Celebrating the 146th Anniversary
of the Founding of the College

Thursday, February Fourteenth, Two Thousand and Thirteen
10:45 ante meridian

Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel
In the City of Atlanta
In 1867, two years after the Civil War ended, Augusta Theological Institute was established in the basement of Springfield Baptist Church in Augusta, Ga. Founded in 1877, Springfield Baptist is the oldest independent African American church in the United States. The school’s primary purpose was to prepare black men for ministry and teaching. Today, Augusta Theological Institute is Morehouse College, which is located on a 66-acre campus in Atlanta and enjoys an international reputation for producing leaders who have influenced national and world history.

Augusta Theological Institute was founded by The Rev. William Jefferson White, an Augusta Baptist minister, cabinetmaker and journalist, with the encouragement of The Rev. Richard C. Coulter, a former slave from Augusta, Ga., and The Rev. Edmund Turney, organizer of the National Theological Institute for educating freedmen in Washington, D.C. The Rev. Dr. Joseph T. Robert, a trained minister and physician and the son of the author of Robert’s Rules of Order, was appointed the Institute’s first president by William Jefferson White.

In 1879, Augusta Theological Institute was invited by The Rev. Frank Quarles to move to the basement of Friendship Baptist Church in Atlanta and changed its name to Atlanta Baptist Seminary. Later, the Seminary moved to a four-acre lot near the site on which the Richard B. Russell Federal Building now stands in downtown Atlanta. Following Robert’s death in 1884, David Foster Estes, a professor at the Seminary, served as the institution’s first acting president.

In 1885, when Dr. Samuel T. Graves was named the second president, the institution relocated to its current site in Atlanta’s West End community. The campus encompasses a Civil War historic site, a gift of John D. Rockefeller, where Confederate soldiers staged a determined resistance to Union forces during William Tecumseh Sherman’s famous siege of Atlanta in 1864. In 1897, Atlanta Baptist Seminary became Atlanta Baptist College during the administration of Dr. George Sale, a Canadian who served as the third and youngest president from 1890 to 1906.

A new era, characterized by expanded academic offerings and increased physical facilities, dawned with the appointment of Dr. John Hope as the fourth president in 1906. A pioneer in the field of education and civil rights, he was the College’s first African American president. Hope, a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Brown University, encouraged an intellectual climate comparable to what he had known at his alma mater. He openly challenged Booker T. Washington’s view that education for African Americans should emphasize vocational and agricultural skills.

Atlanta Baptist College, already a leader in preparing African Americans for teaching and the ministry, expanded its curriculum and established the tradition of educating leaders for all areas of American life. In addition to attracting a large number of talented faculty and administrators, Hope contributed much to the institution we know today. Upon the death of the founder in 1913, Atlanta Baptist College was named Morehouse College in honor of Henry L. Morehouse, the corresponding secretary of the Northern Baptist Home Mission Society.

Dr. Samuel H. Archer became the fifth president of the College in 1931 and headed the institution during the Great Depression. He gave the school its colors, maroon and white, the same as those of his alma mater, Colgate University. Archer retired for health reasons in 1937. Dr. Charles D. Hubert served as the second acting president until 1940, when Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays became the sixth president of Morehouse College.

A nationally noted educator and a mentor to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., class of 1948, Mays is recognized as the architect of Morehouse’s international reputation for excellence in scholarship, leadership and service. During the presidency of Mays, a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Bates College and the University of Chicago, the number of faculty members grew and the percentage holding doctoral degrees increased from two to 34 out of 65 teachers. The College earned global recognition as scholars from other countries joined the faculty, an increasing number of international students enrolled, and the fellowships and scholarships for study abroad became available. Morehouse received full accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in 1957, and Mays’ 14-year effort to win a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa at Morehouse was realized in 1968. Charles E. Merrill served as chairman of the College’s board of trustees.

In 1967, Dr. Hugh Morris Gloster, class of 1931, became the first alumnus to serve as president of the College. Under his leadership, Morehouse strengthened its board of trustees, conducted a successful $20-million fund-raising campaign, expanded the endowment to more than $29 million and added 12 buildings to the campus, including the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel and the B.T. Harvey Stadium. Morehouse established a dual-degree program in engineering with the Georgia Institute of Technology, University of Michigan and Boston University. Gloster founded the Morehouse School of Medicine, which became an independent institution in 1981. He appointed Dr. Louis Wade Sullivan its first dean; Sullivan later became the school’s first president.

