



A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ROBERT MICHAEL FRANKLIN '75

**MARCH 2009**

The conclusion of this House Report contains a wonderful quotation by the eminent scholar and historian, Dr. John Hope Franklin. Dr. Franklin was named after Dr. John Hope, Morehouse College's first African American—fourth overall—president. Although we were not related, I did have the privilege of beginning a relationship with him while enrolled in two of his graduate courses at the University of Chicago. I hope that all of you have his classic text, *From Slavery to Freedom*, in your library. Last week, as the world learned of his death, we gathered in King Chapel to honor civil rights pioneer Vivian Malone Jones with a stunning portrait for our International Hall of Fame. On hand were her brother-in-law, the nation's first African American U.S. Attorney General, Eric Holder, and other family members. Call it poetic justice. As the pioneers who made our progress possible pass off the stage, a new generation of world-class African American leaders assume roles of responsibility for the welfare of a great nation. Through hard work and strong faith, all things are possible. Farewell to Dr. John Hope Franklin.

**Morehouse Receives Nod from Washington Monthly**

In its third annual ranking of the nation's four-year liberal arts institutions, *Washington Monthly*—a periodical devoted largely to U.S. politics and government issues—listed Morehouse College at 20 out of 201, up from 77 on last year's list. One of only three HBCUs to make the list, Morehouse scored well with respect to social mobility (the actual graduation rate as compared to the predicted graduation rate based on incoming SAT scores and Pell Grant percentages). The College also received high marks for research (federal funds received for research grants, as well as the number of graduates who ultimately received doctoral degrees) and service (a combination of the percentage of students who serve the Peace Corps, the percentage of students in ROTC, and work-study money that goes to community service). The recognition is a testament to the importance of a strong academic program reinforced by a commitment to improving the human condition across the globe. I offer congratulations and gratitude to the entire Morehouse community for the collective effort that made this affirmation possible.

**Morehouse Student on Winning Team in Oak Ridge Laboratory Challenge**

A panel of judges—consisting of energy executives, venture capitalists, technologists, entrepreneurs, and legal experts—recently named Morehouse College's Kamau Sewell '09 (winner of the 2009 Morehouse College HBCU Business Plan Competition) and

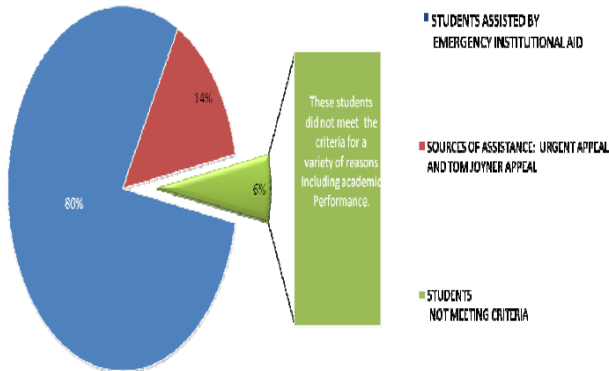
his teammates from Clark Atlanta University (CAU) the second prize winners in the 2009 Global Venture Challenge Idea to Product Competition at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The competition, which is in its third year, judges entrepreneurial and technology-based business proposals. The Morehouse-CAU team is the first from an HBCU to enter the competition. The team competed against students from 14 other colleges and universities from around the country to claim the honor. We are proud of Mr. Sewell and the Apex Plastics team; they represented the Atlanta University Center with excellence and aplomb. Kudos!

**The Impact of the Morehouse Community's Generosity**

When the College became aware that approximately 200 students might not return for the spring 2009 semester due to financial reasons, we issued an urgent appeal for emergency assistance. The majority of those students (160) received dollars from restricted and endowed scholarships whose criteria matched their particular needs. Another 14 percent, however, derived direct benefit from the thoughtful generosity of alumni who responded to the appeal—either by donating to the Tom Joyner School of the Month effort or sending their gifts directly to the College. On behalf of the many students who were able to remain at Morehouse, I

thank you. Your good deed has assisted these qualified young men in taking another step toward the fulfillment of their dreams of earning a Morehouse degree.

## EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE APPEAL



Number of students in need of emergency assistance = 200  
 Number of students receiving emergency institutional aid = 160 (80%)  
 Number of students assisted by alumni response = 28 (14%)  
 Number of students ineligible for assistance = 12 (6%)

Despite this very good news, there are unmet needs. In addition to students who will have financial shortfalls again next semester, there are a number of projects that need to be undertaken to improve our campus facilities, upgrade technology in our classrooms, and enhance the emergency notification system. If you wish to donate to one or more of these projects, you may do so by clicking “Giving to Morehouse” on [www.morehouse.edu](http://www.morehouse.edu), or by mailing your contribution directly to the College.

### **Luminaries Visit Morehouse in March**

As part of our ongoing Presidential Chat and Executive Lecture Series, Morehouse was honored to host

Ronald Williams, chairman and CEO of Aetna, as well as Murray Martin, president and CEO of Pitney Bowes. These accomplished executives shared their respective experiences in achieving success in the corporate world and answered questions from Morehouse students who also aspire to ethical leadership in various fields.

The College is fortunate to have established partnerships with leaders from around the globe, particularly as we focus on enhancing the global competence of Morehouse students. His Excellency Festus Mogae, the former president of the Republic of Botswana, visited Morehouse in March, representing the African Presidential Archives and Research Center (APARC) at Boston University, where he is the sixth president-in-residence. The Leadership Center at Morehouse College is part of the African and American Universities (AAU) Collaborative, which unites institutions on both continents through APARC. It is the goal of APARC and the AAU Collaborative to use African and American university communities as focal points in a trans-continental conversation about African policy issues.

Finally, Ambassador Charles Stith, director of APARC at Boston University, participated in “A Public Conversation on Ethical Leadership,” inspired by Dr. Walter Fluker’s recently released book, *Ethical Leadership: The Quest for Character, Civility, and Community*. Joining Ambassador Stith in this thought-provoking forum were Atlanta City Council President Lisa Borders; Dr. Clayborne Carson; Dr. Philip Amerson, president, Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary; and Stephen Paskoff, president, Employment Learning Innovations, Inc.

We thank our special guests who share their time and talents to enrich the Morehouse experience.

“You can’t have a high standard of scholarship without having a high standard of integrity, because the essence of scholarship is truth.”

--John Hope Franklin (Historian, Scholar, Professor, and Author)  
 January 2, 1915 – March 25, 2009

