Welcome Back!

Celebrating the start of the 2023-2024 academic year, welcoming the Class of 2027 and all returning students and highlighting who and what’s NEW at Spelman

IN THIS ISSUE:

- President’s Perspective (2)
- Faculty/Staff Highlights (4)
- Campus Highlights (7)
- Student Spotlights (10)
- Save the Dates (10)
- Spelman In The News (11)

AUGUST 2023 EDITION
Dear Spelman Community, Friends and Supporters,

Welcome to the beginning of the academic year 2023–2024! In what looks to be yet another great year at Spelman College, I am looking forward to welcoming the Class of 2027 and their families, as well as our professors, staff and returning students to campus over the next week.

We have so much to look forward to, starting with a full line-up of events during New Student Orientation (NSO) August 9-15, for our first-year students. The week will begin with Move-in and a Welcome ceremony, followed by numerous events to introduce new students and families to the Spelman experience. The week will wrap up with our Joint Convocation for the Spelman and Morehouse College Classes of 2027, at the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel at Morehouse College.

As I start the second year of my presidency, I am thankful for the outpouring of support and feedback that we have received from our community. Your collective voices are vital to our vision for the future of the College. A future that will require strategies for ensuring that a Spelman education is affordable for our students, expanding our global experience and impact, using our scholarship and voice to speak out and act on the critical issues of our day, building on areas of our academic strengths and playing a larger role in positively affecting the West End community that is our home.

These and other initiatives are a starting point for the new strategic plan for the College that we will develop together as a community. This plan will be the basis of our work together over the next several years.

As we work through our long-term plans, we are excited to share our progress on enhancing academic excellence, student success and College operations. In this edition of Inside Spelman, you will learn more about how Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Darryl Holloman and his team are leading efforts to strengthen every student’s wellbeing and sense of belonging, as well as upscale our dining options through the new food service management team, Bon Appetit.

Spelman alumna and former faculty Pamela E. Scott-Johnson, Ph.D., C’82, shares her excitement in returning as our provost and vice president of Academic Affairs. Dr. Scott-Johnson will play a central role in advancing the College’s teaching, research, learning and overall mission. Chief Information Officer John Wilson shares how the Service Technology Systems, now STS/Campus Technology team, has made much-needed upgrades to our internet service and classroom technology. Spelman’s Public Safety Chief Moses Perdue provides highlights on the Public Safety team’s measures for increasing safety across our campus. Lastly, you’ll learn more about Spelman’s highly popular Summer Programs, which provided selected high school students with a two-week, immersive campus experience. And you’ll be introduced to the new student ambassadors for the upcoming year.

These are just a preview of the many stories we look forward to sharing throughout the year—stories of how we are elevating the Spelman difference. Stories of how we are developing the whole student and preparing our Spelmanites to change the world. Class of 2024, get ready! We look forward to seeing you march under the Alumnae Arch and cross the graduation finish line!

Thank you, Spelman Community, for your continued love and support of the College. I wish you a safe and prosperous year.

President Helene Gayle
CAMPUS COMES ALIVE: WELCOMING SPELMAN’S CLASS OF 2027

The start of a new academic year is here! This is a time when our campus comes alive with a joyous energy that sweeps through the College’s gates and reignites the spirits of our community. Everyone, from faculty and staff to returning students, is looking forward to the year ahead and to warmly welcoming the incoming Class of 2027!

More than 700 first-year students will soon arrive on campus and start their journey with New Student Orientation, an event where they’ll familiarize themselves with Spelman College’s history and traditions, while learning to navigate the college experience. The Closing Celebration: And Now Your Journey Begins will follow, symbolizing the start of every Spelmanite’s journey toward self-discovery and independence. The week will end with a Joint Convocation, which will be attended by Spelman and Morehouse College first-year students in Morehouse’s Martin Luther King, Jr. International Chapel.

