



# OPENING CONVOCATION

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2015  
10 a.m.

**M. L. Harris Fine Arts Auditorium**  
**Philander Smith College**  
900 West Daisy Bates Drive  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72202



PHILANDER  
**FORWARD** ▶

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**Philander Smith College** is a small, privately supported, historically Black, four-year liberal arts institution related to The United Methodist Church. The College offers four degrees: 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 education for all, regardless of race, religion, sex, national origin or ethnic background.

## *Background*

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, while soliciting funds, Dr. G.W. Gray met Mrs. Adeline Smith, widow of Mr. Philander Smith of Oak Park, Illinois. The late Philander Smith had been a liberal donor to Asiatic Missions and had developed an interest in the work of the Methodist Church-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, Little Rock, Arkansas. The gift made by Mrs. Smith was a significant contribution towards the construction of Budlong Hall, the first brick building on the new site.



## *Message from the President*

Dear Community of Scholars:

The Convocation Ceremony is one that provides an opportunity for the Philander Smith College Campus Community to reflect upon our journey together and to prepare ourselves for the new academic year. This cherished tradition is an official start to our new beginning, and it marks the point where we move forward with great expectations for all that we set out to accomplish in this new season.

The faculty, staff, and administration pledge today to be committed to our students' success through nurturing, support, guidance and counsel. In turn, we hope that you, the students, will commit to your own success by pledging to operate at your highest capacity. We also hope and pray that each student will embody the ideals of a Philander Man and a Philander Woman, who are fortified with good character, strong work ethic, high morals, scholastic excellence, and a strong spiritual commitment.

As we rejoice in this day, we pledge to move not only Philander forward, but to also move forward on our individual promise. Beginning from the point of this Convocation Ceremony, we will collectively advance ourselves, as well as this institution, into heightened levels of excellence. As a community of scholars, we will push ourselves from beyond our comfort zones, challenge ourselves to abhor mediocrity and to settle only for excellence.

Philander Smith College is an institution with a rich heritage that was founded on the belief that every man and woman, regardless of his or her racial, social, or economic background, should have access to an education. We are all privileged to be here. For some, it is their life's mission to be here and, for others, it is their divine destiny. No matter the circumstances in which you find yourself at this place and at this appointed time, Philander Smith College is the bridge that can take you into the future of your design.

Our big dreams cannot be achieved if we are content to sleep. So, may the clarion call to **Move Philander Forward** be our awakened footsteps, buttressed by vigor and determination, which are leading us to dreams fulfilled.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roderick L. Smothers, Sr." The signature is written in a cursive style.

**Roderick L. Smothers, Sr., Ph.D.**

President

Philander Smith College



## REV. DR. PHILLIP L. POINTER, SR.

Rev. Dr. Phillip L. Pointer, Sr. is the Senior Pastor of the St. Mark Baptist Church in Little Rock, AR. There he resides with his wife Keya and their three children: Gabriela, Phillip, Jr., and Elijah. Some twenty years ago, Pastor Pointer recognized and accepted his call to preach and teach the Word of God. As a minister of the gospel, he has dedicated himself to the faithful exposition of the Holy Scriptures. He has served as a Senior Pastor for the last 10 years.

Before coming aboard at St. Mark, Pastor Pointer served as the Senior Pastor of St. John Baptist Church in Alexandria, VA. In October 2005, he led the merger between St. John Baptist Church and Providence Baptist Church. This historical consummation formed the Providence St. John Baptist Church. During his tenure there, Pastor Pointer transitioned the traditional congregation to a progressive place of worship. He cultivated a style that was Bible-based and Holy Spirit-guided yet retained the essential historical elements of Baptist polity and beliefs.

Pastor Pointer earned a Master of Divinity Degree with honors from The Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia. He recently completed his Doctor of Ministry at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH. His emphasis in doctoral study was "Preaching Prophetically in a Postmodern Culture: Communicating with Contemporary Audiences."

