LEADS CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY

21ST CENTURY ALUMNAE LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Stacey Dougan, C’98, Raw Vegan Chef

ALSO INSIDE:
2013 Reunion
The Spelman Messenger, founded in 1885, is dedicated to participating in the ongoing education of our readers through enlightening articles designed to promote lifelong learning. The Spelman Messenger is the alumnae magazine of Spelman College and is committed to educating, serving, and empowering Black women.
ON THE COVER

Stacey Dougan, C’98, Raw Vegan Chef photographed in Reynolds Cottage on the Spelman College campus.

2 Voices
LEADS Celebrates 10 Years

FEATURE

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Not long after assuming the presidency of Spelman College in 2002, Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum began displaying the vision and innovation that has been the hallmark of her tenure. One of her earliest creations was the Center for Leadership & Civic Engagement in 2003. Dr. Jane Smith, C’68, an accomplished educator and nonprofit sector executive has been at its helm for much of its history. The Center, also known as LEADS, was intended as an anchor for leadership education and development for Spelman students and the larger community of women of color. And that it has been in promoting leadership, economic empowerment, dialogue across differences and service learning. Much of that work has come through its signature Women of Color Leadership Conference as well as its equally impressive and impactful Women of Excellence.

LEADS Timeline 2003~2014

**2003**

**October**

Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum establishes Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement in partnership with J.P. Morgan Chase executives and co-founding directors Pamela Carlton and Kimberly B. Davis, C’81.

**2004**

**May**


**July**

LEADS welcomes first executive director, Dr. Jane E. Smith, C’68.

**August**

The Spelman Independent Scholars Program [SIS] becomes part of LEADS. SIS is a two-semester independent study program that works to enhance students’ critical writing, thinking and oral history research skills. Participants collect narratives from African-American women of wisdom in the Southeastern United States and abroad to produce the student-reported and edited anthology, *Their Memories: Our Treasure: Conversations with African American Women of Wisdom*.

**September**

SIS partners with AARP on “Voices of Civil Rights,” an oral history project designed to collect and preserve first-hand accounts of the Civil Rights Movement.

Q&A with Dr. Jane Smith, C’68, Center for Leadership & Civic Engagement Executive Director
Leadership Series, Bonner Scholars Program and Spelman Independent Scholars Program. This year, LEADS turns 10. Both the Center and its annual leadership conference will celebrate a decade of service in advancing the development of women. The Spelman Messenger recently caught up with Dr. Smith for a Q&A about this important milestone in the history of LEADS and to learn more about her vision for its future. Here’s what she had to say:

This is an incredibly exciting time for LEADS. Share with our readers your plans to commemorate this moment of historical importance.

Celebrating this momentous occasion has been at the center of our planning for LEADS’ upcoming Leadership and Women of Color Conference, “Twenty-First Century Leadership: Leading Forward,” May 14–15. The gathering will take on a decidedly global and festive theme. Of course, conference

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### 2005

**March**

SIS students begin three years of research in Accra, Ghana; New Orleans, La.; Savannah and Sapelo Island, Ga.; and Kingston, Jamaica

**April**

LEADS becomes a sponsor of the biennial Kenyetta Jazz Festival to showcase women artists.

**September**

The Bonner Office of Community Service and Student Development, which provides scholarships and volunteer opportunities to students with financial need and a commitment to service, becomes part of LEADS.

Spelman College Toastmasters Club is chartered under LEADS.

**October**

LEADS hosts the African-American Women’s Policy Summit.

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### 2006

**January**

The Bonner Office establishes the Civic Engagement Fellows Program to prepare students for nonprofit work.

Under the sponsorship of the KeyBank Foundation the Women of Excellence and Leadership Series, a signature leadership development program for Spelman students, becomes part of LEADS.

**April**

LEADS in partnership with the Office of Communications conducts its first Spelman Leadership and Woman of Color Survey to explore the issue of women of color in leadership positions. The national survey found that U.S. leadership lacks compassion to build bridges across diverse cultures to address race relations and other critical global issues and that most polled believe that a qualified woman of color would perform at least as well as a white man or woman as president.

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**May**

LEADS convenes second annual Leadership and Women of Color Conference to identify and examine the unique leadership skills of women of color and how these attributes facilitate the domestic and global bridge-building process.

**June**

SIS publishes second volume of oral history narratives, Their Memories: Our Treasures: Conversations with African American Women of Wisdom.

**September**

Spelman College Gamma Sigma Sigma Community Service Sorority is chartered under the Bonner Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement.

Spelman College Section of the National Council of Negro Women is re-chartered under LEADS.

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activities will include a special anniversary celebration as well as a salute to 10 or more incredible women who will travel here from around the world to be inducted into our inaugural Academy of Game Changers. We believe it is only fitting that we take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to have others who have supported and benefitted from the work of LEADS and its annual conference join in observing this watershed moment.

How pleased are you with its progress and evolution as a national resource for the leadership development of women of color?

Early in my tenure, I outlined what some considered an ambitious vision for LEADS. My goals were to position the Center as a producer of cutting-edge leadership models for Spelman students, a vehicle for exploring civic engagement from the perspective of women of color, and a facilitator of dialogue about leadership and civic engagement as a foundation for increased acceptance of differences. We have accomplished that and more in LEADS’ first decade, and most importantly, within the framework of the College’s strategic plan and historic mission. From our signature Leadership and Women of Color Conference to incorporating leadership development into the academic curriculum through the Second-Year Experience, LEADS continues to produce the very highest level of innovation and excellence that further burnishes Spelman’s reputation as an incubator for Spelman students, a vehicle for exploring civic engagement from the perspective of women of color, and a facilitator of dialogue about leadership and civic engagement as a foundation for increased acceptance of differences. We have accomplished that and more in LEADS’ first decade, and most importantly, within the framework of the College’s strategic plan and historic mission. From our signature Leadership and Women of Color Conference to incorporating leadership development into the academic curriculum through the Second-Year Experience, LEADS continues to produce the very highest level of innovation and excellence that further burnishes Spelman’s reputation as an incubator.

“The 10-year mark is an excellent time to begin collecting baseline data on which to build.”

2007

March
LEADS students travel to New Orleans for Alternative Spring Break service trip.

The first Women of Color Student Leadership Conference convenes youth from various minority groups for leadership development, dialogue and planning to improve their communities.

May
The Mary McLeod Bethune-Eleanor Roosevelt Conversation on Race, Class and Gender commences during the fourth annual Leadership and Women of Color Conference. With award-winning author, poet and playwright Pearl Cleage, C’71, (left) as its moderator, the Conversation brings together Bethune and Roosevelt descendants Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, granddaughter of former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt (center) and Mazie Ferguson, a great-grandniece of educator Mary McLeod Bethune (right) for discussion of, among other things, the two icons’ influence on the movements for racial and gender equality.

October
LEADS hosts the Spelman College Local Community Service Award honoring Michelle Nunn, president and CEO of the Points of Light & Hands On Network. The Spelman Board of Trustees presents the award annually to a metro Atlanta individual or organization that embodies scholarship, leadership and service.

November
SIS hosts a “Voting with the Elders” symposium on the 2008 presidential election.

2008

January
LEADS convenes the Johnnetta B. Cole Institute for Community Service & Community Building, featuring Dr. Helene Gayle, president and CEO of CARE. The JBC Institute connects Spelman with the larger community by putting students to work as volunteers. Also, it sponsors lectures on critical issues and topics ranging from
for outstanding leaders. Of course, there is still much yet to do. Measuring our success is one of the things that immediately comes to mind. In looking to the next 10 years, we plan to assign more importance and resources to assessing the impact of LEADS’ work on its intended beneficiaries: Spelman students, women of color and the larger global community.

We’ve talked about the celebration and the need for assessment at this 10-year mark. Please provide a status report on your efforts to measure LEADS’ success.

LEADS has conducted its own informal assessments thus far but is now ready to seek a more formal review. The 10-year mark is an excellent time to begin collecting baseline data on which to build. The Center already has contracted with a best practices firm to help us measure the success and impact of our work in the community immediately surrounding Spelman’s campus. Our next task is to measure the success of our leadership efforts and their impact on students. The results will prove instructive and invaluable in setting a direction for our work going forward.

How big an influence have Dr. Tatum’s leadership, innovation and vision been in the evolution and progress of the center?

It was Dr. Tatum who quite wonderfully first envisioned creating a one-stop center for justice to the health and safety of women, children and underserved populations around the globe.

**February**
The Spelman College Coca-Cola Company Intergenerational Leadership Mentoring Program, designed to transform students into global citizens who head organizations and excel in diverse environments, holds its first mentee-mentor meeting.

LEADS renames the Leaders on Leadership Speaker Series in honor of LEADS Co-founder Kimberly B. Davis, C’81, a Spelman trustee and former managing director of Global Philanthropy, and president of the JP Morgan Chase Foundation.

Alumnae Voices annual lecture launches in partnership with the Office of Alumnae Affairs, providing Spelman graduates who are prominent in their professions an opportunity to interact with current students and dialogue about leadership issues of the 21st Century.

**March**
SIS travels to Kingston, Jamaica, to conduct interviews with Jamaican women elders and to begin a collaborative relationship with the WHO-PAHO Collaborating Center of Ageing and Health at the University of West Indies in Jamaica, one of the premiere centers of its kind in the Caribbean.

LEADS hosts second annual Spelman College Women of Color Student Leadership Conference under theme, “Woman 2 Woman: Coming Together as Leaders to Elevate the Movement.”

**April**
LEADS and Institutional Advancement host the Committee of 200 Day at Spelman to expose students to successful entrepreneurs and corporate leaders.

LEADS partners with Communications to conduct second opinion survey, the results of which suggest that leadership trumps race and gender for women Democrats in choosing Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama as their political party’s nominee for U.S. president.

**September**
LEADS kicks off an annual Convocation at New Student Orientation, affording first-year students the opportunity to become familiar with the Center’s programs.

Kimberly B. Davis Leaders on Leadership Speaker Series presents Kim Wallace, Lehman Brothers.

**October**
LEADS presents the *Atlanta Daily World’s* 80th Anniversary on Spelman’s campus.

LEADS launches the Girls Leadership Institute (GLI), a day-long program for 7th and 8th grade girls that helps them understand and explore their leadership potentials as well as their interests in science, technology, engineering and math. Serving as an educational and development opportunity, the program encourages the girls to learn how to transform inspiration into action.

**November**
SIS sponsors Voting with the Elders, a symposium on the 2008 election, and a mock presidential election in which the then Senator and Democratic candidate Barack Obama won by a landslide.