In 1987, Dr. Leroy Keith Jr., class of 1961, was named eighth president of Morehouse. During the Keith administration, the College’s endowment increased to more than $60 million, and faculty salaries and student scholarships significantly increased. Construction of the Nabrit-Mapp-McBay science building was completed, Thomas Kilgore Jr. Campus Center and two dormitories were built, and Hope Hall was rebuilt. In 1994, Nima A. Warfield, a member of the graduating class that year, was named a Rhodes Scholar, the first from a historically black college. Under Keith’s leadership, the “A Candle in the Dark” Gala was founded in 1989 to raise scholarship funds.

In October 1994, Dr. Wiley Abron Perdue, a member of the class of 1957 and vice president for business affairs, was appointed the third acting president of Morehouse. Under his leadership, national memorials were erected to honor Dr. Benjamin E. Mays and internationally noted theologian Dr. Howard W. Thurman, class of 1923. Perdue launched an initiative to upgrade the College’s academic and administrative computer information systems, finalized plans to build a dormitory and undertook construction of a 5,700-seat gymnasium to provide a basketball venue for the 1996 Summer Olympic Games.

On June 1, 1995, Dr. Walter Eugene Massey, class of 1958, took office as the ninth president of Morehouse College. A noted physicist and college administrator, Massey called on the Morehouse community to renew its longstanding commitment to a culture of excellence. Before joining the College, Massey held several notable positions, including senior vice president and provost of the University of California System, director of the National Science Foundation and director of the Argonne National Laboratory. Massey, who is a former chairman of Bank of America, is currently...
the president of The School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Under his leadership, the College embraced his vision of becoming one of the nation’s finest liberal arts colleges and accepted the challenge of providing students a quality 21st-century education. Morehouse expanded its dual-degree program in natural sciences with Georgia Institute of Technology; launched the Center for Excellence in Science, Engineering and Mathematics with a $6.7-million U.S. Defense Department grant; and established a new African American Studies and a Center for International Studies named for former U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young.

The College was reaccredited by the Southern Association of Colleges of Schools, and the Division of Business Administration and Economics was accredited by the America Association of Schools and Colleges of Business, making Morehouse one of only a handful of liberal arts colleges in the nation with both AASCB accreditation and a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

The physical infrastructure was also significantly enhanced. Construction was completed on Davidson House Center for Excellence, which serves as the president’s official residence and houses a mini-conference center on its lower level. In 2005, a new Leadership Center (named the Walter E. Massey Leadership Center in 2012) was opened, with a comprehensive conference center, the Executive Conference Center (named the Shirley A. Massey Executive Conference Center in 2012). Other additions included the John H. Hopps Technology Tower, a 500-car parking deck and an expanded campus bookstore. Renovations were made to several dormitories, classroom buildings, Archer Hall Recreation Center, Chivers-Lane Dining Hall and the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel.

Also during his tenure, the College produced its second and third Rhodes Scholars: Chris Elders, class of 2002, and Oluwabusayo “Tope” Folarin, class of 2004. In June 2006, the College successfully completed Morehouse’s most ambitious capital campaign – raising a record $118 million, exceeding the Campaign’s goal of $105 million. The same year, Morehouse became the permanent custodian of the coveted Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection, which includes more than 13,000 handwritten notes, sermons, letters, books and other artifacts belonging to its most noted alumnus, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., class of 1948. The College also acquired the $1-million Purvis Young Art Collection.

On July 1, 2007, The Rev. Dr. Robert Michael Franklin Jr., class of 1975, took office as the 10th president of Morehouse College. Prior to coming to Morehouse, Franklin served as program officer in the Human Rights and Social Justice Program at the Ford Foundation and served as Theologian-in-Residence for The Chautauqua Institution, both in New York.

Under Franklin’s leadership, the College reaffirmed its commitment to academic vigor, qualified by re-accreditation in 2009 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The Quality Enhancement Plan focused on internationalization, global learning and world perspective.

In a project initiated by Massey, Franklin oversaw the completion and opening of the $20-million Ray Charles Performing Arts Center and Music Academic Building, a 75,000-square-foot facility named after the late legendary musician.