Fall classes begin on August 16 under the leadership of the College’s new provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, Pamela E. Scott-Johnson, Ph.D., C’82. As both a former faculty member and alumna, Dr. Scott-Johnson looks forward to lending her expertise in developing educational policies and enhancing academic programs to her alma mater.

“I am thrilled to be returning as a member of the leadership team to help shape and enhance the academic landscape through which women of Spelman develop as change agents,” she said. “Spelman has been and will continue to be a special place for women of African descent and how they impact the world. I look forward to guiding additional pathways for advancing faculty, at all levels, and delivering innovation in student success from retention to graduation.”

In preparation for the new academic year, numerous departments have worked to augment student success. The College has added additional minors — Data Science, Refugee Studies and Gaming — to their already impressive roster of 36 majors, and Spelman Technology Services spent their summer upgrading the campus wireless network infrastructure as well as developing three technology centers. The centers are located in the Albro-Falconer-Manley Science Center, Dorothy Shepard Manley Hall and the Camille Olivia Hanks Cosby, Ed.D., Academic Center, and are available to students who need a space to collaborate, study or relax with modern technology at their disposal.

The College has also augmented services to increase support for the health and well-being of Spelman students, which is also key to their academic success. Ronjonette O’Bannon, Ph.D., the new dean of Campus Well-being and Strategic Initiatives, is leading the charge to further empower students to establish sustainable means for growth and change that will result in healthier lifestyle choices. From the return of intramural sports to the revival of the Spelman Jaguar, Spelmanites are in for a year of fun-filled activity.

Again, welcome to the Class of 2027. We can’t wait to experience your energy, support your ideas and help witness your evolution as a Spelman Sister and a member of our beloved community.
Part of Spelman College's rich legacy is its alumnae – many of whom return to support the College’s operations and nurture the next generation of Spelman graduates. But for Pamela Scott-Johnson, Ph.D., C’82, who returned to campus July 1 as Spelman’s new provost, taking on this new role serves as a full circle moment.

“I began my career in higher education as a faculty member here at Spelman,” said Dr. Scott-Johnson. “It is an honor to return to where my leadership skills were developed and refined as a student leader and then as a faculty member. So, I feel like I’ve come full circle. And I lead in this capacity on behalf of future and current women of Spelman.”

This return to Spelman marks Dr. Scott-Johnson’s second appointment since graduating in 1982. She credits her undergraduate experience and the mentorship and support she received as the inspiration for her career trajectory and subsequent service on campus. “I’ve always served the Spelman community because I had a great experience as a student with every person on campus – from being able to meet with former [President] Donald Stewart, to my fellow schoolmates, particularly as a campus leader (first-year representative, sophomore class president and student government president) and the facilities folks who fed me and walked me to my car when I would do homework in Manley late into the evening. I had such a great experience.”

Amid roles at other higher education institutions like Morgan State University, California State University Los Angeles and most recently, Monmouth University, she spent 10 years as a faculty member at Spelman, where she earned tenure. Dr. Scott-Johnson is aware that a lot has changed in higher education and especially at Spelman. However, she says, one thing remains – Spelman’s mission to develop, equip and empower women to lead is etched in her mind and heart and articulated in everything she does.

“There’s only one mission of Spelman, and that’s to empower women to lead - from their own houses to the White House - it doesn’t matter,” Dr. Scott-Johnson said. “You have been destined to lead, and our job is to get you prepared to take your place in your space.”

For now, Dr. Scott-Johnson, is looking forward to a successful, impactful academic year ahead and many more years of supporting her alma mater’s mission, its enduring legacy and its bright future. Her charge ahead of the upcoming academic year? “Let’s go.”
The coronavirus pandemic brought about several unforeseen reverberations that made matriculation at universities and colleges nationwide challenging. As Spelman College prepares to welcome its first fully in-person incoming class since the coronavirus pandemic reached endemic status, Darryl Holloman, Ph.D., and the Spelman College Division of Student Affairs are improving the way they support Spelmanites – and the campus community – post-pandemic.

