



A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ROBERT MICHAEL FRANKLIN '75

OCTOBER 2008

Last weekend, thousands of alumni returned to campus for Homecoming. Why do we come? Is it for the football game or the tailgating? Is it for the halftime show, the parade, or the great parties? I suspect it's all these things and more. There is a magic about Morehouse. It is the camaraderie of good men gathering with families and friends. It is the power of reunion. All of this intermingles with the memories of blissful youth on this campus and the pride we all share. Yes, this is the Morehouse mystique. Our football team delivered a fourth quarter victory and sent us away rejoicing and reflecting on the privilege of our association with this amazing institution. We are Morehouse; we are called to be wiser, stronger, and better. And, Morehouse is calling you now to share your pride and your bounty with the College that made a remarkable difference in your life.

Continuing the Legacy of Civic Engagement

Morehouse College will suspend all classes on Tuesday, November 4, in recognition of a presidential election that will be historic and unique. I am pleased to support the unanimous recommendation of the senior vice president for Academic Affairs and the academic deans that our students and campus regard the day as an opportunity to engage in civic activity including voting, volunteerism, poll watching and nonpartisan voter mobilization. This decision is in accordance with the Morehouse tradition of urging student leaders to serve the community and promote the common good. While other campus operations will continue as usual, I ask all faculty and students—and alumni—to devote time and energy to enhancing our democracy through voluntary action.

Generosity Amidst Challenging Times

Although the country and the international community are striving for stability and all of our house-

holds and institutions have taken temporary financial hits, we are grateful for the skillful grantsmanship of our faculty and the generosity of our corporate friends, especially those corporations where Morehouse alumni are making a difference for the College.

In the spring, we had a very good visit with senior executives from the Bank of New York. That team included alumnus Lee Stephens '81, a senior vice president who facilitated a gift of \$100,000 in support of the Opportunity Fund, which supports upperclassmen with severe financial needs. Many thanks to the Bank of New York and alumnus Stephens for this support.

In addition, the National Nuclear Security Administration-Department of Energy awarded \$2,481,435 to Morehouse College in support of our terrific Peer-Led Team Learning Program. The funds will extend the project to 2011 and support initiatives throughout the six departments in the Division of Science

and Mathematics. Kudos to Dean Haynes and all the faculty in the division.

Also, we received a \$961,197 grant via the Department of Education's College Cost Reduction and Access Act. The funds were approved for use during the 2008-2009 fiscal year and will support the following projects: the SACS Quality Enhancement Plan implementation, the Instructional Facilities Maintenance Projects in Sale, Hope, and Nabrit-Mapp-McBay Halls, support for library acquisitions, and the procurement of instructional materials and lab equipment.

A Rewarding SACS Visit

We were pleased to welcome the Reaffirmation of Accreditation Committee from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) this week. The committee assessed the College's compliance with requirements, standards, and regulations established by the higher education community and the federal government. According to the Committee's Exit Report, we did an excellent job and can expect a positive outcome when the final report is issued in December 2009 at the meeting of the Commission on Colleges. We also received many excellent suggestions for strengthening our Quality Enhancement Plan aimed at "enhancing the global competence of Morehouse students." We appreciate the campus-wide interest in this process and look forward to sharing a positive outcome with all of our stakeholders.

Morehouse Parents Count

All parents, grandparents, and guardians of Morehouse students are important to the College. In fact, I stand in awe of the sacrifices, love and support these young men receive from their family and community supporters. In many cities, parents have organized parent associations to assist local students and to support Morehouse during and after their sons' matriculation. Over the years, some parent associations have distinguished themselves as premier

cheerleaders and advocates. We feel compelled to acknowledge the parent groups in Washington, DC, Nashville, and Los Angeles, who continue to extend themselves to support The House—even after their sons have graduated. During my recent friend-raising and fund raising travels, I was pleased to discover that these groups are often responsible for facilitating donations and valued relationships, as well as for introducing qualified potential new students to Morehouse. I know that there are many other parents who are willing to do more to assist the College at a time of opportunity and new vision. I hope that you will contact us as soon as possible.

The College is working steadily on improving our services for parents. I'm pleased to announce our recent improvements to the internal information management system, TigerNet (log onto www.morehouse.edu and click "TigerNet" in the upper right corner). The upgraded system now allows parents to access the campus schedule and perform important functions, such as accessing bills, and making payments.

The College Walks for a Cure

On Saturday, October 2, almost 400 members of the Morehouse College family participated in a 2-mile walk in support of cancer research and awareness. This year's walk marked the ninth anniversary of the event, which began the same year Sandra Walker, the organizer, was diagnosed with the disease. This year's total contributions are still being calculated; however, I am proud and grateful to acknowledge that through 2007, the annual event has raised more than \$116,000 for the American Cancer Society's "Making Strides Against Cancer" campaign. We honor Ms. Walker for her leadership in uniting members from across the community for this important and triumphant moment during Breast Cancer Awareness

Month. Additionally, and more important, I thank her for her tireless energy and indomitable spirit.

