Music Academic Building Renamed
Aretha Robinson Hall For Ray Charles’ Mother

BY ADD SEYMOUR JR.

B    efore legendary singer Ray Charles died, he wanted to make sure there was a lasting tribute for the person who influenced him the most, his mother, Aretha Robinson.

Charles, who professionally dropped his last name to differentiate himself from boxer “Sugar” Ray Robinson, has gotten his wish.

During a ceremony on Dec. 3, the educational portion of the Ray Charles Performing Arts Center was named the Aretha Robinson Hall.

“It’s been a long time coming,” said Valerie Ervin, president of the Ray Charles Foundation and a member of the Morehouse College Board of Trustees. “I know wherever [Ray Charles] is, he is looking and he is proud. I thank you from the bottom of my heart, on behalf of Joe Adams, to know that this has been fulfilled.”

The Music Department is located in the building, which houses 12 faculty studios, two electronic classrooms, nine practice rooms,onga area for instruments, a library for sheet music and three academic laboratories. One of those is the David Geffen Keyboard Digital Music Laboratory. There are also two rehearsal rooms, one each for the Morehouse College Marching Band and the Morehouse College Glee Club, which also accommodate small performances.

And it’s part of a building, affectionately known as “RAYPAC,” that was recognized last summer by The American Institute of Architects of Atlanta as one of Atlanta’s Top Architectural Buildings.

“I know how I felt when I was a student, and every time I stepped into to King Chapel, I knew I was stepping in a place named after a man who went to the heights in how he managed his life,” said President John Silvano Wilson Jr. ’79. “And now we have another building, with the names Ray Charles and Aretha Robinson on them, and every time we step into this building, we can think of the greatness that is possible for our own kids. And we thank you, thank you, thank you for that privilege.”

The ceremony was followed by a Music Department concert featuring faculty and some of the students who Provost Gustai Campbell said would be served in the Aretha Robinson Hall.

“Certainly, Aretha Robinson, a hardworking and proud single mother, never imagined that she would not only be a supporter and champion for her son Ray, but an inspiration to future generations of countless, young Morehouse scholars and music pioneers,” he said.

A $5-Million Woodruff Foundation Gift
Starts Chapel Renovation Campaign

BY ADD SEYMOUR JR.

THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. International Chapel is about to get some needed upgrades for the first time in its 35-year history.

The Woodruff Foundation is giving the College $5 million to spruce up the Chapel and kick-start an $8 million campaign to improve the facility.

“The president of the Foundation met with us when President Wilson got here,” said Phillip Howard ’87, executive director of Innovation and Technology Transfer. “The question of the Chapel came up and they said, ‘If you guys are ready to talk about the Chapel, we are. It’s an important building for Morehouse and the city of Atlanta. We want to talk about how we might want to help you guys invest in its renovation.’

That renovation will involve mostly infrastructure work, such as replacing the aging 2,501 seats, fixing cracks that have formed in the floor, replacing the acoustic shell on the stage and upgrading audio/visual equipment in the facility which opened in 1978. An internal committee has been formed that will run the campaign.

Plans to begin work on the facility in 2015.

‘It’s the only building that every graduate since 1978 has been in,’” Howard said. “So it’s the alumni classroom. And so, in that sense, we are really excited about the campaign because everybody should be able to relate to what we’re trying to do with the Chapel.”

A Pathway Forward Brings Shared Governance and News Ideas

BY ADD SEYMOUR JR.

A PATHWAY FORWARD Brings Shared Governance and News Ideas

AT TIMES, Ardis Blanchard has been like many Morehouse employees who have had great ideas, but weren’t able to see them become real because of all the pending things during a regular day.

One of her ideas was a way to give alumni an opportunity to more easily give to the College, not only their money, but also their expertise.

“The donors want to give back in ways that they are really passionate about,” said Blanchard, manager of Major Giving Programs.

