

2016 HONORS CONVOCATION

Preparing for Tomorrow Today



Thursday, March 31, 2016

10:00 A.M.

M. L. Harris Fine Arts Auditorium

Philander Smith College
Little Rock, Arkansas 72202

HISTORY

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 is 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. Miss Helen Perkins served as Principal of the institution during the early years.

In 1876, the General Conference of The Methodist Episcopal Church authorized the creation of an annual conference for Negro preachers in the state of Arkansas with the power to promote schools. The new body was named the Little Rock Annual Conference (later the Southwest Annual Conference). In 1877, this annual conference designated Walden Seminary as its official educational institution. The Seminary was located at Eighth Street and Broadway in the Wesley Chapel Methodist Church. The first Conference Trustees of the new school, elected in 1878, were the ministers I. G. Pollard, W. O. Emory, G. W. Sams, W. H. Crawford, A. J. Phillips, and L. W. Elkins. Laymen elected were A. L. Richmond, William La Porte and Frank Carland.

On January 1, 1879, the Seminary was moved from Eighth and Broadway to Tenth and Center Streets in a suite of rooms on the second floor of Kendrick Hall. The first floor of the hall was used as a store.

In 1882, while soliciting funds, Reverend Thomas Mann met Mrs. Adeline Smith, widow of Mr. Philander Smith of Oak Park, Illinois. 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 Reverend Thomas, 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 from Mrs. Smith and the funds raised by both the Freedman's Aid Society and the Little Rock Annual Conference were significant contributions toward the construction of Budlong Hall, the first brick building on the new site of Philander Smith College.

On March 3, 1881, Philander Smith College was chartered as a four-year college. The trustees at the time were ministers Bishop J.W. Wiley, L.W. Elkins, W.O. Emory, S. Johnson, Thomas Mason, I.G. Pollard, R.S. Rust, and G.W. Sam. Laymen of the trustees included Frank Carland, William La Porte, and K.L. Richmond. The cornerstone for Budlong Hall was laid in May of 1883, and the building was dedicated on September 2, 1883. In the same year, a manual training department was added. In 1884, a new dormitory for girls was built on the southeast corner of Eleventh and Izard Streets, and the building was named Adeline Smith Hall, in honor of Mrs. Smith. On May 14, 1890, the cornerstone was laid for a large addition to Budlong Hall.

The first baccalaureate degree from Philander Smith College was conferred in 1888. The outstanding representative of this class was Dr. Rufus C. Childress, who was for many years assistant supervisor of Negro schools in Arkansas. Dr. Childress also served as secretary of Philander Smith College's Board of Trustees for some 30 years.

During the administration of the College's first president, the Reverend Thomas Mason, there was steady and substantial growth. During the later part of President Mason's administration, Philander Smith College included the following: a Grammar School; a Preparatory School; a Normal School (to train teachers for public schools); the College (offering the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Philosophy, Bachelor of Science, and Master of Arts degrees); the School of Music; and the Department of Carpentry and Printing. With the exception of the College departments, all other departments were gradually dropped. The only honorary degree conferred was the Master of Arts degree.

During the administration of President Cox (1896-1924), the successor to the Reverend Mason, the College was expanded to include a physical plant, and improved also were academic programs. The expansion of the physical plant included the completion of the north wing of Budlong Hall and the purchase of property on the northeast corner of Tenth and Izard Streets on which a girl's dormitory was erected. The new dormitory was named Webb Hall in honor of the Webb family of Oak Park, Illinois. Forty acres in the Fulk Addition area of the city were purchased at the cost of \$42,000 for a new site for the institution. This property was later sold.

In 1925, the George R. Smith College of Sedalia, Missouri, burned. In 1933, the George R. Smith College was formally merged with Philander Smith College, following the joint actions of the Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Trustees of the Southwest and Central West Annual Conferences, and the Trustees of Philander Smith College. The transaction was formally ratified in a joint executive session on May 23, 1933, and on October 23 of the same year, a merger celebration was held.

In July, 1948, purchased was the site of the Little Rock Junior College, which was adjacent to the south end of Philander Smith's campus. This site comprised one city block, and on it was located an administration building. Included were classrooms, a library, a gymnasium, and a chemistry laboratory. On March 30, 1949, after an extensive program of academic improvement, Philander Smith College was fully accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

Order of Program

PROCESSIONAL Sir Edward Elgar, *Pomp and Circumstances*, March No. 4

GREETINGS AND RECOGNITION OF GUESTS Dr. Hazel Arnett Ervin
Vice President for Academic Affairs

INVOCATION Rev. Ronnie Miller-Yow, Chaplain

SCRIPTURES:

