



PHILANDER SMITH COLLEGE

Baccalaureate

FRIDAY, MAY 4, 2018

7 p.m.

**PHILANDER SMITH COLLEGE
M.L. HARRIS AUDITORIUM**

130th Commencement

SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2018

10 a.m.

**STATEHOUSE CONVENTION CENTER
GOVERNOR'S HALL I & II
LITTLE ROCK, AR**



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 Icard 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 was 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. The College currently offers 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.

PHILANDER SMITH COLLEGE
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, and a Doctor of Ministry from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH. 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.

PHILANDER SMITH COLLEGE ORDER OF WORSHIP

~ Prelude ~

PROCESSIONAL

War March of the Priest (Mendelssohn)

Acolytes: De'Ja Collins, '18, Marcus Killings, '18, Kennadea Payne, '18, Brandi Webb, '18

THE WORDS OF WELCOME

Dr. Zollie Stevenson, Jr.

Vice President for Academic Affairs

INVOCATION

The Reverend Kevin Cooper, '08

Director of Development, Philander Smith College

THE CALL TO CELEBRATION

Brittany Taylor, '18

Leader: Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end.

People: **Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.**

Leader: Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Let your good spirit lead me on a level path.

People: **Our steps are made firm by the Lord, when he delights in our way.**

Leader: Though we stumble, we shall not fall headlong, for the Lord holds us by the hand.

People: **What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?**

Leader: There is a way that seems right to a person, but its end is the way to death.

People: **Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.**

Leader: In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

People: **For surely I know the plans that I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope**

- Psalm 119:33-34; 143:10; 37:23-24; Micah 6:8; Proverbs 14:12, 3:5-6; Jeremiah 29:11

African American Heritage Hymnal. Chicago, IL: GIA Publications, 2001. #51

THE HYMN OF CELEBRATION

Lift Every Voice

arr. by James W. Johnson/J. Rosamond

THE GREETINGS FROM THE COMMUNITY

The Reverend Richard Lancaster

Central District Superintendent, The Arkansas United Methodist Church Conference

The Reverend Maxine Allen, '94

President, Christian Ministerial Alliance

Pastor Aaron Withers, '01

Pastor, Tabernacle of Faith Church of God in Christ, Pine Bluff, AR

SELECTION

This Day

Philander Smith Collegiate Choir

Mr. Karliss Chapple, '01, Director

As Performed by Edwin Hawkins

THE READING OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE

Old Testament -Maurice Tatum, '18
New Testament-Sharon Hampton, '18

~ Special Presentation ~

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER

Michaela Green, '18

SELECTION

Made A Way

Philander Smith Collegiate Choir

Mr. Karliss Chapple, '01, Director

As Performed by Travis Green

THE BACCALAUREATE SERMON

The Reverend Phillip Pointer

Senior Pastor, Saint Mark Baptist Church

THE GRADUATES' BLESSING

The Reverend Ronnie Miller-Yow

Chaplain/Dean for Religious Life and Campus Culture

REMARKS

Dr. Roderick L. Smothers, Sr.

14th President, Philander Smith College

~ Alma Mater ~

BENEDICTION

The Reverend D.A. Witcher

Senior Pastor, Canaan Missionary Baptist Church of Little Rock

RECESSIONAL

Triumphal March from Aida (Verdi)

PHILANDER SMITH COLLEGE
LIFT EVERY VOICE AND ALMA MATER

LIFT EVERY VOICE

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.

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)

PHILANDER SMITH COLLEGE
COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

SOPHIA A.
NELSON, ESQ.

Sophia A. Nelson, Esq. is an award-winning author of two non-fiction books and an award-winning journalist for her ground breaking feature magazine articles. She has appeared on every major network, media outlet, and cable news show platform. Her work and advice have been endorsed by top writers, journalists and business leaders.

A former Congressional Committee Investigative Counsel and corporate lobbyist, Nelson left legal practice in 2007 to pursue her childhood passion to become a journalist. In 2008, she became a freelance reporter and White House Correspondent for *JET Magazine* and various other outlets.

