

## DEVELOPMENT BRIEFS



### BEAN BEATLE GRANT

Biology professor Lawrence S. Blumer and Emory University biology professor Christopher W. Beck have been awarded a \$500,000 grant by the National Science Foundation. The two are developing a handbook, website and workshops that will give biology-based instructors nationwide more expertise in using bean beetles in inquiry-based laboratory courses and to increase the involvement of under-represented minorities in inquiry-based research. Inquiry-based research promotes a more investigative way for students to ask questions and find answers to their questions. The grant will be funded from March 2009 through February 2013.

### MOREHOUSE RECEIVES CCRAA GRANT

Morehouse College was awarded \$961,197 from the U.S. Department of Education's College Cost Reduction and Access Act grant for fiscal year 2008-09. The projects approved for funding under the CCRAA grant include:

- SACS Quality Enhancement Plan Implementation (curriculum-related projects), activity director Ron Sheehy
- Instructional Facilities Maintenance Projects in Sale Hall, Hope Hall and McBay Hall, activity director Curtis Davis
- Support for Library Acquisitions, activity director, Woodruff Library staff
- Procurement of Instructional Materials and Lab Equipment, activity directors Wallace Sharif, biology; Jeff Etheridge and Robert Tanner, music

### Tom Joyner Campaign Raises More Than \$460,000 in Scholarship Funds for Morehouse Students

FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS lunched with a purpose every Friday in November 2008 when Morehouse was the Tom Joyner Foundation's School of the Month. The campus was asked to brown bag it and donate the day's lunch money to the Foundation.

"The size of the contribution did not matter," said Toni O'Neal Mosley, director of Public Relations. "We just wanted to get 100 percent participation from all faculty, staff and students."

The effort was one of several in November as the Foundation sought to raise scholarship funds for Morehouse students. The campaign goal was \$220,000 – nearly \$50,000 more than the campaign raised in 2004 for Morehouse. The total raised was \$460,930.77—more than double the goal.

Announced during Joyner's nationally syndicated radio show, "The Tom Joyner Morning Show," Morehouse students were awarded need-based scholarships worth \$1,500 and \$2,500, including the Denny's Single Parent Scholar, the Budweiser First Generation Scholar and the Coca-Cola First Generation International Student Scholar. Also awarded was the Tuesday Tom Joyner Scholar and the Thursday Hercules Scholar.

Alumni were involved as each chapter of the Morehouse College National Alumni Association was challenged to raise \$5,000. Additionally, the Reunion Class Challenge asked alumni classes to designate a portion of their class gift for the Annual Fund for the Foundation.

Tom Joyner started the Foundation in 1998. Since then, the Foundation has raised \$55 million for HBCUs.

"We help students with continuing education at black colleges," Joyner said in an August 2008 interview with *Diverse: Issues In Higher Education* magazine.

"That's our charter. That's what we do." ■



## Delta's Million-Dollar Gift Endows Joseph E. Lowery Business Scholarship

THE DELTA AIR LINES FOUNDATION is honoring civil rights legend Joseph Lowery's life work while helping community service-minded business students by committing \$1 million over the next 10 years to begin the Joseph E. Lowery Business Scholarship at Morehouse. The scholarship will be awarded annually to a full-time student with a 3.8 or better grade point average who is studying business with a concentration in accounting, management, finance, or computer science. He also must exhibit a consistent record of community service.

Richard Anderson, CEO for Atlanta-based Delta, said it was appropriate to fund the scholarship at Morehouse because it is the alma mater of Lowery's friend and comrade, Martin Luther King Jr. '48.

President Robert M. Franklin Jr. '75 added: "The Morehouse College community could not be more pleased by this gift from Delta Air Lines, a dynamic corporate citizen and our long-term friend. The Joseph Echols Lowery Business Scholarship is a fitting tribute to Dr. Lowery and, indirectly, to Dr. King, both of whom played integral roles in the civic progress of our country. This scholarship affords academic and employment opportunities for a deserving student, which is the most important part of our mission."

Delta also has created travel accounts at Spelman College



Delta CEO Richard Anderson (left) presents \$1-million check to President Robert Franklin '75 and vice president Phillip Howard '87 in honor of Joseph Lowery (2nd from left).

and Clark Atlanta University that will provide support for, among other things, recruiting needs and exchange programs.

"Delta has demonstrated its commitment to the leaders of tomorrow and the Atlanta University Center with the creation of both the scholarship and travel accounts," said Lowery. "I am honored to have been selected as the namesake representing the spirit of these substantial gifts." ■ -AS

## Rubell Family Donates \$1-Million Purvis Young Art Collection

EIGHT YEARS AGO, PURVIS YOUNG had five days to get his rent money together or he and all of his belongings would be out on the streets. Art collectors Don and Mera Rubell, who had relocated from New York to Miami, could not let that happen, especially since Young's belongings included an extensive collection of his original paintings.

"(His paintings) told the story of his life; he told the story of his neighborhood," said Mera Rubell. "The story he was telling couldn't be sent to a dump."

The Rubells' saw the impact and value of Young's 15 years of work, staved off his eviction, bought his paintings and funded the storage and reconditioning of his work. And they provided Young a financial stream that will keep a roof over his head for the rest of his life.

