Inside Spelman

Academic Excellence
An inside view of the accomplished faculty members who drive student success

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September 2023 Edition
As we settle into the fall 2023 semester, this edition of Inside Spelman offers a view of the individuals who are at the center of our mission to provide an outstanding learning environment—our distinguished faculty! They are the key ingredient that enriches Spelman’s long legacy of academic excellence and the force behind Spelman’s ranking as a top liberal arts college and the #1 HBCU in the nation.

From the time of the institution’s humble beginnings in 1881, to its continuous positioning as the global leader in the education of women of African descent, Spelman continues to attract incredible thought leaders, innovators and educators who model excellence in their leadership, mentorship, research and pedagogy. These are the faculty members who pour their heart and soul into developing today’s students and tomorrow’s leaders.

One such leader is Spelman alumna Lisa Cook, Ph.D., C’86, who became the first Black women to be appointed as a Governor on the Federal Reserve Board. Economics professors Anne Hornsby, Ph.D., and Romie Tribble, Ph.D., were among the many faculty who guided her academic journey at Spelman.

We invite you to read and learn more about the professors who continue to inspire and equip our students with the skills and knowledge to influence and change the world. This edition not only showcases our talented faculty and academic leaders, it also includes an overview of our interdisciplinary centers of excellence, academic majors and minors and a look forward at the new academic facilities. Heart-felt student testimonials are also featured that underscore the transformative impact of our faculty on their lives.

All of the stories in this issue speak volumes about Spelman’s academic team and their ability to meet the needs of our diverse and high-achieving students—students whose learning methods, technology tools and societal circumstances are also ever-evolving.

And your continued commitment to our mission helps contribute to positive global change through our faculty, students, staff and alumnae.

President Helene Gayle

Opening Convocation 2023

Faculty Presidential Award Recipients

Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching, Senior Faculty
Lisa Hibbard, Ph.D., Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry Department

Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching, Junior Faculty
Joycelyn Wilson, M.S., Senior Instructor, Mathematics Department

Presidential Award for Excellence in Scholarship, Senior Faculty
Patricia Ventura, Ph.D., Associate Professor, English Department

Presidential Award for Excellence in Scholarship, Junior Faculty
Guanyu Huang, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Environmental and Health Sciences

Presidential Award for Excellence in Service
Leyte Winfield, Ph.D., Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry Department

Presidential Award for Excellence in Mentoring
Michelle Gaines, Ph.D., Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry Department
Since its founding in 1881, Spelman College has sought to achieve academic excellence in the liberal arts and sciences, a goal that now serves as the cornerstone of its institutional mission. By offering diverse learning modalities, it endeavors to ignite curiosity, nurture creativity and guide students toward becoming tomorrow’s leaders. The question remains, however: How exactly does Spelman achieve this mission?

The answer? The faculty.

“Our faculty members are highly esteemed scholars who bring a deep bench of expertise to the heart of Spelman College,” said Pamela E. Scott-Johnson, Ph.D., provost and vice president of Academic Affairs. “When teaching our students, they are dedicated to not only developing the whole person — intellectually, emotionally, physically and spiritually — but also to the academic excellence and legacy of our institution.”

Reflected in Spelman’s consistent ranking as the #1 Historically Black College and University (HBCU) for 16 consecutive years, this dedication has helped the College outperform competing HBCUs in endowment, student performance and reputation. As a result, Spelman has cemented its status as one of the most prestigious liberal arts colleges in the nation.

“We’ve been fortunate to attract faculty who are committed to their own professional development, which pays dividends in outstanding undergraduate instruction,” explained Myra Burnett, Ph.D., vice president of Spelman’s Office of Institutional Effectiveness. “Our graduation rates, reputation among peers and postbaccalaureate student achievement all reflect their strengths and contributions.”

With intimate institutional knowledge that allows them to leverage the accomplishments of Spelman’s faculty, the Office of Institutional Effectiveness aligns its efforts with various leadership teams to provide comprehensive student support. Through these collaborative efforts, the College has fostered a learning environment where students can achieve their goals and faculty can continue their scholarly pursuits.

“As someone who began as an assistant professor in 2004, I can say that my tenure at Spelman has given me a front seat to its legacy in academic and scholarly excellence,” said Tasha Inniss, Ph.D., associate provost for research. “I have always been impressed with the innovation, creativity and cutting-edge work of my colleagues.”