Old Testament Ms. Jakeira Davis, 2015 ETS Presidential Scholar

New Testament Ms. Lavaisa Ezell, 2014 UNCF/Mellon Mays Fellow

MUSICAL SELECTION PSC Collegiate Choir

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER Mr. Gaston Seneza
2016-2017 HBCU/Apple Scholar

SPEAKER Dr. Lloyd Hervey
Interim Chair, Division of Education and Special Assistant to the President

MUSICAL SELECTION PSC Collegiate Choir

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS AND PINS:

4.0 List; President's List; and Dean's List
Alpha Kappa Mu Society Candidates

RECOGNITION OF PSC UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCHERS

MUSICAL SELECTION Ms. Hope Ann Dixon

REMARKS Dr. Roderick L. Smothers, Sr.
14th President of Philander Smith College

BENEDICTION Rev. Ronnie Miller-Yow, Chaplain

RECESSIONAL Sir Edward Elgar, *Pomp and Circumstances*, March No. 4

Dean's List

Steven Adams
Torri Alexander
Monica Allen
Trysten Allen
Mia Allmon
Tiaara Anderson
Lance Arnold
Bright Arthur
Markelle Ballard
Brenisha Banks
Jonathan Barker
Destyne Bates
Tanaeya Belcher
Aionyea Bell
Tierra Bell
John Bentley
Jeffrey Boakye
Sean Brandon
Freddya Briggs
Tybria'eh Brister
Damiesha Bryant
Amber Calderon
Joidon Cattron
Nyashe Clark
Ron'ay Coleman
De'ja Collins
Samantha Comet
Tevin Cooley
Ketria Cotton
Dominique Crawford
William Currin
Demeco Cyrus
Julius Bright Danquah
John Davis
LaTina Davis
Kayla Denton
Keiyana Ebbs
Max Favors

Jamar Frazier
Ji'Vone Freeman
Anthony Galloway
Khenisha Gonzalez
Don'Terrio Gordon
Michaela Green
Tierra Guthrie
Alejandra Gutierrez
Breiona Hamilton
Jamal Hamilton
Latosha Hampton
Fredriana Hanson
Sabrina Hardy
Tierra Harris
Akilah Hasan
Aminah Henderson
Christine Holt
Katlyn Howell
Tishara Hudson
Jacques Iragena
Benjamin Jackson
Joseph Jackson
E'Shawn Jenkins
Li Jiang
Kelondria Johnson
Kiya Johnson
Kya Jones
Marlon Jones
Joel Kabulo
Shaloom Kashama
Darrian Kee
Carmella Kirkwood
Ronard Kwizera
Omia Lang
Shade Langworthy
Courtney Lawson
Shaquita Levy
Antwane Lewis

Christopher Lewis
Sherica Lewis
Nia Little
Brittany Lognion
Krishuna Lott-Moore
Nyagoa Lul
Mnsa Maat
Tanisha Manning
Shaonia Manson
Levie McGee
Beunka McVay
Louis Mendoza
Jordan Miller
Paula Miller
Raven Minniefield
Tybreanna Mitchell
Diana Muniz-Walls
Jamie Murray
DeMarjion Murry
Ayzha Nave
Tyesha Newby
Michel Ngoga
Jotham Nixon
Candace Parchman
Ashley Parker
Briana Parker
Valencia Patton
Allishia Peace
Darnell Pearson
Bathsheba Petty
Tiffany Phillips- Peters
Kiasha Richmond
Channell Robinson
Zana Robinson
Keeoshia Roe
Leslie Rose
Areba Ross
Damesha Roy

Daldric Sargent
Joshua Satterfield
Arren Scruggs
Jasmine Secrest
Jessica Shephard
Kristyn Simmons
Maurice Sloan
Karissa Sonesouphab
Raven Stinson
Clayton Tate
MyEssia Taylor
Jade Terry
Rachel Terwilliger
NyKerria Thornton
Jemika Wade
Katelynn Walker
Kirsten Walker
Sara Walker
Richard Wallis
Kaprese Warren
Quinnetta Washington
Christiana Webb
Jassimen West
Mary Wheeler
Olichia White
Tiara White
Jahaunie Whitlock
Erykah Williams
John Williams
Lesley Williams
Shekyra Williams
Emma Willis
Deedra Wilson
Lynardia Withers
Clayton Wright
Destiny Wright
Precious Wright

President's List

Tiaara Anderson
Danelle Baylark
Tanaeya Belcher
Daniel Blankson
Jeffrey Boakye
Nancy Branch
Angelita Brazle
Darion Brown
Tiffany Bryant
Andrea Clark
Nyashe Clark
Napolean Coakley
Jessica Courtney-Lee
Shequera Crockett
Julius Bright Danquah
Christopher Davis
Jakeira Davis
Sualen Davis-Bowman
Jasmine Dehart
Kishon Delancy
Kayla Denton

