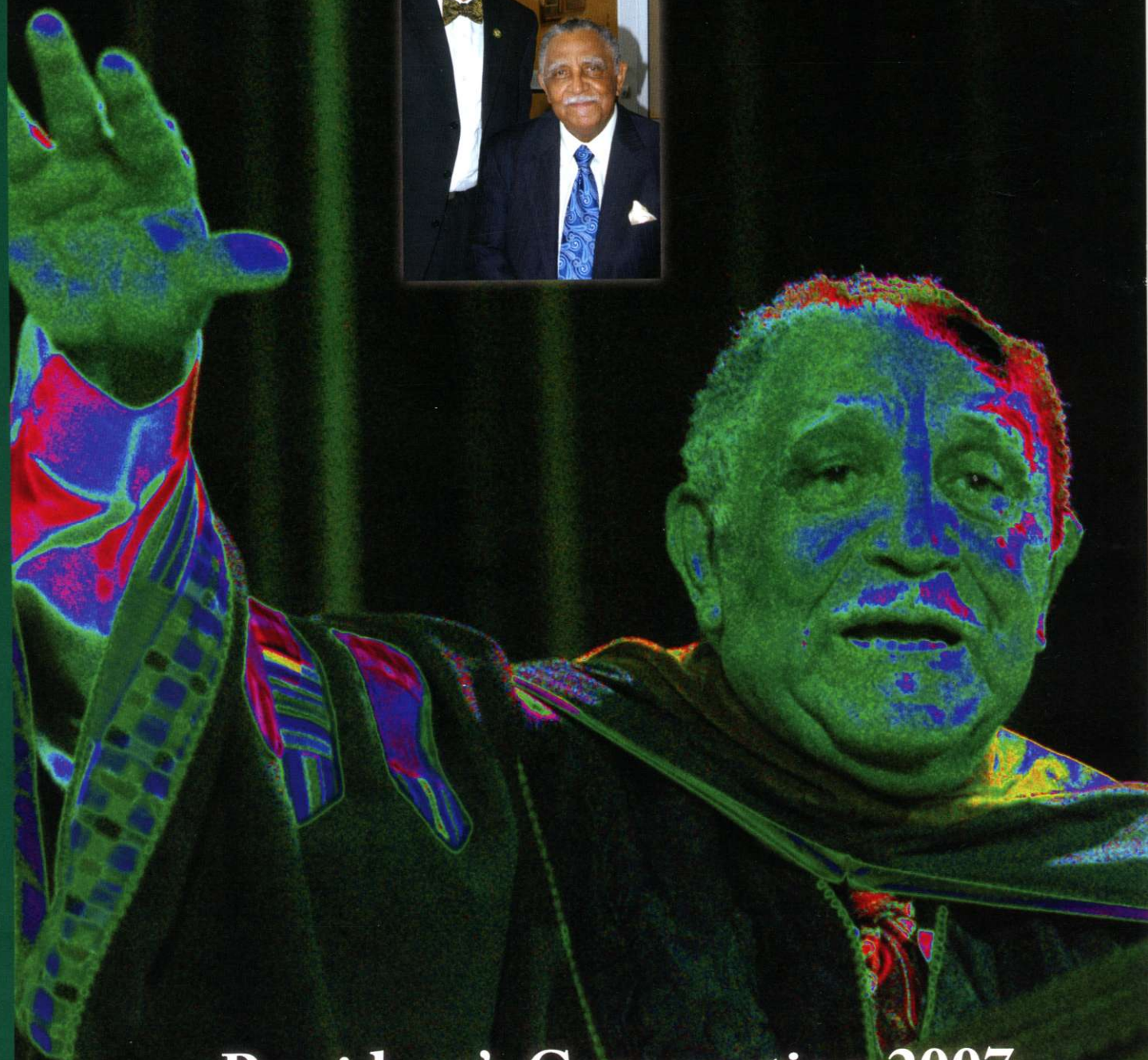


FALL/WINTER
2007-08

The Philanderian

THINK JUSTICE



President's Convocation 2007:
The Reverend Dr. Joseph Lowery



The Renaissance Generation



Recently, while browsing at a Barnes and Noble, I came across a table of business-related books and there was one that stood out: *RenGen* (short for Renaissance Generation). The tag line of the book read, “The rise of the cultural consumer and what it means to your business.”

During the spring of 2005, I attended a meeting of the committee charged with planning the activities surrounding my inauguration. At that time I shared what I thought should be communicated during this event: that we were entering a renaissance as an institution. Our theme became “Celebrating the Renaissance.” Since then, I have continued to study exactly what that means for the college and where we are in terms of truly achieving it.

So I thought I would take a chance on this book. After reading the first couple of chapters, I knew this was a wise choice. The author, Patricia Martin, defined a renaissance as a movement or period of robust creative and intellectual activity that is associated with a rebirth of civilization. Her book is about the rise of this new American renaissance generation or RenGen, “*an emerging strata of enlightened individuals who are hungry for ideas and ways to express them.*”

Now that I have completed my third year as president, I am having some difficulty truly expressing how different this place is from when I first arrived. This fall the renaissance movement became real with the arrival of our new students, approximately 200 of them to be exact, with a larger than usual number of traditional-aged transfer students. The buzz about this group started during orientation; they were excited to be here, they wanted to be involved, and they yearned to be engaged. When I held my session with the new students during the Sunday afternoon of orientation, I was struck by the higher than average number of men present—and took note of how many of them sat on the front row for the presentation.

Clearly, our new students saw the opportunities for involvement and could not wait to jump in, pushing our renaissance movement into full swing. The faculty have commented on their initiative. The staff have watched them scurry to actually show up to programs and events on time! Even the upperclass students have remarked on how they must step up now that our youngest Philanderians are here. So far, it has just been a wonderful experience.

Since I know this qualitative analysis probably will not convince some, here are the FACTS: In the past three years, the average high school GPA of our new students has increased by 17.6%, and the average ACT score has increased by 15.6%. Our last two freshman classes performed above the national average for Black high school students with regards to GPA and ACT. Furthermore, in just two years, we have increased our first to second year retention rate by 33%. Students are coming to Philander better prepared, and they are finding that we too are better prepared for them.

As I write this, I realize how feeble an attempt this is in explaining what is taking place at Philander. The fact is I can’t explain it, and I find myself in a perpetual state of awe.

Watching the renaissance unfold is amazing. I invite you to come see for yourself.

Walter M. Kimbrough, Ph. D.



The Philanderian FALL & WINTER 2007-08

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On The Cover:

The Reverend Joseph E. Lowery of Atlanta was the featured guest speaker at the President's Convocation.

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The Reverend Joseph E. Lowery addressed the capacity crowd during the President's Convocation.

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PSC Collegiate Vocal Ensemble under the direction of new Choral Director, Karliss Chapple, M.M., performs a medley of songs at The Alumni Christmas Breakfast.

Message From The National Alumni Association President

Dear Fellow Alumni and Friends,

While justice may be defined in various ways—and for some, justice may be relative—I prefer the meaning that defines it as conforming with what is morally upright, legally correct and righteous. Along with that, I'd like to go a step further and add that, "We Must Do Justice."