Franklin led and supported cultivation efforts – such as establishing the Renaissance Commission, a blue-ribbon group of 150 influential volunteer stakeholders – that increased the total number of new donors by an average of 1,000 per year. The College generated in excess of $128 million since 2007 (grants and contracts, private fundraising and federal appropriations).

In January 2013, Dr. Willis B. Sheffall, class of 1964, served the College as acting president, before returning to the position of interim vice president Academic Affairs and interim provost.

On January 28, 2013, Dr. John Silvanus Wilson Jr., class of 1979, took office as the 11th president of Morehouse College. Wilson previously served as the executive director of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), which serves as liaison between HBCUs, the White House, 32 federal agencies, and the private corporate and philanthropic sectors.

Wilson’s career in education began in 1985 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where he served for 16 years in various roles and ultimately as the director of Foundation Relations. In this role, he helped to manage two record-breaking capital campaigns, with combined results approaching $3 billion.

In 2001, his career led him to the George Washington University (GWU), where he served for eight years filling such critical leadership roles as executive dean of the university’s Virginia campus and associate professor of higher education in the Graduate School of Education. His research focused on best practices for the sustainability and stability of colleges and universities, as well as transformative advancement and finance in higher education.

After graduating from Morehouse, Wilson continued his education at Harvard University, where he earned master’s degrees in theological studies and education, as well as a doctorate in education, with a focus on administration, planning and social policy. As Morehouse prepares to celebrate its sesquicentennial in 2017, the College continues its long and unique history of delivering an exceptional educational experience that meets the intellectual, moral and social needs of students representing more than 40 states and 14 countries – a distinguished institution dedicated to producing outstanding men and extraordinary leaders to serve humanity as moral cosmopolitans.
Program

Presiding
Dr. Willis Braswell Sheftall, Jr. ’64
Interim Provost and Senior Vice President
Academic Affairs

Pre-Ceremonial Music
“Fantasia in G Major, BWV 572” Johann Sebastian Bach

PROCESSIONAL
“War March of the Priests” Felix Mendelsson

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF THE MYSTIQUE
The Reverend Hardy Spurgeon Bennings III
Founder’s Representative
Springfield Baptist Church
Augusta, Georgia

PRAYER
The Reverend Dr. Lawrence Edward Carter Sr.
Dean, Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel

PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS
“The Star-Spangled Banner” John Stafford Smith
Morehouse Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps
Commanded by Captain Mario Mifsud, US Navy

HYMN
“Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing” J. W. and J.R. Johnson

THE OCCASION
Provost Sheftall

ANTHEM
“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” R. Bryant Braxton, ’02
Elijah McDavid, ’15, Pianist

GREETINGS
Mr. Robert Claude Davidson ’67
Chairman, Morehouse Board of Trustees
Chairman and CEO, Surface Protection Industries (Retired)

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER
Dr. John Silvanus Wilson, Jr. ’79
President, Morehouse College

ADDRESS
Dr. Bobby J. Donaldson
Associate Professor of History and African American Studies
University of South Carolina

SPIRITUAL
“Would You Be Ready To Answer His Call?” arr. Uzee Brown, Jr., ’72
Solo: James Pratt, ’13, Baritone
CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREE:
(Posthumously)
Doctor of Humane Letters
Hamilton E. Holmes, M.D.

President Wilson
Provost Sheftall

PRESIDENTIAL CITATION:
The Presidential Renaissance Medal
Dr. Frank Smith

Dr. Otis Moss, Jr. ’56
Morehouse College Trustee

PRESENTATION OF THE 2013 OTIS MOSS JR. ORATORICAL CONTEST WINNERS

Mr. Seth Brown ’14          First Place
Mr. Winford K. Rice, Jr. ’14 Second Place
Mr. Michael Adams ’14        Third Place
Mr. James Pratt, Jr. ’13     Third Place
Mr. Fanon Brown ’14         Fourth Place
Mr. Denzel Fields ’15       Fourth Place
Mr. Jarvis Gray ’14         Honorable Mention
Mr. DeShon Jones ’13        Honorable Mention

*THE MOREHOUSE COLLEGE HYMN    “Dear Old Morehouse”       J.O.B. Moseley ’29

**RECESSIONAL     “Trumpet Tune”                John Stanley

Dr. David E. Morrow ’80
Professor and Director of the Morehouse College Glee Club

Dr. David F. Oliver
College Organist

*Those who are able, please stand.