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in all its forms. After naming me as executive director, Dr. Tatum has been an incredible supporter of LEADS’ ongoing work in this regard and continues to inspire. The most recent example is the social change model of leadership we’ve adopted and which is reflected in the College’s tagline, “A Choice to Change the World.” The best leaders position those they lead to succeed. In that way, she has set a wonderful example. And I couldn’t be more appreciative. I consider her the most passionate ambassador.

**From your perspective, what have been the Center’s biggest successes and challenges?**

We are incredibly proud of the programming the Center offers where leadership development and civic engagement are concerned. One hallmark is the integration of the social change leadership model into the curriculum for Spelman’s sophomore students. This enhancement of the Second-Year Experience has been designed to help move students’ leadership IQ to the next level and become an important part of their preparation and positioning to help change the world.

LEADS continues to grapple with all the common issues that come with growth. Aside from that, LEADS still struggles to change the perception of the center as an incubator for corporate leaders only. That can’t be further from the truth. We’re casting our net wider in developing leaders to lead and become successful change agents across all sectors. Our hope is that perception will melt away as we continue to partner with an increasing number of leadership programs. I consider it one of our most significant challenges.
During its history, LEADS has developed several leadership models before settling on the newest one – social change. Tell our readers about its evolution and significance in the context of Spelman’s history and mission. The College’s objective is to develop a leadership model that reflects what Spelman is about and the kinds of students the College recruits. The social change model is the newest incarnation and one, I believe, that defines more accurately what we’re trying to accomplish as an institution than did the previously adopted authentic and servant leadership models. It is rooted in authenticity and community engagement. The social change model was developed last summer and implemented in September.

The Center’s mission is to develop a leadership model that reflects what Spelman is about and the kinds of students the College recruits.

October
Kimberly B. Davis Leaders on Leadership Speaker Series presents Alumnae Voices, honoring Dovey Johnson Roundtree, C’38, attorney and civil rights activist.

LEADS convenes a CEO Conversation: Emerging Leaders as Global Change Agents, featuring Ursula M. Burns, CEO of Xerox Corporation.

LEADS hosts the Spelman College Local Community Service Award, honoring Rogsbert F. Phillips-Reed, M.D., renowned breast cancer specialist.

2010
February
LEADS convenes the Walmart Leadership Scholars Pilot Program with guest speaker Kemba Smith Pradia, motivational speaker. The initiative seeks to develop and build the leadership skills of first-year and first-generation college students through specialized training and peer-mentoring opportunities.

March
Spelman College receives $50,000 from the UPS Community Foundation to support the UPS Community Service Scholarship Program. Launched in 1995, the program provides partial tuition scholarships to 10 students with a demonstrated commitment to community service. Award recipients must complete 300 hours of off-campus community service during the academic year at R. N. Fickett Elementary School in Atlanta.

April
Bonner Scholars organize Bonner Academy, an alternative spring break for middle school girls from Atlanta Public Schools. The academy introduces participants to Spelman College and provides daily enrichment activities, workshops and community service initiatives.

May
Sixth annual Leadership and Women of Color Conference is held under the theme, “Building Civil Communities for Change.” Private and public sector thought leaders from multicultural communities examined the importance of civility in strengthening America and the role of women of color in building communities of change. Participants left with a leadership “tool box” of tactics to positively impact their individual work environments and communities.

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Progress and equity for women will remain staples, as will social change and authentic leadership.

What impact has being in charge of Spelman’s leadership and civic engagement efforts for a decade had on your evolution as a leader?

During this past decade, I have worked to make my vision a reality – developing LEADS as a premier leadership center that provides cutting-edge models and that brings women of color together from around the globe to explore and discuss civic engagement as the foundation of democracy and world peace. In the process, I have become a life-long learner where leadership

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**2011**

**January**
LEADS kicks off the 10th anniversary of the Women of Excellence Leadership (WEL) Series with the Class of 2011.

LEADS launches Project Impact, a student-focused, service initiative designed to enlist Spelman students as engaged scholars in projects and programs that will measurably improve the community surrounding the Spelman campus.

**September**
LEADS presents a CEO-to-CEO Conversation on Leadership, featuring Frank Blake, CEO of The Home Depot and Phil Kent, CEO of Turner Broadcasting.

**October**
LEADS officially kicks off the Walmart First Generation Legacy Program designed to develop the leadership skills of first-generation college students and to support their successful matriculation through Spelman College.


**November**
LEADS presents Going Global: Black Women Business Leaders, featuring Pat Harris, Global Chief Diversity Officer, McDonald’s Corporation.

**April**
Vice Chancellor Niger Harris of the University of the West Indies at Mona visits SIS to see its archives and discuss a collaborative arrangement between SIS and the UWI Project on Ageing.

**May**
LEADS holds Seventh Annual Leadership & Women of Color Conference, “Reset: Sustaining Women for 21st Century Leadership.” The conference explores the importance of personal and professional sustainability for women leading change. Renowned and diverse thought leaders from the private and public sectors offer participants best practice leadership models to help women, particularly those of color, sustain and succeed in today’s global society.

**August**
LEADS partners with Goldman Sachs to launch the Goldman Sachs Global Leaders Program, which provides scholarships, leadership development and mentoring to 10 select Spelman students.

Spelman College signed a memorandum of understanding to become an official member of the newly named Shepherd Higher Education Poverty Consortium in August 2011. The Shepherd Internship Program currently sends students from different colleges to sites across the nation to serve in communities working to eliminate poverty.

**September**
LEADS partners with the undergraduate dean’s office on Second-Year Experience: Introduction to the Spelman College Social Change Leadership Model.

The first edition of Spelman Serves is published and distributed on campus. The quarterly newsletter publicizes the college’s community service efforts and ongoing opportunities. It includes information about the Bonner Office of Community Service, Project Impact, scholarship programs, LEADS and partner organizations.

**October**
Spelman College hosts the Bonner Scholars Spel-House Annual Georgia Bonner Conference: “Service on Our Minds.” All five Bonner Scholar Schools in the state of Georgia gathered at this daylong conference to build collaborative relationship among institutions. An estimated 300 students participated.

**November**
LEADS students participate in the Key Bank Leadership and Creativity Undergraduate Student Symposium, a three-day intensive camp on leadership, creativity, product innovation, spreadsheet management, entrepreneurial thinking, persuasive communication and the art of “putting it all together.”
is concerned. My role as LEADS executive director has enabled me to layer my extensive professional experience with a deeper and broader knowledge of leadership that has helped me grow in ways previously unimagined.

Please share what LEADS might tackle going forward.
Progress and equity for women will remain staples, as will social change and authentic leadership. The status of Black women and how their leadership is actualized globally will continue to be worthy of further exploration and emphasis. Leadership development and community-service opportunities for students will remain a priority. New offerings may include programming that addresses entrepreneurship, financial literacy and certificate opportunities that enhance and leverage what students are learning in the classroom. We’re excited about the possibilities that will help elevate our next decade of work.

2012

**February**
LEADS convenes the fourth Johnnetta B. Cole Institute for Community Service & Community Building, hosting the Project Pericles/Debating for Democracy (D4D) workshop for Spelman students.

**March**
SIS travels to New Providence, Commonwealth of the Bahamas, to work in partnership with Indaba, a nation-building nonprofit community organization, and participates in Indaba’s annual leadership camp for high school students on collecting oral histories of eight Bahamian women of wisdom.

**April**
Kimberly B. Davis Leaders on Leadership Speaker Series presents Alumnae Voices, featuring Pearl Cleage, C’71, writer, author, playwright and poet.

**May**
LEADS convenes “Leading with Purpose,” its eighth annual Leadership & Women of Color Conference.

LEADS partners with the Clinton Foundation Summer Internship Program to support a Spelman College student’s participation in a three-month internship with the Clinton Foundation.

**September**
LEADS kicks off the Hot Topics Speaker Series with featured speaker Judy Smith, founder and president of Smith & Company and inspiration behind the hit television series, *Scandal*.

**October**
LEADS partners with Turner Broadcasting System (TBS) and Women in Cable and Telecommunications (WICT) to launch the Circle Mentoring Program for Spelman students.

The Bonner Office launches the Keshia Knight Pulliam Community in Schools Day to engage local middle school students in experiencing the Spelman College campus for a day. The Bonner Scholars host 35 fifth-grade girls from Herndon Elementary School for a day to teach the students about drama, enrichment activities, community service and self-esteem.

**December**
LEADS presents Hot Topics Speaker Series, highlighting Spelman College’s Wellness Revolution with featured speakers A.J. Johnson, C’85, wellness expert and founder of THE A) ZONE; Dr. Valerie Montgomery Rice, dean & executive vice president of Morehouse School of Medicine; Lovette Russell, C’83, Spelman College Board member; and Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum, president of Spelman College.

2013

**January**
LEADS partners with Spelman’s Leadership Council to host the Leadership Council Speaker Series, featuring Claire “Yum” Arnold, CEO of Leapfrog Services and Spelman College trustee.

**March**
The Bonner Office of Community Service and Student Development hosts alternative spring break in Belize City, Belize and adopts St. Mary’s Primary School. While there, 15 Spelman students mentor at-risk children, perform service projects and present workshops on self-esteem, health and wellness, education and other topics.

**April**
Kimberly B. Davis Leaders on Leadership Speaker Series presents Alumnae Voices, featuring Helen Price, C’79, assistant vice president and group director of Global Community Connections, The Coca-Cola Company and executive director of The Coca-Cola Foundation.

LEADS partners with Digital Undivided to host the START Conference, a daylong event for women entrepreneurs interested in starting tech companies.

**May**
LEADS convenes ninth annual Leadership & Women of Color Conference under the theme, “Strategic Leadership: Building Wealth, Entrepreneurship and Paying it Forward” that engages attendees in a critical examination of business strategies that today’s women leaders need to be successful.

2014

**January**
LEADS presents A Conversation in Ingrid Saunders Jones, chair, National Council of Negro Women, Inc., hosted by the Spelman College Board of Trustees and the Office of College Relations.

**May**
LEADS celebrates the 10th anniversary of the center and its groundbreaking Leadership & Women of Color Conference, “21st Century Leadership: Leading Forward.” Conference events include anniversary party and recognition of the international accomplishments of women of color during the past decade.
Book Reviews

ANGELA BROWN TERRELL

The Adventures of Emery Jones – Boy Science Wonder: Bending Time
by Charles and Elisheba Johnson (Booktrope)

As a child, I enjoyed reading books. As an adult, I love reading books written for children: the silly early readers I read to my children, the teen books that help them cope with growing up, and intelligent, fun, imaginative adventure stories to help young people enjoy reading, while at the same time showing them ways to be creative.