As a result, please note the following:

- The mission of the National Alumni Association (NAA) is to provide support services to the college in the areas of advocacy, student recruitment, influence, professional expertise and fund raising.
- The vision of the NAA is "to aggressively become the most innovative, supportive and successful Alumni Association among HBCUs; to obtain 1000 alumni, each giving \$1,000 annually to Philander."
- The goals of the NAA emanate from the president of the college and are, undoubtedly, based on what is best for Philander.
- The Class Agent Program is the approach chosen to bring about a renaissance of the NAA.
- Any organizational endeavor requires "Leaders First, Pulling Others Along."
- When Philander's foundation—which includes the college's board of trustees, the president, faculty and staff, student body, alumni and friends—can come together and commit to the vision, mission and goals of the college, the institution will be successful.
- Whenever each team member can agree with the approach used to achieve success, and when no one is concerned about who gets the credit, there can then be unity.
- While vision, relationship and a good name can all impact revenue, unity has tremendous revenue producing power as well.



Please be advised of several successes the college realized in 2007 that, as your NAA President, I am proud to mention:

- The recommendation by the North Central Association in March 2007 to continue the college's national accreditation;
- Salary increases in the 2007-2008 fiscal year budget, approved by the board of trustees, for the faculty and staff;
- A stellar incoming fall 2007 class, which included 183 students with an average ACT score of 17.9;
- An increase in the retention rate from 50% to 67% over the previous year;
- A terrific response to Dr. Kimbrough's Scholarship Appeal: \$7,700 from inspired Alumni who attended the 2007 convention in Columbus, Ohio; \$5,000 from the Chicago Chapter; and \$6,000 from the Columbus Chapter out of the net convention profits;
- The president's contract was renewed by the board of trustees for another three years and was accepted by Dr. Kimbrough.

So, let us re-unite for 'Justice' on March 27 in Little Rock for the 2008 NAA Convention to continue our growth and development for the future, and to expand upon the successes of Philander Smith College.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Isaac J. Starks".

Isaac J. Starks

UNCF President's Luncheon



The 2007 President's Luncheon on Nov. 20 provided a platform for PSC President Walter Kimbrough's State of the College address in which he explained to the civic, corporate and business leaders gathered the process used to arrive at the adoption of the college's social justice focus, encouraging supporters to "Think Justice" on a daily basis and as an institution as a whole. The president talked also about the overall quality improvement of the student body as well as the college's ever-improving fiscal strength – combined factors contributing to the rebirth of Philander Smith College.

Additionally, President Kimbrough announced the establishment of the Renaissance 100 Scholars program, designed to attract bright, driven students from around the country. Starting in the 2008-09 school year, these select students will receive scholarships for full tuition plus fees room and board, full tuition alone, half tuition or smaller grants. At next year's luncheon, the president hopes to present the scholars and the private sponsoring organizations they will be paired with.

Honorary Luncheon Co-Chairs were **Congressman Vic Snyder** and his wife **Rev. Betsy Singleton**. Greetings were offered by **Rev. Larry Ross**, PSC Board of Trustees Chairman, and supporters and guests were entertained by music from the Philander Smith Collegiate Chorale under the direction of **Karliss Chapple**. An added treat to the program was a dramatic interpretation entitled "Catalyst for Change" performed by a cast of students.

The President's Luncheon is the school's largest annual fundraiser, providing funding for scholarships to deserving students and helping the college meet its annual United Negro College Fund goal.

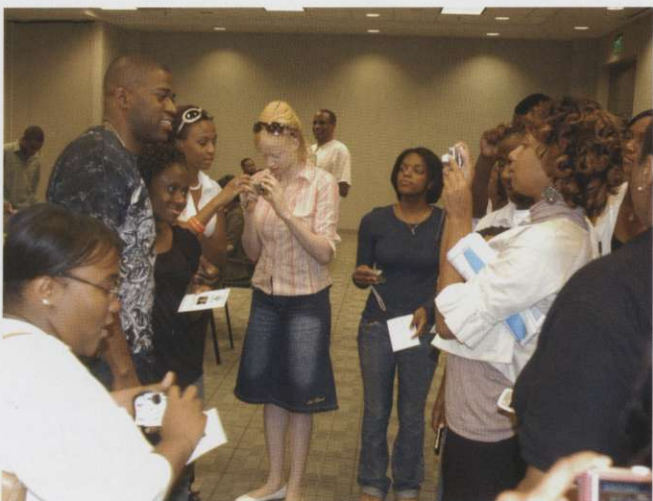
2007 UNCF President's Luncheon Sponsors

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	Regions Inc.
	Twin City Bank



BlessTheMic

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



BlessTheMic

A BANNER SPEAKER

Hip-hop artist and producer **David Banner** spoke in the M.L. Harris Auditorium at Philander Smith College on Oct. 18, the first speaker of the *Bless The Mic: Chopped and Screwed* lecture series.

In "From Imus to Industry: The Business of Stereotypes and Degrading Images," Banner took time to defend hip-hop from its many detractors. Before a full audience, the Mississippi-native, born Levell Crump, talked brazenly and brashly about rap lyrics ("They are a direct reflection of the environment rappers came out of") and argued his right to incorporate offensive lyrics into his music asking, "Why can Stephen King make horror movies and I can't make horror music?"

Banner also used his talk to extol the value of education. "Knowledge is what got me where I am," said the Southern University graduate. Besides music, the 33-year-old aspiring actor also runs his own nonprofit organization, Heal the Hood. A budding philanthropist, in 2005 Banner put together the largest urban benefit concert for Hurricane Katrina victims—which he lambasted critics for not giving him credit for organizing. "I threw the largest urban relief in history but they don't promote the positive things [rappers] do."

PSC President Dr. Kimbrough initially planned for Michael Eric Dyson's 2005 *Bless The Mic* lecture to be the first *Chopped and Screwed* event. But when the House Energy and Commerce Committee held its hearings on hip-hop in September, and Banner and rapper Master P joined music industry executives and scholars (including Dyson) on a panel to discuss offensive language in hip-hop music, he got the idea to invite Banner to campus instead.

Dr. Kimbrough originated the idea of *Bless The Mic: A Hip-Hop President's Lecture Series* three years ago; but in this spin-off concept, the president said the college will be able to explore "things that come up as well as show previous talks by speakers in our lecture series."

"It's important for ya'll to protect [Dr. Kimbrough]. He's doing things other presidents are scared to do."

— David Banner

Continues...

Bless The Mic: A Hip-Hop President's Lecture

Series, now in its third year, is going strong and its popularity shows no signs of waning. With an average attendance of nearly 600 --- compared to about 400 per lecture last year --- the series has consistently garnered rave reviews for the stimulating, thought provoking content delivered by its impressive array of diverse speakers.

"This year the community has really taken this series to a new level," said PSC President Walter Kimbrough adding, "We continue to see a diverse audience---no matter the speaker. Also the diversity of speakers has allowed different people to come to campus, many who may not have ever been here before."

An Icon in the House

On Sept. 18, former U.N. **Ambassador Andrew Young** set the tone for the entire year when he spoke of the valiant fight for equality waged by him and his contemporaries during the civil rights era. Presented by Coca-Cola, Young's fiery elocution breathed a sense of urgency into the college's new motto of "Think Justice."

Journalistic Privilege

It was a privilege to host award-winning journalist and author **Juan Williams** on October 11. Prior to addressing a near capacity crowd Williams, whose talk was presented by The Darragh Foundation, spent time fielding questions from students about his life's calling as a journalist, his body of work and his background.

