From its origins in the ashes of the American Civil War, Morehouse College has had an unbroken record of producing outstanding leaders. Educators, ministers, scientists, lawyers, public servants, scholars, a Nobel Laureate, and other distinguished alumni received their baccalaureate education from this school that has, in the words of former Morehouse president Benjamin Elijah Mays, “sent men out into the world with a sense of mission, believing they could accomplish what they set out to do.” From its origins in a Baptist church in Augusta, Georgia, to its current 66-acre campus in Atlanta, Georgia, Morehouse has transformed the lives of its students who have gone on to make an indelible mark on their communities, the nation, and the world.

With the encouragement of The Rev. Richard C. Coulter, a former slave from Augusta, Georgia, and The Rev. Edmund Turney, organizer of the National Theological Institute for educating freedmen, The Rev. William Jefferson White founded Augusta Theological Institute in the basement of Springfield Baptist Church. Called to train teachers and preachers, these pioneering founders set the social and moral tone for future generations. To expand its mission, the school moved to Atlanta, which was becoming one of the most dynamic commercial hubs of the New South. In 1879, Augusta Theological Institute moved to Friendship Baptist Church in Atlanta and changed its name to Atlanta Baptist Seminary. In 1885, the institution relocated to its current site in Atlanta’s West End community. In 1897, Atlanta Baptist Seminary became Atlanta Baptist College, and in 1913 the school was finally renamed to Morehouse College after The Rev. Henry Lyman Morehouse, who coined the term “the Talented Tenth.” This was quite appropriate given the progressive mission that was embraced by the College.

A successive line of distinguished individuals have led the institution. The Rev. Dr. Joseph T. Robert was the school’s first president. An anti-slavery advocate, physician, and minister, Robert led the institution until his death in 1884. The Rev. David Foster Estes served briefly as interim president, and The Rev. Samuel T. Graves held the presidency from 1885 to 1890. He was followed by The Rev. George Sale, who led the school from 1890 to 1906. In 1906, John Hope, a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Brown University and early civil rights leader, became the first African American to lead the school. In 1931, The Rev. Dr. Samuel Archer succeeded him and held the presidency until 1937. He was followed by The Rev. Charles D. Hubert, who served as interim president.

Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays, who graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Bates College and received his doctorate from the University of Chicago, led Morehouse from 1940 to 1967. He was a respected mentor of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who referred to Mays as a “spiritual and intellectual giant.” Dr. Hugh Morris Gloster ’31, a widely recognized literary scholar, held the presidency from 1967 to 1987. Dr. Leroy Keith Jr. ’61, a distinguished university administrator, served as president until 1994. Between 1994 and 1995, Dr. Wiley Abron Perdue ’57 served as interim president. Dr. Walter Eugene Massey ’58, an internationally recognized scientist and an eminent university administrator, carried the College into the 21st century and held the presidency from 1995 until 2007. Following Massey’s administration, The Rev. Dr. Robert Michael Franklin ’75, an esteemed scholar and social ethicist, guided the College as president from 2007 through 2012. Dr. Willis Sheftall ’64 served as interim president until January 28, 2013. On that date, Dr. John Silvanus Wilson Jr. ’79, an accomplished university administrator, professor and former executive director of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, stepped into office.
Under these dedicated leaders, the College has evolved to meet the needs of the day while staying true to its core mission of shaping transformative African American leaders and committed public servants.

Ultimately, the history and vitality of the College can be best measured by the accomplishments of its extraordinary alumni. Morehouse graduates have gained international recognition in all disciplines, including law, business, medicine, the sciences, politics, religion, academia, athletics and the arts and sciences. To date, three Morehouse graduates have received the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship: Nima A. Warfield ’94, Christopher C. Elders ’02 and Oluwabusayo Temitope “Tope” Folarin ’04.