“This academic year, our focus is demonstrating equitable student success – which really centers around providing Spelman students with a sense of belonging, a sense of community and a sense of well-being to ensure that they are even more supported,” said Dr. Holloman, vice president of the Spelman College Division of Student Affairs. “As a result, we have a lot of new programming, initiatives and services coming to campus that will benefit not just students, but faculty and staff as well.”

Historically Black College and University (HBCU) spaces can be perceived as monolithic. Holloman and his Division are committed to celebrating the differences of the student body and ensuring that all Spelmanites feel included in the College’s legacy – despite their gender identity, race, ethnicity, religion or their ability or disability. This includes programming and events like a silent party on The Oval to engage students who are neurodivergent or on the autism spectrum and tend to be overwhelmed by the traditional HBCU campus experience.

“Belonging for us is really that connected point that undergirds sisterhood,” said Dr. Holloman. “That you feel enough to belong and connect with your [Spelman] sisters. The way we’re envisioning belonging, you’re all sisters and you belong here, and we want to make sure we counteract any sense of imposter syndrome.”

Dr. Holloman’s heightened focus on strengthening an environment of belonging is in response to a downward trend in student life and activities. He noted that a good number of students feel disconnected when it comes to campus involvement – especially following the pandemic.

“Part of our mission is to really make sure [students] are connected, and that’s where community comes into play,” he said. “If you can connect to Spelman, particularly the culture, then you typically will stay.” Spelman has a number of activities, events, affinity groups and living/learning communities that provide opportunities for engagement to the entire student body. The Student Affairs staff plan to increase collaboration with Academic Affairs to ensure that the college supports the holistic development of students. According to Dr. Holloman, this must include innovative, non-traditional experiences that will allow students to build and hone their leadership skills.

“For those who don’t really feel connected, we’re planning intentional signature experiences and programming that will engage all students, so everybody feels involved in the Spelman experience,” he said.

As for the well-being component of the Division’s work, Dr. Holloman said that it takes an intentional approach to support today’s Spelmanites.

“We really believe if you don’t have a sense of well-being, you’re missing the opportunity to support the wholeness of a person” he said. “We’re addressing mental, emotional, physical and spiritual support for our students.”

This intentionality also includes the recent appointments of Ronjonette O’Bannon, Ph.D., as the new dean of Campus Well-being and Strategic Initiatives and Neil Scott as director of the Wellness Operations and Recreation – whose expertise and programmatic approaches will revolutionize well-being-centered events and programming for students, faculty and staff and help ward off burn-out. Both rose to the top of the College’s list of candidates following national searches for each role and were selected for their positions by a special committee.

As part of the focus on well-being, the fall semester will mark the return of intramural sports, starting with basketball, tennis and volleyball, and swimming in the spring. Dr. Holloman has his team are excited to also start the new year with campus dining services managed by Bon Appétit. A variety of fresh, healthy food options will be provided in designated cafeteria dining spaces in Manley Center and the Beverly Daniel Tatum Suites, as well as new retail offerings on the lower level of Manley Center, including ACE sushi and Slutty Vegan, along with the return of Starbucks.

“Bon Appétit was selected overwhelmingly by our dining service advisory committee because of their mission, their focus on small, private liberal arts colleges, their farm-to-table approach to meal preparation and their commitment to the well-being of the Spelman campus community,” said Dr. Holloman. “We’re incredibly excited to have them on campus and look forward to their service to Spelman.”
By investing in the pillars of belonging, community and well-being, the Student Affairs staff looks forward to enriching the college experience foremost for our students, as well as faculty and staff. And the campus community will be better for it.

“We’re excited because, when it comes to these three matrices, we are on the leading edge of how small, liberal arts HBCUs are thinking about these things,” said Dr. Holloman. “We are repackaging what Spelman can offer in terms of student success. Achieving these outcomes cannot be done effectively in a vacuum. It takes an entire college to develop the necessary supports for students need.”

