**Inside MOREHOUSE**

**Dawn of a Renaissance**

*By Vickie G. Hampton*

Officially, President Robert M. Franklin ’75 has taken 100 days to “look, listen and learn.” He is a little more than two-thirds into those days, but the call of leadership apparently doesn’t adhere to timelines.

With a mind for marketing, during NSO, he sent student ambassadors to the airport to greet arriving freshman so that students, parents and travelers “who pass through the busiest airport in the world can see Morehouse’s ‘charm offensive’ as we take our story and brand into the public square,” he explained. He also requested that a 15-by-35 foot banner hang from the parking deck to tout three of the College’s most impressive accolades.

He’s also done his fair share of meet-and-greets, including a hugely successful introduction to the black media at a Las Vegas reception during the National Association of Black Journalists Convention and Career Fair.

When the death bell tolled thrice, he celebrated the lives of an administrator, a student and an internationally renowned scholar with the rest of the community.

And Franklin definitely has not put off having his say. The prolific writer and sought-after orator has published his first “House Report”—a monthly report that reaches faculty, staff and students, as well as alumni. When he spoke to 750 freshmen during NSO, he didn’t mince words when he put a moratorium on the pervasive dress and etiquette associated with the hip-hop culture.

“Let me be more emphatic,” he told the business-attired students. “We are Morehouse, and we will not tolerate profanity in the public square. We are Morehouse, and we will not tolerate sagging pants that gravitate far below your waistline. No ‘do-rags,’ no baseball caps inside buildings. No pajamas in the classroom.

“You are men of Morehouse. You are better than that. And I will be watching and expecting class from you.” A few weeks later, he delivered the same message to upperclassmen.

That was August.

**The Renaissance Class**

*By Add Seymour Jr.*

IT WAS A SOUL-STIRRING MOMENT. There they were—750 clean-cut, young and intelligent black men, clad in maroon blazers and singing “Dear Old Morehouse” on Westview Drive, the main artery of the campus. It was just moments before they would march up Brown Street and have the gate locked behind them in the College’s ritual of separation and independence. It was perhaps their first true moment as men of Morehouse.

Streams of parents and family sobbed and even members of the Morehouse family, many of whom have witnessed3.
College Focuses on Internationalization in Three-year Quest for SACS Reaccreditation

By Kai Jackson Issa

This year, planning for the College's reaccreditation by its regional accrediting agency, the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) will shift into high gear. In a rigorous process that occurs once every 10 years, Morehouse's reaccreditation will focus on ways to enhance the development of young men into educated, global citizens for the new millennium and will advance President Robert Franklin's new vision for Morehouse as "a global resource for educated and ethical leaders."

"Accreditation is an institution's currency," explained Ron Sheehy '65, assistant vice president for academic affairs and chair of the Morehouse SACS review committee. "It ensures that an institution is in compliance with the highest standards of excellence in education." Achieving reaccreditation also ensures that an institution will continue to receive federal funding, including financial aid.

Morehouse's reaccreditation process will be completed in 2009, but planning for reaccreditation began in 2005 with the formation of the Morehouse SACS review committee, composed of faculty and staff from all areas of the College. As a former associate director of SACS, Sheehy is more than equipped to lead the College in this effort.

"There are twin goals of the SACS process. We want not only to be found in compliance, but we want to use the process to improve Morehouse," he said.

This year, the College will finalize two major components of the SACS review: the completion of a compliance audit and the creation a quality enhancement plan (QEP).

A compliance audit committee is charged with finding the documentation showing that the College is in compliance with SACS core requirements of quality education.

In September 2008, Morehouse will submit its QEP, a document that focuses on one theme related to excellence in undergraduate learning. Through surveys and discussions, faculty, staff and administrators have identified leadership, internationalization and scholarship as critical principles for student learning at the College. The committee is now in the process of refining those principles into one theme.

Given the College's emphasis on producing students with global competency, the chosen QEP theme will undoubtedly have a strong international component that will be rooted in Morehouse's tradition of leadership with a social conscience. "The concern and regard for other human beings have to be at the heart of internationalization, and internationalization without regard to other human beings has no heart," says Sheehy.

