Legendary Tuskegee Airman Richard Caesar ‘40 leaned back in deep thought during the 2009 Reunion, with President Robert M. Franklin Jr. ‘75 saying that Caesar was “one of the nation’s first African Americans to fly combat planes, excel as a noted dentist and continue his philanthropic efforts.”

“What kept me going was going to Morehouse College,” Caesar said as the crowd in the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel hung on to every word. “I got everything that’s made me what I am today at Morehouse and I want to thank you for that.”

That kind of Morehouse pride was on full display at each event during the four-day 2009 Founder’s Day Observance, Feb. 12-15. The observance kicked off Feb. 12 with the Rev. C.T. Vivian delivering a convocation speech that credited Morehouse and graduates like Martin Luther King Jr. ‘48 with leadership and service to the nation.

By ADD SEYMOUR JR.

Delta Air Lines Foundation has created travel accounts at Spellman College and Clark Atlanta University that will provide support for, among other things, recruiting needs and exchange programs.

“Delta has demonstrated its commitment to the leaders of tomorrow and the Atlanta University

Delta Air Lines CEO Richard Anderson (left) presents a $1-million check to establish the Joseph E. Lowery Scholarship Fund at Morehouse. Pictured with Anderson from left to right are the Rev. Joseph E. Lowery, President Robert M. Franklin Jr. ’75 and Phillip Howard ’87, vice president for Institutional Advancement.

By ADD SEYMOUR JR.

Hill Harper wants people to become what he calls “active architects,” or people who build success for themselves and others.

“I want all of us to feel like we can participate in this idea of change,” Harper said. “But how do we apply that to our own lives?”

The “CSLNY” actor and author of Letters to a Young Brother brought his “State of a New America” program, presented by Home Depot, to Morehouse on Feb. 16.

“Most of us have an idea,” he said. “But we actually don’t have a strategic plan to achieve success – particularly in our community. When architects make plans, they are extremely specific.”

Harper, a Harvard Law School graduate who also holds a master’s degree in public administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, chided the entertainment industry for putting out messages that doesn’t emphasize education and hard work as being important for success.

“People need to plan and build success in an era of change,” Hill Harper urges people.

By ADD SEYMOUR JR.

Hill Harper speaks about building success during his Feb. 16 presentation in the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel.
Junior George Williams IV Wins 2009 Otis Moss Jr. Oratorical Contest

By ADD SEYMOUR JR.

Winning the 2009 Otis Moss Jr. Oratorical Contest has been great for junior George Williams IV. But seeing the appreciation from his fellow students has been even better.

“To hear feedback from my Morehouse brothers who heard the speech and took something from it, that’s the most rewarding thing for me,” said Williams.


Freshmen Paul Anthony Daniels II and Jason Calmier finished second and third, while sophomore Isaiah Scott was fourth. Freshman Antoine Albert, junior Jonathan Jolley and senior Shaun Harris were honorable mention picks.

The contest started in 1999 after concerns arose that oratory and debate didn’t hold the prominent place in campus life as it did in the College’s earlier years, particularly during the Benjamin E. Mays era from 1940 to 1967.

“Morehouse is known for great speakers, stirring greater emotion and titillating great emotion,” said Anne W. Watts, associate vice president for Academic Affairs.

One of those expressing their concern was the Rev. Otis Moss Jr., who then was chairman of the College’s Board of Trustees and is himself known as one of the world’s top orators. The contest was soon named after him.

Here is an excerpt from Williams’ presentation:

“We all have come to this red clay hill to be remade into men who shall like lighthouse tower above petty nationalities and sectionalisms, saying out all about us, a beacon that beckons forth out of every man’s bosom a bounty of benevolence. Morehouse challenges us to grow tall, so that the luminosity of love will be seen far and by many. As the new leaders of our global society, we pledge to pursue a responsible strategy of globalization that is not limited by cultural relativism and is not merely waged in the name of selfish, national interest. We understand that a global strategy ought not prioritize consumer-driven profit over the respect for the sanctity of every human’s inherent dignity. We admit that we cannot account for every human suffering. But the very existence of suffering, anywhere, means our work is not done.”