“Student Success should not just be viewed as a wave but seen as a part of the entire ocean,” he added. “To that end, Student Affairs must work collaboratively with students, faculty, staff, administrators and external stakeholders to accomplish its goal. Our division has the great fortune of being just one part of the lasting legacy of Spelman College. This is not just a Student Affairs initiative but one that can only be achieved by collaboration with others.”

### Plugged In: John Wilson and Spelman Technology Services Ensure Spelman Stays Connected

In the 21st century, there are very few aspects of daily life that don’t involve the use of contemporary technology and internet service. But for John Wilson, vice president and chief information officer for Spelman Technology Services (STS), these things are integral aspects of the department’s daily operations — the very framework that keeps Spelman College connected to the world.

While STS is best known for assisting students and staff with operational technological issues and for supporting faculty in their virtual teaching and research efforts, the department — under Wilson’s leadership — is committed to Spelman’s ability to thrive in the digital age and beyond.

“Through the implementation of leading-edge technologies and strategic partnerships, Spelman is embracing innovation to create a more advanced and accessible environment in which to teach, learn and conduct research,” he said.

This past summer, Wilson and STS worked feverishly to upgrade the campus wireless network, which is now being upgraded to the latest standard, Wi-Fi 6e. The team is also working to ensure that Sisters Chapel and MacVicar Hospital — which are among the oldest buildings on campus — will receive Wi-Fi connectivity for the first time.

“This new [Wi-Fi] network will offer improved reliability, faster speed and advanced ease of use for faculty, staff and students,” explained Wilson.

In addition to improving the college’s wireless network, STS is in the process of developing three technology centers — located in the Albro-Falconer-Manley Science Center, Dorothy Shepard Manley Hall and the Camille Olivia Hanks, Ed.D., Academic Center — available to students who need a space to collaborate, study or relax with modern technology at their disposal. According to Wilson, the Cosby Technology Center will feature an expansive interactive video wall that can be controlled by a mobile device or podium computer.

Another innovative undertaking is the development of the Atlanta University Center Consortium (AUCC) Research Network. Through this effort, Spelman, in collaboration with the other AUC campuses and Tuskegee University (and in partnership with Georgia Tech), is building a dedicated high-speed network that will connect the AUC campuses with Tuskegee University. That network will be connected to national and global consortia — giving Spelman faculty, staff and students access to a vast array of resources and capabilities available beyond Spelman’s campus.

“With these transformative projects, Spelman College’s Technology Services is paving the way for a more connected, efficient and secure campus,” said Wilson. “From the campus Wi-Fi upgrade to the establishment of technology centers and the development of a high-speed research network, these initiatives promise to revolutionize the way students and faculty engage with technology.”

This year, STS will also focus on improving service delivery to campus patrons, the expansion of Hy-Flex classrooms, improving Spelman’s cybersecurity standards and other audio-visual upgrades that exemplify the College’s commitment to providing state-of-the-art technology and capabilities to the Spelman community. For Wilson and STS, their work has a deeper connection.

“As we look forward to future technology initiatives and campus construction projects, Spelman remains dedicated to making the technology experience at Spelman the best it has ever been.”
Bon Appétit Brings New Flavor, Healthier Options to Spelman College

Bon Appétit, the College’s new dining services provider, is gearing up to welcome back the Spelman community with fresh fare and an intentional dedication to healthier menu selections.

Bon Appétit was chosen after an open-bid process and is known for its service to some of the nation’s most renowned and notable colleges and universities. The company was selected because of its tailored approach to dining offerings – particularly its from-scratch philosophy and its sourcing ingredients from local farmers and artisans to ensure freshly prepared meals.

Bon Appétit has aligned its services with the Division of Student Affairs’ goal of ensuring student success by focusing more on student well-being. The team will be led by General Manager Dawyn Patterson and supported by District Controller and Operations and Project Manager Eric Davidson.