Through the College’s new initiative, “A Pathway Forward,” Blanchard has gotten the time to put together what is now called M-PAC – Morehouse Professionals Answering the Call. The new initiative gave her the time, guidance and help to make the idea a reality.

“I think it’s great,” Blanchard said.

“It goes people an opportunity to interact with senior management and share ideas. It actually gets some of your ideas on the table.”

That’s exactly what Karen Miller, chief of staff, and Terance Dixon, associate vice president for Enrollment Management, had in mind when they put together “A Pathway Forward.”

Miller said the initiative is a framework for shared governance, giving faculty and staff an opportunity to participate in decision-making, the things the College will focus on and how those goals are achieved. The first group of participants have been meeting for several months, while a new class will be chosen in the coming months.

“It’s about pushing some of the authority and empowerment out and for people to resolve problems and issues down to the level where people are feeling and dealing with those issues,” she said.

Invitations were sent out to 20 to 25 people who meet for an hour before work once a week. Each person comes up with two ideas, one that directly has something to do with their area and another that is more community-based, that solve some kind of work-related issue.

With some coaching, those ideas become projects with teams formed to work on them. But they are projects that are to be finished within 30 days.

“Some pretty broad themes emerged,” Miller said. “Student success emerged, as did wellness. Some projects continued on page 4
A little more than four months after he was released from a small prison cell on South Africa’s Robben Island, Polenkor Prison and Victor Verster Prison, Nelson Mandela spoke from the stage of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel in June 1990. Among the 37 honorary degrees Mandela received that day was an honorary doctor of humane letters from Morehouse College. After that, he delivered an address thanking historically black colleges and the African American community for their support in his lifelong fight against apartheid. Here are excerpts from that speech and thoughts from someone who was in King Chapel that day and from a Morehouse student who lives in South Africa today.

Our release from jail and the unbending of the ANC (African National Congress) is the result of the sacrifices and courageous campaigns of our people. But it is also your active engagement in the struggle against apartheid that has brought us to this moment. It is fitting that you have decided to honor us here in this fashion at a public gathering here in Atlanta. This gathering is a further demonstration of your complete support for the cause of liberation and peace for all people of South Africa. It exemplifies the spirit of unity in action, which has propelled our movement. It is an explicit statement of identification with our cause that so many historically black colleges joined in this motherless effort.”

“He was amazingly humble, very personable when he greeted us, three of us on the platform that day, the 27th of June 1990. He looked at each one of us in the eye and he paused, and shook each of our hands. We were lined up at a sidewalk outside of King Chapel as the limousine and great motorcycles escort brought him down Welburn Street on our campus.”

“We know that you too have followed the path of the lives and careers of our people and take pride in the achievements of our great men and women. Our president oliver tumball has told us how Atlanta has embraced him and received him as a son. You have also taken into your hearts many of our writers, scholars and others who have had occasion to be among you on occasion. I would like to say that the achievement of a united, non racial, non sexist and democratic South Africa, freedoms come only through persistent revolt, through persistent agitation, through persistent rising against the system of evil.”

“I moved to South Africa in 1991 from Yugoslavia, which was going through genocide at the time. So my parents moved from a country that was having ethnic conflicts to a country that was celebrating diversity and embracing togetherness. I think Mandela, or President Mandela, was really able to unify the country. And going forward I was born into a transformed South Africa with equal opportunity across my generation. So I never really got a sense of apartheid, but more so the joys of having Mandela lead the country into a brighter future. I think Mandela’s legacy promotes that and I look forward to living up to that legacy.”

-Boris Dobrinovic, senior from Johannesburg, South Africa

The Bodies That We Have

**“The Spirit of Unity in Action”**

Brothers and sisters… we must stress how much we are moved by your solidarity. We celebrate with you that we can say with confidence our struggle has not been in vain. We are certain that we will harvest together the fruit of freedom, watered by the blood of our fallen heroes. Amandla!”

-Nelson Mandela

**Bodies**

What?

I understand how that question might have come to mind as anybody read “The Body Issue” of The Maroon Tiger that was published on October 31.

