

SPRING/  
SUMMER  
2009

# *The Philanderian*

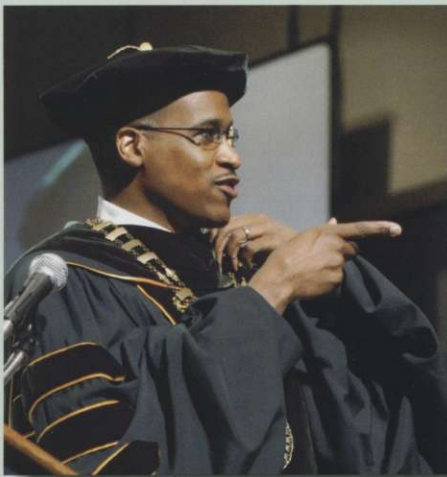


THINK JUSTICE

*Gena Lovett '86*

2009 Commencement Speaker





## Rethink College

I recently attended the annual conference of the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church in Rogers, Arkansas. I like to attend every year, even if for a day, to get some of the updates on the conference. This year, I had a chance to present a ten-minute report on Philander Smith College. The conference schedule is always tight, so I was glad we were able to have some time on the agenda along with several other United Methodist institutions, including Hendrix College in Conway.

I always enjoy hearing the Bishop's address the first day of the conference for the big picture perspective. In his talk, Bishop Charles Crutchfield indicated that "ministry is not about the past; it is about the future." He went on further to say "we need to rethink church in order to redo church." The global Methodist 'Rethink Church' campaign is aimed at redefining the church experience for 18- to 34-year olds. Launched in May, the campaign promotes that there are 10,000 ways to be involved in the church and that this generation can find meaningful ways to transform the world through the United Methodist Church.

“Essentially, the access argument has nothing to do with the student and everything to do with the school.”

As a United Methodist college, we too should rethink what we do and how we do it. Recent news stories have discussed the shameful graduation rates throughout higher education. I have pointed out before how many people believe that providing access is good enough, and that is their mission. This is hollow because it never takes into account the tens of thousands of dollars people accumulate in debt without a college degree, and that lack of a degree prevents them from landing a high enough paying job to repay their loans. Essentially, the access argument has nothing to do with the student and everything to do with the school.

The United States is falling further behind the world leaders when it comes to education, so it is imperative for us all of us to graduate more students, not simply admit them and hope for the best. This is what we are doing at Philander Smith College. We want to make sure we are graduating students, and over the past few years we have made significant progress. Yet, we have a long way to go.

Through our renaissance, we are actively rethinking what we do, and that is the first step.

Walter M. Kimbrough, Ph. D.

### Greetings to My Fellow Philanderians:

The Office of Alumni Affairs is dedicated to keeping all of you abreast of upcoming events and all that is happening on the campus of Philander Smith College. We now offer several avenues for you to gain access to our e-newsletters, e-flashes and bulletins via our Web site [www.philander.edu](http://www.philander.edu) and on Facebook. And of course, we're always just a phone call or email away.

To ensure that news reaches you in a timely manner, we request that you notify us of any change in physical address, email address and/or phone numbers. We'd love to highlight individual accomplishments, NAA chapter events and any of life's milestones, but we need to hear from you! We are really making a concerted effort to maintain a strong connection with alumni.



Speaking of strong connections: The Office of Institutional Advancement would like to thank every alum, spouse of an alum, friends and family members who has supported our efforts to host a 'Key City' special event in your area. We have been overjoyed to meet and greet each of you and your attendance has been greatly appreciated. For those of you awaiting a visit during the 2009-2010 school year, just hold on to your hats...we're coming!

Also, we would be remiss if we did not convey that we need your financial support to Philander Smith College. Earlier this year, Dr. Kimbrough sent a letter to alumni detailing nationwide troublesome statistics on the plight of the U. S. economy and the impact it may have on HBCUs. We do not want to become another statistic in the journals of higher education as a result of not rising to the occasion and increasing our alumni donations.

There are many avenues to get involved financially. Please consider renewing your contributions to the 1877 Society annual giving program that began in 2005. **The 1877 Society is an on-going giving program and not a one-time giving opportunity.** Your yearly donation of \$1,877 is designated to the general fund and special recognition is given as a member of this giving club. The Legacy Society is the planned giving program through bequests and insurance policies, and you will hear more about this at the 2009 NAA Convention. And don't forget the Reunion of Classes gift-giving, which promotes competition among classes for reunion drives that started with the 2009 Alumni Reunion Weekend this past May.

The bottom line is ...We Need Your Support! We also need your help in instilling a strong sense of institutional pride by identifying and/or creating new opportunities to bring alumni on campus through activities such as sports events, Homecoming, recognition banquets, *Bless the Mic* lectures and the Presidential Luncheon. Yes, we can create bonds between alumni and current/prospective students from their respective geographical areas by serving as mentors, serving as career day and Founders' Day speakers or serving as advisors to on-campus student organizations, just to name a few ideas.

I hope to hear from you soon!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yvonne C. Alexander". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Yvonne Collier Alexander '73**  
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“The bottom line is ...  
We Need Your Support.”

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**POMP & CIRCUMSTANCE**  
PSC graduates 72 'change agents'



**FRONT & CENTER**  
Miss PSC and Dr. Kimbrough celebrate with alums at the Reunion Banquet



Photo by: Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

**FISCAL SPORT**  
Budgetball debuts at PSC ...page 22

### ON THE COVER:

As a top executive of a NY-based investment management firm and the first Black president of the NY Junior League, 2009 Commencement speaker **Gena Lovett '86** shatters paradigms.

Photographed exclusively for *The Philanderian* by Richard Davies.

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## GIFTS BENEFIT RENAISSANCE 100

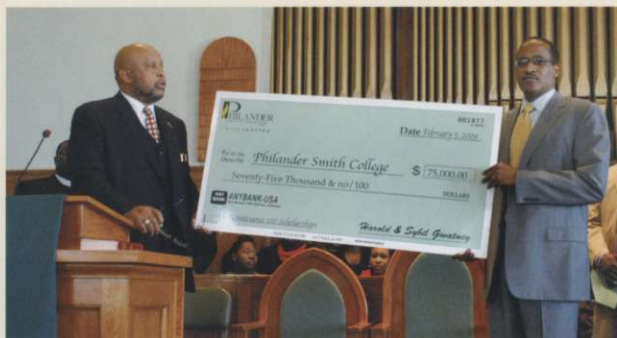
A recent \$100,000 gift from an anonymous donor will translate into support for students in need of tuition assistance as part of the **Renaissance 100** program that seeks to secure scholarships for 100 incoming students who have high scholastic potential but require financial assistance to complete their education. Funds from the grant will provide \$2,500 scholarships for ten students over the next four years.

The anonymous Renaissance 100 grant comes on the heels of a \$75,000 major gift from **Harold Gwatney** of Memphis, Tenn., who is a member of the Philander Smith board of trustees, to also benefit the scholarship program.

“In these tough economic times, our students are increasingly in need of financial assistance. This new support from the anonymous donor and Mr. Gwatney helps us leverage our already competitive tuition so that we are able to assist many more students,” said

President Walter M. Kimbrough.

During a February chapel service, there was a check presentation made by Board of Trustees member **Arthur Montgomery '68** made on behalf of the Gwatneys who were unable to be present.



The Renaissance 100 scholarship program is expected to have a defining impact on Philander Smith, enabling the college to continue to make valuable contributions to Arkansas and the nation in the form of better graduates, more valuable employees, more successful entrepreneurs and stronger families.

There are four levels of commitment for the Scholarship program. If you or your company would like to invest in a Philander Smith College student through the Renaissance 100 scholarship program, please contact Dr. Shannon Fleming at [sfleming@philander.edu](mailto:sfleming@philander.edu) or (501) 370-5378.

## Calling all Philanderians!



Alumni contributions make it possible to attract academically ambitious students and to help them off-set the cost of study at Philander Smith College.

During the week of **November 1-5, 2009**, a PSC representative will be calling you to ask for your annual contribution. *Will you help us keep the Philander flame burning?*

Your gift will make a difference.