Free Your Mind

Among the high school and college-aged set, BET's seminal video countdown program *106 & Park* is a prime piece of hip-hop cultural real estate. So when the show's former co-host **Free** (born Marie Wright) visited Philander on Nov. 7, her audience was largely composed of the young people who had come to know her from their TV sets at home. To the surprise of many who thought she would dish on the music industry, the budding rap artist instead focused her time on speaking out about domestic violence.

Be sure to join us next year for what is sure to be another riveting slate of speakers that, at this writing, already include political strategist **James Carville**, CNN analyst and cultural critic **Roland Martin** and *Essence* magazine editorial director **Susan L. Taylor**, to name a few.



Ambassador Andrew Young



Journalist Juan Williams



Marie "Free" Wright



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

GIVING

UNCF President and CEO Michael Lomax announced recently that Philander Smith College has been selected to receive a multi-year grant aimed at enhancing the college's fundraising operation with particular emphasis on increasing alumni, trustee and private giving.

The award from the HBCU Institutional Advancement Program (IAP), an initiative of the UNCF Institute for Capacity Building, totals \$942,410 over three years. The support may be extended for an additional two years, possibly totaling nearly \$1.5 million over a five-year period, dependent upon successful completion of progress milestones.

In April 2007 the college received a \$20,000 IAP planning grant to assess resources needed to strengthen the college's private fundraising and development activities, a prelude to the larger implementation grant. Modeled after the successful Kresge HBCU Initiative, the IAP is one of six critical initiatives addressed by the UNCF Institute for Capacity Building.

"Receiving this grant, and meeting the required benchmarks, will truly transform our development operations as we continue the renaissance of Philander Smith College," remarked PSC President Dr. Walter Kimbrough.

In addition to technical assistance and consultant services, Philander Smith is one of ten UNCF member schools slated to receive six-figure financial support and is among three institutions whose grant will begin in 2008.

UNCF is the nation's oldest and most successful private minority education assistance organization, supporting more than 60,000 students at over 900 colleges and universities across the country.



WAL-MART GIFT HELPS STUDENTS STAY IN SCHOOL

Esther Silver-Parker, vice president for diversity with Wal-Mart Stores Inc., (pictured above, second from left) paid a recent visit to the Philander Smith campus where she was officially greeted by Wal-Mart Scholars **Senior Moya Edwards** and **Sophomore Devon Smith**. Afterwards the Bentonville-based executive was escorted on a tour of the Donald W. Reynolds Library & Technology Center where she got a chance to view the library's impressive collection of African American art, followed by a presentation by Wal-Mart Scholars **Senior Rashad Aleem** and **Freshman Brittaney Roper**. Lunch and a brief campus tour were also on the agenda for the day-long visit, after which Parker expressed enthusiasm and support of the progress taking place at the college. Her support is underscored by the \$275,000 over three years pledged by the retail giant to provide for retention scholarships. Already, the college has seen how Wal-Mart's generosity has met the needs of students needing financial assistance to remain in school.

PSC STUDENTS RECEIVE LINKS' SCHOLARSHIPS

This past July, Philander Smith College was awarded \$14,000 by the Central Area Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Fund of The Links, Inc. to create scholarships for young women pursuing careers in health-related fields. The gift was announced during the The Links' 2007 Central Area Conference in Kansas City, Mo.

PSC students receiving The Links' HBCU Fund scholarships include **Sharon Sanders**, a junior from Fresno, Calif.; **Toni Witherspoon**, a senior from Newport News, Va.; and **Bibi Mwambe**, a sophomore from the Republic of Congo, all biology majors, who each received an award in the amount of \$4,667.

PSC President Dr. Walter Kimbrough was one of three invited college presidents—of the ten colleges and universities selected to receive awards—to attend the conference's civic luncheon where the surprise check presentation was made.

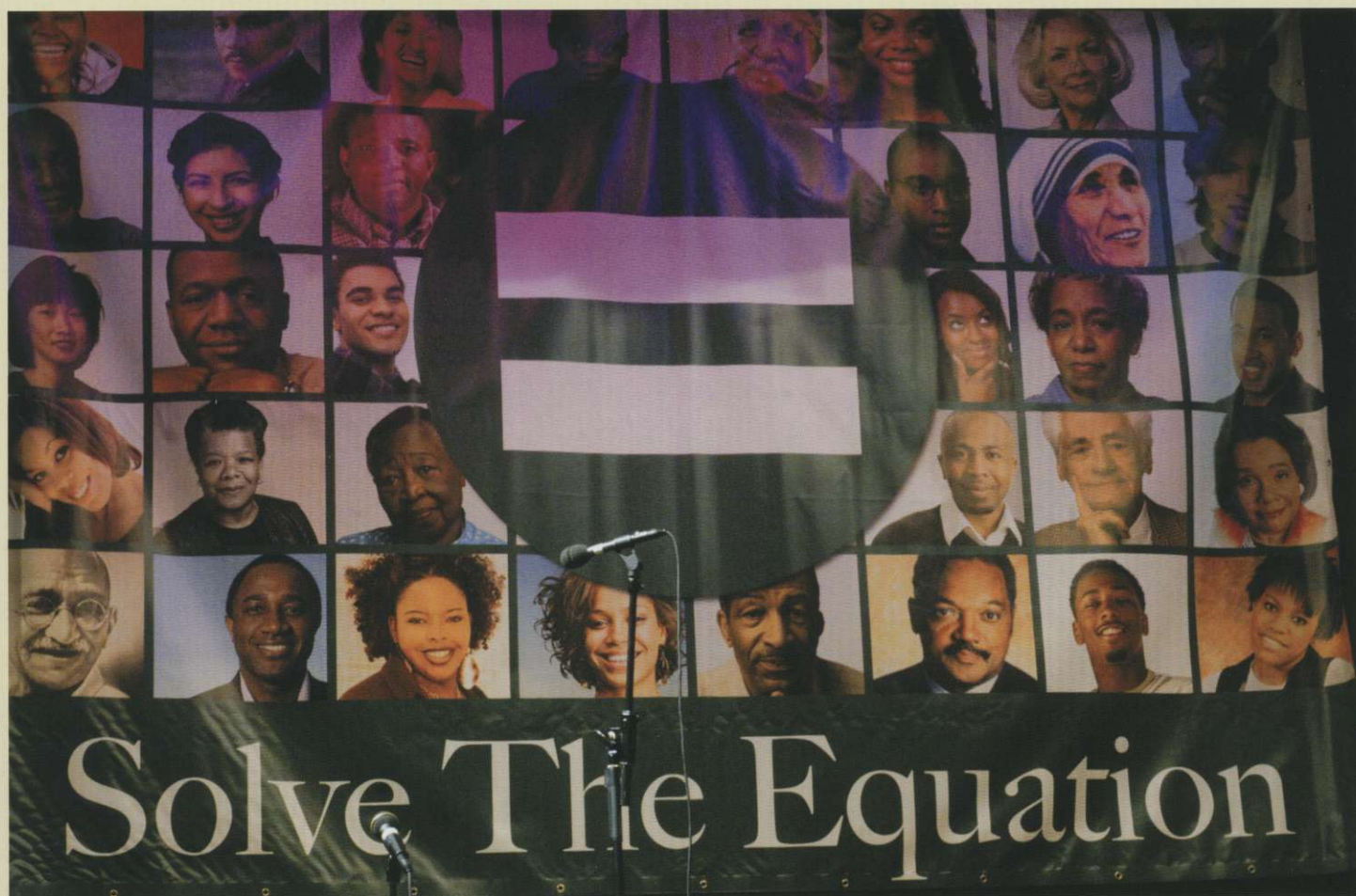
The scholarship initiative was conceived by immediate past Central Area Director Jeannine Quick-Frasier to assist HBCUs located within the Central region of The Links'



Links Scholars: (l-r) Bibi Mwambe, Sharon Sanders and Toni Witherspoon

chapter service communities. In addition to Arkansas, the Central area is comprised of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

The Links, Inc., is a not-for-profit organization of more than 12,000 women of color, committed to enhancing the quality of life in our communities through educational, cultural and civic activities. The two chapters of the organization in Arkansas are located in Little Rock and Pine Bluff.

