

## **Parents and Family Association**

Conference Call

Tuesday, October 18 ♦ 9 p.m. ET

### **AGENDA**

#### **Welcome & Greeting**

**Kay Carney Filmore, SCPFA CoChair  
Juanita Mahdi, Regional Coordinator**

Kay began the meeting by welcoming new parents and introduced her role and explained role of SCPFA and who will be on the call.

Juanita Mahdi introduced herself and her role as a regional coordinator in the Great Lakes Region. She welcomed parents to the call and wished everyone a productive academic year.

#### **Roll Call Announcement**

**Melissa R. Brogdon, C'2008  
Assistant Director of Annual Giving**

In order to accurately record attendance on the call, parents should email their name and the name of their daughter to [scpfa@spelman.edu](mailto:scpfa@spelman.edu). The Office of Annual Giving serves as a liaison to the SCPFA and will share Parent Campaign updates on each call as well as support with moderating the call with the Co-Chairs.

*Note: Not all pre-submitted questions are answered during the conference call. Some specific questions were forwarded to college admin for personal attention. Below is an abridged version of responses and are not direct quotes.*

#### **Commencement Guide for Parents**

**Dr. Desiree Pedescleaux,  
Dean of Undergraduate Studies**

Dean Pedesleaux serves as the Dean of Undergraduate studies on a team of academic deans who work to support the academic success of students at Spelman. Students can access academic support through the Center for Academic Planning and Success and are encouraged to take advantage of this excellent resource. Hours and Locations can be found online at [Spelman.edu](http://Spelman.edu).

- **I want to know about study abroad and internship opportunities for freshman during vacation and summer months. Also, how parents can access scholarship opportunities that Spelman is aware of online.** The Office of Career Planning is a wonderful resource for students to get early access to information for internships. Study abroad opportunities can be found at the Office of Study Abroad which is located in the Milligan Building.

## Campus Safety

**Steve Bowser,  
Director of Public Safety**

Steve Bowser introduced himself and his role at Spelman. He also shared his diverse background in law-enforcement. He also shared a short history of the Spelman College Police Department which since 1989 has served the college with a staff of police officers.

Below are some of the questions Mr. Bowser answered on the call for parents

- **If a student is physically threatened or cyber-bullied by another student, what safety measures are put into place across the three colleges in the AUC? Also, how can the student remain safe when they are off-campus and in the community?** The Office of Public Safety has seen benefits and challenges of use of technology. This question assumes that all members are students of AUC. When that is the case, it allows agreement between colleges to work for code of conduct. When they are not students, we are held to find out if the situation is a violation of law. We work with students to resolve those kinds of concerns. In terms of ways to stay safe, visit [spelman.edu](http://spelman.edu), and visit the public safety webpage to become familiar and insist your daughters become familiar with it as well. In particular, the FAQ is very important, includes how to stay safe in situation like an active shooter. Ask your daughters to confirm that they can answer these questions so that they can demonstrate they know what to do.

Safety was discussed at NSO with Steve Bowser Overall we have seen students follow our advice directly.

- **What security measures are being put in place to address the break-ins recently reported in the dormitories? Are the girls safe on campus?** A number of measures have been taken. You can reference the fire and incident of crime on campus to see National statistics. Spelman's rate of crime is among the lowest of all Colleges. To explain the burglary that occurred for other parents, someone went through the window screen and broke into dorm. Here is what we have done to ameliorate these occurrences in the future: We have increased patrol, have added high security screens for Morehouse James, because of its unique construction, we have active investigation to continue to resolve and identify the perpetrators. Spelman is one of the safest campus' in the country and evidenced by our crime stats on website.
- **Given that Spelman is an all-women's college; why are guys allowed in the dorm rooms?** We know that you have instilled in your daughters the values to conduct themselves appropriately with guests. There is a strict dorm visitation schedule that must be adhered to and is enforced in conjunction with the staff of the Office of Housing and Residence Life.

Mr. Bowser reemphasized the importance of reporting any incidents with the office of public safety which is available 24/7 at 404-525-6401.

## SCPFA Co-Chair Update

**Kay Carney- Filmore & Vaughn Filmore**

Kay thanked staff for their thoughtful answers to the parents questions and thanked the parents for attending the call.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:53pm ET.