COMMENCEMENT/REUNION 2009

Morehouse Hosts Rare Public Appearance by Fed Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke

By ADD SEYMOUR JR.

When the world witnessed Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke tell a Morehouse College audience the economy was slowly improving, the national fiscal health was hardly the only newsworthy item.

Rarely do Federal Reserve board members make public appearances. But seeking to soothe frazzled nerves over the economy, Bernanke has been looking to explain to people what’s happening with faculty, students, and alumni from across the nation return to campus for Reunion 2009: A Gathering of Men. Classes with graduating years ending in four or five will be honored during activities that include the May 16th Reunion Banquet at the Ritz Carlton in downtown Atlanta.

One alumni likely to have the most fun will be Rynalder D. Rambeau Sr. ’34 as he returns to campus. His son, Rynalder Jr. ’64, will also be attending Reunion 2009.

For a full schedule of Commencement/Reunion events go to page 8 or go online to: http://www.morhouse.edu/events/2009/commencement/index.html

Inside Morehouse is Going Green and Online

We are doing our part in the College’s efforts to go green and be environmentally conscious as you are now holding the last printed edition of Inside Morehouse. Starting with the September issue, Inside Morehouse will be available online at www.morehouse.edu! Each edition, every story and picture, will be available to a much wider audience as anyone with Internet access will be able to see what’s happening with faculty, staff and students at Morehouse College. If you have questions about the change, contact editor Add Seymour Jr. at aseymour@morehouse.edu.
Inside Morehouse is about the people who make up the Morehouse College community. To tell those stories, WE NEED YOU to send us your ideas, comments and thoughts, along with your news, information about your new books or publications and your commentary for sections like My Word. To send us your information, contact Inside Morehouse Editor Add Seymour Jr. at aseymour@morehouse.edu

Inside Morehouse is published monthly during the academic year (with a combined November/ December issue) by Morehouse College, Office of Communications. Opinions expressed in Inside Morehouse are those of the authors, not necessarily of the College.

MY WORD

Children Suffer From Injustice By Unequal Schools

BY JONATHAN WALL

(Wall’s guest editorial appeared in the Atlanta Journal Constitution on April 20, 2009.)

Recently, I was a judge at Georgia Mathfest, an event where more than 5,000 kids engaged in mathematical activities, games and all-around fun. One of the main events was math bate, a combination of math and debate in which teams were given scenarios and had to analyze and solve them mathematically. They also had to think critically about the various situations and apply reasoning and logic. Once they solved a scenario, they gave a presentation in front of me and a fellow Morehouse brother. While we scored them based on the correctness of their math, most of the points derived from their ability to explain their reasoning and the general fluency of their presentation.

What we witnessed in our many hours judging events was disheartening. Inequalities in education and the underlying factors are something that I’ve always been passionate about understanding. Going to predominantly white schools for grades k-8, and a predominantly black school for grades 9-12 helped me see more clearly the dividing line of educational quality. At Mathfest, I saw the overwhelming disparities that now plague America’s public schools.

Of the 20 teams on each grade level, about 15 were completely Caucasian/Non African American, two or three were all African American. Only two or three were a mix. There were tremendous gaps in the speaking and reasoning ability of the African American groups. The Caucasian/Asian groups would stand in front of us with confidence and pride, using immense vocabularies consisting of words far beyond what I thought the average kid their age understood.

The African American groups were significantly less prepared, getting a majority of the problems wrong and having one or two students do the talking while the others just stood there. Not because they didn’t want to speak, but because they didn’t know the information. Some even struggled to read the instructions. The intended fun of the event was not felt by these students. The mathbate was just another excuse in which they saw their Caucasian peers outperform and win.

Being a judge, I had an obligation to fairness, impartiality and neutrality, I would search for reasons to give the African American groups a few extra points, so the scores would look respectable, but my searches came back empty. I didn’t quite realize to the full extent what I was witnessing until the event was over and the winners had been crowned.

I can’t even begin to describe the feelings and thoughts that raced through my heart and mind as I walked group after group to the podium to be awarded their first place plaques. Of the 40 individual winners, only three were black. And two were on the same team.

It troubles me that America’s public schools (and private, but that’s another situation) are still unequal and lack not only diversity, but equality in the distribution of resources. Some try to blame it on the intellectual capacity of the kids, but that is not the case. There is no reason for there to be such a wide gap in the academic skill-set of students in the same grade in the same state.

