

THE 128TH
COMMENCEMENT
FOR THE CONFERRING OF DEGREES (1888-2016)

BACCALAUREATE



7:00PM

FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2016

M.L. HARRIS FINE ARTS AUDITORIUM | PHILANDER SMITH COLLEGE | LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS



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Dr. Roderick L. Smothers, Sr.
President (Ex-Officio)

Miss Precious Wright, '17
SGA President (Ex-Officio)

Dr. Bettye Brown
Faculty Representative (Ex-Officio)

PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE CABINET

Dr. Roderick L. Smothers, Sr., *President*

Dr. Darnell Williams, *Executive Vice President*

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Mr. Terry Wallace, *Vice President for Fiscal Affairs*

Mr. David Lewis, *Interim Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management*

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Rev. Ronnie Miller-Yow, *Dean of Campus Culture and Religious Life*

Mr. Maurice Osborne, *Dean of Enrollment Management*

Mr. Brian Clay, '08, *Director of Campus Information Systems*

HISTORY OF THE COLLEGE

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

Philander Smith College, which has a rich Christian heritage and acknowledges a definite obligation to The United Methodist Church, was also chartered as a four-year college on March 3, 1883. The first baccalaureate degree was conferred in 1888. The Presidents of Philander Smith College are recorded as follows: The first president is the Reverend Thomas Mason who resigned in 1896. He was succeeded by Reverend James Monroe Cox, Professor of Ancient Languages. Dr. Cox who retired in 1924 was

succeeded by the Reverend George Collins Taylor, a graduate of the College. Dr. Taylor served as president from 1924 to 1936. In May, 1936, Dr. Marquis LaFayette Harris succeeded Dr. Taylor. Harris, who greatly enhanced the College, was succeeded by Dr. Roosevelt David Crockett, a graduate of the College on June 1, 1961. Dr. E.T. Dixon, Jr. took office on January 1, 1965 as Philander's Sixth President. Succeeding Dixon was Dr. Walter R. Hazzard who took office as the Seventh President of the College on July 1, 1969. Succeeding Hazzard was Dr. Grant S. Shockley who took office on January 1, 1980 as the Eighth President of Philander Smith College. Dr. Shockley was succeeded by Dr. Hazo W. Carter, Jr. who was elected unanimously by the Board of Trustees and took office August 20, 1983. When Dr. Carter resigned the presidency in August 1987, he was succeeded by Dr. Myer L. Titus, a 1954 graduate of the College. Dr. Titus retired as President on June 30, 1998. Elected by the Board of Trustees in February 1998 as the Eleventh and first female President of Philander Smith College was Dr. Trudie Kibbe Reed. In 2004, Dr. Julius Scott succeeded Dr. Reed as Interim President. In 2004, the Board announced the selection of Dr. Walter M. Kimbrough as the Twelfth President of the College. In May 2012, Dr. Kimbrough resigned from the presidency. On July 1, 2012, Dr. Johnny M. Moore, a 1989 graduate, became the Thirteenth President of the College. Following the resignation of Dr. Moore in February 2014, Dr. Lloyd Hervey, a 1968 alumnus of Philander Smith College, was named Interim President. Succeeding Dr. Hervey was Dr. Roderick L. Smothers, Sr., the Fourteenth President of the College, who took office on January 1, 2015.

MISSION OF THE COLLEGE

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE Ms. Theresa Webb, '13
Organist

PROCESSIONAL *War March of the Priest* Felix Mendelssohn

THE WORDS OF WELCOME Dr. Hazel Arnett Ervin
Vice President for Academic Affairs

INVOCATION The Reverend James Rush, Ph.D.
Professor of Philosophy and Religion, The Division of Humanities

THE CALL TO CELEBRATION Miss Chantalle Scott, '19

Leader: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed.

People: Then our mouths were filled with laughter, and our tongues with shouts of joy!

Leader: Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."

People: The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad.

Leader: Restore our fortunes, O Lord!

People: May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy!

Leader: Those who go forth weeping, bearing the seed for sowing

People: Shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying the harvest of God!

- Psalm 126 adapted



THE HYMN OF CELEBRATION*Lift Every Voice*..... arr. by James W. Johnson/J. Rosamond Johnson

Lift ev'ry voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

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

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might,
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God,
True to our native land.

THE GREETINGS FROM THE COMMUNITY

The Reverend Marion Humphrey
President, Christian Ministerial Alliance

The Reverend Mackie Yokem
Assistant to the Bishop, Arkansas Conference, The United Methodist Church

The Reverend Derek Witcher
Senior Pastor, Canaan Baptist Church, Little Rock, AR

The Reverend Dr. Roy P. Jones, Jr.
Senior Pastor, Bethel AME Church, Little Rock, AR

SELECTION The Philander Smith Collegiate Choir
Mr. Karliss Chapple, '01, Director

THE READING OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE Matthew 7:7-8 Miss Precious Wright, '17
President, Student Government Association

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER..... Minister Shaborn Vail, '17
President, Religious Life Council

SELECTION The Philander Smith Collegiate Choir

THE BACCALAUREATE SERMON **The Reverend Phillip L. Pointer**
*Senior Pastor, Saint Mark Baptist Church
Little Rock, AR*

THE GRADUATES' BLESSING The Reverend Ronnie Miller-Yow
Chaplain/Dean of Campus Culture and Religious Life

REMARKS Dr. Roderick L. Smothers, Sr.
President, Philander Smith College

ALMA MATER

Dear Alma Mater, tried and true,

We'll win respect and love for you,

We pledge our hearts to you each day,

To do our best, at work, at play.