Pastor Pointer is the fourth generation in his family to serve as a Baptist pastor. He is firmly devoted to his family and seeks to model a commitment to family first. Pastor Pointer has a strong passion for leadership development and personal discipleship. He also has a great desire to empower people to both live as God intends and to serve God to their highest capacity. He seeks to accomplish this through meaningful worship, clear teaching, and providing consistent and loving pastoral care.



# OPENING CONVOCATION PHILANDER FORWARD

## *Presiding*

HAZEL A. ERVIN, PH.D.

*Vice President for Academic Affairs, Philander Smith College*

## *Processional*

"THE WAR MARCH OF THE PRIEST" ..... FELIX MENDELSSOHN

## *Invocation*

BISHOP FELTON E. MAY

*Senior Pastor, Theressa Hoover Memorial United Methodist Church*

## *\*The Call to Celebration*

KOYA M. COUCH, '19

*Student, Philander Smith College*

Leader: I will exalt You, my God, the King! I will praise Your name forever and ever.

**People: Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; His greatness no one can fathom.**

Leader: One generation will commend Your works to another; They will tell of Your mighty acts.

**People: Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; His greatness no one can fathom.**

Leader: Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures through all generations.

**People: Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; God's greatness no one can fathom.**

Leader: The Lord is faithful to all God's promises and loving toward all He has made.

The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down.

**People: Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; His greatness no one can fathom.**

Leader: The Lord is righteous in all God's ways and loving toward all God has made.

The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth.

**People: Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise: His greatness no one can fathom.**

Leader: My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord.

**People: Let everything that has breath Praise God's holy name forever and ever. Amen!**

*(The Celebration Hymnal, #145)*

*\*Please stand as you are able*



# OPENING CONVOCATION PHILANDER FORWARD

## *\*Hymn of Celebration*

"LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING" ..... ARR. BY JAMES WELDON JOHNSON AND JOHN ROSAMOND JOHNSON

Lift every voice and sing  
Till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the listening 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.

Stony the road we trod,  
Bitter the chastening rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat,  
Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,  
Out from the gloomy past,  
Till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou who has 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.

*\*Please stand as you are able*



# OPENING CONVOCATION PHILANDER FORWARD

## *Greetings*

HAZEL A. ERVIN, Ph.D.

*Vice President for Academic Affairs, Philander Smith College*

## *Old Testament Reading: ISAIAH 43:14-19*

CARVON SMITH '16

*Mr. Philander Smith College*

## *Epistle Reading: HEBREWS 12:1-2*

MR. KEVIN B. HAMILTON

*Vice President for Student Affairs, Philander Smith College*

## *Musical Selection*

"AIN'T GONNA LET NOBODY TURN ME AROUND" ..... ARR. BY ROLLO DILWORTH

PHILANDER SMITH COLLEGE COLLEGIATE CHOIR

MR. TIMOTHY TUCKER, DIRECTOR

*Assistant Professor, Music Department, Philander Smith College*

## *Gospel Reading: MATTHEW 16:13-19*

WHITNEY WESTMORELAND, '16

*Miss Philander Smith College*

## *Introduction of Speaker*

SHABORN VAIL, '16

*President, Religious Life Council, Philander Smith College*

## *Musical Selection*

MS. ZETORIA CURRY, Soprano

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

## *The Convocation Address*

REV. DR. PHILIP POINTER, SR.

*Pastor, St. Mark Baptist Church, Little Rock, Arkansas*



# OPENING CONVOCATION PHILANDER FORWARD

## *Musical Selection*

“MOVING FORWARD” ..... ISRAEL AND NEW BREED

PHILANDER SMITH COLLEGE CHOSEN GENERATION CHOIR

TREVOR IVY, '16, DIRECTOR

*Student, Philander Smith College*

## *\* Student Pledge*

TANISHA MANNING, '16

*President, Student Government Association, Philander Smith College*

## *\* Faculty and Staff Pledge*

DR. LLOYD HERVEY, '68

*Interim Chair, Division of Education and Special Assistant to the President, Philander Smith College*

*\*Please stand as you are able*

## *Remarks*

RODERICK L. SMOTHERS, SR., Ph.D.