Empowered by a Faculty Affairs team that prioritizes integrity, collaboration and care, the faculty at Spelman College are able to focus on helping students unlock their full potential. Their wealth of knowledge and talent — continually expanding to meet contemporary issues and trends — is further exemplified by the introduction of three dynamic new minors: Data Science and Analytics, Game Design and Development and Refugee and Forced Migration Studies.

“My perspective on Spelman’s legacy is based on the phenomenal women who were eager to address issues of their time and make their mark in the world,” said Dorian Brown Crosby, Ph.D., associate professor of political science. “Spelman’s legacy of excellence and compassionate leadership illuminate my pathway to ensure that its noble work continues.”

For more than a century, this ‘noble work’ has had a profound and lasting impact on countless lives. At Spelman, it is the esteemed faculty who serve as the driving force behind the advancement of academic excellence, with their students as precious passengers on the journey toward success. Their unwavering commitment to cultivating knowledge and fostering growth has helped to shape generations of accomplished leaders, leaving an indelible mark on the world of academia.
As the new academic year commences at Spelman, Rosalind Gregory-Bass, M.D., M.S., C’92, has two goals for her students. The first is to be reflective about today’s educational climate and develop the necessary skills to be an advocate for themselves and others. Her second goal is that students “embody Spelman’s mission and seek to change the world for the better.”

“No longer can we be complacent and passive about the many injustices and inequalities surrounding healthcare, climate change, food insecurity, access to affordable housing, educational bias, etc.,” said Dr. Bass. “Students must be intentional about their undergraduate journey, while still creating room to make mistakes and embrace the lessons learned.”

Dr. Bass has served the College for 19 years. She is an associate professor in the Environmental and Health Sciences Department, and also director of the College’s Health Careers Program (HCP), an innovative center catering to the development of students pursuing various careers in the health field. The Fall 2023 semester is ushering in new developments with a special emphasis on leadership and expansion within the department.

This academic year, students will have the opportunity to participate in a leadership retreat hosted by Emory University’s School of Nursing. HCP students are also reviving Active Minds, a student-led organization focusing on mental health and substance use awareness. Additionally, growth is coming to the Health Careers Program Council. The committee has now expanded to 16 representatives from seven departments. According to Dr. Bass, the council is an internal advisory committee for the HCP.

Dr. Bass is also excited about Spelman’s partnership with Kaplan, which now provides live and on-demand online courses for both students and alumnae. The Kaplan All Access partnership holds courses for the MCAT, DAT, GRE, GMAT, OAT and LSAT examinations. Other new partnerships and programs will be announced soon.

Spelman Scholar-In-Residence Receives $210,000 DOE RENEW-HEP Grant Funding for Physics

Innovation and award-winning research are standard practices at Spelman College, but for physics professor and IBM-HBCU Quantum Center Scholar-In-Residence Yanhua Zhai, Ph.D., her research might reshape how Spelmanites see and understand quantum physics. Dr. Zhai is a recent recipient of a Department of Energy (DOE) Reaching A New Energy Sciences Workforce for High Energy Physics (RENEW-HEP) grant.

“The DOE grant, in collaboration with particle physics and accelerator laboratory Fermilab, presents an outstanding opportunity for Spelman students,” said Dr. Zhai. “The grant will provide funding for travel, lodging, and stipends for students to work at Fermilab during the summer — allowing students to interact with Fermilab researchers, access essential resources for projects and collaborate with field experts in quantum information science.”

This collaboration is led by Fermilab in concert with three Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Serving Institutions (HBCUs/MSI): University of Illinois at Chicago, Coppin State University and Spelman College. The total grant amount is $585,000 over three years with Spelman receiving $210,000 — the largest share of the funding. The grant funding will allow Dr. Zhai to acquire additional experimental equipment for her research — which includes quantum mechanics and optics. “This grant not only enhances the reach and impact of my research but also strengthens the ties between Spelman College and prominent institutions,” she said.

Dr. Zhai, who came to Spelman during the spring semester, credits the rewarding nature of witnessing students’ transformative educational journeys and the depth and limitlessness of her research as part of what inspires her work.

“The way quantum mechanics challenges our intuition and offers a deeper understanding of the fundamental nature of light and matter is thrilling,” she said. “The potential to push the boundaries of what’s achievable in fields like quantum computing, communication and sensing is an exhilarating prospect... and knowing that our contributions could pave the way for transformative technologies that reshape industries and societies adds an undeniable spark to my passion for quantum optics.”