As interim vice president for Academic Affairs and provost, Willis B. Sheftall '64 is overseeing the entire reaccredidation process. Having served on various committees for SACS during his career, Sheftall is very familiar with the process. "While assuring SACS that we provide quality education at Morehouse, this process also serves as a powerful reminder to us that we provide quality education to our students," he said. "This process will provide the College with a focus for improving the learning experiences of our students that will guide us for the next several years."
New Dean Focuses on Student and Faculty Development

By Add Seymour Jr.

Morehouse College is a great institution, but it wasn’t the reason that Terry Mills found his way to Atlanta. It was family.

“We wanted to be close to our grandkids and our youngest son,” Mills explained. “So when we moved here, it wasn’t about Morehouse or Atlanta or a job.”

Mills, the new dean of the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences, believes that divine intervention was behind the convergence of a long career as a sociologist, educator and administrator, the opening of the deanship position and his move to Georgia.

Mills has a long and distinguished career that has spanned academia and corporate America. The Harlem native spent the past decade at the University of Florida as a highly respected professor and—for the last three years—assistant dean of Minority Affairs. He picked up a variety of honors and awards, such as Teacher of the Year in 2001-02 and, perhaps the university’s highest honor, the Presidential Medallion for Distinguished Service this past year.

Plaques from students (whom he prefers calling “scholars”) along with a stack of cards and letters that Mills keeps in the closest of his Wheeler Hall office provide a clue.

“I bring to Morehouse a real commitment to student development and junior faculty development,” Mills said. “That’s what I’m all about. We want to give them the right guidance, right direction....”

Recently, Mills unveiled a new slogan: “Division of Humanities and Social Sciences, building the strong foundation upon which Morehouse Men stand.”

There are a variety of issues that Mills wants to address during his tenure. He is looking to raise the bar on teaching in the division, along with research. Mills also wants to enhance the scholarship of faculty members and wants to pursue more external and corporate funding opportunities.

“I guess my vision [for the division] would be to have a sustained level of educational quality and accountability of our faculty and our students, and to establish ourselves as a leader in liberal arts education,” Mills said.

One of those accountability issues he plans to take a hard stance on is plagiarism. His answer: help students to address the issues—including understanding writing techniques—on the front end.

“Maybe we need to incorporate style into our courses. (Students) know what they shouldn’t do. What I suspect is that they may not know how to do it right,” he said.

But Mills is not just some stern administrator. He gives fist bumps to janitors, jokes with faculty, touches the King statue each time he passes it and likes just hanging out on campus talking to people.

“He came in with a can-do attitude and he did it with a smile,” said Henry Thompson IV, a senior finance major who works in Mills’ office. “When I met him, I didn’t actually know he was a dean. He’s a real great guy.”

Mills says he’s just basking in becoming part of the Morehouse family.

“I’m really excited to be here at Morehouse,” he said. “I think that with the various transitions that are occurring, this is an exciting time to be here.”

Morehouse Named “Hottest Men’s College” by Newsweek/Kaplan; One of Best Southeastern Colleges by Princeton Review

Morehouse has recently been listed in two national rankings: Newsweek magazine named it the nation’s “hottest men’s college” and the Princeton Review for 2008 named the College among its list of best Southeastern colleges. Newsweek’s “25 Hottest Schools,” a new ranking this year, appears in the magazine’s Aug. 27, 2007, issue and in the annual Newsweek-Kaplan College Guide.

Morehouse is the only HBCU and the only institution of higher learning in Georgia to make the list.

The article cites the College’s legacy of producing black leaders, specifically mentioning Nobel laureate Martin Luther King Jr. ’48, actor Samuel L. Jackson ’72 and filmmaker Shelton “Spike” Lee ’79.

It also highlights two recent campus developments: the $2-million donation from Goldman Sachs to endow a chair that will be held by the new director of the Morehouse College Martin Luther King, Jr. Collection; and the Morehouse College Center for the Arts, a $20-million, 76,000-square-foot facility that will house the Ray Charles Performing Arts Center and the Music Education Building. Construction on the new facility will begin this fall.

In the Princeton Review’s annual ranking of colleges and universities nationwide, Morehouse is one of 146 schools to receive the publication’s Best in the Southeast designation. A total of 654 schools made the listing, representing the Northeast, Midwest, Southeast and West in the Best Colleges Region by Region section of PrincetonReview.com (www.princetonreview.com/college/research/regional).

