

Inside MOREHOUSE

A CAMPUS NEWSLETTER FOR FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS

JANUARY 2009, ISSUE 4

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'THIS IS WHAT I WAS PUT ON EARTH TO DO'



Clayborne Carson, distinguished professor and executive director of the Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection, speaks during a press conference.

Renowned Historian Clayborne Carson to Lead College's King Collection

By ADD SEYMOUR JR.

The spring 1985 phone call surprised Clayborne Carson.

Coretta Scott King, the late wife of civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr. '48, was on the line asking him to head a project to research, edit and publish what has become

the multi-volume *The Papers of Martin Luther King Jr.*

Carson idolized King's journey. The Atlanta preacher's civil rights work inspired him to leave New Mexico and join the civil rights movement in California. But, as much as he revered King, Carson almost said no to King's wife. He had

grown closer to the more radical black power movement.

"My initial response was to say, 'I don't think I'm the appropriate person for this,'" Carson said. "But I began to think, 'Why not? It would be kind of completing the circle.' I had looked at the movement from the grassroots up. Why not look at it from the perspective of King and see how I could bring those two perspectives together?"

It turned out to be a great decision. Carson published six of the

planned 14 volumes of *The Papers of Martin Luther King Jr.* and has become the nation's preeminent King scholar.

Now, with Morehouse being home to the prestigious, 10,000-piece Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection, Carson comes to Atlanta to become the Collection's distinguished professor and executive director.

(Please see 'Renowned Historian Clayborne Carson' page 2)

King-Obama Link Connects the Drum Major's Dream to the Future

By ADD SEYMOUR JR.

As Barack Obama stood before tens of thousands of cheering people at the Democratic National Convention in August 2008, the spirit of Martin Luther King Jr. '48 was present.

King's son, Martin Luther King III '79, and daughter, Bernice King, spoke just before Obama. So did U.S. Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.), who



also spoke before King in 1963 when the civil rights leader delivered his historic "I Have a Dream" speech at the March on Washington.

In fact, the date was August, 28, 2008 – exactly 45 years to the day that King captivated the world with his speech.

So it was natural that Obama, soon to become the nation's first African American president, would lift the moment by tying it to King's vision from that 1963 day.

"What the people heard...is that in America, our destiny is inextricably linked," Obama said. "That

together, our dreams can be one."

Just a junior senator a few years ago, Obama has become an iconic American hero as a black man who grew up outside of privilege to actually become president. For many people, it connects Obama to King's dream for a more colorblind society that values character and hard work.

(Please see 'King-Obama Link Connects Dream to the Future' page 3)

Gloomy Economy Making Life Difficult for Colleges Nationwide

The melodious jazz at Middle Tennessee State University's WMOT-FM, one of the nation's premier jazz stations, may end soon. Students at Princeton University, one of the nation's wealthiest institutions, will be paying more tuition and the University is slashing the school's budget.

The problem that unites both institutions – and all others around the country, including Morehouse – is the downturn in the economy. The halls of academia have hardly been immune to the ravages of a gloomy global economic environment. In fact, Moody Investor's Service, along with *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, surveyed more than 200 public and private colleges and universities about how they have been affected by the recession and steps they are forced to take because of it.

Nearly half have instituted some sort of hiring freeze for faculty positions, while 65 percent have hiring freezes on staff positions, according to the survey that was published in *The Chronicle of Higher Education's* Jan. 9, 2009, story that accompanied the survey.

Leaner state budget allocations has forced MTSU, located 30 minutes east of Nashville, to consider shutting down WMOT. A falling endowment has forced Princeton to raise tuition and cut budget.

Morehouse has embarked on an 18-month plan to reduce costs at the College by doing such things as eliminating the one-percent merit raise, heavily restricting faculty and staff travel, eliminating furniture and equipment purchases for the remainder of the fiscal year and hiring only for mission-critical positions.

For private colleges like Morehouse, major concerns are declining endowment values and decreased major donor giving. An even larger issue is student enrollment, one of the main revenue sources for private colleges. At Morehouse, 85 percent of the College's revenue come from tuition and fees.