It wasn’t the usual assortment of news, entertainment and sports articles about the Morehouse College and the rest of the Atlanta University Center. Instead, the entire 12-page edition was devoted to different perspectives on body image issues that confront students, while tastefully nude photos of students who volunteered to be models accompanied most of the articles.

As the newspaper’s adviser, I, too, asked “Why?” when Editor-in-Chief Darren Martin and Managing Editor Jared Luggins told me that they were planning “The Body Issue.” They explained that it was to be The Maroon Tiger’s response to ESPN’s annual “The Body Issue” that features discrete nude photos of finely chiseled elite athletes, deeming them “The Bodies That We Want.” Instead, The Maroon Tiger wanted to celebrate “The Bodies That We Have” regardless of size, shape, skin tone or the physical or verbal abuse they may have suffered. Moreover, the newspaper staff wanted to unveil mental health issues that arise among AUSC students who futilely compare themselves to society’s ideals of physical perfection and beauty, or who go overboard in trying to match those ideals.

The desire to challenge them convinced more than 30 Morehouse and Spelman students to voluntarily pose made for photos taken by former Chief Layout Editor Ahmad Barber ’13. Many of the models also told their personal accounts of how they have struggled with body image issues, or had those issues thrust upon them by abuse or critical comments from others.

The edition turned out to be informative, controversial, unconventional, and eye-catching, which is why it received required staunch support from administrators whom the editors and I consulted with, or who brought possible problems to our attention. Those administrators included Kevin Booker ’93, Henry Goodgame ’84, Renardo Hall, Gary Wright, Toni O’Neal Mosley and Add Seymour Jr. from the Office of Communications, and Humanities and Social Sciences Dean Clarissa Myrick-Harris. Everyone’s efforts were rewarded after the edition was published on paper and online. It quickly became the talk of the Twitter world, front-page news on Ebony.com, merited mention in Richard Prince’s “Journal-isms” column about minority journalists, and was the subject of a feature segment on the cable network Al Jazeera America. The story from Yugoslavia, which has been read and hoarded nationwide, and the process involved in it exemplified the value of collaboration within the Morehouse College community. When we stand together, no one stands taller.

Ron Thomas is the director of the Journalism and Sports Program and adviser for The Maroon Tiger.
Andre Bertrand ’76, vice president for Campus Operations, was included in a District Energy magazine story about campus energy systems in Atlanta and the steam system being shared by Morehouse, Spelman and Clark Atlanta.

Lawrence E. Carter Sr., dean of the Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel, was the guest speaker at the Atlanta Unity Church on Nov. 17, where he delivered an address titled, “The Unrequired Wondrous Spirit of Madiba and the Difficult Legacy Continues in South Africa,” saying that “the story of apartheid’s end is far from written.”

Vicki Crawford, director of the Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection, wrote an article titled “Learning a Legacy: Students at Morehouse College Commemorate Their Most Famous Alumnus” for the February 2014 issue of USAirways Magazine. Crawford wrote that the Collection “greatly enhances the liberal arts context for teaching, research and further study of King’s life.”

Thavon T. Davis, a senior business accounting major from Nassau City, New Providence in the Bahamas, was a finalist for the Rhodes Scholarship.


Stephanie Dunn, co-chair of the Cinema, Television and Emerging Media Studies Program, wrote a review of the movie “Mandela: A Long Walk to Freedom,” in her blog, NeedBlackMen (in Exile). She concludes the entry—which is titled “Mandela, Peace at Last”—by saying that “the story of apartheid’s difficult legacy continues in South Africa, but Mandela: A Long Walk to Freedom effectively invokes the wondrous spirit of Maliba and the resilience and collective movement of his people and his country.”

Carol Eppy-Wilson, first lady of the College, showcased her company, OmniSpeech, at The International Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas in January 2014. OmniSpeech produces software that, when embedded in microphones, suppresses noise and enhances speech and sound quality. Eppy-Wilson, who is a professor of electrical engineering at the University of Maryland, demonstrated the technology at CES by making an Internet-based voice call and off so listeners could hear the difference in sound quality. The company hopes to embed the technology in hearing aids.