# alumni profile: EDDIE REED '75

By Johnathan Davis  
special to The Philanderian

**EDDIE REED DID NOT PLAN TO BECOME A DOCTOR WHEN HE LEFT SMALLTOWN HUGHES, ARK., HEADED FOR COLLEGE IN THE BIG CITY IN THE EARLY 70s.**

Instead, his intention was to double major in mathematics and music, start a career in computer programming while organizing a band and playing music on the side until hitting it big. With a record contract under his belt, he figured, he would give up computer programming and focus on music full-time. However a professor at Philander Smith College changed his life forever.

“In my first semester, Professor Willie B. Johnson, my professor of biology, pulled me aside by the arm, looked me in the eye, put her finger in my chest and said ‘You are going to be a doctor. You are going to medical school,’” Reed recalls. “This was right before the Christmas break, I believe. So I came home and was talking with my mother. I said ‘I’m thinking about becoming a doctor and going to medical school.’ She just smiled. That was it. She smiled and to me that one gesture said a thousand words. I knew then and ever since that I was going to do this.”

With that determination, Reed graduated with his bachelor of science degree in 1975 and, four years later, earned his medical degree from Yale University. He completed his internship and residency in internal medicine in Palo Alto, Calif., at Stanford University Hospital. About a year ago, Reed joined the staff of the Mitchell Cancer Institute at the

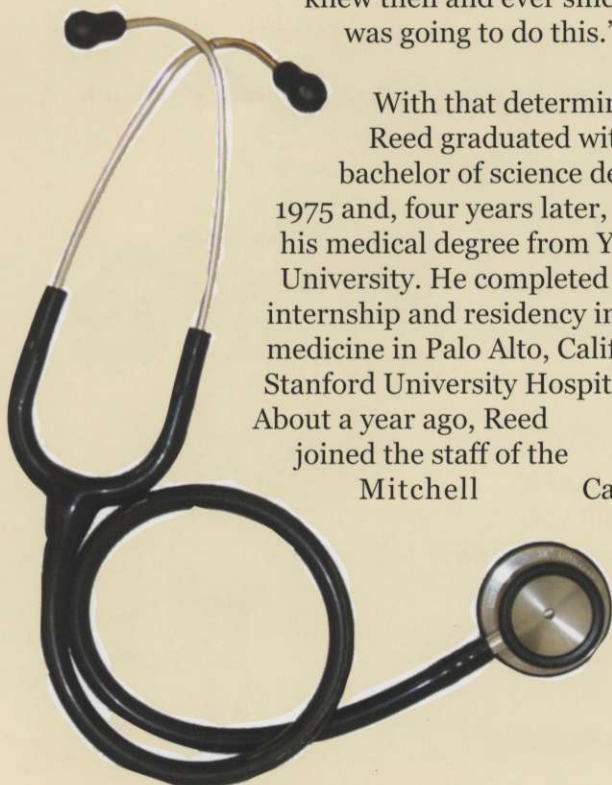
University of South Alabama as clinical director, in addition to being a professor of oncologic sciences at the university. Prior to this appointment, he was director of the Division of Cancer Prevention and Control at the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion in Atlanta from 2005-2008. Last year, Reed was elected to the national board of directors of the American Association for Cancer Research, the world’s oldest and largest scientific organization focused on cancer research.



Reed notes that he’s come a long way from the small town where he grew up, and as the ninth child of 17, one can imagine that living in Little Rock took some adjusting.

“I had grown up on a farm,” Reed said. “I had no idea how protected an environment that had been – protected in the sense that you simply were not exposed to many of the things that go on in a more urban environment.”

David Featherstone, a childhood friend of the 55-year-old Reed, also remembers small-town life. He and Reed played basketball together. He remembers his buddy as a good student.



“He was always the smartest in the class. He set the standard of education in our class,” said Featherstone, now a Little Rock businessman. “He was never one to get into trouble. His parents didn’t allow that. I never remember him getting called to the principal’s office. If he got into trouble it wasn’t public trouble.”

Philander Smith, being a private, historically Black college, offered Reed a family atmosphere that reminded him of his hometown of about 2,000 residents.

“It was sort of like an extended family at Philander,” he reflected. “Everybody knew everybody. The faculty knew all the kids on campus by name. There was a level of attention, based on what I’ve seen over the years, that you simply do not get at the vast majority of other institutions. At that point in my life, it was a very valuable and very important characteristic of Philander Smith.”

As he progressed on his educational path, Reed became the extended family of other students, particularly his sister’s best friend Alice Richardson. Richardson was a business major then and today is an accountant serving as controller for the Houston Academy of Medicine, Texas Medical Center Library.

Richardson, who graduated from Philander in 1977, remembers that when Reed pledged Phi Beta Sigma fraternity, his nickname was “Big Brother Country Bumpkin.” She said she immediately adopted him as her big brother.

“I guess the main reason he automatically became one of my good friends is because I grew up in a household with a small number of sisters; I didn’t have an older brother. I had never known anybody

with such a large family and they were so close. I guess that appealed to me.”

For Richardson, having a big brother who lived off campus also came in handy.

“His apartment was only two or three blocks down the street,” she said. “Whenever the cafeteria was closed or we needed to scrounge for something to eat, we could always go to big brother’s house.”

According to Reed, he hasn’t been able to visit the campus as much as he’d like over the past few years but is impressed with his alma mater’s progress, which he got a chance to experience firsthand when

he returned in May for his nephew’s graduation. Although his busy career hasn’t left time to come back often, Reed still finds ways to be supportive. Richardson notes that he is a lifetime member of the school’s national alumni association, of which she is financial secretary.

In addition to witnessing his nephew’s commencement ceremony, Reed also took part in the school’s first-ever Alumni Reunion Weekend; he was on hand to be inducted into the inaugural group of M.L. Harris Society members. Formed to recognize the extraordinary

commitment of a select group of alumni and friends, membership into the M.L. Harris Society requires a cumulative giving history to the college of \$25,000 or more – an indication of Reed’s level of financial support to the institution.

A modest man, Reed declines to discuss any specifics about his history of giving, but said it’s important for him to give back.

“I am a graduate of Philander Smith,” he said. “It is my school, my own, and if you don’t take care of your own, no one will.”



Dr. Reed with his sister Faye Reed '77 at the Alumni Reunion in May.

*Honor Roll of Donors*

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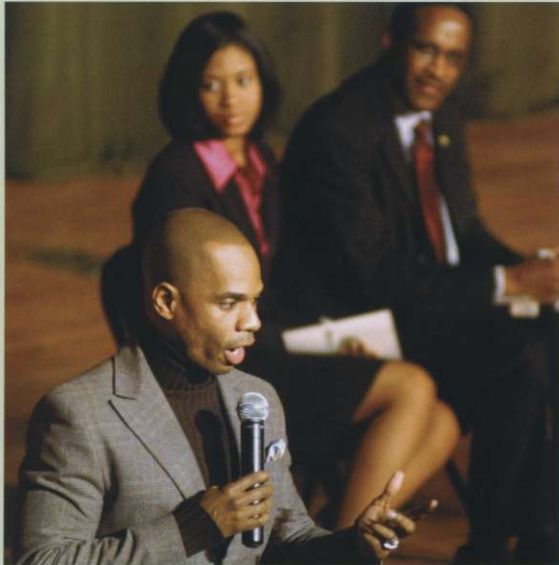
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## 'BLESS THE MIC' ON THE ROAD WITH KIRK FRANKLIN

The *Bless The Mic* lecture series took the show on the road Feb. 4 with gospel superstar **Kirk Franklin**.

In order to accommodate more people, Philander Smith College hosted the Grammy Award winning artist at the much larger auditorium at the historic Little Rock Central High School a mile down the street from campus.

With “*Personal Accountability: Challenging the African American Community*” as his topic, Franklin, who did not perform, gave one of the most solid, substantive and entertaining lectures of the entire

year to a record-breaking *Bless The Mic* crowd of about 1,400—most of them middle schoolers, high school and college students.

After an inspiring, humorous and

at times emotional talk, Franklin answered a few audience members’ questions, was presented with a key to the city of Little Rock, and then hung back for over an hour taking photographs and signing autographs.

The singer said he has been speaking on college campuses for about three years now, but that Philander Smith College is only the second HBCU that he had visited.



## SEASON 4 is punctuated by heavy-hitters

On January 21, the *Clifford and Alma Minton Lecture* was presented by the national executive director of The Black Think Tank, **Dr. Julia Hare** of San Francisco, Calif. With her husband, she is co-author of several books about relationships and the Black family.

