MOREHOUSE in the NEWS

- June 3, 2003- The Oprah Winfrey Show profiled the Miller triplets. Craig, Cedric and Cornell Miller ’03 are the first set of triplets to graduate from Morehouse College at the same time with the same major. The Oprah Winfrey Show sent a crew to Morehouse to interview the St. Louis natives before flying them to Chicago for a live appearance on the show that featured amazing graduation stories. BET Nightly News with Jacque Reid also profiled the Miller triplets.

- June 2003- The death of alumnus Maynard H. Jackson ’56 was featured in several publications and on television programs nationwide. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution wrote: “Starting at noon, mourners filed into the [MLK] chapel to view the former mayor’s body. By 3 p.m., Atlanta police estimated 3,000 to 4,000 people had passed through since the viewing began.” Some of the other media outlets that chronicled the events surrounding Jackson’s death were Ebony, Jet, The New York Times, ABC World News Tonight News with Peter Jennings, NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw, CNN and C-Span.

- June 2003- Morehouse College received national attention from various media outlets after a baseball bat-beating incident that rocked the College. Some of the outlets to cover the incident, subsequent trial and aftermath were Southern Voice, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Washington Blade, Philadelphia Tribune, the Chicago Defender, the Washington Times and all of the Atlanta-area television stations.

- July 2003- The Christian Science Monitor mentioned Morehouse is a story titled “Pride and Paradox,” which reported on the struggles for some HBCUs to survive.

- July 16, 2003- The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel profiled Morehouse student Samuel Ross in a story about the growing gender gap among minority students and the United Negro College Fund. Ross said of his UNCF Scholarship: “It’s like a blessing. My mom had to take out loans my first year and it wasn’t something she wanted to do. With the scholarship, we won’t have to take out as many loans.”

- August 23, 2003- Dr. Lawrence E. Carter, dean of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel, was quoted in the Faith & Values section of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution in a story about faith-based programs at colleges and universities. Carter said: “The students at Morehouse play an active role in Sunday services. They put together the services. Together we select who the preachers will be.”

- August 26, 2003- Dr. Massey was interviewed for one of the first installments of the new radio program titled “The Players.” The program airs on WGST in Atlanta and is hosted by Atlanta Business Chronicle columnist Alf Nucifora. It features the top business players in metro Atlanta.

- September 2003- Associate Dean of Admissions Terrence Dixon was interviewed by the Augusta Magazine about the College’s admission process.

- September 5, 2003- The Atlanta Journal-Constitution ran a story titled “Would-be Robber Shot at Downtown Bank.” The hero in the story was Morehouse College Lt. Johnny Weaver, who happened to have been at the bank at the time of the attempted robbery. Weaver apprehended the suspect at the scene. The news was covered on all Atlanta television stations and several local radio stations.

- September 17, 2003- The Wall Street Journal mentioned Morehouse College in a story about the challenges surrounding alumni giving. The article titled “The Call To Give Back,” referred to Morehouse as one of the “titans of historically black colleges.” Alumnus Robert Davidson ’67 was quoted in the article: “Philanthropy is a responsibility. The success of historically black colleges will be determined by the willingness of our graduates to support them.”

- September 25, 2003- Morehouse student Edward Smith-Lewis Jr. was profiled by Black Issues in Higher Education. The story, titled “Whatever it Takes,” appeared in the special report: Focus on Diversity. Smith-Lewis was one of only 15 blacks out of a class of 320 at his high school in Oakland, California. He said he has looked “all my life” for a place like Morehouse College.

- September 26, 2003- Morehouse College was named one of America’s top 50 most successful feeder schools by The Wall Street Journal. Morehouse ranked No. 26 on the list that only included one other Georgia institution in the top 50. The Atlanta Journal Constitution did a subsequent story on the ranking inn an article titled, “Morehouse, Emory, Tech can brag.”

- September 2003- Dr. Walter E. Massey ’58 wrote a commentary for the Final Word section of the Network Journal based in New York City. The title of the commentary was “Education Dedicated to Black Males Still Relevant.” Massey wrote: “Morehouse men compete favorably with male and female graduates of all races from other colleges and universities for coveted spots in the top graduate and professional schools, as well as for career positions in corporations and other organizations. Simply put, if Morehouse did not exist, there would be a critical, unmet need in higher education.”