"Private colleges...are feeling the reverberations of the financial squeeze brought on by job losses and the credit crunch, which are making it more difficult for some families to afford tuition bills," Goldie Blumenstyk wrote in her Jan. 9 story.

(Please see 'Gloomy Economy' page 4)

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

For more up-to-the minute information about academic departments, administration, athletics, registration, financial aid, as well as the people and places at Morehouse College, go to

www.morehouse.edu

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MY WORD

BEACONS

'It is both a privilege and responsibility that we, the faculty and staff at Morehouse, have to make men'

By ALISON LIGON

When I drove by the Morehouse campus on my daily commute, I craned my neck to catch a glimpse of the recognizable, angular, Graves Hall bell tower. Illuminated by a soft hue at dawn, it seemed to beckon me. On the days that I was unable to see it, I felt off center.

Maybe there was some inherent truth within the books that I read during my spare time: the motivational bestseller, *The Secret*, and Rene Descartes' philosophical treatise, *Discourse on the Method*. Drawing inspiration from both books, I crafted small notes and secured them inside of my wallet. Each note articulated my heart's desire – to be *there* – near *that* bell tower, teaching on *that* campus where I *belonged*, not just simply riding by, wishing and hoping.

Now, my inspirational notes sit on my desktop at home, adjacent to a framed picture of my "firstborn sons" – the students whom I taught during my first year at Morehouse. Daily, this image inspires me to become a better person, teacher, researcher and mentor.

Although we do not share a natal tie, my commitment to the academic achievements of these young men remains just as firm and unwavering as if we did share such a

bond. Every semester, I have the honor of working closely with individuals who have a natural affinity for seeking and meeting academic challenges. As well, I work closely with students who, upon enrolling at Morehouse, must move through the barriers of self-doubt and uneasiness in order to realize their beautiful, inherent potential. It is both a privilege and responsibility that we, the faculty and staff at Morehouse, have to "make men."

Unfortunately, due to circumstances often beyond their control, many of these talented, viable young scholars must defer their visions of graduating and becoming Morehouse Men. To help address financial challenges faced by approximately 150 students each year, the Board of Trustees Opportunity Fund was created. It is marvelous to have such a sustaining vehicle to help bring to fruition the dreams of many deserving students.

Nonetheless, much more can be done to help persons, such as the junior who tearfully shook my hand and said in a crackling voice, "Thanks for everything you've taught me, Dr. Ligon. Maybe I'll see you next year."

I also recall the e-mail message marked "Urgent" sent by a rising junior who asked for me to "hold a place" for him in one of my courses, as he cobbled together personal



loans to pay for the following year's tuition.

Therefore, it would be a boon to the spirits of the young men whom we serve if we, the members of the greater Morehouse College family, would support The Board of Trustees Opportunity Fund. I am proud beyond measure to be an educator at such a fine institution. I am honored to help shape the minds and bolster the strong character possessed by my dear students. Their intellectual and social prowess is intrinsically handsome.

Often, when I depart from the campus, I catch a glimpse of the

Graves Hall bell tower in my rearview mirror. Just as the sight of it once encouraged me to become a part of the Morehouse College faculty, today it reminds me of the young men of Morehouse who are ripe with potential. They will one day serve as beacons of inspiration for those who will follow in their footsteps. ■

Alison Ligon, assistant professor of English, joined the Morehouse faculty in 2007. Her most recent and forthcoming publications are focused upon works of contemporary fiction from the Anglophone Caribbean.

Renowned Historian Clayborne Carson to Lead College's King Collection

(continued from the cover)

"I've always felt that connection, ever since the first time I came to this campus," Carson said. "Morehouse is part of what made Martin Luther King Jr. So this is a very special place."

Since 1971, Carson has been in the history department at Stanford University, where he has been the director of the Martin Luther King Jr. Research and Education Institute, as well as director of the King Papers Project.