Rubina Malik, instructor and director of the Executive Membership Program, has been nominated for the Phenomenal Women Award presented by Kennesaw State University’s (KSU) IGER Institute. The award will be given during the 14th Annual Phenomenal Women’s Conference at Kennesaw State on March 21.

Juan Mendenhall, assistant professor of chemistry, gave a presentation titled “Promising Therapeutics: Temperature-Responsive Biomaterials for Healing Articular Cartilage” during the 11th Annual Congress of International Drug Discovery, Science and Technology, Therapy and Hope in Hakosu, China, Nov. 13-23. She also presented two papers at the Materials Research Society meeting in San Francisco: “High Affinity Membranes for Subterranean Termites and Insecticidal Hydrogels for Cartilage Tissue Engineering.”

David Wall Rice ’96, director of the Department of Psychology, was part of a panel discussion on “Hi-Hop in the Classroom” during the Sexuality and Hip-Hop Conference at Tulane University, Dec. 5-6, in New Orleans.

Grady Brewer ’80 Wins His 200th Game as Morehouse Basketball Coach

MOREHOUSE ‘HEAD basketball coach Grady Brewer ’80 reached a career milestone on Nov. 18 with his 200th career win when the Maroon Tigers defeated Oakwood University 75-37. Brewer is in his 14th season as head coach after spending 13 years as an assistant to the all-time leader in basketball victories at Morehouse, Arthur McAfee. Brewer also played four years for the Maroon Tigers as a student.

Senegal President Appoints Julius Coles ’64 to Post

JULIUS COLES ’64, interim director of the Andrew Young Center for Global Leadership, has been appointed Honorary Consul for Senegal to the Southeast U.S. by President Macky Sall of Senegal. Coles previously served in this capacity from 1998 to 2002. The appointment, based in Atlanta, reestablishes the Consulate of Senegal at Morehouse College since the tenure of the first Honorary Consul for Senegal was Edward A. Jones, former chairman of the Foreign Language Department, who was appointed to the position in 1961 at the time of the independence of Senegal.

**NEW HIRES**

- John P. Brown, associate vice president for Academic Development and Fund Raising and interim vice president of Institutional Advancement
- Janice R. Cooper, Davidson House coordinator and fundraising specialist, Davidson House
- Frederick L. Eddy, recruiter, Admissions and Recruitment
- Regina Moffett, LPH, Student Health Services
- Ethel C. Pollard, research technician/program manager, Division of Science and Mathematics
- Sheryl T. Spivey, director, Financial Aid
- Kyndra Stovall, core laboratory manager, Biology
Ratanjit Sondhe Talks About Stress-Free Living During Leadership Lecture Series

BY ADD SEYMOUR JR.

INTERNATIONALLY renowned writer, author and speaker Ratanjit Sondhe brings his message of thriving, yet living stress-free, to Morehouse on Jan. 21 at 11 a.m. when he gives a Leadership Lecture Series address in the Shirley A. Massey Executive Conference Center.

Sondhe is the founder, chairman and CEO of POLY-CARR, a global multi-million dollar construction and road building materials. He also was a uniquely-qualified writer because of his own handwritten words and directly from his daughter, Bernice.

It all helps students to connect to King’s legacy, said Vicki Crawford, executive director of the Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection.

“For example, through the Bonner Office of Community Service, students will go out into the community and volunteer at sites around Atlanta by helping the homeless, doing landscaping and numerous other activities. They will be part of the Jan. 17 discussion, “Choose Nonviolence: Public Policy and Personal Responsibility” with other college students from around the country. Also speaking will be King’s daughter, the Rev. Bernice King, chair and CEO of The King Center.

And they will explore King’s 1964 Nobel Peace Prize speech, delivered 50 years ago in Oslo, Norway.

