

The  
**126th Commencement**  
For the Conferring of Degrees (1888-2014)



Saturday, May 3, 2014  
10:00 A.M.  
Statehouse Convention Center  
Markham and Main  
Little Rock, Arkansas

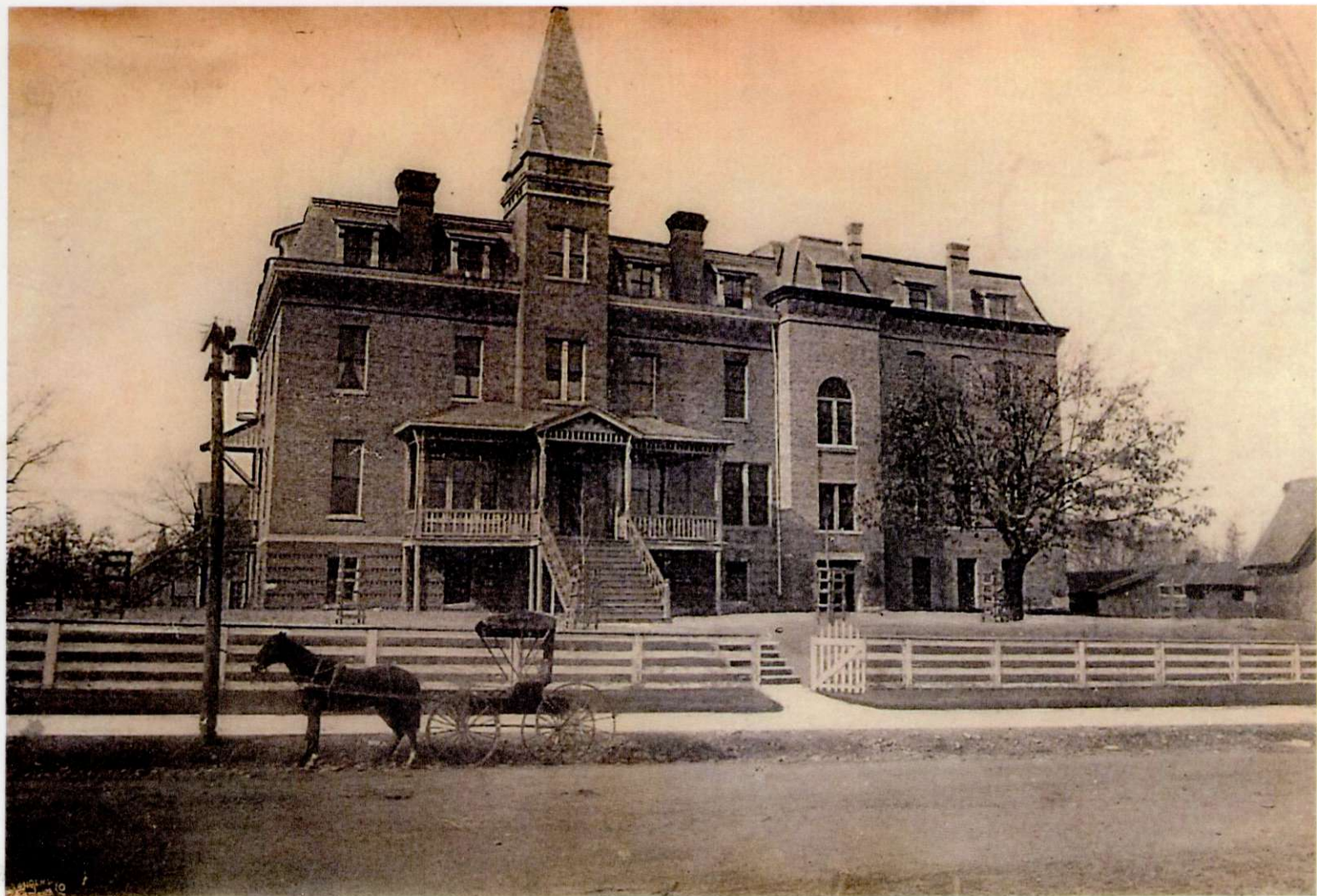
# PSC Board of Trustees & Officers

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Dr. Lloyd Hervey, '68 (Ex-Officio)  
Dr. Adrian Price (Ex-Officio)  
Tanisha Manning, SGA President