Ceremonial Marshals
Dr. Tobe Johnson ’54
Macebearer and Chief Marshall

Marshals of the Faculty          Dr. Melvin Rahming, Dr. Belinda White
Marshals of the Platform Party   Dr. David Cooke, Dr. Maureen Dinges
Dr. Uzee Brown ’72, Dr. Marcellus Barksdale ’65
Marshals of the Students         Dr. Cheryl Allen, Dr. Curtis Clark ’70,
Mr. Alvin Darden ’72, Dr. Keith Hollingsworth,
Dr. Elania Jemison-Hudson, Dr. Alison Ligon,
Dr. Keith Howard, Dr. Willie Rockward,

Marshal of the Alumni          Mr. Henry Goodgame ’84
As an advocate for the intrinsic value of education for all, Dr. John Silvanus Wilson Jr. has dedicated more than 25 years to the advancement of socially conscious and purposeful education; student success; and the good that comes from a college education. As a scholar, an educator, a consultant, a strategist and a fundraiser, he has moved universities and organizations forward with his efforts and vision. In January 2013, Dr. Wilson took office as the 11th president of Morehouse College, the nation’s only private, liberal arts institution dedicated to the education of African American males.

Prior to that position, Dr. Wilson was appointed by President Barack Obama to serve as the executive director of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), a position he held since 2009. Born in Philadelphia to parents who attended HBCUs (his mother at Morgan State University and his father at Virginia Union University), Dr. Wilson understood at an early age the critical role HBCUs have played in the lives of their students and in United States history. He attended Morehouse College, the alma mater of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., where he earned a bachelor of arts degree in 1979. Dr. Wilson continued his education at Harvard University, where he earned two master’s degrees in theological studies and education, as well as a doctorate in education, with a focus on administration, planning and social policy.

Dr. Wilson’s career in education began in 1985 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where he served for 16 years in various roles and ultimately as the director of Foundation Relations. In this role, he helped to manage two record-breaking capital campaigns, with combined results approaching $3 billion. While at MIT, he served for more than a decade as the president of the Greater Boston Morehouse College Alumni Association (GBMCAA). Under Dr. Wilson’s leadership, the alumni chapter raised more than $1 million in support of scholarships and community outreach, and he was consequently awarded Morehouse College’s Benjamin Elijah Mays Leadership Award in 1998. In honor of the impact he has had on both Morehouse College and the community, the GBMCAA established the John Wilson Leadership Award to recognize current Morehouse students who exhibit similar transformative leadership qualities.

In 2001, Dr. Wilson’s career led him to the George Washington University (GWU), where he served for eight years filling such critical leadership roles as executive dean of the university’s Virginia campus and associate professor of higher education in the Graduate School of Education. His research focused on best practices for the sustainability and stability of colleges and universities, as well as transformative advancement and finance in higher education. Dr. Wilson also assisted GWU in creating a university-wide strategic plan that addressed opportunities for advancement and success.

In his role as the nation’s executive director of the White House Initiative on HBCUs—which serves as liaison between HBCUs, the White House, 32 federal agencies, and the private corporate and philanthropic sectors—Dr. Wilson promoted HBCU excellence, innovation and sustainability. He was charged with strengthening the capacity of HBCUs to participate in federal programs; fostering private-sector initiatives and public-private partnerships; improving the availability and dissemination of information on HBCUs to inform public policy; sharing best practices within the HBCU community; and exploring ways to improve the relationship between HBCUs and the federal government.

Prior to his presidential appointment, Dr. Wilson served in numerous capacities throughout the nonprofit sector, including as a consultant for the United Negro College Fund’s Institute for Capacity Building and on the Kresge Foundation’s Black College Advisory Board. Additionally, he served on the trustee boards of the Samaritans, the Andover Newton Theological School and Spelman College. Dr. Wilson is married to Dr. Carol Espy-Wilson, an electrical and computer engineering professor at the University of Maryland, College Park. She is also founder and CEO of OmniSpeech, a speech technology company. They have twin daughters, Ayana (Stanford University, 2011) and Ashia (Harvard University, 2011). Their son, Jay, is a high school senior.
A native of Augusta, Georgia, Dr. Bobby Donaldson serves as an Associate Professor of History and the Faculty Principal of Preston Residential College at the University of South Carolina-Columbia. He received his undergraduate degree in History and African American Studies from Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT and his Ph.D. in American History from Emory University. Professor Donaldson’s teaching and writing examine southern history and African American life and culture in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. His book, In Our Own Defense: Black Intellectuals in the Jim Crow South, is forthcoming in the John Hope Franklin Series at the University of North Carolina Press. He is also at work on a much-anticipated biography of the Reverend William Jefferson White, an Augusta minister and the founder of Morehouse College.