“Dr. King continues to provide a moral, spiritual and intellectual compass for our campus and the world,” Crawford said. “Because of the pivotal role that Morehouse College played in King’s development, our annual commemoration of his life has special significance. It provides a time for the College community to reflect upon King’s teachings and to reaffirm our mission, vision and values.”

Pathway Forward solves an even bigger issue campus-wide by giving faculty staff a bigger voice in determining the future of the College.

“There’s a lot of home-work and different readings, but they all are very helpful for what it takes to be a good leader and gives us all a chance to help move the College forward in the most productive and efficient ways,” Blanchard said.

THE 15-YEAR-OLD who enrolled at Morehouse College in the fall of 1944 had planned on becoming a doctor. What he became was a global icon for civil and human-rights.

The life of Martin Luther King Jr., ‘48, who would have turned 85, will be remembered throughout January through song, on stage, from his own handwritten words and directly from his daughter, Bernice. It also helps students to connect to King’s legacy, said Vicki Crawford, executive director of the Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection.

“We place significant strategic value on the growth and development of future leaders,” Blanchard’s idea deals with alumni engagement and stewsiphip and gets them involved in areas where they have a true interest. But she believes A Pathway Forward solves an even bigger issue campus-wide by giving faculty staff a bigger voice in determining the future of the College.

Pathway Forward (continued from the cover)

emerged around branding and we publicize and talk about the good that we do. These folks have taken on some pretty big issues. Our project deals with expanding health and fitness options on campus. Another brings everyone together for a casual lunch with entertainment provided by members of the campus community.

Blanchard’s idea deals with alumni engagement and stewsiphip and gets them involved in areas where they have a true interest. But she believes A Pathway Forward solves an even bigger issue campus-wide by giving faculty staff a bigger voice in determining the future of the College.

“There’s a lot of home-work and different readings, but they all are very helpful for what it takes to be a good leader and gives us all a chance to help move the College forward in the most productive and efficient ways,” Blanchard said.

Morehouse Celebrates the Legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. ’48

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

Martin Luther King Jr. Crown Forum

Speaker: Admi Khamaise, chairman/CEO, Tariq Khamaise Foundation

Location: Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

“Choose Nonviolence: Public Policy and Personal Responsibility”

College students from around the country will engage in a panel discussion on the compelling, nonviolence in their communities and what they can do to make a difference.

Speaker: The Rev. Bernice King, chair, Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel

Location: Emma and Joe Adams Concert Hall, Flag Charles Performing Arts Center

Contact: Roshunda Silas at (404) 526-8910 or at kho@morehouse.edu

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

Community-Wide Multi-Faith Vespers Service and Candlelight Vigil

The Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel in partnership with the Faith Alliance of Metropolitan Atlanta, the Interfaith Youth Core and a coalition of diverse faith communities present a multi-faith vespers service following the theme “Compassion in a Multi-Faith World.” A candlelight vigil, led by the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel Assistants, will be held on the King Chapel plaza immediately afterwards.

Location: Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel

Contact: The Rev. Terry Walker at (404) 215-6176 or at terrywalker@morehouse.edu

MONDAY, JANUARY 20

Bonner Office of Community Service’s Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

Students participate in community service projects at sites around town. Afterwards, students and mentors will take part in a discussion sponsored by the Bonner Office of Community Service, the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel and the Interfaith Youth Core.

Contact: Myriah Whitney at (404) 681-7550 or at myriah.whitney@morehouse.edu

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28

Introduction to the Martin Luther King Jr. Collection and Viewing of Documents

Join the director and the archival staff for an overview of the Martin Luther King Jr. Collection and viewing of selected documents.