- September 2003- News of alumnus Lerone Bennett’s ’49 decision to retire from the helm of Ebony magazine after 50 years made news in several publications. Among those that covered his retirement was the Philadelphia Tribune, the oldest black newspaper in the country.


- October 15, 2003- Alumnus and Morehouse professor Marcellus Barksdale ’65 was featured in the Gainesville Times for his participation in Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue’s racial reconciliation forum. Barksdale was a featured presenter at the forum.

- October 15, 2003- The Wheaton Gazette in Gaithersburg, Maryland, featured
Morehouse student Marvin Brooks in an article titled “College’s Federal Work-Study Students Give—and Get A Lot Back in Return.” Brooks said: “I have worked and volunteered in community service with kids since high school and can really see the benefits of helping others.”

November 11, 2003- In an article titled “College Students Should Plan Ahead,” The Wall Street Journal began with a profile of Morehouse College senior Jason Toliver. The story was about students who are taking steps to get jobs after graduation.

November 19, 2003- Dr. Preston King, distinguished professor of political philosophy and scholar-in-residence at Morehouse, was interviewed live on “The Tavis Smiley Show” on National Public Radio. King spoke in detail about the political and social ramifications of the war on Iraq as it relates to the United States and Britain.

November 20, 2003- Dr. Walter E. Massey ’58 and Mrs. Shirley Massey were featured in a photo on the ABC News.com website. The photo was taken during a state dinner in London at which the Masseys were guests. Maria Saporta, a business columnist for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, also mentioned the dinner in her column.

December 2003- Ebony magazine did a report on black philanthropy. It featured mentions about Morehouse College and a photo of Dr. Walter E. Massey ’58 with Ray Charles.

December 12, 2003- Morehouse College was featured very prominently in The Congressional Quarterly Researcher. The in-depth report was titled “Black Colleges: Do They Still Have an Important Role?”

December 14, 2003- The Atlanta Journal-Constitution featured a story on Morehouse’s Celebrating the Arts Initiative and plans for a Center for the Arts. In the article titled, “Morehouse Thanks Major Donors,” vice president of Institutional Advancement Phillip Howard ’87 said, “As much as anything, we want to raise the visibility of Morehouse as it relates to the arts.”

December 2003- The Hollywood Reporter carried news of David Geffen’s $500,000 gift to Morehouse. The money will support arts programming and scholarships at Morehouse.

December 2003- The Morehouse College annual Christmas card got a nod in Jet magazine. It was mentioned in the National Headliners section of the magazine.

January 6, 2004- The death of Dr. Samuel Nabrit ’25, Morehouse College’s oldest living alum, made national news. Some of the publications to carry the news were The New York Times, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution and the Houston Chronicle.

January 14, 2004- Alumnus Sanford Watson ’85 was profiled in the Cleveland Plain Dealer after being named the new public safety director of that city.

January 15, 2004- Dr. Massey and Dr. Lawrence Carter, dean of the Martin Luther King International Chapel, was interviewed as part of a 30-minute program on WXYZ-TV in Detroit. The program was the Ford Freedom Awards, which honored Dr. Benjamin E. Mays and Dr. William “Bill” Cosby Jr.

January 16, 2004- Alumnus Jerome Farris ’51 was featured in front page stories in the Sacramento Daily Recorder and the San Francisco Daily Journal. Farris is a senior judge on the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

January 16, 2004- Alumnus Bill Humphrey ’63 was featured in an article in the Portsmouth Herald. The chemist for Collins and Aikman, a global automotive parts supplier, gave “A Living Lesson in Black History” to children during black history month.

February 10, 2004- News that alumnus Michael Lomax ’68 will take the helm of the United Negro College Fund spread nationally. It was carried in Black Issues in Higher Education, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution and all of the Atlanta-area local television stations.

February 2004- More than 200 news outlets picked up the news about Oprah Winfrey’s second $5-million gift to Morehouse. Winfrey made the announcement during her acceptance speech at the 16th annual “A Candle in the Dark” Gala, where she received the first ever Candle for Lifetime Achievement in Humanitarian Service. Some of the outlets that carried the news were Entertainment Tonight (ETonlin.com), The New York Times, the Chicago Tribune, USA Today.com, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Newsday, the Boston Globe, Atlanta Magazine, Rolling Out Magazine, Jet, People magazine and the Associated Press wire service, WSB-TV, and WXIA-TV.