## **Officers of the College**

Dr. Lloyd Hervey, '68 Interim President  
Dr. Hazel Arnett Ervin, Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Dr. Joseph Jones '00, Executive Director, Social Justice Institute  
Mr. Kevin B. Hamilton, Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students  
Mr. Michael Hutchinson, Director of Institutional Advancement  
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Mr. Terry Wallace, Vice President for Fiscal Affairs  
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Dr. Annie Winkler Williams '66, Associate Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness and Planning



Budlong Hall (Philander Smith's First Building) Courtesy: PSC Archives



# History and Mission

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## History of the College

Officially founded in 1877, Philander Smith College is the result of the first attempt west of the Mississippi River to make education available to freedmen (former African-American slaves). The forerunner of the College was Walden Seminary, named in honor of Dr. J. M. Walden, one of the originators and the first Corresponding Secretary of the Freedmen's Aid Society. In 1882, Dr. G. W. Gray, president of Little Rock University, the institution for the Arkansas Annual Conference, met Mrs. Adeline Smith, widow of Mr. Philander Smith of Oak Park, Illinois, while soliciting funds. The late Mr. Philander Smith had been a liberal donor to Asiatic Missions and had developed an interest in the work of the church in the South. In making her gift to Dr. Gray, Mrs. Smith designated \$10,500 for Walden Seminary. The trustees accepted the gift and gave it special recognition by changing the name of the struggling Walden Seminary to Philander Smith College. A new site for the school had already been purchased at Eleventh and IZard Streets. The gift made by Mrs. Smith was a significant contribution toward the construction of Budlong Hall, the first brick building on the new site.

Philander Smith College was chartered as a four-year college on March 3, 1883. The first baccalaureate degree was conferred in 1888. The first president, the Reverend Thomas Mason resigned in 1896. He was succeeded by a member of the faculty of the College, the Reverend James Monroe Cox, Professor of Ancient Languages. Dr. Cox retired from the presidency of the College in 1924, and was succeeded by the Reverend George Collins Taylor, a graduate of the College. Dr. Taylor served as president from 1924 to 1936. In May, 1936, Dr. Marquis LaFayette Harris succeeded Dr. Taylor as president of the College. During the administration of Dr. Harris, the campus area was greatly enlarged. In July, 1948, the site of the Little Rock Junior College, adjacent to the south end of Philander Smith's campus, was purchased. On March 30, 1949, after an extensive program of academic improvement, Philander Smith College was fully accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Dr. Harris was succeeded by Dr. Roosevelt Crockett, a graduate of the institution on June 1, 1961. Dr. Dixon, Philander Smith's sixth president, took office January 1, 1965. Dr. Dixon was succeeded by Dr. Walter R. Hazzard who took office as the seventh president of the College on July 1, 1969. Dr. Hazzard was succeeded by Dr. Grant S. Shockley. Dr. Grant S. Shockley took office as the eighth president of Philander Smith College on January 1, 1980. Dr. Shockley was succeeded by Dr. Hazo W. Carter, Jr. Dr. Hazo W. Carter, Jr., elected unanimously July 19, 1983 by the Board of Trustees, took office August 20, 1983. Dr. Carter resigned the presidency of Philander Smith College in August 1987. He was succeeded by Dr. Myer L. Titus, a 1954 graduate of the institution. Dr. Titus retired as President on June 30, 1998. Dr. Trudie Kibbe Reed was elected by the Board of Trustees in February, 1998 as the eleventh and first female President of Philander Smith College. In the summer of 2004, Dr. Julius Scott was appointed by the Board of Trustees to serve as the interim president while the College completed a national search for the next president. In October of 2004, the Board announced the selection of Dr. Walter M. Kimbrough as the 12th president of Philander Smith College. He served from December 13, 2004 until June 30, 2012. Dr. Johnny M. Moore, a 1989 alumnus of the College, became the 13th President of Philander Smith College on July 1, 2012. Upon his February 2014 resignation of the presidency, he was succeeded by Interim President, Dr. Lloyd E. Hervey, a 1968 graduate of the College. Philander Smith College has a rich Christian heritage. It has maintained a close relationship with the church across the years. It acknowledges a definite obligation to The United Methodist Church. The College receives funding from The General Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry of The United Methodist Church. Philander Smith College strives to instill the desire to serve in its faculty and students. This desire is at the core of its educational philosophy. Across the years, the College has earned the designation as a "College of Service and Distinction."