She is now a noted TV and radio personality, as well as a highly sought-after motivational speaker and corporate leadership trainer for Fortune 500 companies, nonprofits and major universities. She contributes regularly to national media outlets.

Nelson is a life-long, well-known black moderate Republican. However, what makes her unique is that she is very well respected in the Black community, and is viewed as role model for women and girls around the globe.

A member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Sophia was the first White House Correspondent for the iconic *Jet Magazine* between 2009-2012. She is a 2011 Pulitzer Prize nominated author in letters and a 2012 corporate diversity champion award winner. Nelson, an engaging and in-demand speaker, gives more than 30 speeches and personal engagements annually. She is a true crossover writer in both her careers as a journalist and an author. She has a strong female base of support across racial, religious, and socioeconomic lines.



PHILANDER SMITH COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT ORDER OF SERVICE

PRESIDENT RODERICK L. SMOTHERS, SR., PH.D, PRESIDING

PRELUDE	Ms. Theresa Lyons, '13, Organist
PROCESSIONAL	<i>Pomp and Circumstance March No.1, Trio (Elgar)</i>
WELCOME	Dr. Roderick L. Smothers, Sr. 14th President, Philander Smith College
INVOCATION	The Reverend Danita Waller-Paige, '04 Pastor, White Memorial United Methodist Church
PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS*	Little Rock Jr. ROTC, Central High School

≈ Pledge of Allegiance * ≈

NATIONAL ANTHEM*	<i>Star Spangled Banner</i>	Crisshaundra Pullom, '13, Soloist
NEGRO NATIONAL ANTHEM*	<i>Lift Every Voice</i>	arr. by James W. Johnson/J. Rosamond Johnson
GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES		Dr. Sherece West-Scantlebury Chairwoman, Philander Smith College Board of Trustees
GREETINGS FROM THE FACULTY		Dr. Carmen Hardin President, Faculty Senate
REFLECTIONS		Mr. Lakendrick Lewis, '18 Senior Class President

≈ The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry's Exemplary Teacher Award, 2017-2018 ≈

MUSICAL SELECTION	The Philander Smith Collegiate Choir Mr. Karliss Chapple, '01, Director
INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER	Dr. Roderick L. Smothers, Sr. 14th President, Philander Smith College
COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS	Ms. Sophia A. Nelson, Esq. Award-winning Author, Journalist, Political Commentator

≈ Conferring of Degrees Ceremony ≈

≈ Presentations of Candidates and Granting of Degrees ≈

CANDIDATES FOR THE HONORARY DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS
CANDIDATES FOR THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE
CANDIDATES FOR THE BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK DEGREE
CANDIDATES FOR THE BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION DEGREE
CANDIDATES FOR THE BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE

PHILANDER SMITH COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT ORDER OF SERVICE

PSC NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION INDUCTION

Mr. Herman Davis, '73
President, PSC National Alumni Association

CLOSING REMARKS

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

ALMA MATER

The Philander Smith Collegiate Choir

BENEDICTION

The Reverend Ronnie Miller-Yow
Chaplain/ Dean for Campus Culture and Religious Life

RECESSIONAL

Trumpet Voluntary (Clark)



2018 COMMENCEMENT COMMITTEE

Dr. Zollie Stevenson, Jr.
Dr. Dakota Doman
Ms. Carmen Parks
Ms. Donna Young
Mrs. Shannon Clowney-Johnson
Mrs. Teresa Ojezua
Ms. Bertha Owens
Mr. David Lewis
Reverend Ronnie Miller-Yow
Mrs. Jennelle Primm
Ms. Karen Hunter
Mr. Joey Stoner
Mrs. Latonya Hayes
Ms. Sericia Cole
Mr. Arthur Williams
Mr. Fred Hurt, '08
Mr. Robert Young



CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS

Linda Pondexter Chesterfield
Darnell Williams
Mary Louise Williams

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Division of Natural & Physical Sciences

Biology

Brandon II, Sean Troy++
Lewis, Montez A.
McVay, Beunka Bra`Shawn
Murry, DeMarjion
Payne, Kennadea Tyanell
Taylor, Brittany Nicole+++~
Trimble, Autumn DeShaie