Realized Outcomes of Community Service

Community service is a part of the institution's fiber, and most students engage willingly and wholeheartedly in the process. So it is especially gratifying to learn that their work is impactful and appreciated. This week, Dr. Belinda White, who highlights community service as part of the academic model for leadership and professional development, shared with me praise from Kevin Parker, a Drew Charter Middle School teacher profoundly committed to the success of his students. He said, "Some of you have come in and taken some flowers that the weeds had overtaken and given them new life. Others have had to really re-dig and provide some fertilizer, and we thank you. Some of you have created hope for parents who wanted to give up. There are now boys who look at life differently. School has now become a priority instead of an option. These young guys are standing prouder and stronger because (they) have a MOREHOUSE MENTOR." I think there is no more compelling reason than the implications of this testimony to continue making service a priority at Morehouse.

Alumni Commendations

Collie Burnett '71 has served our National Alumni Association for more than three decades. From 1980 to 1984, he was president of the Atlanta Metro Chapter. He became vice president of Region 1 in 1987 and held that office until 1991. The following year, he was elected vice president at-large of the National Alumni Association and remained in that capacity until 1995. In his new role as executive director, to which he was named in July, Alumnus Burnett is the senior manager of the National Alumni Office and develops fundraising, growth strategies, and related activities. I am

grateful to alumnus Burnett for his continued service and congratulate him on his recent appointment.

I am equally grateful to Dr. Joseph Draper '57, who provided stellar leadership in the executive director position from 1998 until 2008. He will continue to serve the local chapter and the National Association as a life member. Thank you, Dr. Draper, for your years of service and continued commitment to our alma mater.

Football Classic Highlights Morehouse Athletes and Family

We enjoyed the annual Morehouse-Tuskegee Classic, played in Columbus, Ga., at the A.J. McClung Stadium. The venue was named in honor of the father of alumnus Art McClung '66, who served the City of Columbus as a community activist and councilor and mayor pro tem for nearly 30 years. He also was a director at the YMCA, which since has been renamed in his honor. While we lost the game, I hope that the Morehouse family will join me in commending our athletes for their courageous effort and dignity as they battled a strong opponent.

'House Notes

In the course of a month, I am always impressed by the number of significant events that occurs that impact the Morehouse community. I appreciate the disciplined effort that goes into making Morehouse the unique learning environment that she is, and I endeavor to share all the good news that is shared with me. Here are a few noteworthy items received in October.

- On Tuesday, October 14, the Morehouse-Spelman Law Society, in a cooperative venture with the University of Richmond Law School, held its first video-conference session of the Pre-Law Institute. The Institute makes available to pre-law students direct interaction with law professors, practitioners and law students. Ultimately, the Institute aspires to be a resource base for potential law school students from other HBCUs.
- Fulbright scholar Tony Burks II '93 recently emailed me to share his work through the program. Alumnus Burks—who took part in the 2006 Fulbright Administrator Exchange with Thailand in 2006, the Fulbright Educator Exchange with Jordan in 2004, and the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program in 1998—facilitated two sessions of storytelling as an educational tool. The workshops were a joint undertaking by the Thailand-United Educational Foundation (TUSEF/Fulbright) and several other groups. I encourage you to log onto www.fulbrightthai.org/knowledge/read.asp?id=377&type=news for additional information about the storytelling workshops and alumnus Burks' role.
- The Department of Business, on October 8, hosted members of the Ten School Diversity Alliance (TSDA), comprised of ten of the highest ranked MBA programs in the country, including Harvard, Stanford, Kellogg, Chicago, Wharton, MIT, UCLA, Tuck, Columbia, and Virginia. Admissions directors and alumni from the ten institutions discussed with students the value of an MBA and how to prepare for enrollment and success in an MBA program.

Morehouse and the Tom Joyner Foundation

Finally, Morehouse is the TJF College of the Month for November. Please listen to the Tom Joyner Show and help us to exceed our goal of raising \$220,000 to invest in student scholarships. If your city doesn't receive the show, please go to our web site and make a meaningful gift to Dear Old Morehouse. (<http://www.morehouse.edu/events/2008/tomjoyner/schoolofthemonth.html>) Although all of the funds will be collected by the Tom Joyner Foundation, every dollar will be sent to Morehouse at the end of the month. So, step up, Morehouse.

On campus, we're asking every student, professor, and staff member to brown bag it for lunch every Friday in November and donate your lunch money (\$5) toward the campaign. Drop your donations in the lunch box in the Office of Communications in the Gloster Hall Annex.

“Let us have proper appreciation for the contributions of yesterday and the foundations which they have provided. But let us give greater attention to the challenges of tomorrow and what they will mean if we succeed.”

--Dr. Hugh Morris Gloster



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