## Mission of the College

Philander Smith College is a small, privately supported and historically Black four-year liberal arts institution related to the Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church. Currently offering four degrees, including the Bachelor of Arts, the Bachelor of Science, the Bachelor of Business Administration, and the Bachelor of Social Work, the college's mission is, To graduate academically accomplished students, grounded as advocates for social justice, determined to change the world for the better. Philander Smith College, the only United Negro College Fund member institution in Arkansas, strives to provide a quality college education for all regardless of race, religion, sex, national origin or ethnic background.

# Commencement Service

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## Order of Commencement Services

For the Conferring of Degrees

PRELUDE		Ms. Theresa Webb, Organist
PROCESSIONAL	Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1, <i>Trio</i>	Edward Elgar
COLOR GUARD		Little Rock Jr. ROTC, Central High School
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE		
NEGRO NATIONAL ANTHEM	<i>Lift Every Voice and Sing</i>	arr. by James W. Johnson/ J. Rosamond Johnson
	Lift ev'ry voice and sing, Till earth and heaven ring, Ring with the harmonies of Liberty; Let our rejoicing rise High as the list'ning skies, Let it resound loud as the rolling sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us, Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us; Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, Let us march on till victory is won.	
	God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way; Thou who hast by Thy might, Led us into the light, Keep us forever in the path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee, Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee; Shadowed beneath Thy hand, May we forever stand, True to our God, True to our native land.	
WELCOME		Dr. Hazel Arnett Ervin, Vice President for Academic Affairs
INVOCATION		Rev. Ronnie Miller-Yow, PSC Chaplain
SCRIPTURE		Alex Erdmann, '14
SELECTION	<i>Lord, Hear My Prayer</i> arr. by Moses Hogan	Philander Smith College Chamber Singers
IN OBSERVANCE OF THE OCCASION		Mr. Kevin B. Hamilton, Vice President of Student Affairs
REFLECTIONS		Sarah Connor, '14 Senior Class President
SELECTION	<i>You Raise Me Up</i> arr. Josh Groban	Frederick Webb
INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER		Dr. Lloyd Hervey, '68 Interim President
COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS		<b>Mr. Malcolm -Jamal Warner, Distinguished Guest</b>

+ *All who are able, please stand.*



# Commencement Service

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SELECTION      *Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around* arr. Rollo Dilworth      Philander Smith College Chamber Singers

## CONFERRING OF DEGREES CEREMONY

Conferring of Degrees  
Trustee Authorization

Dr. Lloyd Hervey, '68 Interim President  
Mr. Artee Williams, '70 Chair, Board of Trustees

### Presentations of Candidates and Granting of Degrees

#### Candidates for The Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters

will be presented by Ms. Lynda Byrd, '69 Vice Chair, Board of Trustees

#### Candidates for The Bachelor of Science Degree

will be presented by Dr. Betty Dickson, Interim Chair, Division of Education and  
by Dr. Samar Swaid, Chair, Division of Natural and Physical Sciences

#### Candidates for The Bachelor of Social Work Degree

will be presented by Dr. Daniel Egbe, Chair, Division of Social Sciences

#### Candidates for The Bachelor of Business Administration Degree

will be presented by Dr. Adrian Price, Chair, Division of Business and Economics

#### Candidates for The Bachelor of Arts Degree

will be presented by Dr. Lia Steele, Chair, Division of Humanities

SELECTION      *Soon Ah Will Be Done* arr. by William L. Dawson      Philander Smith College Chamber Singers

INDUCTION INTO THE NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION      Mr. Ronald Newsome, '71  
President, National Alumni Association

CLOSING REMARKS      Dr. Lloyd Hervey, '68 Interim President

ALMA MATER      Philander Smith College Chamber Singers

#### +ALMA MATER

Dear Alma Mater, tried and true,  
We'll win respect and love for you,  
We pledge our hearts to you each day,  
To do our best, at work, at play.

Dear P.S.C., when from your fold,  
We'll lift the dear old Green and Gold.  
O'er Alma Mater vigil keep,  
Her high ideals we'll strive to meet.