But it was as a teenager who sneaked off to Washington, D.C., for the 1963 March on Washington that he first became influenced by the civil rights movement. Seeing dedicated young civil rights workers like John Lewis and Stokely Carmichael decked out in overalls and work boots inspired him.

Carson joined the civil rights and anti-war movement when he went to college at UCLA. He later became a journalist, writing mainly about the black power movement. His first

book, *In Struggle: SNCC and the Black Awakenings of the 1960s*, became the definitive history of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

Carson's other writings include *Malcolm X: The FBI Files and African American Lives: The Struggle for Freedom*, which he co-authored. He also has been a senior adviser for the award-winning, public television series on the civil rights movement, "Eyes on the Prize," and the editor of the companion reader for the series.

Carson takes over the Morehouse King Collection – which features King's personal writings, sermons, speeches and other works – at an exciting time. For the first time, researchers and even the casual scholar will have digital access to the Collection, as well as King's works at Stanford and Boston universities. Carson also plans to start other programs that feature the Collection.

"When the College began looking for someone to manage over-

sight of the Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection, we knew that the ideal candidate would be able to develop and implement a strategic plan for the Collection and raise the visibility in the local and national community," said President Robert M. Franklin Jr. '75.

"We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Carson to the Morehouse College faculty. He is a preeminent King scholar and brings to Morehouse time-proven expertise and vitality around this project."

Carson said heading the Collection is part of his calling.

"To me, the responsibility is about the legacy – how do you convey a legacy of someone who helped change the world as we know it?" he said. "King did his work in about a dozen years. It has taken me nearly 23 years to get halfway through his public life...so I know the immensity of it."

"All I can do is say this is my mission," Carson said. "This is what I was put on Earth to do."

For more information about the King Collection, go to <http://www.morehouse.edu/kingcollection/index.html>. ■

Gloomy Economy

(continued from the cover)

Morehouse administration expect enrollment will drop up to 15 percent from the fall semester.

"These enrollment challenges, when coupled with the impacts on our other means of financial support, require our prudence in the use of our resources to ensure the health and viability of the institution during these trying times and beyond," said President Robert M. Franklin Jr. '75.

Moody's senior analyst Roger Goodman told *The Chronicle* that colleges and universities nationwide are appropriately "taking a cautious approach to planning," according to the Jan. 9 story.

With the measures Morehouse is taking, Franklin is confident things will get better.

"We're going to come back in a strong way," he said to staff on Jan. 14. "This college is going to be as strong as ever before." ■

Entrepreneurship Conference to Focus on Surviving the Economic Downturn

By VICKIE G. HAMPTON

Innovation, particularly in the midst of a rough economy, will be the focus of the second annual Morehouse College Entrepreneurship Conference, which conference coordinator Tiffany Bussey said is needed for small businesses to survive the worldwide economic downturn. That issue will be front and center at most of the conference's nine roundtables and workshops taking place in the Leadership Center building and the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel on January 28-30.

"This conference will give our attendees ideas on how to be creative and innovative as business owners, particularly in these times when businesses aren't doing well because of the economy," said Bussey, director of Government Services.

One roundtable will feature four alumni: Coltrane Curtis, co-founder and creative director of Epiphany Media; Jason Benta '97, CEO of Benta Holding Co.; George



Maj. Gen. Dennis L. Via

Andrews '72, president of Capital City Bank and Trust; and Leonard Miller '83, president of Miller Racing Group.

The roundtable participants are noted for their generational span and diversity of business, said Bussey. "These successful Morehouse Men will share their paths to entrepreneurship and will invigorate the student body, as well as other conference attendees," she said.

"They will tell how Morehouse has prepared them for their roles."

The keynote speaker during the conference's Jan. 29 I.C.E. (Innovative, Creative Entrepreneur) Awards Luncheon will be U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Dennis L. Via, the commanding general of the CECOM Lifecycle Management Command. Via oversees 10,000 military and civilian personnel responsible for coordinating the life-cycle systems of the Army's battlefield mission areas.

