Leading The Renaissance

Founder’s Week Spotlight Shines on the Inauguration of President Robert Michael Franklin Jr. ‘75

By Add Seymour Jr.

In his book, “Crisis in The Village: Restoring Hope in African American Communities,” President Robert Michael Franklin Jr. ‘75 says every college-educated adult who has benefited from the public’s investment in them should accept the moral obligation to provide leadership and service.

That idea can be seen as the goal for the Men of Morehouse who are working to become those Franklin sees as Renaissance men.

“We are calling for the Renaissance of all men, especially men of color,” Franklin said in a speech at the beginning of the school year. “Morehouse will be on the front line of that movement. You, gentlemen, have the opportunity to inject new energy and hope into the communities or villages that desperately await a Renaissance.”

The Morehouse Renaissance will be led by Franklin, who will be inaugurated Feb. 15 as the College’s tenth president. The historic event takes place at 10 a.m. at the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel, followed by an inaugural concert at 8 p.m. featuring the Morehouse College Glee Club and acclaimed mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves.

The inauguration highlights Founder’s Week, which runs from Feb. 13-17 and celebrates the 141st anniversary of the College’s founding in a small church basement in Augusta, Ga. The appointment of Franklin, a Chicago native, is an important period for the College, said Julius Coles ’63, president and CEO of Africare based in Washington, D.C. Coles sits on the board of directors for the Andrew Young Center for International Affairs.

“We’ve had excellent leadership in past administrations of the college,” Coles said. “But Dr. Franklin comes at a critical time to bring a new level of achievement at the college. I think he will provide a new leadership based on a new philosophy of where this institution goes in the 21st century.”

Franklin graduated from Morehouse in 1975 with a degree in political science and religion. He earned a divinity degree in Christian social ethics and pastoral care in 1978 from Harvard Divinity School, followed by a doctorate in ethics and society, and religion and the social sciences from the University of Chicago in 1985.

He’s served on the faculty of the University of Chicago, Harvard Divinity School, Colgate-Rochester Divinity School and Emory University, his last post before coming to Morehouse. Franklin was also president of the Interdenominational Theological Center from 1997 to 2002.

Franklin has authored three books, Crisis in the Village: Restoring Hope in African American Communities, Another Day’s Journey: Black Churches Confronting the American Crisis, and Liberating Visions: Human Fulfillment and Social Justice in African American Thought.

In a note to the Morehouse community in early January, Franklin talked of the Renaissance’s importance to this campus.

“I believe that a college, as a collection of students, faculty and staff, can lead a movement for renewal that transforms both the college and the larger community and nation, and perhaps even contribute to a better global community,” he said.

That’s the kind of vision that led College officials to choose Franklin to become the 10th Morehouse College president, said Willie “Flash” Davis ’56, chairman of the Board of Trustees.

“The search committee concluded that the right man for the job was Dr. Robert Franklin,” said Davis. “We believed Dr. Franklin to be the epitome of a scholar and a gentleman. His short tenure has proven us to be correct.”
Patrick Adewale, a 22-year-old Morehouse senior economics major, is happy that he has a real choice of who he can vote to be president – but he is leaning towards the African American candidate, Barack Obama.

“Generally, I feel that the issues should take precedence over who it is,” said Adewale, who is from Los Angeles. “But I have to admit, I’m a little biased for the black candidate and getting someone black in the White House.”

Adewale is like many African American and younger voters who have been energized by seeing one of their own with a legitimate shot at the presidency.

But heading into Super Tuesday on Feb. 5, when 24 states hold caucuses or primaries, including Georgia, voters for the first time have a choice of major candidates who for once aren’t just white males – the leading Democratic contenders are a black male (Obama) and a white female (Hillary Clinton), while all of the major Republican candidates, including front-runner John McCain, are white males.

“As historic as it is, it also begs the question of what will be running through voters’ minds when choosing a candidate – will it be a vote based on the issues? Gender? Race?”

“Personally, I would say that would be a very superficial way of looking at it,” said political science professor Abraham Davis. “I would start more on where they stand on the issues.”