February 2004- Morehouse College Founder’s Week was the subject of several interview segments on Atlanta television and radio stations. The segments, which aired on WSB-TV, WXIA-TV, Good Day Atlanta/WAGA-TV, Praise 97.5 FM, and V-103, highlighted the Yolanda Adams Concert and the A Candle in the Dark Gala.

February 2004- An exhibit by William Anderson, assistant professor of art history, was featured in several publications. The exhibit, titled “Love Now,” was a black history month photography exhibit that appeared in 15 Nordstrom department stores across the country. The exhibit was mentioned in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, The Washington Afro-American, The Herald Sun (Raleigh-Durham), The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, The News & Observer (Raleigh-Durham) and Howard University’s radio station WHUR/96.3 FM.

—Elise Durham
ROYAL SEATING: Masseys Dine with the Queen in London

President Walter E. Massey ’58 has been to many soirees and conversed with the rich and famous from all walks of life. He and wife Shirley “know how to work a room.” But when he received an invitation from President George W. Bush to hob knob with the “Royals” in London this past November, he confessed to having butterflies. “I haven’t been nervous for a long time—but I was nervous,” he said. He figured there would be hundreds of guests and that once he was seated—presumably somewhere in the back—he would be good to go.

Boy, was he wrong. Turns out, there were only 60 guests—30 Americans and 30 Britons. After finding his place card at table three, he glanced at two of the other cards on the table. It was virtually a royal flush: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth would be sitting right next to him—and President Bush next to her.

So what did the college president and the Queen of England discuss? Politics? Education? The paparazzi? “We chatted—literally most of the evening, nearly 90 minutes,” said Massey. She’s very charming, very knowledgeable, very relaxing. We talked about children and grandchildren. She lamented the fact that no one writes letters anymore—everything is e-mailed or faxed.”

Massey knows a royal opportunity when he sees one. Upon returning to the States, he sent the queen—a woman who has everything—something she didn’t get enough of: a handwritten letter.

Spiritual and Science Awareness Week: Change and Controversy

Morehouse College’s annual Spiritual Awareness Week offered both change and controversy this year. The name change to Science and Spiritual Awareness Week offered an interesting foray into topics that juxtaposed the two disciplines, as evident in lectures with such titles as “The Relation Between Quantum Physics, Spirituality and the Soul.”

Held from March 28 to April 4, 2004 the week featured several prominent personalities, including F.W. De Klerk, former president of South Africa and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Nobel Prize Laureate Betty Williams, spiritual teacher Ma Jaya Sati Bhagavati, all of whom were either featured speakers or award recipients.

De Klerk was the keynote speaker for the Inter-Faith Assembly. He was invited to the College because of his call for a non-racist South Africa, which led to lifting the ban on the African National Congress (ANC) and former South African president Nelson Mandela’s release. Just as De Klerk and Mandela jointly received the Nobel Prize in 1993, they both received the Gandhi, King, Ikeda Community Builder’s Prize, administered by the King Chapel. (Mandela will be presented the award when Lawrence Carter, dean of the King Chapel, travels to South Africa this fall).

However, De Klerk’s invitation to speak on the topic “Do the Right Thing” was also an open invitation for irony. Indeed, many questioned, whether Carter had done the right thing by inviting a man who had—until his presidency—supported apartheid and the oppression of millions of Africans.

De Klerk’s speech was an eloquent appeal for forgiveness and reconciliation. However, few students got the message. Earlier during the week, nearly 800 of them had signed a petition to protest De Klerk’s presence on campus. On the night of De Klerk’s speech, there was only a smattering of Men of Morehouse in the audience.

De Klerk’s presence in a chapel named after an African American who sacrificed his life for freedom, on a stage that represents the best in black scholarship and achievement; and on a campus that provides an insulator from the “isms” that fetter learning at many other institutions, was a rare study in irony—which was not lost on De Klerk.

