133rd Commencement
May Sixteenth, Two Thousand and Twenty-One
Nine thirty in the Morning
Bobby Dodd Stadium at Georgia Tech
Atlanta, Georgia
Spelman College Mission Statement

An outstanding historically Black college for women, Spelman promotes academic excellence in the liberal arts, and develops the intellectual, ethical, and leadership potential of its students. Spelman seeks to empower the total person, who appreciates the many cultures of the world and commits to positive social change.
**History of Spelman College**

Sophia B. Packard and Harriet E. Giles, missionary teachers from New England, founded Spelman College. With one hundred dollars, eleven students, and an offer from Father Frank Quarles to use the basement of Friendship Baptist Church, Packard and Giles established the Atlanta Baptist Female Seminary on April 11, 1881, to provide education and training for recently freed female slaves.

The philanthropy of John D. Rockefeller enabled the school to purchase nine acres and five frame buildings. In 1884, as an expression of gratitude to its generous donor, the school changed its name to Spelman Seminary in honor of the parents of his wife, Laura Spelman Rockefeller. Through the vision and self-sacrifice of Packard, the seminary was granted a state charter in 1888. Upon Packard’s death in 1891, Giles became its president. During her years of service (1891–1910), enrollment grew to 800 pupils, and the curriculum expanded to incorporate instruction in secondary and collegiate programming that included teacher, missionary, and nurse training.

From 1910 to 1953, the institution experienced unprecedented growth during the presidencies of Lucy Hale Tapley (1910–1927) and Florence Matilda Read (1927–1953). In 1924, Spelman became a four-year liberal arts college and made substantial strides in its curriculum and organization. Perhaps the most significant event of this time was the signing of the “Agreement of Affiliation” in 1929 by Spelman, Morehouse College, and Atlanta University. The agreement served as the foundation upon which the Atlanta University Center was established in 1947.

In 1953, Spelman began a new legacy of leadership when Albert Edward Manley, EdD, became the first male and first African American to lead the institution. During his administration (1953–1976), the College increased enrollment, enlarged the physical plant, and established programs that broadened the educational experience. Dr. Manley’s successor, Donald Mitchell Stewart, PhD (1976–1986), augmented this formidable legacy by enhancing academic programming, strengthening the faculty, and tripling the College’s endowment.

In 1987, Johnnetta Betsch Cole, PhD, became the first African-American woman president of Spelman. During her tenure (1987–1997), she initiated programs that strengthened ties between the College and local, national, and international constituencies. The Spelman Campaign: Initiatives for the Nineties was successfully completed in 1996 by raising $113.8 million, making it the largest campaign in the history of Black college fundraising at the time.

Another historic moment was entered into Spelman’s annals in 1997 as Audrey Forbes Manley, MD, C’55, became the first alumna to take the helm as president, the institution’s eighth. Under her leadership, the College transitioned into the twenty-first century by implementing strategic planning, improving infrastructure, enhancing technology, expanding community partnerships, and increasing its endowment. In 2000, the state-of-the-art $33.9 million Albro Falconer Manley Science Center was completed.

In 2002, Beverly Daniel Tatum, PhD, began her tenure as the ninth president of Spelman College. In 2008, the Gordon-Zeto Fund for International Initiatives was established with a gift of $17 million, which helped increase opportunities for international travel for students and faculty and provided additional financial aid for international students. Dr. Tatum also facilitated the completion of the most successful capital campaign in Spelman’s history, raising an unprecedented $157.8 million. In addition, she oversaw the completion of The Suites, later named in her honor The Beverly Daniel Tatum Suites, the first LEED Silver certified “green” residence hall on the campus of a historically Black college or university.

In March of 2015, Mary Schmidt Campbell, PhD, was named Spelman’s tenth president. She began her career as the director of the Studio Museum in Harlem, then served as commissioner of cultural affairs for New York City under two mayors before spending more than 20 years as the dean of New York University’s renowned Tisch School of the Arts. Viewing Spelman as a “necessity” to “reach an ideal of equality,” Dr. Campbell launched Imagine. Invent. Ascend, a bold new strategic vision for the College that builds on Spelman’s legendary legacy to educate Black women for the 21st century. Her focus has been on ensuring that every Spelman student graduate with a competitive edge, expanding the College’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 $240 million, the largest comprehensive campaign in the history of Spelman.
ACADEMIC REGALIA

Ceremonial garments worn at academic functions take their meaning from the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, when European universities were under the jurisdiction of the church. Caps, hoods, and gowns symbolize the scholarly devotion so basic to education and to the deliberate and orderly evolution of knowledge. Participants in Spelman’s Commencement today reflect the variety of colors and styles associated with the diverse degrees earned in the United States and abroad.