Such a book is Bending Time. It’s silly and imaginative – yet Emery Jones’s adventures let kids know it is okay to be smart, it is okay to be different and it is okay to follow your dreams and abilities.

Emery is one of those genius kids who couldn’t care less about following the crowd, even though being considered a nerd by his schoolmates means he’s the butt of jokes, gets bullied often, annoys or intimidates some adults and in general is very, very hard to understand. He is not interested in conforming; he just enjoys exploring the world of science. His best friend is a girl, Gabby, who has her own issues to deal with – she wears a hearing aid and knows sign language, which makes her different, too. So, how do these two make their way through a world that doesn’t understand them?

Can Emery find a way to go back in time? Will his skills help him gain the respect of his tormentors? Will Gabby’s friendship offer the backing he needs to succeed?

Read it and find out! It will take you places that will amaze you, all the while keeping you grounded in laughter and learning. It may also inspire kids to take interest in the needed fields of science and technology.

Dr. Charles Johnson, award-winning writer, scholar and recipient of the MacArthur Fellow, known as the genius award, and his daughter, artist and writer Elisheba Johnson, make up the creative team in this first of future Emery Jones adventures. Charles Johnson, who received the National Book Award for his novel, Middle Passage, is also a published cartoonist and visual artist who illustrated this book.

The Twelve Tribes of Hattie
by Ayana Mathis.
(Alfred A. Knopf)

This first novel by Ayana Mathis was picked up by Oprah’s Book Club and almost immediately zoomed onto the best-seller list. The Twelve Tribes of Hattie is a poignant story of the Black migrations north by families escaping Southern oppression during the early 20th century, and the resulting strains on families. And it is about what happens to children growing up without the warmth of maternal love.

Mathis introduces us to a young bride, Hattie, and her husband Albert, who move to Philadelphia, where she gives birth to twins, and names them for this new world: Philadelphia, a son, and Jubilee, a daughter. But when winter comes, tragedy befalls the babies, leaving their mother with painful emotional wounds too deep to overcome. Hattie is unable to show nurturing love and affection to the babies that follow.

Each chapter tells the story of one of those 11 children and one grandchild – Hattie’s tribes. Their struggles include mental illness, homosexuality and war-induced alcoholism. They help form the generation whose emotional journeys changed the North’s urban lifestyles to what they are today.

Though this is Mathis’s debut novel, she is not new to writing. This book came about when she turned to writing fiction and joined the Iowa Writer’s Workshop. Mathis moves words across a page with a musician’s skill. She poetically illustrates her characters through their
emotions, so that you feel their pain and joy as you read. While tending to her babies, sick with pneumonia, Hattie fills the tiny bathroom with hot water so the steam will ease their breathing. “How her babies burned! How they wanted to live! Hattie had thought, when given over to such thoughts, that her children’s souls were thimbles of fog; wispy and ungraspable. … Hattie understood them as extensions of herself…”

In describing the Great Migration, Mathis draws you into the emotion: she writes, “All of those souls, escaped from the South, were at this very moment glowing with promise in the wretched winters of the cities of the North. Hattie knew her babies would survive. Though they were small and struggling, Philadelphia and Jubilee were already among those luminous souls, already the beginning of a new nation.” But they did not, and that tragedy colors the lives of their parents and siblings. There is the dawning of hope, however, at the end of the book as Hattie begins to feel a connection with her granddaughter.

Crackpot Creativity
an essay by Angela Wood
in “So What Do You Do? Discovering the Genius Next Door with One Simple Question,”
by Joel Comm.
(morgan James Publishing)

Angela Wood’s essay in So What Do You Do? details how she has used her propensity for life-long learning to develop into a self-described “crackpot,” in the last 20-some years since graduating from Spelman College in 1990. She details her process of transitioning from teaching – a career she held for nine years – into a profession in digital communications. Through her story, readers get a sense of what it took for her to take a risk, leaving solid employment to make the leap to what at the time was a new industry. “In order to fulfill my life’s vision, I needed to take a quantum leap into the unknown,” she writes.

Clearly, she has turned her passion into helping companies coordinate multiple media projects, online community development and social networking into a viable vocation by enlisting and training a network of other crackpots to join her “cracked pot revolution.”

Vida L. Avery, C’84, published Philanthropy in Black Higher Education: A Fateful Hour Creating the Atlanta University System (Palgrave Macmillan) in July 2013. The book discusses the circumstances surrounding the creation and development of the Atlanta University System (later the Atlanta University Center). It delves into and discusses the integral role John Hope, the first Black president of both Morehouse College and Atlanta University, played in the affiliation. Avery brings to the forefront the relationships Hope cultivated with industrial philanthropists of his time. These relationships went beyond the simple categories of benefactor and recipient, playing a major role in creating a unique higher educational center for Black Americans.

The Nature of Difference: Sciences of Race in the United States from Jefferson to Genomics, by Evelyn M. Hammonds and Rebecca M. Herzig.

This volume of writings and studies by eminent scientists examines how the differences between people have been viewed by race and science through more than two centuries of history in America. The documents show how these studies changed over time, from dictionary definitions of race from 1886 and 2005, to a UNESCO 2005 report that race is a social myth. Study of these documents offers scholars and others a historical background to understanding current developments in racial science.

Evelynn M. Hammonds, C’76, is professor of history of science and professor of African and African American studies at Harvard University. She is on the board of trustees of Spelman College. Rebecca M. Herzig is associate professor of women and gender studies at Bates College.

ANGELA BROWN TERRELL is a writer and editor based in Columbia, Md.
Best Leadership Practices of the 21st Century

Alumnae Lead by Example

By Taressa Stovall

The Spelman experience is synonymous with leadership. But what does “leadership” really mean to alumnae at the forefront of their professions? We asked a very diverse and accomplished group about what drives their achievements, how Spelman influenced and prepared them to lead, and what kind of leadership they want to see in the 21st century.

The Raw Vegan Chef: Stacey Dougan C'98
Founder, Simply Pure Restaurant

Chef Stacey Dougan’s Simply Pure restaurant is in the new Downtown Container Park area of Las Vegas. This unique development uses repurposed shipping containers for entrepreneurs to follow their passions and attract people to a dynamic creative space with concerts, a park and an array of creative enterprises, including Chef Dougan’s innovative approach to healthy eating.

She says her brand of leadership stems from being a good visionary and a take-charge person, who is always trustworthy. “I do what I say I’m going to do. The biggest thing is leading by example. I won’t tell you to do something I’m not doing myself,” says Chef Dougan. “If my employees are working 12 hours a day, I’m working 14 or 15 hours. It’s caring for the
people you’re working with. My biggest thing is to help other people realize their dreams through my vision, kind of like Oprah did with Dr. Phil and Dr. Oz.”

She credits Spelman with helping her realize her leadership potential. “It gave me such a sense of pride; it gave me a sense of self,” she says. “It’s the culture that’s created at Spelman – the top minds and talents in the world – in my opinion. And being there with President Johnnetta Cole was huge, such an inspiration!”

Her vision of 21st century leadership is based on transparency. “We need leaders that don’t necessarily bare everything about their backgrounds, but who are honest and honestly have other people’s interests at heart,” she says. “That’s essential. That’s what we’re here for: to help one another and make the world a better place.”

Career Highlights: Had a successful career in the television, radio and music industries working with such artists as Mary J. Blige and Kiki Wyatt; started a raw food restaurant in Atlanta; private chef for the U.S. Ambassador to Ghana; owner and operator, Sugar Cane health food store, Ghana.

The Communicator:
Moriam “Mo” Ivory, C’91
Radio Personality, Ryan Cameron Morning Show, V-103 FM

Moriam “Mo” Ivory’s brand of leadership is defined by her ability to excel in several fields, from law and politics to music and media. “Take responsibility for creating your own path, make the decision to empower yourself about the future and at every step of life,” she says. “I’m definitely in a leadership position on V-103 in that I speak very much to the working mom, the single mother, the woman in her 40s who’s trying to make all the right decisions and at the same time struggling with the things we all struggle with. I’m in the same leadership position as any other woman trying to keep her own house in order, trying to keep it together and raise children in a very difficult climate.”

Looking to the future, she shares her wish that, “leaders could be a little more realistic about the climate that we’re living in and the challenges we’re facing so we won’t be in antiquated cycles of racism and sexism, and can really find solutions to the things that will make all of our lives better.”

Career Highlights: J.D., Temple University School of Law; attorney, Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhoads law firm; attorney, King & Spalding law firm; assistant general counsel, Scientific-Atlanta, which is now Cisco Systems; political campaign staffer, Obama for America 2008, Jim Martin for Senate, and Kasim Reed for mayor of Atlanta; president and general counsel, Ivory Properties, her real estate construction and development firm; chief of staff to executive vice president, Warner Music Group; frequent guest, CNN, HLN and Fox 5; blogger, “Mo Knows.”

The Social Innovator:
Jinean Robinson, C’2000
Creative Director and Social Entrepreneur

Armed with a passport, her trusty MacBook Pro and @rockitwithjbird Twitter account, Jinean Robinson is a leading authority on design for social innovation. She travels the globe working with corporate entities, celebrities and non-profits to bridge the gap between causes, brands and community.

“Leadership is the ability to leave people and life better than when you first encountered them,” she says. “In addition to allowing people to be wowed by their own greatness, true leadership is less about me than it is about others, and society as a whole.”

After nearly being killed in a 2008 car accident, Ms. Robinson has devoted herself to empowering people to make the world better. “In the past, sometimes there was an ‘us’ and ‘them’ leadership approach which caused divisiveness,” she says. “I see this a lot as I
work with at-risk girls and women that have been exploited and it makes me mad. The very instant you don’t see yourself in the people you’re serving is the same moment your ability to truly make a difference diminishes.”

Career Highlights: Creative director and art director/designer for several Fortune 100 brands and leading advertising agencies; developed national campaign against teen dating violence; galvanized Atlanta community and media to catch a violent rapist; co-founded TwitChange, the world’s first celebrity Twitter auction, raising more than a million dollars in 10 months for victims of the 2010 Haiti earthquake; won Mashable Award for Best Social Good Campaign; launched Remedy, a smoothie, juice and bread company that provides at-risk girls and survivors of human trafficking with leadership, entrepreneurship and career opportunities.