“I can think of no institution in the United States that I would be as honored to receive this award than from the alma mater of Martin Luther King Jr.,” he said. “May this symbolic act of giving this award to someone of my history act as a symbol for all the peacemakers…. May it be seen as an act of reconciliation and inspire others to work together to close the book on the past.”
Three Renowned Speakers on Ethical Leadership

NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO’S TAVIS SMILEY electrified an audience of Morehouse College students, faculty, staff and administrators during his lecture on “The State of Black Leadership: Ethical Issues and Challenges.” Smiley’s visit to the College on April 11, 2003, was part of the annual Coca-Cola Leadership Lecture Series sponsored by the Morehouse College Leadership Center. Called one of the most political voices of his generation and selected as one of America’s 50 most promising young leaders by Time magazine, Smiley is making waves across many mediums. As host of The Tavis Smiley Show, he is the first African American to host his own signature talk show in the history of National Public Radio. Smiley also hosts The Smiley Report for the ABC Radio Network, which is heard daily on urban contemporary radio stations across the nation. He appears twice a week on the nationally syndicated Tom Joyner Morning Show.

D. MICHAEL ERIC DYSON shared some of his knowledge, quick prose and wit with Morehouse College during the Coca-Cola Leadership Lecture Series on October 20, 2003. His topic was “Why We Can’t Wait: The Need for Ethical Leadership.” Dyson is known as one of the most thought-provoking authors and lecturers of African Studies and hip-hop culture. Dyson, the Avalon Professor in Humanities at the University of Pennsylvania in Religious and Africana Studies, has been hailed by The Chronicle of Higher Education as “one of the youngest stars in the firmament of Black intellectuals.”

The Coca-Cola Foundation endows the Coca-Cola Leadership Lecture Series, which provides an opportunity for world-class leaders to share insights about contemporary leadership issues as well as the challenges and opportunities likely to confront tomorrow’s leaders. A leadership lecture is held each semester.

JUDGE GLENDA HATCHETT, the former chief presiding judge of the Fulton County (Ga.) Juvenile Court, has seen and heard it all. Like the 15-year-old girl who was ordered to kill her own mother if she wanted to join a gang. Without ethical leadership, she said, such horror stories could hit closer to home.

“The Morehouse class of 2025 is being born this year,” said Hatchett, who spoke during Crown Forum on Nov. 13, 2003. “If things don’t get better, one in six black boys will drop out of high school; one in nine will use cocaine before the age of 30; one in 20 will be locked up before the age of 30. And every two days, a black boy will give up on life and commit suicide.”

Rather than “lingering in a pity party,” Morehouse men in particular must weave together our unraveling community, said Hatchett. “If you fall by the wayside, then we all suffer, because [Morehouse] is where the power and potential are… So the only question left is, really, are you willing?”

A KING CELEBRATION

The 12th annual King Celebration Concert was held in the Martin Luther King Jr. Chapel on the Morehouse campus on January 16. Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (ASO) Music Director Robert Spano, the Orchestra and members of the ASO Chorus, the glee clubs of Morehouse and Spelman colleges, Soprano soloist Arietha Lockhart, and special guest National Black Arts Festival Executive Director Stephanie Hughley, paid tribute in words and music to Martin Luther King Jr. ’58, the man whose harmonic spirit — in times of calm and in times of crisis — embodies the noble musicality of life.

The concert was broadcast over more than 250 public radio stations nationally on NPR’s daily classical music program, Performance Today.

Morehouse cosponsors the concert each year in partnership with the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change Inc., National Public Radio, Spelman College and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra.
Homecoming 2003

It’s More Than Just A Game...
Homecoming 2003 was an exciting weekend of tradition and celebration. The game was a much anticipated clash between the AUC’s big cats—the Tigers and the Clark Atlanta Panthers. The Tigers mauled the Panthers 48 to 33.

For the first time, Morehouse welcomed many of her sons back home for the inaugural Homecoming Showcase and Conference—a unique opportunity for alumni to reunite and discuss their careers with students and faculty.

From the Homecoming Parade to the National Alumni Association Golf Classic to the Homecoming Step Show, Morehouse brothers were on the scene in record numbers.