Disproportionate education is injustice. Everything starts with a foundation, the roots if you will. Elementary/middle schools are the roots from which we sprout up during high school, college and life. When a root isn’t getting the proper nutrients that it needs to grow, it shrivels. It may be harsh, but if we don’t make a change, this is what will continue to happen after generation after generation of our youth. There has got to be a better way. And we are all in charge of finding it. •

Jonathan Wall wants to be a civil rights attorney.

The Lesson in My Name

BY MANSU BILAL MARK KING

W e can learn a lot from a name. In the best of African traditions, a person’s name tells you about her or his life journey and/or life purpose. My parents named me Mark Alexander King.

Mark was a disciple of Jesus and thus a man of faith. For my family, though, Mark was also the son of “The Rifleman” (a 1960s television western). My father was an expert marksman in the Army. So, he is the “Rifleman” and I am his son.

And Mark is Greek for “strong defender.” Alexander was a Greek ruler and empire builder.

With my surname, King, we again find this connotation of a defender of people or a conqueror. The best war a king can wage, though, is against his lower self. To neglect the internal war while ruling over others invites any king to tyranny. Such is the calling of the names given to me by my parents.

After I embraced Islam, I released one name and added two new ones. Again, following African traditions, I did not release my name entirely. I added it to. Through this practice, African names tell the story of a person.

So, my story continues with names from Islamic Africa. Mansa is the Mandinka word for “ruler” or “king”. Most of us have heard of the Mansa named Musa. On his pilgrimage to Mecca, he gave away so much gold in charity that it hurt the Northeast African economy. This was just one Mansa who ruled Mali. Today, Mali is rising again because of the Timbuktu papers. These priceless treasures give voice to the indigenous, literate Muslim scholars who lived in West Africa’s scholarship centers for nearly 1,000 years. Today, the inheritors of these manuscripts often live in impoverished conditions. Yet, analyses of the papers have already begun to connect African American non-violent traditions to West African non-violence traditions. That is, they connect the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.’s “48 to the Mansa-supported scholars of West Africa’s Golden Age.

Finally, there is Bilal, the name I ask friends to call me. Bilal lived in Arabia. However, he was from Habesh, which is part of modern-day Ethiopia. Bilal was one of the first residents of Mecca to embrace Islam. He did so despite being held in slavery, or perhaps because of it. The Islamic message on slavery features equity requirements. These include: feeding and clothing one’s slaves as one eats and dresses; helping one’s slaves with their hard work; and freeing slaves as atonement for sins. This requirement to humanize slavery was among the many elements of Islam that induced fear among the Meccans, who rejected the Islamic call to live righteous lives.

Islam’s potential to establish a just society seemed a threat to their unbridled quest for political, economic, and status superiority. Bilal embodied the political threat when, instead of obeying his owner’s command to whip a Muslim, he embraced the faith, too.

Though he was tortured for his disobedience, a wealthy Muslim soon purchased Bilal and set him free. Bilal spent the rest of his life as a defender of justice and religious freedom. He also became the first muezzin, a person of great piety who calls the Muslims to prayer. I strive to have faith like Bilal did – against all odds.

So, my ancient names tell stories that are quite relevant today. I made my name change legal after encountering bureaucratic troubles. The “separation of church and state” has got to be a better way. And we are all in charge of finding it. •

Mansu Bilal Mark King is an assistant professor of sociology.
Employee Appreciation Celebration

Twenty-eight Morehouse employees were honored during the Staff Appreciation Celebration on April 30 in the African American Hall frame for their years of dedicated service to the College.

"You represent the spine of this nervous system," said President Robert M. Franklin Jr. "You are the foundation for which this House stands.

Special recognition also was given to all of the College’s professional administrative assistants. Each will receive a special pen and pencil set as appreciation for their hard work.

Recognized for years of service:

30 Years
Patricia Jackson
Margaret Jackson

25 years
Barretta Green
Sterling Hudson
Denise Whitely

20 Years
Craig Boyd
Pamela Harth

15 Years
Harry Goodyear
Phylics Smith
Frankies Tenell

10 Years
Gerald Brodwin
Allen Carter
Christopher Dumas
Jennifer Grace-Butler
Kimberly Gresham

Clarence Hollis
Andrea Manning
Sheila Worthy
Diane Alexander
Noel Baker
Kevin Branch
Brenda Dodd
Walter Faye
Derick Nelson
Judith Richmond
Cedric Studiavant

Kudos

Lawrence Edward Carter Sr., dean of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel, delivered the invocation during the inaugural ceremony for new Johnson C. Smith University President Ronald Lee Carter ‘71.