With all the challenges in the country and the world, “I think our community needs the kind of leaders who will challenge us, instead of letting us rest on our laurels,” Ms. Ward opines. “I want my legacy to be that I was a woman who was truly passionate about whatever I did. I’m going to give 100 percent, and I want to influence other people to do their best.”

Career Highlights: Nightcrawler instructor, Zoo Atlanta; biology instructor, Yeshiva Atlanta High School.

The Biochemist: Audra Brown Ward, C’91
Chair, Science Department and Director of Diversity, Marist School

“Whatever environment I find myself in, I tend to emerge as a leader, even when I’m not intending to,” says Audra Brown Ward, who is also fulfilling her childhood dream by teaching AP biology, anatomy and physiology at the Marist School, an independent private Roman Catholic college preparatory school in an Atlanta suburb.

She aspires to model the substance and style of Dr. Lisa B. Hibbard, associate chemistry professor at Spelman. “People look at the outside and I look well put together but they don’t always see how fast I’m paddling under the water,” she says. “I do work hard to keep it together.”

The Political Scientist: Kiron K. Skinner, C’81
W. Glenn Campbell Research Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University
Founding Director, Center for International Relations and Politics; Director, Institute for Strategic Analysis; and University Advisor on National Security Policy, Carnegie Mellon University

Kiron K. Skinner is a heavy hitter in international relations and politics, with prestigious academic posts at two leading universities on different coasts, bestselling books on what some might consider a surprising topic for an African-American author, and an impassioned commitment to smashing stereotypes and opening minds.
A self-described “conservative,” she prizes independent thought and says she doesn’t vote strictly along party lines. Leadership, for her, is closely tied to power in governance. “I’m really involved in trying to help shape the attention and conversation in the American political scene…. I always like to work in many venues at one time,” she says, noting that her research is the common thread that ties everything together.

The central component of leadership, she says, is “Living and meaning what you say. Having a moral compass that others see you put into action.” Her formula for achievement is to “keep moving and keep doing what is interesting, and being prepared when opportunities come. I am fairly assertive about being in the arena where Black women hadn’t traditionally been.”

One of her driving passions is to get African Americans deeply involved in all aspects of American politics. “We need to be everywhere, in all parts of the conversations, on all types of issues,” she says. “It’s vital for the future because to be hijacked with one party or point of view is to lose.”

Career Highlights: She has written or co-written seven books, five on President Ronald Reagan, two of which were New York Times bestsellers.

The Education Reformer:
Ursula L. Wright, C’95
Associate Assistant Deputy Secretary of Education,
U.S. Department of Education

America needs multiple approaches to improving “a very dated model” to stay competitive, says Ursula L. Wright. While admitting that her professional journey is not what most would consider linear, she values the rewards of her diverse choices. “When you have strong generalist skill sets and you’re open to opportunities, unexpected doors will open for you,” she says. “My path has been nontraditional in many respects because I have intentionally focused on developing multiple competencies.”

The Spelman factor was key. “You got to see images of yourself in many women on campus, and those who came to lecture who were doing great things. That became a positive projection. There was no need to put false limitations in your own mind, because you saw other women of color able to do and achieve very significant things.”

Leadership today requires new flexibility and awareness, she says. “As our society becomes more networked and multidimensional, it’s important to understand the value of distributed leadership and servant leadership. It’s important to have leaders who are willing to take risks, to share their lessons learned and to be much more intentional about sharing their missteps as well as their successes with those coming up behind them, and to be intentionally working to groom the next cadre of leaders who will help service society in different ways.”

Career Highlights: MBA, Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management; National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (senior advisor, COO, interim CEO, CFO); various leadership positions in publicly traded and private companies.

“As our society becomes more networked and multidimensional, it’s important to understand the value of distributed leadership and servant leadership.” — URSULA L. WRIGHT, C’95
The Social Justice Advocate:  
Angela Boudreaux-Copeland, C’2009  
Director and Teacher, Living Water Learning Resource Center

Opportunity has played a role in Angela Boudreaux-Copeland’s development as a leader. “I think every being has the potential to succeed, lead and thrive,” she says. “I don’t think any human being is greater than another, but I think that I was blessed to have been given great mentors, great role models, a great education and access to Spelman. There are a lot of brilliant women of African descent who may be a million times smarter than I, but they might not have had an opportunity to attend Spelman and meet the women who changed my life here.”

Though only 26, Ms. Boudreaux-Copeland says “my life has already gone in circle after circle,” bringing her back to Spelman. Fittingly, she views leadership as synonymous with service. “An effective leader is one who recognizes that their most important contribution is their service and recognizes the beauty of all humanity; one who seeks to truly work with others, not necessarily on behalf of others,” she adds.

Her position is teaching her how many social justice issues are connected. “You can’t talk about education as an issue without talking about poverty, hunger, violence, as issues. So many things are connected and we’ll be more effective if we don’t isolate ourselves into narrow boxes, but appreciate and respect all people.”

She sees the need for “leaders who understand the historical context of where we are as a human race, making sure that we recognize those who have come before us, what has happened before us,” she says. “I think that new folks sometimes want to reinvent the wheel. We have a lot of great leaders – society needs those who are willing to build upon the momentum and sacrifices that have been made.”

Career Highlights: Elementary and middle school teacher, Teach for America; Social Justice Fellow Program Coordinator, Spelman College.

The Community Transformer:  
Melodie Echols, C’91  
Director, Norwood Resource Center

Melodie Echols believes in staying open to opportunity and seeking divine guidance when faced with challenges, which is how she ended up heading the nonprofit Norwood Resource Center created to save the historic Birmingham, Ala., neighborhood in which she purchased a home. With the population of Norwood and Birmingham dwindling, she works to make hers a model neighborhood and spur growth and revitalization throughout her hometown.

Ms. Echols and her team are working to have Norwood designated as an historic neighborhood, counter the lack of healthy food with the Norwood Learning Gardens and a farmer’s market that provide entrepreneurial opportunities and teach math and science enrichment to neighborhood children. The Center also offers an array of resources and services to help improve conditions for residents of all ages. “I want to be a catalyst,” she says, “to really improve the quality of life, to make Norwood and ultimately Birmingham healthy, sustainable places to live, “so people will move back.”

She favors a collaborative model of leadership where people work together, and sees a bright future for 21st century leadership at her alma mater. “Spelman women are doing so many different things in the world that our spheres of influence have expanded,” she says. “Spelman women are branching out in all areas, and they’re prepared for diverse opportunities. I think that’s what the Spelman experience does – it prepares women for opportunities to lead and to serve.”

Career Highlights: Held positions in healthcare network and provider management, training and implementation, and fundraising campaign management in the nonprofit sector; worked to provide eye care for the indigent.
Consistent Alumnae Commitment Supports Spelman Students

For many Spelman alumnae, commitment is synonymous with consistency. Of the 5,728 alumnae who made gifts in fiscal year 2013, 2,128 have made contributions to the College for at least five years consecutively. Exemplifying Spelman’s “Every Woman...Every Year!” initiative, these generous alumnae help their sisters follow in their footsteps. Those contributing regular annual gifts to the College have been at the foundation of The Campaign for Spelman College, which is in its final stages. Three consistent donors share why their financial commitment to Spelman matters.

As an alumna of Spelman and the mother of a recent graduate, I understand what it takes to successfully get through Spelman academically and financially. Balancing academics while working four years was challenging for me and I doubt that students find it any easier today. I would rather see young women focus more on collegiate life than fret about financial difficulty. Because of the generosity of women before me, I have realized some of my dreams. For this reason, establishing a scholarship has been one of the most rewarding decisions I have ever made. I remain committed for life to the legacy of Spelman. After all, Spelman is our school and we should help take care of her.

— DR. LAURENA MOORE POWELL, C’82

I am from a rural Georgia community and have been privileged to study and train at some of the best schools in the nation, including Spelman. I recall being at the end of my first graduate semester and running out of money. I had worked hard and made excellent grades, but would not be able to return for another semester until my balance was paid in full. I benefitted from a new scholarship created for a deserving student that paid the complete cost of my matriculation. It is an honor and my duty to my alma mater, to African-American women and to life to generously support the aspirations of someone who is trying to move forward. For me, giving back consistently to support someone else is the only commensurate expression of gratitude for all that has been made available to me.

—ZANDRETTA TIMS-COOK, C’92

Despite the national economic downturn and revised loan policies that make it difficult to afford a superior education, Spelman continues to educate the best and the brightest students and prepare them to be leaders who excel within this ever-changing global society. I am well aware that prospective students have options and are being wooed by other stellar institutions. Like so many other alumnae, I want Spelman to be a model for 21st century education that is both irresistible and affordable. For that reason, I have made the deliberate decision to consistently give both human and financial resources.

— ANDREA BARNWELL BROWNLEE, C’93

**Action By the Goals**

**Global Engagement** – In 2012–2013, 279 Spelman students travelled to 29 countries.

**Opportunities for Undergraduate Research** – The College received a $217,500 grant from the Clare Luce Booth Program for students to participate in STEM research.

**Alumnae Connections** – The Sister 2 Sister Alumnae Student Connection Program added communications / marketing / media / public relations to the existing professional mentoring disciplines.

**Leadership Development** – The Carnegie Corporation of New York’s 2013 Academic Leadership Award celebrates the leadership of President Beverly Daniel Tatum and provides financial support for computer science and the President’s Safety Net Fund.

**Service Learning** – This past year, 10 Spelman UPS Community Service Scholars each completed 300 volunteer hours at Fickett Elementary School.

For more information about The Campaign for Spelman College, please visit www.changemeansaction.com or contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at (866) 512-1690.
Supporting STEM: New Grant Offers Research and Internship Opportunities in Science

The disproportionately lower numbers of women to men in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines has been a long-standing national and global problem. Despite the increase in college enrollment where women embody the majority of the student population, “women earn fewer degrees in mathematics and science than do men,” said Carmen K. Sidbury, Ph.D., associate provost for research. “The largest discrepancies are in the fields of mathematics, engineering, chemistry and physics.”

With the recently awarded $217,500 grant from The Henry Luce Foundation, Spelman is poised to advance its STEM programs and support national efforts to increase the number of African-American women computer scientists and engineers.

The College has a strong record of educating African-American women in STEM disciplines. On average, over the past five years, 34 percent of the Spelman’s student body pursued majors in biology, chemistry, mathematics, computer science, physics, environmental science or the dual degree engineering program.

In alignment with the College’s strategic plan, this grant will establish The Clare Boothe Luce Research Scholars Program at Spelman College, providing undergraduate research opportunities, direct faculty mentoring, and leadership development to eight sophomore students majoring in computer science and engineering. The program, scheduled to launch in the fall of 2014, will also give financial support to students via a stipend.