“Bon Appétit has been at the base of our team’s discussions about student success, and we believe that the refreshed spaces and quality meals provided by their services will support the work we’re doing to truly infuse and develop those concepts,” said Darryl Holloman, Ph.D., vice president of the Spelman College Division of Student Affairs. “They’re going to add another dimension to our food program.”

According to Dr. Holloman, this new dimension includes a complete renovation and rebranding of Spelman’s existing cafeteria spaces – Beverly Daniel Tatum (BDT) Suites and upper level of Albert E. Manley College Center — and new retail food options on the lower level of Manley Center.

“We heard people, particularly our students, who wanted additional healthier food options, and they are definitely going to deliver on that. It’s a total rebranding of our dining program,” said Dr. Holloman.

Campus dining patrons will also experience the newly redesigned space on the lower level of the Manley Center. The new line-up of dining services on the lower level of Manley Center now includes a more spacious Starbucks location, Nom (a market specializing in Boba tea and craft deli sandwiches), Ace Sushi and Slutty Vegan.

“One thing we’re doing in terms of quality enhancement is that everyone will be able to place their order online, then come scan the QR code to pick up their food in the retail locations — both downstairs and over in the BDT Suites,” said Daryl Lowe, J.D., associate vice president for Student Affairs.

While renovations are expected to run through the fall semester, Dr. Lowe said that students will have the opportunity to choose the design of the Lower Manley Center retail dining areas through a voting process. Services will be up and running by Aug. 10, and ready to support the Spelman Community.

“They’ll have a hand in choosing structures, paint [colors], pictures, furniture and all of those things,” he said. “We’ll share a number of different [renderings], and they’ll be able to vote on the aesthetics.”

Prioritizing meal versatility and more variety on campus, offerings in the BDT Suites cafeteria will rotate each semester, ranging from Caribbean-influenced cuisine in the fall from Sunday through Thursday, allowing patrons to try new dishes. According to Davidson, there will be a special dining feature on Fridays and Saturdays called “Spelman After Dark,” which will offer a relaxing space for Spelman students (only) to gather and enjoy small plates and rotating menu choices. The BDT Suites Cafeteria is scheduled to open in September.

In the spring and subsequent semesters, students will be able to provide input as to what is served in the BDT Suites Cafeteria. Also, two new meal plans – Jaguar (unlimited) and Founders – will offer the campus community meals at an affordable price.

According to Davidson, meal exchanges will still be accepted at all campus dining locations. For the cafeteria spaces, there will be clear, Spelman-branded takeout containers. There will also be renovations to the faculty and staff dining spaces.

“We worked with Spelman on the [meal] plan side, so there’s not going to be an impact on the plans for this year’s students,” said Davidson. “We did create different formatting for the commuter plans. As for the pricing in the retail – mainly Lower Manley – we’re going to have meal exchange options and nominal increases, but a broader variety of options.”

There will also be a new faculty and staff meal plan that can be purchased at any time during the semester. Participants will be able to add blocks to a standard 10-block plan for $70 (averaging $7 per meal) for the cafeteria – providing cost savings on the usual door rate ranging between $10.20 and $14.42.

“It’s been a very smooth transition to date… I think this partnership has really started off on a great foot,” said Davidson.

In addition, patrons will be able to submit feedback directly to the dining services management team – from compliments to concerns – via a texting/QR code service called Zingle.

“I would like to thank all the members of our community for your honest feedback,” said Dr. Holloman. “I would like to especially thank the dining committee, which was chaired by my colleagues Daryl Lowe and Marissa Pace and was comprised of faculty, students, administrators and staff. I believe this committee selected a dining partner that will enhance our dining experiences on campus.