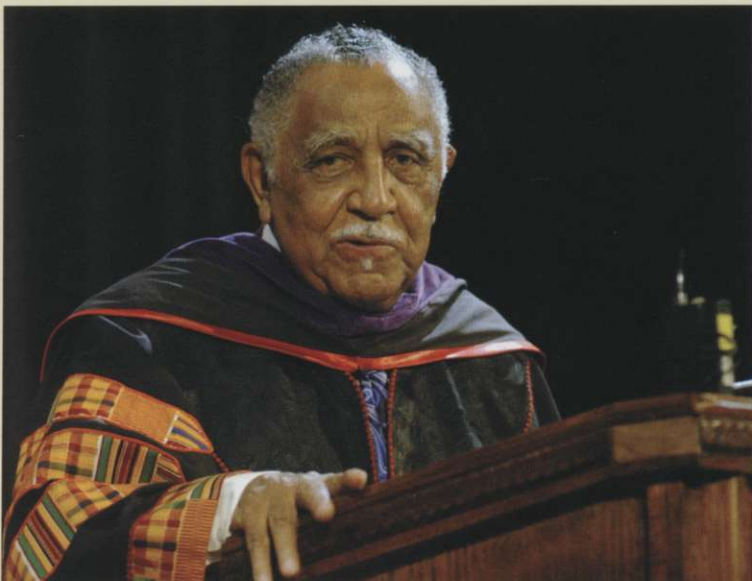
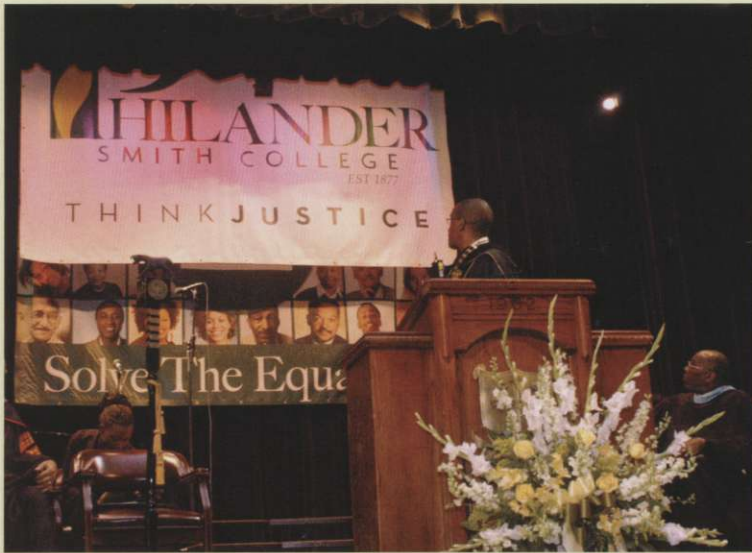


2007 PRESIDENT'S CONVOCATION

By Sericia Cole
Director of Public Relations

Initially founded in 1877 as Walden Seminary, **Philander Smith College** was established by the Freedmen's Aid Society to provide newly freed slaves access to education. Now, some 130 years later, the college has reached back to its United Methodist roots to launch a new vision that centers on a social justice as a focus for the institution as a whole.

*The announcement of the initiative was the occasion of Philander Smith College's 2007 President's Convocation on Aug. 30. The ceremony, which also included the roll-out of the college's new visual identity and emerging mission, was memorable not only for the rebirth it signaled but also due to the prominence of the keynote speaker—the dean of the civil rights movement, **Rev. Joseph E. Lowery** of Atlanta.*



PSC President Dr. Walter Kimbrough's invitation to his former pastor was fitting. As a soldier in the civil rights movement along with Martin Luther King Jr., and as co-founder of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Rev. Lowery is the embodiment of the very ideals the institution hopes to instill in a new generation of students. He was the perfect icon to help usher in an era that will see the school's mission evolve to reflect the intent "to graduate academically ambitious students who are grounded as advocates for social justice, determined to intentionally change the world for the better."

Before a capacity crowd at M.L. Harris Auditorium, the 86-year-old delivered a spirited, thought-provoking address—one that more closely resembled a sermon—in which he encouraged those in attendance to "stir up" from within themselves love, self-discipline, respect, intellect and spirituality in order to become "chaplains of the common good."

Following Rev. Lowery, the president explained how the college's "bold, revitalized direction" was the result of the two years he spent conducting focus groups with students, alumni and community leaders combined with research into the best role the college could fulfill. His explanation was punctuated by the official unveiling of the new logo and tagline that visually affirm the college's identity as a social justice institution. [see sidebar]

With the observance of the 50th anniversary of the integration of Little Rock Central High School by nine Black students just weeks following the convocation, Dr. Kimbrough voiced his hope that perhaps "the next Little Rock Nine will be Philander Smith College students" who will stand to challenge some injustice.

After the blessing bestowed by Rev. Lowery, the administration, students, faculty and staff of Philander Smith College are charged now with breathing life into the words "Think Justice" so that they become more than just a branding tagline, rather the phrase becomes embedded in the institution's culture and comes to define its purpose for many years to come.

"Charity is seasonal. But love is everlasting. Charity is selective. Love is all-inclusive."

— Rev. Dr. Joseph Lowery

The Making of a Brand

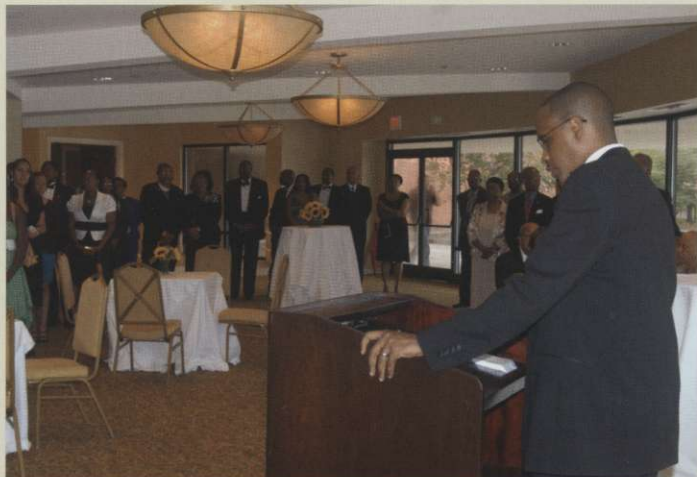
The unveiling of Philander Smith College's new brand image at the President's Convocation was a highly anticipated moment signaling the advent of a new era for the venerable institution.