“Social psychology professor David Bryant Marks said people will likely first look at the candidate they feel they identify with.

But he also believes there are some voters who would rather stick with the norm out of historical habit.

“It’s hard to break from the mold,” Marks said. “Many times, folks tend not to explore the question of what their voice means or what it can particularly do. I think that in some part is a psychological defense mechanism because they don’t want to get too hopeful.”

All three Morehouse academics agree on one thing – no matter how diverse the pool of candidates, issues should be most important to voters.

“There’s probably a lot more preparation in the selection because there is a variety,” Marks said. “And that’s a good thing in a democracy. Hopefully, what it makes for is a better decision on the part of individuals and hopefully groups of Americans.”

Adewale agreed.

“More importantly, with the state of the economy and issues of foreign policy, a lot more people are more interested in the issues,” he said. “I think that’s what’s created the opening to create a place for a white female, white male and black male.”

Polls are open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 5 in Georgia. To be eligible to participate in the Feb. 5 Presidential Primary, voters had to have registered to vote in Georgia by Jan. 7.

Voters must present a valid picture ID when they show up to vote in Georgia.

Acceptable IDs according to the Georgia Secretary of State’s Office include:

- any valid state or federal government issued ID including a free Voter ID Card issued by your county registrar;
- a Georgia’s Driver’s License, even if it has expired;
- a valid employee photo ID from any branch, department, agency or entity of the U.S. Government, Georgia, or any county, municipality, board, authority or other entity of Georgia;
- a valid U.S. passport ID;
- a valid U.S. military photo ID;
- a valid tribal photo ID.
The Morehouse College Glee Club, directed by David Morrow ’80, performed during the “Celebration of a New Baptist Covenant” Conference on Feb. 1 at the Georgia World Congress Center. Trustees Charles G. Adams and Otis Moss ’56, along with Dr. David Satcher ’63 and the Rev. Raphael Warnock ’91 also spoke during the conference that featured former presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton along with former Vice President Al Gore.

Herman “Skip” Mason, college archivist and director of The Learning Resource Center, delivered a speech, “The Lincoln Factor,” during the Horace Mann Bond Honors Convocation at Lincoln University on Jan. 15.

Hazel Arnett Ervin, director of General Education and associate professor of English, has been invited to lead one of six interactive sessions with secondary school teachers during Conversations Among Partners in Learning Series “Critical Approaches to Teaching African American Literature,” at Georgia State University on March 15, 2008. Ervin will talk about how to engage students in innovative textual reading, new teaching techniques and pedagogical concerns in teaching African American literature.

Malcolm B. Williams, Student Support Services Project Manager (a Federal TRIO program), presented a workshop titled, “Retention and Graduation of Males of Color: Knowledge, Skill Sets and Commitment – A Triple Threat,” at the second annual Black Brown and College Bound Conference held in Tampa, Fla., Nov. 29, 2007, at Hillsborough Community College. It was Williams’ second year presenting at the conference. During a question-and-answer session, two Morehouse seniors, Mario Suffren and David Barthelemy, talked about the College’s unique brand of preparing men of color for positions of leadership upon graduation from college.

Shirley W. Thompson, associate professor of mathematics, attended the National Symposium on “Advancing Women and the Underrepresented in the Academy” held on November 16-17, 2007, in Charlotte, N.C. The conference was held jointly at the Hilton Charlotte Center City Hotel and Johnson C. Smith University.

This national symposium was sponsored by the Faculty Resource Network at New York University. ■

Morehouse Students Helped in Obama’s South Carolina Victory

Some Morehouse students played a big part in Sen. Barack Obama’s Democratic presidential primary win in South Carolina last month.

Sophomores Ron Allen, Mark Anthony Green and Adam McFarland led three trips to South Carolina where as many as 150 students made door-to-door visits, phone calls and did other tasks as they canvassed the state to stump for Obama’s campaign.

“You had students stepping up and assuming leadership positions,” Green said. “And (Obama) won. That’s the most important thing.”