Giles Conwill, chairman of history, was featured in the March 13 edition of The Georgia Bulletin as part of an article about professors who are Catholic priests. Conwill is a priest for the San Diego Diocese.

Alvin Darden, dean of the freshman class, was named an honor roll semi-finalist in the "Outstanding First-Year Student Advocate" category for the National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition’s 28th Annual Conference on The First-Year Experience in Orlando, Fl. in February.

For the second year in a row, senior finance major Johnathan Ware finished in the top 10 out of 2,000 worldwide contestants in the 2009 Interactive Brokers of Collegiate Traders Olympiad. Ware ranked eighth and won a $10,000 third place prize for generating returns of more than 70 percent in two months.

Lance Shipman Young, assistant professor of chemistry, was inducted into the 2008 class of the Project Kaleidoscope Faculty for the 21st Century Network. Project Kaleidoscope is a national network of emerging leaders in undergraduate science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Linda Zatlin, professor of English, has been named the New York University Faculty Resource Network Scholar-in-Residence for the month of June.

Morehouse faculty members contribute to intellectual scholarly discussion on a range of topics through many venues — journals, books, articles and other publications.

Published works in 2008-2009:


Alton Hornsby Jr., Fuller E. Callaway Professor of History, published his 18th book, Black Power in Dixie: A Political History of African Americans in Atlanta (University of Florida Press, 2009), a comprehensive and longitudinal study of black politics in Atlanta. Focusing on the mayoral terms of Maynard Jackson ’56 and Andrew Young, the book look at how black Atlanta leaders used their electoral power to win influence with white leaders and gain concessions in race relations.


Presentations and invited talks in 2008-2009:


Director, Academic Operations
Fatherhood Conference Focuses on National Policy to Help African American Fathers

By ADD SEYMOUR JR.

T he absent African American fathers who are not taking care of their families too often get the headlines, believes Georgia Labor Commissioner Michael Thurmond.

“Rather than focusing on the fathers who don’t do, I say we focus on the fathers who do,” Thurmond said during the Turning the Corner on Father Absence in Black America Revisited conference held in the Executive Conference Center’s Bank of America Auditorium on April 29. “Good fathers come in all varieties, so we have to expand our horizons on what is good fatherhood.”

That was just one of a number of ideas brought forth during the conference presented by The National Fatherhood Leaders Group (NFLG) and the Morehouse Research Institute (MRI). Social service professionals from across the country attended the conference, which was a follow-up meeting to the 1998 National Conference on Manhood, also held at Morehouse.

The conference gave attendees an opportunity to see how the plight of African American fathers is being addressed nationally. “Policymakers are looking at ways to boost fathers,” said Vickie Tuttlesky, director of family policy for the Center on Law and Social Policy in Washington, D.C. She pointed to new employment and education ideas, potential prisoner re-entry programs and even a proposed Earned Income Credit for non-custodial parents.

“Do you need a number of pieces of legislation that have been put out there since President Obama took office and the new Congress took their seats,” she said.

That kind of information is why the conference is key, said MRI executive director Obie Clayton, who was honored by the NFLG for his work in putting the conference together and continuing his work in work towards the plight of African American males.

“To impact policy, especially with the administration’s emphasis on trying to get men re-engaged with families and employed,” he said. “So we have grassroots organizations here for the conference because they need to be abreast of the policy.”

LaShawn Hoffman, CEO of the Pittsburgh Community Improvement Association who grew up without a father, can attest to the effect the conference can have.

While Hoffman, who has since patched up the relationship with his father, said job creation in black neighborhoods is important, the key is building strong communities.

“Without strong communities, we can’t really have strong families,” he said.

CAMPUS COST-SAVINGS TIPS

In light of the current state of the economy, below are a few cost savings suggestions that the Division of Campus Operations believes the campus can all put into immediate practice with very little effort.

• Turn off lights in unoccupied areas; keep in mind there’s no need to leave lights on and doors open for housekeeping in the evening.
• Unplug appliances (coffee pots, microwaves, etc.) at the end of the day. It also considered a good energy-saving practice to completely turn off computers and monitors at night.
• Minimize use of space heaters as they consume significantly more energy than central heating.
• File all faucets are completely turned off after use.
• Report all water leaks to the Physical Plant (404) 215-2664 or physicalplant@morehouse.edu.
• Secure all keys to facilities to avoid costly replacement expenditures.
• Recycle paper products using recycle bins provided on each floor.
• Utilize both sides of paper before placing in the recycling bin (i.e., use the blank side of a fax confirmation sheet for future printing rather than placing it in the recycle bin).
• Consider using double-sided printing and copying whenever possible.

