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.
Voices
Spelman Blends Old and New Voices to Change the World

J. Veronica Biggins, C’68:
A Profile of Power With Grace
BY DENISE McFALL
COVER PHOTO BY J.D. SCOTT

Black Women in Politics:
Red, White & Spelman Blue
BY MAE GENTRY

Alumnae Notes
Spelman Blends Old and New

The Spelman Hymn (1934)
Words and Music by Eddye Money Shivery, C’34

Spelman, thy name we praise
Standards and honor raise.
We’ll ever faithful be
Throughout eternity.
May peace with thee abide
And God forever guide
Thy heights supreme and true.
Blessings to you.

Through years of toil and pain
May thy dear walls remain.
Beacons of heavenly light,
Undaunted by the fight.
And when life’s race is won,
Thy noble work is done,
Oh God, forever bind
Our hearts to Thine.

Eddye Money Shivery, C’34
New Voices to Change the World

A CHOICE TO CHANGE THE WORLD (2008)

Words by Sarah Stephens, C’2007
Music by Dr. Kevin Johnson and Sarah Stephens, C’2007

Chorus
It’s my choice
And I choose to change the world
It’s my voice
And I’ll speak with pride and courage
I’ll be the change I wanna see
I’ll scream out loud and say
It’s my choice
And I choose to change the world

Verse One
Why put off for tomorrow
What I can do today
Why wait for another
When I can pave the way
No matter how young or old
I hold the power of change
Rather large or small, few or all
My choice remains the same

Chorus

Verse Two
Within this institution
We are women of change
The shoulders that we stand upon
Never received applause or fame
but in their honor I will live
Each day better than before
And show just how it takes a choice
To change yourself and so much more

Chorus

Bridge
The change begins today
With every choice that I make
Spelman look around and see
Where the changes need to be
End poverty
Fighting overseas
Another dies from a disease
End hypocrisy
Starving on the streets
And no one does a single thing

Chorus
It’s my choice
Make a choice
What’s your choice?
It’s my choice
And I choose to change the world
Book Reviews

Angela Brown Terrell

To the Break of Dawn: A Freestyle on the Hip Hop Aesthetic
by William Jelani Cobb
(New York University Press)

What is hip-hop? Ask a hundred people and you’ll get that many answers. But while we’re wondering, the beat goes on. While it’s been praised, examined, ridiculed, condemned, copied, globalized, commercialized, funerlized and resurrected, the genre’s still evolving some 30-plus years later. William Jelani Cobb, a noted cultural writer and history professor at Spelman College who hails from the New York borough of Queens, an early epicenter of the hip-hop quake, is offering understanding of the musical art form as an aesthetic, “not necessarily a social movement,” Cobb writes.

Cobb’s approach in this 200-page volume focuses on the MC, or Master of Ceremonies, who “moves the crowds.”

“Every MC raps, but not every rapper is an MC…. To avoid confusion, I use the term rapper as a general reference to hip hop vocalists — and MC when I mean to connotate that specific brand of verbal marksmen who were forged in the crucible of the street jam, the battle, and the off-the-top-of-the-dome freestyle,” Cobb writes. He notes that some MCs are also rappers, “meaning they have managed to exist within the commercial arena while maintaining their integrity as artists.”

In Break of Dawn, Cobb compares the roots of hip-hop with the blues, jazz, R&B, and other music that evolved from the trials and tribulations of the African Diaspora. He examines the spiritual, literary and street culture influences evidenced in the lyrics by the artists. But most of all, he gives credit to the genius of so many musicians/poets of the genre.

The names are there: Grand Master Flash, Queen Latifah, Public Enemy, MC Lyte, Notorious B.I.G., Tupac, LL Cool J, Lauryn Hill, Mos Def, Common and Nas, to name just a few. I found myself remembering the music that my children helped me to understand, and I nodded my head to an imaginary beat as I read Cobb’s lyrical prose. While Cobb’s research is scholarly, his knowledge of hip-hop will help the reader to better understand why hip-hop is here to stay.

Taking After Mudear
By Tina McElroy Ansa, ’71
(DownSouth Press)

She’s back. The super-controlling-matriarch-gone-mad Mudear, who graced Tina McElroy Ansa’s second novel, Ugly Ways (published in 1993), reappears — after death, mind you — in this sequel, Ansa’s fifth novel. Not surprising, as followers of her Southern-based novels are aware, crossing the lines into the spirit world is nothing new for this best-selling author, whose Baby of the Family, The Hand I Fan With, and You Know Better, are all filled with haunting spirits reluctant to give up their earthly ways. No writer today does better in bringing up old African American folklore and making it sound real in our contemporary lives.

In Ugly Ways, readers were introduced to the three Lovejoy sisters — Betty, Emily and Annie Ruth, who grew up in the shadow of their overpowering mother, Esther Mudear Lovejoy. In one day, Mudear had
turned from being a wife and caring mother to a self-centered eccentric who slept all day and wandered about her garden all night, not feeding, clothing or cleaning her family, but leaving all the housekeeping duties and growing up details in the hands of the young daughters caught under her weird spell. If that wasn’t bad enough, whenever Mudear spoke to her daughters, it was always to deprecate their accomplishments, never to praise.

Following her death, the three had been trying hard to release themselves from her supernatural influence, with little success. Even at Mudear’s funeral, she seemed to pull the girls in with her as they leaned over her coffin, nearly toppling it.

Would they ever escape?

Now, six months after the funeral, the sisters are reunited in their hometown of Mulberry, Ga., where only the oldest, Betty, has settled successfully. The youngest, Annie Ruth, is expecting a baby girl and has come home to roost. Middle sister Emily is back trying to put her shattered life together again.

But as they try to shake loose from the past, strange things happen:

“Then, it seemed that slowly after only a couple of weeks, Mudear had slivered back into their thoughts and conversation, like a garter snake at a garden party.

“None of the girls said it. But they all knew it. Mudear was as much with them half a year after her death as she had ever been.”

The question is, why? And then, as they say, the fun begins.

This novel marks the debut of Ansa’s new publishing company, DownSouth Press. She has the unique ability to tell stories that make you laugh, learn, and get the shivers all at the same time. Here’s hoping her next novel won’t be so long in coming.

See It All and Done the Rest
By Pearl Cleage, C’71
(One World/Ballantine Books)

Just when you think you’re going to help somebody, you discover it’s you who needs rescuing. That’s the theme of Pearl Cleage’s latest book in which expatriate actress Josephine Evans rushes from her beloved Paris home to Atlanta to help save her granddaughter in distress, whose life is going awry. But, is she running away from her own troubles — she fears being replaced by a younger rival — to an America she left behind long ago to find fame and fortune?

Living and working in Europe for an adoring audience was a total contrast to what Josephine had found when she started out in the racially discriminating theater world in the United States. She was the toast of France and looked with disdain at any efforts to entice her back to the states.

Now, cautiously back in the United States, our heroine finds that home ain’t like it used to be. And maybe, just maybe, there’s peace and purpose awaiting her in this season of her later years.

Anchored in Cleage’s favored Atlanta neighborhood of the West End, also the scene of her previous novels Some Things I Thought I’d Never Do, Babylon Sisters and Baby Brother’s Blues, Seen It All reintroduces some old friends and weaves in new ones, all with seamless skill.

Thinking she will increase her retirement nest egg by selling the old family homestead she inherited, which is now in a state of disrepair, Josephine finds instead a new role to play in saving a neighborhood from the clutches of real estate speculators hell-bent on “urban removal” at the expense of the homeowners.

The ensuing battle helps old friends, new ones, granddaughter Zora and Josephine find out who they really are and what values are most important.

As always, playwright, poet, and novelist, Cleage sets the stage for an intriguing and fun adventure laced with social issues, personal growth and, most of all, love.

seen it all and done the rest
Ida: A Sword Among Lions
By Paula J. Giddings (Amistad)

Subtitled Ida B. Wells and the Campaign Against Lynching, Paula Giddings’ scholarly tome is a thoroughly researched, enlightening biography of this crusading journalist and activist of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It was a daunting task to collect information on Wells, since over the years much of her work and contributions have been lost, scattered or ignored by white historians and Black civil rights organizations. Determined to gather enough material to produce this volume, Giddings, a former visiting professor at Spelman College who is now a professor in Afro-American Studies at Smith College, combed through countless Black press articles, minutes of meetings and Wells’ own diary, along with books by others relating to the period. From this, the author has been able to paint a cohesive picture of African American life in the United States, as well as a view of this woman with strong ideals, a short temper, religious convictions and Victorian attitudes.

Against the dual odds of racism and sexism facing African American women, Wells took a stand against the epidemic of lynching in the United States. Thousands of Black men, women and children faced white mobs intent on carrying out this brand of lawless, brutalizing murder. Because of political and social attitudes of leaders who sought to distance themselves from the notoriety of lynching, true statistics have been hard to come by. But, according to a 2002 report in Time magazine, “between 1882 and 1968, at least 4,742 African Americans were murdered that way.”

Born of slave parents in 1862 in Holly Springs, Miss., Wells was orphaned at age 16, took over the care of five younger siblings, attended Rust College, and worked as a teacher. Eventually, she got a teaching position in Memphis and moved there with her sisters while her brothers went to live with relatives. When discriminated against during a train ride and not allowed to ride in the “ladies’ car,” Wells sued the railroad and eventually won. She wrote anti-discrimination and anti-lynching articles, started her own newspaper and, finally, was exiled from her home because of death threats. She continued to travel around the country to crusade for justice. Eventually, she married Robert Barnett, a Chicago-based businessman, and continued her traveling and writing even while carrying along her nursing child. She had two sons, a daughter and two stepsons.

Wells-Barnett never let up her tirade against injustice, even when emerging male-dominated organizations and some white women-led groups usurped her anti-lynching crusade as their own or refused to give her credit for her pioneering work. Wells-Barnett was slighted by some of the great leaders of the time, including Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. DuBois and Mary Church Terrell; however, Wells-Barnett continued her work, including forming political and social awareness havens for southern African American women who migrated to the North. She died in 1931, determined to the end to educate the world about the contributions of African Americans to world culture and history.

Giddings has given this unsung hero her due.

The African American Woman Golfer: Her Legacy
By M. Mikell Johnson (Praeger)

When M. Mikell Johnson, Ph.D., discovered that most of the history of African American golfers had been written by men about men, she took on the mission to “document the existence of any African American women associated with golf on an amateur or professional basis.”

This groundbreaking volume offers detailed information about golf, Black golfers, their struggles and especially how some women golfers were given credit many times only as supporters and managers of their golfing men, despite having their own skills. For example, you might read more about the management skills of Rose Elder, as she helped her former husband Lee Elder toward playing in the Masters Tournament. What you probably won’t know, however, is Rose Elder held her own as an amateur competitor in the United Golfers Association, which was the minority answer to the PGA.

Althea Gibson, most recognized for her tennis prowess, was also a powerful golfer and the first Black woman to join the LPGA, which launched her professional golf career. Gibson, who died in 2003, was posthumously inducted into the 2005 Inaugural African American Golfers Hall of Fame and the National Black Golf Hall of Fame in 2007.

Dr. Johnson, a golfer for more than 30 years, used her experience and skills as a major cancer
science researcher to put together this book of information, complete with statistics, history, resources, photographs, bibliographies and biographies, to enlighten us on the invaluable contributions African American women golfers have made to open opportunities for others.

These were women who fought long and hard for the civil rights of Black golfers – both men and women – to be able to play and compete in all arenas. In 1937, two major women’s golf clubs were formed: Wake Robin Golf Club in the Maryland/D.C./Virginia area and the Chicago Women’s Golf Club. Each was instrumental in crusading against discrimination and opening more opportunities for African Americans. Many more such associations followed.

Since those early days, Black women nationwide have continued to participate, teach, compete, and integrate the world of golf.