When college days are at an end,  
Our hearts will ever toward you bend.  
With loyalty, we'll always be,  
A part of you, Dear P.S.C.

(Written in 1968 by Dr. Carl Gordon Harris, '52)

BENEDICTION      Rev. Ronnie Miller-Yow, PSC Chaplain

RECESSIONAL      *Trumpet Voluntary*      Jerimiah Clark  
+ *All who are able, please stand.*

# Candidates for Degrees

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## **Honorary Degree**

### **Doctor of Humane Letters**

Erma Power Williams

Bennie R. Williams

## **Bachelor of Science**

### **Natural and Physical Sciences**

Anderson II, Terry L.

Brogdon Jr., Calvin

Carey, Kai Alexander Daniel

*Summa Cum Laude*

*Distinction in Field*

Cotton, Ebony Cherral \*\*

*Cum Laude*

Dotson, Marlin Anthony

Dusenge, Dieudonne

*Summa Cum Laude*

*Distinction in Field*

Glinton, Lashan Latitia

*Magna Cum Laude*

Hawkins, Diamond Dominique

*Cum Laude*

Higgins, Vincent W. \*\*

*Cum Laude*

Kahill, Klarissa Roshan

*Cum Laude*

Liggins, Renisha Shanee` \*\*

Mizero, Fabrice

*1<sup>st</sup> Rank in Class*

*Summa Cum Laude*

*Distinction in Field*

Nubundiho, Jean de Dieu

*Summa Cum Laude*

*Distinction in Field*

Rankine, Sabrina N.

*Cum Laude*

Rolle, Shantha

*Cum Laude*

Royster, Khristian Lamarr

*Cum Laude*

Sears, Vestra Sherell Lauren

*Magna Cum Laude*

Shipp, Barbara Sharnice

*Cum Laude*

Sumrall, Meh`Yaisha Aunya

*Cum Laude*

Travis, Shalonda F.

Turner, Gabrielle Alexandria

*Cum Laude*

Warner, Leneea T.

*Cum Laude*

Wells, Cordell DeRay

Wesson, Byron L.

*Magna Cum Laude*

Williford, Yancy Tyrone

*Magna Cum Laude*

Zahir, Kenya R.

*Magna Cum Laude*

### **Division of Education**

Copeland, J. Brandon \*\*

Ellis, Nikita \*

*Cum Laude*

Hunter, Latoyya Danyell \*\*

Jackson-Kitchens, Zaneta

*Magna Cum Laude*

*Distinction in Field*

Jeffries, Bridget \*\*

*Magna Cum Laude*

*Distinction in Field*

Mickens, Allen Lee \*

*Summa Cum Laude*

*Distinction in Field*

Moore, Tanjuanika Pon`vay \*\*

*Cum Laude*

Robinson, Tamara Ann-Marie

*Summa Cum Laude*

*Distinction in Field*

Williams, Jo Ann \*

*Cum Laude*

*Distinction in Field*

### **Bachelor of Social Work**

Abrams, Michael Anthony

*Magna Cum Laude*

Cornice, Telisha A.

Horton, Danielle Nicole

*Cum Laude*

Lewis, Stacy Tanaka

*Cum Laude*

Lovelace, Vanzuela Martisha

*Cum Laude*

Mackey, Jasmine Tatyana

*Cum Laude*

McCleary, Davne` Royail

*Cum Laude*

Miller, Jasmine G.