Though they may seem insignificant, if the entire campus contributes, collectively the entire Morehouse community can make an impact. If you have additional cost savings suggestions you would like to share, email them to campusesoperations@morehouse.edu.

LOST AND FOUND

The Lost and Found Department of Morehouse College resides at the main office of the Campus Security/Police Department located inside the Robert Hall Annex.

The Campus Security/Police Department operates on a 24/7 basis and all lost and found items should be immediately turned in to the Police Department.

Please do not hold items while attempting to locate owners as they are likely frantically searching in the Lost and Found Department for their belongings.

Contact Campus Security/Police Department at (404) 215-2666 for more information.

Morehouse Makes Honda Final Four

Morehouse continued a strong history in the Honda Campus All-Star Challenge with a Final Four showing in the 94-team, 2009 competition. The Maroon Tiger squad, consisting of senior Berkley Christopher Thomas, junior Akil Hunter Jackson, freshman Robert Myrick and senior John Torrey (pictured above) and freshman Paul S. Adamson, made the competition’s Sweet 16 where they defeated Howard and Maryland-Eastern Shore before losing to eventual champion Oakland College in the semi-finals. The team received $15,000 in grants for their showing. In the competition’s 26-year history, Morehouse has won four national championships, is an 11-time semi-finalist and has won grants totaling $392,000. The team is coached by English instructor Charles A. Walton Jr.

William Bynum Jr. Named College’s Vice President for Student Services

William Bynum Jr., vice president for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management at Lincoln University, has been selected as Morehouse’s new vice president for Student Services.

Bynum, who begins at Morehouse on July 1, replaces Kevin Rome ’98, who left the College in 2008 to become vice chancellor of student services at North Carolina Central University, Herman “Skip” Mason Jr., the College’s archivist and historian, has been serving as interim vice president for Student Services for the past year.

“Morehouse is pleased that Dr. Bynum is joining us in the Office of Student Services,” said President Robert M. Franklin Jr. ’75. “He is well versed in the culture of small liberal arts institutions like Morehouse and he understands the students who make up our population. Dr. Bynum has demonstrated a penchant for developing and renewing student-based programming. We anticipate that the Office of Student Services will flourish under his leadership and that the student body will reap the benefits of his expertise.”

The Office of Student Services – comprised of Athletics, Counseling, Housing, Student Health, and Career Planning for Non-Business Majors, among others – is the official liaison between the College and the student body. The vice president has overall responsibility for student conduct, decorum and quality of life.

A graduate of Davidson College, Bynum also earned the Master of Arts and doctoral degrees from Duke University, where he was an Endowment Fellow.

Bynum has been a Lincoln for nearly a decade and is a 28-year educator who also has an extensive background in administration. He has strong ties to Atlanta having worked at Clark Atlanta University and the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Bynum told the Lincolnian, Lincoln University’s student newspaper, he will miss the school, but looks forward to returning to Atlanta.

“For my family, this means once again begin a part of the greater Atlanta community,” Bynum said. “For us, moving to Atlanta will allow us to continue our spiritual growth as a family.”

Morehouse Hosts Rare Public Appearance by Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke

(continued from the cover)

Franklin Jr. ’75 and Philip Howard ’86, vice president for Institutional Advancement, at a Congressional Black Caucus banquet in 2008. Later, Franklin was on a panel with Bernanke’s wife, Anne.

Bernanke was invited to Morehouse to speak as part of the Executive Lecture series, an invitation that the Fed chairman decided to accept.

“lt’s apparent to me that Dr. Bernanke’s team had decided they wanted to do some type of outreach and have him involved in education,” Moore said. According to Franklin, Morehouse was the natural choice to host such an event.

“This really highlights Morehouse’s role as a national convener of thought leaders and change agents who inform and shape Morehouse students to become responsive civic leaders,” he said.
Magic Johnson – “The one thing you have to do is make sure your business plan is tight. If you don’t have your business plan together, forget about it.”

Tom Brokaw – “Young people who’ve come along after the civil rights act, going to integrated schools, going to integrated work places, they have a different attitude and I think Obama is a symbol of that.”