Colleges were selected based on two criteria. First, they had to meet the publication’s standards for academic excellence within their region. Second, students were anonymously surveyed to obtain a representative, opinion-driven profile for their particular college. School profiles are available on PrincetonReview.com.
Cont’d from Renaissance Class

this scene many times before, were themselves moved.

“To see all those young men—bright, powerful, eager to learn—ready to conquer the world,” said Anne Watts, associate vice president for Academic Affairs. “That is a powerful, powerful scene.”

The class has been dubbed the “Renaissance Class,” a tribute to the fact that this class will be the first to study their entire collegiate careers under the tutelage of President Robert Franklin ’75.

But, according to Sterling Hudson III, dean of Admissions and Records, the class has another distinguishing mark. Each student was personally interviewed, either by admissions personnel or alumni based in their hometowns, due in part to some high-profile incidents involving Morehouse students or former students that garnered negative attention towards the College.

“I think it’s been very helpful to us to understand who our students are beyond their academic profile,” Hudson said.

“The major difference in this class is their measure of character. We have already observed that this class has come in with a different demeanor,” he said.

Terrence Dixon, associate dean of Admissions and Records, concurred.

“They seem to be very focused and willing to receive direction from the Morehouse community,” said Dixon.

Though final figures are still being tallied by the Office of Assessment and Institutional Research, Hudson said the new men of Morehouse come from nearly 37 states. Nearly 22 percent of the estimated 750 freshman come from Georgia, with two-thirds of that group hailing from metro Atlanta.

“I think that’s an indication that we have stepped up our recruiting in the metro Atlanta area and the outlying counties,” Hudson said, adding that many of the Georgia students are HOPE scholarship recipients.

There is also a strong representation of new students from California, the Washington, D.C./Maryland/Northern Virginia area, metropolitan New York City, Chicago, Michigan and Texas.

This class is very accomplished academically. Nearly 20 percent of them are high school valedictorians or salutatorians with a mean grade point average of 3.3—very close to the 3.5 goal that Hudson says his office has set for incoming freshmen classes.

“We’re very close,” he said. “This class is strong—at least as strong as last year.”

During NSO, the new students and their parents were introduced to the Morehouse community through sessions and talks with every area of campus life: administration, financial aid, various academic departments and even campus police.

“It’s an opportunity to address any unreadiness on the part of students or questions from parents,” Hudson said. “I think it also presented the College a chance to convey to parents and incoming freshmen the culture of the College. I think it went well.”

It went well even as tears fell from the eyes of proud parents who watched as their sons put on the new Morehouse blazers—one of the first outward signs that they would abide by President Franklin’s urging to “look the part; act the part; talk the talk and walk the walk.”

“These young men are works in progress,” said Watts of the Renaissance Class. “But it’s also a transformation. These young men are being transformed from boys into men. They are moving from one place of their lives of youthfulness and they are becoming men in a very special and dynamic way.

OPPORTUNITIES

JUMPSTART IS LOOKING TO HIRE 13 TEAM LEADERS FOR 2007-2008.

The team leader prepares a team of corps members to provide educational activities to young children and families. They plan and implement effective Jumpstart sessions, coach Corps members to use developmentally appropriate practices with young children, facilitate team meetings, assist corps members in developing strong relationships with children’s families, develop relationships with classroom teachers, deliver and participate in trainings, represent Jumpstart at community meetings and manage administrative tasks.

To apply
Visit www.jstart.org/apply or contact Rochelle Lindsey, Jumpstart Program manager, at 404-572-3693.
MY YOUNGER BROTHER’S KEEPER
Vendors at Community Volunteer Fair Seek Black Male Role Models

Freshman Cleon Rich volunteers with a local agency.

W hen Cleon Rich, a freshman biology major, graduated from his Kilmarnock, Va., high school last year, he was the only black male in his graduating class who was going to college.

“It was a problem for me,” he said. But he believes that if black males are reached at a young age, you can “break the cycle of them not furthering their education.”

This desire to reach back is what motivated Rich to attend the annual Community Volunteer Fair on the Kilgore Plaza on Sept. 5, sponsored by the Bonner Office of Community Service. The 35 community partners seeking volunteers for their organizations had prepared spiels, cards and pamphlets with proof that Rich’s experience, unfortunately, was not an isolated occurrence, but one happening at an alarming rate across the country.