We have brothers we know not of, and whose sufferings we know not of. Though you do not know the Honduran worker who tries to feed his family with the $2 he earned after a 15-hour work day, hear his cry.

Though you do not see the Palestinian mother in Gaza crying out for her slain children, hear her cry. They are calling you to be all that this institution has elected you to be. Hear their cries for help. Hear them calling for you.”
Cathy Gives $50,000 to Morehouse

Chick-fil-A founder S. Truett Cathy (right) stopped by President Robert M. Franklin Jr.'s office in January to commend the president for the College's Renaissance vision, which was highlighted in a front-page story in the Atlanta Journal Constitution in December. Cathy then presented the president with a $50,000 check to be used for attracting young men to train for business leadership roles.

Six Students Win Awards at Biomedical Research Conference

Six Morehouse students were winners in the 8th Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students in Orlando, in November. The event encourages minorities to pursue advanced training in the biomedical and behavioral sciences and provide faculty mentors with resources for facilitating the success of the students. More than 1,200 students participated in a poster and oral presentation in 10 biomedical and behavioral science disciplines. Six Morehouse students each won awards and $250 for their research presentations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
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<tr>
<td>Osemuolu Aburime</td>
<td>junior</td>
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<td>Andres Cortes</td>
<td>junior</td>
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<td>David Dadey</td>
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<td>cell biological sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Nelson</td>
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<td>developmental sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christopher Spears</td>
<td>sophomore</td>
<td>neurological sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward Washington</td>
<td>sophomore</td>
<td>microbiological sciences</td>
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</table>

Carter and senior Ryan Green were featured in a Feb. 4, WJBF-TV Augusta, Ga. story about the College’s beginnings at Springfield Baptist Church.

Fluker and Greg Hall, chairman of the Department of Political Science, were named interim co-directors of the Andrew Young Center for International Affairs.

Michael Hodge, associate professor of sociology, appeared on CNN in November to respond to a CNN-survey examining post-presidential election race relations.

Lawrence E. Carter Sr., dean of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel, gave the King Day address at Barack Obama’s high school, Punahou High School in Honolulu, Hawaii, on Jan. 16.

Stephane Dunn, assistant professor of English, wrote an essay that was included in the book, Best African American Essays (2009). Her original play, “Chem-Girls,” was performed at the Horizon Theater Company in January.

Walter E. Fluker, executive director of the Leadership Center at Morehouse College, was featured in an article on ethical leadership in the November/December 2008 issue of Span magazine.

C.O. Hollis, director of College Auditing and Advisory Services, was featured in the February issue of the Atlanta Business Chronicle which included a section focused on internal auditing.

John Williams, senior vice president for Academic Affairs, was elected president of the HBCU Business Dean Roundtable and is also president-elect of the American Real Estate Society.

New Hires

Lewis Anderson, manager, recruitment and HRIS, Human Resources
Curtis Augustine, application administrator, Information Technology
April Beasley, administrative assistant, Chemistry
Jacob Bentley, education specialist, TRIO Programs
Paula Birth, administrative assistant, Leadership Center at Morehouse College
Debra Butler, greenhouse assistant, Science and Mathematics
Clayborne Carson, distinguished professor and executive director, Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection

Doris Coleman, director of compliance, Office of senior vice president of Administrative Services
Patrice Gibbs, administrative assistant II, Registrar’s Office
Shearra Hardwick, administrative assistant II, Student Conduct/Campus Life
Rubina Hollender, business analyst, HR/Payroll, Instructional and Information Technology
Raymond Jackson, technical support specialist I, Instructional and Information Technology
Zelphia Knight, budget analyst, Budget and Planning
Thomas Lewis Jr., system administrator, Information Technology

Elaine Lloyd, project manager, Instructional and Information Technology
Lisa Oliver, instructional designer, Information Technology
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Troy Story, professor of chemistry, gave a lecture to the departments of mathematics and chemistry at Washington University in St. Louis focusing on the incompressible Navier-Stokes equation.