Marc Morial – “I think they have to overcome [complacency of their peers] by understanding the sense of being Morehouse men, they have a responsibility. They are standing on tall shoulders. They are special.”

Bill Clinton – “The future does not belong to those who are content with destiny, but rather the future belongs to those who can bring passion, belief and courage.”

Shirley Franklin – “[Vivian Malone Jones] took the road less-traveled as a young woman, not much younger than you…The question is how strong will your shoulders be that others stand on?”

Eric Holder – “The President and I are bound and determined to revitalize the U.S. Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division make it the kind of division that you will be proud of.”

From a celebrated athlete to the nation’s first black attorney general, campus guests shared their unique perspectives with the Morehouse students throughout the 2008-09 academic year. Their visits, which featured Grammy-winning artist Pharrell, encouraged self-reflection and yet another touted the virtues of global diversity. Their advice, albeit on different subject matters, encouraged our ongoing pursuit of building the beloved community.

“Hip hop started out much more than what it was stereotyped as being. Hip hop started out as a non-violent movement. In many ways, it is linked to the issues and the movement of the civil rights era.”

Wilson said. “During one class, students looked at some rap lyrics and the views of two newspaper columnists who saw the lyrics as being negative. Wilson asked students to look at both sides of the coin and analyze not only the lyrics, but how they can be perceived.

“It’s really a way to engage young people into understanding what the issues are,” Wilson said. “We’re at Morehouse, a place that deals with issues of not just African Americans, but of African American males and this is a way to do that and get young men, and young women, to the class to talk about the issues that they will face when they step out of here with their degrees.”

That was one of the main reasons that Wilson and her students held the “What is Hip Hop Studies, Bringing Hip Hop to the Academy,” conference at Morehouse in April. Students and scholars talked about a variety of topics, along with viewing a screening of the documentary, “Walking with Guns,” which features Grammy-winning rapper T.I. and former Atlanta mayor Andrew Young discussing the perils of guns and violence.

But the bulk of the conference featured students discussing topics such as the idea of “keeping it real.”

“Hip hop is if [an artist] says something, it has to be true. They are special. “

The Future does not belong to those who are content with destiny, but rather the future belongs to those who can bring passion, belief and courage.”

Shirley Franklin – “[Vivian Malone Jones] took the road less-traveled as a young woman, not much younger than you…The question is how strong will your shoulders be that others stand on?”

Eric Holder – “The President and I are bound and determined to revitalize the U.S. Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division make it the kind of division that you will be proud of.”
Carter Brings the Underwater World to Morehouse Through Scuba Diving

By ADD SEYMOUR JR.

ou thought flashed through Nathan Carter’s mind once he started scuba diving as an Army Ranger 25 years ago.

“Man, this is pretty cool,” he said with a laugh.

He liked it so much that he be- came an instructor and pushed to bring a scuba diving course to Morehouse seven years ago.

Scuba diving has long been popular at mainstream institutions, Carter said. But once he got out of the Army after a 30-year career, he knew he wanted to bring scuba div- ing to a historically black college setting.

“When we started out, we had one class per semester with 15 stu- dents,” Carter said. “Now we’re up to three classes per semester and every class has been completely full.”

We’ve had students from the other colleges trying to take the class but they can’t because there are no va- cancies.”

Carter’s class is more than just jumping into the water and swim- ming around. While it is a physical education course, the class also in- cludes science, physics, biology and math.

Then comes the actual pool time where diving skills are taught along with using underwater equipment and learning emergency procedures.

But Carter is also a certified div- ing instructor which means that, while it is not a course pre-requisite, students can become certified to be able to scuba dive anywhere in the world.

“My ultimate goal is to prepare them for open water, if they choose,” he said. “Right now I think we’ve had 86 students who have been certified since we started the course. A lot of students, after they leave here, go on for additional training or they’ll go on dive trips.”

But students are hardly the only ones in the Morehouse community who scuba dive.

J.K. Haynes, dean of the Division of Science and Mathematics, is an avid diver who has been diving all over the world, including the Galapagos Islands off the western coast of South America. Biology profes- sor Errol Archibald has been diving since 1991.

“For me, it’s an opportunity to visit other cultures and places and it allows me to get away from the norm,” Archibald said. “It’s a skill that allows me to visit another en- vironment – and see species of fish and how they interact with each other and how they exist.”

Haynes praises the work Carter has been doing at Morehouse, as well as in Atlanta where he has trained many of the city’s black divers.