A postcard from the Prodigy Project, a mentoring program targeting black boys ages 5 to 9, stated that more black boys in their 20s are in prison (34 percent) than at work (30 percent). Education, it also stated, is the only hope for black boys. “Without successful smart black men to aspire to, and solid reading skills, many of our boys won’t succeed in school,” it stated.

Jerome L. Beamer, the senior program coordinator with ForeverFamily, an organization that assists children of incarcerated parents, said the organization is seeking more men to inspire black boys.

“Somewhere between 70 and 80 percent of these kids end up committing crime,” he explained. Beamer, who regularly volunteers in a local elementary school reading to children, says many of the black male students he encounters have reading problems and have difficulty with letter recognition.

He sees the difference in the male students when he is there. “They seem to look up to me,” he said. “We need more men to encourage them. We have many kids who don’t have men in their families. We need more male role models.”

Beamer was hoping to recruit 20 to 25 Morehouse students. An hour and a half into the four-hour fair, he had seven students on his sign-up sheet. “I’m confident I’ll get at least 20,” he said.

According to the Bonner Office of Community Service, the annual event signed up 100 new volunteers last fall, and, for the first time, a second fair is being planned for the spring.

TigerPoint, which is accessible through TigerNet, tracks the volunteer work of 700 students and allows the Bonner Office to show the statistical impact of student volunteerism.

—VGH
Benjamin McLaurin ’69 was College’s Earl of Etiquette

Benjamin P. McLaurin ’69 made it his business to make sure Morehouse students had a sense of style and could speak and socialize with the best. For nearly four decades, he served the College as an educator, advocate, career counselor and motivator.

After a brief illness, McLaurin died May 22 at the age of 60. A memorial service was held June 1 in King Chapel where faculty, staff and former students paid tribute to the Morehouse legend.

“He taught me the importance of giving back and making sure to keep Morehouse students in mind when filling internships and new job postings while I was a senior executive at a large financial services institution,” said C. Howie Hodges II ’82 of Falls Church, Va. “He has thousands of brothers who will miss him, not only for his great sense of style, but also for his great sense of humor and for his greatest gift of giving.”

McLaurin was one of three co-founders of the National and International Spring Tour for business administration and economics majors. The tour gives students the opportunity to travel to business centers throughout the world. In 2006-07, McLaurin’s efforts placed at least 50 Morehouse interns on Wall Street for the summer of 2007.

“Ben fully understood that in order to be a leader, one must first be a professional,” said Belinda Johnson White, assistant professor of leadership studies. “There is no doubt in my mind that the leadership lessons he taught will continue ad infinitum by the way of the thousands of young men he developed during his 39 years of service at Morehouse.”

A native of New York, McLaurin was the godson of the late A. Philip Randolph, the founder of The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, which was the country’s first black labor union.

After earning a bachelor’s degree in English from Morehouse in 1969, McLaurin began his career as the first director of Career Placement at the College. In 2003, he became the director of Career Services under the Division of Business Administration and Economics.

He was a member of the King Players and director and participant in the Morehouse College Faculty and Staff Follies.

The Benjamin P. McLaurin Endowed International Fellowship has been established to provide perpetual funding for the International Spring Tour.

Donations may be made online at www.morehousealumniandfriends.com/efr.
and the Cape of Good Hope. Particularly interesting were visits to Nkosi’s Haven, an AIDS orphanage, where students were confronted with the direct impact of the disease, and to two museums that highlighted various aspects of the apartheid struggle—the District Six Museum and the Apartheid Museum.

**STAFF**

Kellye Blackburn Eccles, director of Career Planning Placement for Non-Business Majors, presented Career Development and Recruitment Initiatives for African American Male College Students at the American College and Personnel Association’s Institute on College Males Conference, held in May 2007.

Herman Mason, director of the Learning Resource Center and college archivist, was recently nominated for the 33rd General President of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity at the 101st Anniversary Convention this past August. He began his tour of the brotherhood with stops in Illinois, California, New York, Nevada, South Carolina, Washington D.C., and Georgia.

**STUDENTS**

Antoine Lackland, Michael Richardson and Artesius Miller attended the annual Bonner Conference Student Leadership Institute held at Oberlin College this summer. They, along with Bonner staff persons, facilitated a presentation titled “Report to the U.N.,” which encouraged a conversation among participants on critical and important global issues that have an impact on the human condition and a perspective on the success or lack of workable human solutions.