The gown is usually black, but some universities have adopted distinctive colors for their robes. The cut of the gown aids in differentiating between the three levels of degrees. The bachelor’s gown is relatively simple and falls in straight lines from an elaborate yoke. The master’s gown is somewhat fuller and bears no adornment. The doctor’s gown is more elaborate, with velvet panels down the front and around the neck of the garment.

The mortarboard cap has been adopted by most universities. Some participants, however, wear the beret cap. Colored tassels are usually worn by holders of the bachelor’s and master’s degrees. Gold tassels are reserved for those with doctorate degrees and governing officers of educational institutions. Tassels on caps are worn on the right side until the degrees are granted, after which they are worn on the left side of the cap.

The hood offers the most significant and most readily discernible information about its owner. The inner lining of the hood identifies the institution from which the individual earned the degree. The inner lining of the Spelman hood is blue. The velvet trim bordering the hood indicates the major field of learning in which the degree has been earned.

For all academic purposes, the colors associated with the fields of learning are listed below:

- Arts, Letters, Humanities .................................................. White
- Economics ......................................................................... Copper
- Education .......................................................................... Light Blue
- Engineering ....................................................................... Orange
- Fine Arts, including Architecture ...................................... Brown
- Music ................................................................................ Pink
- Philosophy ......................................................................... Dark Blue
- Public Health ...................................................................... Salmon Pink
- Science ............................................................................... Golden Yellow
- Theology ............................................................................. Scarlet

The President of the College wears the official Ceremonial Chain. Designed by Tiffany and Company, it contains three vermeil medallions that are die-struck with the shaded areas recessed and raised. Two of the medallions pay homage to Sisters Chapel while the bottom medallion features the Spelman Seal. The star of service within the seal is a Spelman blue buffed epoxy star with a .20-carat diamond. A hand-constructed vermeil necklace connects each of the three medallions. The necklace features a group of links, which are separated by squares inspired by the columns of Sisters Chapel.

The Spelman College Ceremonial Mace, held by the Head Marshall, is made from the wood of a tulip poplar and embellished with sterling silver, 14-carat gold, bronze, and blue topaz stones. The shape and light color of the wood echo the colors of Spelman and give a strong yet feminine look. The top end of the Mace, made of sterling silver, gold, and bronze, holds the seal of the College. On the staff, just below the seal, are sterling silver silhouettes of magnolia leaves that appear on the front of the staff to show an engraving of Sisters Chapel. The pattern of the leaves is sprinkled with several blue topaz cabochon stones. Each of the two sterling silver rings on the shaft of the Mace is also adorned with four blue topaz stones. A large, blue glass stone is set into the bottom of the Mace. Commissioned by Spelman College President Audrey F. Manley, C’55, in 2000, the Mace was designed by alumna Charnelle Holloway, C’79, associate professor of art. Holloway, a metalsmith, created the Mace in collaboration with Nick Cook, a fine woodturner. The Spelman College Ceremonial Mace was used first in 2001 on the 100th anniversary of the awarding of Spelman’s first baccalaureate degree.
ORDER OF EXERCISES

Presiding
SHARON DAVIES, JD
Provost

ORGAN PRELUDE
Prelude from Choral III
César Franck

PROCESSIONAL

THE OCCASION
Provost Sharon Davies

INVOCATION
The Reverend Neichelle Guidry, PhD
Dean of the Chapel

ANTHEM
Spirit Wisdom
arr. Kevin Johnson
The Spelman College Glee Club

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER AND
CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREE
Danai Gurira,
Doctor of Fine Arts
President Mary Schmidt Campbell, PhD

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS
Danai Gurira

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2020 NATIONAL
COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD
Pearl Cleage, C’71
Cynthia Jackson, C’81
Board of Trustees