“Nate is a very interesting guy,” Haynes said. “I think he’s been ex- tremely effective in teaching scuba diving to our students.”

That’s exactly what Carter set out to do several years ago.

“My goal was to bring it to an HBCU,” he said. “It’s been great.”

Grammy Winning Jazz Trumpeter Terence Blanchard Thanks Morehouse

By ADD SEYMOUR JR.

L egendary jazz trumpeter Ter- ence Blanchard was about to perform a tune with the More- house College Jazz Ensemble before an appreciative audience on April 18. But first he wanted to show how much he appreciated Morehouse.

The devastation of Hurricane Katrina in 2005 forced Blanchard’s son, Terence Jr., away from their home in New Orleans and the school he was attending, Dillard University.

“Morehouse was kind enough to take him in,” Blanchard said. “[The College] took him in for an entire semester. He was in the vocal de- partment and studied under David Morrow. I tried to get him to stay [at Morehouse]. But I have to thank Morehouse for everything.”

Blanchard then launched into several tunes with the Jazz Ensem- ble during its annual Spring Con- cert in the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel.

Performing songs by songwriters such as Lionel Hampton, Duke Ellington, Hoagy Carmichael and Earth Wind and Fire, Blanchard and the 21-piece ensemble had the crowd swaying throughout the evening.

Two established Atlanta-based musicians, pianist Louis Heriveaux and drummer Che Marshall, also performed with Blanchard.

Blanchard is a multi-award win- ner who has scored the music for 43 films during his career, many of those by Shelton “Spize” Lee ’79. One was Lee’s documentary on Hurricane Katrina, “When the Lev- ess Broke.” The documentary in- spired Blanchard to write and record his Grammy-award winning CD, “A Tale of God’s Will (Requiem for Katrina),” his musical interpre- tation of the devastation the hurri- cane left on the Crescent City.

While grateful that Morehouse gave his son a temporary home, Blanchard said he has always had the highest respect for the College.

“Morehouse is one of the defin- ing institutions for African Ameri- cans,” he said. “It has been that way for a number of generations. So it means a lot for me to be part of the institution in any way.”

Terence Blanchard performs with the Morehouse College Jazz Ensemble during their Spring Concert in the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel.

Monica Stevenson Fulfills Lifelong Dream with Debut Gospel CD

By ADD SEYMOUR JR.

As a youngster, Monica Lee Stevenson intently listened to the blues and gospel songs that her fa- ther, mother, aunts and uncles all performed throughout Alabama. Her father’s group was called The Inspirational Souls.

“My family sings,” Stevenson said. “When that’s all you see them do, you automatically pick it up.”

It has turned into a career for the older section and for the younger group. I like a variety.”

Stevenson has been singing gospel professionally for years, but has now released her debut CD. “Finally…In God’s Presence,” is featured a compilation CD for the Foundation.

Stevenson also won the 2008 Sickle Cell Awareness Choice Awards.

“The CD is a mix of gospel styles that Stevenson hopes will reach a diverse audience. “I think it is cross-generational,” she said. “I’ve been singing for the older section and for the younger group. I like a variety.”

Stevenson has been performing locally since moving to Atlanta in 1986 from her native Wetumpka, Ala. She was a background singer for artists such as Dorothy Nor- wood, Dottie Peoples and Juanita Bynum. In 1997, she formed her own group, Lisa Stevenson and Company, and has been on the road, performing all over the coun- try. Her husband, Derrick, is her music director and producer.

Stevenson’s first CD is a culmi- nation of a lifelong dream for the wife and mother of four whose days begin each morning with a 6 a.m. prayer team meeting and end many nights after 1 a.m. in studios, in interviews or on a stage.

“It’s a lot, but I know I’ve been equipped to do it,” Stevenson said. “But God doesn’t place anything on us that we can’t bear.”

Her work is paying off. She was named Best Female Artist at the 2008 Gospel Choice Awards. Stevenson also won the 2008 Sickle Cell Smart Award from the Sickle Cell Foundation. Her song, “Lord Keep Me,” is featured a compilation CD project for the Foundation.

One of the things she looks for- ward to the most: performing with the legendary Albertina Washington on May 18. Stevenson covered one of Washington’s songs, “Lord Keep Me,” on her CD.

Her debut CD is being played on radio stations not only in Atlanta, but throughout the nation.

“The is my dream,” Stevenson said. “When I started singing, I said, “This is what I want to do.” It’s been a big thrill for me. I’m very excited about the future.”