Ten Ronald E. McNair scholars attended the 13th Annual SAEOPP/UTK McNair National Scholars Research Conference held June 29 through July 1 in Knoxville, Tenn. The annual conference attracts more than 300 participants nationwide from more than 30 colleges and universities. Biology major Marcus Sandling, psychology major Brian Nails, mathematics major Dang Do and chemistry majors Edwin Alexander, Fredrick Garner and Michael Love all presented scholarly research in their respective fields. Love and Alexander placed 5th and 4th respectively in the field of physical science, Sandling placed 3rd overall in the field of biology, and Nails placed 2nd overall in the field of psychology.

Brandon Phillips, a freshman from Atlanta, presented (posthumously) the Atlanta Business League’s inaugural Legacy Award to the late Mayor Maynard Jackson ’56 for his support of minority businesses and his civic leadership as three-term mayor of the city of Atlanta (1974-1982, 1990 to 1994). Jackson’s widow, Valerie Jackson, accepted the award from the Atlanta Business League, a minority business development organization established in 1933 as the local affiliate of the National Business League, founded by Booker T. Washington.

**passages**

**Eddie Gaffney ’70 ‘Exercised a Tough, Fatherly Love’**

EDDIE DEAN GAFFNEY ’70, known for his ubiquitous smile and fatherly concern for students, died July 24 due to complications from cancer.

During his memorial service, Gaffney was remembered for his love of people and music, his ability to look at the bright side of life, and his commitment to Morehouse and her students.

“Eddie Dean recruited me to come to Morehouse,” said Gaffney’s cousin Uzee Brown ’72, chair of the Department of Music. “It is a decision I have never regretted.”

It was under the tutelage of professors like Robert Brisbane, Anna Grant and Frederick Mapp that Gaffney, a 1970 Morehouse graduate, deepened his commitment to be a change agent in the community. A psychology student, Gaffney enjoyed singing with the glee club and serving as an officer of the student government association. He pledged Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and served as vice basilus his senior year at Morehouse.

Gaffney continued his education at the University of South Carolina (USC) in Columbia, where he received a master’s degree in community psychology in 1973 and completed all but his dissertation toward a Ph.D. in clinical-community psychology. He also began his career at USC, serving as director of Outreach and Advocacy at Midlands Center; research associate for the University’s Social Problems Research Institute; psychology instructor in the University’s College of Applied Professional Sciences; and program manager for the President’s Summer Opportunity Scholars session.

In 1992, Gaffney returned to Morehouse to teach psychology and went on serve as class dean, special assistant to the senior vice president for Academic Affairs, and dean of Student Services for almost 10 years.

“I think that he was one of the most supportive and caring individuals that I met at the College, especially when it came to providing services to students,” said Gwen Wade, director of the International Student Services and Study Abroad Programs.

“I always admired his calm disposition, his encouraging words, and his uplifting spirit,” said Lenardo Major, a 2004 graduate living in Nassau. “Dean exercised a tough, fatherly love on campus that will surely be missed.”
NEW FACULTY

Biology
Charlese Garnett
Assistant Professor
Alexandra Peister
Assistant Professor
Wallace Sharif
Assistant Professor

Business Administration
Carolyn D. Davis
Assistant Professor
Gregory N. Price
Professor and Chair, Economics Department
Bonnie L. Stivers
Visiting Assistant Professor

Computer Science
Sonya Dennis
Instructor

English
Mary Behrman
Assistant Professor
Betty Davis-Robinson
Speech Instructor
Stephane Dunn
Assistant Professor
Alison Ligon
Assistant Professor
Christopher T. Norman
Speech Instructor
Sergio Rizzo
Assistant Professor

Health & Physical Education
Lydia Woods
Assistant Professor

Mathematics
Douglas Carter Jr.
Instructor
Joseph W. Eyles
Assistant Professor
William E. Gric
Assistant Professor
Gabriel Miller
Instructor
Ulrica Wilson
Assistant Professor