Providing opportunities early is critical. “Research experiences in the first two years increase retention of students in STEM majors and improve students’ attitudes toward STEM fields,” said Dr. Sidbury. Yolanda A. Rankin, Ph.D., instructor of computer & information sciences agrees. “This particular grant will help us fund students to get ‘hands on’ experience doing research,” she said, adding that this type of exposure is likely to ignite interest while encouraging students to consider and prepare for graduate school more aggressively.

Expanded thought processes through these types of experiences are important for student success. “Spelman is creating a framework of high impact practices that provide students with essential experiences to ensure key competencies — critical thinking, effective communication, and quantitative reasoning,” said Dr. Sidbury.

The outcomes are validating. “When our students finish,” Dr. Rankin added, “they are well prepared to compete in the global market and have the skill set that employers are looking for.”
Coca-Cola Helps Students Go the Last Mile

In August 2013, The Coca-Cola Foundation made a $1 million gift to Spelman College to provide Coca-Cola Last Mile Scholarships. These awards are given to juniors or seniors who have demonstrated academic achievement and a financial need that would prohibit them from completing their degree. The generous gift was a response to new underwriting standards for the PLUS Loan, the federal lending program for parents and graduate students, which have made requirements more stringent and appear to have caused a spike in denials, including some to parents who had been able to take out the loans in previous years. According to a recent article in Inside Higher Ed, families of historically Black colleges and universities are being disproportionately affected by these new guidelines. Ever the community champion, The Coca-Cola Foundation grant has invested in the future of Spelman women and their capacity to change the world.

The Woodruff Foundation Supports Spelman’s Wellness Revolution

The first significant step in Spelman’s Wellness Revolution is the reinvention of the College’s existing fitness facility, Read Hall. Funding for the $18 million project is secure, including a $3 million recent gift from The Robert W. Woodruff Foundation. Originally constructed in 1950 when the student population numbered only 500, the new Read Hall will be a state-of-the-art 55,224 square foot facility (increased from the existing 37,988 square feet) that will serve all 2,100 students and achieve at least a LEED Silver certification. The new facility will focus on items such as multipurpose spaces for yoga, Pilates and cycling, a raised indoor track and a fitness area that will be nearly five times its current size. There will also be a demonstration kitchen to teach the importance of nutrition alongside physical activity. The College anticipates breaking ground in spring 2014 and plans to re-open the new facility in fall 2015.
Giving Opportunity: Planned Gifts

Making a planned gift to Spelman gives you an opportunity to increase your commitment to your beloved alma mater without impacting your current cash flow or financial obligations. With a bequest, you can name Spelman as the beneficiary of your assets by will, trust or other instrument, and continue to advance the mission you have supported throughout your lifetime. For more information about bequests and other planned giving vehicles, please visit http://spelmanlegacy.org or contact Michelle Harris, C’2002, at (404) 270-5037 or mharris2@spelman.edu.

Goal by Priority

Total Raised: $147 Million

Scholarships
Total Raised: $51 Million
Faculty and Academic Programs
Total Raised: $42 Million
Campus Environment
Total Raised: $27 Million
Annual Fund
Total Raised: $27 Million

Data as of November 30, 2013
1935
Marguerite F. Simon
Personal: Celebrated her 101st birthday, Oct 31, 2013, in Atlanta. Miss Simon served as a long-time instructor in health and physical education at Spelman and as keeper of the College history and traditions.

1951
Mildred Penson
Professional: Honored by the Women’s Council of Greater Baton Rouge at its Silver Magnolia Tea on May 10, 2013, at the Governor’s Mansion.

1960
June Gary Hopp
Professional: Named an NASW Social Work Pioneer by the National Association of Social Workers and was inducted in the NASW Social Work Pioneer Program on October 26, 2013, in Washington, D.C.

1961
Anne Ruth Borders-Patterson
Personal: Featured in an article on HLN in August 2013 about her involvement in the March on Washington 50 years ago.

1962
Barbara Adams

Mary Worthy

1965
Alice Walker
Professional: Participated in a post-screening talkback on November 6, 2013, at Georgia Tech’s Ferst Center in Atlanta, after the screening of Alice Walker: Beauty in Truth, a film focusing on Walker’s life and upbringing during the years of social change, her political activism and her artistic legacy. The event was co-sponsored by Spelman College.

1971
Tina McElroy Ansa
Professional: Held the Sea Island Writers Retreat at Spelman College on October 19–20, 2013. The event is a special two-day, four-session workshop for writers with works in progress who write fiction, nonfiction and memoirs.

Gloria Smith Elder
Professional: Featured storyteller during the National Black Arts Festival Family Book Fair on July 27 as a part of their 25th Anniversary. Elder is the deputy director of training, co-developer and project director of the Pre-School Stress Relief project, and author of the ParentWise Parenting Program at the Wholistic Stress Institute, Inc. where she has worked for 25 years.

1976
Evelynn Maxine Hammonds

Marilyn Joseph
Professional: Appointed vice president, community relations and corporate outreach programs for Panasonic Corporation of North America on June 17, 2013.

1977
Connie Boswell Robinson
Professional: Launched Guiding God’s Property, an Historically Black College & University bus tour company for girls.

1979
Pamela Gary Hassan

1982
Michelle L. Matthews
Professional: Began hosting an Internet radio show called “Growth Matters,” Friday, August 23, 2013. The show airs every Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

1984
Stephanie Hughes
Professional: Spoke at TEDxColumbus. Her video, “Out of the Valley,” was posted on YouTube on October 25, 2013.

1986
Lisa Cook

1987
Kelly Woolfork
Education: Accepted to Berkeley Law’s LLM in International Law program. She is the only African American in the class of 147 students and one of fewer than 10 U.S. students in the program.

1989
Heather Lynn Hawes
Professional: Featured in Event Solutions online magazine recognizing her win as Organizational Professional of the Year at the 2013 Spotlight Awards.

Monica McCoy Purdy
Professional: Sworn in as state civil district associate judge for Dallas County on May 28, 2013.

1990
Paulette Burton
Professional: Assumed her current duties as staff judge advocate, United States Army Criminal Investigation Command, on July 13, 2013.

1991
Kristine Trigg

D’Angela Procter Steed
Professional: Named SVP of programming and production by TV One in September 2013. In this role she provides strategic direction of all original programming and oversees all development and current production for TV One.
1992
Jodie Patterson
*Professional: Featured in the article “Behind the Brush with Jodie Patterson” in the Style/Beauty section of Ebony.com on April 10, 2013.*

Sonia Houston Pichardo
*Professional: Appointed CEO and program director of CompuChild of Bronx, New York on September 16, 2013.*

1993
Shauna Bain-Smith
*Professional: Served as event producer for “House of Flowers,” an event which honored living legend Diahann Carroll and Cheryl Boone Isaacs, the first African-American president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, in the home of film and TV producer Tracey Edmonds. The event took place October 18, 2013.*

Natalie Jenkins Sorrell
*Professional: Recognized by Dallas Big Influence. Big Influence was created to recognize the innovative and influential Dallasites who are up-and-coming leaders in the community, in their businesses and in their fields.*

1994
Daphne Melinda Walker
*Professional: Named president and CEO by Partnership Against Domestic Violence (PADV), the largest nonprofit domestic violence organization in Georgia. She began her position September 9, 2013.*

Nichol T. Whiteman
*Professional: Named executive director of the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation on September 16, 2013. She will lead the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation’s new focus on three community pillars – sports and recreation, education and literacy, and health and wellness.*

1996
Alicia Ferriabough Taylor
*Professional: Designed the bag for the 100th anniversary of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in 2013. She is the founder and designer of Sukari Handbags and Accessories.*

Lashonda Council Rogers
*Professional: Named as a member of the 2013 class of National Bar Association’s 40 Lawyers Under 40 at the National Annual Bar Association Convention in Miami, Florida, during the weekend of July 27, 2013."

Spelman Trustee Celeste Michele Watkins-Hayes, C’96, chair of the African American studies department and associate professor of African American studies and sociology at Northwestern University Institute for Policy Research, was the inaugural recipient of the Jacquelyn Johnson Jackson Early Career Award in August 2013. She received the award from the Association of Black Sociologists during its annual conference. Watkins-Hayes was also featured in the article, “Sustaining the Feminist Movement: Generations of Women Donors Are Building Lasting Change,” in Ms. magazine’s Fall 2013 issue.

Robin Sheppard, C’98, with her husband, Wilson, competed as the Yellow Team in NBC’s Summer 2013 show, “Get Out Alive with Bear Grylls.” The show, hosted by adventurer Bear Grylls, is a reality competition series that tests the ability of 10 teams of two to survive the wild in New Zealand’s South Island, to journey as a group and to avoid elimination – for a grand prize of $500,000. Sheppard lost nearly 100 pounds to meet the physical demands of the show, which began airing on June 8, 2013.

Singer Avery Sunshine (Denise White, C’98) was featured in the article, “Avery Sunshine: Singer-Keyboardist Radiates with a Presence as Warm as Her Name,” in the August 22, 2013, issue of Rolling Out Magazine. The piece highlights her musical career and sets the stage for her highly anticipated sophomore album.
Several Spelman women were named in Rolling Out Magazine’s 8th Annual Female Success Factor’s Top 25 Women of Atlanta for 2013. Saptoa Foster, C’98, Bernice King, C’85, and Stacey Abrams, C’95, received the nod to leading local visionaries, civic and cultural icons, entrepreneurs and corporate executives.

An awards dinner was held at Twelve Atlantic Station in Atlanta on October 10, 2013. Abrams was also honored at the 23rd Annual Georgia Women’s Assembly for Legislator of the Year on Women’s Issues. The event, held by Georgia Women for a Change, took place at The Loudermilk Center in Atlanta on October 18, 2013. Cynthia Neal Spence, C’78, is the chair of the Executive Committee for the organization.

The Children’s Defense Fund, a life-changing children’s advocacy organization founded and led by Marian Wright Edelman, C’60, celebrated 40 years of service in September 2013. The 40th anniversary celebration, “Champions Changing the Odds for Children,” was held on Monday, September 30, 2013, at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. At the event, Former First Lady, Secretary of State and CDF alumna Hillary Rodham Clinton was honored for her longstanding involvement in and commitment to the CDF and child advocacy. In Clinton’s remarks, she praised Edelman and her invaluable work, “I am one of the many people whose life was changed by Marian, and I was very lucky that I tracked her down one day when she was at the law school we both attended and asked her if I could have a job.”