New to the conference this year is a business plan competition targeted at minority students. After seeing the dearth of minority students entering such competitions nationwide, Bussey started the competition to give students from historically black colleges and universities an opportunity to sharpen their skills. The competition carries a total prize package of \$15,000, and the top three winners will present during the conference.

For more information about the conference, go to <http://www.hitek-solutions.com/mcec/>. ■

NEWS BRIEFS

Morehouse Raises \$18,000 for Breast Cancer Research

The 400 walkers who took part in the Ninth Annual Morehouse College Breast Cancer Walk raised \$18,000 in the effort to fight the disease.

The Oct. 2008 event pushed the grand total that the College has raised for the American Cancer Society to \$145,600, according to Sandra Walker. She, along with 11-year breast cancer survivor Mary Peaks, has organized the popular walk around the Atlanta University Center. Walker is the executive assistant to the vice president for Business and Finance, and Peaks works in the Counseling Research Center.

"Your support has assisted in enhancing awareness and advancing research for this life-threatening disease that strikes women and men," Walker said.

Morehouse College Spring Career Fair Gives Boost to AUC Job Seekers

Atlanta University Center students and alumni will get an opportunity to meet with employers from a variety of fields during the First Annual Morehouse College Spring Career Fair on Feb. 5 from 4 to 8 p.m. in the Executive Conference Center of the Leadership Center building.

Employers from federal government, corporate America and the non-profit sector will be on hand to talk about potential jobs, internships and other opportunities. Kellye Blackburn Eccles, director of the Morehouse Career Planning and Placement Office for Non-Business Majors, already coordinates a fall career fair, but decided the time was right for a spring event.

"I decided to host the First Annual Morehouse College Spring Career Fair due to the increased numbers of recently laid off alumni seeking work," she said. "Also, more students are aware of the difficulty in finding an internship or job during our current economic downturn and are thus becoming more proactive about planning for their future career."

Admission is free for job seekers of all majors from any of the AUC institutions. Job seekers should bring resumés and be dressed in business attire (dark suits, white shirts and conservative ties for men; conservative business suits for women).

For more information about the Spring Career Fair, contact Eccles at (404) 215-2703 or at kblackbu@morehouse.edu.

EGYPTIAN EXCURSION



Public Health Sciences Institute program manager Corey Lumpkin, senior Jason Crain, psychology professor Christopher Bass, Student Services director Raphael Moffett and senior Ylan Taylor pose in front of the Great Pyramids in Giza, Egypt. The five were part of an eight-day, 24-student tour of Egypt during the Christmas holiday break.

King-Obama Link Connects the Dream to the Future

(continued from the cover)

"It is increasingly clear that Obama's link to King goes beyond his remarkable gift for oratory," said Clayborne Carson, distinguished professor and executive director of the Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection. "[They share] political thought that extends to the founding of this nation."

The foundation that King's work laid for the next generation allows new leaders like Obama to become the next step in the fight for justice, said former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young.

"(King) didn't have to tell black folks anything about racism," Young said. "He had to help white people in the world understand the effects. So he was really a change agent for white America. So in that sense, Obama is now being called upon to be a change agent to heal the world."

The most important thing, King III said, is that the results of the continuation of that link will have to be lasting.

"We must galvanize this energy beyond the election – into 2009 and beyond – to ensure that, ultimately,

we will eradicate poverty, racism and militarism," King said to Morehouse students in April 2008 after a march in remembrance of his father. "That would be a part of the dream and vision that our father had for freedom, justice and equality for all humankind." ■

Editor's Note: Go to www.morehouse.edu to see a Morehouse alumni discussion, "The Dream Realized: Where Do We Go From Here?" held in Washington D.C. on Jan. 19 before the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

College's Paper and Cardboard Recycling Program Expands

This month, Morehouse College is expanding and reinvigorating its current paper and cardboard recycling program.

Blue recycling bins now will be located in the hallways of every residence hall so paper recycling can occur in all of the College's facilities. As in the past, everyone should place paper and cardboard in blue hallway containers or empty the contents of the blue can at their desk in hallway recycling cans.