Modern Foreign Languages
Euphemia Lewis
Instructor
Barbara Williams
Instructor

Physics
John Howard
Instructor
Emmanuel Karikari
Assistant Professor

Psychology
Sinead N. Younge
Assistant Professor

Sociology
Terry Mills
Dean, Humanities & Social Sciences Professor of Sociology

Art Program
Charles H. Nelson
Instructor

New Hires

Antoinette Ballard, police officer, Campus police
Stephanie Brown, administrative assistant, Office of Special Academic Programs
Angel Anderson, security officer, Campus police
Tony Belser, assistant registrar, Registrar’s Office
Samuel Bennett, security officer, Campus police
Kareem Bland, facility manager/aquatics, Archer Hall Recreation & Fitness Center
Kevin Booker, director of New Student Orientation, Student Services
Remeka Bowden, program assistant, Strategic Planning
Robert Bryant, corporate relations officer, Corporate Relations/OIA
Adrian Cheatham, human resources assistant, Human Resources
Terrell Cheaves, resident director, Housing and Residential Life
George Copeland, assistant head football coach/defensive coordinator, Athletics-Football
Johnny Curtis, security officer, Campus Police
James Eichelberger, maintenance worker, Physical Plant
Roberto Forbes, maintenance worker, Physical Plant
Barbara Gillison, administrative assistant, Corporate Relations/OIA
Angela Glenn, assistant registrar, Registrar’s Office
Linda Johnson, gift processor, Institutional Advancement
Melvinia King, leadership studies coordinator, Leadership Center
Raphael Moffett, director of Student Life and Planning, Student Activities-General
Cheryl Perdue, purchasing assistant, Purchasing
Francello Phillips-Calhoun, special assistant/operations manager, Office of the President
Danita Reaves, financial aid assistant/data entry, Financial Aid Office
Kevin Redd, security officer, Campus police
Jamie Riley, resident director, Housing and Residential Life
Michael Simpson, contract paralegal, General Counsel
Tia Smith, financial planner/budget analyst, Budget and Planning
Marcel Spates, resident director, Student Services and Residential Life
Ronald Thomas, director, Journalism and Sports Program
Sandra VanTravis, environmental health and safety officer, Campus Operations
Maurice Washington, director, Housing and Residential Life
Rashad Watson, coach, Athletics
Karen Williams, assistant, Student Financial Services

Promotions

Patrick Wheeler, electrical helper, Physical Plant
Willie Wren, maintenance worker, Physical Plant
Taking the Lead
Belinda White’s New Textbook is Pioneer in Leadership Studies

By Add Seymour Jr.

THE HARD-Fought CIVIL RIGHTS battles led by the Martin Luther King Jr. influenced a teenaged Belinda Johnson White so much that she figured she’d follow in King’s footsteps. She planned to attend Morehouse College.

“It wasn’t until I was in the 10th grade that someone finally told me that I couldn’t go to Morehouse,” she said.

But after graduating from neighboring Spelman College and later Georgia Tech and Georgia State, and starting a career as a corporate consultant, White now teaches lessons of leadership as an assistant professor in Leadership Studies.


“There were no textbooks out there for this class,” said White as the light shines into her small office decorated with many honors and awards. “I always had to hodge-podge. I got tired of trying to hodge-podge.”

She describes the book as a compilation of advice and teachings from corporate America along with the basic things that students need to learn to become leaders. It is an area where White herself has worked as a trainer and consultant with numerous national corporate entities, including Goldman Sachs, Coca-Cola Company and the Atlanta Falcons.

White uses actual quotes from some of the nation’s most renowned business leaders, including Time Warner CEO Richard Parsons, Morgan Stanley managing director Carla Harris and media pioneer Ted Turner, culled from their talks on campus.

“They’re words are golden,” White said. “But it really comes down to the fundamental things we talk about in class. Too often, students see the bells and whistles and that’s all they want to focus on. But you’ve got to have the fundamentals.”

She also presents her own theories and teachings on the topic, focusing on five areas: leadership, professionalism (“That’s the fifth language of business,” she said), ethics, global awareness and public service. The book is currently sold in the College bookstore. The second edition will be available next year and will be marketed to higher education institutions across the country, especially other Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

White said one of her main inspirations for writing the book was Benjamin P. McLaurin ’69, director for Career Counseling and Placement, who died in May.

“We always said we wanted to write a book,” she recalled. “This made me realize that tomorrow isn’t promised, so I said I needed to stop saying I’m going to do it and just do it.”

Now that she’s done it, White is now happy to face the challenges of pioneering a textbook topic not explored before.