Leah Creque, assistant professor of English, wrote a letter that was included in the book Go Tell Michelle: African American Women Write to the New First Lady (SUNY Press, 2009). The book is a collection of messages from around the world to the First Lady.

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Morehouse, Georgia Perimeter Sign Transfer Admission Pact

A new pact will give students from Georgia’s third-largest public higher education institution an opportunity to become men of Morehouse.

Morehouse President Robert M. Franklin Jr. and Georgia Perimeter College President Anthony Tricoli signed a Transfer Admission Guarantee agreement in January that will allow GPC students who follow and complete a specific criteria and course of study to transfer into Morehouse for their junior and senior years.

“The partnership that Morehouse College and Georgia Perimeter College have established is groundbreaking and offers a tremendous opportunity to students looking for a common-sense, cost-effective approach to quality higher education,” Franklin said.

“ar. Tricoli and I believe that, by entering into this agreement, we are serving both institutions well and, more importantly, meeting the educational needs of Georgia’s future leaders,” GPC, which has transfer agreements with 30 institutions, has six campuses in metro Atlanta, 23,000 students and is one of the fastest growing two-year institutions in the nation. GPC students who want to transfer into Morehouse must complete their associate’s degree with a 2.5 grade point average and at least 60 transferable credits, 30 of which must be earned at GPC.

Sterling Hudson, dean of Admissions and Records, said the College usually gets around 100 transfer students each year, with 35 to 40 coming from two-year institutions.

“That number should be boosted with this articulation,” he said. “It’s going to provide greater access for Morehouse to local males, mostly Atlanta males. That’s been a tough market for us.”

Tricoli said he is excited about being in partnership with Morehouse.

“In this year of historical firsts, it is appropriate that our two power-house institutions do what none other in the nation have done to clear the pathway to success for African American students who are transferring from an outstanding two-year college to Morehouse,” said Tricoli, who also touted the fact that GPC has the most African American students of any Georgia institution.

“I am proud indeed to have an educational partner and friend in Robert Franklin at Morehouse College. I believe the best is yet to come.”

Mason Inaugurated as 33rd President of Alpha Phi Alpha Incorporated

Promising an era of change for Alpha Phi Alpha Inc., Herman “Skip” Mason Jr., interim vice president for Student Services, has been inaugurated as general president of the nation’s oldest African American Greek-lettered organization.

“This is the pinnacle of my experience,” Mason said on Jan. 24 as nearly 2,000 people from across the country smiled from their seats in the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel. “On this historic day, here in this glorious cradle of the civil rights experience, we begin anew.”

Mason becomes the 33rd president of the fraternity that boasts members such as Martin Luther King Jr. ’48, W.E.B. DuBois, Thurgood Marshall, Jesse Owens and Andrew Young.

“I think Skip Mason and Alpha Phi Alpha... have a very important role to play,” Young said. “We in Alpha Phi Alpha have elected a servant.”

Mason plans to focus the fraternity’s objectives on issues directly affecting African American boys and getting them interested in education.

“The work is not about us,” he said. “It’s about our sons and our grandsons.”

Emory’s Delores Aldridge Pushes Cultural Democracy in Benjamin E. Mays Lecture

For America to thrive, each citizen has to believe in the main tenant of cultural democracy: shared power and voice by all participants, said Delores Aldridge, Emory University sociology professor and African American studies.

“And if cultural democracy is to fulfill its promise, it must ever challenge our values as young as America, which makes the land of the free and the home of the brave elusive for a lot of our brothers and sisters,” Aldridge said when she gave the 18th Annual Benjamin E. Mays Lecture on Jan. 27 in the Bank of America Auditorium at the Executive Conference Center.