Created in partnership with Thoma Thoma, a Little Rock marketing and communications firm, the updated brand identity reflects proudly upon the college's heritage with a contemporary and sophisticated flair. In addition to deepening the college's green and gold color palette, the brand signature is now distinguished by the full use of the Philander Smith College name in combination with the tagline, "Think Justice." The most prominent facet of the icon is the incorporation of the gold flame, a nod to the college's affiliation with the United Methodist Church and its status as a founding member of the United Negro College Fund.

Most importantly, the facelift is a distinctive image that supports the emerging mission of Philander Smith College to graduate students grounded as advocates for social justice.



LRCH 50th Reception



PSC HOSTS LRCH

50th ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION

September 2007 marked 50 years since nine Black students walked into history books by integrating Little Rock Central High School. The 50th anniversary was celebrated in grand fashion with months of events planned through the end of the year dedicated to the students' heroic stand for justice. On September 24, as a prelude to a scholarship awards gala sponsored by the Little Rock Nine Foundation and attended by many local and national luminaries, Philander Smith College followed suit by hosting a VIP reception to commemorate the occasion. Many alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends of the college—including the Honorable Mike Beebe, governor of Arkansas—stopped by the picturesque Riverview Room of the Peabody Little Rock hotel on their way to the sold-out gala that featured former President Bill Clinton as keynote speaker.

2007 FALL INSTITUTE



At the Fall Faculty and Staff Institute, journalist Bill Maxwell encouraged faculty to become like "surrogate parents" to their students.

Bill Maxwell, columnist and editorial writer for the *St. Petersburg Times*, was a special guest at the Fall 2007 Faculty and Staff Institute on Aug. 9. Maxwell wrote a three-part series published by the *Times* in May of 2007 in which he shared his experiences of the two years he spent trying to establish a journalism major at Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Ala. However, keeping the promise made to himself to become a professor at a historically Black college proved, as his series noted, to be a disappointing experience.

Having been deluged with negative feedback from people "blasting" him for the revelations he made about Stillman's students being less than academically ambitious, Maxwell said he was surprised to receive an invitation from PSC President Walter Kimbrough to address the institute. For his part, the president said he simply thought rather than attack the messenger it would be a good idea for the faculty and staff to hear from Maxwell firsthand in order to turn a critical mirror on our own campus.

Maxwell—who attended two historically Black colleges: Wiley College in Marshall, Texas, and Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach—said as a professor at Stillman, "I comprised myself a lot," speaking to his teaching practices and how he lowered his academic standards.

"It takes great students to make a great college. They may not be great coming in but they should be great when they leave."

Maxwell, who participated in later breakout sessions with faculty and staff members, also urged the faculty, in particular, to raise its expectations of students saying, "It takes great expectations to mold great students."

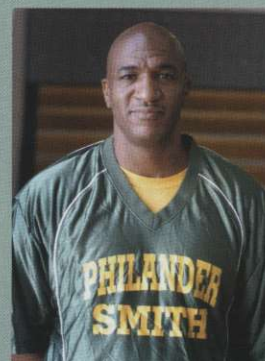
PANTHERS GET NEW LEADER

Philander Smith College officials named James Johnson as its new head men's basketball coach and director of athletics in August. Johnson replaced former longtime athletic director **Tyrone McGraw**.

For the past four seasons the 43-year-old Little Rock native had served as an assistant men's coach for the Panthers and last year also handled the duties of head women's basketball coach.

"I'm excited about my first head men's coaching opportunity at the collegiate level and for the chance to demonstrate my leadership skills as the athletic director," Johnson said.

Johnson spent eight seasons as an assistant men's basketball coach at Western Washington University where, as a player, he earned NAIA All-America honors in 1988 and is a member of the school's Athletic Hall of Fame.



KARLISS CHAPPLE '01 DIRECTS COLLEGIATE CHORALE

Frequently, when asked, people do not hesitate to respond that one of the best things about Philander Smith College is its outstanding choir. Now the renowned collegiate chorale (as it is now officially known) is under new direction. This fall, **Karliss Chapple '01** joined the faculty of Philander Smith as assistant professor of choral

studies and director of choral activities, charged with teaching choral-related courses as well as general music courses in the Music Department. (Chapple also conducts the Chamber Singers.)

Chapple holds a bachelor of arts degree from Philander Smith College and a master's in music performance from Bowling Green State University in Ohio. Besides his teaching duties, he has acted as an adjudicator and guest conductor in Arkansas, Tennessee, Texas, Ohio and Indiana. He is also the founder and conductor of a semi-professional community chorus in Little Rock.

Under Chapple's watch, the collegiate chorale is expected to expand its reputation for excellence and has some big things planned, including an exciting excursion to Switzerland for the Lucerne Festival in the summer of 2008.

Roy-Rasheed Named to State Task Force

In January, **Lupita Roy-Rasheed** was among 19 members appointed by Gov. Mike Beebe to the Arkansas HIV/AIDS Minority Task Force that will study the effect of HIV and AIDS on the state's minority community. Roy-Rasheed serves as program director for the Harry R. Kendall Science and Health Mission Center at Philander Smith College.

Dr. James Receives Commission Appointment

Dr. Frank James, vice president for academic affairs, was appointed by state Speaker of the House Benny Petrus to a four-year term on the Arkansas Commission for Coordination of Educational Efforts.

UNCF Presidents Feted



UNCF President and CEO Michael Lomax addressed the UNCF member presidents and other guests at the private reception sponsored by Wal-Mart and Alltel.



Professor Karliss Chapple and the Collegiate Chorale impressed the crowd with a melodious performance.



PSC President Dr. Walter Kimbrough welcomed the UNCF group to Little Rock and Philander Smith College.



Greater Little Rock Alumni President Rev. Cleo Smith is among those who enjoyed the delectable catered spread.

Award-winning journalist and guest *Bless The Mic* lecturer Juan Williams wasn't the only notable figure to grace the campus the evening of Oct. 11, as Philander Smith College was privileged to host the presidents of the 39 United Negro College Fund member schools that traveled to Little Rock for their fall meeting. In the atrium of the Harry R. Kendall Center the presidents and UNCF officials, including President and CEO Dr. Michael Lomax, were feted prior to Williams' talk at a private reception sponsored by Wal-Mart and Alltel.

By tradition, the October UNCF meeting takes place in the city where one of the UNCF schools is located. The members, as the presidents are called, meet twice a year to discuss and share information that supports and enhance their school operations and their affiliation with UNCF. Additionally, UNCF's corporate board, comprised of CEOs and senior officers of some of the nation's leading companies and organizations, convened in Little Rock.

Philander Smith has been a member school since 1944, the year UNCF was founded. UNCF provides member institutions with operating support that enables them to keep academic programs strong and tuitions affordable, and provides scholarships to help students overcome the financial barriers to a college education.



UNCF

A mind is a terrible thing to waste®

THE BLACK MALE INITIATIVE



This fall saw the launch of a project designed to help Black male students succeed in college.

Philander Smith College's Black Male Initiative

was formed partly in response to recent reports detailing the growing gap between the number of male and female college students and, more critically, to address the needs of Black male students—a population many schools, including historically Black colleges and universities, have found difficult to attract, retain and graduate.