MUSIC
A Choice to Change the World
Kevin Johnson and
The Spelman College Glee Club
Sarah Stephens Benibo, C’2007

VALEDICTORY REMARKS
Kendra Grissom, C’2020
Valedictorian

INTRODUCTION OF THE SENIOR CLASS
LaKayla Thompson, C’2020
Senior Class President

CONFERRING OF DEGREES
Bachelor of Arts Degree
President Campbell and
Provost Davies
Bachelor of Science Degree

NATIONAL ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION INDUCTION
Keva Wright Berry, C’79
President, National Alumnae Association of Spelman College

CHARGE TO THE 2020 GRADUATING CLASS
President Campbell

THE SPelman HYMN
Spelman, thy name we praise
May peace with thee abide
Through years of toil and pain
And when life’s race is won,
Standards and honor raise,
And God forever guide
May thy dear walls remain
Thy noble work is done,
We’ll ever faithful be
Thy heights supreme and true.
Beacons of heavenly light,
Oh God, forever bind
Throughout eternity.
Blessings to you.
Undaunted by the fight;
Our hearts to thine.

BENEDITION
Reverend Guidry

RECESSONAL
Grand March from Aida
Giuseppe Verdi

Kevin Johnson, DMA, Director, The Spelman College Glee Club
Joyce F. Johnson, DMus, Spelman College Organist
Danai Gurira is an award-winning playwright and actress. She is distinguished as the first African female writer to have a play on Broadway, bringing the perspective of African women to mainstream theater. Her stage plays give voice to untold narratives. They include *In the Continuum* (OBIE Award, Outer Critics Award, Helen Hayes Award), *Eclipsed* (Tony nomination: Best Play, NAACP Award, Helen Hayes Award: Best New Play, Connecticut Critics Circle Award: Outstanding Production of a Play), and *The Convert* (six Ovation Awards, L.A. Outer Critics Award). Her newest play, *Familiar*, received its world premiere at Yale Repertory Theatre and premiered in New York at Playwrights Horizons in February of 2016. Commissioned by Yale Repertory Theatre, Center Theatre Group, Playwrights Horizons, and the Royal Court, she is a recipient of the Sam Norkin Award (2016 Drama Desk Awards), a Whiting Award, and a Hodder Fellowship.

As an actor, Gurira starred as General Okoye in Marvel’s 2018 Academy Award-winning blockbuster film *Black Panther*, for which she won a People’s Choice Award (Favorite Action Movie Star), an NAACP Image Award (Outstanding Supporting Actress/Motion Picture) and a shared SAG Award (Outstanding Performance by a Cast/Motion Picture). Later that year she reprised her role in *Avengers: Infinity War* and again in *Avengers: Endgame*, which went on to become the number one top grossing film in history. She most recently starred in her final season as Michonne on AMC’s *The Walking Dead*, which remains a top-rated cable program in its tenth season. Her other acting credits include the feature films *All Eyez on Me*, *Mother of George*, *The Visitor*, and Shakespeare in the Park’s stage production of *Measure for Measure* (Equity Callaway Award).

Born in Iowa to Zimbabwean parents and raised in Zimbabwe, Gurira holds an MFA from NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts. An ambassador for Bono’s ONE campaign, she is co-founder of Almasi Arts Alliance, which works to give access and opportunity to African dramatic artists. With a personal dedication to effecting tangible change in gender equality and pushing global leaders toward real policy transformation, she is founder of Love Our Girls, which spotlights the specific challenges faced by women and girls while celebrating the courageous work by organizations seeking to make a difference. In December 2018 she was also named a Goodwill Ambassador for United Nations Women, supporting its mandate of gender equality and women’s rights and leveraging her celebrity as an amplifier of other women’s voices.
PEARL CLEAGE, C’71
BOARD OF TRUSTEES NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

Pearl Cleage, an Atlanta based writer, is currently Distinguished Artist in Residence at the Tony Award winning Alliance Theatre. Her new play, *Angry, Raucous, and Shamelessly Gorgeous*, had its world premiere as part of the theatre’s 50th anniversary season in 2019 and is scheduled for productions around the country when theatres reopen next year. Her other plays that premiered at the Alliance include *Pointing at the Moon, What I Learned in Paris, Blues for an Alabama Sky*, and *Flyin’ West*, the most produced new play in the country in 1994. Her play, *The Nacirema Society Requests the Honor of Your Presence at a Celebration of Their First One Hundred Years*, was commissioned by the Alabama Shakespeare Festival and co-produced with the Alliance in Montgomery and Atlanta in 2010. Her first play for young audiences, *Tell Me My Dream*, was commissioned and produced by the Alliance in 2015.