Aldridge, a 1963 Clark College graduate, was the first African American faculty member at Emory. In 1971, she established Emory’s African American Studies Department, the first of its kind in the South. She has also been a consultant for more than 90 foreign governments, and is the author and/or editor of at least 160 writings. Her latest book is The Invisible Pioneers: Black Women Sociologists and she is working with the Georgia State Legislature and Georgia Coalition on Black Women to develop an encyclopedic volume, The Social and Economic Contributions of Georgia Women.
If there was any doubt that the economic climate would affect the celebration of the College’s 142nd Founder’s Day Observance, it was, well, unfounded. As President Robert M. Franklin Jr. ’75 said during the “A Candle in the Dark” celebration on Feb. 14, Morehouse has long been accustomed to producing “Ivy League results with HBCU resources.” The Gala, the College’s most anticipated fund-raiser, drew more than 1,400 supporters to witness eight luminaries receive Candle and Bennie awards for their extraordinary achievements.

Students’ parents and other family members also got a chance to spend some time on campus during the concurrent Family Weekend 2009.

At the Founder’s Day Concert featuring R&B artist Fantasia and electric violinist Ken Ford, nearly 2,000 people swayed and rocked to old-school and new-school tunes. The festivities were bookended by two exceptional speeches: the Convocation address by renowned civil rights strategist the Rev. C.T. Vivian and the Worship Service sermon by the Rev. D. Darrell Griffin ’87, senior pastor of the Oakdale Covenant Church in Chicago. For 142 years, Morehouse has weathered many a storm. And, if the success of this year’s Founder’s Day Observation is any indication, this current economic storm will be no different.

142 Years of Weathering Storms

FOUNDER’S DAY 2009
In the annals of history, particularly African American history, January 20, 2009 will go down as one of the most memorable days ever. At noon that day in Washington, D.C., on the steps of the U.S. Capitol, Barack Hussein Obama became the first African American president of the United States. Among the nearly two million people who filled the National Mall on the bitterly cold day were many students, staff and faculty from Morehouse College who made the trek to D.C. by bus, rail, car and plane. Here, in their words, is the story of that day.

“It was when he was walking through the Capitol before coming outside. He had this look on his face that was like, ‘I’m going to be stern. I’m going to keep the grace on my face.’ I was like, ‘Come on Barack. You have to smile.’ Right as I was saying that, he broke. He just did this little smile that said, ‘I know what you all out there are feeling. I know why you all are here. That moment was extremely touching to me.’”

- Vickie Hampton, publications manager

“I was overwhelmed with emotion. I didn’t know whether to cry or run. But I felt this great rush of emotion on the inside that came out with a few tears as (Obama’s) hand rested on the Bible.”

-JeVon Moore, senior religion major, Chicago

“The most memorable moments for me all involved sharing with people from all parts of this country and all over the world. All of us were on the same page with the same mindset — this is a great time to be a citizen of the United States of America. In the words of Tafari, ‘This is an incredible day, Daddy, and I am so glad we made this trip. I can be President if I want to.’”

-Malcolm Williams, program manager, Student Support Services (pictured to the right with his wife, Maureen Williams, office of the President, and their son, Tafari Tarik Williams)

“When you saw the vendors, it was like a street fair. I saw 500-600 vendors, but very little of the merchandise seemed to be produced by African Americans. So that was kind of a dichotomy. But it was definitely a historic moment. African American men, it’s time for us to step up!”

-Warren Greene, support services assistant

“I kept thinking that it wasn’t cold, but it was frigid cold! But it was fun. I got a chance to meet a lot of new people. I was just happy because I saw Obama. It was a chance to be part of history.”

-Sheikgo Carter, support services coordinator (pictured to the right)

“In July, I decided to take a presidential train excursion to the Inauguration. At that time I had no idea that Barack Obama would actually win, but I knew that if he did, I wanted to be on hand. So, together with one of my oldest friends (we’ve been friends since we were 12) and my parents, who are 70 and 74 years old, we boarded an Amtrak train bound for D.C. The most amazing thing was to spend this time with my parents, who grew up in a segregated America. To witness the joy and pride they felt just added to my personal elation over what this country had done. It was amazing just to be in the mix of the millions of people who also felt what I was feeling on that cold, January day. It is a story that I will one day share with my unborn babies. I was there! And I will never forget it.”

-Elise Durham, media relations manager

“It was a once in a lifetime opportunity, especially for the students. It was definitely something they could grow on. Actually, it was pretty much the same for me.”