This fall, in addition to her research, Dr. Zhai is teaching general physics I (SPHY-111) and general physics I lab (SPHY-111L). She is also supervising independent studies for two students who will be collaborating with her in the optics lab on quantum optics — adding to the STEM faction of Spelman’s academically robust legacy.

“Spelman’s dedication to academic excellence and success resonates deeply with my own commitment to fostering intellectual growth and curiosity,” said Dr. Zhai. “Spelman’s focus on empowering students to become well-rounded, critical thinkers aligns with my teaching philosophy. [and] this shared commitment creates a dynamic and supportive learning environment, where both students and faculty thrive.”
Spelman’s Newly Tenured & Promoted Faculty

Part of what drives Spelman College’s academic achievement on the national and international stages, year over year, is its faculty — whose commitment to the College and its mission are unmatched.

Spelman would like to salute newly tenured and recently promoted faculty members Angelino Viceisza, Ph.D.; Bhikhari Tharu, Ph.D.; and Erica Williams, Ph.D. for their hard work and contributions to the academic legacy of Spelman.

To learn more about each faculty member, click the corresponding headshot.

Angelino Viceisza
Professor of Economics

Bhikhari Tharu
Associate Professor of Mathematics

Erica Williams
Professor of Anthropology

New Faculty Orientation

We were excited to welcome new faculty to campus during New Faculty Orientation on August 9 - 10.

Faculty Institute

Spelman faculty came together for an invigorating Faculty Institute, which focused on exploring new frontiers and embracing innovation. Highlights included a fireside chat with President Gayle and new Provost Dr. Pamela Scott-Johnson, as well as sessions on generative artificial intelligence and innovation in research.
**Faculty Feedback:**

**The Impact of Spelman College**

How does Spelman's academic success influence the College's faculty and their work?

Michelle Gaines, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemistry and Career Pathways Initiative (CPI) liaison; Dorian Brown Crosby, Ph.D., C'91, associate professor of political science; and Cynthia Neal Spence, Ph.D., C'78, associate professor of sociology, director of UNCF/Mellon Programs and director of Spelman's Social Justice Scholars Program, share in their words, the power of academic excellence and leadership at Spelman.

“Since being at Spelman, my research and creative works have enhanced my field by providing an unprecedented new perspective on how curly hair is characterized and how the structural features of hair (straight, wavy, curly and kinky) contribute to the mechanical behavior of hair fibers...I was afforded the unique opportunity to publish this pioneering work as my first peer-reviewed manuscript in *this journal* because the journal wanted to publish a special issue, featuring research at HBCU's...My collaboration with investigators at University of Massachusetts, Amherst, has allowed us to disseminate in the most visible way, correlations between nanofiber mechanics, polymer characterization techniques and hair. As a result of the uniqueness of my research topic and the location in which it was published, the work gained tremendous excitement among the research community...I am also in the process of patenting the new hair classification scheme, which was proposed in my manuscript. I look forward to exploring where this research will lead and the new discoveries that will come from it!”

– Michelle Gaines, Ph.D./Assistant Professor of Chemistry/Career Pathways Initiative (CPI) Liaison

“Since I came to Spelman, I have mentored students who have gone on to do and achieve in all arenas, especially in the Academy and the legal field...Included among our graduates are also former students who have obtained law degrees. I am so very proud of the way they are using the law as an instrument to effect change on the individual and social structural level...Each of these amazing Spelman alumnae once sat in our classes and asked questions about their place in the world and now they are taking on leadership roles on a national level. There are so many examples of Spelman alumnae who I remain in contact with that bring me great pride. They are the proof that we are equipping our students with the knowledge, skills and abilities to effect positive change in their communities and the world.

As an alumna, my interactions with mentees who have accomplished so much since graduating from Spelman brings me great pride.”

– Cynthia Neal Spence, Ph.D., C'78/Associate Professor of Sociology / Director, UNCF/Mellon Programs /Director, Social Justice Scholars Program

As a proud Spelman alumna, my perspective on Spelman’s legacy is based on the phenomenal women who were eager to address issues of their time and make their mark in the world. Spelman’s legacy of excellence and compassionate leadership illuminate my pathway to ensure that its ‘noble work’ continues.”

– Dorian Brown Crosby, Ph.D., C'91/Associate Professor/Department of Political Science

“Since I came to Spelman, I have mentored students who have earned degrees in migration policy, become attorneys, political science professors and elected officials, worked in Presidential administrations, started or maintained non-profits, worked on local, state and national political campaigns and interviewed black women leaders of the Democratic party as a political journalist.