Ashley Dodson
Shanequa Eggleston
Kaliah Eison
Eboni Fennoy
Adonis Fernander
Jamila Frazier
Phillip Grant
Jamal Hamilton
Tiarra Harris
Akilah Hasan
Wilhelm Hawkins
Dalili Hill
Brittany James
Ra'Kaeyah Jones
Synthea Jones
Mobolaji Kosoko-Moronfolu
Loretta Kubeczka
Ju'Marcus Lacy
Brianna Lawson
Brittany Lognion
Brittany Leonard

Kenisha Lewis
Lakendrick Lewis
Brittany Lognion
Benjamin Mason
Brenda Matthews
Tejon Mays
LaQuisha McVay
Chelsea Mott
Bria Murphy
Theophile Nsengimana
Olamide Olawoyin
Tyson Oliver
Kadiejha Price
Santrice Price
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Areba Ross
Jasmine Rucker
Brittany Sloan
Jasmine Sloan
Christopher Taylor

Ashley Thomas
D'Angelo Tucker
Jessica Vallier
Viviane Umuhoza
Briana White
Olichia White
Russell Williams
Lynardia Withers
Jelicia Wright
Zyra Wright
Chet Young

4.0 List

Prince Aidoo
Bright Arthur
Adreiana Bailey
April Bell
Edwenna Berry
Daniel Blankson
Nancy Branch
Sean Brandon
Montolliea Brock
Adam Brown
Ron`ay Coleman
Jamieria Collins
Koya Couch
Dominique Crawford
Shequera Crockett
Jakeira Davis
Kishon Delancy
Sandra Durham
Lania Edwards
Diana Espinoza-Lopez
Lavaisa Ezell

Vatsana Ferrell
Ji'Vone Freeman
Scandalence Fritz
JaMicah Gibson
Sonora Gillespie
Alejandra Gutierrez
Marquitta Hall
Breiona Hamilton
Jessica Heard
Dessa Henry
Jacques Iragena
Joseph Jackson
Brooke James
Natasha Johnson
Caryan Jones
Kyra Jones
Synthea Jones
Peter Joseph
Kendall Keller
Mobolaji Kosoko-Moronfolu
Felix Kyere

Brianna Lawson
Raquedra Lee
DeAundrea Lewis
LaQuisha McVay
Luis Mendoza
Jazmyne Mills
Brighton Mlambo
Regene Moncur
Juliette Mukangango
Dorika Neely
Michel Ngoga
Jotham Nixon
Prentice O'Guinn
Olamide Olawoyin
Shannon Parker
Kingsley Pinder
Aleah Randolph
Catelyn Redmon
Tarai Rolle
Damesha Roy
Kewanis Runnels

Gaston Seneza
James Shaw
Lizaveta Shchasnovich
Jasmine Sloan
JaCori Smith
Craig Steele
Brittany Taylor
Shirley Temple
Christina Veasley
Latrice Walton
Whitney Westmoreland
Bianca White
Briana White
Clayton Wright
Mariah Yarbrough
Chet Young

Alpha Kappa Mu Society

Monica Allen
John Bentley
Sean Brandon
Freddya Briggs
Nyashe Clark
Julius Danquah
Keiyana Ebbs
Kaliah Eison
Ji'Vone Freeman
Scandalence Fritz

Tiarra Harris
Dessa Henry
Jacques Iragena
Kyra Jones
Synthea Jones
Joel Kabulo
Shaloom Kashama
Mobolaji Kosoko-Moronfolu
Felix Kyere
Courtney Lawson

Antwane Lewis
Mnsa Maat
Tejon Mays
Beunka McVay
Raven Minniefield
Candace Parchman
Monique Polk
Shirley Temple
Jessica Vallier
Lynardia Withers

Aleah Randolph
Tiffany Richardson
Kiasha Richmond
Jasmine Secrest
Gaston Seneza
Kaprese Warren
Mary Wheeler
Olichia White
Precious Wright

Mission of Philander Smith College

Philander Smith College is a small, privately supported, 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 as follows: To graduate academically accomplished students, grounded as advocates for social justice, determined to change the world for the better. Philander Smith College, the only United Negro College Fund member institution in Arkansas, strives to provide a quality college education for all regardless of race, religion, sex, national origin or ethnic background.

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Acknowledgments

(On behalf of the Honorees, the Office of Academic Affairs expresses its deepest appreciation.)

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Alma Mater

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

*Dear P.S.C., when from your fold,
We'll lift the dear old Green and Gold.*

*O'er Alma Mater vigil keep,
Her high ideals we'll strive to meet.*

*When college days are at an end,
Our hearts will ever toward you bend.*

*With loyalty, we'll always be,
A part of you, Dear P.S.C.*

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