-Mike Southern, office of Student Conduct/Student Life

“Being in D.C. during the Inauguration was right up there with the emotions I felt when my daughter was born and when my granddaughter was born! I was experiencing wonderful feelings of love, admiration and hope for the future. The spirit in D.C., amongst all these millions of people, was phenomenal! It was truly amazing to be greeted everywhere you went with pure, honest courtesy. When President Obama took the oath, I knew I would forever be a part of history and that I also must take an oath to be the best citizen of these United States that I could possibly be!”

-Sheila Worthy, executive assistant to the vice president for Information Technology (pictured to the right)
Former NBA Player Mark Strickland Begins Coaching Career at Morehouse

By ADD SEYMOUR JR.

Mark Strickland’s successful, 12-year, professional basketball career started in metro Atlanta where he grew up. Now the just-retired player is back in the area to take a shot at a new career: coaching.

He was lured to the sidelines by a position helping head coach Grady Brewer lead the Morehouse Maroon Tigers basketball squad. And though it has been a tough year record-wise, Strickland said it has been a great move for him.

“It was just time,” Strickland said, returning from Memphis after a close Maroon Tigers loss to Lemoyne Owen on Feb. “I can still play, but this is a great opportunity. "It’s a learning experience for me," Strickland hopes to one day get a head coaching position on the sidelines. "It’s a great experience to learn places where you are trying to get to. It’s a great experience to learn from someone like that."

Strickland wonders if one day get a head coaching position on the sidelines. "It’s a learning experience for me," Strickland hopes to one day get a head coaching position on the sidelines. "It’s a great experience to learn places where you are trying to get to. It’s a great experience to learn from someone like that."

Strickland returned to Jordan for the 2007-08 season, but in fall 2008 a slot opened up on Brewer’s staff when one of his assistants went to Mexico to play professional basketball.

“It’s a learning experience for him,” Brewer said. “But it is really good to have that type of guy with his type of basketball experiences. And he’s played for so many good coaches. He’s done a tremendous job.”

Kenny Boyd, a pre-season Division II honorable mention All-American forward, has been one of the guys the 6’9” Strickland has been working with.

“He’s great,” Boyd said of Strickland. “He has experience and he can tell you what to expect in different aspects of the game. Plus, he can relate since he’s been there in high school and college and in the NBA – places where you are trying to get to. It’s a great experience to learn from someone like that."

Strickland hopes to one day get a head coaching position on the sidelines. “It’s been a learning process, but Morehouse is a great place for this process to start.”
MARCH

SUNDAY, 1
Morehouse Preachers in Sale Hall
In the Tradition of President Benjamin E. Mays
Speaker: Harry Wright, associate vice presi- dent for Student Services
Sale Hall’s Chapel of the Inward Journey
11 a.m.
Contact: Roy Craft, (404) 215-2046 or at rcraft@morehouse.edu

FRIDAY, 20
Musical/Drama
“A New Birth of Freedom”
Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel
8 p.m.
Tickets: $10 for Atlanta University Center students
$12 in advance
$15 at the door
Contact: Christian Actors and Entertainers
Development Corporation, (404) 881-5487 or at caedtickets@georgia.uga.com

WEDNESDAY, 25
Executive Lecture
Speaker: Ronald A. Williams, Chairman and
CEO, Aetna
Executive Conference Center, Leadership Center Building
4 p.m.
Contact: Robert Bryant (404) 215-2660 or at rbryant@morehouse.edu

THURSDAY, 26
Crown Forum
Vivian Malone Jones Civil Rights
Lecture Series
Speaker: The Rev. Joseph E. Lowery
Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel
11 a.m.
Contact: Anne Watts, (404) 572-3660 or at awatts@morehouse.edu

MARCH 29 – APRIL 12
Science and Spiritual Awareness Week
“The Mature Spirituality of a Renaissance Man”
Contact: Roy Craft, (404) 215-2046 or at rcraft@morehouse.edu
The Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel leads the College’s annual celebration of
various denominations and will be the site of the launch of the Rabin-King Initiative, which
spotlights the civil rights connections between African American and the Jewish communities.
All events will be held in the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel unless otherwise noted

SUNDAY, 29TH
Joint Morehouse/Clark Atlanta
Worship Service
Sale Hall’s Chapel of the Inward Journey
11 a.m.
AME Night
Bishop William Phillips Deveaux,
Sixth Episcopal District of the African
Methodist Episcopal Church
7 p.m.