Patterson, Monique Shuntae

Ramey, LaShonta Yvette

*Cum Laude*

Russell, Isioma Peace

*Cum Laude*

Young, Kristie Lorraine

*Cum Laude*

**\*Summer 2013 Graduates    \*\*Fall 2013 Graduates**

# Candidates for Degrees

## Bachelor of Business Administration

Bell Jr., Andre` Quintez	Jackson, Paula Michele **	Peterson, Shelissa Beverly
Brown, Clarvohn Cameron Lavell	<i>Cum Laude</i>	Pigee, Steve Manuel **
<i>Cum Laude</i>	<i>Distinction n Field</i>	Richards, Loretta J.
Butler, Kendra S.	Johnson, Daryl M.	<i>Distinction in Field</i>
<i>Cum Laude</i>	<i>Cum Laude</i>	Ross, Tron Jerome **
Carter, Mikia E.C.	Johnson, Yvette Michele	Smith, Corey Lee **
<i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	<i>Cum Laude</i>	Sweeney, Brandon
Coleman, Karyn Bradford	<i>Distinction in Field</i>	<i>Cum Laude</i>
Crockett, Brooke Dajae	Jones, Danisha	Turner, Whittni S.
<i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	<i>Cum Laude</i>	<i>Magna Cum Laude</i>
<i>Distinction in Field</i>	<i>Distinction in Field</i>	<i>Distinction in Field</i>
Eackles, Menyoun Shana	Lightbourne, Noella Glenva Otain	White-Daniel, Tempestt Nichole
<i>Distinction in Field</i>	<i>Cum Laude</i>	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Rank in Class</i>
Erdmann, Alex L.	Merritt, Kaneshia LaShae	<i>Summa Cum Laude</i>
		<i>Distinction in Field</i>

## Bachelor of Arts

Allen-Lisbon, Tera	Edogun, Efosa Osagie	Robinson, Anthony Derrell
<i>Cum Laude</i>	<i>Cum Laude</i>	Sampson, Morgan Corine *
Austin, Dorkendra Cherrell	<i>Distinction in Field</i>	<i>Cum Laude</i>
Baylark, Joshua David **	Foy, De` Marius Antwaun	Stephens, Nichelle DeJoyce
Bell, Latisha Nicole *	Graham, Araina Dyan **	<i>Summa Cum Laude</i>
Block, Britney Nicole	Harris, Latoya	<i>Distinction in Field</i>
<i>Cum Laude</i>	Hill, Brandie Darcell	Sykes, Dionna Alisha
Butler, Krystian	Hill, Rebekah Anastheasia Arneatrice	<i>Cum Laude</i>
<i>Cum Laude</i>	Johnson, Myisha Shavone	Talley, Jessica Jeanette
Brown, Amber Sharee	<i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	Toney, Kiara B. *
<i>3<sup>rd</sup> Rank in Class</i>	<i>Distinction in Field</i>	Usher, Ariel Patrice
<i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	Jones, Phillip T.	<i>Cum Laude</i>
<i>Distinction in Field</i>	McGowan, Courtney Danielle	<i>Distinction in Field</i>
Chunn, Ajani Omari	Malone, Stephanie Nicole	Weathers, Natrice
Clark, Andre Lamont	<i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	<i>Cum Laude</i>
Clark, Ashley N.	<i>Distinction in Field</i>	Wilson, Xavier Macon *
<i>Cum Laude</i>	Mills, Sabrina Rena	Wordlaw, Sondra L.
Collie, Floidira Maria	Montgomery, Monica Renee`	<i>Cum Laude</i>
<i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Newberry, Lindsay Nicole	
Cooper, Carly Rebecca	<i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	
Cuyler, Sequoyah Brittany	Otey, Quatiesha La` Shaye	
Dawson Jr., Bruce E. *	<i>Cum Laude</i>	
Dawson, Jamaal **	Porter-Dobbins, La`Toya Nicole	

*\*Summer 2013 Graduates    \*\*Fall 2013 Graduates*



# Commencement Speaker

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## Malcolm-Jamal Warner

It is with distinct honor that we introduce our guest speaker, Emmy-nominated actor and director Malcolm-Jamal Warner. Mr. Warner has become known in the entertainment business not only for his seasoned acting talents, but also for his accomplishments on the music, directing, and producing fronts, making him one of the most accomplished talents in the industry today. A staple in television and film for nearly 30 years, Warner first rose to national prominence by starring on the celebrated and long-running classic television series “The Cosby Show.” His work on this show garnered him a Primetime Emmy nomination for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series, and set the stage for him to have a long career in the public eye. Most recently, he has been seen on some of the hottest series on television, including notable, recurring roles on NBC’s hit show “Community,” as well as TNT’s “Hawthorne,” AMC’s “The Cleaner,” and Showtime’s “Dexter.” Recently, Mr. Warner returned to television, starring on the highly anticipated, BET original series “Reed Between the Lines.” The series follows the lives of Alex, an English professor [played by Warner], and Carla, a psychologist [played by Tracee Ellis Ross] as they navigate life’s ups and downs with wit and humor.