Terence Blanchard performs with the Morehouse College Jazz Ensemble during their Spring Concert in the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel.
Tennis

The Maroon Tigers tennis squad celebrates after winning the 2009 SIAC Tennis Tournament championship.

By ADD SEYMOUR JR.

S
pring 2009 turned out to be a banner season for Morehouse Maroon Tigers spring sports teams as the golf, tennis and track and field teams each won their respective Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference tournament titles.

Several Maroon Tigers from each squad were named to All-Tournament teams and each head coach was named the conference’s best.

That is exactly what happened as the Maroon Tigers netters defeated regular season’s top team, Fort Valley State University, to win their second SIAC championship in three seasons.

“Definitely it’s exciting for two reasons,” said Alexander, who was named the tournament’s most outstanding coach. “Historically we’re still always a contender or the team to beat. So that’s one thing to be able to uphold that. But then this is one of the first years the team didn’t win just because we had superior players. I feel like my actual coaching — being able to strategize with the lineup, being able to strategize on the court — played just a big part as the players’ ability did. Those things make this one feel much more special.”

Josh Harris and Tory Martin were named to the All-Tournament singles squad while Martin and Ben Seagle were named to the All-Tournament doubles team.

Maroon Tiger tennis players also won several regular season honors. Harris and Martin were named first team All-SIAC while Michael Stewart and Harris has a third-team pick. Steward was also named SIAC Freshman of the Year. Martin and Seagle were named to the All-SIAC doubles team.

Allen finished five shots ahead of his nearest competitor and was named the tournament’s Most Valuable Player for the second year in a row. He also earned a spot on the SIAC All-Tournament squad.

“He’s the captain of the team and he’s probably the best player, so he’s leading by example,” said Lewis.

Two other Maroon Tigers finished in the tournament’s top ten players, Olajuwon Ajanaku (third) and Thaddeus Hill (10th). Ajanaku joined Allen on the All-Conference team.

Allen, Ajanaku, Hill and Bryan McEllderry were named to the regular season All-SIAC team. McEllderry was named Freshman of the Year while Hill, a business administration major with a 3.59 grade point average, was chosen for the All-Academic team.

Golf

Philip Allen picked up where he left off in 2008 as he helped lead Morehouse to the 2009 SIAC Golf Tournament championship.

Morehouse finished 28 strokes ahead of Benedict College in winning the conference’s second-ever conference tournament golf title and first in 29 years when the Maroon Tigers last won in 1980.

“It came around. When we first started off in September, it wasn’t good,” said first year head coach Bill Lewis, who was named Coach of the Year. “It definitely came together. We definitely played better golf.”

Allen finished five shots ahead of his nearest competitor and was named the tournament’s Most Valuable Player for the second year in a row. He also earned a spot on the SIAC All-Tournament squad.

“He’s the captain of the team and he’s probably the best player, so he’s leading by example,” said Lewis.

Two other Maroon Tigers finished in the tournament’s top ten players, Olajuwon Ajanaku (third) and Thaddeus Hill (10th). Ajanaku joined Allen on the All-Conference team.

Allen, Ajanaku, Hill and Bryan McEllderry were named to the regular season All-SIAC team. McEllderry was named Freshman of the Year while Hill, a business administration major with a 3.59 grade point average, was chosen for the All-Academic team.

Track and Field

The Flying Maroon Tigers did what they have done for each of the past four years — they won the SIAC Track and Field championship.

In the championship meet’s 21 events held at Edwin Moses Track at B.T. Harvey Stadium April 16-18, Morehouse continued their SIAC dominance by finishing first with 209 points. Albany State was a distant second with 153 while Benedict College had 145.

Top individual performers include Dreyfus Clemons who won the 800-meter and 1,500-meter runs and was second in the 3,000-meter steeplechase; Abraham Kiptrotich who won the 5,000-meter run and finished third in both the 10,000-meter run and the 3,000-meter steeplechase; Barry Batson, the SIAC’s Field Athlete of the Year, who finished first in the long jump and triple jump and Matt Tufffioor who won the javelin and was second in the decathlon.

Clemons was named first team All-SIAC in three events while Batson, Tuffioor and Turner Coggins were also named to the first team. Khiry Lee, Steven Patterson, Norvell Van were chosen for the second team.

The Maroon Tigers were also honored for having the highest team grade point average among SIAC track and field teams.

Also, the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association named sprinter Damian Prince the South Region’s Track Athlete of the Year and Batson as the region’s Field Athlete of the Year.

