelman consists of a geographically diverse group of women scholars totaling over 2,103 from 45 states and 6 foreign countries.

**TOP TEN Alumnae Career Fields, in order:**

1. Education: Teaching/Administration
2. Law/Legal Services/ Judiciary
3. Government: Non-Elected
4. Physician/ Medical/ Health Services
5. Business/Entrepreneur/Management
6. Computer/High Technology/ Internet Services/Development
7. Financial Services/Banking
8. Social Welfare
9. Mental Health Services Counseling
10. Marketing/Communications/ Entertainment/Media

**ALUMNAE AGE DEMOGRAPHICS:**

- 30 years & under: 20%
- 31-39 years of age: 22%
- 40-64 years of age: 46%
- 65-79 years of age: 10%
- 80 years & older: 2%

Spelman alumnae represent over 21,155 women, residing in 47 states and 29 countries around the world.

The current student body at Spelman consists of a geographically diverse group of women scholars totaling over 2,103 from 45 states and 6 foreign countries.

**TEN STATES**

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

1. Georgia
2. Maryland
3. California
4. New York
5. Texas
6. Florida
7. North Carolina
8. Illinois
9. Virginia
10. New Jersey
The Office of Alumnae Engagement serves as a liaison between Spelman College and its engaged and contactable alumnae, represented in states and 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 and the Pre-Alumnae Council (PAC) of The College Fund/UNCF. The office is a department within the Spelman College Division of College Relations and works in partnership with the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College (NAASC).

Special acknowledgement to The Spelman College Archives, Offices of Advancement Services, Communications and Institutional Research.