In addition to publishing articles and essays on African American intellectual thought, print culture, education and religion, he has served as a consultant for museum exhibitions, historic preservation projects, archival collections, oral history initiatives, and documentary films, including the PBS series Slavery and the Making of America. Presently, he serves as a history consultant for the Historic Springfield Village Park in downtown Augusta and as the co-chair of a documentary project that examines the largely untold struggle for civil rights and social justice in Columbia and around the state of South Carolina.

During the course of Dr. Donaldson’s academic career, he served as a Benjamin E Mays-Andrew Mellon Fellow at Wesleyan University, as an editorial assistant for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Project at Emory University, as a Thurgood Marshall Dissertation Fellow and visiting Assistant Professor at Dartmouth College, and as a Susan Biddle Ford Fellow at the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research at Harvard University. He also received the Nathan Huggins-Benjamin Quarles Award from the Organization of American Historians. Hailed as a “Rising Star” by the University of South Carolina’s Office of Research, he received the campus’ distinguished Michael J. Mungo Undergraduate Teaching Award in 2010.

Dr. Donaldson’s memberships include the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, the Organization of American Historians, the Southern Historical Association, the NAACP, the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and the Wesleyan University Board of Trustees. He and his wife Elise are the proud parents of Ruby (age six) and Joseph (age two).
Hamilton Holmes, M.D.

Hamilton Holmes is best known for desegregating Georgia’s universities. One of the first two African American students admitted to the University of Georgia (UGA) in Athens in 1961, Holmes was also the first black student admitted to the Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta two years later.

Born July 8, 1941, in Atlanta, Holmes was studious and athletic. Holmes attended Atlanta’s Henry McNeal Turner High School, considered the most prestigious high school for black students in Atlanta’s segregated public school system. He graduated from Turner in 1959 as valedictorian, having served as both president of his senior class and co-captain of the school’s football team.

Holmes’s scholastic record and his athletic accomplishments brought him to the attention of Jesse Hill. In the late 1950s, Hill, a member of the education committee of the Atlanta branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), had begun recruiting promising black students to challenge segregation in Georgia’s colleges. Hill met Holmes and fellow Turner graduate Charlayne Hunter (now Hunter-Gault) in 1959 and took them to visit Georgia State College of Business Administration (now Georgia State University), which seemed the most promising campus for desegregation. They settled, instead, on applying to UGA.

Holmes and Hunter applied to UGA for the fall 1959 quarter but were denied. Holmes subsequently enrolled in Morehouse, distinguishing himself as both a student and a football player. Meanwhile a legal team that included Constance Baker Motley of the NAACP’s Legal Defense and Education Fund and Atlanta attorneys Donald Hollowell, Vernon Jordan, and Horace T. Ward (who had lost his own legal battle to enter UGA’s law school in the 1950s), worked on Holmes and Hunter’s behalf. The students resubmitted their applications each new quarter, but each time they were rejected for reasons usually related to space or application procedures. In September 1960, Hollowell and Motley sought an injunction to prohibit UGA from refusing the applications of Holmes, Hunter and other African American residents of Georgia for admission to the University. Their request was refused, but a full trial on the matter was later held in Athens in December 1960.

On January 6, 1961, Judge William Bootle issued his ruling, stating that Holmes and Hunter “would have already been admitted had it not been for their race and color.” As a result, UGA immediately admitted the two, who became the university’s first African American students since its founding in 1785.

Holmes, then 19, registered at UGA’s Academic Building on January 9, 1961. A mob protested violently, and the university suspended Holmes and Hunter, citing safety reasons. The state patrol escorted the students back to Atlanta; however, within a few days, Holmes and Hunter returned to campus under a new court order.

While at UGA, Holmes was elected to both Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi honor societies. He graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1963. In the fall of 1963, Holmes became the first African American student admitted to the Emory University School of Medicine.