For more information, visit the Spelman Dining Services page.
Harmonia Rosales to Bring “Master Narrative” to Spelman Museum of Fine Art

The inspired exhibition “Harmonia Rosales: Master Narrative” opens at Spelman College Museum of Fine Art on Friday, August 18, following its presentation at Memphis Brooks Museum of Art.

Cultural reclamation permeates “Master Narrative,” an exhibition of 20 paintings and a large-scale sculptural installation by the Los Angeles-based Afro-Cuban American artist Harmonia Rosales. Working chiefly as a classical painter, Rosales seamlessly entwines the tales and characters of the Yorùbá religion, Greco-Roman mythology and Christianity with the canonical works and artistic techniques of European Old Masters.

“We are fortunate to have Harmonia Rosales’ first traveling solo museum exhibition at Spelman College Museum of Fine Art,” said Liz Andrews, Spelman College Museum of Fine Art’s executive director. “Her work confronts the concept of a master narrative through imagery that is both beautiful and challenging, and her masterfully rendered paintings and large-scale installation will engage AUC students and the general public.”

The installation in this exhibition is Rosales’s first experience with sculpture and depicts her own version of Michelangelo’s Sistine Chapel ceiling stretched across the hull of an overturned slave ship that hovers above the viewer. Through her visual storytelling, Rosales presents the notion of human and cultural survival on her own terms – one that highlights the beauty and strength of Black people, particularly women, while touching upon grand narratives of creation, tragedy, survival and transcendence.

For more information, visit the Spelman College Museum of Art website.

A Warm Welcome: Spelman College Hosts NSO 2023

The Spelman College community will officially welcome the Class of 2027 during New Student Orientation (NSO), August 9–15, a time when the campus comes to life and sets the tone for the academic year ahead.

The NSO theme, “Undaunted by the Fight: Developing Intellectual Community,” marks the return of students to campus while emphasizing the developing sisterhood between all incoming students – including new students, transfer, international, domestic exchange and Pauline E. Drake Scholars.

Following move-in, the campus-wide NSO events will take place, starting with When and Where I Enter and Sister Chat – Meet Your PAL and continuing with AUCC Student Health and Wellness Center Open House, Woodruff Library Orientation, the historic Closing Celebration: And Now Her Journey Begins and Leadership Night.

Between events, students and their families will have the opportunity to enjoy a barbecue lunch and dinner on The Oval amid various program orientations, placement examinations, advising and other related meetings.

Offering a spirited welcome rooted in familial fellowship, NSO events will conclude on Sunday, August 13, with an annual tradition: Joint Convocation for first year students from Spelman and Morehouse College in Morehouse’s historic King Chapel. Afterwards, first-year students will join their Spelman Sisters for the first day of classes on August 16.

For more information, and the full NSO 2023 schedule, visit Spelman’s NSO page.

Summer At Spelman Enrichment Programs Offer More Than Academic Advantages

This past summer, more than 200 high school students from across the country spent several weeks at Spelman College for a variety of summer enrichment programs. The College’s first summer cohort launched in 1989 with the Early College Program and expanded to include the College Prep Institute in 2005 and the Jills Take Spelman Leadership Institute in 2021. Developed by Spelman’s Office of Admissions, the programs are meant to, “expose and prepare female high school students of African descent for college,” according to outreach programs manager and Spelman alumna Jasmine Wall, C’2010.

Wall is at the helm of Spelman’s summer programs -planning and developing course curriculum, managing program enrollment and hiring current Spelman students as staff members.
“I really enjoy serving as a liaison to staff and faculty who host the summer programs, and I also enjoy helping to coordinate dining and housing for the summer program attendees,” said Wall. “Beyond the summer, during the school year, I plan and develop outreach opportunities for the Office of Admissions and support the counseling staff with recruitment and reading applications.”

Each summer program caters to a different audience, but all provide participants with the opportunity to experience the Spelman community through a residential program complete with specially tailored courses. “Spelman summer programs are unique because, like the mission of the College, the programs are curated to speak to the experiences of Black girls and challenges them to see themselves as leaders and change agents when they return home,” said Wall.