The students, who are part of a campus group, “Students for Obama,” will do the same kind of work on Super Tuesday, Feb. 5, when Georgia holds its Democratic primary.

NEW HIRES

Doris Davis, security officer, Campus Police
Karen Street, administrative assistant II, Admissions and Records
Pia Forbes, executive communications specialist, Office of the President
Sharon Lundy, payroll associate, Payroll Department
Karen Sturdivant, grants specialist, Sponsored Research

Add Seymour Jr., communications writer, Communications
Daryl Edwards, resident director, Housing and Residential Life
Mae Gentry, writer, Institutional Advancement
Candace Stanciel, resident director, Housing and Residential Life
Benjamin Strickland, professor, Business Administration
Cozell Harris, community coordinator, Sociology

Morehouse students are among a large contingent of college students working in a phone bank at Barack Obama’s South Carolina campaign headquarters in January. (photo by Marcus Daniels)
Austria Trip Sheds Light On Global Citizenship  
By Add Seymour Jr.

Just what does it mean to be a global citizen?

During a January trip to Salzburg, Austria, it was a question pondered by Terry Mills, dean of the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences; Walter Fluker, executive director of the Leadership Center at Morehouse; and Ceci Haydel, a modern foreign languages instructor.

“I don’t think we (as Americans) are walking around thinking about our global identity that way,” Mills said. “Travel and study abroad are components of global citizenship. But we can’t be global citizens until we understand the way the world perceives us.”

The three took part in the Salzburg Global Seminar, which brought together faculty and staff from historically black colleges and universities along with schools from the Appalachian area for a six-day discussion on the issue and what it truly means to be a global citizen. The goal is to give participants a chance to get a glimpse of the world and global issues outside of their Americanized lenses.

“This seminar was on global citizenship, which has a great affinity with what we’re doing at The Leadership Center and at the College with internationalization,” said Fluker, who is also interim director of the Morehouse King Collection. “And leaders in the new century must be leaders who are globally conscience and interconnected.”

Participants spent much of their time – some of the conference days lasted 12 hours – listening to speakers, participating in seminars and trading ideas.

They also had other work to do. Each school had to bring its own proposed project that promotes global awareness and global citizenship in some way. The Morehouse group will spend 2008-09 working on the Morehouse Pan-African Global Experience, which would allow students to visit several African countries during a six-week period.

“Next January, we will return to give an update,” Mills said. “Our goal is to try to sustain these projects.”
Founder’s Week 2008 Celebrates Morehouse’s 141st Year and “A Candle in the Dark” Award Honorees

One has been called one of the greatest crooners and poets of all-time. Another is a retired lieutenant general, while others are physicians, pastors or businessmen.

All of them will be celebrated as this year’s “A Candle in the Dark” award honorees.

They highlight the 141st Founder’s Day celebration, which runs from Feb. 13-17, starting with the Feb. 13th unveiling of the United States Postal Service Black Heritage stamp honoring Charles W. Chesnutt.

The Founder’s Day convocation will be held Feb. 14 at the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel and the inaugural symposium, “Culture, Spiritual Values and the Pursuit of Excellence in Higher Education,” at the Executive Conference Center.

The next day, Friday, Feb. 15, is dedicated to the historic inauguration of Robert M. Franklin Jr. ’75 as the College’s tenth president.

On Saturday, Feb. 16, the “Bennie” and “Candle” honorees will share their careers and success stories during “Reflections of Excellence,” which will be held at 11 a.m. at the King Chapel. CNN anchor Tony Harris, who also happens to be a man of Morehouse, will moderate.

That evening, the seven men will be honored for excellence in their respective fields during the “A Candle in the Dark” Gala and Inaugural Ball.

The celebration ends on Sunday, Feb. 17, with the Founder’s Day Worship Service at the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel. The Rev. Brad Ronnell Braxton of the Vanderbilt University Divinity School will be the featured speaker.