In her trademark frank and feisty style, Dr. Hare addressed a number of issues and generated lots of laughs with her quips and one-liners. She was so well-received that she was held over to speak the following day.

"We really didn't have enough time for her to cover everything in one session, but she didn't leave town until that Friday. So I invited her to our special chapel that my wife and I were hosting to have frank conversations [with our students] about relationships," said President Kimbrough.

Next up in March, the lecture series got a serious shot in the arm with an appearance by the beloved editor emeritus of *Essence* magazine **Susan L. Taylor**, presented by Alltel, who was the driving force behind the iconic *Essence* brand for nearly three decades up until her 2007 retirement.

Taylor, with her warm and engaging spirit, enraptured the capacity crowd with her reflections on pain and suffering ("suffering is

deciding to live in a painful place") and encouragement to be the best ("you're more than what you see, more than you think, you are human and divine"). Before concluding she spoke about her new organization, the National Cares Mentoring Movement, and made a passionate appeal for caring adults to serve as mentors.

The series ended this spring with a lecture by **Charles Murray**, the W.H. Brady Scholar in Culture and Freedom at the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, on April 14. He is also the bestselling co-author of *The Bell Curve*, one of the most controversial book of the 1990s.

Murray's newest book is *Real Education: Four Simple Truths for Bringing America's Schools Back to Reality* in which he posits that ability varies among children, half of all children are below average, too many people are going to college, and our society depends upon how we educate the academically gifted.

Given his earlier reputation, Murray's visit was not the

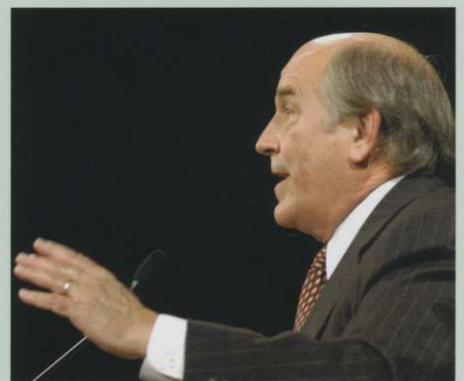
lightning rod expected by some, but his talk was an example of why the lecture series seeks speakers whose ideas may or may not converge with the general populace but who still have a viewpoint in which students and the community alike should be exposed.



Dr. Julia Hare



Susan L. Taylor



Charles Murray



**BlessTheMic**  
A Hip-Hop President's Lecture Series  
PHILANDER SMITH COLLEGE

### 'LET'S TALK ABOUT PEP'

"I stand before you a changed woman."

Those were Sandy "Pepa" Denton's words in the middle of her very first speaking engagement as part of the "Chopped and Screwed" spinoff of the *Bless The Mic* series on March 18.

Denton came to prominence in the late 80s as one-half of one the most popular female hip hop groups of all-time, Salt-N-Pepa. The Grammy Award winning hip hop artist and VH1 reality TV star is now an author with a recently released book, *Let's Talk About Pep*, a biography chronicling her rise to fame and her life of domestic abuse.

The Queens, N.Y., native's timely message, even for being "nervous" as a first-time public speaker, hit on all cylinders with her anthems of self-love, self-respect and self-worth—which for Denton, as her talk candidly revealed, were each earned the hard way.—S.C.



**BlessTheMic**  
A Hip-Hop President's Lecture Series  
PHILANDER SMITH COLLEGE

The **PSC Concert Choir** is set to perform with the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra in a March 2010 in a production of *Porgy and Bess*.

**GIVING**

14<sup>th</sup> annual

# Elijah Pitts Memorial Golf Tournament



**Par for the Course:** One of 21 participating teams.



**Chow time!** Lunch catered by Corky's Ribs and Barbecue.

**T**wenty-one teams took to Little Rock's Rebsamen Golf Course on Friday, May 15 to raise money for scholarships during the 14<sup>th</sup> annual **Elijah Pitts Memorial Golf Tournament**.

Elijah Pitts was a running back for the Green Bay Packers from 1961 to 1969 and again in 1971. Though the Mayflower, Ark., native enjoyed a successful career, winning four NFL championships and two Super Bowls (I and II), his was hardly an obvious path. A sharecropper's son, Pitts attended high school in Conway (the high school at Mayflower was too small to field a football team) and chose to play on the collegiate level at Philander Smith. He was taken by the Green Bay Packers in the 13<sup>th</sup> round of the 1961 draft.

Pitts established the golf tournament as a means to drum up support for his alma mater. Although he lived in Buffalo, New York, he and his family were active with the event until his death in 1998 at age 60.

Thanks in part to this year's top sponsors **Dillard's**, **Verizon**, **Stephens Inc.**, **Pepsi** and the **City of Little Rock**, nearly \$17,000 was raised to benefit deserving students.



Fred and Carolyn Galbreath show off their team prizes.



Jean and Glenn Parks of Russellville, Ark.



The University of Arkansas Black Alumni Society team.



Mike Williams of Pepsi and the tournament committee's Harold Banks.



**Time for prizes!** Reginald Hameth, Lupita Rasheed and Ileaa Swift



**Making their Rounds:** Sericia Cole and Andrea Marshall



**Harry Roberson '50** (Washington, D.C.) on the red carpet heading to the Alumni Reunion Weekend Celebration Banquet.



Board of Trustees' **Lynda Byrd '69** (San Antonio, Texas) and **Rev. C. E. McAdoo '69** (Hot Springs Village, Ark.) are all smiles at Friday evening's 'Meet and Greet' reception.



**Ileaa Kirby-Swift** (Fund/UNCF Coordinator) and student **Joell Etienne** (left) are hostesses for the alumni registration table.



The PSC Chosen Generation gospel choir ministers in song.

## 2009 Alumni Reunion

The very first **Alumni Reunion Weekend** was a 3-day celebration designed to build stronger relations with Philander Smith graduates. The event happened over the 2009 Commencement weekend, May 1-3.

"We were thrilled to bring alumni together on campus to celebrate them and commemorate their time as students here," remarked Dr. Shannon Fleming, vice president for institutional advancement, "and alumni can expect for next year's reunion to be even better."

Activities planned ranged from a "meet and greet" reception, Baccalaureate and a hospitality gathering, campus tours (which, unfortunately, were canceled due to torrential rainfall), Commencement and worship service at Wesley Chapel UMC. The weekend's highlight was the **Celebration Banquet** where **Golden Alumni** were honored along with the **M.L. Harris Society**, a lifetime giving club for donors (friends and alumni) with a giving history of \$25,000 or more to the College. The Classes of 1959, 1969, 1979, 1989 and 1999 were also specially recognized.

Now that it is an annual event, *Philanderians* can look forward to the Alumni Reunion each year during the weekend of Commencement. On the next pages we've assembled a few photos of some memorable reunion moments, but make plans to join us in May 2010 ... All alums are encouraged to attend!



A birds-eye view from Saturday night's Celebration Banquet.



**President Kimbrough** bestows a M.L. Harris Society stole upon **Board Chairman Rev. Larry Ross '69** (Sherwood, Ark.) at the Banquet.

Elijah Pitts' son **Ron** followed in his father's athletic footsteps. He was a cornerback for the Packers and the Buffalo Bills and works today as a sportscaster for FOX Sports. Ron Pitts also hosts *Destroyed in Seconds*, a half-hour show on the Discovery Channel.

*Dear Alma Mater, tried and true,  
We'll win respect and love for you...*



**Rodney Parks** (Development Director) engages **Gena Lovett '86** (New York) in conversation at the reception prior to Baccalaureate.



**Dr. Shannon Fleming** (VP/Institutional Advancement) confers a M.L. Harris Society stole upon **President Kimbrough**.



Star of stage and Broadway **Lawrence Hamilton** (Director of Cultural Affairs) gives another impressive solo performance at the Banquet.



**Hazel Bullock '41** is happy to be honored as a Golden Alum.



The reception table is spread for alumni Friday evening.



Alumni Affairs Director **Yvonne Alexander '73** visits with 1979 grads **Veronica and Donald Booth** (Little Rock).



Senior **Bibi Mwambe** (far right) and her family.



**Dr. Shannon Fleming** greets **Lynda Byrd** and **Jo Ann Benjamin '69** (Little Rock) as they arrive.



**Odessa Talley** and her husband **John Talley '53** (Little Rock) enjoy banquet seating arrangements with **Mrs. Hazel Bullock '41**.