The College Prep Institute accepts rising high school sophomores and juniors for a two-week program that helps students prepare for standardized tests and explore different majors and career paths while strengthening their Black girl identity. A popular course offering, Black Girlhood, implements the curriculum of Justice for Black Girls – a social justice platform developed and facilitated by founder and Spelman alumna Brianna Baker, C’2016.

“It’s refreshing to know that the people teaching these courses look like us. They went to Spelman. They had similar experiences, and what they did during their time here helped them blossom into Spelman women,” said Olivia Mwangi, C’2024.

 “[In Black Girlhood], a lot of the girls were sharing their personal experiences with classicism, racism, and gender discrimination. It was unfortunate what they were going through, but a lot of them were able to overcome,” said Sachi Russell, C’2026. “I think [Black Girlhood] was such a good experience for the girls because they really got to know each other in a different light and tell their personal stories. They learned how to navigate when the world doesn’t always love you in the way you want to be loved.”

Current Spelman students Mwangi and Russell dedicated part of their summer breaks to work with College Prep Institute participants. Mwangi served as a senior resident advisor and Russell was a teacher assistant.

Spelman’s summer enrichment programs provide space for young Black women to broaden their horizons, take part in unique experiences and confidently make plans for their future in higher education.

“In light of the Supreme Court’s decision to reverse affirmative action at several universities, comprehensive pre-college opportunities at Spelman College and other HBCUs are needed,” said Wall. “I am so happy to be an agent in assisting students in seeing themselves as ideal candidates for college admissions based on the programming we provide to support them.”

According to Wall, nearly 800 students applied to the College Prep Institute Sessions 1 and 2, Early College Program, and the Jills Take Spelman Leadership Institute. This summer, 256 students were admitted, and 214 students matriculated across all four summer program offerings.

Outside of the classroom, program participants spent the summer visiting the Black Hair Experience, APEX Museum and gave back to the community through service with Books for Africa, Atlanta Community Food Bank and literacy packets for elementary school students.

For more information, visit the Summer Programs at Spelman page.

Spelman College Public Safety Prioritizes Continuous Improvements for Campus Safety and Security

For much of the Spelman College community, the summer provided the opportunity for memorable vacations, one-of-a-kind internships, revisiting research, well-deserved downtime and – hopefully – some relaxation. But for Chief Moses Perdue and the College’s Department of Public Safety, their summer plans also included enhancing the safety, security and awareness of the Spelman community.

“The safety of our campus community is our number one priority,” said Perdue. “Even though things on campus were a bit slower during the summer, we were just as committed to the work we do.”

Perdue and the Public Safety team have taken additional steps to improve operational effectiveness and overall security inside and around Spelman’s historic gates. In June, officers took part in a training course geared towards mental health to support their well-being. In July, the department welcomed the Homeland Security Cybersecurity Unit and Infrastructure Security Agency to Spelman for additional training and a comprehensive vulnerability and threat assessment review of the campus.

The department also worked with Facilities Management and Services to trim and remove foliage, brush and tree limbs around campus to minimize obstructed views and to upgrade lighting, motion cameras and motion sensors for areas around the main gates. The Public Safety team also completed active shooter training and customer service training led by Homeland Security – all in an effort to better protect and serve the Spelman College community.

“The Public Safety team is excited about the return of the students, faculty and staff for the fall semester,” said Perdue. “With the training and improvements we’ve done, we’re looking forward to a great, safe year ahead.”

For more information on the Spelman College Department of Public safety, visit the Public Safety page.
Ushering in a new academic year calls for new courses, new goals, new projects and new student leadership. Three significant roles were filled in the Spring 2023 semester: Spelman Student Government Association (SSGA) President, Student Trustee and Miss Spelman. These students will serve as ambassadors to the College and amplify the needs of students.