The Aug. 18 kickoff event in the Kendall Center's Nugent Room was a conference called "My Brother's Keeper" featuring hip-hop historian, author and cultural critic **Kevin Powell** as the guest speaker. Powell is touring the country with his message of Black male development and empowerment. The author of *Who's Gonna Take the Weight? Manhood, Race, and Power in America*—he is also a New York congressional candidate—delivered a resonant message to students attending the inaugural event.

The Black Male Initiative program regularly sponsors activities and events, such as a recent lunch time social for mentors and mentees, to actively engage male students in campus activities, give them valuable time with mentors and to encourage them to stay in school and graduate.

Philander Smith College saw its male enrollment figures grow 39 percent with the entrance of this year's freshman class. It is a trend that PSC President Dr. Walter Kimbrough and Black Male Initiative Chairman Marcus Montgomery hope can continue as the nascent program expands its efforts to get more male students involved.



CHAPEL MOMENTS



A September chapel devoted to domestic violence awareness was punctuated by a stark visual display, the Clothesline Project, sponsored by the Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence.



The Honorable Wendell Griffen was the annual Constitution Chapel guest speaker. Judge Griffen, who sits on the Arkansas Court of Appeals, currently teaches constitutional law at Philander Smith.



Men's Panthers:

Front row from left: Ivory Warmack, Joshua Hampton, Edgar "bud" Whitley, Tommy Bozeman, Larry Porter, Jr, Darren Jamison, Thomas Stone, Van Grissom,

Back row from left: Brandon Bealer, Stephen Murdock, Harrison Brumley, Kevin Moore, Derius Anderson, Tari Ransom, Bobby Green, Leon Harris, Yushua Cummings, Head Coach James E. Johnson



Lady's Panthers:

Front row from left: Miesha Williams, Sekenia Hicks, Chesela Wilson, Briana Austin, Chloe Williams

Back row from left: Brittancee Netters, Adrienne Dredd, Jaszmen Steele, Shontaye Reed, Coach T. Johnson, Miracle Donnerson, Schrell Crockett, Shalonie Hutchinson, Vianca Hudson, (not pictured: Casey Pennington, Veronica Sanders, & Bernitha Sanders)

Volleyball team:

Front row from left: Chesela Wilson, Tonja Roper, Kell Powe, Jennifer Watson, Jamie Watson
Back row from left: Mary Glen, Coach Danny McEroy, Povil Mbohuma, Celia Smith, Ariel Flood, Brittnee Lucas





Photos by Freshman Marylou Wallace

ON THE ROAD TO JUSTICE: Philander students journey to Jena

On the heels of the announcement of an institution-wide focus on social justice, 20 percent of the Philander Smith College student body joined with thousands from across the nation, including students from other historically Black colleges and universities, to protest what has been characterized as a miscarriage of justice against six Black students now known as the Jena 6.

Following a candlelit prayer vigil at Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church on the evening of Sept. 19, 120 students, accompanied by members of the administration and staff, boarded three buses for the six-hour drive to Jena, La., to rally on behalf of the six Black high school students that made headlines when news of their involvement in a racially charged beating case grabbed the attention of the media and Black America alike. (At the time of the protests, the young men were awaiting trial on aggravated battery, attempted murder, and/or conspiracy charges for what many have described as a “school yard fight” involving a White Jena high school student. The fight came after a series of racially charged incidents in Jena, including one in which three White students hung nooses from a tree at the school.)

Organized by Rhonda Lovelace, director of the Integrated Campus Center, and PSC Chaplain Rev. Ronnie Miller-Yow, the students came together for the “out-of-class educational experience,” as described by PSC President Dr.

Kimbrough, just as students prepared to mark the 50th anniversary of the integration of Little Rock Central High School, which is located just blocks away from the Philander Smith campus.

The idea of the trip was to “show our students firsthand that issues of injustice impact them and their generation, and for them to witness the power to draw attention to problems through peaceful protest,” said President Kimbrough, adding, “This was not just a field trip.” Evidence of the trip’s gravity could be found in the students’ preparation; participants were required to attend a “teach-in” on the Jena 6 case taught by the president’s wife, an attorney, who joined the students and staff for the bus ride to Jena.

Thanks to the generosity of several donors, Philander Smith College was the only college or university in the state to send buses to the LaSalle Parish town. It was an experience many students remarked they would never forget, but Sophomore Carissa Rodgers realizes work toward justice yet remains. In an essay written for class the English major from Little Rock wrote: “The protest in Jena is over, but the work is not. We fight back, not with our fists or our words, but with the strength of our minds and the power in our actions. If we are to truly be the leaders of tomorrow, then we must do more than merely ‘Think Justice,’ we must become it.”



MEET MISS PSC: Lataia Burroughs c'09

In September, President Kimbrough and his wife Adria Nobles Kimbrough once again crowned another deserving young lady Miss Philander Smith College. Senior **Lataia Burroughs** holds the title this 2007-08 academic year, and the Indianapolis, Ind., native expressed excitement over her achievement saying, "I was overwhelmed with many different emotions" upon learning of her selection. Focusing on youth in jeopardy as her year-long platform seemed an appropriate choice for the 22-year-old whose major is early childhood education with a minor in Black family studies. After graduation, she would like to continue to her education in a graduate program on the East Coast. But for now, Lataia Burroughs is content to bask in her reign as Miss PSC.

ALUMNI NEWS

ALUMNI briefs

A Philander Smith College alumna was recently elected as president of the 3,000-member New York Junior League. **Gena Lovett '85**, a Little Rock native, is the first African American to lead the 107-year old volunteer organization. Prior to the election Lovett, who has been a member of the league since 1995, was the at-large director. She is the chief operation officer of a Manhattan hedge fund company, Alexandra Investment Management.

Pat Nunn Brown has been named director of the small and minority business division for the Arkansas Economic Development Commission replacing another PSC alum, Sylvester Smith. The Camden, Ark., native has spent much of her professional career with AEDC in positions in administration, research, business development and marketing. She is a graduate of the PSMI program at Philander Smith College.

L. Clifford Davis '45 of Ft. Worth was inducted into the 15th anniversary of the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame Oct. 27 in a gala black-tie affair at Little Rock's Statehouse Convention. A pioneering civil rights lawyer and former state district judge, the 82-year old Davis graduated from Howard University School of Law in 1949. After practicing civil rights law in Pine Bluff, he became licensed in Texas and moved to Ft. Worth in 1954. The Wilton, Ark.-native was honored along with the Little Rock Nine and four other individuals. He and his wife of over 50 years, Ethel, have two daughters.

Tealisa Allen '97 of Little Rock received a gubernatorial appointment to the State Social Work Licensing Board for a term that will expire in June of 2010.



CLEOLA BOLES '53 HONORED

The scholarship fund committee at Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church—located on the campus of Philander Smith College—hosted a banquet Aug. 30 in the Kendall Center to raise funds for its scholarship awards and to honor longtime church member and PSC alum **Cleola O. Boles '53**.

Boles came to Philander Smith College in 1938 after graduating top of her class of nine from Dunbar High School in Center Point, Ark. Though an illness in her junior year forced her to put her studies on hiatus, she later resumed her studies in education and home economics and earned a bachelor's degree. She was an educator in the North Little Rock School District for 38 years and for 17 years taught adult education classes for veterans.