Trustee **Dr. Frances Harris '76** (Little Rock) and her husband **Dr. Joe Hargrove**.



Enjoying fellowship at the reception are **Veronica Booth '79**, **Wilma Toombs '77** (Jacksonville, Ark.), **Tommie L. Taylor '55** and **Jo Ann Benjamin '69** (all of Little Rock).



**Rev. Ross** and **Dr. Kimbrough** recognize **Sybil Bunn '59** (Little Rock) as a Golden Alumni honoree.

*...With loyalty, we'll always be,  
A part of you, Dear PSC*



An impromptu appeal by **Rev. Ross** at the close of the festivities yields support for the Ariel Flood Scholarship.



Current PSC students lead alumni in singing the Alma Mater.



**Dr. Tommie L. Taylor** is honored as a Golden Alum.



**John Talley** receives his recognition as a member of the Golden Alumni.



**Dr. Kathryn Worthen '64** (South Holland, Ill.), chats with students **David Wells** and **Miss PSC Francennett Herrera** (both of Chicago).



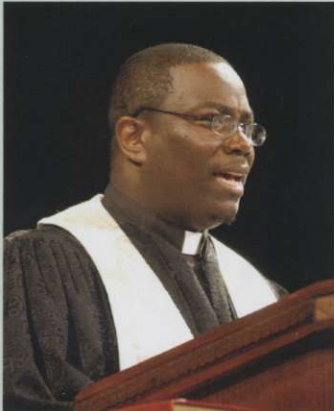
**Manuel Twillie '59** and his wife **Gwen Twillie '60** (Little Rock) are on hand to celebrate with the 50th Anniversary class.



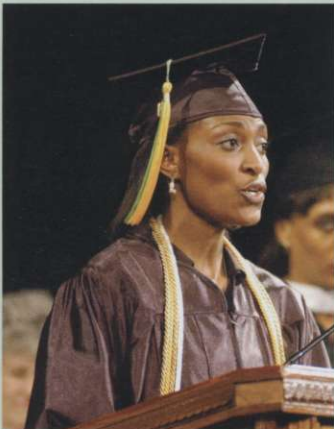
Miss PSC and Dr. Kimbrough congratulate the inaugural group of M.L. Harris Society members: (l to r) **Lillian Ross '68** and **Rev. Larry Ross**, **Lula Carter '57** (Memphis, Tenn.), **Dr. Eddie Reed** (Mobile, Ala.) '75, **Harry Roberson**, **Bennie Williams '62** and **Erma Williams '63** (Germantown, Tenn.), and **Dr. Kathryn F. Worthen**.



The evening was 'golden' for President Kimbrough and Golden Alumni celebrants **Rev. Larry Ross**, **Hazel Bullock**, **John Talley**, **Dr. Tommie L. Taylor**, **Sybil Bunn**, **Dr. Freddie Davy '53** (Newport News, Va.) **Manuel Twillie** and **Lula Carter '57** (Memphis, Tenn.).



Chaplain Rev. Ronnie Miller-Yow



Senior Dinah Mande



Rev. Dwight Townsend



The Baccalaureate Blessing

*...to graduate academically accomplished students, grounded as advocates for social justice, intentionally changing the world for the better.*

The 2009 graduation ceremony of Philander Smith College took place at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 2 at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock. It was the culmination of a dream fulfilled for the Class of 2009 who anxiously awaited this day along with supportive relatives, friends, alumni, and PSC faculty and staff members.

The traditional ceremony featured participation from the Philander Smith Collegiate Choir and the board of trustees' **Dr. Frances "Freddie" Nixon**, who delivered the invocation, and a welcome by **Lynda Byrd '69**.

**Gena R. Lovett '86**, president and chief operating officer of Alexandria Investment Management in New York, rendered the Commencement address. The Banks, Ark., native, who later moved with her family to Little Rock and graduated from Parkview High School, is serving a two-year term as president of the 3,000-member New York Junior League—the first Black woman to hold this office.

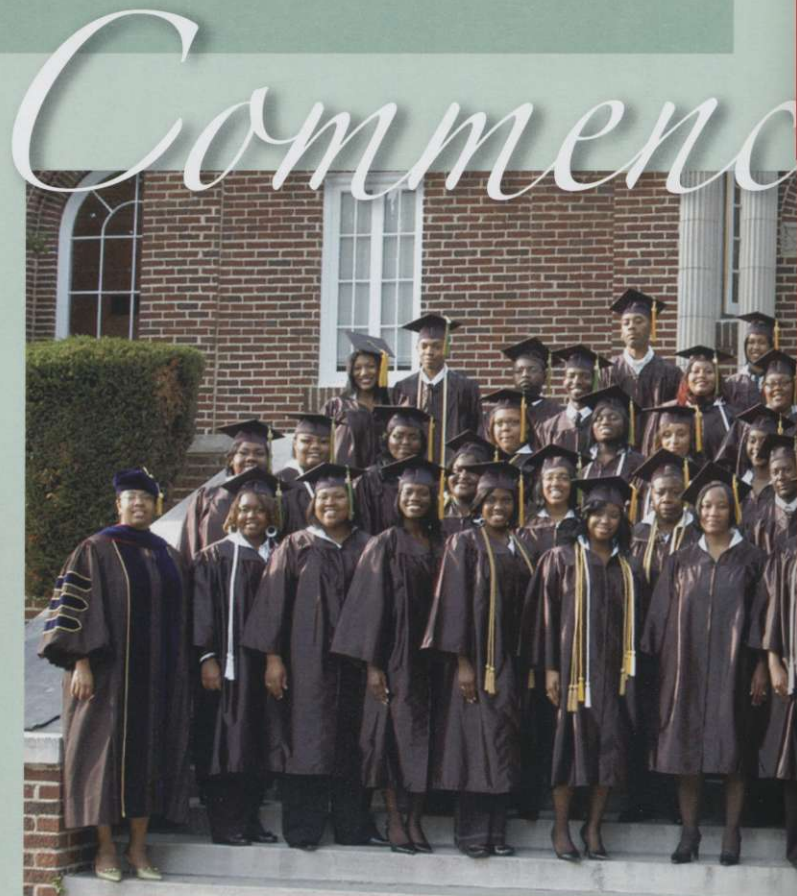
Because of her success on what he termed as "the world's biggest stage," referring to New York's prowess as the world's financial and social epicenter, President Kimbrough thought Lovett could be inspiring to students. Plus, as the president point out, the graduates could see that it "doesn't have to always take you a lifetime to do some remarkable things," he told a reporter.

After Lovett's moving speech, **Senior Class President Channel Morris** of Riverside, Calif., rendered "Reflections" on behalf of her fellow classmates, after which, the air was punctuated with applause and cheers as each graduate's name was called.

### Degrees Awarded

*Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters:*  
**Mr. Roddy McCaskill**

- Bachelor of Science: 12
- Bachelor of Social Work: 5
- Bachelor of Business Administration: 21
- Bachelor of Arts: 33



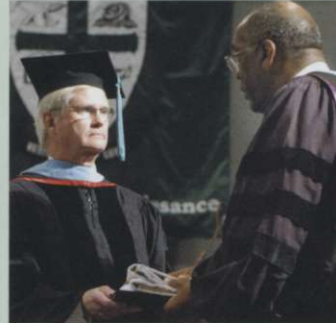
The Class of 2009



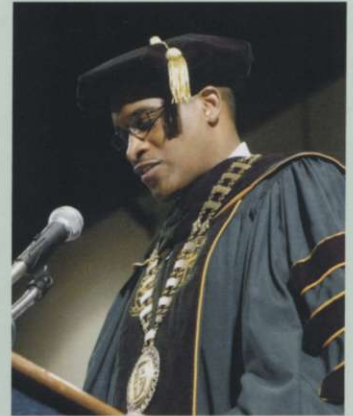
It was a busy weekend for the Class of 2009 and alumni who were on hand for the school's first Alumni Reunion. The Baccalaureate Service was held the evening prior to Commencement and was a worship ceremony made complete by the spirit-filled voices of the Chosen Generation gospel choir and a sermon by the **Rev. Dwight Townsend**, senior pastor of Longley Baptist Church in Little Rock.