In November, Edelman was honored with the Social Humanitarian Award at Black Girls Rock!, the nonprofit’s signature event that highlights the accomplishments of exceptional women of color who have made outstanding contributions in their careers, and who stand as inspirational and positive role models in their communities. The show aired on BET.

On August 28, 2013, Christine King Farris, C’48, spoke at the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington events celebrating her brother, Martin Luther King, Jr.’s iconic “I Have a Dream” speech. Our country paused to commemorate the historic event as President Obama delivered his remarks at the exact hour King gave his original speech in 1963. Bernice King, C’85, and Marian Wright Edelman, C’60, were among several distinguished speakers who addressed the crowds. The event received global television, print and online media coverage.

Dr. Maxine Hayes, C’68, Washington state health officer, received the first Diversity Leadership Award at the Diversity Summit in October 2013. The award was presented by Secretary Wiesman and will be named the Maxine Hayes Diversity Leadership Legacy Award, moving forward. After more than 25 years of state service and 16 years as the state’s top physician, Hayes retired from the state’s department of health on Dec. 31, 2013.

2000
Tai Beauchamp
Professional: Named in the article “Five Women Who Inspire Us on Social Media” by Essence magazine.

Jinean A. Robinson
Professional: In April 2013, Jinean Robinson launched Remedy, a mobile food company focused on using local ingredients and rebuilding lives of Atlanta’s at-risk girls and women survivors of exploitation.

2001
Whitney G. Benta
Professional: Joined the new multi-platform television channel founded by Sean Combs, Revolt TV, as senior vice president of music and talent on October 1, 2013.

JaDawnya Butler
Professional: Named as a member of the 2013 Class of the National Bar Association’s 40 Lawyers Under 40 at the Annual National Bar Association Convention in Miami, Florida during the weekend of July 27, 2013.

Precious Wilson
Professional: Won Black Enterprise’s Elevator Pitch contest as CEO and creator of Curvy Girlz Lingerie, LLC, in May of 2013.

2002
Malaika Billups
Professional: Named as a member of the 2013 Class of the National Bar Association’s 40 Lawyers Under 40 at the Annual National Bar Association Convention in Miami, Florida, during the weekend of July 27, 2013.

Alyson Dorsey
Birth: Daughter Claudia Elizabeth Dorsey, born on December 16, 2013. She weighed 7 lbs. 6oz. and was 19 ½ inches long.

Cherie P. O’Reilly
Birth: Son Colin Paul O’Reilly, born on November 2. He weighed 6 lbs. 3oz. and was 20 inches long.

Mari-Yan L. Pringle
Professional: Led “TRUTH” cast in its NYC premiere, which won a coveted spot in The New York City International Fringe Festival.

2002
Asha Daniels
Professional: Promoted to director of global marketing for Michael Kors beauty. She develops global brand strategy and development for all beauty categories under the Michael Kors portfolio.
2003
Makeba G. Dixon-Hill

Lynnette D. Easy-Williams
Professional: Named as a member of the 2013 Class of the National Bar Association’s 40 Lawyers Under 40 at the Annual National Bar Association Convention in Miami, Florida, during the weekend of July 27, 2013. She is also a member of LEAD Atlanta, the Young Lawyer’s Division of the State Bar of Georgia’s Leadership Academy, and the New Leaders Council.

Aemuro G. Lake
Professional: Finished her residency program at the University of Massachusetts Medical School department of obstetrics & gynecology in June 2012. She is currently in the Female Pelvic Medicine & Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship Program at Yale University School of Medicine.

Nathalie D. Means

Sherekia Newton
Professional: Spoke at the 2013 Homecoming Closing Worship Service in Sisters Chapel at Spelman College on October 27, 2013.

2004
Kristen N. Hodge-Clark
Professional: Accepted a position as AGB’s director of research, starting August 26, 2013. She previously worked as a policy analyst at AASU and worked at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Lashonda Council Rogers
Professional: Named as a member of the 2013 Class of the National Bar Association’s 40 Lawyers Under 40 at the Annual National Bar Association Convention in Miami, Florida, during the weekend of July 27, 2013.

2005
Tsedey A. Bogale
Education: Earned a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in May 2013. She started working as an associate at Reed Smith LLP in Philadelphia the following fall.

Jana J. Edmondson-Cooper
Professional: Appointed to fill a State Bar of Georgia member vacancy on the Georgia Commission on Interpreters for a five-year period.

Ashley D. Farmer

Jade Martin
Professional: Passed the PMP (Project Management Professional) exam in the summer of 2013.

Marissa S. McCall
Professional: Received the 2012 State Bar of Georgia, Younger Lawyer Division’s Commitment to Justice Award on June 20, 2012, at the State Bar Building.

2006
Ayana B. Lewis
Education: Earned a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in May 2012. She is an associate at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP in Philadelphia.

Sarah E. Thompson

2007
Anishah R. Hassan

Eniola Mafe
Professional: Named one of this year’s 99 most influential foreign policy leaders under the age of 33 by the Africa program manager at Vita Voices Global Partnership, a Washington D.C.-based international nonprofit. She also manages the Africa Business Women’s Network.

Kristilyn Whigham

Actress Latanya Richardson Jackson, C’71, was honored at the 2013 Women Superstars Luncheon on November 8, 2013, at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in Atlanta. The event, presented by The Coca-Cola Company, was a part of the BronzeLens Film Festival and recognizes the accomplishments of women of color in the television and film industry. Other honorees include Issa Rae, Anna Maria Horsford, Tonya Lee Lewis, Ingrid Saunders Jones, Mahira Kakkar and The Benning Family.

Jackson also recently starred in the Hallmark Movie Channel’s original movie “The Watsons Go to Birmingham.” She played Grandma Sands in the film that aired September 20, 2013.

Kristie and Kirstie Bronner, C’2013, were featured in Essence Magazine’s “Our Shining Moments 2013,” article in the December 2013 issue. The twins were recognized in the Activation in Education section for earning co-valedictorian honors at Spelman.

The sisters held a youth conference July 25–27, 2013, at Word of Faith Family Worship Cathedral in Austell, Georgia. Tye Tribbett opened the conference in concert and P4CM’s Ezekiel and Janette were the featured spoken word artists. This event included classes, panel discussions and ministry through various art forms. The conference was designed for high school and college youth. It was the third annual youth conference that Kristie and Kirstie have planned. Last year they hosted over 700 students, and this year they are expecting more than 1000.

They also spoke about achieving academic excellence at the Back to School Bootcamp 2013 on August 2, in Atlanta.
Lauren Wesley Wilson, C’2007, was named in PR Week magazine’s Prestigious 40 Under 40 list in the August 2013 issue. Wilson is a communications strategist and account supervisor at MSLGroup in Washington, D.C., and founder and chief networking officer of ColorComm. She is the youngest PR professional to receive this year’s honor.

In September 2013, Successful Meetings named Kathleen Jackson Bertrand, C’73, senior vice president of community and governmental affairs for Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau, among “The 25 Most Influential People in the Meetings Industry in 2013.” She was also featured in the November 15–21, 2013 edition of The Atlanta Voice in the article “Atlanta’s BronzeLens Film Festival Awards Coveted Top Honors.” She is the founder and executive producer of the BronzeLens Film Festival.

Roslyn Pope, C’60, and several members of the Class of 1964 were honored through proclamation by the Atlanta City Council on October 21, 2013 in council chambers for their participation in the Atlanta Student Movement as documented in the film “Foot Soldiers: Class of 1964” by Dr. Gergianne Thomas, C’64 (also honored) and Rev. Alvelyn Sanders. Dr. Pope along with other college students formulated “An Appeal for Human Rights,” which was published in March 1960 and was instrumental in changing Atlanta. This proclamation was initiated by Michael Julian Bond, Atlanta City Councilman. Other honorees include Gloria Knowles Bell, Lois Turner Dunlap, Dorothy Jenkins Fields, Sadye Beasley Gray, Marcelite Jordan Harris, Janice Craig Hartsfield, Ida McCree Hilliard, Edwina Palmer Hunter, Malinda Clark Logan, Deborah Dorsey Mitchell, Delores Young Strawbridge, Billie Pitts Williams and Valjean Elizabeth Williams.

On, September 25, 2013, President Obama announced appointments to several key administration posts including Marcelite Jordan Harris, C’64, as a member of the Board of Visitors to the United States Air Force Academy. She retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1997 as the highest-ranking female officer in the Air Force and the Nation’s highest-ranking African American woman in the Department of Defense.

Several Spelman sisters were selected as 2013 Honorees for the Atlanta Daily World’s Women of Excellence Awards held on June 20, 2013, in Atlanta. The recipients include J. Veronica Biggins, C’68, Kathleen Jackson Bertrand, C’73, Bernice King, C’85, Tanya M. Coleman, C’72, and Stacey Abrams, C’95.
2008
Adrienne Sheares
Professional: Developed Urban Delivery mobile application for the Washington area, launched in June 2013. The application allows users to request carriable items for pickup or purchase and then have them delivered. Sheares was featured in the article, “Urban Delivery Founders Navigate Tech Scene with Bike Courier App,” on June 4, 2013, in BlackEnterprise.com.

Tiffany A. Thomas
Professional: Spoke at the Homecoming Opening Worship Service in Sisters Chapel at Spelman College on October 20, 2013.

2009
Miriam L. Archibong
Professional: Interned at the White House in the Office of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs and began her first year at Penn law school.

Littane Bien-Aime
Professional: Named the new economic officer for the United States Mission to the African Union (USAU). She joins a group of highly talented Foreign Services officers representing U.S. policies on the African continent, working with the African Union, the 54-member-nation continental body that addresses political affairs, peace and security, health, education, trade and investment, growth and opportunity and issues of continental integration related to free-trade agreements and cross-border trade. Littane also works closely with our multilateral International Affairs Officers representing U.S. interest at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

Ginene A. Lewis
Education: Earned a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in May 2012. She is a law clerk to the honorable Patrice Tucker of the Federal District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and she was honored as one of the Ten to Watch by On Being a Black Lawyer 2013 Power 100 List of the most influential Black attorneys in the country. After her clerkship, she will start as an associate at Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP in Philadelphia.

Tenaea A. Thomas
Education: Received a master’s degree in human resources from University of Maryland University College during spring 2013.

2010
Jaimee Ratliff
Professional: Joined Kimberly Public Affairs as a PR consultant on August 8, 2013. Her role includes project management, copy writing, media relations, social media and opinion research.