Get ready for Homecoming 2004... It Will Be More Than Just A Game
Quick. Think of some of the leading African American men in Hollywood. Spike? Sam Jackson? Bill Nunn?
Now, think hats—big “why did you have to sit in front of me” church hats and Atlanta’s Woodruff Arts Center.
We’re not finished. Think about the National Black Arts Festival, and the draw it has for countless African American artists and those who seek out their work.
What do they all have in common? Morehouse.
Those leading men in Hollywood—Shelton “Spike” Lee ’79, Samuel L. Jackson ’72, Bill Nunn III ’76—are all Morehouse Men.
At Atlanta’s Woodruff Arts Center in November, “Crowns,” a book co-created by Morehouse alum Craig Marberry ’81, was featured in two of its incarnations: an exhibition in the High Museum of Art and a gospel play, directed by acclaimed actress Regina Taylor, in the Alliance Theater.
Finally, the National Black Arts Festival was founded by Morehouse alum Michael Lomax ’68, president of the United Negro College Fund.
“If Morehouse has unintentionally created this much creative power, imagine what power it will have in taking this initiative intentionally,” said Lomax during the opening of the first ever Conference and Showcase during Homecoming Weekend 2003.
Indeed, the power of the Morehouse influence was felt during the conference as dozens of participants—including luminaries such as actor casting director Reuben Cannon (Hon. ’02), director and producer Oz Scott and visual artist Kojo Griffin ’92—shared stories about their challenges and success in the arts industry.
Topics discussed during the conference included “Making Movies and Making the Cut,” “Why We Write: An Author’s Perspective,” “Defining the Acting Role,” and “Success in the Arts and Entertainment Industry,” among others.
“Each year, we will invite alumni from different disciplines to come back home and share their experiences,” said Henry M. Goodgame Jr. ’84, director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving and the Conference coordinator. “We will continue to find creative ways to fully engage alumni in the life of the College.”
“We are the most creative people on earth—and we don’t get credit for it. We don’t appreciate [our artists] until someone outside of our own culture comes along and says, ‘This is great.’…If we don’t love ourselves first, no one else will.”

—Alton C. Brothers ’69
Visual Artist

“I’ve lived in so many cities, walked so many blocks, and talked to so many different people. And there are so many stories out there. All you have to do is frame them, follow them through, and put them in pages that people can read.”

—Kenji Jasper ’97
Author

“Investing in art is a spiritual investment you’re making in yourself and your family. And that’s something you can’t put a price tag on.”

—Kojo Griffin ’92
Visual artist

Showcase
Morehouse Launches Multi-Year Initiative That Helps Build ‘Human Infrastructure’

**Institutional Values Project**

**Year of Responsibility**

I work for Morehouse.  
I take responsibility.

THE INSTITUTIONAL VALUES PROJECT is the first multi-year initiative designed to build a better community at Morehouse College by developing the College’s “human infrastructure.” The project, which was launched at the start of the 2001-2002 academic year, has an overall goal of equipping students, faculty and staff with the ethical tools they need to support the shared vision of making Morehouse one of the finest liberal arts colleges in the nation.

Students, faculty and staff came to a consensus to determine the appropriate values for the community. In the first year, “The Year of Dialogue,” members of the campus community formed small groups to determine how perceptions about values are different or similar for different age and constituency groups. The nine values that emerged as those that guide campus interactions and are most important to building a better community at Morehouse are accountability, civility, community, compassion, honesty, integrity, respect, spirituality and trust. However, “respect” was identified as the primary value that should provide the framework for community interactions.

The goal for the second year, “The Year of Reflection,” was to have the campus community reflect on their own behavior and values. Following a student assault incident on campus, however, the Institutional Values Project began focusing on issues of tolerance and diversity. As a result, student dialogues, focus groups with the campus community and a survey helped to inform a local and national advisory group on the “climate” for tolerance and diversity on campus.

Now in its third year, “The Year of Responsibility,” the Institutional Values Project seeks to institutionalize the values into the fabric of the College. In October 2003, the College launched its “I Take Responsibility” campaign, which was designed to improve customer relations with both internal and external customers. Faculty and staff are encouraged to display a desktop placard that reads: “I work for Morehouse. I take responsibility.” The College is also conducting a student-satisfaction survey to be used to help improve key services throughout the College.

The Institutional Values Project has resulted in the placement of two current initiatives. As a part of Freshman Orientation, the freshman dean will hold mandatory small-group discussions that thoroughly examine tolerance and diversity. The second initiative are values forums that explore the “rules of civility.” One such forum, titled “Coffee and Conversation,” is sponsored by Student Services and is held the first Friday of each month to provide an opportunity for the campus community at large to have ongoing conversations about institutional values.