Gena R. Lovett '86



Dr. Roddy McCaskill (left)



President Kimbrough



Newest NAA members



Dr. Frank James '61 and Dr. Freddie Nixon



Sr. Class Pres. Channel Morris



NAA Pres. Erma P. Williams '63



Congratulating the graduates

Class of 2009

**History Lesson:** In May 1955, Philander Smith College became the first predominantly Black school in Arkansas to grant a bachelor's degree to a white student. **Source:** [encyclopediaofarkansas.net](http://encyclopediaofarkansas.net)

## FACULTY/STAFF NEWS

Professor **Angelo Thomas** had his artwork featured in an exhibit at the Rosemary Rhea Regional Arts in Education Center and Gallery at Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia this past spring. Thomas, director of the teacher education laboratory, has been painting since 1995 and has shown his works in exhibits in Arkansas and Louisiana.

**Vanessa Johnson**, an accountant in the Business Office, was crowned Miss Jacksonville in a pageant earlier this year in which she also won the People's Choice and Talent awards. As Miss Jacksonville, she is eligible to compete in the Miss Arkansas pageant this July.

Director of Development **Rodney Parks** has been appointed by Gov. Mike Beebe to sit on the Arkansas State Banking Board for a term that will expire in 2013.



Parks

In April, the Renaissance Awards banquet celebrated outstanding faculty, staff and students. In addition to departmental and campus organization winners, the top awards went to **Dr. James Rush** (*Faculty Member of the Year*), **Rev. Ronnie Miller-Yow** (*Staff Member of the Year*) and **Sophomore John Ndungu** (*Student of the Year*).

**Karliss Chapple '01**, assistant professor of music and director of choral activities, was chosen as one of two southwest regional directors for the HBCU 105 Voices of History National Choir.

**Mollie Goza** has joined the Philander Smith staff as human resources director. She was previously with the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences where she was the human resources manager for the school's Department of Psychiatry.



Goza

**Teresa Ojezua**, head librarian at the Donald W.

Reynolds Library & Technology Center, and **Katie Davis**, reference and instruction librarian, were selected to participate in the August 2009 HBCU Library Alliance Leadership Institute which is grant-funded by the Andrew Mellon Foundation.

**Sericia Cole**, director of public relations, became the second PSC employee to complete the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Greater Little Rock program as a graduate of Class XXIV. General Counsel Eric Walker graduated in 2008 with Class XXIII.

Chaplain **Ronnie Miller-Yow** was ordained an elder during a commission and ordination ceremony at the annual meeting of the



Rev. Yow and his wife Shantella with his parents Floyd and JoAnne. Photo by Heather Hahn

Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church in Rogers, Ark., in June.

**President Walter M. Kimbrough** has been selected by to serve on an advisory council to provide recommendations to the Department of Higher Education and the Arkansas Lottery Commission Legislative Oversight Committee for the implementation of the Academic Challenge (Lottery) Scholarship.

### 2009-2010 FACULTY SENATE OFFICERS

**Dr. Raphael O. Lewis '62**, President

**William G. Schlientz**, Vice-President

**Lillie K. Kimbrough**, Secretary

**Jimmy Cheffen**, Assistant Secretary  
(appointed)

**Dr. Cynthia Burroughs**, Representative to the Board of Trustees

**Karliss Chapple**, Parliamentarian

**James Rush**, Chaplain

## HISTORY REIGNS

Students made history this spring when 20-year-old **Francennett Herrera** became the first woman of Mexican origin to win the title of Miss Philander Smith College. She will serve the 2009-2010 as campus queen.

Originally from Durango, Mexico, and raised by a single mother and her grandmother, Francennett graduated in 2007 from Olive Harvey Middle College in Chicago.

A political science major going into her junior year, Francennett was initially reluctant to enter the Miss PSC pageant. "I first considered running for a position in the SGA because I had doubts, as the only Hispanic contestant, that the students would actually vote for me."

Turns out she needn't have worried, but when her name was called as the winner at the Senior Chapel in April, the first-generation college student recalled being in disbelief. "I felt shock," she said, still smiling at the memory.

Now that the contest is in the books, Francennett is excited about the upcoming year as Miss PSC, the college's goodwill ambassador and campus representative. "There are a lot of expectations," she said, adding, "I am not used to this kind of attention or exposure but I'm going to take advantage of it all the best I can."



**Freshman Tiffany Larkins** won the title of *Miss Black and Gold* during the Southwestern Regionals of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. in February and was set to compete for the national title this summer in New Orleans.

Among the ten winners of the fifth annual "Words of Wisdom" essay contest sponsored by (then) Alltel Wireless was Philander's own **Maurice Culver**. The scholarship recipients were selected from a pool of 1,200 by a panel of local educators, business leaders and Alltel employees based on the student's



Maurice Culver (right) and his parents with Dr. Maya Angelou.

response to a question about building on a new spirit of change. For his winning essay, Maurice, who is from Gary, Ind., received a \$10,000 scholarship award and the chance to meet renowned poet Dr. Maya Angelou. He was the only winner from an Arkansas HBCU.

**Lauren Allen**, a junior English major from Kansas City, Mo., participated in the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries' **Living Justice Seminar Program** June 13-17th in New York City.

The program was designed to introduce participants to issues related to the health of women and children, and to foster discussion among young adults who share a common interest in the intersection of faith and justice.



Allen

**Francennett Herrera** will be crowned Miss PSC during a coronation ceremony on Saturday, Sept. 12 in the Sherman E. Tate Recreation Center on campus.

Philander Smith Collegiate Chorale members **Crisshaundra Pullom** and **Tariq Cummings** will represent the college as participants of the HBCU 105 Voices of History National Choir. The newly selected voices will showcase



Pullom



Cummings

### SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

Summer vacation wasn't all fun, rest and relaxation for many Philander Smith students who were busy expanding their minds and being exposed to work in their various fields of interest. Students took advantage of enriching co-curricular summer internships at a host of organizations and programs designed to enhance their educational experience.\*

- **Ariel Flood** spent the summer in New Orleans working with the Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana.
- **Edward Wiley** is an intern at "Today's THV" - KTHV, Channel 11, in Little Rock.
- **Francennett Herrera** is serving as The John Woodruff Summer Intern for Social Witness at Little Rock's First United Methodist Church.
- **Marian McPherson** worked this summer in the public relations department of the Metro Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) in Atlanta, Ga.
- **Terica Lee** and **David Wells** are serving as PR interns at the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center and Preservation Society in downtown Little Rock.
- **Gerald Thomas** is an intern and campus representative with *The Source* magazine.
- **Araceli Espinoza** – Arkansas Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network at UALR
- **D'Andrea MaGee** – Arkansas Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network Cancer Control Outreach - Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute at UAMS
- **Shontaye Reed** – Arkansas Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network Cancer Control Outreach - Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute at UAMS
- **Morgan Wilson** – Harvard University Summer Internship Program
- **Britnee Lucas** – Undergraduate Science Enrichment Program, UAMS
- **Kenyetta Sadler** – Undergraduate Science Enrichment Program, UAMS
- **Channel Bolden** – Undergraduate Science Enrichment Program, UAMS
- **Jasmine Brown** – George Washington Carver Summer Program, Univ. of Arkansas at Fayetteville
- **Jordan Pryor** – Arkansas Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation, UAPB and Student Inspired Research and Technology Summer Enrichment Program, PSC
- **Cornelius Davis** – National Center for Toxicological Research/Food and Drug Administration, Jefferson, Ark.
- **Timesha Edwards** – Meharry Medical College,

their collective talents at a premiere event at The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 30.

**Chinelo Bivens**, a junior from Sacramento, Calif., has been named *2009 Big Brother of the Year* by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arkansas.