Morehouse alumni include the Emmy award-winning filmmaker Shelton “Spike” Lee ’79; Olympic gold medalist and record-breaking 400-meter hurdler Edwin Moses ’78; and Samuel L. Jackson ’72, the Academy Award nominated actor. Morehouse Men also have distinguished themselves in the area of public service. Howard Thurman ’23 founded one of the nation’s first interracial religious congregations and had a wide influence in the fields of religion and civil rights. Dr. Louis Sullivan ’54 served as Secretary of Health and Human Services in President George H.W. Bush’s cabinet and Jeh Johnson ’79 has been named the fourth Secretary of Homeland Security in the Obama administration. Most recently, Dr. Donald Hopkins ’62 was heralded for his humanitarian efforts to treat and dramatically decrease the worldwide incidence of Guinea worm disease. Emmitt Carson ’81 is the founding CEO of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation and a national thought leader in the field of philanthropy. Perhaps, Morehouse’s most illustrious son is The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. ’48, Nobel laureate and internationally recognized civil and human rights activist.

In turn, a new generation of Morehouse alumni is emerging as recognized leaders in the areas of civic engagement, technological innovation, science and religion/spirituality. William Marcel Hayes’07 is the principal of a recognized K-8 turnaround school in Cleveland who recently graduated from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Mossi Tull’96 is the chief operating officer Jackson and Tull, an engineering and technology company based in Washington, D.C. And Dr. James Pendleton ’05, a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Morehouse College, recently finished an M.D.-Ph.D. program at Johns Hopkins University in cellular and molecular medicine. Also, The Rev. Nicholas Stuart Richards ’09 has been appointed executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board of the National Baptist Convention USA and president of the Abyssinian Fund, a global, faith-based non-governmental organization. These men typify the College’s continued emphasis on academic excellence, responsible citizenship and social transformation.

By providing a sound liberal arts education, meaningful opportunities to lead and serve, support for spiritual development, and exposure to accomplished national and international leaders, Morehouse has transformed the lives of its students and become a college of first choice for African American men. Throughout its history, the College has fulfilled its promise to develop men of distinction and agents of change who have often marched forward into major headwinds.

As the new challenges of the 21st century beckon, we can look at Morehouse’s storied past and its current success and feel confident that the College will produce new generations of Morehouse Men who will assume dynamic leadership positions in their chosen communities and professions.
Program

Presiding
Dr. John Silvanus Wilson Jr. ’79
President

PRE-CEREMONIAL MUSIC
“Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”
Fred Bock

THE CROWNING MOMENT
Dr. Melvin Fowler Foster
Associate Dean, Division of Humanities and Social Sciences, Associate Professor of Music

CALL TO ORDER
Dr. Garikai Campbell
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

**PROCESSIONAL
“War March of the Priests” from Athalia
Felix Mendelssohn

RINGING OF THE BELL
The Reverend Dr. Woodrow Miller Jr.
Founder’s Representative
Pastor, Harmony Baptist Church
Augusta, Georgia

EVOCATION
The Reverend William Vincent Guy ’57
Pastor Emeritus, Friendship Baptist Church
Atlanta, Georgia

*PRESENTATION OF COLORS
“The Star-Spangled Banner”
John Stafford Smith
Reserve Officers’ Training Corps

*HYMN
“Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing”
Text by James Weldon Johnson
Music by J. Rosamond Johnson

GREETINGS
Mr. Robert C. Davidson ’67
Chairman, Morehouse College Board of Trustees
Chairman and CEO, Surface Protection Industries (Retired)
Pasadena, California

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS
Thavon Tyrel Davis ’14, Salutatorian
Evan Littleton Turnage ’14, Valedictorian

VALEDICTORY
Mr. Evan Littleton Turnage ’14

*ANTHEM
“Ascribe to the Lord”
Rosephanye Powell
arr. William Powell

CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREE
Doctor of Laws
Mr. Jeh Charles Johnson ’79

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS
Mr. Jeh Charles Johnson ’79
Fourth Secretary of Homeland Security

SPIRITUAL
“My Good Lord’s Done Been Here”
Stacey Gibbs
CONFERRING OF BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

President Wilson
Provost Campbell
Dr. Clarissa Myrick-Harris
Dean, Division of Humanities and Social Sciences
Dr. Cheryl Allen
Interim Dean, Division of Business Administration and Economics
Dr. J.K. Haynes ’64
Dean, Division of Science and Mathematics
Dr. Uzee Brown ’72
Chairman and Professor, Department of Music