After his 1967 graduation from Emory, Holmes began his residency at Detroit General Hospital, leaving in 1969 to serve as an army major in Germany. He returned to Emory to complete his residency, after which he became a member of the Emory faculty as an assistant professor of orthopedics. In the following years, he served as chief of orthopedics at the Veterans Administration hospital in Atlanta, opened a private practice, and became medical director of Grady Memorial Hospital before finally being named head of orthopedic surgery at Grady, as well as associate dean at Emory.

In 1983—20 years after graduating—Holmes became the first African American member of the Board of Trustees of the UGA Foundation. In 1985, UGA’s bicentennial year, the school established the annual Holmes-Hunter Lecture. In 1992, Holmes and Hunter-Gault established an academic scholarship for African American students attending UGA.

Holmes died on October 26, 1995. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn Vincent Holmes; his son, Hamilton Jr., who graduated from UGA in 1990; and his daughter, Alison. In 2001, marking the fortieth anniversary of desegregation at UGA, the school’s Academic Building was renamed the Holmes-Hunter Academic Building.

In 2004 Georgia Public Television aired Hamilton Earl Holmes: The Legacy Continues, a documentary about the life of Holmes. Produced by the Foot Soldier Project for Civil Rights Studies at the University of Georgia, in conjunction with the Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies, the film won a Bronze Telly Award in 2005.
Commentator, civil rights activist, politician, and speaker Frank Smith, Jr. was born on September 17, 1942, in Newnan, Georgia. His mother was a homemaker and his father was a farmer and truck driver. In 1959, Smith earned his high school diploma from Central High School, where he was a member of the New Farmers of America as well as the debate team, choir and drama club.

From 1959 until 1962, Smith attended Morehouse College in Atlanta, where he was a founding member of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Smith left Morehouse during his senior year to play a role in the Civil Rights Movement. From 1962 until 1968, Smith worked with SNCC organizing and registering African Americans voters in Mississippi and Alabama. He is noted for his involvement and leadership role in planning and executing protests and marches in Greenwood, Mississippi, during the Freedom Summer of 1964.

In 1968, Smith moved to Washington, D.C., when he accepted a job as a researcher for the Institute for Policy Studies, focusing on education and planning issues.

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Smith became involved in local community issues and was elected to serve as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (ANC). In 1978, Smith unsuccessfully ran for the District of Columbia City Council, but the following year he was elected to public office and served one term on the D.C. Board of Education. In 1980, Smith earned his Ph.D. degree from the Union Institute in Ohio.

In 1982, Smith was elected to the District of Columbia City Council where he represented one of the most racially, ethnically and economically diverse wards in the city. Smith was subsequently elected to serve four terms on the Council, remaining there until 1998. During his tenure on the Council, Smith supported legislation creating subsidies for housing down payments, a lottery system for disposing of condemned and surplus housing and establishing tax incentives for new business development.

In 1998, Smith became chairman of the board and chief executive officer for the organization which worked to establish the African American Civil War Memorial and an accompanying museum. It is the only national memorial to the colored troops who fought in the Civil War and one of the most unique memorials in Washington, D.C.

Smith has received numerous awards for his civic, community and political leadership.
The school that humbly began as the Augusta Theological Institute in East Georgia in 1867 became Morehouse College in 1913. The name of the school changed twice between 1867 and 1913: the Atlanta Baptist Seminary (A. B. S.) in 1879, and the Atlanta Baptist College (A. B. C.) in 1897. As the Atlanta Baptist College grew in size and prestige, due in large measure to its administrators, faculty, staff, and alumni, the school continued to have the support of Dr. Henry Lyman Morehouse, Corresponding Secretary of the American Baptist Home Mission Society (ABHMS). In 1913, the name of the institution was changed from A. B. C. to the appellation that is has today in honor of Dr. Morehouse: Morehouse College. E. A. Jones, author of A Candle in the Dark: A History of Morehouse College, writes: "It was, therefore, particularly to honor an educational statesman who had done much for Negro education in general and for the Atlanta Baptist College and its predecessors, the Atlanta Baptist Seminary and the Augusta [Theological] Institute, that Morehouse was so named." But the story behind the renaming of the A. B. C. is much more intriguing than Jones' statement. Daron Callhoun II, '10, in his unpublished paper titled "The Politics of Philanthropy: Henry Lyman Morehouse, the American Baptist Home Mission Society and the Naming of Morehouse, 1912-1913," reveals more about the organizational and institutional politics that brought about the name change in April 1913.