Bivens

- Nashville, Tenn.
- **BiBi Mwamba** – National Center for Toxicological Research/ Food and Drug Administration, Jefferson, Ark.
- **Tiffany Larkins** – Student Inspired Research and Technology Summer Enrichment Program, Philander Smith College
- **Kaneesha Wills** – Student Inspired Research and Technology Summer Enrichment Program, PSC
- **Joy Robertson** – The Arkansas Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation - UAPB and Student Inspired Research and Technology Summer Enrichment Program, PSC
- **Brittany James** – Cancer Control Outreach, UAMS
- **Ja'Qualane Scales** – Arkansas Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network Cancer Control Outreach, Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute at UAMS
- **Alex Mugengana** – Student Inspired Research and Technology Summer Enrichment Program, PSC
- **Brandon Booth** – George Washington Carver Summer Program, Univ. of Ark. at Fayetteville
- **Felicia White** – North Carolina State, Renewable Energy
- **Devyan Henderson** – Student Inspired Research and Technology Summer Enrichment Program, PSC
- **Carnesha Hughes** – Research in Computer Science, Philander Smith
- **De'Andria Kitchen** – Student Inspired Research and Technology Summer Enrichment Program, PSC
- **Erin Lett** – Student Inspired Research and Technology Summer Enrichment Program, PSC
- **Sharde Davis** – George Washington Carver Summer Program, Univ. of Ark. at Fayetteville
- **Vincent Higgins** – Leland in Pasco, Washington Department of Energy
- **John Ndungu** – University of Washington, Nuclear Theory Institute
- **Terri Floyd** – Center for Addiction Research at UAMS
- **Jessica Clark** – Center for Addiction Research at UAMS



by **Sericia Cole**, *Director of Public Relations*

## 2009 Religious Emphasis Week

The Office of Religious Life put the spotlight on our spiritual heritage during **Religious Emphasis Week** celebrated Feb. 22-26. The annual observance was marked by a variety of activities such as a kick-off event, lectures, a blood drive, an Ash Wednesday evening worship service, a ministry and seminary fair and a banquet to honor community and religious leaders.

The week's first speaker was author and lecturer (and mother of President Walter M. Kimbrough!) **Marjorie L. Kimbrough** of Atlanta, Ga., who spoke about "Womanist Theology." Following her insightful talk, delivered to a standing-room only audience, Mrs. Kimbrough held court in the Kendall Center Atrium for a book-signing session and reception in her honor.



(l to r) Rev. Yow, Rev. Dr. Jones, Dr. Hargrove, Bishop Arnold, Dr. Taylor, Bishop Lindsey, Marcel Jagne-Shaw, Rev. Duvall and Dr. Kimbrough.

Other speaker highlights were guest minister **Dr.**

**H. Beecher Hicks**, senior pastor of the 6,000-member Metropolitan Baptist Church in Washington, D.C. With ties to Arkansas (Hicks is a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff), we were thrilled to host such a dynamic preacher and church leader. **Ash Wednesday** evening worship service featured **Elder Charles Harrison Mason Patterson** of Pentecostal Temple Church of God in Christ in Memphis, Tenn. As the great-grandson and namesake of the founder of the COGIC

denomination, Elder Patterson kept the flame burning brightly with a power-packed and anointed message. The Thursday chapel kept the week going with "Ministry Vocation and Call," the topic deliberated on by **Rev. Debra Mathews** who is an admissions associate at the Memphis Theological Seminary.

Finally, a group of indefatigable and inspiring spiritual leaders were recognized on the evening of Feb. 26 at the **Living Legends Banquet** in the Kendall Center with **Rev. C.J. Duvall**, senior pastor of Theresa Hoover

United Methodist Church in Little Rock, as the keynote speaker. The Living Legend honorees included **Bishop Steven Arnold '94** (*St. Mark Baptist Church*), **Dr. Jesse Hargrove**, **Rev. Dr. Chester R. Jones**, **Bishop D. L. Lindsey** (*Presiding Prelate,*

*Arkansas Second Jurisdiction, Church of God in Christ*), **Dr. Tommie W. Taylor '55**, **Dr. Marion Woods '70** and newly elected SGA president, junior **Marcel Jagne-Shaw**.

**Rev. Ronnie Miller-Yow** is chaplain at Philander Smith College and coordinated all Religious Emphasis Week activities and sponsors, including the Office of Student Affairs and the Office of Institutional Advancement.



Marjorie L. Kimbrough



Rev. Debra Mathews

**Incoming freshman Devin Edgerly** of Oakland, Calif., was featured on BET's *106 & Park* program in a May 4<sup>th</sup> episode highlighting where various college-bound students will attend school this fall.

## Razing the (Brick)house



The mere mention of the Brickhouse Liquor store that sat a stone’s throw from the entrance of the college can sometimes elicit a mysterious-yet-fond sounding chuckle from alumni, but to President Walter M. Kimbrough, the store was no laughing matter. In fact, the final straw — a sign that bid students ‘Welcome Back’ following the holiday break — pushed the president and campus officials to ensure that such tidings, or any other nefarious activity, would no longer be an issue. But it would come at a price: a \$225,000 price tag, which is the amount the college paid to purchase the property

on Daisy Gaston Bates Drive and the cinder-block building there that raised the ire of many.

And so, on a blustery and wet morning in March, the walls of the liquor store came tumbling down, signaling yet another phase in the college’s push to revitalize the area surrounding the campus. (Two nearby abandoned properties have also been purchased.) A master plan started last fall will ultimately determine the property’s fate, but for now, an empty lot is all that remains of a decades old landmark that was razed to make way for more positive symbols of progress.

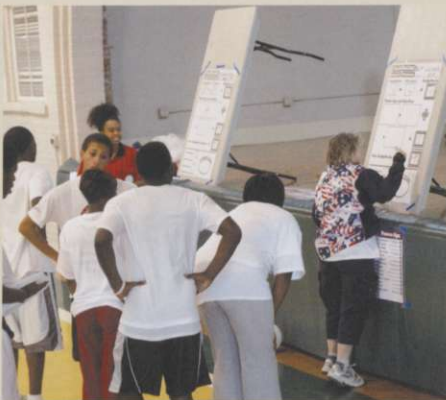
## Playing Budgetball: Turning ‘fiscal’ into physical

This spring Philander Smith had the good fortune to be designated as one of the first colleges in the country to team with the National Academy of Public Administration to debut **Budgetball**, a new sport that teaches students about debt management, spending strategies and fiscal policies — all within a high-intensity aerobic workout.

With that, on March 19, the Mims Gymnasium and the Tate Recreation Center were turned into Budgetball tournament venues, with teams of students vying against one another and learning the basic principles of budgeting at the same time. To win, a team must creatively and responsibly use debt and savings to gain advantage over their opponents and score more points.

“We are thrilled to be among the first colleges to host a Budgetball tournament for our students,” said President Kimbrough. “These issues are critical to their future, and we want to do all that we can to get young people engaged in finding solutions.”

The goal of the National Academy of Public Administration is to “raise awareness about fiscal issues among college students and motivate them to get involved.” But perhaps best of all for Philander students, the winning team received an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., to participate in the national tournament. For more information about Budgetball, go online at [www.budgetball.org](http://www.budgetball.org).



Not only did the Philander Smith team (photo at left: Christopher Bell, Alex Brown, Schrell Crockett, Joshua Hampton, Byron Johnson, Lamesha Mitchell and Jessica Talley) place second in the national tournament in D.C., they also gained more wisdom about debt management, spending and fiscal policy — all so they can become MVPs in the game of life.

## THE BLACK MALE INITIATIVE CONTINUES WORK TOWARD ITS MISSION OF ADDRESSING

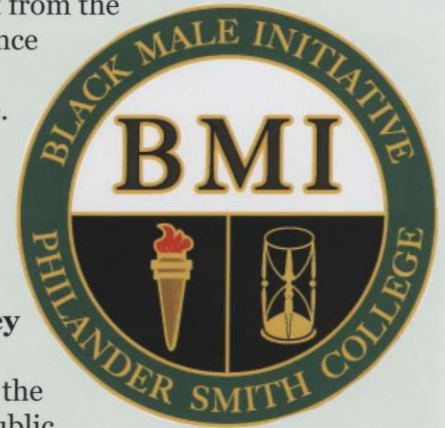
retention challenges among African American males at Philander Smith College by providing meaningful opportunities for them to engage with one another and other male role models on campus.

One such opportunity came when the College purchased and razed the liquor store across from the campus' main entrance (*see related story, page 23*) and all that remained on the lot was a long wooden fence in sore need of a fresh coat of paint. Viewing the eye-sore as a chance for a lesson in giving back, program coordinator Michael Hutchinson rallied willing participants and solicited



painting equipment from the Facilities Maintenance Department for an afternoon of service.

Reinforcement of the activity's importance was provided by **Jonathan Dunkley '06** who is now a graduate student at the Clinton School of Public Service. He spoke about his belief in public service and encouraged the young men to seek additional ways to give back.



After a few hours of labor the fence was transformed, and as appreciation for volunteering, the group received certificates of participation and an off-campus trip to play paintball.