At the banquet her inspiring life story was captured in a video presentation followed by tributes given in her honor, including one by PSC President Dr. Walter Kimbrough, by a host of family and friends.

Wesley Chapel established its scholarship fund to "foster value-centered education by supporting our students through scholarship assistance." The committee announced its scholarship awards in October.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Larry W. Ross '69

When Larry W. Ross comes to campus he is all business. After all, as chairman of the Philander Smith College Board of Trustees, he has the weighty role of presiding over the body that governs the operation and management of the college. But even before his election as chairman in September 2006, the retired SBC executive had a full plate of various obligations to church, family and community—all requiring him to both serve and lead.

Reverend Ross, as he is known around campus, serves as a presiding elder in the Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) Church where he oversees more than 40 pastors and congregations. His civic and volunteer endeavors hold just as much gravitas. His board memberships include Twin City Bank, the Arkansas Community Foundation and the Arkansas Ethics Commission for which he was recently elected as chairman. He is also a life member of the NAACP.

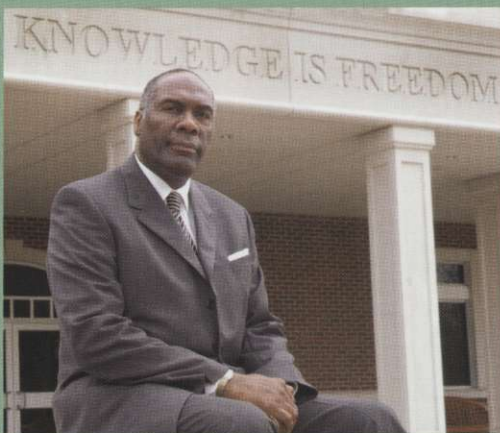
Ross's tentacles may span across different interests but the opportunity to serve

Philander Smith is one in which he felt "humbled and honored" to be considered. Because he had already served as a trustee for the Arkansas State University System, he came to Philander Smith's governing board with valuable experience and insight. His top priority was to improve the college's "image, respect and reputation in the business community", and his two-year term as chairman has been devoted to such.

A North Little Rock native, Ross is no stranger to the campus; he graduated from Philander

Smith College in 1969 with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. (He holds a master's degree in early childhood education from State College of Arkansas, now the University of Central Arkansas). His connection is further strengthened through his wife Lillian, an alumna who is a tenured professor of speech and English in the Humanities Department at Philander Smith.

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Community activist Annie Abrams greets Dr. Joycelyn Elders at a reception to recognize her support of the fight against HIV/AIDS.

DR. JOYCELYN ELDERS '52 HONORED

The 3rd annual Arkansas HIV/AIDS Prevention and Awareness Conference, sponsored by Philander Smith College, Harry R. Kendall Health and Science Mission Center and Future Builders Inc., was held on campus Nov. 29. Following the conference there was a reception to honor former Arkansas Health Department Director and U.S. Surgeon General **M. Joycelyn Elders, M.D. '52** for her support in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Each year the conference targets students, teachers, health care/mental health professionals, and community members that plan or provide HIV prevention education.



Family and friends of the late W.D. "Bill" Hamilton are among on-lookers at a ceremony to rename a Little Rock school in his honor.

SCHOOL RENAMED FOR LATE CIVIC LEADER & ALUM
In May 2007, the late educator and civic leader **Willie D. "Bill" Hamilton** was posthumously honored when the Southwest Learning Academy in Little Rock was renamed the W.D. "Bill" Hamilton Learning Academy in a ceremony attended by numerous family and friends. Originally from Hope, Ark., Hamilton graduated from Philander Smith College in 1960 with a bachelor of arts degree in mathematics (his alma mater would later award him an honorary doctorate degree). During his lifetime he received numerous honors and accolades for his public service which included 10 years on the Little Rock School Board. Hamilton, who passed away in 2003, is survived by his wife Wanda and their three children.

ALUMNI NEWS



(right) Greater Little Rock assistant secretary, Connie Cogshell presents the Generational Family award to Larry (Stomp) & Audron Robertson and son, Stanley. Not Pictured: Daughter, Andrea Robertson-Harris. (left) Linda K. Watson, Ed.D, Interim Superintendent of Little Rock School District, speaks at the Alumni Breakfast.

ALUMNI YULETIDE FELLOWSHIP

The Greater Little Rock Alumni Chapter celebrated its 40th annual Christmas/Fellowship Breakfast Dec. 8 in the Nugent Center of the Harry R. Kendall building with a keynote address by alumna **Linda K. Watson, Ed.D.** The 1975 PSC graduate, who was recently appointed interim superintendent of the Little Rock School District, was introduced by Greater Little Rock Alumni Chapter Vice President **Marion Woods.**

Dr. Watson's address to a sell-out crowd of alumni and friends of the college centered around the educational dilemmas facing our children, stressing the importance of ensuring the educational soundness of our children "by any means necessary." Her comments were given added weight when she spoke of an upcoming initiative that in 2009 would require Arkansas school districts to grant a certificate of attendance versus a high school diploma to students who have not met required high school standards. Additionally, she urged retired alumni, teachers and administrators in particular, to find time to mentor students that are academically challenged.

Also during the yearly holiday fellowship, the chapter recognizes a family that can boast a significant number of PSC graduates. The 2007 honorees for *The Generation of Families* recognition was the Robertson family: **Larry (Stomp) Robertson '68**; his wife **Audron Spears Robertson '67**; their daughter **Andrea M. Robertson-Harris '94** and their son **Stanley Robertson '06.**

Reverend Cleo G. Smith, president of the Greater Little Rock Alumni Chapter, served as chairperson of the annual event. Ticket chairperson was **Ms. Jo E. Webber.**



DFW ALUMNI CELEBRATE HBCU ADVOCACY GROUP

A contingent of Dallas-Ft. Worth alumni were among those representing more than 25 historically Black colleges and universities at a banquet recognizing the myriad of contributions of the Dallas Metroplex Council of Black Alumni Associations, a group established 20 years ago to address common concerns of HBCU alumni chapters and its members.

The Philanderians in attendance included **Lashel Anderson, Phillip Bledsoe, L. Clifford Davis, Sue Veria Dickens, Sylvia Lowe, Jearlene Miller** and **Constance Smith.** As past chair of the 10th and 15th anniversary celebrations, Jearlene Miller of Irving was recognized for her contributions to make the commemoration a success.

Dr. Michael L. Lomax, president and chief executive officer of the United Negro College Fund, was the keynote speaker at the event attended also by various Dallas-Ft. Worth elected officials, executives from American Airlines, the presidents of Rust and Paul Quinn College, and a cabinet member from Pennsylvania's Cheyney University, the oldest of the historically Black colleges and universities in the nation.