My research and creative works have enhanced my field by expanding the general knowledge about global displacement and increasing the number of African American and HBCU students engaged with refugees, forced migration and immigration policies. It is imperative that as many diverse voices, perspectives and research outcomes are represented when addressing the ongoing transnational issue of global displacement. Launching the first and only minor in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies at an HBCU, establishing the first and only HBCU outreach position in the academic global organization, the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM), are examples of this mission.

As an alumna, my interactions with mentees who have accomplished so much since graduating from Spelman brings me great pride.”

– Dorian Brown Crosby, Ph.D., C'91/Associate Professor/Department of Political Science
Interdisciplinary Centers of Excellence

**Center of Excellence for Minority Women in STEM**
A center for education, advanced training and continued support for women who are beginning or advancing careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

**Gordon-Zeto Center for Global Education**
A center established with a $17 million anonymous gift to strengthen and expand international programs at Spelman College and prepare students for active engagement with the international community.

**Teaching Resource and Research Center**
A center created in the fall of 2007 with resources from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the U.S. Department of Education (Title III) to support the continued, long-term development of the faculty to meet the demands of 21st century teaching and learning.

**The WISDOM Center**
A multidimensional student-centered leadership development program that was established in January 2003 with funding from the Lilly Endowment Inc. to strengthen the capacity of Sisters Chapel.

**IBM Center for Quantum Computing**
In an effort to shift STEM statistics among African American women, Spelman College recently joined the IBM-HBCU Quantum Center’s Southeast region. The Center for Quantum Computing will focus on quantum hardware, education, and fundamental research.
Who’s Who? Profiles in Leadership

**Office of the Provost**

Pamela E. Scott-Johnson, Ph.D., C’82
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Lisa Hibbard, Ph.D.
Faculty Council President

Dolores Bradley Brennan, Ph.D.
Vice Provost for Faculty and Associate Vice for Academic Affairs

‘Dimeji R. Togunde, Ph.D.
Vice Provost for Global Education

Tasha R. Inniss, Ph.D.
Associate Provost for Research

**Division Chairs**

Leyte Winfield, Ph.D.
Natural Sciences & Mathematics

Marionette Holmes, Ph.D., C’90
Arts

Tinaz Pavri, Ph.D.
Social Sciences & Education

Kathleen Phillips Lewis, Ph.D.
Humanities

**Undergraduate Studies**

Desiree Pedesclaux, Ph.D.
Dean
Undergraduate Studies

Geneva Baxter, Ph.D., C’77
Associate Dean
Undergraduate Studies

DeKimberlen Neely, Ph.D., C’96
Associate Dean Undergraduate Studies
# Academics At-A-Glance

## Departments and Majors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Department Chair(s)</th>
<th>Majors Available</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Visual Culture</td>
<td>Myra Greene</td>
<td>Art, Art History, Documentary Filmmaking, Photography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry and Biochemistry</td>
<td>Marisela Mancia</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Mark Maloney &amp; Elíthia Tillman</td>
<td>Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comparative Women's Studies</td>
<td>Beverly Guy Sheftall</td>
<td>Comparative Women's Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer and Information Sciences</td>
<td>Raquel Hill</td>
<td>Computer and Information Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance Performance and Choreography</td>
<td>Julie Johnson</td>
<td>Dance Performance and Choreography</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Nicole Taylor</td>
<td>Elementary Education, Education Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>Marionette Holmes</td>
<td>Economics</td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Stephen Knadler</td>
<td>English</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental &amp; Health Sciences</td>
<td>Nirajan Dhakal</td>
<td>Environmental Sciences, Environmental Studies, Health Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Languages and Cultures</td>
<td>Jacqueline Alvarez-Rosales</td>
<td>French, Spanish</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Science (Dual Degree Engineering)</td>
<td>Retina Burton</td>
<td>General Science (Dual Degree Engineering)</td>
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<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>Kathleen Phillips Lewis</td>
<td>History</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Services</td>
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<td>Human Services (Pauline E. Drake (PED) Students only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independent Major (By application only)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Independent Major (By application only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Studies</td>
<td>Tina Pavri</td>
<td>International Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Naïomi Cameron</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Hyunjung Chung</td>
<td>Music</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philosophy and Religious Studies</td>
<td>Nami Kim</td>
<td>Philosophy, Religious Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>Marta McNeese</td>
<td>Physics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Political Science</td>
<td>Kasahun Woldemariam</td>
<td>Political Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Kai McCormack</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sociology &amp; Anthropology</td>
<td>Mona Phillips &amp; Cynthia Neal Spence</td>
<td>Sociology, Sociology and Anthropology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theatre and Performance</td>
<td>Kathleen Phillips Lewis</td>
<td>Theatre and Performance</td>
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## Minors