Tennis

Before the 2009 Maroon Tigers tennis season started, head coach Terry Alexander was hoping his team would finish the season just as the 2007 squad had done — with a Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship.

That is exactly what happened as the Maroon Tigers netters defeated regular season’s top team, Fort Valley State University, to win their second SIAC championship in three seasons.

“Definitely it’s exciting for two reasons,” said Alexander, who was named the tournament’s most outstanding coach. “Historically we’re still always a contender or the team to beat. So that’s one thing to be able to uphold that. But then this is one of the first years the team didn’t win just because we had superior players. I feel like my actual coaching — being able to strategize with the lineup, being able to strategize on the court — played just a big part as the players’ ability did. Those things make this one feel much more special.”

Josh Harris and Tory Martin were named to the All-Tournament singles squad while Martin and Ben Seagle were named to the All-Tournament doubles team.

Maroon Tiger tennis players also won several regular season honors. Harris and Martin were named first team All-SIAC while Michael Stewart and Harris has a third-team pick. Steward was also named SIAC Freshman of the Year. Martin and Seagle were named to the All-SIAC doubles team.

Allen finished five shots ahead of his nearest competitor and was named the tournament’s Most Valuable Player for the second year in a row. He also earned a spot on the SIAC All-Tournament squad.

“He’s the captain of the team and he’s probably the best player, so he’s leading by example,” said Lewis.

Two other Maroon Tigers finished in the tournament’s top ten players, Olajuwon Ajanaku (third) and Thaddeus Hill (10th). Ajanaku joined Allen on the All-Conference team.

Allen, Ajanaku, Hill and Bryan McEllderry were named to the regular season All-SIAC team. McEllderry was named Freshman of the Year while Hill, a business administration major with a 3.59 grade point average, was chosen for the All-Academic team.

Golf

Philip Allen picked up where he left off in 2008 as he helped lead Morehouse to the 2009 SIAC Golf Tournament championship.

Morehouse finished 28 strokes ahead of Benedict College in winning the college’s second-ever conference tournament golf title and first in 29 years when the Maroon Tigers last won in 1980.

“It came around. When we first started off in September, it wasn’t good,” said first year head coach Bill Lewis, who was named Coach of the Year. “It definitely came together. We definitely played better golf.”

Allen finished five shots ahead of his nearest competitor and was named the tournament’s Most Valuable Player for the second year in a row. He also earned a spot on the SIAC All-Tournament squad.

“He’s the captain of the team and he’s probably the best player, so he’s leading by example,” said Lewis.

Two other Maroon Tigers finished in the tournament’s top ten players, Olajuwon Ajanaku (third) and Thaddeus Hill (10th). Ajanaku joined Allen on the All-Conference team.

Allen, Ajanaku, Hill and Bryan McEllderry were named to the regular season All-SIAC team. McEllderry was named Freshman of the Year while Hill, a business administration major with a 3.59 grade point average, was chosen for the All-Academic team.
**What I Do**

"I do recruitment and admissions, so for half of the year I travel to high schools, college fairs, and meet with prospective students mainly in Indiana, northern California, New York City, south Florida and in the Caribbean. During the other half of the year, I spend more time on the admissions side, where I spend more time on the admissions side, where I come back and review files, follow up with students and talk with parents after the students have been admitted.

"I went to law school at Emory, but decided not to practice, at least not for now. I had an interest in international law, but I got into higher education, which I like a lot. But as a Spanish major at Morehouse, one of the things that I’d like to do is recruit students who are of Hispanic descent and try to increase their population here at Morehouse. And that’s one of the goals here at Morehouse – to expand the pool of students we attract to the College.

"I like the opportunity to deal with pre-college age students. I think they are really optimistic and eager about their futures. Morehouse is a unique environment and, as a graduate, I like being able to share that environment with these prospective students. Students I meet with generally have an interest in Morehouse, and the ones I can bring to Morehouse really seem to feel this is a good environment for them and they are excited about being here, so that’s fun. I think we have a really good staff here. It’s a fun staff to work with."

---

**Name:** Kory C. Hawkins '00  
**Title:** Assistant dean of Admissions and Recruitment  
**Hometown:** Indianapolis, Indiana  
**Tenure at Morehouse:** Four years  

**Something not commonly known about Kory:** As a Spanish major at Morehouse, Kory studied in Spain and the Dominican Republic, and as a law student at Emory University, he studied in England.