Homecoming 2004

ACHIEVING PERFECT HARMONY BETWEEN MOREHOUSE COLLEGE AND SPELMAN COLLEGE AS THEY COME TOGETHER IN A UTOPIA
s an alumus, there are three things that you don’t want to miss at Morehouse: the Homecoming, Founder’s Day and graduation,” said Joseph Carlos ’04, a photographer for Clear Channel. “But this is No. 1 on the list. Homecoming is the best time of the year because everyone’s back. You really don’t know how much you miss your friends.”

This year’s Homecoming, “Soulful Ascension,” one of the College’s oldest alum, Dr. Richard I. McKinney ’31, and great-grand nephew, Morehouse freshman Akumba B. Roberson. The Annual Homecoming Conference & Showcase returned for its second year. Sponsored by the Office of Alumni Relations and the Celebrating the Arts initiative, the conference offered participants a closer look into the music, film, television and theater industries through the experiences of panelists like Jonathan Leonard ’87.

Leonard, an entertainment lawyer, sat on the panel “Being Successful in the Music Industry.” He negotiates contracts and solidifies production deals for big-name recording artists, producers and songwriters such as T.I. and Jazze Pha. While Leonard initially had no intentions of becoming a lawyer—he graduated with a physics degree and was a banker for two years—he credits Morehouse for grooming him to succeed in whatever he chose to try his hand at, be it solving an algorithm or obtaining the best deal for a client. That’s why he returns to the College every semester to speak in a music appreciation class taught by fellow alumus Terrance McKnight ’90, an adjunct professor of music.

“Academically, spiritually, mentally, Morehouse is the best preparation for those things as it relates to my career,” Leonard said. “Certainly, it requires a fairly high degree of competence in the legal area and academics at Morehouse are certainly challenging and prepare you for those things.”

Homecoming culminated with a parade, a football match—against Albany State University—and tailgating. The parade’s usual cast of characters included surprise visitors: joining the 2004 Miss Maroon & White and her court were more than 90 former queens and attendants who joined the celebration as honorees of "Crowns and Gowns," an exhibition on the history of Miss Maroon & White (see page 36). 2004 Court: Chenese Clark, 1st attendant, escorted by SGA vice president Aubrey Hooper; Corrine Cater, Miss Maroon & White, escorted by SGA president Bakari Sellers; and Carmen Browner, 2nd attendant, escorted by SGA senior Trustee Joshua McNair.

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