Spelman's 82nd Student Government Association president is Breah Banks, C'2024. The psychology major from Minneapolis, MN., has had her sights on serving at Spelman since she was a first-year student entering Spelman's gates during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when so many students were forced to be apart.

“I identified ways that our community could remain connected,” she explained. “I feel as though that has been my focus ever since: to keep our Spelman community united and to ultimately make an impact at this institution.”

According to Banks, the 82nd SSGA Administration is focusing on various goals this year with a primary focus on upholding sisterhood, excellence and perseverance.

Among her plans as SSGA President, Banks plans to:

• organize regular bonding events and sibling check-in activities that bring students together to build connections and relationships,
• work with registered student organizations to organize inclusive events that celebrate the diversity of our community,
• and advocate for student needs by listening and addressing the concerns and needs of the student body.

The 40th Miss Spelman, Indi Sinclair Clayton, C'2024, is also working to ensure that sisterhood continues to grow even stronger on campus and beyond. Utilizing her platform, “Sunny with a Chance 4 Her,” Clayton plans to implement four objectives during her reign: growth, sisterhood, choice and opportunity. The political science major from Alexandria, VA., is also excited to collaborate with her Court — First Attendant Ayianna Davis Polen and Second Attendant Nadia Scott.

“With the three of our platforms combined, we hope to continue to enhance the Spelman community by creating an environment geared towards the growth and overall well-being of the student body,” said Clayton.

The President’s Office has also introduced a new Student Trustee to the Board of Trustees. Zoe Shepard, C’2026, a health science major from Mableton, GA., will serve as the Board’s student representative this academic year.

“As Student Trustee, I’m looking forward to providing a fresh perspective and getting to better understand the internal workings of the College and how I can best apply myself to see its continued success,” said Shepard. “I plan to ensure, that as we grapple with big-picture issues, we continue to keep in mind who makes Spelman, Spelman.”
Spotify’s NextGen Curriculum Participants Release ‘Emmett Till: The Cultural Afterlife of an American Boy’

Several Spelman students in the NextGen Curriculum Program have created a seven-episode podcast series...

7/18, SOURCE: Spotify

Spelman College pays tribute to one of its queens: Christine King Farris

Coverage of Spelman’s memorial services for Christine King Farris, C’48.

7/11, SOURCE: AJC

Movers and Shakers

Spelman is highlighted for the recent appointment of Pamela E. Scott-Johnson, Ph.D., C’82, as the College’s new provost and vice president for Academic Affairs.

7/12, SOURCE: eCampus News

What we know and don’t know about the future of college admissions

Spelman’s senior vice president of enrollment management, Ingrid Hayes, was recently interviewed by WAMU-NPR.

7/13, SOURCE: 1A

Scripps News Tonight - Dr. Helene Gayle

President Gayle is interviewed following recent U.S. Supreme Court rulings.

6/30, SOURCE: Scripps News Tonight

Black Colleges Face Crunch as Supreme Court Ruling Drives Influx of Students

Historically Black Colleges and Universities are gearing up for an increase in applicants following a US Supreme Court decision...

7/5, SOURCE: Bloomberg

Opinion: Let’s continue education’s push toward equity

In a guest column, Dr. Helene D. Gayle, president of Spelman College, discusses the ramifications of the U.S. Supreme Court’s ban...

7/6, SOURCE: AJC

Unpaid Internships Remain Out of Reach for Many College Students

Unpaid internships are commonly offered by nonprofits and governments and may lead to fewer job offers than paid internships...

7/10, SOURCE: U.S. News & World

The Spelman Difference

Opinion piece written by Aliyah Webster, C’2024, and Jalyn White C’2024.

7/10, SOURCE: Chemistry World

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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. Through diverse learning modalities, Spelman empowers the whole person to engage the many cultures of the world and inspires a commitment to positive social change.

Accreditation: Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award baccalaureate degrees
Member: Atlanta University Center Consortium

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