William Jefferson White, the principal founder of the school in Augusta that was to grow to become Morehouse College, died on April 17, 1913, just days before the name of the Atlanta Baptist Seminary was changed to Morehouse College in honor of the schools most ardent supporter, Dr. Henry Lyman Morehouse. It was in 1912 that the Board of Trustees of the Atlanta Baptist College "began talks about the renaming of the institution for the great friend of the Negro Education Movement." On March 30, 1912, the Trustees unanimously voted to change the name to Morehouse College and their decision met with the approval of the American Baptist Home Mission Society (ABHMS). But it took another nine months before the name change was approved by the ABHMS and another five months for the petition to be filed with the Superior Court of Fulton County, Georgia. In 1913, the Atlanta Baptist College was a school owned by the American Baptist Home Mission Society; and when the conversation began about how to honor Dr. Henry Lyman Morehouse, there was little voice in the matter from the African-American community. President John Hope was authorized to take the necessary measures "to secure an amendment to the Act of Incorporation of Atlanta Baptist College in changing the name to Morehouse College".

The executive committee of the ABHMS unanimously voted on March 21, 1912 at its headquarters for the name change from the Atlanta Baptist College to Morehouse College. According to the amended charter of 1913, nine days later the four local committee members, including founder William J. White, adopted the change should it be met with approval by the ABHMS. However, it then took nine months, to April 25, 1913, for the final vote, and for the Secretary of the Board of Managers, Charles White, to sign the ordinance to be sent to the Fulton County court clerk. The petition to amend the Act of Incorporation to change the name to Morehouse College was filed in the office of Arnold Broyles, Clerk of the Superior Court of Fulton County, Georgia, on May 8, 1913; and Judge J. T. Pendleton, Judge of the Court "ordered and declared that said application is granted and the petitioner's name is changed from 'Atlanta Baptist College' to 'Morehouse College' on June 7, 1913. The final document officially changing the name of the College in perpetuity was signed by Broyles on June 12, 1913, forty-six years after its founding as the Augusta Theological Institute and nearly one hundred years ago. The name "Morehouse" is recognized and honored around the world. Who was Henry Lyman Morehouse?

Henry Lyman Morehouse was born in Stamford, Connecticut in 1834, the son of Seth and Emma Morehouse. He was educated in the primary and secondary schools that were available at the time; and eventually earned a baccalaureate degree at the University of Rochester in 1858. Six years later, in 1864, Morehouse graduated from the Rochester Theological Seminary. In 1879, Morehouse received the Doctor of Divinity degree from the Seminary, and later earned a Doctor of Laws degree in 1908. Doctor Morehouse was ordained in the Baptist ministry in 1864, and served churches in Saginaw, Michigan, and in Rochester, New York. It was as the pastor of the East Avenue Church in Rochester that he was appointed the Corresponding Secretary of the American Baptist Home Mission Society (ABHMS) in 1879. The Reverend Doctor Morehouse served the Baptist denomination in many capacities, and edited several missionary journals. He authored Baptist Home Missions in America, 1883 and History of the First Baptist Church, Brooklyn, N. Y. Tirelessly giving himself to his work, he was called the "Field Marshal of the Baptist denomination."

Shortly after the A. B. C. legally became Morehouse College, in June, 1913, W. T. Courtney, the engineer at the Baptist College and the Superintendent of Building and Grounds at Spelman Seminary, took down the words "Atlanta Baptist" and replaced them with "Morehouse"--Morehouse College. The first class of students to graduate from the school that bore the name of Morehouse College entered the institution in the fall 1913 and graduated at the Semi-Centennial of the College in 1917.

By Marcellus C. Barksdale, Ph.D., Chair, The Morehouse Sesquicentennial Project
Dear Old Morehouse

Dear old Morehouse, dear old Morehouse
We have pledged our lives to thee;
And we’ll ever, yea forever,
Give ourselves in loyalty.

True forever, true forever
To old Morehouse may we be;
So to bind each son the other
Into ties more brotherly.

Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit
Make us steadfast, honest, true
To old Morehouse and her ideals
And in all things that we do.

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Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing

Lift ev’ry voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies;
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way
Thou who hast by Thy might, led us into the light;
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places our God, where we met Thee;
Lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.