Contact: Kevin Crawford at (404) 681-7550 or at kcrawford@morehouse.edu

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29

King Lecture and Conversation Series

Speaker: The Rev. Rafael Warnock ’91, pastor, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA

Location: Bank of America Auditorium, Shirley A. Massey Executive Conference Center

Contact: Kevin Crawford at (404) 681-7550 or at kcrawford@morehouse.edu

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

Morehouse College Literary Salon and King Legacy Scholars

Speaker: Ambassador Andrew Young

Discussion of Young’s autobiography, An Easy Burden: The Civil Rights Movement and the Transformation of America

Location: Shirley A. Massey Executive Conference Center

Contact: Maurice Washington at (404) 653-7897 or at maurice.washington@morehouse.edu

Contact: Kevin Booker at (404) 653-7993 or at kevin.booker@morehouse.edu
3M Partners With Morehouse To Develop Sales Minor

By ADD SEYMOUR JR.

MOREHOUSE HAS BECOME one of only four historically black colleges and universities to be part of 3M Company’s Front Line Sales Program, an initiative to boost college students’ knowledge of sales as a profession.

3M officials presented Morehouse with a check for $93,000, which will be used to develop a minor in sales within the Division of Business Administration and Economics’ marketing department.

“Morehouse is about creating leaders,” said 3M’s vice president of Lean Six Sigma Operations Fremote Hamilton ’91, who also said Morehouse helped him to build the confidence for his success in sales. “3M is interested in attracting leaders. We are really honored to partner with Morehouse in this sales initiative because, for us, it’s really about creating a pipeline of top talent. And we want to win at business, and if you want to win at business, you need to have great leaders. So that’s why we chose Morehouse.”

Twelve institutions are part of the Front Line Sales Program, which was designed to increase the amount of sales education content at universities with the goal of elevating sales as a discipline and a profession. By collaborating with universities and faculty, as well as aligning 3M sales leaders and resources, 3M has had a hand in helping a number of universities develop their professional sales programs.

3M’s Dedrick Rodgers ’96 and Eric McMillian will spend a lot of time on campus working directly with students and helping associate professor and Marketing Program director Cassandra Wells to put together the interdisciplinary, 18-hour sales minor.

Courses in the minor will be offered in fall 2014.

“I’m very excited,” said Wells, who will oversee the sales minor. “When I came to Morehouse, one of the things I was hoping we could do is increase the opportunity in sales for our students. I’m just excited that I’ll be able to expose the students to that.”

Morehouse College Marching Band

Steps into Honda Battle of the Bands

SOME OF THE nation’s top bands from historically black colleges and universities will strut their stuff in the Honda Battle of the Bands in January. For the first time, the Morehouse College Marching Band will be one of them.

The Morehouse band, led by director Blake Gaines, will be one of eight marching at the Georgia Dome on January 25, 2014. The band was chosen in the category of bands with 128 instruments or less, along with “The Red Sea of Sound” from Winston-Salem State University.

Other bands marching that day come from Alabama A&M, Arkansas-Pine Bluff, Alabama State, Bethune-Cookman, North Carolina A&T and South Carolina State.

For information on the Honda Battle of the Bands and tickets, go to http://www.hondabattleofthebands.com.
Students Connect With Homeless During “It’s On the House”

Sophomore Malik Nickerson was walking along a downtown street recently when a homeless man came up to him. Instead of getting scared or expecting to hear a plea for money, Nickerson smiled as the man said, “Hey, man! How are you? What’s going on?”

“I recognized him and he recognized me as someone I served at ‘It’s On the House’ last year,” said Nickerson, a political science major.

“That’s exactly the kind of connection Nickerson and his co-directors of this year’s ‘It’s On the House’ (sophomore Emmanuel Russell and freshman Gregory Barber) hope the annual event continues to make between the Morehouse community and the homeless and those who are struggling in life.

“That’s the mission of the event — to make them understand that we aren’t different and we aren’t better than they are,” he said. “I came to realize that last year, even more so about school. It’s open to any son that is in need of any basic clothing and a traditional Thanksgiving meal in Archer Hall.

“Denarius brought us on board last year, taught us the ropes and then passed it down to us as he graduated,” Nickerson said.

“Being able to come in and be part of a phenomenal event where we sort of look past, it’s a great feeling,” Barber added.