Reneé Calhoun

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Three-Peat Winner of Honda Campus All-Star Challenge

For the third time in four years, Morehouse College has become national champion of the 15th Annual Honda Campus All-Star Challenge. The three-day competition pits students from 64 Historically Black Colleges and Universities against one another as they answer questions on a range of topics—from African American history to science. Morehouse beat the team from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Florida A&M University is the only other team that has won the competition three times.

Morehouse was awarded a check for $50,000, which will be used to provide equipment and materials for future teams, as well as fund the newspaper program, which provides students with free issues of USA Today and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution newspapers.

Anderson Williams, the team’s coach and chairman of Business Administration, said that he is very happy about this year’s victory. “With the players that we have coming back next year, I think we have a good chance at making it four out of five victories.”

Morehouse College senior John Thomas III was named to the competition’s All-Star Team, which earned the College an extra $1,000 in award winnings. He also received an honor for exemplary sportsmanship.

Team captain Christopher E. Lee said it is great to be back on top. “Everyone wanted us to bring the championship back home,” he said. “This team was probably the best team that has ever participated in this competition. Our chemistry was incredible. We operated like one huge brain.”

The Honda Campus All-Star Challenge was established by American Honda Motor Co., Inc. in 1989. Since its inception, approximately $50,000 HBCU students have taken part in the program and nearly $3.5 million in grants have been awarded to the schools. The National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO) and the Association of College Unions International are partners in the program.

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Morehouse Magazine

SPRING/Summer 2004

Morehouse earned the national academic champion title at the 15th annual Honda Campus All-Star Challenge after team members John Thomas III, John Ramsey Clarke, Christopher E. Lee and Jordan A. Harris prevailed in competitions.
The Wall Street Journal Ranks Morehouse Among the Top Feeder Schools in the Nation

The Wall Street Journal, the nation’s most widely circulated daily and a virtual bible for business leaders the world over, has recognized Morehouse as a leader when it comes to sending students to top graduate schools.

The Journal found the alma maters of more than 5,000 incoming students at 15 of the nations top graduate programs—five each in business, law and medical schools—and published the results in its Sept. 26 issue. Morehouse is number 29 in the listing of the top 50 feeder schools. Following are other highlights.

- Morehouse is the highest ranking private feeder school in Georgia.
- Only two private institutions ranked in Georgia: Morehouse at #29 and Emory at #36
- Morehouse is the only HBCU ranked in the top 50 of the two Associated Colleges of the South schools,
- Morehouse ranked #29 and Washington and Lee ranked #48.

Students were surveyed at the following graduate schools:

- MEDICAL SCHOOLS:
  - Columbia
  - Harvard
  - Johns Hopkins
  - University of California, San Francisco
  - Yale

- LAW SCHOOLS:
  - Chicago
  - Columbia
  - Harvard
  - Michigan
  - Yale

- MBA:
  - Chicago
  - Dartmouth’s Tuck School
  - Harvard
  - MIT’s Sloan School
  - Penn’s Wharton School

Sheftall Appointed to SACS Committee

WILLIS B. SHEFTALL JR. ’64, senior vice president for Academic Affairs, has been appointed to serve on the six-member Central Review Committee of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

The Central Review Committee will be responsible for reviewing and approving the work of eight Commission on Colleges subcommittees that are studying core requirements and comprehensive standards in the areas of institutional effectiveness, mission, faculty, educational programs, governance and administration, learning resources, student support services, finances and physical resources.

The Committee also will oversee the development of a companion document to the Principles of Accreditation that will pose questions designed to stimulate ideas about issues that institutions need to consider when providing evidence of compliance with each standard.
With 27 years of service at Morehouse, Blocker, who was dean of the senior class and director of the Office of Health Professions, will be remembered most for his role as a mentor and role model. “Hundreds of men and women of medicine are indebted to him,” said Marcellus Barksdale ’65, professor of history at Morehouse. “The lyrics of the song, ‘If I Can Help Somebody,’ reflect the life of my dear friend.”

Indeed, Blocker’s legacy is his legendary advocacy for students. “Tom was the most student-oriented person I have ever known,” said Dr. J.K. Haynes ’64, dean of the Division of Science and Mathematics. “When he talked, students listened. And it wasn’t so much because he was an imposing figure, but because he walked like a king.”

“Students believed in Thomas Blocker. They knew he would do everything in his power to help them achieve their career goals.”