2008 Bennie and Candle Award Honorees

- **Bennie Leadership** – James R. Hall ’57, Lt. General, U.S. Army (retired); Hall served in myriad military positions during his career. He has also been director of Enlisted Personnel Management for the U.S. Army Personnel Center and Deputy Inspector General of the Department of the U.S. Army. Hall is also a member of the Morehouse Board of Trustees.

- **Bennie Achievement** – M. William Howard ’68, pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, Newark, N.J.; Howard has been involved in civil rights and racial justice issues for most of his adult life. He’s been executive director of the African American Council for the Reformed Church in America; served on the World Council of Churches and National Council of Churches, was president of the New York Theological Seminary.

- **Bennie Service** – Mack Roach ’75, world renowned urology researcher; Roach is the chairman of the Department of Radiation Oncology at the University of California San Francisco Comprehensive Cancer Center. He’s been named one of the best doctors in America four times. In a highly decorated medical career, Roach is passionate about teaching and mentoring future physicians.

- **Bennie Trailblazer** – Dr. Clinton Warner ’44, pioneering Georgia physician; Warner, a noted Atlanta physician, has also been a racial pioneer. He was the first African American to move into then all-white Southwest Atlanta in 1962. It prompted then Mayor Ivan Allen Jr. to put up the “Peyton Road Barricade” to keep blacks on one side and whites on the other.

- **Candle In Business** – Lloyd Trotter, vice chairman, General Electric; Trotter has spent nearly 35 years at GE, starting as a field service engineer to becoming president and chief executive officer of GE Industrial. He’s also a founder of GE’s African American Forum, which helps mentor African Americans who want to rise in GE. That trailblazing passion goes back to his first job – at age 18, he desegregated a Cleveland manufacturing company.

- **Candle In Medicine** – Dr. Alvin Crawford, director of Pediatrics Operations, Children’s Hospital Medical Center; Crawford was the first African American graduate of the University of Tennessee Medical Center, despite being told early on that African Americans couldn’t be doctors. He was honored in 2007 by the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons with its Diversity Award.

- **Candle In Lifetime Achievement in Arts and Entertainment** – William “Smokey” Robinson Jr., singer, entertainer, songwriter; Robinson was writing poems and songs in high school for his group, The Matadors, when he met a young Berry Gordy. Gordy signed the group, later called The Miracles, and music history has been written ever since. Robinson is a multi-Grammy-winning artist who rock legend Bob Dylan called one of America’s greatest poets.
Wednesday, Feb. 13

11:00 a.m. - Unveiling of the 2008 Black History Month Stamp featuring Charles W. Chesnutt
Martin Luther King International Chapel Lobby

Noon -
First Lady's Luncheon
In Honor of Dr. Cheryl Franklin
(by invitation only) Cherokee Driving Club

Thursday, Feb. 14

10:45 a.m. - Founder's Day Convocation
Speaker: Otis Moss Jr. '56, Olivet Institutional Baptist Church, Cleveland, Ohio
Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel

Noon -
Founder's Day Cake Cutting
Chivers Dining Hall

Noon -
Post-Convocation Luncheon (by invitation only);
Davidson House

2:00 p.m. - Inaugural Symposium
“Culture, Spiritual Values and the Pursuit of Excellence in Higher Education,” with Co-Chairs and Conveners Obie Clayton, chair, Department of Sociology, Morehouse College; Matthew V. Johnson '83, scholar, writer, lecturer, consultant, and administrator; Harold V. Bennett, associate professor, religion, Morehouse College; Edward Blum, professor, San Diego State University; Clayborne Carson, director, Martin Luther King Jr. Research and Education Institute, Stanford University; Cheryl Townsend Gilkes, director, African American Studies Program, Colby College; Martin E. Marty, professor emeritus, University of Chicago
Executive Conference Center

Friday, Feb. 15

10:00 a.m. - Inaugural Convocation Installation of
Robert Michael Franklin Jr. '75 as 10th President
Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel

Noon -
President's Inauguration Reception
Forbes Arena
### 141st Founder’s Day Announcement