## TAKING 'BMI' ON THE ROAD

President Kimbrough and Michael Hutchinson were invited to present at the *Conference on College Men* in Philadelphia, Pa., in May. Their presentation, *The Black Male Initiative: "Swaggerly" Engaging Men on Campus*, centered on the assessment of the program in addition to goals related to retention and graduation, while Hutchinson discussed the specific projects and their outcomes.

**The Black Male Initiative** is a part of the Philander Smith College strategic plan:

**Strategic Initiative #5: *The College will engage students outside of class to further develop critical thinking, communication character development and civic involvement skills necessary for leadership in their professions and communities. Special attention will be given to Black men students***

## SCHOLARS INDUCTED INTO HONOR SOCIETY



“*Developing Scholars for Change*” was the theme for the **Spring 2009 Honors Convocation** that saw nineteen scholars inducted into the Pi Sigma Kappa chapter of Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society. Inductees included **Lauren Allen, Jazmine Armstrong, Brooke Coggins, Cornelius Davis, Sharde Davis, Amber Hazell, Selena Jordan, April Lewis, Erik Martin, Jamee Mills, John Ndungu, Shontaye Reed, Nasstacia Speed, Janje Warner-Madison, Janice Warren, Felicia White, Edward Wiley, John Wiley and Kamara Wilson.**



The program’s featured speaker was alumna **Taco Williams ’04**, a Boards and Commissions staff member in the Office of Governor Mike Beebe. Following the service, a reception was held in honor of all those celebrating academic excellence, including the 4.0 scholars and students on the President’s List and Dean’s List.

## SENIORS PREPARE TO ‘TAKE THE WORLD BY CHARGE’

For seniors nearing the close of their Philander Smith College experience, the Senior Luncheon and Senior Chapel are two special events on their journey toward graduation.

The Senior Chapel took place April 23 with **William Stanton ’69**, mayor of the city of Eudora, Ark., as the guest speaker. While the chapel focused mainly on the seniors, the program did offer some additional highlights including Miss PSC election results (*related article, p.18*) and Dr. Kimbrough’s “Deuce Club” initiation.



Last year Dr. Kimbrough, a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, gave Greek sweaters to all students initiated into a fraternity or sorority who were number two on their lines. The president continued the practice for the two Greeks initiated this fall, as well as for two others who were initiated the year before the club’s introduction.



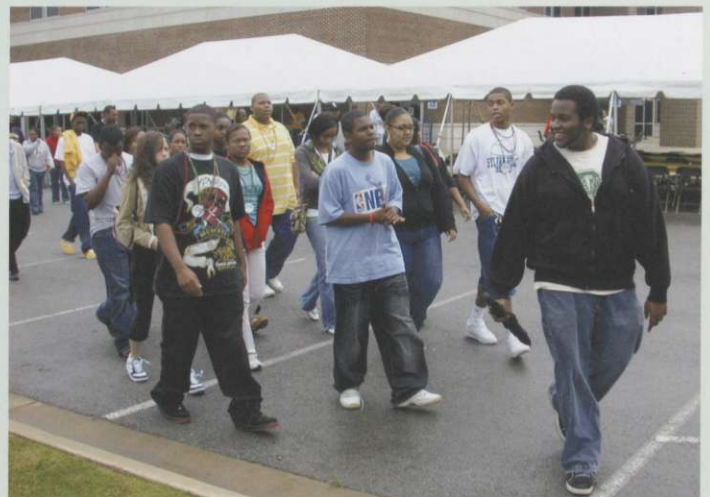
Senior Dinah Mande at Chapel



Senior Class Preident. Channel Morris at Senior Luncheon



## Spring Open House



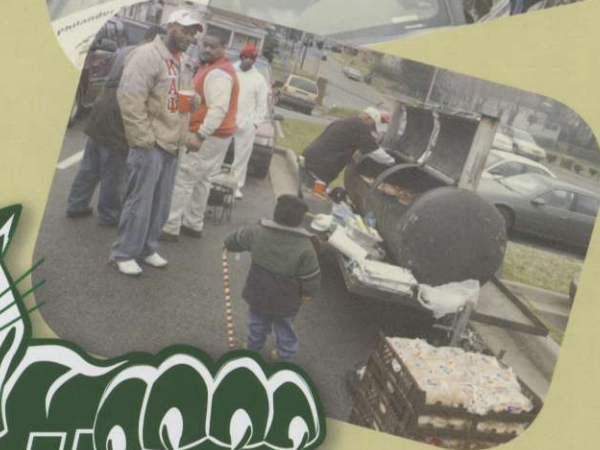
It was a packed house at Open House on Saturday, April 18 for hundreds of prospective college-bound students and their parents. Future *Philanderians* were invited to learn more about the College through a day full of fun and informative sessions with current students leading campus tours as admissions and financial aid counselors dispensed valuable information on the enrollment process. The day also offered a glimpse of college life through an energetic setting of live music—including performances by the Collegiate Chorale and gospel choir—food and games. In addition, various academic departments, student and Greek organizations were on display.

Free and open to any interested individuals, this year's event hosted nearly 500 high school students from across the country. **George R. Gray** is director of admissions and recruitment.



The incoming freshman class, the Class of 2013, will have within its ranks a student from Anchorage, Alaska, two Presidential Scholars from Nassau, Bahamas, and two international students from Rwanda.

# FALL! HOMECOMING 2009 NOVEMBER 7-14



Show your school spirit! Purchase a Spirit Package  
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**1950S**

**Samuel H. Drake '56**, of Los Angeles, Calif., was the subject of a retrospective feature story published by the *Macon Telegraph* newspaper May 10, 2009. "Macon's Jackie: The forgotten story of Samuel Drake and Ernest Johnson" chronicled Drake's story as one of two of the first Black baseball players to play for the minor league's Macon Peaches in the mid-1950s. Drake went on to play in the Major Leagues for the Chicago Cubs (1960) and the New York Mets (1962) before an injury forced him into early retirement. Also mentioned in the article was his older brother **Solomon Drake '54** who was called up by the Cubs in 1960, marking the first time in modern history two Black siblings had played Major League Baseball. Samuel Drake is retired from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Solomon Drake is pastor of Greater Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles.

**1960S**

**Rev. Marva C. Watts '62**, of Chicago has been ordained a minister by the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC). The ordination ceremony took place in Portland, Ore., in June 2009.

**The Honorable William Stanton '69**, the first Black mayor of Eudora, Ark., was the guest speaker at the annual Senior Chapel on April 23, 2009 in the M.L. Harris Auditorium.



The Stanton Family



Marva C. Watts

**1970S**

**George J. Hammons, Ph.D., '70**, of Pine Bluff, Ark., has been named to the state Lottery Commission in an appointment that will expire in 2011. Hammons, chair of Philander Smith College's Department of Chemistry, is a senior scientist at the National Center for Toxicological Research.

**1980S**

**Gena Lovett '86**, followed her role as 2009 commencement speaker at Philander Smith College with a 'High Profile' cover story published by the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* Sunday, June 21, 2009. Lovett is a partner and chief operating officer of the Alexandria Investment Management firm in New York.

**1990S**

**Rev. Maxine Allen '93**, has been named director of the Wesley Foundation at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She was previously the minister of Missions and Ethnic Ministries for the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church.

**2000S**

**Dr. Joseph L. Jones '00**, received his Ph.D. in political science from Clark-Atlanta University this summer with a dissertation entitled "*Hegemonic Rhythms: The Role of Hip-Hop Music in 21st Century American Public Diplomacy*." He is currently an assistant professor of political science at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, NC. Additionally, Dr. Jones was recently awarded a UNCF Mellon Faculty Residency Fellowship at the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research at Harvard University for spring 2010. While there, he will work on his manuscript, *The Institutional Black Messiah: W.E.B. Du Bois Political Philosophy of Education for Black Institutions of Higher Education*.

**Terrell J. Starr, '02**, has been awarded a prestigious Fulbright grant to study in the Ukraine. He is currently completing coursework toward his master's degree in Slavic languages, literatures and cultures at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**Reginald "Scotty" Thurman, '03**, was the featured 'High Profile' cover subject published by the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* Sunday, May 3, 2009. Thurman is the CEO of Thurman Development in Little Rock.