Chemistry

Bentley II, John Fitzgerald+
Kwizera, Ronard+++~
3rd Rank in Class
Mukangango, Juliette+++~
1st Rank in Class

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Division of Natural & Physical Sciences

Computer Science

Beasley, Lorenzo
Blankson, Daniel+++~
Crawford, Dominique Jamal++
Crockett, JaCarre+
Jackson Jr., Arthur Lorenzo
Kabey, Jean-Marc
Kashama, Shaloom Bowa ++**
Ngoga, Michel ++*
Ward, Julian D.

Mathematics

Bentley II, John Fitzgerald+
Blankson, Daniel +++~
Mendoza-Lopez, Luis A.+
Mukangango, Juliette+++~
1st Rank in Class
Steele Jr., Craig Michael+

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Division of Social Sciences

Criminal Justice

Mays, Tejon LaNique+++~
2nd Rank in Class

BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK

Division of Social Sciences

Social Work

Daniel, Rosalyn+
Hickman, Catrina Danyell+
Kizer, Wanisha D.
Martin, Qua`Nika C. *
McDowell-Boulware, Ever Lee
Sanders, Deanna Marie+~
Washington, Sankari LaShay+

BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Division of Business Admininstration

Business Administration

Collins, Kenosha Le`shay
Cotton, Ketrina Claretha
Ezeagwula, Quinton Ikequon ++**
Garcia, Kirah Cache` *
Johnson, Shacondria Nicole+
Johnson, Shaniquia Lashi
Killings, Marcus Desean
Lewis, Lakendrick D` Aaron+++~
McEntee, Gloria Marie-Shevon+
Patton, Valencia Elisabeth

Business Administration

Pearson Jr., Darnell Lewayne
Simmons, Kristyn A.
Stewart, Anissa M.+
Tshipeng, Pamela Kalong

Concentration in Accounting

Collins, De`Ja Nicole+
Jenkins, E`Shawn D.++~
Webb, Brandi+

Organizational Management

Bankhead, Bryan James~
Bell, Donche` +~
Brown, Bruce Alex +
Burance, Melissa Diane
Butler, Jeremy Jerrell
Coakley, Breanna +
Donald I, Richard Jasper **
Donner, Tracy L.
Ganaway, Jayne J.
Girley, Ranikka D. +
Hampton, Sharon D. ++~
Harris, Mary Mackintrush +
Hills, Keith D` zohn **
Howard, Demario A.
Jackman, Kristin Lanae
Johnson Sr., Derrick Clinton **
Johnson, Shana Janay
Joiner Jr., Vinson N.
Lyons, Kelsey Terrel +
Millen, Reginald Damitrick **~
Moore, De` Vonta
Nwanne, Nathaniel +
Pigee, Joyce A.
Shelton, Zoshua Sharrie Rochell ++**
Steverson, Alisha Charmaine ++
Swinson, Chanda D. +~
Taylor, Donna Yvette +~
Walker, Jordan Anthony



CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

Organizational Management

Washington, Sonja C.
Washington, Yolanda K.
White-Dennis, Franchelle J.
Williams, Darby Le`roy

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Division of Education

Physical Education

Green, Michaela Cherie +~
Jackson, Jamahl
Oliver Jr., Tyson Deshane
Perkins II, Everett Frank
Turner, Jordan Lamond +

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Division of Arts & Humanities

English

Anderson, Tiaara A. +++~**
Clark, Andrea Brooke ++

Philosophy & Religion

Jones, Twon
Tatum, Maurice Dwayne +++~

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Division of Social Sciences

Political Science

Mame, Jamila H.