COMMISSIONING OF R.O.T.C. OFFICERS

Captain Mario Mifsud
Commanding Officer, Atlanta Region NROTC
Atlanta, Georgia

INDUCTION INTO NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Mr. Kevin R. McGee ’93
President, Morehouse College National Alumni Association

CHORUS

“Prayer” from Lohengrin
Richard Wagner
(Former Morehouse College Glee Club members are invited to the stage.)
arr. George Mead

CHARGE TO THE GRADUATES

President Wilson

*COLLEGE HYMN

“Dear Old Morehouse”
J.O.B. Moseley ’29

BENEDICTION

The Reverend Dr. Lawrence Edward Carter Sr.
Dean, Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel

SPIRITUAL

“Fare Ye Well”
arr. Wendell P. Whalum ’52
Led by Rodney Davis ’14

**RECESSIONAL

“Pomp and Circumstance, Military March No.1”
Sir Edward Elgar
Dr. David Edward Morrow ’80
Professor and Director of the Morehouse College Glee Club
Dr. David Francis Oliver
College Organist

CEREMONIAL MARSHALS

Dr. Tobe Johnson Jr. ’54
CHIEF CEREMONIAL MARSHAL
Dr. Lance Shipman Young ’95
MACEBEARER

MARSHALS OF THE FACULTY

Dr. Leah Creque, Dr. Melvin Rahming,
Dr. Belinda Johnson White

MARSHALS OF THE PLATFORM PARTY

Dr. Uzee Brown Jr. ’72, Dr. David Cooke,
Dr. Duane Jackson ’74, Dr. Claude Hutto ’94

MARSHALS OF THE STUDENTS

Mr. Alvin Darden ’72, Dr. Andrew Douglas,
Dr. Keith Hollingsworth, Dr. Keith Howard,
Dr. Elania Jemison Hudson, Dr. Justin Kakeu,
Dr. Barry Lee, Dr. Alison Ligon, Dr. Bryant Marks ’94,
Mrs. Teloca Murdock-Sistrunk, Dr. Willie Rockward

MARSHAL OF THE ALUMNI CLASSES

Mr. Henry M. Goodgame Jr. ’84

*Those who are able are requested to stand and join in singing.
**The audience is requested to remain seated during the processional and recessional.
Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing

Lift ev’ry voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
    Ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening 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 chastening 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 has 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.

Dear Old Morehouse

Dear old Morehouse, dear old Morehouse
We have pledged our lives to thee;
    And we’ll ever, yea forever,
Give ourselves in loyalty.

    True forever, true forever
To old Morehouse may we be;
    So to bind each son the other
Into ties more brotherly.

    Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit
Make us steadfast, honest, true
To old Morehouse and her ideals
And in all things that we do.
The history of traditional academic dress may be traced to the 12th century when Oxford University was founded and to the medieval European universities of the 14th century. Although European universities follow varied patterns in cut and color of gown and type of headdress, academic dress at American colleges and universities is fairly standardized. Since the mid 1960s, it has become popular for some in historically African American colleges and universities to wear kente cloth chevrons, panels, hoods and tam trim on presidential, faculty and student regalia.

The traditional academic gown is usually black; the pattern varies with the degrees held. The bachelor’s gown has a simple design, with long, pointed sleeves as its distinguishing mark. The master’s gown has oblong sleeves with the rear cut square and the front featuring a cutaway arc.

The most elaborate academic costume is the doctoral gown, with velvet panels down the front and three velvet bars across the sleeves. The velvet is usually black, but it may be a color designating the discipline to which the degree pertains.

The hood of the doctoral gown features velvet trimmings, the width of which designates the level of the degree. The color of the hood indicates the major field of study, and its lining identifies the institution that granted the degree. Morehouse’s doctoral gown is maroon with a maroon and white hood lining and white chevrons and panels.