National Alumni Association Philander Smith College, Inc.
ReUnite and ReConnect in 2008 "Stirring up the Call for Social Justice"

2008 Tentative Convention Schedule

THURSDAY, MARCH 27th

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Convention Registration	Hilton LR 2 nd Floor (Vendor Area)
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Founder's Day Chapel	PSC Campus, M.L. Harris Auditorium
12:00 Noon - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch on Your Own	
12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Convention Registration	
Hilton LR 2nd Floor (Vendor Area)		
1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Executive Board Meeting	Hilton LR Peabody Suite (Room# 2010)
2:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Opening General Session	Hilton LR Metro Center (Ballroom)
6:00 p.m. - Until	<i>Alumni Choir Rehearsal</i>	PSC Campus, M.L. Harris Auditorium
7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Reunion of Classes (Informal)	Old School Jam IV

Friday, March 28th

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Convention Registration	Hilton LR 2 nd Floor (Vendor Area)
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Second General Session	Hilton LR Metro Center (Ballroom)
	State of the College - President Walter M. Kimbrough	
	<i>Office of Admissions/Recruitment</i>	
12:00 Noon – 1:30 p.m.	Convention Luncheon	Hilton LR Metro Center (Ballroom)
	<i>Featuring: PSC Collegiate Choir</i>	
	<i>Honorees: Class Agents, etc.</i>	
2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	TRAVEL TO PSC	Depart: Lobby Area for Transportation
2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Social Justice Forum w/Students	PSC Kendall Bldg. Nugent Center
	Panelist: TBD	
4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Alumni Campus Tour	Philander Smith College Campus
4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Committee Meetings	PSC Kendall Bldg. Nugent Center
5:30 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.	RETURN TO HILTON	Depart from the Kendall Building
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	<i>Alumni Choir Rehearsal</i>	PSC, M. L. Harris Auditorium
8:00 p.m. – Midnight	Evening Entertainment	Hilton LR Metro Center (Ballroom)
	The Jimmy Church Band Show and Dance	

Saturday, March 29th

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Closing General Session	Hilton LR Metro Center
	<i>Installation of Officers</i>	
11:30 a.m. – 12:00 Noon	Memorial Service	Hilton LR Metro Center
12:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Free Time	
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Alumni Choir Rehearsal	Hilton LR Metro Center
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Executive Board Meeting	Hilton LR Peabody Suite (Room# 2010)
7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Convention Banquet	Hilton LR Metro Center (Ballroom)
	<i>Featuring: Alumni Reunion Choir</i>	
	<i>Honorees: PSC Golden/Silver Alumni</i>	
	<i>Distinguished Alumnus Award</i>	

Sunday, March 30th

10:45 a.m.	Worship Service: PSC Day	Wesley Chapel UMC
	"Depart in Peace and Love"	

HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION

PHILANDER SMITH COLLEGE NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Hilton Little Rock Metro Center

925 South University Avenue

Little Rock, Arkansas 72204

501-664-5020 – Phone

501-614-3803 – Fax

1-800 HILTONS (445-8667)

Janet Davis Tate, Senior Sales Manager /E-mail: Janet.Tate@phg.net

GROUP NAME: National Alumni Association Convention, Philander Smith College

DATES: MARCH 26-30, 2008

RESERVATION CUT-OFF DATE – MARCH 7, 2008

We are pleased to confirm the following special net, non commissionable group rates:

SINGLES\$99.00 DOUBLES.....\$109.00

Presidential Parlor/Hospitality..... \$150.00

Please let the hotel know if you require a smoking or non-smoking room.

To honor above rate, the hotel requires a guaranteed arrival in the form of cash or credit card. Rooms that are guaranteed and not cancelled will be charged the first night's room and tax. All room rates are quoted exclusive of applicable state and local taxes (15.5%).

WANTED: PSC CHOIR MEMBERS!

The Philander Smith College Alumni Reunion Choir delivered a standing-ovation performance during the 2007 National Alumni Convention in Columbus, OH! The choir was such a big hit that planners for the 2008 National Alumni Convention in Little Rock, AR are requesting an encore. We are also asking all former choir directors to return and lend your expertise to The Alumni Reunion Choir which will again be under the general direction of Dr. Carl G. Harris, Jr., Director Emeritus of PSC Collegiate Choir. The Alumni Reunion Choir will perform during the Convention Banquet on Saturday, March 28, 2008 at the Hilton Little Rock Metro Center in Little Rock, AR. If you were ever in the PSC choir, then we want you! To participate, please complete the form below, and submit it by March 1, 2008 to the mailing address on the form. If you have any questions, please contact Yvonne C. Alexander, Office of Alumni Affairs, at (501) 370-5271 or send an e-mail to "yalexander@philander.edu".

____ Yes! I want to join other PSC choir members in performing during the 52nd NAA Convention (March 27-30, 2008) in Little Rock, AR.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

CLASS YEAR _____

PARTICIPANT LAST YEAR? _____

VOICE TYPE _____

Mail this form by March 1, 2008 to:

Yvonne C. Alexander, Alumni Affairs, Philander Smith College

One Trudie Kibbe Reed Drive, Little Rock, AR 72202

THEME: ReUNITE AND ReCONNECT in 2008 "Stirring Up The Call for Social Justice"!

NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PHILANDER SMITH COLLEGE, INC.

2008 CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

MARCH 27 – 30, 2008

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-Mail _____

Chapter _____ Class Year _____

Check here if you have ☐ dietary or ☐ disability related requirements.

REGISTRATION FEE: (INCLUDES TICKETS TO ALL CONVENTION ACTIVITIES)

Early Bird (*Late Registration begins after March 16, 2008*)..... \$170.00

Late & On-Site Registration..... \$180.00

INDIVIDUAL or ADDITIONAL EVENT TICKETS

Complete this section ONLY if you wish to purchase individual event tickets.

_____ Luncheon.....\$35.00

_____ Special Entertainment.....\$40.00

_____ Banquet.....\$50.00

_____ Hospitality Room.....\$25.00

_____ Souvenir Booklet.....\$20.00

Total for Individual Event Ticket Purchases Only \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please make checks payable to "PSC Convention 2008". Send your payments & this form to:

Greater Little Rock Alumni Chapter, c/o PSC National Alumni Convention 2008

P.O. Box 55644 – Little Rock, AR 72215-5644

For additional information, please contact Ms. JoAnn Benjamin, Convention Chairperson @ (501) 407-0998/E-mail - jb6000@att.com or you may contact Yvonne Alexander, Director of Alumni Affairs at (501) 370-5271/E-mail (yalexander@philander.edu).

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received _____ Date Processed _____ Processed by _____

Amount: Cash \$ _____ Check \$ _____ Money Order _____

Check # _____ Registration # _____

MR. CHAIRMAN: **Larry W. Ross '69** — continued from page 19

As board chairman Ross has used his position to encourage fellow alumni to increase their record of giving. During a speech given at last year's Christmas Fellowship he told alumni it is their responsibility to help the school to not only survive but thrive. He practices what he preaches. Already active financial donors, last year he and his wife gave an additional \$20,000 gift to establish the Minnie P. Ross Scholarship Fund to honor his late mother.

Even with a past tied to the college, the board chairman feels its best days are not behind it. "The future is much brighter today for Philander Smith College primarily because we are continuing to attract bright students who have aspirations and dreams to achieve," said Ross, giving credit as well to the board, faculty and staff, and administration for working hard to achieve a renaissance.

Undoubtedly, this is a very busy man with a full plate, but the time he has carved out for Philander Smith College has proved fruitful. The future is definitely brighter, thanks in part to the duality of the leadership Reverend Ross has provided as a servant and leader.



Prayer Circle

Students, faculty and staff join hands during a prayer circle ceremony to mark the beginning of the fall semester.



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