Psychology

Beasley, Christopher D.
Blanchard, Chandler Denaire +
Garrison, Julleon Charles +**
Greer Jr., Kirby L. **
Hasan, Akilah Aminah +++~
Johnson, Kiya Lakei ++~

Psychology

Jones, Casondra Renee
Jones, Reshaud D.
Lang, Omia Linette +
Matthews, Brenda Joyce+

Psychology

Nixon, Jotham Michael++++~
Parker, Ashley Kay+
Rolle, Valvanique Shavette+~
Sadler, Sandi-Marie+
Strong, Dello Lashay
Temple, Shirley L.+
Vallier, Jessica Aianna++~
Walker, Kirsten Kamille+
Withers, Lynardia Raivon++++~
Wright, Jelicia C.+~

Sociology

Allen, Monica Leigh
Currin, William Sa`Von
Ford, Rodney Jamar *
McGriff, Zavante *
Parchman, Candace ++
Rose, Leslie Tamera
Russell, Kimwonyanna L.

~ Distinction in Field
+ Cum Laude
++ Magna Cum Laude
+++ Summa Cum Laude
* Summer Graduate
** Fall Graduate



CLASS OF 1968

50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Malinda Allen
Ruth Shirley Armstrong
Ruth White Bland
Robert Blue
Willie Earl Brewer
Ether Lue Bruce
Norvelle Butler
Franzetta B. Callaway
Jeff Foley Carr
Glenroy A. Charles*
Gloria Clark-Lusear
Jonnie W. Collier
Sammie T. Dixon
Mable N. Donaldson
Queen E. Eldridge
Odell Embry
John M. Foster
Fred J. Galbreath
Janice Gonder
Bertha Gosha
Shirley A. Green
John Henry Haney
Lloyd Edward Hervey
Piccola L. Hill
Fayth Hill Washington
Mary L. Hunter
Sylvia Hunter
Nora B. Hutchinson
Roy Lee James
Jonathan Doyle Keaton
Melvin Lane
Marilyn J. Lewis
Jo Ann Lloyd
Annie Owens Macdonald
Shirley Moore McCoy
Dorsey W. McCullough

Loyce J. McCullough
Lucille Meadows
Corine Ratliff-Bailey Miller
Arthur N. Montgomery
Juanita L. Monts*
Shirley M. Neal
Tressie L. Noel
Lutitia F. Papailler
Katie M. Parker
Mamie W. Patton
Mary E. Pearson
Petrella Pollefeyt
Rosetta Price
Berdine Alexander Ready
Lenora Roberson
Larry S. Robertson
Herbert Robinson
Virginia D. Rolfe
Lillian W. Ross
Carolyn Stone
Barbara Taylor
Luther L. Took
Helen M. Tucker
Marilyn E. Turner
Jewell Walton
Ruby Washington
William Carroll Watson
Therresa Wesley
Rachel A. Whitfield
Leroy Williams
Patricia M. Williams
Doristene Willis
Shirley Womack
Mary Jo Wright
Colone N. Young



HONORARY DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS

THE HONORABLE LINDA CHESTERFIELD



Senator Linda Pondexter Chesterfield is serving her second term in the Arkansas Senate where she represents Arkansas Senate District 30.

Regionally and nationally, Senator Chesterfield works with legislators as a member of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and the Southern Legislative Conference (SLC).

Senator Chesterfield came to the Senate with a wealth of legislative experience. She was elected to the Arkansas House of Representatives in 2002 to serve House District 36, where she served three consecutive terms. While in the House of Representatives, she served as Chair of Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs; as Chair of Desegregation Litigation; and as Chair of the K-12, Vocational - Technical School Institutions Subcommittee of Education. Formerly, she served as the President of the Arkansas Democratic Black Caucus and has held the post of Treasurer. In 2013, the Arkansas

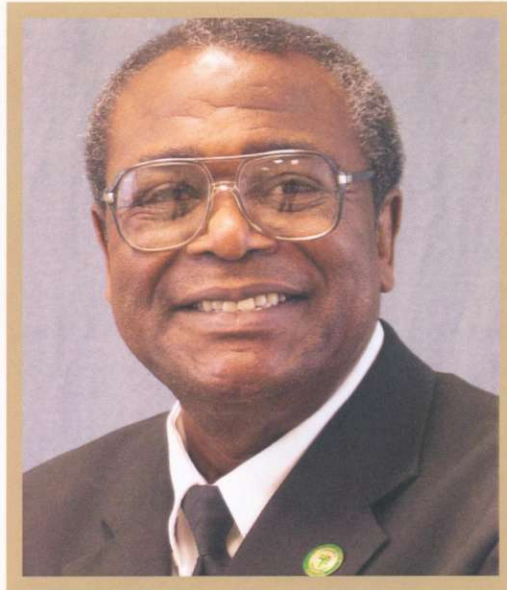
Municipal League honored Chesterfield with the Distinguished Legislator Award for her exemplary service benefiting cities and towns of Arkansas.