Help! I’m a Newlywed... What Do I Do Now?
By Lorraine Sanabria Robertson
(30 Miles Media)

You’re getting married and you think you know everything. NOT! Listen, Sister, there will be days when you wonder what you’ve gotten yourself into, even though you love your spouse dearly. This book, subtitled Wife-Saving Advice Every New Bride Must Know to Survive the First Year of Marriage, is the product of author Lorraine Robertson’s own hectic adjustment to marriage, and she wants you to know you are not alone.

Need help? Don’t know where to go? This book gives suggestions, often with a sense of humor, on topics including After the Wedding: How to Adjust and Communicate; For Better or For Worse: Tackling Change, Fear and Newlywed Jitters; Living Together: Sharing Space and Staying Sane; Sex? Sex! The Newlywed Myths; Money: Balancing Love, Marriage and the Checkbook; and even a chapter for husbands to help them deal with the newness of marriage.

Now, for those who have been married longer, this gem of a book can serve as a reminder of how to keep the glow of being newlywed, or better, how to offer this advice to a new bride in your midst.

Robertson, former Spelman College assistant public relations director, is a freelance writer and public relations consultant. She’s the founder of www.AskWifey.com, where you can go to find out how other wives are handling challenges and share information. After being married eight years, she writes, “I love my husband, I love being married — and I’d love to keep it that way. … I’m not only trying to help you, but to help myself, too. There’s nothing wrong with not knowing what to do in your marriage, but there is something wrong with not finding out!”

Letters to a Young Sister: Define Your Destiny
By Hill Harper (Gotham Books)

It had to happen. No way was Hill Harper, author of the award-winning Letters to a Young Brother: MANifest Your Destiny, going to get away with not offering his spin on growing up to the sisters. That’s just what this book is about: advice on how to mature with self-confidence and a positive attitude on life. It’s not just Harper, star of TV’s prime-time show, “CSI: New York,” giving a male point of view to young, African American women. But to answer questions sent to his e-mail address, he enlists a number of well-known and highly respected women and men, including: Nikki Giovanni, Michelle Obama, Eve, Gabriel Union, Tavis Smiley, Blair Underwood, and Ciara just to mention a few.

Since the publication two years ago of his book for young men, Harper has been flooded with queries from the sisters. He writes in the introduction how, during a book signing in Atlanta, one young lady left him a message: “In your book, you talk about young men being the ‘newest perfect model’ and being ‘unreasonably happy.’ Please tell us sisters what is good about us…”

Harper writes that he began to wonder, where do girls get their advice? “In a time when nearly two-thirds of ethnic girls are raised in fatherless households, where do those girls get their self-esteem? How do they develop healthy, platonic relationships with men? When do they get to hear a loving supportive male voice?”

In this volume to young sisters, Harper and friends answer e-mailed questions sent in covering such subjects as education, money, sex, relationships, parents, health, wellness, self-images and overcoming obstacles, all in a non-preachy, no-holds-barred way. Through it all, however, is the constant encouragement to young women to be proud of themselves and to follow their dreams without fear.

Harper’s book to the brothers has received acclaim from educators, parents, community and spiritual leaders. We can expect this one for the sisters to achieve the same success.

ANGELA BROWN TERRELL is a writer and editor based in Columbia, Maryland.
J. Veronica Biggins, C’68: A Profile of Power With Grace
In contemporary culture, there is a growing propensity for friends and strangers alike to refer to our most vital and visible citizens by only a single moniker. To earn one’s place among these one-named icons is a tall order, as the roster is limited and lists only the names of those who have acquired extraordinary recognition for having aspired to and reached the very highest levels of service and success.

In Atlanta, the short list includes the likes of “Veronica,” as in J. Veronica Biggins, C’68. From her days as a Spelman student, through her successful career in banking, a prestigious stint in the Clinton administration and her role as a senior partner at the executive search firms of Heidrick & Struggles and Hodge/Neiderer/Carianai/Lindsay (HNCL Search), Ms. Biggins’s reputation looms large as a consummate professional, civic leader and Spelman alumna.

The only daughter among Jacqueline and Andrew Williams’s three offspring, Ms. Biggins religiously donned Peter Pan-collared white blouses, navy blue jumpers and brown oxfords to attend parochial school in Greensboro, N.C., until 11th grade; then, according to her, she gladly transferred to public school. Today, as a practicing Episcopalian, “a Catholic Lite,” she confesses with a wry smile and a hearty laugh, she insists that her moral values, ethics and sense of discipline are firmly rooted in the faith tradition in which she was raised.

Veronica Biggins arrived at Spelman in 1964. “My father, a former dean of academic affairs at the School of Mechanical Engineering at North Carolina A&T, had the same goals for me that he had for my brothers. He wanted me to experience the best education and character development possible, to benefit from an education that would prepare me for facing the world. He wanted Spelman, and I wanted Spelman. For as long as I can remember, there was never any other college choice for me, or for my family,” claims Ms. Biggins.

Her arrival on campus was during a period of deep civil unrest. Just like many of her classmates, she had come to Spelman with a mission: to make a difference, to stand tall, to “tower over mediocrity.” By the time she graduated in 1968, this period had become one of the most turbulent times in U.S. history, providing her with a global perspective that transcended the mighty gates of Spelman College.

Even to the casual observer, Veronica Biggins emerges as a study in power with grace — a change agent of vast strength and influence with a patina of elegance and refinement. A striking woman by all accounts, with her glistening signature silver hair, she stands head and shoulders above most, both in physical stature as well as in the many contributions she continues to make to improve the quality of life for her adopted city of Atlanta and her beloved alma mater, Spelman College.

As co-chair of the College’s upcoming comprehensive fundraising campaign, she has, once again, embraced a formidable professional and financial goal. This campaign to further secure Spelman’s place among the nation’s top liberal arts colleges is yet another challenge to which Ms. Biggins, fueled with boundless energy and imagination, has fully committed herself with the quiet resolve and profound dedication for which she is best known.

Viewed by her admirers as a woman of great power, she, however, rejects the notion outright. “The day you actually believe you have power is the day you’re in big trouble,” she cautions. “You may have influence, but even that is fleeting.” Nonetheless, she is widely known and revered for her ability to “change the water,” just like the coffee beans of which she spoke during her 2007 Founders Day address:

“If you’re like a coffee bean in boiling water, you don’t wilt or fall apart when things are at their worst. You get better and change the situation around you. When the hours are the darkest and trials are at their greatest, you find the strength to elevate to another level. You change the water!”

Despite her lofty career, on her long list of priorities, family is, unquestionably, No. 1. Married to Atlanta Magistrate Judge Franklin Biggins, whom she met while in graduate school, she talks about her life partner with a sense of love and admiration one seldom hears, particularly from those who have experienced more than three decades of marriage.

“It’s all about time, talent and treasure,” she explains, when questioned about the source of her motivation. “I try to involve myself in those things I enjoy — in things I can learn something from or give something to. I see myself as an idea person, and I simply do what I can do, give what I can give.”
“Life is like a burning platform, and your life raft is in having a plan. I simply live my life in a way that acknowledges that life is not a dress rehearsal.” — J. Veronica Biggins, C’68

Her daughters, Dawn and Kenzie, are young adults setting off on their own journeys, under their own steam and in their own fashion. “Each of my daughters is gifted in her own way. I don’t expect them to retrace the steps of my journey. I’d just like for them to make their way in the world using their own unique gifts.”

According to Ms. Biggins: “Life is like a burning platform, and your life raft is in having a plan. I simply live my life in a way that acknowledges that life is not a dress rehearsal. However, even when you have a plan, you still have to recognize that life is all about change. I embrace it because I see change as progress and a good thing. More often than not, it’s counterproductive to cling to old values and to the old ways of doing things.”

Her initial foray into the world of big business was after completing graduate school at Georgia State University. “Much of what I know about business, I learned in the management training program at what was then Citizens and Southern National Bank,” she says. With a background that includes 20 years of experience in the banking industry, she has served as an executive vice president and director of human resources for the Georgia Bank and an executive vice president for corporate community relations. She also was responsible for NationsBank Foundation. When she left NationsBank to join the Clinton Administration, she was one of the highest-ranking female bankers in the nation.

Her yearlong White House appointment as assistant to the president of the United States and director of presidential personnel was the result of a long-time, casual acquaintance with Bill and Hillary Clinton. As frequent attendees of the power-packed annual Renaissance Weekend — a private retreat for the families of accomplished leaders in the corporate, government and non-profit sectors — the Biggines’ and Clintons’ relationship was sparked by the ongoing friendship of their daughters, Kenzie and Chelsea.

It was indirectly, through this alliance, that Mr. Clinton became aware of Veronica Biggins’ professional acumen and, upon his election as president, enlisted her into service. In her role at the White House, Ms. Biggins worked directly with the president on appointments at all levels of the administration, including the placement of agency heads, ambassadors and members of presidential boards and commissions.

Upon her return to Atlanta, Ms. Biggins served as managing partner of the search firm Heidrick & Struggles. In 2007, she became a partner with HNCL Search, where her work now centers on C-level (chief executive officer, chief financial officer, chief operating officer, for example) and corporate board searches in the higher education and financial services practices.

“Although my career has taken me into other areas of business, in my heart I’ll always be a banker, because of what I learned and experienced in that management training program,” says Ms. Biggins. “Banking is where I learned the fundamentals of sound business practice — the very same fundamentals I’ve used throughout my professional career and apply to my work on various boards.”

Along the way, she also graduated from the International Business Fellows Program and the Duke University Fuqua Executive Management Program. She currently serves on the boards of directors of AirTran Airways, Avnet and Kaiser Permanente Georgia. Neither an artist nor an educator, her passion for the arts has also led her to serve on the board of trustees of the Woodruff Arts Center and the board of visitors of the Savannah College of Art and Design.

Ms. Biggins’s longtime service to Spelman College has included serving on the Board of Trustees from 1983 to 2002 and as vice-chair of the board from 1989 to 1998. She also has served as chair of the Committee on Board Affairs.

“There is no higher honor than to be asked to chair the campaign. To work with President Tatum, Board Chair Yvonne Jackson, [C’70], other members of the board and the entire Spelman community in raising funds for scholarships, faculty and academic programs, the renovation of our historic residence halls and other institutional needs and priorities is important work,” claims Ms. Biggins.

“Too often we forget that many of the young women who deserve to be at Spelman are first-generation college students — students whose financial circumstances don’t allow for them to experience what it is to be at a college of this magnitude. All of us who have benefited from what Spelman has to offer have the fiduciary responsibility to make it possible for those who deserve to follow in our footsteps.”

DENISE McFall is an Atlanta-based freelance writer with an extensive background in college administration, program management and curriculum development. She is a frequent contributor of articles and publications that focus on notable leaders and programmatic initiatives in higher education.

— J. Veronica Biggins, C’68
For more than 127 years, Black women and in particular Spelman sisters have been in the vanguard of American political life, leading the struggle for equality while bearing the burden of belonging to two disenfranchised groups.

In 1851, African Americans were still in bondage when abolitionist Sojourner Truth spoke at the Women’s Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio. Addressing the assembly of White women whose quest for voting rights excluded their Black counterparts, she pointedly asked, “Ain’t I a woman?”

Another Black woman activist, journalist Ida B. Wells-Barnett, also believed in the power of the ballot. She attended the 1909 meeting of the Niagara Movement, the precursor to the NAACP, and was a staunch suffragist, marching in 1913 for women’s voting rights. In 1928, she sought election as a delegate to the Republican National Convention.

In 1920, Black women finally gained the right to vote—some 50 years after Black men were extended that privilege, though violence and Jim Crow laws prevented African American men and women from fully exercising those rights. Since then, and especially following the enactment of the Voting Rights Law in 1965, they have become fully engaged in the body politic as voters, strategists, lobbyists and elected and appointed officials.

In 1968, Shirley Chisholm of New York became the first Black woman elected to Congress. In 1972, she became the first woman and the first African American to make a serious bid for the Democratic nomination for president. In the spring of 1985, she was a scholar-in-residence at Spelman College. A noted feminist, she believed, “I am a victim of oppression based on race and sex.”