- African Diaspora Studies
- Anthropology
- Art
- Art History
- Asian Studies
- Biochemistry
- Chemistry
- Comparative Women's Studies
- Computer and Information Sciences
- Curatorial Studies
- Dance
- Documentary Filmmaking
- Economics
- Education Studies
- English
- Environmental Sciences
- Environmental Studies
- Film Studies and Visual Culture
- Food Studies
- French
- History
- International Studies
- Japan Studies
- Management and Organization
- Mathematics
- Naval Science
- Photography
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Theatre & Performance
- Writing

**New minors and programs starting in Fall 2023!**

- Refugee and Forced Migration Studies
- Game Design and Development
- Data Science
Welcoming the Class of 2027

Spelman’s Class of 2027 showed up in a big way during New Student Orientation 2023 – 740 students strong! Class of 2027, new faculty and returning students, faculty and staff, we’re looking forward to a great 2023-2024 academic year!

For more NSO photos and videos, visit @spelman_college on social media.

First Day at Spelman: Sisterhood in Action

August 16 marked the first day of classes for Spelmanites, as well as a new beginning of sisterhood for the incoming Class of 2027.

For more first day of classes content, visit @spelman_college on social media.
STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

Ford First-Generation Scholars Answer “Why Spelman?”

As the Class of 2027 begins their academic journey at Spelman College, the Class of 2024 is preparing to impact change outside of the historic campus gates. Graduating seniors Olimpia Andrade, Alannah P. Ross, Laniyah Collins and Brooklynn Fergerson – participants in Spelman’s Ford First Gen initiative for first-generation college students, offer their reflections on matriculation and answer “Why Spelman?”

“As a student at Spelman College, I feel that Spelman is truly committed to the academic excellence and success of its students. On campus, multiple programs continue to support this narrative, such as the Student Success Center, the Career Planning and Development Office, the Office of Student Affairs and many more. These offices are filled with people who are invested in students’ accomplishments and their ability to reach key milestones. This inspires me to continue to do my best work and reach my goals every day. The ongoing support has equipped me with the confidence I need to go out and make a change in the world. Also, knowing that I go to an institution that has many wins has pushed me even harder to reach lengths that would traditionally not be available to first-generation students.”

- Olimpia Andrade

“Being a first-generation student at Spelman college still feels so surreal. I always dreamed of coming to Spelman since I was in the fifth grade. Spelman’s legacy managed to guide my entire journey through middle school and high school... Spelman inspires me to not just be a better student, but also a better person and woman in the world today... This institution has taught me to make my mark and how to be comfortable with taking up space in this world and I will treasure that as my adult life continues.”

- Laniyah Collins

“I am a first-generation student at Spelman, and attending the No. 1 HBCU has been one of the best experiences I’ve ever had... I am amazed by all of the Black women that I am surrounded by who are making a choice to change the world, and that pushes me to be that much better and do more than I thought I ever could. Spelman will forever hold a special place in my heart. Being here has taught me so much love and appreciation for myself and my school. I have done things and had opportunities that I never would’ve imagined. I want to leave a legacy and give hope to young Black girls, and Spelman allows me to do that every day.”

- Alannah P. Ross

“Spelman’s legacy of academic excellence serves as a powerful source of motivation for me. Being a first-gen at Spelman instills a responsibility and determination in me. It encourages me to set a high standard and strive for greatness... The values and principles learned at Spelman shaped the way I approach careers, relationships, and contributions to society, making a lasting and positive impact on my life.

Thanks to Spelman, I am not only experiencing a transformative educational experience, fostering critical thinking, leadership and a sense of social responsibility; Spelman is also providing a nurturing environment that allows me to grow and make new discoveries about [myself].”

- Brooklynn Fergerson
A Home for the Arts at Spelman: The Transformation of the Rockefeller Arts Building

The newly renovated Rockefeller Arts Building is scheduled to open in Spring 2024. This holds special significance as it is the building’s first major renovation since opening in 1964.