**Inaugural Calendar**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Parents Reception Hosted By Student Services Kilgore Campus Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 - 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Key Supporters Reception African American Hall of Fame Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 - 10:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Inaugural Concert featuring the Morehouse College Glee Club and Acclaimed Mezzo-Soprano Denyce Graves</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, Feb. 16</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11 - 1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Reflections of Excellence featuring the 2008 Bennie and Candle Award Recipients</td>
<td>Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel</td>
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<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Post-Reflections Luncheon (by invitation only) Davidson House</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Basketball Game Morehouse vs. Clark Atlanta CSTV nationally-televised basketball game Forbes Arena</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 - 7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>“A Candle in the Dark” VIP Reception Cocktails/General Reception Regency VI Ballroom Hyatt Regency Atlanta</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>20th Annual “A Candle In The Dark” Gala and Inaugural Ball Tickets: Sold Out</td>
<td>Master and Mistress of Ceremonies, Hill Harper and Jacque Reid Centennial Ballroom, Hyatt Regency Atlanta</td>
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<td><strong>Sunday, Feb. 17</strong></td>
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<td>11 a.m.</td>
<td>Founder’s Day Worship Service Speaker: Rev. Brad Ronnell Braxton, Associate Professor of Homiletics and New Testament, Vanderbilt University Divinity School Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel</td>
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James Smartt has spent the past month in meeting after meeting as the campus readies for the busy month of February. “You’re lucky you caught me,” he said when contacted for an interview.

It’s a very busy time for Smartt, the campus’ Support Services Manager, as his office gets ready to put together the physical look for the events during Founder’s Week and President Robert M. Franklin’s inauguration.

While Smartt said that he and his staff of five people are honored to be working on such historic events, he said they treat every event as special no matter how large or small.

For example, each year they have to coordinate putting out each of the 10,000 chairs in just the right spots during Commencement. Last week they had to make sure that the green room for comedian Bill Cosby was exactly as requested. “All events are important,” Smartt said. “It’s just making sure you understand everybody’s request. Everybody’s special event is important to them. It’s our job to say, ‘this is what we can do to make it look how you want it,’ or better than they would want it.”

Smartt, a native of Yellow Springs, Ohio, has been at Morehouse for seven years. He sees the Feb. 15 inauguration of President Robert Michael Franklin Jr. ’75 as one of the biggest events he’s had to plan for.

“That’s the granddaddy of them all,” he said. “So we have to put our best foot forward. It gives us a chance to be a little more creative.” Smartt didn’t want to divulge too much – “We want to make sure there’s a ‘wow’ factor,” he said -- but Smartt said the inside of Forbes Arena will be a much more colorful place on the day of President Franklin’s inauguration.

“We’re transforming it,” Smartt said. “The colors will definitely be different. The arena will also be classier and have a very formal look.”

Their work will be on full display during each of this month’s Founder’s Day and Inaugural events, though you likely won’t notice Smartt and his staff after things begin.

“We enjoy being behind the scenes,” Smartt said.
Campus Bookstore Expands

By Add Seymour Jr.

Sipping juice, senior Joshua Lachance chatted with fellow Bostonian, sophomore Christian Redd, in the new and more spacious sitting area in the Morehouse College Bookstore.

Both leaned back and enjoyed the moment.

“It’s very relaxing,” Redd said. “You have much more space to do what you want to do – and you have more stuff here.”

“The general experience of the bookstore has definitely improved,” Lachance added. That’s exactly what Omari Young and Cedric Hughes had in mind.

Young, the College’s associate vice president for auxiliary services/business and finance, and Hughes, manager of the bookstore, wanted to give students, staff and faculty more space, more merchandise and a place to relax.

They got all of that with the recent expansion of the bookstore.

After more than a year in the works, the bookstore has gone from some 3,700 square feet to nearly 4,000 square feet in a project that was completed in January.

“It’s been received extremely well,” Hughes said. “There has been positive feedback from faculty, students and staff.”

Besides more space, the bookstore also hired six additional staff members and expanded the number of non-textbooks and other merchandise being carried. Hughes said more books and works authored by Morehouse and Atlanta University Center faculty will be offered at the bookstore.