Another trailblazer, Barbara Jordan of Texas, was the first African American woman from the South to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. An eloquent advocate of equality and justice, she gained national prominence in 1974 as a member of the House Judiciary Committee during the Watergate hearings and in 1976 as keynote speaker at the Democratic National Convention.

Chisholm and Jordan inspired other African American women to become politically active, including Barbara Lee, congresswoman from California, and Eleanor Holmes Norton, who represents the District of Columbia in Congress.

Spelman has recognized the achievements of African American women activists for more than three decades. In 1977, when the college began awarding honorary degrees, the first of two recipients was Patricia Roberts Harris, who was then U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Shirley Chisholm and Eleanor Holmes Norton received honorary degrees in 1982. Coretta Scott King, founder of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta, received one in 1984, and 10 years later an honorary degree was granted to Carol Moseley Braun of Illinois, the first Black woman elected to the U.S. Senate.

As a group, African American women have been “very effective,” said David Bositis, senior political analyst with the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in Washington, D.C. “When you look at the Black vote in recent elections, Black women are 60 percent of the Black vote,” he said. “They’ve been especially important to the Democrats.”

In 2002, the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies issued its “Report on Black Elected Officials.” The report found that “of the states with a significant number of Black state lawmakers, Black women constitute the largest proportions of state representatives in Tennessee.
The National Political Congress of Black Women was organized in 1984 to promote the educational, political, economic and cultural development of Black women.

(53.8 percent), Illinois (46.7 percent), Georgia (40.6 percent), and Florida (40 percent). Georgia (54.5 percent), Ohio (50 percent), and Virginia (50 percent) have the largest proportions of Black women among state senators.

Historically, Black women formed organizations and alliances to collectively engage in the political process.

In 1935, educator and presidential adviser Mary McLeod Bethune founded the National Council of Negro Women to harness the power of Black women's organizations. In 1998, Spelman alumna Jane E. Smith took over as head of NCNW following the retirement of Dorothy L. Height, who had led the organization since 1957. (Smith is currently executive director of the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement at Spelman College.)

The National Political Congress of Black Women was organized in 1984 to promote the educational, political, economic and cultural development of Black women. It former chair, C. DeLores Tucker, was at the forefront of efforts to halt the music industry's demeaning of Black women.

Marian Wright Edelman, C'60, a Spelman graduate and former chair of the board of trustees, directed the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund in Jackson, Miss., and in 1973, she founded the Children's Defense Fund to advocate for the disadvantaged. Edelman has said she was inspired by Martin Luther King Jr. when he spoke in Sisters Chapel at Spelman.

Spelman alumna Alisha Thomas Morgan, C'2000, who was elected to the Georgia General Assembly in 2002, was also affected by her campus experiences. As a student, she was active with the NAACP and its efforts to stop anti-affirmative action legislation at the state Legislature, where she now represents Cobb County, Ga.

Morgan said one of her professors, a state legislator and fellow alumna Henrietta Turnquest, C'68, helped her understand how the legislative process works. Although Morgan was a student activist, she said she realizes now that "You can do all the organizing on the outside, but if you don't have people on the inside, you're not very effective and you can't be very successful when it comes to public policy."

Today, African American women’s choices to change the world have never been more evident. The 2008 Democratic presidential contest offered them a stark contrast between race in Barack Obama and gender in Hillary Clinton. A nationwide survey commissioned by LEADS of non-white female Democrats confirmed the findings of other national polls that show Black women more likely than other nonwhite women to support Obama over Clinton.

As a group, African American women were crucial to Obama’s early primary victory in South Carolina. Many believe media mogul Oprah Winfrey and Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin’s endorsement of Obama’s candidacy galvanized Black women voters who previously had concerns about his safety or his ability to win.

“And just look at Black women’s involvement at high levels of the political process,” said Bositis. “If you look at Hillary Clinton’s campaign, you have Mignon Moore and Maggie Williams, who were at the top ranks of Hillary’s campaign.

“If you look at Obama, Valerie Jarrett is his money person. And the fact is nobody, not even George Bush, raised money like Barack Obama.”

Gina McCauley’s blog “What About Our Daughters” deals with Black women’s issues. She cites statistics that show Black women are more likely to head single-parent households, suffer greater health disparities and be disproportionately affected by the economic downturn.

“We should be getting more from the process,” she said, criticizing South Carolina voters for not extracting promises from the candidates. “I think by the time the next presidential election comes around, the Black women who are [blogging] are going to come together as a 527 or a PAC. We’re going to be a lot more assertive in the process, and we’re going to demand more than a catfish dinner and a gospel music concert.”

**Mae Gentry, C’73, is retired from The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, where she spent 23 years as a writer and editor. She holds a master’s degree from Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism.**
POLITICAL HIGHLIGHTS TIMELINE

1870  The 15th Amendment gives former slaves the right to vote.
1920  The 19th Amendment gives women the right to vote.
1936  Mary McLeod Bethune named director of the Negro division of
       the National Youth Administration under Franklin D. Roo-
       sevelt, becoming the first Black woman to head a federal government office.
1965  Voting Rights Act passes.
1968  Shirley Chisholm is the first African American woman elected to the U.S.
       House of Representatives.
1968  Barbara Jordan is the first woman and the first African American to deliver the keynote address at the
       Democratic national convention.
1976  Patricia Roberts Harris becomes the first Black female cabinet member when she is appointed Secretary of
       the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Alumnae Mabel Murphy Smythe, named U.S. ambassador to the Republic of
       Cameroon.
       and Communications Liaison Office in Washington, D.C.
1983  Spelman hosts the first National Conference on Black Women’s Health, which gives birth to the Black Women’s Health Project. Coretta Scott
       King successfully lobbies Congress and President Reagan to declare Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday a federal holiday.
1985  The first National Assembly of the National Political Congress of Black Women is held at Spelman, with Shirley Chisholm as chair and C. Delores Tucker as vice-chair.
1987  Ruth A. Davis, C’66, named consul general in Barcelona, Spain. (In 1992, she was appointed ambassador to the Republic of Benin.)
1992  Carol Moseley Braun becomes first Black woman elected to the U.S Senate. Johnnetta B. Cole, the first Black woman to serve as president of Spelman College, is named to President-Elect Bill Clinton’s transition team.
1993  Spelman alumna Aurelia Brazeal, C’65, named U.S. ambassador to Kenya. Mary Frances Berry becomes chair of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Hazel O’Leary joins President Clinton’s cabinet as Secretary of Energy.
1994  J. Veronica Biggins, C’68, appointed assistant to President Clinton and director of presidential personnel.
1997  Alexis Herman sworn in as the nation’s 23rd Secretary of Labor and the first African American to head the department.
2000  Donna Brazile named campaign manager for Gore-Lieberman 2000, becoming the first African American to lead a major presidential campaign.
2005  Condoleezza Rice becomes the first Black woman Secretary of State.
2008  Maggie Williams named chief of staff for Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign.

ALUMNAE OFFICIALS: PAST AND PRESENT

Annie Brown Kennedy, C’45, First African American woman elected to the North Carolina General Assembly
Captain Sheila L. Chamberlain, C’81, elected first military pilot to serve at the national level of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.
The Honorable Heather McTeer Hudson, C’98, Mayor, Greenville, Mississippi
Judge Carole Catlin Smitherman, C’73, Municipal Court, Birmingham, Alabama
Former Senator Gail Davenport, C’70, Georgia State Senate from the 44th District (Clayton & Henry Counties)
Judge Daphne Walker, C’94, Chief Magistrate, Clayton County, Georgia
Judge Geronda Carter, C’93, Superior Court, Clayton County, Georgia
Judge Brenda Hill Cole, C’63, State Court of Fulton County, Georgia
Judge Bernette Johnson, C’64, Associate Justice, Louisiana Supreme Court
Judge Zenora Mitchell Rankin, C’76, Associate Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia
Sister to Sister:
WITH CHANGE, THE JOURNEY CONTINUES . . .

What an exciting year 2008 has been as we celebrate the 127th year of our great institution. On April 11, 2008, we honored the founders by celebrating our lineage of educated and accomplished women and reaffirming that this is not only our time, it is our choice to change the world. The world as we know it is changing, evolving and moving forward at a rapid pace. We are in a period of transition — fascinating and exhilarating times both individually and collectively. Two years ago, you embraced me as your new director of alumnae affairs. I accepted the opportunity and challenge to serve you as leader during a pivotal time in Spelman’s history. I must say, it has been a rewarding journey. However, the journey for me must now continue beyond the Spelman gates. I have made the decision to focus more attention on two alumnae-in-waiting, my young daughters Brooke and Hannah, while re-engineering my professional career.

I, like many of you, have been a part of Spelman for generations. I remain excited about the College’s past, present and future. However, it goes without saying that Spelman’s success is tied directly to us — the alumnae. Our history and tradition have been previously established and made solid for each of us. We are the keepers of the story. We are the ambassadors of change. We must continue to write Spelman’s history for the generations to come. For Brooke and Hannah’s mom, the journey will continue with the fifth generation making a choice to change the world. Not only will I leave with all the Spelman passion and energy I had when I arrived, but also with appreciation for my good fortune to have served each of you.

Your loyalty to this great institution will continue to inspire me more each day. For that, I am confident we will build a better Spelman together . . . proudly, confidently and with conviction. All good things.

Most sisterly,

Cindy Brooks Baumgardner
Director, Alumnae Affairs
Achievers 2008 (as listed below) surround President Beverly Daniel Tatum.

### 2008 Honorees

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Arts &amp; Media</th>
<th>Business &amp; Law</th>
<th>Civic Service</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Health &amp; Science</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tamar Hay</td>
<td>Angela Birch Cox</td>
<td>Rona King Kilpatrick</td>
<td>D. LeCroyed Butler, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Deborah Prothrow-Stith, M.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C94</td>
<td>CBI</td>
<td>C70</td>
<td>C-50</td>
<td>C75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Host for the syndicated entertainment magazine &quot;Extra&quot;</td>
<td>Attorney-at-Law</td>
<td>Senior Community Relations Specialist, Office of Strategic Analysis and Communications, Office of External Affairs at the Marshall Center, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)</td>
<td>Professor, Department of Psychology, Spelman College</td>
<td>Associate Dean for Diversity, Harvard School of Public Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actress</td>
<td>Former Assistant General Counsel, Coca-Cola North America</td>
<td>Former General Counsel, The Minnie Wood Company</td>
<td>Coordinator, Assessment of Student Learning and Development</td>
<td>Henry Pickering Wadsworth Professor of the Practice of Public Health, Harvard School of Public Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Quinta, California</td>
<td>Houston, Texas</td>
<td>Houston, Texas</td>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
<td>Cambridge, Massachusetts</td>
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</table>
Women. She has been listed for the last two years as one of the 500 fortunate, inspirational people of Austin by the Austin American Statesman, the daily paper.

1950

Johnnie Lumpkin Davis
Personal: The scholarship fund in her name at Spelman College was featured at an event in Atlanta on December 2, 2007.

1953

Jean LaRue Foster

Marion Wright Edelman
Professional: In January 2008, Ms. Edelman spoke at the U.S. Conference of Mayors about the Children’s Defense Fund’s Cradle to Prison Pipeline Campaign and what they can do to dismantle the pipeline in their communities. She also honored Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the 40th anniversary of his death in her weekly Child Watch column, in a co-authored op-ed with Delores Huerta in The Tennessean and in a commemoration speech at Duke University.

1961

Herschelle Sullivan Challenor
Professional: Speaker and honorary degree recipient at the Spelman College 2008 Founders Day Convocation.

Gwendolyn Harris Middlebrooks
Professional: Featured on “Atlanta Voices: The Civil Rights Movement” on PBA 30, Channel 16 in Atlanta on February 14, 2008. The segment also features Brenda Hill Cole, C’63.