Topaz Antoinette Sampson
Professional: Selected as 2013–2014 president-elect of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA), the oldest and largest student-run organization that focuses on the needs and concerns of medical students of color, at Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine. Sampson served as the webmaster of the Wright State chapter of the SNMA and as the SNMA Region V webmaster.

2011
Lauren A. Anderson
Professional: Featured in the article, “I Choose Memphis,” on July 29, 2013. “I Choose Memphis” is a bi-weekly series that spotlights Memphians who are passionate about calling their community home. Anderson was accepted to Teach For America as a 2011 Corps Member. Upon completion of her two-year commitment, she was accepted to be a staff member as associate of development.

Ashley D. Jordan

2012
Elizabeth Pollard
Professional: Minister Elizabeth Pollard spoke at the Worship Service in Sisters Chapel on September 8, 2013.

2013
Adrianna K. Mitchell
Professional: Participated in SLAM at the BronzeLens Film Festival, November 8, 2013.

Take Note!
Fleda Mask Jackson, C’73, wrote a white paper, “Race, Stress and Social Support,” for the joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. The paper was included as an artifact in the exhibit Health Is a Human Right: Race and Place in America. Organized around the social determinants of health and spanning the 20th and 21st centuries, Health Is a Human Right opened on September 28th as part of the Smithsonian magazine’s Museum Day Live.

Littane Bien-Aime

Spelman Board of Trustees member and community advocate Lovette Twyman Russell, C’83, was the recipient of the 2013 Community Service Award sponsored by WXIA 11Alive News in Atlanta. Russell was honored for her dedication and commitment as an advocate to children’s causes at the event on April 23, 2013.

Subriana M. Pierce, C’88, was named one of the Top Women in Grocery by Progressive Grocer Magazine. The prestigious list includes 235 award winners featured in the leading supermarket industry trade publication’s June 2013 issue. Now in its seventh year, PG’s Top Women in Grocery awards program recognizes the integral role women play across all areas of the dynamic retail food industry within the retailer and supplier communities in three sectors: Senior-Level Executives, Rising Stars and Store Managers.
Colleen Janessa Taylor, C’90, was named one of the “Most Powerful Women in Banking” by American Banker, securing her spot as one of the “25 Women to Watch.” She is the executive vice president, head of Treasury Management, Capitol One Financial, vice chair of NACHA, the electronic payments association, and on the board of The Clearing House Payments Company.

Janinah K. Burnett, C’2000, performed for Oprah Winfrey and recently sang a lead role in Spike Lee’s “Red Hook Summer.” She played as Leila in Opera Carolina’s production of The Pearl Fishers. She performed recently at the Delta Cotillion, and for a reception at Dr. Ron Carter’s Smith House. Burnett’s current standing is as a soprano for the Metropolitan Opera. She was also named Artist of the Year 2011 at Syracuse Opera.

On August 4th, 2013, Antonia D. Gore, C’2013, Miss Georgia Beautiful 2013, captured the title of Miss International Beautiful 2013 in Hollywood, Florida. She was accepted into the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Post Baccalaureate Program at Drexel University College of Medicine where she takes graduate and medical school-level courses along with the MCAT prep in order to attend medical school next fall.

Malika Redmond, C’2002, was named as one of the first leaders for the Arcus LGBT Leadership Initiative (ALLI) in September 2013. The initiative is aimed at supporting the United States-based leaders of the LGBT movement and includes a range of professional experiences and backgrounds. ALLI will provide a suite of resources to support the group’s ability to reach out to key partners, build effective alliances and develop their professional expertise. Redmond is the executive director of SPARK, a statewide community-based-and-centered reproductive justice organization based in Atlanta.

Reisha L. Raney, C’95, was featured in the Washington Post article “Daughter’s Family Pride” in the June 30, 2013, issue. The article shares Raney’s unique family history including her ties to Thomas Jefferson and her involvement in the Daughters of the American Revolution, a predominantly white organization. The piece also ran in The Japan Times.

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Laurie A. Cumbo, C’97, was elected as the next New York City Council Member for the 35th Council District in Brooklyn in September 2013. She secured her seat with 35.4 percent of the vote. Cumbo is responsible for expanding and developing arts and cultural tourism in the 35th district and making better use of public spaces. She is the founder and executive director of the Museum of Contemporary African Diaspora Arts.

On Nov. 7, 2013, Tomika DePriest, C’89, executive director, Spelman College Office of Communications and Terrilyn Simmons, integrated communications manager, Spelman College Office of Communications accepted the Public Relations Society of America/Georgia Chapter Phoenix Award for Integrated Communications-Associations/Government/Nonprofits and the Best of Phoenix Award for having the highest-scoring entry. Both awards were for the communications campaign in support of Spelman’s Wellness Revolution.
Through Our Open Window: A Great View

Excerpts from 2013 Reunion Convocation
Rev. Shareka Newton, C’2003

It was through my open window in Packard Hall in the fall of 1999 that I could hear the drums playing from the parting ceremony.

It was through my open window that I could hear our student orientation leaders singing Spelman songs and welcoming us home to a place we did not yet know. I had already parted with my parents and was in my room uncharacteristically crying after an unexpected and sudden goodbye when the drums stopped.

Sounds of laughter and screaming that I heard through my open window invited me to go play outside on the Oval. It was through that same window that I was lured away from studying by the music of Market Friday throughout the year.

Our open windows allowed us to feel the energy and spirit of our amazing school forcing its way into every nook and cranny of campus.

Likewise in 1 Kings 6:4 we get a description of the construction of the first temple built in Jerusalem that was designed to allow the energy and spirit of God to permeate the entire temple and community.

Verse four tells us that Solomon made narrow clerestory windows in the temple. Clerestory windows are windows that are high above eye level. The purpose of a clerestory window is to bring outside light and fresh air into an inner space.

Today, I stopped by to remind a few of my sisters who may have lost their ‘swag’ somewhere along life’s journey that you are a clerestory window. You, like these windows, have been crafted and designed for a specific purpose. You are a clerestory window designed to bring light into inner spaces.

My Spelman sisters, the lights that we are expected to allow to shine into inner dark spaces are to be beacons of heavenly light undaunted by the fight. I’m talking about the kind of energy, joy, strength and composure that allow us to walk into any arena and challenge interlocking systems of oppression. I’m talking about the kind of light that shines bright enough to guide a sister or brother back to their light when they’ve lost their way.

Light illumines things, making them visible and clearer. Likewise, our goal in every setting we enter as Spelman women ought to be to introduce a level of insight that brings clarity.

Rev. Shareka Newton
Through Our Open Window
Through Our Open Window
The Golden Girl Class of 1963

Venecia Gardner Anderson
Barbara Jean Andrews
Ann Ashmore-Hudson
Cecile G. Baird
Barbara Oden Battle
Ernestine Walton Braswell
Barbara Ann Brown
Hendrietta S. Brown
Jeanette Taylor Carter
Barbara A.P. Chandler
Millicent Pouder Clark
Shirley Hill Cole
Louise Jackson Davernport
Elaine Knight Davis
Dennie Pickett Dixon
Betty J. Durrath
Charlotte E. Ellis
Arla Bel. Evans
Catherine Ferguson
Cindyelyn Nes Foster
Marie Thomas Fester
Elana Twyman Gehr
Mignon Vance Geiger
Moria Norman Gemmill
Sonja Mason Glueck
Ruth Smith Goldston
Billy Mack Greene
Gloria Travis Gross
Nancy Fesson Hawkins
Tommie Griffin Harrison
Carri King Hollifield
Mariln Pryce Hoytt
Edith Simmons Jackson-Hunter
Ollie Wells Jackson
Betty Johnson Joye
Audrey Irvin Johnson
Betty Fuller Johnson
Gwendolyn Kenner-Johnson
Dula Persons Krashen
Mary Reid Lacey
Nellie McDonald
Katherine S. McVair
Agnes Bloomer Nolin Nelson
Jeannette T. Patterson
Bettye Darden Peques
Florence Mack Rayford
Katie Coleman Rayford
Esther Evans Riley
Earnestine Crawford Roberts
Jean Bernard Rogers-Yates
Leslie Jackson Roscoe
Carole Bassett Rountree
Dorothy Neil Sampson
Emilie Winston Scott
Carolyn E. Searcy
Bessie S. Selfaway
Bertilla Hill Shells
Agnes Smith
Estrella Holloway Smith
Edith Smith-Redmond
Ethelyn Willis Stephens
Luna Joyce Taylor-Simms
Angela Owen Terry
Eleanor Smith Tootle
Rebecca Welch Chrsler Tourse
Carolyn Willie Trammell
Bessiean Unthank
Ruth Brady Vaughn
Ora Mae Bruno Wagerer
Patricia Scott Ward
Barbara Burns Williams
Hattie Shannon Williams
Margaret Woolard Woods
Loretta Bryce Yates

PHOTOS: JULIE YARBROUGH, C’91
Through Our Open Window
Virginia Turner Dowell, C'47  
May 18, 1926 – September 21, 2013

Virginia Elizabeth Turner Dowell, known as “Peggy” to her friends, and “Ma Peg” to family, was born in Atlanta on May 18, 1926, to Virginia Brown Turner and Brister William Turner.

Ms. Dowell attended Booker T. Washington School in Atlanta and graduated from Spelman College in 1947, making her the third generation to do so. While at college, she majored in music and sang in the Spelman Glee Club. She attended School of Music and Columbia University in New York, finishing with an M.A. degree from Teacher’s College of Columbia in 1948. This afforded her the opportunity to sing at President Eisenhower’s inauguration.


After retirement, she returned to Atlanta and became very active at Friendship Baptist Church. Ms. Dowell embodied devotion to excellence in education and never-ending service to Spelman College. She organized the New York Chapter of the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College (NAASC) in 1978, and served as president until 1982. She also served as president and treasurer of the Atlanta Chapter of NAASC, coordinator of the Northeast Regional Chapter, 1975–1978, edited “Feedback,” the first NAASC regional newsletter, and “The New York Scene,” the first New York chapter newsletter, and served on the NAASC Executive committee. She spearheaded the Spelman-Morehouse Christmas Carol Concert by bringing in over $40,000 in contributions. For that, she received the N.Y. Morehouse College Alumni Award for Outstanding Service. She also chaired the first successful NAASC National Fundraiser – Car and Fur Raffle, served on the Board of Trustees, and on the Advisory Board of Spelman College. As a result of her service to Spelman, the New York Chapter of NAASC donated the Virginia T. Dowell Endowed Scholarship Fund in her honor (an annual award to aid deserving New York freshmen attending Spelman).