The following colors are associated with the various academic disciplines:

- Agriculture—Maize
- Arts, Letters, Humanities—White
- Commerce, Accountancy, Business—Drab
- Dentistry—Lilac
- Economics—Copper
- Education—Light Blue
- Engineering—Orange
- Fine Arts, including Architecture—Brown
- Forestry—Russet
- Journalism—Crimson
- Law—Purple
- Library Science—Lemon
- Mathematics—Science Gold
- Medicine—Green
- Music—Pink
- Nursing—Apricot
- Optometry—Sea Foam Green
- Oratory—Silver Gray
- Pharmacy—Olive Green
- Philosophy—Dark Blue
- Physical Education—Sage Green
- Podiatry, Chiropody—Nile Green
- Public Administration, including Foreign Service—Peacock Blue
- Public Health—Salmon Pink
- Science—Golden Yellow
- Social Science—Cream
- Social Work—Citron
- Theology—Scarlet
- Veterinary Science—Gray
Jeh Charles Johnson is a proud graduate of Morehouse College.
He is a member of the class of 1979, which includes Martin Luther
King III, Spike Lee, former Deputy Secretary of Commerce Robert
Mallett, and the new president of Morehouse, John Silvanus Wilson
Jr. Following Morehouse, Secretary Johnson received his law degree from
Columbia University in 1982. From there, Johnson embarked on a career
that has combined successful private law practice and distinguished public
service, culminating in his most recent appointment by President
Barack Obama to be Secretary of Homeland Security.

In private law practice, Johnson
has been an associate and then the first African American
partner at the New York City-based law firm Paul, Weiss,
Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, LLP. In private law practice,
Johnson was a litigator who tried some of the highest stakes
corporate cases in modern times. For this, Johnson was
elected to the prestigious American College of Trial Lawyers
in 2004.

Secretary Johnson has interrupted his private law
practice to serve in public office four separate times, including
three Senate-confirmed presidential appointments in the
Clinton and Obama administrations. From January 1989
to December 1991, Johnson was an Assistant United States
Attorney in the Southern District of New York. In three
years as a federal prosecutor, he tried 12 cases and argued 11
appeals.

In October 1998, Johnson was appointed General
Counsel of the Department of the Air Force by President
Clinton. He served in that position for 27 months, until the
end of the Clinton administration, and then returned to
private law practice.

In late 2006, Johnson was recruited by then-Senator
Barack Obama to support the presidential campaign he was
about to launch. Johnson readily agreed, and over the next
two years performed a variety of different volunteer roles for
the Obama campaign, ranging from national security law
advice to canvassing door to door in Des Moines, Iowa, and
to serving as a delegate to the 2008 Democratic Convention.

Following the 2008 election, Johnson served on President-elect
Obama’s transition team and then joined his administration as General
Counsel of the Department of Defense. Johnson was appointed to
that position on February 10, 2009,
and was one of the first Senate-
confirmed appointees of the new administration.

As General Counsel of DoD,
Johnson was the senior lawyer for the
largest department of government
in the world, overseeing the legal
work of more than 10,000 military
and civilian lawyers. While in this
position during President Obama’s
first term, Johnson is credited with
spearheading reforms to the military
commissions system at Guantanamo Bay, co-authoring the
DoD report that paved the way for the repeal of Don’t Ask,
Don’t Tell, and for serving as one of the legal architects of
the Obama administration’s approach to counterterrorism.
In November 2012, just before leaving office, Johnson
gave a speech at the famous Oxford Union in England titled “The
conflict against al Qaeda and its affiliates: how will it end?”
The speech received wide national and international press
attention and much editorial acclaim.

Johnson left the Obama administration at the end of
2012 and returned to private law practice.

In October 2013, President Obama nominated Johnson
to be Secretary of Homeland Security, and he was confirmed
for the position by the Senate two months later by a vote of
78-16.

As Secretary of Homeland Security, Johnson is the leader
of the third largest department of the U.S. government,
which includes about 250,000 personnel. His wide homeland
security responsibilities include counterterrorism, border
and port security, enforcement and administration of the
nation’s immigration laws, cybersecurity, responding to
natural disasters, the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Secret
Service.

Secretary Johnson is married with two children. His
permanent home is in Montclair, New Jersey. He is the
grandson of the late Charles S. Johnson, the famed sociologist
and former president of Fisk University.
Note: If the College does not receive a minimum of 250 DVD orders, all monies received for orders will be refunded. You will be notified if a refund will be issued.

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