1963

Brenda Hill Cole
Professional: Featured on “Atlanta Voices: The Civil Rights Movement” on PBA 30, Channel 16 in Atlanta, on February 14, 2008. The segment also features Gwendolyn Harris Middlebrooks, C’61.

Anne Ashmore-Hudson
Personal: Awarded the Mayor’s Arts Award from the Washington, D.C. Mayor’s Arts Council in March 2008. The ceremony was held at the Kennedy Center.

1964

Georgianne Thomas
Professional: Introduced Georgianne’s Skin Treats on December 15, 2007, at a reception at The Castleberry Inn in Atlanta.

1965

Ruby Doris Smith Robinson

Editor’s Note:
Ruby Doris Smith Robinson, C’65, chose to leave Spelman during her sophomore year to become immersed in her search for civil rights. Ms. Robinson engaged early on with the “jail-no-bail” strategy to be followed by years of freedom rides and demonstrations across the South. She has been noted as one of the earliest legendary figures in the Civil Rights Movement. Ms. Robinson became one of the powerful catalysts in the founding of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). She returned in 1964 to complete her degree. Ms. Robinson’s legacy was recently captured in Cynthia Fleming’s book Soon We Will Not Cry: The Liberation of Ruby Doris Smith Robinson.

1967

Berdie Ricks Hardon
Professional: Spoke at the Spelman Founders Day Worship Service on April 6, 2008, in Sisters Chapel.

1968

Maxine Hayes
Professional: Elected to membership in the Institute of Medicine. The formal induction took place in October 2007 at the National Academies of Science in Washington, D.C.

Jane Smith

1971

Wanda Lloyd
Professional: Presented Tuskegee University’s 15th Ralph Ellison Lecture on April 2, 2008, on the Tuskegee campus.

1973

Daria P. Bryant
Professional: Founder of Proclaim Academy, Inc. and licensed as a minister.

Fleda Mask Jackson
Professional: Appeared on the PBS series “Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?” on April 3, 2008. Dr. Jackson was interviewed and shown conducting a focus group in the Spelman Women’s Center on the stressors of race and gender and their ill-effects on the health of African American women. Dr. Mona Phillips, C’76, and Tracy Clark Washington, C’89, are also shown in the series.

Delores L. McCallum
Professional: Awarded the 2007–2008 Community Service Award by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. Gamma Chapter and the 2008 Educational Excellence Award by the Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Holiday Commission.

1975

Janet D. Marbre
Professional: Promoted to first assistant prosecutor in the Mercer County Prosecutor’s Office in Trenton, N.J.

Brenda Siler
Professional: Named vice president, communications and marketing at the Independent Sector, effective April 29, 2008. IS, founded in 1980, is a nonpartisan leadership forum for 600 charities, foundations and corporate giving programs committed to advancing the common good in America and around the world.

1976

Sheila A. Johnson
Professional: Appointed government affairs coordinator for Nassau Suffolk Legal Services Corp. She was also appointed to the board of Child Abuse Preventive Services organization where she is a volunteer workshop presenter. Ms. Johnson attended Camp Obama and was an elected delegate for Barack Obama in the 2nd Congressional District in New York.

Mona Phillips

1977

Mary Lynne Diggs
Professional: Participated in a round-table discussion regarding the South Carolina Democratic Primary that aired in January 2008 on NPR. A photo and article about the discussion was posted on NPR’s Web site on “Tell Me More, With Michel Martin” on January 25, 2008.

Sheila Davis Kinui
Professional: Founder and artistic director of the New Professional Theatre. Released the schedule of the 2008 season highlights, which included a writer’s festival that began...
Take Note!

Spelman alumnae from all over the country participated in the political process as they attended both the Democratic and the Republican 2008 National Conventions. Many alumnae participants at the Democratic National Convention are pictured above in Jet magazine, the September 15, 2008 issue, as they witnessed the historical nomination of the first African American presidential nominee of a major party. On the opening night of the Democratic National Convention, Elder Bernice King, C’85, offered remarks on the 45th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech given during his March on Washington. Attending the Republican National Convention, Adrienne Lance Lucas, C’90, witnessed the first woman to be nominated as vice president on the Republican ticket.

Alumna Josephine Jones, HS, C’26, celebrated her 100th birthday in style, July 20, 2008, at Brett Cavaialli’s Carrabbas in Atlanta. In addition to a letter from Democratic Presidential Nominee, Senator Barack Obama, she received proclamations, a Golden Girl watch from her Spelman sister, Gwen Page, C’58, words of appreciation from V-103’s Frank Ski, and an assortment of other words and good wishes from family, church members and friends. In November 2007, she was featured in the news story, “Elderly Atlanta Woman Receives a Special Thanksgiving Gift,” on Fox 5 Atlanta.

Tai Beauchamp, C’2000, beauty and style writer/editor, is highlighted on the contributors’ page of Ebony magazine, February 2008, for writing the Style Q&A for Ebony. In January 2008, Ms. Beauchamp was plucked to serve as a beauty and fashion contributor for women’s mega-site ivillage.com. Her blog, Compacts & Vignettes is on the beauty pages.

Actors LaTanya Richardson Jackson, C’74, and husband Samuel L. Jackson, with their daughter Zoe Jackson, exchange student (2002-2005), celebrated with Michelle Obama in their Los Angeles home during their September campaign fundraiser which netted over $1 million.

LaTanya Richardson Jackson, C’74, performed staged readings at The Kennedy Center in a tribute to the late Pulitzer Prize-winning, African American playwright August Wilson. She performed in Joe Turner’s Come & Gone on March 6-8 and March 30, 2008. She also performed in Seven Guitars on March 14-16 and April 3, 2008.

F A L L  2 0 0 8

**Deidra Yarbrough**
**Professional:** Spoke at the Spelman College Founders Day Worship Service on April 6, 2008, in Sisters Chapel.

**1978**

**Myrna Amos**
**Professional:** Promoted to executive director of School Programs, Division of Academic Services in Duval County Public Schools (Florida) in July 2007.

**Patrice G. Coleman**
**Professional:** Honored at the Black Women Film Preservation Project 11th Annual Celebration, “The Untold Stories Luncheon: Celebrating Those Who Tell Our Stories,” on March 7, 2008, at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel in Atlanta. Sheryl Riley Gripper, C'72, Kathleen Jackson Bertrand, C'75, Patricia Graham Johnson, C'73, and Tomika Michelle DePriest, C'89, are board members of the organization. Coleman was also pictured in the article “From Madaea to Mogul” in *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* published on September 13, 2006.

**Avonne Lawson-Polk**
**Personal:** Represented one of the Twenty Pearls of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. at the Theta Zeta Omega Chapter’s first char- plished “Black Nativity” by Langston Hughes for the Spelman College Department of Drama and Dance that took place November 1–4, at the Baldwin Burroughs Theatre on Spelman’s campus.

**Omeika Kuumba**
**Professional:** Participated in “A Moment of Grace Interfaith Prayer Brunch” on September 11, 2007, in the June Gary Hoppes Manley Center Atrium. She also co-choreographed “Black Nativity” by Langston Hughes for the Spelman College Department of Drama and Dance that took place November 1–4, at the Baldwin Burroughs Theatre on Spelman’s campus. On February 28, 2008, Kuumba’s African drum and dance ensemble, Giwayen Mata, auditioned for the NBC television show “America’s Got Talent” and made it to the Las Vegas semi-finals.

**Sharon Covington Patterson**
**Professional:** Delivered the message for the Spelman College Homecoming closing worship service on October 27, 2007, in Sisters Chapel.

**Valita Sellers Quattlebaum**
**Professional:** Hired by New Hanover County Schools in Wilmington, N.C., to serve as public relations director. The announcement ran in the *Wilmington Star News* and StarNewsOnline.com on November 1, 2007.

**Kiron Skinner**
**Professional:** Interviewed by Judyth Piazza for *The Student Operated Press* in November 2007. Skinner is the editor of *Turning Points in Ending the War Cold* (Hoover Press), a collection of essays by American and Russian statesmen and scholars on events that led to the end of the cold war. She is also co-author of *Strategy of Campaigning: Lessons from Ronald Reagan and Boris Yeltsin* (University of Michigan Press, 2007).

**1980**

**Daphne L. Smith**
**Professional:** Mathematician, Sr. at Wellpoint Inc., Dr. Smith was the featured speaker at the Fourth Annual Etta Zuber Falconer Lecture at Spelman College on April 22, 2008.

**1981**

**Angela Benson**

**Kimberly Browne Davis**
**Personal:** Committed a six-figure gift to Spelman to establish a program endowment for the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement, providing funding for the Kimberly B. Davis Leaders on Leadership Speak Series. Ms. Davis, president of the JP Morgan Chase Foundation, was the inaugural speaker for “Alumnae Voices,” a core program under the auspices of this speaker series. The event took place on February 28, 2008, following a naming ceremony and reception on Spelman’s campus.

**Omeika Kuumba**
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**1982**

**Michelle Mathews**
**Professional:** Facilitated a two-day strategic planning retreat for Spelman College to discuss the overall direction for the strategic planning process.

**1983**

**Shawnee Daniels-Sykes**
**Professional:** Delivered the keynote address for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Service on January 21, 2008, sponsored by the Catholic Archdiocese of Milwaukee. The title of the address was “I Am Sick and Tired of Being Sick and Tired. Health Care, Is It a Right or a Privilege?”

**1984**

**Rosalind Gates Brewer**
**Personal:** Hosted an event featuring the Johnnie Lumpkin Davis [C’50] Scholarship Fund at Spelman College on December 2, 2007, in Atlanta, where President Beverly Daniel Tatum made remarks.

**Denise Thimes**
**Professional:** Continued her international impact as a jazz vocalist with a performance at The White House on Valentine’s Day. Joining her in the show were Washington, D.C. musicians Robert Redd on piano, Herman Birney on bass and Lenny Robinson on drums. She is planning to release the CD, *Denise Thimes Live in the Lou.*

**Aubyn Elaine Thomas**
**Professional:** Appointed senior vice president of marketing services by Macy’s Inc. In her new role, she will be responsible for driving growth and service excellence for Macy’s financial services businesses.

**1985**

**A.J. Johnson**
**Professional:** Participated in a free Ali event, filled with education and inspiration that offered tools to help people lead healthier lifestyles and lose weight gradually, held in Atlanta at Atlantic Station on October 19-21, 2007.

**Jennifer Walton**
**Professional:** Spoke at the Spelman Founders Day Worship Service on April 6, 2008, in Sisters Chapel.

**1986**

**Dazon Dixon Dials**
**Professional:** Held the Mother House Grand Opening and Housewarming Party given by SistersSong Women of Color Reproductive Health Collective and SistersLove Inc. on January 23, 2008, in Atlanta. It was the opening of the first feminist center for women of color in Atlanta.

**1987**

**Stephanie Adams**
**Professional:** Appointed as the CACI International Inc. project manager responsible for CACI’s delivery on the Veterans Health Information Technology Task Orders. She assumed both contract and financial management of CACI’s subcontract with TCAssis- ciates and will be the CACI technical lead on the Software Engineer Institute Tools implementation team.

**Tonya West Johnson**
**Education:** Received doctorate in education from Nova Southeastern University on March 31, 2007. She was also appointed as an adjunct faculty member at Argosy University in Atlanta in December 2007.

**1988**

**April Barnett**
**Professional:** Owner and operator of A.B.’s Fuzzy Babies, a professional pet- and home-sitting service. In April 2007, April Barnet appeared in a leading role as Tamika White in the mockumentary film “Closing Escrow,” opposite Cedric Yarbrough and Wendell McLendon-Covey of the hit television series “Reno 911.” “Closing Escrow” is now available on DVD. Barnett also wrote the play Happy Accidents, which premiered at Playhouse West School and Repertory Theater.

**Katrina Evans-Dobbs**
**Married:** The Rev. Ashley Leon Dobbs in May 2007.

**Personal:** Moved to Atlanta in June 2007.

**Professional:** Received title of regional director of physician services for Provena Health in Chicago and 13 other outpatient facilities.