Speaking at Blocker’s “Celebration of Life,” Dr. Roderick Earl Edmond ’83 provided testimony to illustrate that Blocker, indeed, did whatever it took to encourage and guide his students.

Edmond recalled how, at age 20, he suddenly felt disillusioned about the path he was on, and was ready to drop out of school. Blocker invited him to his office and sat him down for a long talk.

“We sat there for four to five hours,” Edmond recalled. “I’m sure we solved the origin of civilization. We cured cancer that night. I don’t remember what we talked about, but—guess what—the next day I was in class.”

Edmond told accounts of other times in his life when Blocker had been there for him. As he paid a final tribute to his mentor and friend, he said that now it was his time to be there for Blocker. He challenged the large number of doctors, dentists and scientists in the audience to begin giving back to the College.

Blocker graduated from Morehouse in 1974 with a degree in biology. While at Morehouse, he studied abroad as a Charles E. Merrill Scholar at the University of Vienna, Austria, in the Institute of European Studies from 1972-73. After graduating from Morehouse, he went on to earn a master’s degree from Atlanta University and was admitted to Clark Atlanta University as a Ph.D. candidate and completed 70 graduate hours.

He returned to the College in 1976 as an instructor in the Biology Department. Thousands of students came under his tutelage in his various roles with organizations.

As pre-medical adviser for 27 years, Blocker recruited and enrolled more than 2,100 young men and women in the summer programs. A large number of these students, as well as others whom he has mentored—entered and completed medical and dental programs, as well as doctoral programs.

In 1997, Meharry Medical College awarded Blocker the honorary doctorate of humane letters. After serving on the Princeton Review Advisory Board, the Princeton Review praised him for “making an outstanding contribution to the education, counseling and role modeling for African American male students.”

Blocker received funding for grants supporting education, research, health careers and health care totaling more than $3 million from the government, foundations, organizations and industry. He also organized and directed many conferences—several of which were the only ones of their kind in the nation—and was responsible for establishing 41 scholarships to assist students who otherwise might not have been able to complete their undergraduate degree and attend a medical or professional school.

Among Blocker’s honors are receiving the General Biology Student’s Outstanding Teacher award six times. He also served on several national associations, including Beta Kappa Chi Scientific Honor Society and the National Association for the Advancement of Science. ■
Several times each year, the Morehouse College Corporate Alliance Program and the Leadership Center invite senior-level executives from the world of business to participate in its Presidential Chat Series and Executive Lecture Series to share their experiences and expertise with a select group of business students and other members of the campus community. The session includes a short presentation by the visiting professional and an opportunity for informal interaction between the executives and students.

Edmond “Ted” Kelly, chairman and CEO of Liberty Mutual Group, Nov. 25, 2003, with Dr. Massey and Director of Corporate Foundation Relations, Dennis Long

Tim Kelly, executive vice president and general manager of Turner Classic Movies, Jan. 29, 2004

Timothy Collins, senior managing director and CEO of Ripplewood Holdings LLC., Oct. 31, 2003

William A. Clement Jr., chairman and CEO of Dobbs, Ram and Co., Nov. 24, 2003, with sophomore Ken Jones

Bill E. Mayer of Park Avenue Equity Partners, Apr. 7, 2004, with student Guy Etoundi.


Ken Barun, president and CEO of Ronald McDonald House Charities, Feb. 23, 2004, with senior Oluwabusayo Topé Folarin and President Massey ’58

James Blanchard, CEO of Synovus, Sept. 11, 2003

Lloyd Trotter, president and CEO of GE Consumer and Industrial Systems, Feb. 9, 2004
Recent Campus Visits

John J. Mack, vice chairman and CEO of Credit Suisse First Boston Group, Oct. 8, 2003

Jeffrey A. Sine, vice chairman and managing director of UBS Investment Bank, Oct. 10, 2003

James Cantalupo, chairman and CEO of McDonald Corp., Oct. 28, 2003 (Cantalupo died suddenly on April 19, 2004.)

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Calvin Darden, senior vice president for UPS, Oct. 27, 2003

Duane Ackerman, chairman and CEO of BellSouth, Nov. 4, 2003

Arnold W. Donald, chairman of Merisant Corp., March 2, 2004


Erroll Davis Jr., chairman, president and CEO of Alliant Energy Corp., Feb. 24, 2004