Dear PSC, when from your fold,

We'll lift the dear old Green and Gold.

O'er Alma Mater vigil keep,

Her high ideals we'll strive to meet.

When college days are at an end,

Our hearts will ever toward you bend.

With loyalty, we'll always be,

A part of you, Dear PSC.

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

BENEDICTION The Reverend Dwight Townsend
*Senior Pastor, Longley Baptist Church
Little Rock, AR*

RECESSIONAL *Triumphal March from Aida* Giuseppe Verdi

BACCALAUREATE SPEAKER



PASTOR
PHILLIP L.
POINTER, SR.

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

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

Pastor Pointer earned a Master of Divinity Degree with honors from The Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia. He is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Ministry from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH. His emphasis in doctoral study is “Preaching Prophetically in a Postmodern Culture: Communicating with Contemporary Audiences.” Pastor Pointer is the fourth generation in his family to serve as a Baptist pastor. He is firmly devoted to his family and seeks to model a commitment to family first. Pastor Pointer has a strong passion for leadership development and personal discipleship. He also has a great desire to empower people to both live as God intends and to serve God to their highest capacity. He seeks to accomplish this through meaningful worship, clear teaching, and providing consistent and loving pastoral care.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

COMMENCEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE

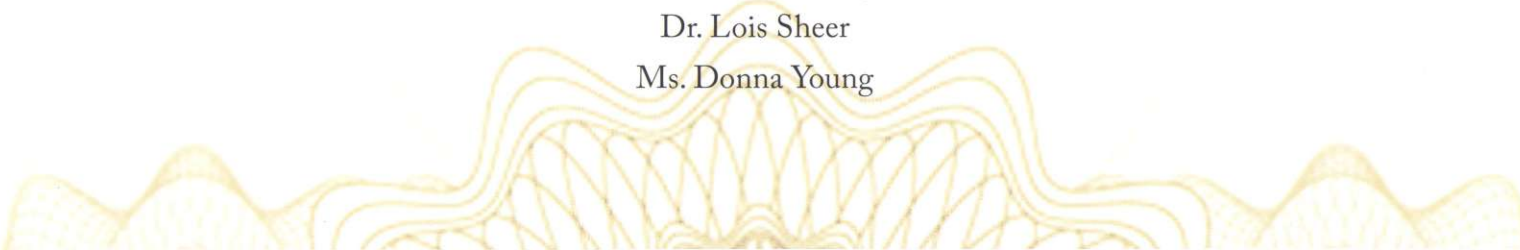
Ms. Yvonne Alexander, '73, Director of Alumni Affairs
Dr. Daniel Egbe, Chair, Division of Social Sciences and Social Work
Mrs. Anita Hatley, Assistant to the President
Mr. Bruce James, Interim Chair, Division of Business and Economics
The Reverend Ronnie Miller-Yow, Chaplain/Dean of Campus Culture and Religious Life
Mrs. Teresa Ojezua, Head Librarian, D. W. Reynolds Library
Ms. Bertha Owens, Registrar
Ms. Anita Phillips, Chief of Security
Dr. Lia Steele, Chair, Division of Language and Humanities
Dr. Samar Swaid, Chair, Division of Natural and Physical Sciences
Mrs. Patricia Swinton, Interim Chair, Division of General Education
Mrs. Shannon Clowney-Johnson, Interim Director, McKinley Newton Honors Academy
Mr. Terry Wallace, Vice President for Fiscal Affairs
Dr. Darnell Williams, Executive Vice President
Mr. Robert Young, Maintenance Technician

COLLEGE MARSHALS

Dr. Raphael Lewis, '62, Mace Bearer
Dr. Hazel Arnett Ervin, Chief Marshal
Mr. David J. Lewis, Student Marshal
Ms. Adria Allen, Faculty Marshal
Mr. Roderick Dunn, '03, Alumni Marshal
Dr. Jesse Hargrove, Marshal for the Dais

FLOOR MARSHALS AND USHERS

Ms. Chantia Hickman, Chief Floor Marshal
Ms. Vernita Bowens
Ms. Joyce Campbell
Ms. Donna Collins
Ms. DesRee Ellison
Ms. Ebony Flannigan
Mr. Alvin Harris
Mrs. Anita Hatley
Dr. Lois Sheer
Ms. Donna Young



Commencement & Regalia

COMMENCEMENT

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

HONORS CORD

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



ACADEMIC REGALIA

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

Agriculture - Maize

Music - Pink

Arts, Letters, Humanities - White

Medicine - Green

Business Administration - Drab

Oratory Speech Silver - Gray

Dentistry - Lilac

Philosophy - Dark Blue

Economics - Copper

Physical Education - Sage Green

Education - Light Blue

Public Administration - Peacock Blue

Engineering - Orange

Public Health - Salmon

Fine Arts, Architecture - Brown

Science - Golden Yellow

Forestry - Russet

Social Science - Cream

Journalism - Crimson

Social Services - Citron

Law - Purple

Theology/Divinity - Scarlet



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