**Esther Yiyi Lamnayam**

**Jacquelyn Nance**
**Personal:** Named Arthritis Foundation Community Leader of the Year, 2006.

**Debra Mae Whitten**
**Personal:** Ordained elder in the United Methodist Church, June 2007.

**Brucetta Williams**
**Professional:** Opened Meridian Restaurant and Bar in Washington, D.C., as one of the proprietors.

**1989**

**Tomika DePriest**
**Professional:** Elected to the board of the Black Women Film Preservation Project, an Atlanta-based organization that honors Black filmmakers and others working in the industry and provides scholarship support for students pursuing the field. BWFPP was founded by Sheryl Riley Gripper, C’72. Ms. DePriest was also recognized for five years of service at Spelman College.

**Cathy Hampton**
**Professional:** Appointed vice president, general counsel and secretary for RARE Hospitality International.
Take Note!

June Dobbs Butts, C'48, was featured in the April 2008 issue of *Atlanta* magazine, dedicated to the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., “King – 40 Years Later.” Ms. Dobbs participated in “The Funeral,” a behind-the-scenes story of King’s funeral, an oral history by Rebecca Burns. Elder Bernice King, C'85, is also featured in the piece. Ms. Dobbs is also featured in the Sunday Living section of the January 6, 2008, issue of *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* in the article, “The Black Elite, Who’s In? Who’s Out? Who Cares?” Carol Ann Miller, C'62, is also pictured in the article.


In the September 10, 2007 issue of the *Jet* article “Blacks read more than Whites, Hispanics, poll,” Ms. Ansa was quoted during the National Book Club Conference in Chicago, saying “I think it was always a myth that Black people didn’t read. It’s just that [the industry] didn’t publish anything that Black people wanted to read.”

Former student Esther Rolle (attended in 1942) was featured in the article “Gone But Not Forgotten” in the January 28, 2008, issue of *Jet* magazine. Ms. Rolle, who died in 1998, was remembered by former cast mates from the hit television series “Good Times.”

Rosalind Gates Brewer, C’84, and Spelman College trustee, was featured on the cover of the July/August 2008 third anniversary issue of *Pink* magazine, and in the article “Can the Top Women of Wal-Mart Save Its Soul?”
Darryllynn Hutson-Bryant
Professional: A pop culture journalist, event organizer, film and television producer, documentarian and independent filmmaker, Mrs. Hutson-Bryant has most recently written for The Source Magazine, Upscale, Vibe and Tracee magazine.

Patricia Lawrence Kolaras
Professional: Spoke at Spelman College to kick off the Spelman Women Empowered through Professional Training program in October 2007 along with Tracey Hughes, C’90. Mrs. Kolaras is the legal counsel for Rum Cake Fairy Dessert LLC.

Tracey Clark Washington
Professional: Appeared on the PBS series “Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?” on April 3, 2008. Fleda Mask Jackson, C’73, and Mona Phillips, C’76, are also shown in the series.

Tosha Whitten-Griggs

1990
Ericka Bahner

Mignon Espy

Tracey Hughes
Professional: Spoke at Spelman College to kick off the Spelman Women Empowered through Professional Training program in October 2007 along with Patricia Lawrence Kolaras, C’89. Ms. Hughes is the founder and CEO of Rum Cake Fairy Dessert LLC.

1991
Jocelyn Coleman
Professional: Spoke at the Alumna 2 Student Conversation at Homecoming Convocation 2007 on October 18, 2007, in Sisters Chapel.

Cherry Collier
Professional: Spoke at the Atlanta Women’s Network Luncheon on December 4, 2007, at 103 West Restaurant in Atlanta.

Dorian Crosby
Professional: Collaborated with the Division of Student Affairs to host a discussion on refugees in Georgia on February 28, 2008, in LLC II Auditorium on Spelman’s campus.

Trecia Hargo
Professional: Started the Saturday Sweats Boot Camp Program on October 20, 2007, through her fitness company, Results – Want Them Get Them LLC.

Wendi Lynn West
Married: David P. McMullen on September 1, 2007, in Cincinnati.

Jo Ester White
Education: Earned her doctorate in pharmacy from the University of Georgia, Athens, in May 2007.

1992
Michele Anita Hayes
Professional: Named the director of admissions at the University of Maryland School of Law, Baltimore.

Michelle Lee

Kimberlee Scott
Married: Phillip Mayes on May 2, 2008, at Sea Pines Resort in Hilton Head, S.C.


1993
Andrea Barnwell Brownelee
Professional: Participated in “Conversation with the Curators,” as director of the College’s Museum of Fine Art in association with the exhibit “Part II of Cinema Remixed and Reloaded: Black Women Artists and the Moving Image Since 1970.” The conversation took place on February 26, 2008, in the Camille Olivia Hanks Cosby Ed.D. Academic Center at Spelman College. She also was a guest speaker at Hottentot to Hip Hop: The Black Female Body in Art and Visual Culture, the culminating event for Cosby endowed Chair Dr. Lisa Farrington, on March 28, 2008, in the Cosby Academic Center Auditorium.

Geronda Carter
Professional: Honored by the Jackson-George Regional Library System and other community groups in Mississippi for the library’s 29th annual celebration of Black History Month. She was also honored at The Eleventh Annual National Black Herstory Conference and Awards Banquet on March 28–30, 2008. Josephine Jackson-Smith, C’96, spoke at the event.

Marcia Woodham
Birth: Daughter, Gabrielle Michae Woodham on April 24, 2007 in Montgomery.

1994
Keisha Davis Berkley

Judith Crocker Billingsley
Professional: Named by the State of South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice as social worker of the year.

Nadra Daniel

Kamili Dawson
Professional: Invited to join the partnership of Seyforth Shaw LLP, effective January 1, 2008. Ms. Dawson works out of the San Francisco office where she practices in the firm’s Labor and Employment Department.

Kristy Holley

Nikki Peoples
Professional: Partnered with the cast of “Black Nativity” (a group of more than 30 students, faculty and staff who recently performed Langston Hughes’ classic at Spelman) through her store, Chelsea Parks Shoe Boutique, to collect 1,142 pairs of shoes for the Soles4Souls organization that provides proper footwear to those in need worldwide.

Darlene Lumpkin Stegall
C’94 owns Chelsea Parks Shoe Boutique.

Meta Smith
Professional: Wrote the novel Heaven’s Fury with platinum-selling rapper 50 Cent, published by G-Unit books in January 2008.

Darlene Lumpkin Stegall
Professional: Partnered with the cast of “Black Nativity” (a group of more than 30 students, faculty and staff who recently performed Langston Hughes’ classic at Spelman) through her store, Chelsea Parks Shoe Boutique, to collect 1,142 pairs of shoes for the Soles4Souls organization that provides proper footwear to those in need worldwide.

Nikki Peoples, C’94, co-owns Chelsea Parks Shoe Boutique.

Meka Brumfield Ward

Monifa Watson

Angela Dempsey Williams
Professional: Spoke at Spelman’s Founders Day Worship Service on April 6, 2008, in Sisters Chapel.

1995
Riché Barnes
Professional: Appointed to a two-year position at Smith College in the Department of Afro-American Studies, teaching new courses in anthropology, study of women and gender, and Afro-American studies. She also received the Marjorie Shostak Award for Humanistic Ethnography from the Department of Anthropology, Emory University, in May 2007.

Alia Jones
Professional: Co-produced the first all African American revival of Tennessee Williams’ Pulitzer Prize winning classic, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, on Broadway from February 13 — April 13, 2008.

Candace McLaren

Darla Miles
Professional: Reporter for WFAA News 8, Dallas-Fort Worth. Darla joined the News 8 team in December 2006.

Na’Taki Osborne

Delvinda Flaherty Sene

Personal: Established the Delores Flaherty Study Abroad Scholarship for Spelman students seeking to study abroad. The first scholarship will be awarded in 2008.

1996
Jan Brown

Andrea Lewis Johnson

DeKimberlen Joneka Neely
Professional: Former faculty, transitioned to a new position as program manager for LEADS at Spelman College.

Kenyetta Wilbourn-Snapp
Personal: Named illustrious commandress of Marracci Court #32, Daughters of Isis in Detroit. The organization is an auxiliary of the Imperial Court Daughters of Isis.

1997
Tikenya Foster-Singletary
Take Note!

The new book of author and playwright Pearl Cleage, C’71, Seen It All and Done the Rest was reviewed in the April 2008 issue of Essence magazine. The novel was also highlighted in The Atlanta Journal-Constitution article “Seen in an ATL Lens: Cleage’s New Novel Plays Up Fictionalized West End Locale.” Dr. Cleage’s play also received media attention in the feature “Love Song: 7 Stages Production Pays Homage to Coretta Scott King” in the January 16–22, 2008 issue of Creative Loafing and in the article “Sing It Again: 7 Stages’ ‘Song for Coretta’ Fades Too Soon,” in the Sunday Paper, January 27 – February 2, 2008, issue.

The April 2008 issue of Ebony featured Christine King Farris, C’48, and Bernice King, C’85, in “Who Controls Dr. King’s Dream?” The same issue of Ebony also included an interview with Pearl Cleage, C’71, along with a review of her new novel, Seen It All and Done the Rest, as well as highlighting Janille Chambers, C’2008, as Miss Spelman 2007–2008 and Kera Street, C’2008, as Miss Morehouse College 2007–2008.


Najoh Tita-Reid, C’94, graced the cover of Target Market News for its December 2007 issue. The issue featured the piece “Inside Proctor & Gamble’s ‘My Black is Beautiful’ Campaign” that was spearheaded by Ms. Tita-Reid.

Black Enterprise magazine highlighted Kheri Holland-Tillman, C’92, in the Powerplay, On The Move section of the November 2007 issue. The piece highlights her new position as vice president, marketing, Amstel Light and Dos Equis Brands for Heineken USA.

Ayana Davis Hernandez

Shani Peterson

Mikki Harris Rice
Birth: Son, Biko Harris Rice on October 19, 2007 in Atlanta.

Carla Stokes
Professional: Contributed to the development of www.spellhouse.net as a designer and launched the social networking site in February 2008.

1998
Katasha Butler

Kimaya Butler

Shana Word Davis

Kenya Ervin
Professional: Writer for Mahogany Visions, a new monthly online magazine that aims to promote positive images of and for African American teens and young adults, www.mahoganyvisions.com. She wrote the article on the Jena 6 for the first issue.

Tia Fuller
Professional: Featured in the article “Tia Fuller Has Sax Appeal” in Denver’s Westword on March 6, 2008. The article promoted her appearance at Dazzle on March 6 and 7 and highlighted her career.

Aisha Goens
Professional: Recipient of the Miller Award of Excellence presented at the Cummins Management Conference (Oct. 29 – Nov. 2) to honor individuals whose work on behalf of the company and whose core values reflect the spirit of J. Irwin Miller, former chairman and CEO of Cummins.

LaTiea Alston Hairston
Professional: Held the fourth annual Walking in Excellence Spring Break College Tour on April 7–9, 2008, through her organization, The Village Education Endeavors.

Adia Harvey
Personal: Quoted in WXIA 11-Alive story on December 10, 2007, about the sociological implications of Atlanta Public Schools’ decision to ban baggy and saggy pants.

Beah Hatcher
Married: Percy Bell, Jr., on October 27, 2007, in Asheville, N.C.

Heather Henderson
Professional: Passed her bar examinations in Maryland in 2007.

Karan Kendrick
Personal: Awarded the 2008 Alpha Kappa Alpha Trailblazer Award.

Tashmehia Mitchell
Professional: A third-generation Coloradan and former Denver Public Schools teacher recognized by the National Youth Leadership Council as an emerging leader who has demonstrated a commitment to making a difference in the lives of young people, schools and communities. She is one of only 22 professionals to be selected for this distinction.

Lorraine Newton Lalli
Professional: Appointed assistant dean of students for the Roger Williams University School of Law in April 2007.