The Rockefeller Arts Building is a cherished part of Spelman’s campus and houses the Baldwin Burroughs Theater, renowned for its early performances and the groundbreaking work of esteemed alumnae. Actresses and producers, such as Latanya Richardson Jackson, C’71, acclaimed author and playwright Pearl Cleage, C’71, and accomplished recording artist and writer Kathleen Bertrand, C’73, have all graced the stage of the Baldwin Burroughs Theater.

Recognizing the importance of preserving this historic space, Spelman College raised $17 million for the renovation of the theater, lobby and surrounding areas in the Rockefeller Arts Building scheduled to be completed by the end of 2023. Additional notable contributions include Richardson Jackson and Samuel L. Jackson ($5 million), Hobson Lucas Family Foundation ($10 million), Bank of America Foundation ($2 million) and David and Susan Rockefeller ($300,000).

In honor of their lifetime of achievements, Spelman College will name a renovated theater, lobby, dressing rooms and supporting areas the LaTanya Richardson Jackson and Samuel L. Jackson Performing Arts Center.

Like Richardson Jackson, additional Spelman College alumnae have been instrumental in reshaping the Rockefeller Arts Building. Lindsay Michelle Hopkins, C’2003, contributed $250,000 to the renovation. Hopkins’ contribution will support associated costs, including architectural design, construction, equipment and future operational expenses for the facility. A multipurpose room will bear her name as a tribute to her generosity. The Lindsay Michelle Hopkins Multipurpose Room will provide a versatile space for various activities, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and creative expression among students, faculty and staff.

The Mary Schmidt Campbell, Ph.D. Center for Innovation & the Arts and the Center for Black Entrepreneurship Usher in a New Era of Academic Excellence at Spelman

Scheduled for completion in August 2024, the Mary Schmidt Campbell, Ph.D. Center for Innovation & the Arts (CI&A) will open its doors to the Spelman Community and friends in Spring 2025. This new structure will consolidate the College’s arts disciplines and Innovation Lab within its 84,000-square-foot space. The CI&A is strategically positioned beyond the campus’ historic gates, serving as a dynamic “front porch” to Atlanta’s West End community, while honoring the legacy of President Emerita Mary Schmidt Campbell, Ph.D.

CI&A’s multifaceted programs include integral participation in shaping the Center for Black Entrepreneurship (CBE). In collaboration with the Black Economic Alliance Foundation and Morehouse College, the CBE is pioneering an academic space dedicated to nurturing the next generation of Black entrepreneurs. By leveraging education, mentorship and access to capital, the CBE aims to break down barriers and foster a thriving environment for Black innovation and business leadership.

As CI&A nears completion, the CBE is steering an array of impactful initiatives leading up to this milestone. These initiatives include a student pitch competition spotlighting emerging founders and investors, complemented by a range of mentorship programs to empower student entrepreneurs.
IN THE NEWS

30 Under 30 Local 2023: Atlanta
Kayli Joy Cooper, C’2026 was recently selected to be apart of Forbes 30 Under 30: Atlanta.
8/10, SOURCE: Forbes

The Academic Minute
Features Amber Reed, anthropologist and assistant professor of International Studies at Spelman. Reed is the author of Nostalgia after Apartheid: Disillusionment, Youth and Democracy published in 2020. She is also currently conducting research on how the African continent is taught in Atlanta-area middle schools.
8/5, SOURCE: The Academic Minute

The Gift of Education: HBCUs attract philanthropic donors to invest in their collective mission
Spelman is included in an article that discusses donor gifts to HBCUs. The article starts on page 84, with Spelman’s mention beginning on pages 86-88.
8/9, SOURCE: USA Today

Meet The Winners Of The Spotify NextGen Scholarship At Spelman
Spotify created a new initiative to grow podcast culture across college campuses. In support, the company chose five Spelman College students to be recipients of their NextGen scholarship program.
8/10, SOURCE: Essence

Spelman College plans to expand eSpelman program after successful 1st year
The Atlanta Business Chronicle interviews Associate Vice President for eSpelman Operations, Tiffany Watson. They discuss the success of the program’s first year and future certificate programs at the College.
8/18, SOURCE: Atlanta Business Chronicle

Spotify Helps Spelman Students Explore Blackness Through Podcasting
Feature story showcasing Spelman and Spotify’s NextGen scholarship program.
9/11, SOURCE: Best Colleges

Save The Dates

“Speechifying”
Dr. Johnetta Betsch Cole
Book Launch
Tuesday, Sept. 19

View the Academic Calendar at www.Spelman.edu/academiccalendar

看了全事件日历在 www.Spelman.edu/calendars
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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