“I’m very excited,” she said. “But that’s what we do at Morehouse. We teach students to take the lead.”
When a high-profile black athlete gets arrested, raising our racial antenna is black sports journalists’ natural reaction. But not when it came to Atlanta Falcons icon Michael Vick, who proved to be an uncommon criminal.

When Spike Lee hosted Morehouse’s “Forum on the Black Athlete” in May, at least half of the program was spent analyzing why black male professional athletes are getting arrested at an alarming rate. Some panelists chastised athletes for making incredibly irresponsible decisions. Other panelists smacked down the white sporting press, stating that they take delight in further besmirching the image of black males. Several black sports journalists, including me, came across as staunch protectors of black men wearing cleats, spikes and sneakers.

It sounded noble, yet it felt uncomfortable. I left the Leadership Center hoping that aspiring journalists in the audience understood that black journalists’ roles are to find the truth, add perspective and seek fairness regarding everyone we write about. Do that, I tell Morehouse’s first year of journalism students, and undoubtedly racism and negative stereotyping will be uncovered along the way.

So when the federal indictment against Vick came down for financing and participating in dog fighting activities, some black sports journalists preached caution for good reason. If nothing else, history has taught us that “justice” for black men is a concept, not a fact. It’s often wise to withhold opinions until guilt or innocence has been proven.

But Vick’s offense – for six years funding an illegal business that trained dogs to kill and killed dogs that couldn’t – rightly stripped many black sports journalists of their protective instinct.

He hadn’t gotten into a spur-of-the-moment fight in a nightclub, been caught driving with a suspended license, or succumbed again to an addiction that had captured his soul. In the world of sports, that’s common criminality, and often perspective has its place. Ten years ago NBA star Latrell Sprewell choked his white coach, yet I wrote that P.J. Carlesimo wasn’t the blameless victim because he’d been cursing out and humiliating his black players for more than a year. I wouldn’t change a word.

Vick’s case was different. Backed by the riches from a 10-year, $130-million contract, he looked at all the investment opportunities within his grasp and chose to dash back into its clutches in a uniquely vile way.

When black athletes get involved in criminal activity, how much should black sports journalists condemn and how much should we defend? That’s a mental tightrope, and I always fear falling too heavily on one side or the other. In this situation, Vick’s choice of a reprehensible second career has made my decision much easier. For him, my protective shield is much, much thinner than usual.

My Word is open to faculty, staff and students who wish to express their views on topics of interest to the Morehouse Community. Articles must be between 550 to 600 words and may be edited for clarity or space. Send inquires to vhamp- ton@morehouse.edu or call x8647.
FOOTBALL FACE-LIFT

New Face, New Look and Military-Style Operation Will Make Football Season ‘Very Interesting’

Those white-helmeted, neatly-trimmed guys at B.T. Harvey Stadium on Saturdays may look unfamiliar to Morehouse football fans. But this is the new version of the Maroon Tigers, who started the 2007 season with a new look and a new face leading the way.

The first obvious difference: former Tennessee State assistant coach and football player Richard Freeman, an Atlanta native who brings with him a penchant for heavy discipline.

“I wanted to come in and give an immediate face-lift for the team — clean haircuts, clean shaven,” says Freeman. “We’re going to operate as close to the military as we can. My motto is to play fast, play hard and play smart. We’re a well-disciplined ballclub and the tempo is extremely fast.”

That military precision and cohesiveness also mean a more attacking style of defense and a West Coast offense designed to keep Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference opponents on their heels this season.

While the Maroon Tigers finished 3-9 last season (one of those wins came courtesy of a forfeit by Miles College, which was found later to have been using an ineligible player), there is reason for optimism.

On offense, running back Kelvin Moore, the team’s second leading rusher with 225 yards rushing and four touchdowns last year, is back. So is Carlos King, who spent time as a receiver but returns to the quarterback position where he threw for 396 yards and two touchdowns in limited duty.

Freeman believes an offense that finished second in the conference and returns their brand of the West Coast offense will throw the football around and score in bunches this season.

“We’ve got a pretty good senior quarterback returning, a strong receiving corps and two senior tailbacks,” Freeman says. “I’m a little concerned up front. We’ve got a lot of young guys up there. We’re still waiting on them to gel and become a cohesive unit.”

Defensively, Freeman promises that a unit that was last in total defense in 2006 will be more attacking and looks to force the issue with its opponents.