Jade Lambert Smith
Professional: Directed the plays “The Purple Flower and Exit: An Illusion” for the Spelman College department of drama and dance’s 2007–2008 season. The plays opened on October 4th and ran through October 7, 2007. She was also hired as the artistic engagement associate at the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta.

Ann Marie Stephenson-McInnis
Professional: Appointed to a July 2008 Gastroenterology and Hepatology Fellowship position at St. James Hospital in Chicago, Ann Marie has also completed a one-year fellowship in gerontology at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey – SOM and completed an internal medicine residency at Frankford Hospitals in Philadelphia in June 2007.

1999
Rebecca Brown
Professional: Promoted to lieutenant by the Clayton County Police Department in Georgia on November 16, 2007. She is the first Black female lieutenant in Clayton County.

Aletha Cherry
Professional: Named director of the Hemdon Home in the West End community of Atlanta. The Hemdon Home is a lasting tribute to the hard work and talent of extraordinary African Americans in Atlanta, and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2000.

Chekheda Liddell
Professional: Received the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. Created as a result of President Clinton’s February 1996 commission, PECASE honors and supports the extraordinary achievements of young professionals at the outset of their independent research careers in the fields of science and technology.

Khalisa Nicole Wiggs
Married: Jyosef Bernard Jeffery at the Ivy House in Inglewood, Ca. The wedding was featured in Jet.

2000
Dana Brown
Married: Thomas L. Davenport II (Morehouse, Class of 2002) on September 9, 2007, in Chicago. The wedding was featured in Jet.

Avenue: Graduated in June 2007 from the University of Chicago Law School. Dana passed the Illinois bar exam and accepted an associate position with the Finance Practice Group at DLA Piper US LLP.

Kristin Clermont

Nykesha Davis

Paula Harmon
Professional: Participated in an otolaryngology medical mission trip to Malawi (eastern Africa) in 2007. She and a colleague traveled to Malawi to operate from July 2007 through August 2007 in a country where there are no ENT surgeons. An article about Paula’s experiences was featured in the University of North Carolina School of Medicine Department of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery newsletter.

April Sunset Jones

2001
Erika Stallworth
Education: Traveled in February and March 2008 to Thailand to conduct research on “U.S. Ratification of the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption – Analyzing the Situation in Conjunction with the Hague, Compliant Thailand” in places such as the Pattaya Orphanage and Chalalongkorn University, Chiang Mai and Phuket in accordance with completion of her juris doctorate degree from Loyola University, Chicago.

Brandi Williams
Education: Earned master of science in information technology from Capella University in June 2008.

Jonelle Lofton
Education: Admitted to the Kelley School of Business for fall 2008. She is also a Consortium Fellowship recipient and will be moving to Indiana to pursue a master’s degree in business administration with a concentration in marketing and emphasis in the television and media entertainment industry.

Malaika Jones Kebede

Reagan Taylor

Mia Thompson
Education: Received a doctorate in anatomy from Howard University in December 2007.

2002
Cyreea Boston
Professional: Candidate for the Oregon House of Representatives, HD-45, in northeast Portland.

Malu Fairley

Deedra Hardrick
Birth: Daughter, Madison Elizabeth Hardrick, born March 1, 2007 in Columbus, Ga.
Contributing writer for Essence, the May 2008 issue, Penny Wrenn, C’99, was highlighted in accordance with her article “A Mother’s Love.” Wrenn explored motherhood with Tichina Arnold, Lynn Whitfield, Robin Roberts, Laila Ali, and her mother Veronica Porche. Ms. Wrenn has also written for Redbook and Glamour magazines.

Heather Joy Thompson, C’99, was selected to be entertainment mogul Sean “Diddy” Combs’ personal assistant, announced on The Oprah Winfrey Show on November 6, 2007. The announcement was featured in the December 10, 2007, issue of Jet magazine. The article, “Lawyer’s Professional Leap Earns New Gig With Diddy,” highlighted Ms. Thompson’s career and her decision to submit a videotape to become Diddy’s assistant. More recently, she has become a Foreign Service Officer for the U.S. Department of State.

Rita Robinzine, C’89, candidate for the Georgia State House District 91, appeared in the March issue of Redbook magazine to discuss her candidacy and the importance of women in politics. The article, “Yes, You Could Be Mayor,” highlights five ordinary women doing extraordinary things through politics.

Peek-A-Boo Strapz, the company co-founded by Piper Miller, C’97, has been garnering a lot of media attention, including a recent appearance on The Big Idea with Donny Deutsch on CNBC. Ms. Miller and co-founder Fantasy Buckman appeared on the show in November 2007, promoting their line of decorative interchangeable bra straps. “Ingenious” was the word used by Donny Deutsch to describe their product.

“Made With Hands and Hearts: Quilts and Dolls From the Collection of Beverly Guy-Sheftall,” was displayed at the Hammonds House Museum and Resource Center of African American Art in December 2007 and January 2008. The exhibit featured a sampling from the collection of Dr. Guy-Sheftall, C’68, which includes more than 400 dolls and nearly 100 quilts. The exhibit was curated by Dr. Akua McDaniel, C’69. Dr. Guy-Sheftall also recently received an honorary degree from Medgar Evers College.
Gabrielle Hargrove
Personal: Awarded the 2007 Outstanding Service to Chapter Award by the Iota Delta Sigma chapter of Chi Sigma Iota. Gabrielle also participated with a research team at Emory University that published a manuscript about coping methods for African American women who have been abused, “Perceived Social Support as a Mediator of the Link Between Intimate Partner Conflict and Child Adjustment,” in the Journal of Family Violence. Gabrielle has been accepted for doctoral study in counseling psychology at the University of Kentucky for fall 2007. She has already earned a master’s degree from the Auburn University College of Education.

Nineshia Highsaw
Married: Gabriel Ishmael Mont-Reynaud on September 8, 2007, at Wesley Monumental Methodist Church in Savannah, Ga. The wedding was announced in the Fulton-Metro Weekly.

Brandi Knox
Professional: First runner-up in the Ashley Stewart National Model Search, which launched in October 2007.

2003
Lindsay M. Hopkins
Professional: Joined the intellectual property law firm of Hamilton Brook Smith Reynolds as an associate. Her practice is focused on patent law, licensing and trademarks. She has particular experience with working with clients in the electronics and clean energy industries.

Nicole Dennis
Education: Received a juris doctorate degree and a master of arts in global finance, trade and economics from the University of Denver College of Law and Graduate School of International Affairs on May 19, 2007.

Kristen Herring
Personal: Represented Tennessee in the Miss Black USA Scholarship pageant held at the Orleans Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada. She was crowned Miss Black Tennessee on August 18, 2007 and was named the Orleans Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Miss Black USA Scholarship pageant held in the state of Texas on November 2, 2007.

Alicia Bannerman
Education: Received master of arts in teaching from Mercer University’s Atlanta campus on December 15, 2007, and graduated with a 4.0 GPA. Her first teaching position is as a biology teacher with Pebblebrook High School in Mableton, Ga.

Kirstyn Brown
Professional: Participated in the sixth annual “Seven Women at the Cross” Lenten service on March 19, 2008, at Spelman College.

Rev. Jessica B. Davenport

Genae Marie Franklin

Shani Foster
Professional: Headlined as a mezzo-soprano in “Portraits of Black Opera: A Celebration for the World” on February 9, 2008, at Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church in Nashville. Genae Marie Franklin, C’2004, was also featured as a conductor and Kiera Johnson, C’2005, served as musical director.

Kiera Johnson
Professional: Served as musical director of “Portraits of Black Opera: A Celebration for the World” on February 9, 2008, at Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church in Nashville. Genae Marie Franklin, C’2004, was also featured as a conductor and Shani Foster, C’2005, as a mezzo-soprano.

Alexis Morris
Professional: Participated in the sixth annual “Seven Women at the Cross” Lenten service on March 19, 2008, at Spelman College.

Kia Smith
Professional: Started a talk radio broadcast, www.blogtalkradio.com/perspectivetalk. The show is designed to offer an enlightened perspective on all of life’s pressing issues including culture, society, politics, music and religion.

Ntianu Young
Personal: Participated in the College’s drama and dance department’s “Soles for Shoes” project in conjunction with Chelsea Parks Boutique.

Education: Accepted to Valdosta State University for master of science in library sciences.

Moya Bailey

2006
Leana Cabral

Nancy Goler Freeman
Professional: Selected to participate with the Juvenile Court of Dekalb County, Youth Diversion Program as a panel volunteer for the 2008–2009 year. She also performed in a staged reading for Theatre du Rire in collaboration with the Spelman College department of drama and dance that presented the play “Fire’s Daughter.” The performance took place on March 21, 2008, at Spelman’s campus.

2007
Ericka D. King
Correction to Spelman Messenger, Volume 119, Number 1, Fall 2007/ Winter 2008, “Alumnae Notes,” pg 42: Ericka D. King was listed in the class of 2006. She should have been listed in the class of 2007. Ericka also along with Regina Branch, C’2007, and Jill Paschal, C’2008, participated in an internship at the Winterthur Museum and Country Estate.
**Take Note!**

**Christine King Farris**, C'48, **Bernice King**, C'85, **Kathleen Bertrand**, C'73, **Sheila Bronner**, C'86, **Helen Smith Price**, C'79, and Spelman Board Member **Vicki Palmer** were all pictured in the winter issue of *Women Looking Ahead News Magazine* as 2008 Award Honorees for the Trumpet Awards’ 2nd Annual High Heels in High Places, High Tea with High Heels at the Hyatt on January 12, 2008.

**Skirt! magazine** featured **Deidre Turner**, C'01, in the Women of the World section of their May 2008, Atlanta issue. The article highlighted her jet-setting career as host of the Comcast show, “The Romance Travel Guide.” Ms. Turner discusses the fit between her passion for travel and the opportunity to find the “most romantic destinations in the world.”
Keshia Knight Pulliam, C’2001, was featured as the cover girl for the September 22, 2008 issue of *Jet* and in *People’s* summer 2008 special edition on Child Stars Then & Now, noting her early role as Rudy Huxtable and, more recently, her recurring role on Tyler Perry’s *House of Payne*. In February 2008, she appeared on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* with the cast of *The Cosby Show* for the reunion show and in “Keshia Knight Pulliam, Brian McKnight Talk HBCUs” as part of *VIBE’s* School Daze retrospective.

Denise White, C’97, was profiled in the Fabulous Fox Theatre’s *Encore Atlanta* magazine in July 2007 as the choral director for *Dreamgirls*, produced in Atlanta by Christopher Manos in association with the National Black Arts Festival.

Stephanie Scott, C’98, director of public relations at 3Lab Inc., a luxury cosmeceutical brand, was featured in *The Blay Report* by Zandile Blay, “Spring 2008 Smarts, Style and a Sizzling Haute Job: Stephanie Scott Has It all.”

Karan Kendrick, C’98, recently performed in the Tyler Perry productions of *House of Payne* and the upcoming release of *Madea Goes to Jail*. Her two-week shoot for the Lifetime premiere of *Fab Five: The Texas Cheerleader Scandal*, was filmed just days before she and dancers from her Fort Valley-based Bliss and Feet Center for the Arts participated in an international cultural exchange in Beijing and Chengdu, China.

While attending the Evidence Dance Company’s *Grace in the Winter: The Red Ball* in New York, Jerri DeVard, C’79, and Spelman College trustee, was pictured in *Around Town Community Magazine* at the Hudson Theater at the Millennium Broadway Hotel.

Where in the World Is Ivy Williams?

Ivy Williams, C’2004, has shown up in some very interesting places. Whether by land, sea or air, Ms. Williams is traveling the world, making changes everywhere! For starters, she began a stint in June 2007, performing on the MS Westerdam of the Holland America Cruise Line. She found time to jump off a cliff while the cruise ship docked in Dubrovnic, Croatia and experienced sky diving back in her home state of Georgia when she returned in December. Most recently, she resumed her dance career, teaming up with the Osmonds at the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas with the “Donny and Marie Show.”
Pictured in Jet’s May 26, 2008 issue, McGhee Williams Osse, C’74, co-CEO of Burrell Communications, was honored at the Ebony luncheon recognizing outstanding women in marketing and communications. Shaun Robinson, C’84, co-anchor and correspondent for Access Hollywood and Tai Beauchamp, C’2000, writer, were featuring the luncheon.