We know Malcolm-Jamal Warner best for his work on the screen, but off screen, he has become a seasoned director. He has worked on a host of television series, including being a regular director [and producer] of the comedy series “Malcolm & Eddie,” and also having directed several episodes of “The Cosby Show,” “All That,” “Keenan & Kel,” “The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air,” “Sesame Street,” and the AIDS awareness video “Timeout: The Truth about HIV, AIDS and YOU” [which, starred Magic Johnson and Arsenio

Hall, and earned Warner the NAACP Key of Life Image Award]. His short film “This Old Man,” received critical acclaim on the theater festival circuit. Warner’s stage credits include off-Broadway plays such as “Three Ways Home,” and “Cryin’ Shame.” There are also “Freefall” at the Victory Garden Theatre in Chicago; and Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Nights’ Dream” at the La Jolla Playhouse in California. Both of his off-Broadway plays earned him the NAACP Theater Award for Best Supporting Actor. Setting out on his own, Warner has received critical acclaim for his West Coast debut of his one-man theatrical production “Love and Other Social Issues” as well as for his most recent performance reprising Sidney Poitier’s role as Dr. John Prentice in “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner?” at Washington, DC’s esteemed Arena Theater.

Repetitive words and phrases have been used in this introduction to characterize our distinguished guest: seasoned, talented, outstanding and acclaimed performer, socially responsible, and dignified and distinctive individual. In the community, in the family and especially here at Philander Smith College where the core values of the United Methodist Church are reflected, we are delighted to hear that such attributes are being used to describe an African-American male. Malcolm-Jamal Warner’s presence here today is noteworthy to the community, to the American family, and to our graduating seniors, not just because of his desirable commitment and determination to achieve professional excellence, but also because of his teachable portrayals of perseverance and resilience when in pursuit of measurable excellence both on and off the screen. Most of us celebrate (and will continue to celebrate) the work of Malcolm-Jamal Warner because of his excellence as actor, director, and producer, but equally important we celebrate the opportunity such as here today to express our sincere gratitude to you Malcolm-Jamal Warner for just being you.



# Honorary Degree Recipients

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## Erma P. Williams

In 1 *Corinthian 10:24*, Paul writes, “Let no one seek his own good, but that of his neighbor.” Since earning her B. S. degree at Philander Smith College in 1963 in elementary education, Erma Power Williams has devoted more than fifty years to being an exemplary alumna, and through consistent donations to the College, she has ensured opportunities for students to use education as a means of improving their lives. Erma Williams’ service to Philander does not stop with her

contributions to student scholarship and student success. She also has served higher education for countless years as a member of Philander Smith’s Board of Trustees and as past president of the National Alumni Association. It has been of endless importance to the Plumerville, Arkansas native that she ensure the success of our future generations by way of quality education. For her unending and generous donations to PSC, for her selfless service to the future of young Philanderians, and for her determination to improve life for others in this world, the Board wishes to recognize and honor Erma Williams. While the Board

recognizes in Erma what the scriptures would call an endless faith in your Christian roots and your spiritual calling, which for Erma is service, the Board also wishes to recognize other personal attributes such as patience, generosity, humility, unselfishness, and sincerity. Such attributes reflect those remarkable core values which also are the cornerstones of this great institution.



## Bennie Williams

Commitment, generosity, humility, unselfishness, and sincerity define the personal attributes of candidate Bennie Williams, but such words could be used also to define the actions of the man when it comes to characterizing his support for his alma mater, Philander Smith College. A West Memphis, Tennessee native, who graduated from Philander in 1962, Bennie recently retired from his executive position with FedEx. What has not ended, however, is his

unwavering support of student scholarship and student success at PSC. Like his wife, Erma Williams, whom he met while a student at Philander, Bennie devotes much of his time, talent and resources to giving back to the College, and he works tirelessly to “galvanize” other alumni to increase their financial support. A leader in such efforts, Bennie reminds us that there is a history of what PSC alumni have done over the years to support higher education, and while he says it is the responsibility of his generation to honor this past, he also says that it is the responsibility of his

generation to step up and to ensure future generations not only can but also will get just what he and other alumni have gotten: a chance to make a life. The nature of a man is best revealed in what he is willing to devote his life to—family, church, community, education, etc. Such devotions translate into several of the core values of Philander which is an affiliate of the United Methodist Church.