“It’s a very aggressive defense,” Freeman says of new defensive coordinator George Copeland’s unit. “We’d like to load the box up and bring pressure and force people to pass.”

The Maroon Tiger secondary is ready for the task with Derrick Scott, Gabriel Harper, Brandon Morgan and Earl Thomas. A big defensive line is anchored by Marvin Lane, who at 6’7” and 275 pounds has been leading the way for the a big Morehouse defensive front. Four transfers are also looking to come in to contribute defensively.

Conference coaches picked Morehouse to finish last in the SIAC, but despite a defense that had some bad games last year, Freeman sees promise on both sides of the ball and in special teams. He believes Morehouse Maroon Tiger fans should get ready for a very interesting season.

“We’re fired up,” Freeman says. “I’m feeling pretty good about it.”

-AS

For the football schedule, www.morehouse.edu/athletics
September finds the new president as busy as ever—even though his 100 days of observation are not officially over until mid-October. He has already given the community a foretaste of his vision for the College: Renaissance has suddenly become a buzzword on campus.

“You gentlemen will have the opportunity to inject new energy and hope into communities and villages that desperately await a Renaissance,” he told students in his NSO opening address.

**Walking the Walk**

Franklin—a theologian, educator, author, broadcast commentator, student of seven languages and world traveler—is himself the quintessential Renaissance man he is asking the men of Morehouse to become. His latest book, *Crisis in the Village: Restoring Hope in African American Communities* is being cited for going beyond identification of the crisis and putting forth an “actionable plan.”

The former ITC president and Emory University Presidential Distinguished Professor of Social Ethics is constantly sought for his advice on topics ranging from funding for religion and public life initiatives for the Ford Foundation to the development of a study guide for the congregational use of the DreamWorks film, *The Prince of Egypt.*

Franklin graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the College in 1975 with a degree in political science and religion, and also holds a master’s degree from Harvard Divinity School and the Ph.D. from University of Chicago. He also studied at the University of Durham, UK, as a 1973 English Speaking Union Scholar.

**The Morehouse Renaissance**

Franklin’s call for a rebirth of values, commitment and accountability may be a global cry, but he intends for it to start at home—the ’House. Just as he has asked students to, he has also asked faculty and staff to join in the effort to save the village.

“Where are the challenges, what are the obstacles to really move Morehouse from good to great?” he asked. “What opportunities haven’t we really seized? If you could offer advice on year-one priorities, what would you recommend?”

Integrity on the job; a spirit of service that is conveyed from the “smile in your voice” when you answer the phones to the customer service provided to students and visitors; being good stewards of Morehouse resources—all provide assurance that we are committed to the Morehouse mission, said Franklin.

“Morehouse exists for the community and, more ambitiously, for the global community,” said Franklin.

“Your ’House, at your service. I really like that.”

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**Cont’d from cover “Dawn of a Renaissance”**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**
*Crown Forum: Opening Convocation*
King Chapel
10:45 a.m.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22**
*Football – Morehouse vs. Concordia College*
Selma, AL
5 p.m.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27**
*Lecture: African President-in-Residence*
*His Excellency Antonio Monteiro*
Former President of Cape Verde
Executive Conference Center
Bank of America Auditorium at The Leadership Center
6 p.m.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27**
*Crown Forum: Student Government Association*
King Chapel
11 a.m.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**
*Study Abroad Fair*
Representatives from more than 40 foreign institutions
Kilgore Plaza
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**Atlanta University Center Career Fair**
Marriott Marquis Hotel (Downtown)
1 p.m.
Transportation provided. Pick up and drop off at Spelman College front gate on Greensferry

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29**
*8th Annual Morehouse College Breast Cancer Awareness Walk*
8 a.m.
Start/End – King Chapel plaza

**Cross Country Track Meet**
Clark Atlanta University
9 a.m.

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2**
*Faculty Meeting*
Executive Conference Center
4 p.m.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4**
*President’s Crown Forum*
Speaker: Dr. Robert M. Franklin ’75
King Chapel
11 a.m.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6**
*72nd Annual Morehouse – Tuskegee Football Classic*
A.J. McClung Memorial Stadium
Columbus, GA
Kick-off 2 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased from Morehouse National Alumni Association - 3rd Floor, Archer Hall, 404-215-2657