Civically, she has been active in many local, state and national organizations and has held various leadership positions, including past President of the Little Rock School Board and the Pulaski County Association of Classroom Teachers, and past two-term President of the Arkansas Education Association. She is the only Arkansan to have been elected to the nine-member Executive Committee of the National Education Association. Professionally, Senator Chesterfield is a retired educator with over 30 years of classroom experience. A native of Hope, Arkansas, Senator Chesterfield was the first African-American to graduate from Hendrix College. She and her husband, Emry, own a consulting firm, Pondexter Chesterfield Consulting. The Chesterfields reside in Little Rock and attend First Baptist Church.



HONORARY DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS

DR. DARNELL WILLIAMS



Dr. Darnell Williams' journey towards academic enlightenment lead him to Bishop College in Dallas, Texas, where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Spanish and French. His academic journey continued at The Ohio State University, where he earned several additional credentials and two degrees, including the Doctor of Philosophy degree in English Education. Dr. Williams' commitment to education led to service in both secondary and post-secondary education in roles ranging from teacher, full professor, Dean, as well as his most recent role as Executive Vice President at Philander Smith College. Through his many experiences, including as an accreditation expert, and he has spent much of his career supporting institutions in maintaining accreditation.

Dr. Williams provided three years of pro-bono service to Philander Smith College (2015-2017), giving of himself, his time, and his talents. He has demonstrated a commitment to a personal vow of poverty and has donated resources that he has accrued over decades to Philander Smith College for use to support students. He has been inducted as a Member of the esteemed M.L. Harris Society at Philander Smith College as a result of his many generous financial gifts to the College.

Dr. Williams is a recognized advocate for the Philander Smith College Community of Scholars. He has served as a confidant and special advisor to the President of Philander Smith College, Dr. Roderick L. Smothers, Sr. Dr. Williams is fully committed to students and their success, and he is recognized as a "Champion for Students."



HONORARY DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS

MARY LOUISE WILLIAMS



Mary Louise Williams has been a community leader and advocate in the Little Rock Community for many decades, as well as a strong, vocal advocate for Philander Smith College. She has also served the Little Rock Community as a Justice of the Peace and, along with Sonny Walker, integrated the Little Rock Classroom Teachers Association in 1967. Her service as a Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. is one of the hallmarks of her achievements and has enhanced her service to Little Rock, Arkansas and the South Central Region. She was educated at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri, where she received her B.A. in Music. She holds two Master's Degrees—one in Education and the other in Administration from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

Her career in education was cemented by her 30 years as a Music Teacher. She also spent 16 years as an Assistant Principal, and four years as a High School Summer School Principal. She served as the Chairwoman for the National

Education Classroom Teachers and as President and a Board Member of the Little Rock Classroom Teachers Association, as well as Chairwoman of the Arkansas Teachers Association Choral Division. She has also served as the President of the Little Rock Classroom Teachers Association and the Little Rock Principals Roundtable.

Her contributions to the community have also included service in government and politics. She has served on the National Association Board of County Officials; the National Association of County Officials Art and Culture Commission; as Chairwoman of the Pulaski County Election Commission; and as Chairwoman of the Pulaski County Democratic County Committee.

Mary Louise Williams was the eleventh President of Beta Pi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She also served as the thirteenth South Central Regional Director of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. During her tenure as Regional Director, Williams chartered seventeen chapters.



COMMENCEMENT AND 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/she had been admitted. The ceremony surrounding this inception or “graduation” has subsequently come to be called Commencement.

HONOR CORDS

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 others.

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, gathered 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. 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 to represent the doctorate. 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 Grey
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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