"Paper and cardboard compose more than half of the waste produced by the College, so recycling these materials will have the greatest positive impact," said biology professor Lawrence S. Blumer. "Recycling reduces our waste, saves energy and saves money."

Additionally, Morehouse recycles:

- aerosol cans
- ink cartridges
- light bulbs
- computers, monitors, keyboards, printers and copy machines
- UPS batteries, circuit boards and wires
- microwaves, fax machine, scanners and overhead projectors

For more information about recycling at Morehouse, contact Campus Operations, Environmental Health and Safety at: ehs@morehouse.edu or visit <http://www.morehouse.edu/administration/campusoperations/recycling.html>. ■

4 HOUSE CALENDAR

INSIDE MOREHOUSE, JANUARY 2009

JANUARY

MONDAY, 19

Holiday
Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday
(School Closed)

TUESDAY, 20

Basketball
Morehouse vs. Paine
Forbes Arena
7:30 p.m.
Contact: Constance Sullivan, (404) 215-2752 or at csulliva@morehouse.edu

THURSDAY, 22

Basketball
Morehouse vs. Stillman
Forbes Arena
7:30 p.m.
Contact: Constance Sullivan, (404) 215-2752 or at csulliva@morehouse.edu

SATURDAY, 24

Basketball
Morehouse vs. Tuskegee
Forbes Arena
7:30 p.m.
Contact: Constance Sullivan, (404) 215-2752 or at csulliva@morehouse.edu

THURSDAY, 29

Basketball
Morehouse vs. Clark Atlanta
Atlanta, GA
7:30 p.m.
Contact: Constance Sullivan, (404) 215-2752 or at csulliva@morehouse.edu

SATURDAY, 31

Basketball
Morehouse vs. Albany State
Forbes Arena
7:30 p.m.
Contact: Constance Sullivan, (404) 215-2752 or at csulliva@morehouse.edu

FEBRUARY

TUESDAY, 10

Symposium on "The State of African American Men: Assets, Opportunities and Challenges for Research, Program and Policy Initiatives"
Co-sponsored by the Office of the President, the Morehouse Male Initiative and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/Office of Minority Health
Leadership Center – Bank of America Auditorium
2 p.m.
Contact: Obie Clayton, (404) 215-2624 or at oclayton@morehouse.edu

THURSDAY, 12

Family Weekend Registration
Kilgore Campus Center Atrium
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Contact: Harry Wright, (404) 215-2672 or at hwright@morehouse.edu

Founder's Day Convocation
Speaker: Rev. C. T. Vivian, the C.T. Vivian Leadership Institute
Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel
10:45 a.m.
Contact: Anne Watts, (404) 572-3660 or at awatts@morehouse.edu

Opening Assembly
Speakers: The Rev. Herman "Skip" Mason, Interim Vice President for Student Services and John Williams, Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Frederick Douglass Hall
2-4 p.m.
Contact: Alvin Darden, (404) 658-7804 or at adarden@morehouse.edu

FRIDAY, 13

Family Weekend Registration
Kilgore Campus Center Atrium
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Contact: Harry Wright, (404) 215-2672 or at hwright@morehouse.edu



Student Panel Discussion
"A Parent's Guide to Supporting Your Son's Success"
Sale Hall Chapel
9:30 – 11:00 a.m.
Contact: Rosemary Armstrong, (404) 215-2656 or at rarmstrong@morehouse.edu

International Renaissance Luncheon
Chivers Dining Hall
11:30 – 1:30 p.m.
Contact: Gwen Wade, (404) 215-2728 or gwade@morehouse.edu

Discover Your Ancestry
Facilitator: Rev. Herman Mason, Interim V.P. for Student Services and Anita Whatley, Interim Director of the Learning Resource Center
Frederick Douglass Hall
2 – 3:30 p.m.
Contact: Anita Whatley, (404) 215-2747 or at awhatley@morehouse.edu