On Nov. 20, 2013, more than 250 men, women and children turned out for free haircuts, personal hygiene packets, clothing and a traditional Thanksgiving meal in Archer Hall.

A DJ played old school &B and new dance cuts as approximately 100 student and community volunteers served food and greeted people. There were lots of hugs and plenty of conversation between the students and those who came.

“Students doing this, I think it’s great,” said Eric Ford, a New York City native who has been living around the AUC area for seven years.

“I should be helping them, but here they are helping me,” he said. “When they do things like this, it’s important to people here. It’s a compliment to the students and the school. It’s the most beautiful thing to me.”

Parents’ Council’s Renaissance Room Offers Free Clothing

BY ADD SEYMON JR.

AT THE END of each school year when Felicia Jackson has picked up her son, Jamel, from campus, she noticed piles of clothing, much of it never worn, left behind as trash by other students.

“Going by the old adage that “one man’s trash is another man’s treasure,” she talked with other members of the Morehouse College Parents Council and they came up with a way to help other sons of the College.

They have put together the “Renaissance Room,” a small area underneath the stands of Franklin L. Forbes Arena that now has aisles of suits, shirts, slacks, jeans, hats, shoes and toiletries.

“It’s open to any son that is in need of any basic apparel, from head to toe,” said Jackson, the Region 1 representative for the Parents Council and president of the Morehouse College Parents Association of Georgia and Alabama.

“They can come here and get whatever they need, at no charge,” she said. “And they leave here with dignity and respect. There is no need for any son here to need and not have, even if it’s at the last minute. They can always come to the Renaissance Room.”

The items are donated, much of it new. Donations have come from faculty, administrators, staff and students.

The Room is open from noon to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and is staffed by parent volunteers. A seamstress is available on Tuesdays to make sure the men of Morehouse who come by can get a perfect fit.

“This is pretty neat,” said Ronald Comeaux, a freshman biology major from Donaldsonville, La., who was looking through the rows of jeans. “There may be many students who might not be able to afford things, so this is a really nice thing. I think it will be appreciated by Morehouse students.”

Facebook Post Leads to a Student Meeting Vice President Joe Biden

By Add Seymour Jr.

Senior Otha Thornton III had no idea a Facebook post in early November 2013 would lead to meeting Vice President Joseph Biden. A family friend posted that he was looking for drivers in Atlanta.

“He said, ‘You have to have a driver’s license and look good in a suit,’” Thornton said. “‘You qualify on both, so I’ll have someone email you.’”

Drivers were needed for Biden’s motorcade during his Nov. 14 Atlanta visit. Thornton, son of National PTA President Ottha Thornton Jr. ’99, ended up driving members of Biden’s staff and some Secret Service personnel.

Biden drove in 250 new U.S. citizens at the King Center and participated in a few other activities around town. He also took time to meet the drivers.

“He was like, ‘Hey, what’s your name?’”, Thornton said of meeting Biden. “He asked where I was from and asked me about school. It was probably the most fun I’ve had in my life.”
BENEDICT VARSITY BASKETBALL

Morehouse Hoops
Brewer Believes Basketball Tigers Could Be “Really Good” This Season

By Add Seymour Jr.

THIS TIME LAST SEASON, Grady Brewer ’80 went into the 2012–2013 feeling optimistic about the resurgence of Morehouse basketball. His Maroon Tigers finished the season 20-8, were the Co-SIAC Eastern Division champions and fell one victory short of winning the SIAC championship.

Even though he has lost two vital cogs from that team in Shawn Allen and Andrae Nelson ’13, Brewer has that same early-season feeling again.

“I feel just as good about this team at this time as I felt last year,” he said. “I think we can be pretty good. We’ve got a lot of new people, but I think once we get to know each other, we can be really good.”

It all hinges on defense, Brewer said. He is looking for a team that will rebound and play hard defense while the team’s top returning scorer, Darrius Williams, returns to the team in January.