MONDAY, 30TH
Hip Hop Night
Pastor Shaun King,
The Courageous Church
7 p.m.

TUESDAY, 31ST
Unity Night
Rev. Barbara King,
Hillside Chapel
7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, 1ST
Pentecostal Night
Bishop Jonathan E. Alvarez,
Total Grace Christian Center
7 p.m.

THURSDAY, 2ND
Induction Crown Forum/Rabbi-King
Initiative Launch
Speaker: Rabbi David Saperstein

EDITOR’S PICK

What I Do

“Essentially, what I do is help my bosses, Ruby J. Byrd and Malcolm Williams, run
the Student Services Program efficiently. But I would say my main responsibility is to
make sure we retain students. We deal with students who are first-generation college
students. Their parents have never gone
to college, so they don’t know what the
experience is like. So a major part of my
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tion from high school to college and their
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“I’m really an advocate for the students. I
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have enough money for the meal plan and
he needs my help, I will go to the grocery
store. I have bought clothes for students. I’ve
done a lot of things that are not in my job
title, but it’s important to me that students
are successful here.”

“Being in a black male institution, I want
to see them succeed. I have a son and I want
to treat them like I’d want my son to be
treated. That’s where they’ll say I’m like their
Morehouse mom. What I do is more sup-
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But I’m there more to guide them into the
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various denominations and will be the site of the launch of the Rabin-King Initiative, which
spotlights the civil rights connections between African American and the Jewish communities.
All events will be held in the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel unless otherwise noted

SUNDAY, 29TH
Joint Morehouse/Clark Atlanta
Worship Service
Sale Hall’s Chapel of the Inward Journey
11 a.m.
AME Night
Bishop William Phillips Deveaux,
Sixth Episcopal District of the African
Methodist Episcopal Church
7 p.m.

MONDAY, 30TH
Hip Hop Night
Pastor Shaun King,
The Courageous Church
7 p.m.

TUESDAY, 31ST
Unity Night
Rev. Barbara King,
Hillside Chapel
7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, 1ST
Pentecostal Night
Bishop Jonathan E. Alvarez,
Total Grace Christian Center
7 p.m.

THURSDAY, 2ND
Induction Crown Forum/Rabbi-King
Initiative Launch
Speaker: Rabbi David Saperstein

EDITOR’S PICK

What I Do

“Essentially, what I do is help my bosses, Ruby J. Byrd and Malcolm Williams, run
the Student Services Program efficiently. But I would say my main responsibility is to
make sure we retain students. We deal with students who are first-generation college
students. Their parents have never gone
to college, so they don’t know what the
experience is like. So a major part of my
job is helping our freshman with the transi-
tion from high school to college and their
daily activities.
“I’m really an advocate for the students. I
definitely go outside of my job title because,
if a student comes to me and says he doesn’t
have enough money for the meal plan and
he needs my help, I will go to the grocery
store. I have bought clothes for students. I’ve
done a lot of things that are not in my job
title, but it’s important to me that students
are successful here.”

“Being in a black male institution, I want
to see them succeed. I have a son and I want
to treat them like I’d want my son to be
treated. That’s where they’ll say I’m like their
Morehouse mom. What I do is more sup-
port assistance. I don’t want to speak for
them because they need to develop as men.
But I’m there more to guide them into the
way they need to do business with faculty
and staff. The students have learned they
can depend on me, which is very important
to me.
I love to see students come hear imma-
ture, scared, so unsure about themselves and
then to see them in their senior year, see
them maturing as men, developing and
being able to be successful. You can’t pay me
for that. It’s just so rewarding.”

E D I T O R ’ S P I C K

MARCH 29 – APRIL 12
Science and Spiritual Awareness Week
“The Mature Spirituality of a Renaissance Man”
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