Parents' Reception
Hosted by President Robert M. Franklin Jr '75 and First Lady Dr. Cheryl Franklin
6:30-7:30 p.m.
Kilgore Campus Center – South Lounge
Contact: Harry Wright, (404) 215-2672 or at hwright@morehouse.edu

Key Supporters Reception
6 p.m.
African-American Hall of Fame
Contact: Verna Bolton, (404) 653-7892 or at vbolton@morehouse.edu

Founder's Day Concert
Featuring: *Fantasia*
Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel
8 p.m.
Contact: Verna Bolton, (404) 653-7892 or at vbolton@morehouse.edu

SATURDAY, 14

Reflections of Excellence
Featuring: 2009 "Bennie" and "Candle" Award Recipients
Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Contact: Verna Bolton, (404) 653-7892 or at vbolton@morehouse.edu

Basketball
Morehouse vs. Clark Atlanta University
Forbes Arena
2 p.m.
Contact: Constance Sullivan, (404) 215-2752 or at csulliva@morehouse.edu

"A Candle in the Dark" Gala
Hyatt Regency Atlanta



VIP Reception
Regency VI Ballroom
6-7 p.m.

Cocktails – General Reception
Ballroom Lobby
6:30 p.m.

Dinner, Dancing and Awards Gala
Centennial Ballroom
7 p.m.
Contact: Verna Bolton, (404) 653-7892 or at vbolton@morehouse.edu

SUNDAY, 15

Worship Service
Speaker: Rev. Dr. D. Darrell Griffin, Oakdale Covenant Church, Chicago, IL
Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel
11 a.m.
Contact: Roy Craft, (404) 215-2046 or at rcraft@morehouse.edu

Concert
Morehouse College Glee Club
Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel
4 p.m.
Contact: Roy Craft, (404) 215-2046 or at rcraft@morehouse.edu

EDITOR'S PICK

JANUARY 28TH and 29th
Morehouse College Entrepreneurship Center's Entrepreneurship Conference
Executive Conference Center
Contact: Tiffany Bussey, (404) 653-2898 or at tbussey@morehouse.edu
Workshops will deal with topics including effective networking, innovation and starting a business. U.S. Army Maj Gen. Dennis L. Via, who is the commanding general of the CECOM Life Cycle Management Command, will deliver the keynote address at the conference's Jan. 29 luncheon.



Name: Roy Craft
Title: Director, Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel
Hometown: San Francisco, Calif.
Tenure at Morehouse: 2 years

Something not commonly known about Roy: Atlanta is the 20th place Roy has lived after moving here from Tokyo, where he was president of Saab Japan for three years. Roy says the most remarkable person he's met is late civil rights activist the Rev. James Orange. They worked together when Roy was executive director of the Regional Council of Churches of Atlanta.

What I Do

"Reporting to Dean Lawrence E. Carter Sr., I handle all of the administrative duties in the Chapel. I convene and facilitate various groups on different projects, such as the SACS/QEP Crown Forum Task Force, the Nile Valley and Beyond Conference set for September, and April's Science and Spiritual Awareness Week. I also represent the Chapel and the dean in various administrative and committee meetings.

For all of the celebrations that happen here, from baccalaureate to funerals to Founder's Day, there's always a part where the Chapel is involved. Project management and convening groups are a big part of my job because every one of these events involves internal and external people and getting them together and getting the project moving forward. I also do a fair amount of research and writing either to support one of the dean's projects or the programs of the

Chapel. So, I am part church administrator, part project director and part researcher/writer.

I consider it an honor to come to work every day at the Chapel. There are probably three reasons. One is President Robert M. Franklin Jr. '75, whom I've worked with before for a number of years and for whom I have a great deal of respect and admiration. Second is Dean Carter, someone I've known for many years and – at a particularly tough time in my life – he believed in me and encouraged me when almost no one else did.

And last was my father who, when I was growing up, used to quote from the sermons and speeches of Martin Luther King Jr. I remember him coming to me the day that King was assassinated – I was in high school at the time – and he said, with tears in his eyes, "America just lost its greatest hero." ■