**Carla S. Johnson, '05**, is a May 2009 honors graduate of the William H. Bowen School of Law at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

**Jonathan Dunkley, '06**, traveled to Belize City, Belize, this summer as a part of the Master of Public Service program at the University of Arkansas Clinton School for Public Service. Dunkley's international service project involved working with the country's Minister of Education to implement a sports and recreation program.

**Do We Have Your Email Address?**

The Office of Institutional Advancement wants to make sure that all Philanderians receive our periodic electronic updates. To join the Philander Net Community, send an email to [yalexander@philander.edu](mailto:yalexander@philander.edu) so we can stay in touch with you!

## On the Road with Institutional Advancement: Little Rock, Pine Bluff and Chicago are 'Key Cities'

The Institutional Advancement Team continued its road trips to **Key Cities**, hosting alumni receptions in Little Rock, before traveling south to Pine Bluff, Ark., and then north to Chicago, Ill., for



'75 Alum, Atty. Stephanie Flowers, Director of Development, Rodney Parks and V.P. for Inst. Advancement, Dr. Shannon Fleming.



Rev. H. O. Gray '56 and wife, Mrs. Lula Gray and Dr. Walter M. Kimbrough

The Little Rock Club was the setting for an elegant evening in February complete with heavy hors d'oeuvres and cocktails, fellowship and thought-provoking exchanges between alumni and our president, **Dr. Walter M. Kimbrough**, and other campus officials. In April, Pine Bluff's Harbor Oaks Country Club provided the backdrop for the Southeast Arkansas event, and although the participation was small, the alumni who were in attendance were intensely engaged and focused on hearing about the college's progress and efforts to



The registration table at the Little Rock Key Cities event.



Dr. Kimbrough gives a "State of the College" address at the Little Rock Key Cities event.

remain a competitive institution of higher education.

The Chicago visit took place May 29th at the Hilton Oak Lawn to great fanfare and was unique in that it was attended by such a diverse group of 80 or more people, including several prospective and current students living in the Chicago area.

Additionally, one of our most revered alums, **Vivian Griffin '45** of Chicago, and her husband Willie Griffin were among the first guests to arrive, and during the evening, she was presented with a Golden Alumni stole in honor of her 65 years as a Philander Smith alumnae. Other Chicago area alumni who received Golden Alumni stoles and recognition from President Kimbrough that evening were **Adah Hull '49** and **Rubye J. Clay '47**, both of Gary, Ind., **June Pembroke '57**,

**Ora M. Booker '57** and **Rose Bankhead Haywood '56**.

We would like to thank all alumni who supported the first series of our UNCF sponsored **Key Cities** special events and look forward to mixing and mingling with more of you during the fall.



Willie Griffin and his wife Vivian Griffin '45 of Chicago



Dr. Shannon Fleming and Thomas Brown '63



Miss PSC Francennett Herrera, Dorothy-Smith of Chicago, Dr. Kimbrough and Dr. Kathryn Worhen also a Chicago alum.

### An Evening of Jazz

Presented by The Greater Little Rock Chapter of the Philander Smith College Alumni Association  
Saturday, April 18, 2009 in the Kendall Center





**BlessTheMic**  
A Hip-Hop President's Lecture Series  
PHILANDER SMITH COLLEGE

# 2009-2010 Lecture Schedule

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2009



**Michael Steele**  
Chairman, Republican  
National Committee

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2009



**Dr. Robert Michael Franklin**, President  
Morehouse College;  
Author, *Crisis in the Village:  
Restoring Hope in African  
American Communities*

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2009



**Tim Wise**, Anti-racism  
Activist; Author, *Between  
Barack and a Hard Place:  
Racism and White Denial in  
the Age of Obama*

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2010



**Michelle Singletary**  
Nationally Syndicated  
Columnist, Radio and TV Host;  
Author, *Your Money and Your  
Man: How You and Prince  
Charming Can Spend Well and  
Live Rich*

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2010



**Iyanla Vanzant**  
Internationally Renown  
Inspirational Speaker; Author  
*Tapping the Power Within: A  
Path to Self-Empowerment for  
Women*

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2010



**Dr. Tricia Rose**, Professor  
of Africana Studies, Brown  
University; Author, *The Hip Hop  
Wars: What We Talk About  
When We Talk About Hip Hop--  
and Why It Matters*

All lectures in the **BlessTheMic** series  
begin at 7 p.m. in the M. L. Harris Auditorium,  
are **free** and open to the public.  
For more information please call  
501-370-5279.

**No tickets or RSVPs required**

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*The Philanderian*

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*Gena Lovett '86*  
2009 Commencement Speaker

*Featuring:*

- Opening Convocation
- '09 NAA Convention
- Homecoming 2009

## Message From The VP For Advancement



### THE FUTURE DEPENDS ON YOU The Renaissance 100 Opportunity

A goal of the Institutional Advancement department is to communicate the importance of private giving to Philander Smith College. Ultimately, we must make our alumni and friends aware that without your support it will be very difficult to continue offering a quality education to our students.

**The one area that can secure the future of the college is through support for our scholarship program.**

Many of you already designate an annual gift for our scholarship program and those gifts are greatly needed and appreciated. However, there is a significant number of our alumni who have been blessed enough to make an even greater commitment. In this issue of *The Philanderian* you have read about how important the Renaissance 100 program is to our ability to attract students who not only have the potential to obtain their degrees, but to go out and change the world for the better.

**By supporting the Renaissance 100 Scholars Program, you give the college the resources to recruit academically ambitious students who will systematically increase the quality of the student body.** What's unique about the Renaissance 100 Scholarship is that it is a four-year award with the funds being provided by a donor. Your gift will be awarded to the same student each year as incentive for that student to work hard and obtain their degree in four years. As a donor you will also have the opportunity to meet your recipient and establish a relationship with him or her. Current Renaissance 100 donors include individuals (alumni and friends), corporations, and foundations.

Simply put, this is an annual gift of \$2,500 or more, pledged each year for four years and designated to the scholarship program. The recommended levels are \$2,500/year for four years, \$5,000/year for four years, \$10,000/year for four years, and \$15,000/year for four years. However, any gift of \$2,500/year or more for four years can be a part of the Renaissance 100 program.

Please know that all gifts, no matter what amount, are important to Philander Smith College. But if your current situation allows, please consider being a part of the Renaissance 100 Scholars Program. If we can reach our goal of 100 commitments, the impact will be felt for generations to come.

Please contact me directly at [sfleming@philander.edu](mailto:sfleming@philander.edu) or call me directly at (501) 370-5378 to be a part of this very special opportunity.

Thank you,

Shannon Fleming, Ed.D.  
Vice President for Institutional Advancement



## Every Penny Helps

### THERE MAY BE HELP ON THE WAY FOR RECENT GRADUATES STRUGGLING WITH STUDENT LOAN DEBT.

Beginning July 1, **income-based repayment (IBR)** became available to at least a million federal student loan borrowers. Through this program recent graduates may be allowed to reduce their monthly payments based on their earnings. And if you're a teacher or work in government or at a nonprofit organization, you might even qualify for a new type of **public service loan forgiveness** after 10 years of eligible payments and employment.

The U.S. Education Department has published a detailed chart (see below for Web site address) of how income-based repayment may affect certain borrowers. For example, a single person earning \$20,000 a year would face a monthly repayment of only \$47. Adjustments may occur each year based on earnings and debt.

However, **Kevin Barnes**, assistant director of financial aid, encourages students and recent grads to use the IBR calculator instead of relying on the chart, because the chart does not factor in the student's actual loan debt where the calculator includes that information.

Those seeking income-based repayment **must** contact their lenders. But as a spokesperson for the Project on Student Debt in Berkeley, Calif., said "the main goal of IBR is to make sure that your student loan repayment doesn't ruin you financially."

Some much needed financial relief could be on the way, but you must apply for it — it is not automatic. *So what are you waiting for?*

#### **GO ONLINE TO LEARN MORE:**

**Go to [www.philander.edu](http://www.philander.edu) and click on the Financial Aid section.** From there go to the "Managing Debt" or "Calculators" tabs for additional information regarding income-based repayment.

Access the chart mentioned above at:

**<http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/IBRPlan/jsp#content>**

*The Project on Student Debt:* **[www.projectonstudentdebt.org](http://www.projectonstudentdebt.org)**

**Questions?** Email the Financial Aid Department at **[financialaid@philander.edu](mailto:financialaid@philander.edu)**.