Cleage’s book for children, *In My Granny’s Garden*, was co-authored with her husband, writer Zaron W. Burnett, Jr., with illustrations by Radcliffe Bailey. As part of the Mayor’s Reading Club in 2018, it was distributed free to 15,000 Atlanta children. Additionally, it was presented at the Alliance as a play for the very young in March 2020 and is currently streaming through the Alliance website. Cleage recently completed work on *Sit-In*, an animated film for young audiences about the sit-in movement in conjunction with *Picture the Dream*, a national exhibition sponsored by Scholastic Books. *Blues for an Alabama Sky* was included in the 1996 Olympic Arts Festival and has been produced in many American theatres since its premiere at the Alliance in 1995. The Alliance included a 20th anniversary production of *Blues for An Alabama Sky*, directed by Susan V. Booth in their 2015 season. The play ran off Broadway at the Keen Company in New York in 2020 and is scheduled for a production at the National Theatre in London in 2021. Some of Cleage’s other plays include *Late Bus to Mecca, Bourbon at the Border* and *A Song for Coretta*. She recently completed her first radio play, *Digging in the Dark*, for the Keen Company’s 2021 season.

An accomplished novelist, Cleage’s first of eight novels, *What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day*, was an Oprah Book Club pick and spent nine weeks on the New York Times bestseller list. Her other novels include *Baby Brother’s Blues*, which received an NAACP Image Award for Literature, *I Wish I Had A Red Dress*, *Babylon Sisters*, and *Things I Never Thought I’d Do*. Her memoir, *Things I Should Have Told My Daughter: Lies, Lessons and Love Affairs*, was published by Simon and Schuster/ATRIA Books in April 2014. In addition to these novels, Cleage co-authored with her husband *We Speak Your Names*, a praise poem commissioned by Oprah Winfrey for her 2005 Legends Weekend, and *A 21st Century Freedom Song: For Selma at 50*, commissioned by Winfrey for the 50th anniversary of the 1965 Selma to Montgomery March. Cleage and Burnett are frequent collaborators on projects including their award-winning ten-year performance series, “Live at Club Zebra!,” featuring their work as writers and performance artists.

Cleage was awarded the Governor’s Award for the Arts in 2018 and received an Honorary Doctorate in Fine Arts from her alma mater, Spelman College, in 2010. She served as a member of the Spelman faculty from 1991 to 1993. She was the founding editor of CATALYST Magazine, an Atlanta-based literary journal, serving in that role for ten years; she also served as Artistic Director of Just Us Theater Company for five years. Her work has been supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Fulton County Arts Council, the Georgia Council for the Arts, the City of Atlanta Bureau of Cultural Affairs, and the Coca-Cola Foundation.
TOP TEN GRADUATES†

KENDRA GRISSOM* | History
Summa Cum Laude | Valedictorian

JASMINE MCCLELLAND* | International Studies and Spanish
Summa Cum Laude | Salutatorian

CENDAL ATKINS* | Mathematics
Summa Cum Laude

KYRAN DANIELLE BROOKS | Early Childhood Education
Summa Cum Laude

JESSICA ROSE HANNSBERRY | Early Childhood Education
Summa Cum Laude

KERLISHA HIPPOLYTE | Economics
Summa Cum Laude

SERENA HUGHLEY* | International Studies and Spanish
Summa Cum Laude

ASHLEY JACKSON | Independent Major-BA
Summa Cum Laude

GABRIELLE LATIMORE | English
Summa Cum Laude

MARIE ANGELOU SOUTHERN* | International Studies
Summa Cum Laude

CAMERON WOMACK | Computer Science
Summa Cum Laude

* Ethel Waddell Githii Honors Program

† Valedictorian and Salutatorian are listed in rank order;
   all others are listed in alphabetical order.
The Honors Program at Spelman College was established in 1980 and later named in honor of Ethel Waddell Githii, a distinguished scholar and Spelman College Class of 1957 graduate who served as director of the Honors Program from 1985 to 1990. The Honors Program captures the best of our institutional values: intellectual curiosity, academic rigor, critical/creative thinking, and strong ethical practice. At Commencement, the Honors Program recognizes three- and four-year Honors Program students who have maintained high academic standards and completed a research thesis or its equivalent, supervised by one or more of the Spelman senior faculty.

