



A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ROBERT MICHAEL FRANKLIN '75

MARCH 2008

You have heard me talk extensively about the Morehouse College seal. As we contemplate the life and untimely demise of treasured alumnus Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., I believe it is appropriate to mention it again in the context of its symbolic portrayal of Dr. King's humanity and the legacy he left us. It is composed of three simple elements: clouds, a rising sun, and sun rays. The clouds are reflective of the myriad challenges he faced, while the rising sun is reflective of the enlightenment he devoted his life to giving the world. Finally, the rays represent his ongoing carriage of the light of truth and the promise of hope. Morehouse Men, I challenge each of you—in the spirit of Dr. King—to rise boldly to life's challenges, to seek enlightenment daily, and to strive to bring hope and light where darkness exists.

Students' Winning Pursuits

I am always proud of Morehouse College students who excel in their academic endeavors and still find time to shine in the pursuit of extracurricular activities. The Morehouse College Mock Trial Team captured the first place spot at the Regional Tournament in Birmingham, Ala., for the third consecutive year. One of the competitor's coaches described their performance as "outstanding," "excellent," and "better than most practicing attorneys." Edward Mitchell and William Lawrence were named the best attorneys, earning perfect scores in each of the four rounds of competition. Men of the House, felicitations for a successful regional match. The Morehouse College family is cheering you on to victory in the upcoming national competition.

On the athletics front, congratulations are due Mr. Kenney Boyd, who, early in March, was named to the first team of the All-SIAC basketball team. Mr. Boyd, a junior, is the Maroon Tigers' second leading scorer and top rebounder and is ranked second in the conference in rebounding and sixth in scoring. As one of the top five players in the conference, Mr. Boyd is noted for exhibiting Morehouse ideals—endurance and durability—which will serve him well off the court, as well.

I offer special thanks and gratitude to Marcus Penney and Tony Anderson who were recognized for their project, "Let's Light a Million," at the Clinton Global Initiative University, a conference hosted by President Bill Clinton in New Orleans the weekend of March 15. (Interestingly, their project focused on making light.) Their innovation and leadership have brought attention to the conservation of energy and have inspired me to be more conscious of the environment.

Around and About Campus

"Bodies or Brains? The Crisis in our Culture: A Spelman-Morehouse Conversation" took place on March 3 at Sisters Chapel on the campus of Spelman College. The conversation, designed to serve as a forum to discuss issues surrounding decorum, contemporary culture and messages about and by our students, was attended by Morehouse and Spelman students, faculty, staff, and alumni. I look forward to more discussions around this timely and important topic. It is also a matter the AUC Council of Presidents will examine.

I was pleased to meet with alumnus and trustee Shelton "Spike" Lee '79, who visited campus on March 7

to lecture a class and later attend Nike's Black History Month reception. The company honored Trustee Lee with the "Just Do It" award for his contributions to the community and announced plans to fund two internships for Morehouse students and award two scholarships over the next two years.

On the Move for Morehouse

In March, I visited with the members of the Georgia Congressional delegation and urged them to support the Martin Luther King Jr. Research and Education Initiative. All expressed their pride in Morehouse and our track record of achievement, but I bring special greetings from Congressmen Sanford Bishop '71 and David Scott, as well as from Congressman Hank Johnson's chief of staff, Daraka Satcher '96.

The Greater Boston Chapter of the National Alumni Association hosted me—a less musically talented stand-in for a traveling Glee Club—at its Fourth Annual More Jazz Black Tie Gala. It was an elegant evening, filled with the sounds of Jaspects, a talented musical group consisting of Morehouse alumni, and main act, award winning singer Regina Bell. I am grateful for an evening of wonderful music, camaraderie, the hospitality of local president Sean Daughtry '93, the five students who hail from the Boston area and represented the Morehouse brand so fully, and the local corporate community that continually supports our fundraising efforts.

In Chicago, President Emeritus Walter E. Massey '58 and I met with John Bryan, former Sara Lee executive and one of Chicago's foremost corporate and philanthropic leaders. Mr. Bryan, who led the campaign for the Art Institute of Chicago and Millennium Park, gave gracious and sage advice on furthering our campaigns for the Ray

Charles Performing Arts Center and enhancing our endowment. Many thanks to him and Dr. Massey for their ongoing support and partnership.

Alumni in the News

Congratulations to Julius Coles '63, president of Africare and a 1966 graduate of Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. His profile was featured in the graduate school catalog, and he recently received the Wilson Award, presented by the Princeton's Association of Graduate Alumni, to an alumnus or alumna who has had a distinguished career, advanced the cause of graduate education or achieved an outstanding record of public service. Congratulations to Mr. Coles for 40 years of addressing development problems in Africa and Asia!

I am sure that, like me, most of you have been glued to political and news channels to watch the developments in the presidential election. News angles vary, and there are so many journalists weighing in on the much-debated topic of Obama vs. Clinton that it is easy to lose track of who stands where. In light of media hype that exists—in my opinion—for the sake of selling their product, I urge you to resist the temptation to separate from the process. Instead, focus on the salient issues and make well-informed decisions. Finally, recognizing that Morehouse Men are not necessarily of one political mind, I think we can agree that CNN and *Newsweek* chose wisely when featuring the Reverend Otis Moss III '92 of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago; Dr. Raphael Warnock '91 of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta; and the Reverend Anthony Trufant '84 of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Brooklyn to share their messages on this preeminent national matter.

*Life's battles don't always go to the stronger or faster man,
But soon or late the man who wins, is the one who thinks he can.*
Excerpted from "The Man Who Thinks He Can" by Water D. Wintle
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