*President, Philander Smith College*

## *\* Alma Mater*

PHILANDER SMITH COLLEGE COLLEGIATE CHOIR AND AUDIENCE

MR. TIMOTHY TUCKER, DIRECTOR

*Assistant Professor, Music Department, Philander Smith College*

*\*Please stand as you are able*

## *Benediction*

REV. RONNIE MILLER-YOW

*Dean of Religious Life and Campus Culture, Philander Smith College*

## *Recessional and Postlude*

“THE WAR MARCH OF THE PRIEST” ..... FELIX MENDELSSOHN

RECEPTION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CONVOCATION IN THE HARRY R. KENDALL CENTER ATRIUM.





# PHILANDER SMITH COLLEGE ALMA MATER

## PHILANDER FORWARD

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)



## STUDENT PLEDGE PHILANDER FORWARD

**LEADER:** Philander Smith College is strongly committed to fostering a sense of social responsibility and nurturing an atmosphere for individuals who are academically ambitious, grounded as advocates for social justice, who want to intentionally change the world for the better.

**STUDENTS:** **As responsible individuals, from initial matriculation through commencement, we pledge to be fully and personally responsible for our actions and the consequences caused by our actions.**

**LEADER:** As active participants in the educational community, we must give our highest priority to academic opportunities and commitments; social diversions or extracurricular undertakings must not conflict with our ultimate purpose.

**STUDENTS:** **As responsible members of this academic institution, we affirm the institutional values of academic honesty, academic excellence and access to education for all persons. We pledge to always strive for the best to fulfill the fundamental developmental and educational goals of Philander Smith College.**

**ALL:** Today, we pledge and affirm the Holy Scriptures that proclaim that “with God, all things are possible.” Therefore, we challenge ourselves by the grace of God to learn always, to put away childish things, and to strive towards academic *excellence through the power of the Holy Spirit.*



## FACULTY AND STAFF PLEDGE PHILANDER FORWARD

- LEADER: As members of the faculty and staff of Philander Smith College, we realize that we have been given an awesome responsibility.
- PEOPLE: **We understand this responsibility, to guide these young men and women as they begin to realize their full potential. We freely accept this task, and will do it with a sense of purpose and passion.**
- LEADER: As the elders of this community, we are here to provide guidance and counsel, to mentor and advise.
- PEOPLE: **We will set high expectations for our students, and will be willing to celebrate their successes, comfort their disappointments, and lovingly correct their mistakes.**
- LEADER: We must be role models as well, and must never forget that they watch our very move.
- PEOPLE: **James Baldwin's words ring true: Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them.**
- LEADER: So as Philander Smith College begins the Philander Forward era, we pledge to engage our students with the issues of the day, and empower them with the courage to go forth and intentionally change the world for the better.
- PEOPLE: **And we will live our lives in a manner worth replicating, so that our deeds will cause Philander Smith College to move Forward.**

# MISSION

To graduate academically accomplished students,  
grounded as advocates for social justice, determined  
to change the world for the better.

## THE PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Roderick L. Smothers, Ph.D.  
PRESIDENT

Darnell Williams, Ph.D.  
SENIOR EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

Rev. C.J. Duvall  
VICE PRESIDENT OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

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Rev. Ronnie Miller-Yow  
DEAN OF RELIGIOUS LIFE AND CAMPUS CULTURE

Mr. Maurice Osborne  
DEAN OF ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

## CONVOCATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Kevin B. Hamilton  
VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Hazel Arnett Ervin, Ph.D.  
VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Ms. Rhonda Lovelace  
ASSISTANT DEAN FOR STUDENT SERVICES

Mr. Shaborn Vail, '16  
PRESIDENT, RELIGIOUS LIFE COUNCIL

Mr. Julius Keith, '16  
STUDENT ASSOCIATE FOR RELIGIOUS LIFE

Rev. Ronnie Miller-Yow  
DEAN OF RELIGIOUS LIFE AND CAMPUS CULTURE