An article featuring McGhee Williams Osse, C’74, Co-CEO of Burrell Communications Group, ran in the November 2007 issue of the Atlanta Voice. Ms. Osse and Dawn Williams-Thompson, C’86, director, advertising development, beauty and health, Procter & Gamble (P&G) were honored by The ADCOLOR™ Industry Coalition as part of the 2007 ADCOLOR™ Awards.

A groundbreaking documentary featuring the original SpelBots robot soccer team aired Dec. 2, 2007, on PBA 30. The half-hour documentary highlighted team members Aryen Moore-Alston, Brandy Kinlaw and Shinese Noble, all C’2005; Ebony Smith, C’2006; Karina Liles, C’2007; and Ebony O’Neal, C’2008, who participated in the 2005 International RoboCup four-legged robot soccer competition held in Osaka, Japan. That year, Spelman became the first historically Black college or university, the only all-women’s institution, and the only U.S. undergraduate institution to compete in Japan. Dr. Andrew Williams, associate professor of computer science, is founder, director and adviser to the SpelBots team.

Evelyn Hammonds, C’76, a professor of African American studies and historian of science, has been selected as the dean of Harvard College, effective June 1, 2008. Dr. Hammonds received her Ph.D. from Harvard and joined the institution as a professor in 2002. Her appointment was featured in the April 21, 2008, issue of Jet magazine.

Featured in the spring/summer 2008 premiere issue of The Atlantan Brides magazine, the Hitched in Atlanta section, and in the Love and Happiness section of Jet magazine in the August, 18, 2007 issue is Ashley Brookins, C’2003, who married Derek Layne Jr. on August 18, 2007, at the Hilton Atlanta.

It was a big year for Dr. Evelyn Chisom, C’49, associate professor of psychology, as she celebrated her 80th birthday in February 2008 with a grand affair at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Atlanta. Pictured here during the September 2008 opening convocation, Dr. Chisom received a 2008 Presidential Award for Distinguished Service from President Beverly Daniel Tatum.
Rachael Jackson Sales, C’98, attended the 2008 Reunion convocation with her five daughters ranging in age from five to five months – Mocha, 5, Miracle, 4, Miyani, 3, Maasai, 2 and Makai, five months. The children remained quiet throughout the hour-long service in Sisters Chapel.
Dear Spelman
A Choice to Change the World

Class of 1938

Class of 1943

Class of 1948

Class of 1953
Class of 1958

Class of 1963
A Choice to Change the World
Class of 1978

Class of 1983
A Choice to Change the World

Class of 1988

Class of 1993
Class of 1998

Class of 2003
Stephanie Georgelyn Bush, C’68

November 8, 1946 – October 4, 2007

Stephanie Georgelyn Bush, the first child of the late George and Sarah Bush, was born on November 8, 1946 in Atlanta, Georgia. She attended Herndon Elementary School and graduated from C.L. Harper High School. She received a bachelor of arts degree in political science from Spelman College and a master’s degree in public administration from New York University.

She was a member of Radcliffe Presbyterian Church until she moved to New York, at which time she joined the Unity Church. Shortly after returning to Atlanta in 1994, she joined the Atlanta Unity Church where she remained a faithful and active member until her death.

Ms. Bush worked in housing development and marketing in the Open Housing Center, the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development, Advisory Services for Better Housing and the Madyus Corporation during the 25 years she lived in New York. Upon her return to Atlanta, she worked with MHR International/Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games and the Fulton County Business Incubator.

She received her teacher certification from Clark Atlanta University and taught in the Atlanta Public and Fulton County School Systems until she resigned due to illness.

As a faithful and devoted Spelman alumna, Ms. Bush served as president of the Atlanta Chapter of the Alumnae Association of Spelman College and continued her work as an active and committed alumna when her term ended, until her death. She was also an active member of Bosom Buddies Breast Cancer Support Group. Stephanie waged a long and relentless battle against breast cancer and maintained a positive and forward attitude throughout the many treatments and procedures she endured.

Ms. Bush is survived by her sister, Sarah Bush Harper C’70; her brother and sister-in-law, George “Tommie” and Patricia Bush; her aunts, Julia Minifield (Julius) and Dorothy Lloyd; her nieces, Moiya Harper and Staci Bush; cousins Ondrea F. Hightower, C’68, Marsha Hightower Dickerson, C’70, and Mrs. Karen Lloyd Conley, C’73 among other family members and many special friends.

A. Toy Caldwell-Colbert, C’73

September 21, 1951 – March 12, 2008

Dr. A. Toy Caldwell-Colbert was born in Salina, Kansas on September 21, 1951. The second of three children born to Robert C. and Bessie Ellis Caldwell, she was educated in the Salina Public Schools. A board-certified clinical psychologist, Dr. Caldwell-Colbert earned her bachelor’s degree, magna cum laude, in psychology from Spelman College and her master’s and doctorate degrees in psychology and clinical psychology, respectively, from the University of Georgia. She served as a trustee and vice chair of the Spelman Board of Trustees from 2003 until her death. She married Charles Colbert, had three children, Joffre-Charles, Jordan Ashley and LaTatia, and two grandchildren, Bajia and Zoie. In addition, she is survived by her sister Teree Caldwell-Johnson, C’78.

An incredibly committed professional and highly regarded clinical psychologist and academic administrator, Dr. Caldwell-Colbert began her professional career in 1977 as assistant professor of psychology at the University of Manitoba. Her career path spanned 31 years in higher
Rubye Davenport Neal, C’46 and C’92
March 6, 1924 – February 9, 2008

Rubye Davenport Neal, the third of four children, was born March 6, 1924, to Walter and Adele Davenport in Atlanta. She was educated in the Atlanta public schools and began her college training at Spelman College with the class of 1946. After marrying and raising her family, she returned to Spelman and received a B.A. degree in English in 1992. On her application for re-admittance she wrote, “It has always been my greatest ambition to earn my college degree. My association with the Atlanta University Center has made me more determined as well as motivated me to the point of pursing this goal.” Her show of commitment and demonstration of ageless determination continues to serve as a source of inspiration for others.

Mrs. Neal married Obbie Neal, Sr., of Vidalia, Georgia on March 24, 1947. He preceded her in death on March 19, 1987. Five children were born to this union, and she was the proud grandmother of eight grandchildren and two great-granddaughters including her daughter Dr. Cynthia Neal Spence, C’78 and granddaughter Courtnee Spence, C’2008.

Rubye worked as a secretary and administrative assistant until her retirement, first serving as a secretary in the Atlanta Public School System. Her true passion for her life’s work was realized when she became a member of the Morehouse College family. For 27 years, she enjoyed her labor of love as an administrative assistant for the college’s Health and Physical Education Department. She was a member of the Morehouse College Women’s Auxiliary and worked each year to assist with various fundraising activities. She truly loved Morehouse and the countless students who always knew they could come see “Mrs. Neal” in her office and receive the mothering they were missing being away from home.
Grace Lee Hewell, C’40

December 18, 1918 – March 7, 2008

Grace Lee Hewell, C’40, was born on December 18, 1918, in Atlanta, Georgia to John Lee Hewell and Josie Franklin. She attended high school in Chattanooga, Tennessee and returned to Atlanta to attend Spelman College in 1936. After graduating from Spelman in 1940 she received a master’s degree in social work from Atlanta University in 1943. Dr. Hewell then enlisted in the Women’s Army Corps and became a second lieutenant while serving in Germany. From 1945 to 1950, she was a service club director with the U.S. armed forces in Europe.

Passionate about furthering her education, Dr. Hewell received a master’s degree in 1952, a master’s degree in public health in 1954 and a doctorate in education in 1958, all from Columbia University. She worked as a social worker with the St. Louis Housing Authority in the early 1950s and then became a public health educator with the New York City Department of Health.

In 1960, Dr. Hewell moved to Washington, D.C. to work as a program coordination officer at the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (now Health and Human Services), beginning her influential and impressive career. She was assigned to the office of the assistant secretary for legislation.

During the first session of the 89th Congress in 1965, she was appointed education chief for the House Committee on Education and Labor, chaired by Rep. Adam Clayton Powell Jr. (D-N.Y.), who had been her pastor at Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York City.

The 89th Congress was labeled “the education Congress” because of the passage of 15 education bills. However, a conference committee reached an impasse on provisions of the Higher Education Act of 1965 that would expand continuing education programs and would provide greater opportunities for historically black colleges to compete for federal funds. Dr. Hewell helped Powell break the impasse and in the process forced the federal government to begin closing the gap between white and Black education in the United States.

Dr. Hewell continued her influential career as an adult education program officer in the Office of Education for the New York region from 1967 to 1978 and later a consultant on educational telecommunications for the Department of Education. She was a commission member for UNESCO’s Fourth International Conference on Adult Education from 1975 to 1980.

Throughout the years, Dr. Hewell always stayed true to her beloved alma mater, Spelman College. A loyal supporter, she consistently gave her time, talent and treasure to help ensure that future generations of young women would benefit, as she did, from a Spelman education. Her love for the College began early as she wrote a paragraph about the College on her application for admission that she said fully established the reason she wished to attend Spelman, “The most important works that the college can do is in the development of women of character and good will with their mental capacities trained to the highest point of usefulness. Spelman is emphatically Christian. The attitude toward life and teachings of Jesus is the ideal which governs the institution. The College strives to emphasize and develop the Christian virtues of truth, courage, kindness, tolerance and justice in the relations among men and among nations. If Spelman can help develop these things in me I know I will have received the fundamentals, aim and ambition of a lifetime in a brief space of four years.”

Dr. Hewell served on the executive board of Delta Sigma Theta sorority and was a life member of the National Council of Negro Women. When she retired from government service, she established a second residence in Chattanooga and helped then-Senator Al Gore clean up a creek that had been described as “the most polluted and contaminated” in the South.

Services: Omega Omega Service by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. on March 17, 2008, in Brentwood, Maryland, and a graveside service on March 28, 2008, in Chattanooga, Tennessee.
Grace Hewell: Environmental Justice

Even as a Spelman undergraduate more than half a century ago, Grace Hewell C’60 knew exactly what she wanted. Her clear sense of destiny, and her determination to realize it, sparked a small controversy that could serve as a metaphor for her entire career. At that time, the renowned sociologist W.E.B. Du Bois was teaching graduate-level courses at Atlanta University. The young Miss Hewell knew that the kind of community-focused social analysis for which Dr. Du Bois was famous would be ideal preparation for her burgeoning aspirations. With characteristic enthusiasm, she set about signing up for his class. There was one apparent insurmountable problem: at that time, undergraduates were not allowed to take classes at the university level.

Determined in her efforts to seize this excellent opportunity, Hewell persisted. Then she took the bold step of withdrawing from school. As she put it, “I packed up my little bit of stuff and moved into the community.” This obstinate act caught the attention of school administrators, who in a gesture of conciliation, amended the rule. Grace Hewell got to study under W.E.B. Du Bois after all.

That same fire and conviction are evident today in Dr. Hewell’s crusade to expose the impact of environmental pollution on public health. Although officially retired from a distinguished career at the executive level of national government, Dr. Hewell’s alarm at the disregard for public safety suggested by the way many environmental issues are presently managed, a graduate of the Columbia University School of Public Health, and recently recognized by the American Public Health Association for four decades of professional service, Dr. Hewell claims impeccable credentials. Long years of service as a public health policymaker have endowed her with the political savvy and high-level contacts to influence legislation in the area of environmental health.