# Class of 1964 — 50 Year Anniversary

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ABRAHAM-FUTCH WINTON, Idastean O.

ABRAMS, Mary Frances

ANDERSON, Mattie Louise

BANKS, Kenneth Steve

BRAZIL, Nettye Ree

BUSH, Albert

CARRINGTON, Charlie

CARSON, Leon

CHANDLER, James

COTTON, Wilma Loring

CRAWFORD, James W.

CROSS, Kathryn

CURLETT, James F.

**\*DOUGLAS, Eloise Burks**

DUNCAN, Harold B.

FERRON, Joan Elizabeth

GIBSON, Bertha L.

GLOVER, Minnie Graham

GOLDSBY, Opal

GREENE, John

GRIFFIN, Bettye C.

HAMILTON, Freddie Mae

HEARD, Otis A.

HENTON, Jo Ann Day

**\*HERMAN, Pearl Lemay**

**\*HILL, Howard**

HILL, Ruth Baugh

HORTON, Richard H.

ISBELL, Lydia

IVERY, Joyce Jackson

JOHNSON, Benny P.

JOHNSON, Venora E. Miller

JONES, Helen Delois

KING, Barbara J. Washington

LAWSON, Julia A.

LEE, Esther M.

LEWIS, Janice

MARTIN, Dorothy

MARTIN, Helen J.

MATTHEWS, Vivian S.

MATTISON, Dorothy V.

**\*MCCONNEL, Edith J. Marshall**

MCGEE, Gloria Foreman

MCGEE, Leo

MILUS, Lula J.

MOBLEY, Ella

MODISSETT-SMITH, Dorothy

MORRIS, Stanley

NELSON, Betty L.

NESBITT, Eddie Lee

NESBITT, Veronica Brady

PATTON, Sammolene Smith

PATTON, Willie B.

PETTY, Susie Thompson

RICHARD, Margaret

RICHARDSON, Christine Bell

RICHMOND, Velmar N.

RICKS, Edna P.

RICKS, Nolan

ROBINSON, Laura J.

ROOKS, Sallye W.

**\*SETTLES, Helen C.**

SNOW, Emily Word

SOWELL-DAVIS, Jacquelyn W.

STEWART, Ola Faye

STITT, Otis Lawrence

SYKES, Charlene Dabney

THOMPSON, Mary Patton

**\*TUGGLE, George Richard**

TYLER-PADDIO, Lillie

WATKINS, Mable Thompson

WESLEY, Celestine Montague

WHEELER, Daisy M.

WILEY, Edna Motley

WOODS, Meriam T.

WORTHEN, Kathryn F.

WRIGHT, Jo Anna





# Acknowledgments

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*(On behalf of the students, The Office of Academic Affairs expresses its deepest appreciation.)*

## **Commencement Planning Committee:**

Ms. Yvonne Alexander, Director of Alumni Affairs  
Mr. Theodore Crawford, Security  
Ms. Jennifer Davis, Business  
Dr. Betty Dickson, Interim Chair, Division of Education  
Ms. Anita Hatley, Administrative Assistant to the President  
Ms. LaTonya Hayes, Business  
Mr. Kevin Hamilton, Vice President for Student Affairs  
Mr. Michael Hutchinson, Director, Institutional Development  
Mr. Jack Matlock, Chief of Security  
Ms. Veda Maxwell, Bookstore  
The Reverend Ronnie Miller-Yow, Chaplain, Philander Smith College  
Mr. Chris Newton, Executive Director, Human Resources  
Ms. Teresa Ojezua, Head Librarian  
Ms. Bertha Owens, Registrar  
Dr. Jeffrey Parker, Director of Philander Smith College Collegiate Choir  
Mr. Dan Pierce, Production Coordinator  
Dr. Samar Swaid, Chair, Division of Natural and Physical Sciences  
Mr. Terry Wallace, Vice President for Fiscal Affairs  
Dr. Timothy Tucker, Music Department  
Mr. Damien Williams, Vice President for Enrollment Management  
Mr. Robert Young, Maintenance Technician