The highlight is a reading/lounging area where patrons can relax on a couch or in comfortable chairs, have coffee and read a book or current magazine from *Black Enterprise* to *VIBE*.

“That’s what we wanted,” Hughes said. “We wanted them to feel comfortable and come in and it become a meeting place -- bring their coffee, meet friends and making it a good time.”

The bookstore also will be hosting more events such as book-signings like the Jan. 30 “Meet the Author” with Randall Kennedy when he came to talk about his new book, *Sellout*.

There are other plans for expansion being considered.

Hughes said the bookstore may be open seven days a week and hours could be extended. The bookstore may also become the first in the Atlanta University Center to sell computers.

“These are initiatives that we are taking on just so the students can have options,” Hughes said. That’s good news to students like Lachance and Redd.

“It’s definitely a step forward,” Redd said.

Poll Finds College Quality More Important Than Access to Georgians

Most Georgians believe that quality is more important than access when it comes to higher education in the state, according to a new poll.

The annual Peach State Poll, conducted by the University of Georgia’s Carl Vinson Institute of Government in partnership with the Atlanta Regional Council for Higher Education, gauges the opinions of state residents about a variety of higher education issues in Georgia.

Fifty-five percent of those polled said providing the highest quality college education in the state is most important to them. Thirty-four percent ranked making a college education more accessible as their highest priority.

Nearly half – 48 percent – believe the quality of public and private four-year colleges in the Atlanta and Athens area is good. Twenty-seven percent described the area’s higher education quality as excellent.

The entire Peach State Poll can be found at [www.atlantahighered.org](http://www.atlantahighered.org).

Morehouse is one of 19 private and public institutions in ARCHE, which builds awareness of the size, scope, impact and value of higher education in the region and helps its members share strengths through cooperative programs.
The Morehouse community celebrated the memory of Martin Luther King Jr. ‘48 with myriad January activities, including a prayer vigil at the foot of his statue, concerts, speeches and conversations about King’s legacy and appearances by celebrities like Bill Cosby, Tom Joyner and Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr.

Here is a look back on January as Morehouse celebrated the life and legacy of a King.
The Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel

King’s fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha, march in the commemorative King Day Parade and March.

Students line up at the foot of the Martin Luther King Jr. statue, the only statue in the state of Georgia honoring King, to take part in a ceremonial wreath laying.

Radio host Tom Joyner talks about his lineage with Harvard Professor Henry Louis Gates Jr. after a screening of “African American Lives 2” at the King Chapel.

Morehouse junior Desmond Martin Diggs performed a litany during the Martin Luther King Jr. Annual Commemoration Service at the Ebenezer Baptist Church Heritage Sanctuary.

Walter Fluker, executive director of the Leadership Center at Morehouse College, delivered the Martin Luther King Jr. Crown Forum address.
UNCF Launches New Logo and Brand

The United Negro College Fund’s mission to help students at its 39 historically black colleges and universities hasn’t changed.

But the 63-year-old organization’s logo and brand has been revamped.

The new look was unveiled Jan. 17 during a news conference at Spelman College.

Morehouse, which was represented at the news conference by Willis B. Sheffall ’64, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, is a UNCF institution.

The new logo uses a flame along with the organization’s initials and the theme, “A Mind is a Terrible Thing to Waste.” UNCF President and CEO Michael Lomax ’68 said donors, potential donors and younger people were chief among those targeted by the name change.

“We thought our brand identity should change to reflect the kind of organization that UNCF is today,” he said. “The name of the UNCF is still the same — so are our initials.”

As part of the launching of the new logo, UNCF officials rang the closing bell at the NASDAQ Stock Exchange in New York City. On hand representing Morehouse were Katarro Rountree ’04 and Derek Smith ’99.

Editor’s Pick

Monday, February 18

“Never Forget: A Journey of Revelation”

Featuring: Dr. Cornel West

Best-selling author, orator, and recording artist

Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel

6:30 p.m.

Admission is free and open to the public.