Now Young's expressionist, urban art is featured in more than 50 museums worldwide. He is also featured in the 44-



Don and Mera Rubell donated \$1-million Young collection to College. Young's art is in the background.

year-old Rubell Family Collection, one of the world's leading collections of contemporary art.

On Aug. 28, 2008, the Rubells donated to Morehouse 109 pieces of Purvis' original paintings — valued at more than \$1 million. It is the largest, single collection of art donated to Morehouse and became the

world's largest set of Young's work outside of Miami. The collection hangs in the African American Hall of Fame. Northern Trust sponsored the installation of the work. The collection is overseen by the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences with artist and instructor Charles Nelson heading up a group that will decide how it will be integrated into educational programming.

"Not only is Mr. Young a masterful artist, but his work reflects a part of our culture that should be preserved for future generations," said President Robert M. Franklin Jr. '75. "We are extremely pleased and excited to have this modern American collection at Morehouse College and to be able to share this visual art, not only with members of this campus community and the Atlanta University Center community, but with the community at large." ■

-AS

THE MOREHOUSE LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

# Hopps' Widow Keeps Alive Her Husband's Spirit of Giving

JUNE GARY HOPPS believes that contributing financially to Morehouse College is the gift that keeps on giving. She hopes to inspire fellow widows of Morehouse Men to donate to the school in their husbands' names.

Hopps, an alumna of Spelman College and former chair of its board of trustees, established the Dr. John Hopps Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund in May 2004, following the death of her husband of 41 years. John Hopps, a 1958 Phi Beta Kappa graduate and namesake of Morehouse's \$7-million "Tech Tower," was well known for his pioneering efforts in the field of science. The former Morehouse provost also enjoyed an illustrious

career at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Defense.

In addition to the memorial scholarship, June Hopps was instrumental in helping to establish the Dr. John H. Hopps Jr. Defense Research Scholars Program, whose goal is to increase the number of Morehouse students pursuing graduate degrees in the sciences, technology, engineering and mathematics.

"She's very much involved with the Hopps Scholars and has played a vital role in securing ongoing financial support from the Department of Defense," said Kathleen L. Johnson, special assistant to the president of Morehouse and associate vice president for Leadership Giving.

Rahmelle Thompson, executive director of the Hopps Scholars program, praises June Hopps for her energetic, enthusiastic involvement in the program.

"She has always been a strong supporter," Thompson said. "She's gone on trips with me to make sure that the students are well-received. She's supportive of them gaining research opportunities. We have 65 young men who are benefiting from the [program]."

Hopps, who is a former University of Georgia Parham Professor and former dean of the Boston College Graduate School of Social Work, believes that giving to Morehouse will honor her late husband's legacy, and she encourages others to do the same.

"The many who have enjoyed success in life, like my husband certainly did, should give to the institution that has helped so many men reach the highest heights of success," she said. "I'm doing exactly what my husband wanted me to do." ■

-Chandra R. Thomas and Mae Gentry



*Left: June Hopps, the widow of John H. Hopps Jr. '58, touches her husband's picture during the dedication of the John H. Hopps Jr. Technology Tower.*

*Bottom: June Hopps receives Leadership Circle Award from President Franklin '75 and Willie "Flash" Davis '56.*



## THE MOREHOUSE LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

## Michael Ross '81 Inducted into Leadership Society

MICHAEL ROSS '81 is a big believer in karma and he feels that giving to his alma mater is an extension of that philosophy.

"Giving back to Morehouse means contributing to a long legacy of social responsibility," he said. "I believe what you give always comes back to you."

Ross, who is chief executive officer of the Atlanta-based construction management firm MHR International, was recently inducted into the Henry Lyman Morehouse Society, whose members support Morehouse at a level from \$100,000 to \$249,999 either through one-time gifts or cumulative giving. He has given \$100,000 to the College, including \$80,000 toward the Michael H. Ross Scholarship for Entrepreneurship and Social Responsibility. The scholarship will support a student who aspires to become an entrepreneur and is actively involved in the community.

"I come from a family where giving back to the community was always emphasized," he said. "Giving back to Morehouse is a way to fulfill my family's legacy."

Ross grew up as part of the Atlanta University Center. His parents, Hubert Ross and Edythe Lively Ross, both taught at Atlanta University: he a noted anthropologist, she an author and a professor of social work. Both had a strong appreciation for African American history and culture, international relations, education and social service.

After graduating from Morehouse, Michael Ross earned a law degree from the University of Virginia before turning to entrepreneurship. In 1992, he launched MHR International, which has



*Michael Ross '81 receives Leadership Circle Award from President Franklin '75.*

managed the construction of many of Atlanta's signature projects, including the 1996 Centennial Olympics, the Fulton County Capital Improvement Program and the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport Development Program.

"Michael's spirit of giving is contagious," said Kathleen L. Johnson, special assistant to the president and associate vice president for Leadership Giving.

"He was inspired by his parents, and he then becomes an inspiration to others, and that really is what a legacy is about.

"He sets the bar high, and he's

challenging his fellow alums to step up, to embrace the College and play an active role in ensuring its future."

Ross personifies President Robert M. Franklin's vision of Morehouse Men as "Renaissance men with a social conscience and global perspective."

"At Morehouse, it was always emphasized to us the importance of achievement and social responsibility at the same time, without sacrificing one for the other," he said. "We all have an obligation to Morehouse and the African American community at large." ■

*-Chandra R. Thomas and Mae Gentry*