## **College Marshals:**

Dr. Raphael Lewis, Chief Marshal/Mace Bearer  
Mr. Kevin Hamilton, Student Marshal  
Dr. James Rush, Faculty Marshal  
Ms. Adria Allen, Alumni Marshal  
Dr. Edward Burgess, Marshal for the Dais

## **Floor Marshals and Ushers:**

Ms. Veda Maxwell and Ms. Chantia Hickman, Chief Floor Marshals

Ms. Joyce Campbell  
Ms. Elonda Clay  
Ms. Donna Collins  
Ms. DesRee Ellison  
Ms. Eraneisha Gibson  
Ms. Anita Hatley  
Ms. Rashunda Johnson  
Mr. Paul Person  
Ms. Cathy Young  
Ms. Donna Young

# Commencement and Regalia

## Commencement

The term “Commencement” derives from a practice in the Medieval University where it was customary for a candidate for an academic degree to present a public lecture or disputation to the faculty and other scholars gathered to hear it. If the disputation was successfully defended and accepted, the candidate was “Admitted” to the degree “with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities thereunto appertaining.” This first public lecture or disputation was originally called an “Inception.” It signified the beginning or “Commencement” of the scholar’s academic career in the degree to which he had been admitted. The ceremony surrounding this inception or “graduation” has subsequently come to be called Commencement.

## Honors Cord (AKA Chords)

The honor cords are used to recognize students’ achievements during commencement, and they identify those students who have the right to wear the cords. At Philander, the green, white & gold cord represents *Summa Cum Laude* which is with Highest Distinction (3.75 - 4.0 GPA); the gold & white cord represents *Magna Cum Laude* which is with High Distinction (3.5 – 3.7499 GPA); the white cord represents *Cum Laude* which is with Distinction (3.0 – 3.49 GPA); and the old gold cord represents Distinction in Field of Study. Various other colors are used to identify members of the Honors Society; fraternities; sororities; and other.

## Academic Regalia

The distinctive dress associated with academic processions and convocations dates from the Middle Ages, when long-sleeved, hooded gowns were necessary for warmth in the unheated stone colleges. Most of the scholars were clerics in holy orders, and they wore cloaks to which were attached hoods that could be pulled up to cover their tonsured heads. Over the centuries, much diversity occurred in academic costumes. To bring some order to this diversity, in 1894 in the United States, the Intercollegiate Commission met in New York and agreed on a code of academic dress which has become the standard for most colleges and universities. According to this code, both the styling and color of the regalia have significance. The design of the gown indicates the degree. The bachelor’s gown is simple, with a full sleeve. The master’s gown is much like the bachelor’s except for the long sleeves, which hang loose. The doctor’s gown is fuller and more elaborate. It has velvet edging and three velvet stripes on the full sleeves. Usually, the color of the gown is black. Hoods, which are worn over the gowns, are similar for all degrees, although differing slightly in length. The candidates for the bachelor’s degree usually do not wear the hood. The hood has a velvet edging which indicates the area of the degree, and the inside or lining of the hood is satin in the colors of the college or university granting the degree. A partial list of the degree colors to be found on the edge of the hood or the trimming on the doctor’s gown is given below. The usual cap, proper for all degrees, is the black mortarboard, although some colleges use the beret. Tassels, usually black, are worn over the left front quarter of the cap for a degree holder and on the right for a candidate for a degree. Holders of the doctorate may wear tassels of gold thread. Holders may also wear tassels in the colors of the college or university granting the degree.

Agriculture.....	Maize	Music.....	Pink
Arts, Letters, Humanities.....	White	Medicine.....	Green
Business Administration.....	Drab	Oratory Speech.....	Silver Gray
Dentistry.....	Lilac	Philosophy.....	Dark Blue
Economics.....	Copper	Physical Education.....	Sage Green
Education.....	Light Blue	Public Administration.....	Peacock Blue
Engineering.....	Orange	Public Health.....	Salmon
Fine Arts, Architecture.....	Brown	Science.....	Golden Yellow
Forestry.....	Russet	Social Science.....	Cream
Journalism.....	Crimson	Social Services.....	Citron
Law.....	Purple	Theology/Divinity.....	Scarlet
Library Science.....	Lemon	Veterinary Science.....	Gray



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