She also received the Award of Excellence for the Northeastern Region of NAASC, the Spelman College Centennial Citation and the Outstanding Service as President Award from the New York Chapter of NAASC.

She was a loving wife, mother to two daughters (Jehan and Ginger), grandmother of six and great-grandmother of nineteen.

Services for Virginia “Peggye” Turner Dowell were held on September 28, 2013, at Friendship Baptist Church in Atlanta.

Mildred L. Collier Walton C'47  
December 8, 1926 – December 15, 2013

Mildred L. Collier Walton was born on December 8, 1926 in Atlanta, Georgia. She was the fourth child of James Collier and Pauline Dickinson Collier. Dr. Walton was educated in the Atlanta Public Schools. While studying at Booker T. Washington High School, she showed an early love and aptitude for music. She pursued those skills after graduating with honors in 1943 as an early admissions student to her beloved Spelman College. She became an accomplished violinist under the tutelage of Dr. Kemper Herrell,
Spelman, the College’s highest alumnae honor.

Dr. Walton learned to combine her professional career with raising a family. Sadly much of her family life was spent as a single parent. In spite of the challenges of being a single mom, she was still able to commit time to advanced education earning her master’s of education from Atlanta University (now Clark Atlanta). She studied at Wayne State University while her children went to boarding camp and she boarded with her younger sister, Dr. Juanita Collier, C’51, professor of psychology at Wayne State University. She earned her educational six-year certificate from Atlanta University. She later earned a Master in Spanish from the Universidad de Madrid, a doctorate from Nova University, and she participated in an intensive training seminar at Harvard University. Dr. Walton was a dedicated teacher in the public school system for over 47 years, starting at Avondale High School right out of college and continuing to teach music and Spanish at H. M. Turner High until becoming an elementary school principal, first at Harwell Elementary School and later at L.P. Miles Elementary School, where she remained until she retired from the public school system.

During her professional career she became a published author, first in the education arena and later in the larger community with the publication of her book, The Collier Connection tracing her family’s genealogy as far back as the 1500’s. This extensive research put her in line to become one of the first Blacks inducted into the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution). Her second husband, Borah W. Walton, Jr. has a true Boaz spirit. He’s proven to be a loving and supportive husband and an encouraging “hands on” stepfather. They spent the balance of their 40 plus years together overseeing the well-being of Atlanta’s public school children, traveling to faraway exotic places, enjoying their family, and the wonders of learning, long after earning the highest educational degrees.

Dr. Walton was a founding member of the social club, Las Hermanas, along with 11 other of her Spelman sisters. Over the years they blessed young women attending Spelman with their philanthropic spirit.

Dr. Walton received many accolades and honors during her tenure as an educator including election as president of the National Association of Elementary School Principals and president of the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College. She received the Founders Spirit Award from Spelman, the College’s highest alumnae honor.

A Celebration of Life for Dr. Mildred L. Collier Walton was held on December 21, 2013, in Sisters Chapel.

Gloria Joyce Ricks-Drayton, C’69

June 25, 1947 – December 8, 2013

Gloria Joyce Ricks-Drayton was born in Atlanta, Georgia on June 25, 1947, to Nathaniel Ricks and Nellie (White) Ricks. She had one older brother, the late Nathaniel Ricks, Jr.

Growing up, Ms. Ricks-Drayton was always interested in music and art. Her love of music led her to play the clarinet at H. M. Turner High School. Upon completing Turner, she was joined by her closest friends and attended Spelman College where she “studied and had fun” and graduated with the Class of 1969. Upon graduating, Ms. Ricks-Drayton married Jerry Drayton in Atlanta and moved to El Toro, California. While living in California, she was recruited by her aunt, Gloria Ricks Searls to teach at one of her prestigious International Children’s Schools (ICS), in Los Angeles. Although Ms. Ricks-Drayton enjoyed teaching, her passion was in school administration and programming. Her Aunt Gloria awarded her the position of school administrator and programmer at two ICS schools. Throughout her professional career, Ms. Ricks-Drayton remained in education and educational programming. She later returned to her home in Atlanta and held positions at Georgia Tech, Clark Atlanta University and her beloved alma mater, Spelman College.

Ms. Ricks-Drayton was family centered. She was a champion and constant support to her family and friends. Ms. Ricks-Drayton was patient, encouraging, humble and gracious. She was constantly giving. She enthusiastically hosted holiday dinners, birthdays, parties and faithfully attended graduations, weddings, recitals and other events with and for family and friends. Always honoring her parents, Joyce lovingly cared for both her mother and father as they aged and through illness. She was very active in the Philip White Family Reunion.

Ms. Ricks-Drayton was a devoted friend and church member at Radcliffe Presbyterian Church. She was an active member of the Divas (a women’s social group) and the Harvel Holmes Community Club. Joyce was an exquisite cook, renowned for her delectable cakes, pies and immaculate dinners. She was sophisticated, stylish and loved to wear white linen, lace and stunning hats at social affairs as well as to run errands. She loved life, music, art, travel, family and friends.

A Celebration of Life and Love for Gloria Joyce Ricks-Drayton was held on December 21, 2013, at Radcliffe Presbyterian Church in Atlanta.
Daisy Caroll Phinazee Harris was born in Waynesboro, Georgia on October 26, 1926. She was the youngest of three siblings born to Edward Phinazee and Lena Virginia Kelsey. She received a strong educational foundation in the Burke County school system where she was distinguished as valedictorian of her high school class. She then earned a degree in English from her beloved Spelman College in 1947. After returning to Waynesboro to teach for two years, she advanced her education by earning a master’s degree from Atlanta University (now Clark Atlanta University).

Her passion for the education of our youth was displayed as a member of the pioneering class of teachers who began the Teacher Corps program at the University of Georgia. This program was initiated by the U.S. Congress in the Higher Education Act of 1965, which was designed to improve elementary and secondary teaching in predominantly low-income areas. Ms. Harris would later serve as principal at Grant Park Primary School and then Fowler Elementary School, from which she eventually retired.

She was a dedicated member of Radcliffe Presbyterian Church where she enjoyed her time as a Sunday School teacher and faithfully served as a member of the Volunteer Service Guild, Radcliffe Presbyterian Women and as a trustee. She was a member of the National Association of Principals and a strong supporter of the Spelman Alumnae Association. She was honored by the College for her outstanding civic and educational contributions with both the Spelman Founders Spirit Award and the Alumnae Achievement Award. As a member of Spelman’s Guardian Society she has displayed the ultimate love for the institution that guided her into womanhood.

She was preceded in death by her husband Henry M. Harris III and her daughter, Christi, and her brother and sister. She is fondly remembered by her daughter, Fabienne Washington, her two grandsons and many family and friends.

A Celebration of Life and Love for Daisy Carol Phinazee Harris was held on October 28, 2013, at Radcliffe Presbyterian Church in Atlanta.

Frances Juanita Brock was born on July 12, 1914, to Robert and Alpha Omega Brock in Montgomery, Alabama. She was inspired by her father’s Black folk tales, grew a passion for poetry, literature and music, and began telling stories to family and friends. When she was a teen, after her family relocated to Pasadena, California, she started winning oratory contests. It was at a contest that a woman was so impressed with Ms. Starms that she offered to pay for her college tuition.

In 1937 Ms. Starms earned her bachelor’s degree from Spelman College. She continued her schooling, earning her master’s degree in early childhood education from Atlanta University (now Clark Atlanta University). She wanted to pay back the woman who gave her the money to attend college but her gracious donor declined, instead making Ms. Starms promise to help others who want to teach and to always help children.

Ms. Starms spent the rest of her life keeping that promise. She taught in Indianapolis and at her beloved alma mater, Spelman. She married Robert Starms and in 1950 moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She taught kindergarten for the Milwaukee Public Schools until 1957 when she left briefly and served as supervisor for student teachers at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, then returned to MPS in 1959. Ten years later she became the first director of MPS’s Head Start Program.

After a long, celebrated career, Ms. Starms retired but continued to volunteer for MPS, teaching children history and African American culture through her gift of storytelling. She received many honors and accolades for her life-changing work including the prestigious honor of having three schools named after her: Starms Early Childhood Center, Starms Discovery Learning Center and Starms Monumental Baptist Early Childhood Center.

Ms. Starms was also a family woman whose legacy will live on through her son, Stephen, her niece, Sheila, and her many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and a great-great-granddaughter.

Services for Frances Brock Starms were held on February 17, 2012, at St. Mark AME Church, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
In Memoriam

1936
Anita Lain Smith
Died: October 8, 2013
Services: October Oct. 19, 2013, Laurel Land Cemetery, Dallas, Texas

1940
Alma Stone Williams
Educator
Died: November 5, 2013
Services: November 11, 2013, Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Savannah, Georgia

1942
Claytonia Robinson Clay
Died: May 26, 2013
Services: June 8, 2013, The Miller Funeral Home, Selma, Alabama

1946
Clara Yates Hayley
Educator
Died: July 22, 2013
Services: July 29, 2013, First Congregational Church, Atlanta

1948
Emma Louise Roberson
Died: November 18, 2013
Services: November 23, 2013, Lincoln Cemetery Chapel, Atlanta

1954
Dorothy Greene
Died: October 8, 2013
Services: St. Paul AME Zion Church, Detroit

1959
Ola K. Crowder
Died: May 21, 2013
Services: May 28, 2013, Providence Missionary Baptist Church, Atlanta

1962
Muriel Ferguson
Died: May 24, 2013
Services: June 1, 2013, Maresh-Meredith & Acklam Funeral Home, Racine, Wisconsin

1965
Dorothy Harden Borum
Services: December 11, 2013, SouthCare Cremation & Funeral Society, Marietta, Georgia

1967
Vivian Roberts Brown
Died: July 20, 2013
Services: July 25, 2013, New Bethel A.M.E. Church, Lithonia, Georgia

1968
Phillipa Brisbane
Died: October 3, 2012
Services: October 26, 2012, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Atlanta

1972
Claudette Cleveland
Died: September 27, 2013
Services: October 5, 2013, Elizabeth Chapel, Alfonso Dawson Mortuary, Atlanta

1977
Clara Lillian Brewer
Died: August 10, 2013
Services: August 23, 2013, First Trinity Lutheran Church, Washington, D.C.

1991
Seanda Hazel Horne
Died: May 16, 2013
Services: May 21, 2013, Fort Street United Methodist Church, Atlanta
Every Woman…Every Year!

Visit www.everywomaneveryyear.org to make a gift or for more information.

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