There is little wonder then that a group of environmental activists from the University of Tennessee approached her for help in addressing the pollution problem of Chattanooga Creek, a notorious dumping ground for industrial waste in eastern Tennessee. A resident of the community of Alton Park, Dr. Hewell’s own home lay on the fringe of neighborhoods most severely impacted by toxics dumped into the creek. Although residents of the area had for years complained of health problems they suspected were related to creek pollution, officials largely ignored their appeals. In fact, Dr. Hewell relates, a health center serving communities in the area is itself constructed on a landfill.

Inspired by the activities of grass-roots folks in the creek-impact area, Dr. Hewell threw herself into the cause. There were candlelight vigils and demonstrations. “People were begging for help,” Dr. Hewell says. While community people put on public pressure, Dr. Hewell began to work the corridors of government. “I didn’t do my fighting running up and down the street. I use my brains, my political savvy, my contacts. You have to know the system or you can’t get anything done.” But she found the going tough. “No one on the Hill (Congress) knows how to deal with public health issues; that’s why the legislative process is so important. Who will oversee the health issues associated with environmental justice?”

Dr. Hewell Stealths on the notion of environmental justice. She cites a study by John Stedwick, an EPA physician board-certified in environmental medicine, which stated that those communities which have the highest density of unemployed, low-income and minority people are precisely those areas where the largest quantities of chemicals, which can cause serious environmental diseases, are being released.” That honest assessment got Dr. Stedwick fired from his job.

There are many conflicting interests in the environmental debate. Who is liable for the cost of repairing damage to people caused by pollution? Government or industry? The cost of the environmental damage is money. That is the prime reason for the long, drawn-out process typical of most pollution cases. “Senior Gore (then Vice President Al Gore) tried for 15 years to get something done about Chattanooga Creek,” Dr. Hewell recalls. Yet it was just recently that she, working with state legislators and the vice president's office, has managed to arrange for a two-year study of the effect pollution has had on human health in the Chattanooga Creek corridor. Meanwhile, Dr. Hewell is still working to get her hands on the entire report authored by Dr. Stedwick. It has not been released.

**Key Features of Environmental Legislation Advocated By Dr. Hewell in Tennessee:**

1. **Inquire into the pollution of local water systems and the human damage it can cause.**
2. **Identify those areas that have the highest quantities of toxic chemicals.**
3. **Assess the health effects that may be caused by exposure to those areas of highest pollution.**
4. **Secure those areas in which residents are most at risk and develop comprehensive strategies to protect them.**

These actions are taken to governmental agencies to ensure that those areas most affected by pollution are given the necessary health care.
Mignon Lackey Lewis, C’51
October 20, 1928 – June 19, 2008

Born in Ardmore, Oklahoma on October 20, 1928, Mignon Lackey Lewis was the fourth daughter and the fifth child born to Doll Beaty and Sevallia Lackey. Mrs. Lewis’ parents valued education, and they instilled in each of their children a love for learning, academic achievement and cultural enlightenment. They also instilled a deep, abiding love for each other and faith in God.

Mrs. Lewis graduated from Douglas High School in Ardmore and entered Spelman College in the fall of 1946. It became apparent that this vivacious and energetic young woman, who played several musical instruments (violin, flute, piano and later organ), would declare music as her major. She was also active in the AU-Spelman-Morehouse Orchestra, the Spelman Quartet, the Glee Club and the Spelman-Morehouse Choir. Mrs. Lewis’ time at Spelman was marked by academic success, student leadership and social popularity at both Spelman and Morehouse. A gregarious and outgoing young woman, Mrs. Lewis made friends effortlessly. She also established special relationships with her professors and President Florence Read. It was her relationship with President Read that set in motion her tradition of establishing a close, personal relationship with subsequent Spelman College presidents including Dr. Albert E. Manley, Dr. Donald M. Stewart, Dr. Johnnetta Betch Cole, Dr. Audrey Forbes Manley, and Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum. This tradition was later passed along to each of her daughters. She advised them “… always start at the top and work your way down if you want to accomplish anything of importance.”

Mrs. Lewis graduated from Spelman College in May 1951 with a bachelor of arts degree in music and later continued her studies in education, counseling and music at the University of Southern California, and the Roosevelt School of Music in Chicago. After receiving her degree from Spelman, she taught music at Atlanta’s Turner High School for four years before moving to Los Angeles. It was there that she met Frederick Gaston Lewis, an Ohio State and USC-trained aeronautical engineer from Ohio. Their courtship led to marriage on March 25, 1956. From this union, four daughters were born: Camille, Diana, Adrienne and Angela – each of whom would later graduate from their mother’s alma mater, Spelman College.

Teaching children was always Mrs. Lewis’ passion, and her career in education spanned more than four decades, encompassing both teaching and counseling positions in Los Angeles, Compton Unified School District in California and Palatine, Illinois – a suburb of Chicago to which the couple relocated when Frederick accepted a position with United Airlines. Over the course of her career, she received numerous awards and honors for excellence in teaching and for service to children that extended outside the confines of the classroom and into their homes and their communities.

There was only one other passion that rivaled Mrs. Lewis’ affection for her family and educating children. That was her unyielding love and support for Spelman College. No matter which city she resided in, she would always become active in the local chapter of the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College (NAASC). In Los Angeles and Chicago, she assumed the role of president and for a time she also served as membership chair of the NAASC. Mrs. Lewis was a life member of the NAASC and a consummate cheerleader for Spelman College and for the College’s alumnae. She routinely encouraged young women to attend Spelman.

When Mrs. Lewis retired from the Illinois School System, she and her husband decided to retire to Atlanta in June 1989. In Atlanta, Mrs. Lewis immediately resumed many of her community service activities. She became a faithful member of First Congregational Church, UCC, where she served as a trustee, president of the Servettes Club, member of the Diaconate and the 55 Plus Club. Mrs. Lewis’ volunteer activities also included membership in Bridges Across Atlanta – an organization of multi-racial Atlanta women dedicated to bridging the educational and economic divides within the city. She also participated in numerous organizations at Spelman College, including the Spelman Museum of Fine Arts and the Corps of Alumnae Volunteers. She was co-chair of the Class of 1951, and a member of the Decatur Chapter of the NAASC.

Mrs. Lewis was a Golden Girl and Diamond Daughter and she was determined to make a Spelman education affordable to any young woman who had the aptitude and the determination to attend college. Hence, in 2002, she established the Frederick G. Lewis Scholarship Fund, a memorial to her husband that would provide scholarship assistance for young women in need. On April 11, 2002, Mrs. Lewis was presented with the “Founders Spirit Award” because she exemplified the true spirit of the founders through her leadership and community service. Also, she became the matriarch of a Spelman family legacy since her four daughters, Camille Christine Lewis, C’78, Diana Elaine Lewis-Crosby, C’80, Adrienne Yvonne Lewis, C’84 and Angela Yvette Lewis, C’88, three nieces, and several cousins are all graduates of Spelman College.

A service for Mignon Lackey Lewis was held in Sisters Chapel on June 27, 2008, officiated by Reverend Dr. Norman Rates.
Dear Aunt Mignon,

We are here today in your favorite place, Sisters Chapel. I’ve had several days to compose this letter and I know you would not want this occasion to be sad.

It is hard to write and tell you all that I want to say.

Let me start with the beginning. I remember the first time we met. You were arriving by train from Atlanta to begin a new life in Los Angeles. Both of your sisters, Wynola and Gwendolyn, were there with their families to meet you. I was four years old. I remembered your joyfulness, your vitality, your laughter, your quickness and your beauty. I thought I wanted to be just like you.

Over the years, I came to know you much better and have come to know your character, your love for others and your enduring gifts to so many. While I know we had a unique relationship, which was quite special, I know that as I write this letter all 16 of your nieces and nephews, family members and friends would say the same thing. You were not only an aunt but a confidante, a mediator, a listener, a friend, an educator, a role model and sometimes a dictator.

I have wondered over the last few days about how you had so much energy to give to so many and how you moved effortlessly through the many roles.

You have taught us so much.

You have taught us to laugh...the almost daily emails with the jokes. I remember when I would call you sometimes, you would say, “I’m looking at my favorite television show, The Steve Harvey Show, so that I can get my laugh for the day.”

You have taught us to give and love beyond ourselves and to be focused. Your love for Spelman and your constant example of volunteerism at Spelman are just some of the ways you gave.

You taught that part of that giving was also pushing others to be the give the best that they could give. You never held back on giving your opinion about what was going on. I have heard the stories of Ms. Mignon around Spelman’s campus as you have walked into Eloise’s office or Anna or Heather’s office and said, “We need to get some quality control issues solved.” I wonder what Spelman will do without you at New Student Orientation. I heard you often took charge.

You have taught us about your love for God and about serving as a church member as you gave generously of your time, talent and opinions to your church and church members.

You have taught us to speak up. You have taught us that we all have a point of view and that sharing it is essential. Sometimes you would say, “This may not be my business but...”, meaning, “I am stepping into your business.”

And, you have taught us what it is to be a mother ... to love your children unconditionally and still give them constant advice. Camille, Diana, Adrienne and Angela are all your children ... all with strong personalities and all possessing characteristics of yours. And while I know this is a difficult time for them, they are grown and ready to be who they are!

One last thing...I will try to remember not to cross my legs while I’m on stage and not to chew gum in public.

You left us all with great memories and established a ubiquitous legacy.

We have known you to be direct, and to the point.

I know your death is sudden and we will greatly miss you ... you left us the same way you lived — without ambivalence — as it was time to move on.

I must tell you, our hearts are burdened today because we selfishly wanted to experience your laughter a bit longer. We believed your “force of life” was meant to last a lot longer, and it will in our hearts.

We all love you!

Presented by niece
Yvonne R. Jackson, C’70
Chair of Spelman College Board of Trustees
Celebration of Life and Love for Mignon Lackey Lewis
Friday, June 27, 2008, Sisters Chapel, Spelman College
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>Jamie Reddick Graham</td>
<td>Librarian&lt;br&gt;Died: December 26, 2007</td>
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<td>1943</td>
<td>Antoinette Mainor Olive</td>
<td>School Teacher&lt;br&gt;Died: September 7, 2007</td>
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<td>1944</td>
<td>Harriet Nash Chisholm</td>
<td>Retired Atlanta Schools Reading Supervisor&lt;br&gt;Died: February 2, 2008&lt;br&gt;Services: February 9, 2008 at Sisters Chapel on the campus of Spelman College in Atlanta.</td>
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<td>1947</td>
<td>Charlie Ellington</td>
<td>Retired Educator, Coordinator of Special Education&lt;br&gt;Died: April 14, 2008&lt;br&gt;Services: A Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated April 19, 2008 at St. Ann Catholic Church in West Palm Beach, Fl.</td>
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<td>1950</td>
<td>Dorothy Zellner Brown</td>
<td>Teacher and Reading Specialist&lt;br&gt;Died: October 13, 2007&lt;br&gt;Services: October 20, 2007 at Union Baptist Church followed by burial in Middle Georgia Memorial Gardens.</td>
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<td>1951</td>
<td>Gwendolyn Horton Hicks</td>
<td>Educator&lt;br&gt;Died: September 26, 2006&lt;br&gt;Services: December 30, 2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>Lucille Brown McIver</td>
<td>Administrative Assistant for Atlanta Public Schools&lt;br&gt;Died: January 8, 2008&lt;br&gt;Services: Mass for Christian Burial was held on Tuesday, January 15, 2008 at St. Paul of the Cross Catholic Church in Atlanta.</td>
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<td>1962</td>
<td>Frances Morrow Carter</td>
<td>Franchise Owner&lt;br&gt;Died: November 11, 2007&lt;br&gt;Services: November 28, 2007 at First Corinth Missionary Baptist Church in Atlanta.</td>
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<td>1972</td>
<td>Gabriel Blue Peltier</td>
<td>Education Specialist and Part-Time Professor&lt;br&gt;Died: December 14, 2007&lt;br&gt;Services: December 27, 2007 at Grove Baptist Church in Portsmouth, Va and January 7, 2008 at Norfolk State University.</td>
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