Williams, a senior who was an All-SIAC football player two years ago, only had one semester of eligibility left. But the preseason All-SIAC player brings leadership and offensive explosion.

Austin Anderson, also a preseason All-Conference pick, averaged nearly 30 points a game last season and led the team in three-point shooting.

Redshirt junior Corner Nesbitt, the team’s captain, returns to the team this year and brings maturity and an inside presence.

“I think the personality of this team is that defense will create offense,” Brewer said. “Right now we are not a team that is going to score a lot of points. But I think the more we buy into defending, the better off offensively we are going to be because we are going to create on that end.

“But the guys hang their hat on defense,” he added. “That’s the beauty of this team. They take a lot of pride in stopping their opponent.”

The most important aspect of this team are the memories from losing a close championship game to Benedict last season in Forbes Arena. The team has had all summer to think about that heartbreaking loss and narrowly missing out on a chance to make the NCAA Division II Basketball Tournament.

“You hear people say sometimes you have to lose to win,” Brewer said. “I believe that’s what had to happen for us to get better. To feel the pain of losing a championship game in your own building, it hurts. So I think you bring this with you over the summer and into the season, and I think that’s going to help us, the guys who are with us to remind these other guys that they don’t want to feel that way again in the end.”

FOOTBALL
Five Maroon Tigers Named to All-SIAC Football Squad

By Add Seymour Jr.

FIVE MAROON TIGERS football players were named to the 2013 Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference All-Conference team.

Senior kick retarter Thomas Williams, a business administration major from Knightdale, N.C., was named to the All-SIAC first team squad. Williams was the SIAC’s fourth leading kick retarter, seventh leading scorer (he had eight touchdowns) and averaged 20.8 yards per return. He led the Maroon Tigers in touchdowns and scoring and was the team’s second leading rusher.

Junior offensive lineman Richard Washington, junior kicker Hector Solis and freshman defensive back Joshua Anderson were named to the second team. At 6’9” and 380 pounds, Washington, a computer science major from Detroit, Mich., was one of the most dominant linemen in the SIAC this season. Solis, from Costa Mesa, Ca., missed only one field goal all season and was the SIAC’s sixth highest scoring kicker. Anderson, from Summerhill, Ga., had three interceptions and excelled at defending passes this season.

Quarterback Joshua Harris was an All-SIAC Academic Team pick. Harris, a junior political science major from Detroit, Mich., has a 3.85 grade point average. He played in eight games and passed for 482 yards and three touchdowns.

CROSS COUNTRY
Maroon Tigers Wins Fifth Consecutive SIAC Title

By Add Seymour Jr.

WINNING the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference title was the main goal this year for the Morehouse Cross Country team. Mission accomplished.

The Maroon Tigers won their fifth consecutive SIAC title, with four out of five Morehouse runners finishing in the top ten of the SIAC Centennial Cross Country Meet in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Chris Wilder, Nicholas Hall and Kasahun Neselu finished second, third and fourth and Gerald Jones sixth to lead the team to their 17th conference championship over the last 18 years. All four were named to the All-SIAC cross country team.

Legendary coach Willie Hill was named SIAC Cross Country Coach of the Year.

The Maroon Tigers went on to compete in the NCAA Division II Regional South Cross Country Championship in Tampa, where they were ranked tenth. Wilder’s top 25 finish in that meet help boost the Maroon Tigers final 2013 South Regional ranking to ninth.
What I Do

I am in charge of the upkeep of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel, which includes making sure the lights and the sound are working properly for a particular production. I'm in charge of all the audio and visual logistics of those events. I do the same thing for special events in other venues around campus, as well. When it comes to anything audio/visual, I am there.

It's quite thrilling sometimes. I've seen so many people, such as princes, kings, the famous and the not-so-famous. I've seen different types of people. I also love the hands-on aspect of the job because it keeps me physically fit.

Working new electronics is always fun to me, but working with students is important to me, as well. I always try to keep them thinking about working with their hands, as well as keeping their mind on books,