AMBER NICOLE BOND | Health Science  
                   Cum Laude  
CAMERYN NICOLE BOYD | Computer Science  
                     Summa Cum Laude  
ASHA KALINA BRADFORD | Elementary Education  
                      Cum Laude  
KAI NOELLE BRADY | Biology  
                  Summa Cum Laude  
ARIANA NATANIA BROWN | Mathematics  
                     Magna Cum Laude  
LOGAN PILAR BROWN | Biology  
                  Magna Cum Laude  
LACEY DANIELLE FOSTER | Biology  
                      Summa Cum Laude  
ASHLEY DENCYE HORTON | English  
                     Summa Cum Laude  
KAYLA DENISE JOHNSON | Political Science  
                      Summa Cum Laude  
EMILY NAOMI LAURORE | Political Science  
                      Summa Cum Laude  
ZARI AANISAH MCFADDEN | Computer Science  
                      Summa Cum Laude  
TERI MELINDA MCGINTY | Health Science  
                     Cum Laude  
JOY DANIELLE MILNER | Health Science  
                      Summa Cum Laude  
SPENCER ALEXANDRIA NABORS | Philosophy  
                        Cum Laude  
JORDAN RENE NASH | Comparative Women’s Studies  
                  Magna Cum Laude  
CAMILLE ELISE ODOM | Political Science  
TAYLOR ANYA POTTER | Health Science  
                   Magna Cum Laude  
SAMANTHA CHRISTINE ROACH | Biochemistry  
                         Summa Cum Laude  
CATHERINE CHELANGAT RONO | Biology  
                          Cum Laude  
AMARIAH FAITH SLEDGE | Biology  
                    Magna Cum Laude  
JALIYAH NACOLE SPANN | Health Science  
                      Magna Cum Laude  
GABRIELLE NICOLE SUMPTER | International Studies  
                       Cum Laude  
TREASURE AYONA TANNOCK | Psychology  
                       Summa Cum Laude  
ZHARIA YULON THOMAS | Psychology  
                    Magna Cum Laude  
THULANI ANATHI VEREEN | Computer Science  
                      Summa Cum Laude  
KENNEDY CIARA WILLIAMS | English  
                       Summa Cum Laude  
JADA ELIZABETH WILSON | Art  
                      Magna Cum Laude  
DEVIN ELIZABETH WRIGHT | Political Science  
                       Summa Cum Laude
CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS

NAOMI AUDREY AARON | History
JALA ASHAN ABNER | Economics
Summa Cum Laude
JESHURUN ESTHER ADARQUAH-YIADOM | Spanish
ANUOLUWAPO NOFISAT ADEBOWALE | English
Summa Cum Laude
ERIN ELEANOR ALFORD | Political Science
Magna Cum Laude
ALYSSA AYANA-KAI ARDREY | International Studies
Magna Cum Laude
ALYSSA ADLINE ARMSTRONG | Political Science
GABRIELLE JOHNNETTA AUDAIN | English
PASHENCE SAMÓN BAILEY | Psychology
DESIRAE AMYRA BANKS | Theatre and Performance
KORI MICHELLE BARNES | Political Science
ABDEENA MAAME BARRIE | Sociology and Anthropology
LECHANTI A. BASTIAN | Political Science
Cum Laude
DEKLAH NIKOLE BAXTER | Political Science
CYNTHIA STEPHANY BELFLEUR | Psychology
Magna Cum Laude
LYRIC EUNIECE BELL | Mathematics
ISIS REIGN ELNORAH BENJAMIN | Political Science
Summa Cum Laude
SHAYLA CAPRICE BENSON | Psychology
DAISHA LYNN BENTON | Psychology
KENDAL MAXINE BERNARDEZ | Comparative Women’s Studies
TIARA SHEA BERRY | Comparative Women’s Studies
Magna Cum Laude
NIA DANISE BESTER | Elementary Education
Magna Cum Laude
JASMINE JUANITA AAZHANE BILLIPS | Mathematics
ALANI ERIN BILLUPS | Psychology
DAIJAH LASHAE BLACKBURN | English
Cum Laude
ELAINA MARGUERITE BLAKE | Music
Cum Laude
AMBER IMANI BOOKER | International Studies
JADA NICOLE BOOKER | Economics
Summa Cum Laude
FRANSHESCA BORGELIN | Economics
MAYA SIMONE BOSTICK | Psychology
Magna Cum Laude
NIA KAYLYN BOWERS | English
NIAYA ALANA BOYCE | Psychology
Magna Cum Laude
SYDNEY VIOLA BREAKER | English
LAUREN CHELSEA BRINKLEY | Education Studies
LISA ANN BROWN | Psychology
Magna Cum Laude
MORGAN TAYLOR BROWN | Psychology
Summa Cum Laude
VIRSHAUNA BROWN | Comparative Women’s Studies
JACQUELINE HAZEL BROWN-GAINES | History
Cum Laude
MERIDIAN ALYSE BUCKNER-SWAIN | Comparative Women’s Studies
ALANA MARIAH BUFFORD | Psychology
NAUTICA JERYELLE DOMINIQUE BURDEN | Theatre and Performance
VICTORIA SIMONE BURKE | Comparative Women’s Studies
KRISTIN C. BURNS | English
Summa Cum Laude
TYLA ELEXUS BURNS | Economics
Magna Cum Laude
SAMAIA LENORE BUTLER | English
DEJA NICKOLE CABINESS | Comparative Women’s Studies
SYDNEY JANAY CALMES | Spanish
TIARA NICOLE CAMPBELL | Psychology
ERIKA LYNN CARVER | Elementary Education
TAYLOR ALEXIS CARTER | Sociology and Anthropology
Cum Laude
ABEO T CHIMEKA-TISDALE | Comparative Women’s Studies
Cum Laude
MARY UGOCHI CHIMEZIE | Philosophy
SHANNON SHANAY CHOATES | Independent Major-BA
JAMILLA IRETI CLARK | Political Science
Cum Laude
MADISYN SYCLAIRE CLARK | Political Science
Cum Laude
KAYLA ANN CLARKE | Economics
ZANDRA LEILANI CLEMONS | Economics
Magna Cum Laude
ALEXIS YVETTE COBY | English
Cum Laude
AMANDA JANE COLDING | English
Magna Cum Laude
KRISTEN ANDRÉA COLE | Philosophy
CHRISTIAN HOPE COLEMAN | Comparative Women’s Studies
CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS

MYA RENEE COLEMAN | Comparative Women’s Studies
SAIDAH BURNELL COLEMAN | Art
ELISE JANAE COOPER | Psychology
                        Summa Cum Laude
TAN-ASIA DESHA’E COUNCIL | English
KIARA ALEXANDRA CURETON | Economics
FAITH ANJEL EMY DAUGHTRY | Education Studies
AYANA MARIE DAVENPORT | Sociology and Anthropology
CHABLISE SARAH DAVIS | Psychology
                        Magna Cum Laude
TAMIA DEBARROS-CANNON | Religious Studies
CYLANTRA KEYAVONNA DEES | Comparative Women’s Studies
                        Magna Cum Laude
KYRA NICHELLE DELOACH | Psychology
                        Magna Cum Laude
ASHA N. DENARD | Theatre and Performance
TAI-MARIE DENNIS | Psychology
ASHLEY ALI DICKSON | Political Science
                        Summa Cum Laude
PHOENIX ADIA DIGGS | Political Science
                        Cum Laude
NOELLE ELIZABETH DINKINS | Elementary Education
                        Magna Cum Laude
BREA CARMILLE DIXON | Philosophy
PRECIOUS LATIA DIXON | Economics
TAMMISHA CIARA DIXON | Psychology
NICOLE DUDLEY | Economics
MYRANDA ANN DUHART | International Studies
                        Cum Laude
MAYA DESIRE’ EADDY | Psychology
MICHAELA R. EASLEY | Economics
                        Cum Laude
AAIYAH NICOLE EASY | Comparative Women’s Studies
PRENTISS OLIVIA EDMOND | Comparative Women’s Studies
ALEXIS-MARIE FRANCE EICHELBERGER | Spanish
OLIVIA RYANNE ELLIOTT | Economics
BRITTANY ANN EVANS | Theatre and Performance
BROOKE EUNICE EVANS | Political Science
                        Cum Laude
ARIEANNE I. EVANS-HILL | Comparative Women’s Studies
KAMARIA GYE NYAME EXCELL | Comparative Women’s Studies
                        Summa Cum Laude
DARRIELLE Diquaizia FAIR | Political Science
HEAVEN LEIGH FISHER | International Studies
CHRISTINA ELIZABETH FLAKES | Economics
                        Cum Laude
TREASURE FLAVORS | Comparative Women’s Studies
ALEXANDRA RICH FOLSOM | Comparative Women’s Studies
ALEXIS RENEE FORD | Political Science
JOY NAYA KATE FOSTER | English
                        Magna Cum Laude
NYKERIA R. FREEMAN | Economics
JADA IMANI FULLER | Psychology
DESTINY MARIE GARDNER | Economics
                        Cum Laude
IMANI SAMONE GARDNER | Economics
TAYLOR ALINE GARLINGTON | Psychology
EDIANN IMANI GAYNOR | Economics
ANGELICA MARIE GILLIAM | Economics
VICTORIA CHANEL GLAPION-FROGIER | Political Science
LEANEDRA DOMINIC GOODWIN | Sociology
GABRIELLA S. GORDON | English
MADESEN ELESE GRANT | English
QUINCY TAYLOR GRANT | Comparative Women’s Studies
NAJA SIMONE GRASY | International Studies
KYNEDI ZANORA GRAY | Psychology
MELODY CHRISTINA GREENE | English
JAMAICA RENÉ GREENWOOD | English
JOVANNA REANN HALIYAH GREIG | Economics
                        Summa Cum Laude
JAMILA ANN GRIFFIN | Political Science
                        Magna Cum Laude
NYKIRA JANAE GRIMES | Drama
DORCAS YAA YEBOAH GYEYE | Education Studies
                        Cum Laude
BRIANNA MICHELLE HAIRSTON | Political Science
BRIJAE A. HARPER | Economics
SADE ALEXANDRIA HARPER | Economics
                        Magna Cum Laude
MICAH D. HARRELL | Psychology
JHALIA SONNAYE HARRIS | Mathematics
EDEN GABRIELLE HARRISON | Psychology
                        Summa Cum Laude
BRANDIS SALONE HIAUGABROOK | Spanish
                        Summa Cum Laude
CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS

SYDNEY CHRISTINA HAYWOOD | English
Cum Laude
ERICA DENISE HERENTON | Economics
AMBER MICHELLE HICKS | Sociology
LAUREN DELANEY HICKS | Political Science
Cum Laude
JANA AKUA HOBSON | English
NIA D. HOLLAND | Psychology
Cum Laude
TANISHA MARIAH HOLMES | Comparative Women’s Studies
Magna Cum Laude
BAILEY ALEXIS HOLMES SPENCER | Sociology
Cum Laude
DARRENI RENEE TERICA HOPKINS | International Studies
SYDNEY ALIA HORTON | Psychology
DAIJAH SCHENELL HOSKINS | Psychology
Cum Laude
MAJESTY NOEL HOUSTON | Political Science
Magna Cum Laude
MALAYAKA RAE’L HOWARD | Sociology
MORGAN DOMINIQUE HOWELL | English
Magna Cum Laude
TATYANA JACKMAN | Political Science
Magna Cum Laude
DEAUNDRALL RENEE JACKSON | Political Science
KAELE SHON JACKSON | Psychology
Cum Laude
KATAHLEEYA DAZELL JACKSON | International Studies
CASSANDRE J. JEAN-CIDE | Psychology
Magna Cum Laude
DESTINY ELIZABETH JELKS | Psychology
Cum Laude
LAUREN JADE JERRY | Psychology
ALEX A. JOHNSON | Political Science
Magna Cum Laude
EBONY JOY JOHNSON | Religious Studies
KIARA LAUREN JOHNSON | Theatre and Performance
Cum Laude
IMANI CHANTE’ JONES | Sociology
JUSTICE AUSHE’ JONES | Economics
NAJAH RAQIYAH JONES | Economics
DAPHNE NEPTALIE JOSEPH | Sociology
Cum Laude
TIARA IMANI JULIEN | Economics
Magna Cum Laude
KAELIN ROSE KELLER | Art
Magna Cum Laude
NIARA KANIKI KEYES | Political Science
KENNEDY VAUGHN KING | Economics
MARIAH LOVENE KNIGHT | International Studies
Magna Cum Laude
KENDAL NICOLE LAKE | Political Science
Cum Laude
DESTINY MARIE LEWIS | Spanish
Cum Laude
BRE’AUNA NICOLE LIGGANS | English
TRACI PEARL LITTHCUT | Political Science
MAKIYA R. LITTLE | Psychology
JADE MARIAMA MILTHA LOCKARD | Education Studies
LORELLE ASHLEIGH LOGAN | Psychology
VIVIEN JENAE LONG-DANIELS | Sociology
RYAN CATHERINE LOO | Philosophy
Summa Cum Laude
SIERRA MILON LOPEZ | Comparative Women’s Studies
TIANNA CHRISTINA MACEY | Economics
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1989  Mother Clara McBride Hale  Founder, Hale House  New York, New York
1990  Robert Moses  Creator of the Algebra Project  Cambridge, Massachusetts
1991  Byllye Avery  Founder, National Black Women’s Health Project  Atlanta, Georgia
1992  Margaret Carey  Director and Staff Attorney, Voting Rights Project, Center for Constitutional Rights  Greenville, Mississippi
1993  Eugene M. Lang  Expert in creating industrial projects and new technology venture, I Have a Dream Foundation  New York, New York
1994  Unita Blackwell  National Conference of Black Mayors  Mayor, Maysville, Mississippi
1995  Clementine Barfield Chism  Founder, Save Our Sons and Daughters  Detroit, Michigan
1996  Corella Bonner  Philanthropist, The Corella and Bertram F. Bonner Foundation  Princeton, New Jersey
1997  Nancy Wilson  Singer & Actress, Nancy Wilson Foundation  Los Angeles, California
1998  Oseola McCarty  Humanitarian and Philanthropist  Hattiesburg, Mississippi
2000  Kimi Odesser Houston Gray  Community Organizer, Kenilworth-Parkside Resident Management Corporation  Washington, D.C.
2002  Rose M. Sanders  Founder, Coalition of Alabamians Reforming Education  Selma, Alabama
2004  Earle Lee  Founder, Boy’s Choir of Tallahassee  Tallahassee, Florida
2005  Virginia Davis Floyd, C’73  Executive Director, PROMETRA USA  Atlanta, Georgia
2006  John Hope Bryant  Founder and President, Operation Hope  Los Angeles, California
2007  Gary Orfield  Co-Founder and Director, The Civil Rights Project  Los Angeles, California
2008  Erica Hunt  President, Twenty-First Century Foundation  New York, New York
2009  Helene D. Gayles  President and CEO, CARE, USA  Atlanta, Georgia
2011  Wendy Kopp  Chief Executive Officer and Founder, Teach for America  New York, New York
2012  Oprah Winfrey  American Media Proprietor, Talk Show Host, Actress, Producer and Philanthropist  Chicago, Illinois
2013  Reverend Joseph E. Lowery  Civil Rights Advocate  Atlanta, Georgia
2014  Malika Saada Saar  Human Rights Activist and Director, Human Rights Project for Girls  Washington, D.C.
2015  Dave Levin and Mike Feinberg  Co-Founders, KIPP Academy  South Bronx, New York
2016  Precious Zywiciel Muhammad  Community Activist and Founder of HAGAR Civilization Training Missionary  Atlanta, Georgia
2017  Valerie Jarrett  Civic Leader  Chicago, Illinois
2018  Lonnie G. Bunch, III  Founding Director, Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture  Washington, D.C.
2019  The Honorable Keisha Lance Bottoms  Mayor of Atlanta, Georgia
2020  Pearl Cleage, C’71  Playwright, Novelist, Poet, Political Activist  Atlanta, Georgia
2021  Representative Alma S. Adams, PhD  United States House of Representatives, Activist, and Educator  Charlotte, North Carolina

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