

University of Michigan

BLACK CELEB 2004

Setting the Standard: Leaving Our Legacy While Fulfilling Our Destiny



BLACK CELEBRATORY COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Saturday, May 1, 2004 | 7:30pm | Hill Auditorium

CLASS OF 2004

BLACK CELEBRATORY MISSION

The Black Celebratory celebrates the commonalities and differences that characterize the experiences of African-Americans and other students at the University of Michigan. In upholding the expectation of the first Black Celebratory in 1993, this program serves as an example of the University of Michigan's commitment to diversity and African-American students.

The Black Celebratory contributes to the academic and social progress of all students by providing programs and activities that promote the communal striving and sense of accountability that help students to achieve. The ceremony acknowledges the value and uniqueness of the African-American experience and serves to commemorate the accomplishments of those students that participate in the Black Celebratory.

We, the University of Michigan Black Celebratory Planning Committee, institute this annual celebration to honor, respect, and remember those from our past and present communities who could only dream of this opportunity. This ceremony marks a tradition of valuing our cultural offerings not only to the University but beyond, to the world community.

COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

Processional	Faculty, Staff and Class of 2004
Black National Anthem	Raena White (accompanied by Lamar Willis)
Libations	Elizabeth James
Opening	James Jackson
Remarks	Lester Monts
Greetings	Wendy Woods
Student Speaker	Michael Hendrix
Intro of Cornerstone Award	Joseph Conrad
Cornerstone Award Recipient	John Marshall, accepted by John Marshall Jr.
Student Speaker	Boatema Ntiri
Intro of Keynote Speaker	Erin Teague
Keynote Speaker	Judge Damon Keith
Presentation of Graduates	L' Heureux Lewis
African-American Alumni Council	Myra Tucker
Inspirational Song	Charity McClain & Christa Wimberly
Remarks	Theda Gibbs & Tiffany Williams
Closing Address & Prayer	Pastor Mark J. Lyons

Black National Anthem **"Lift Every Voice and Sing"**

Lyrics by James Weldon Johnson

Lift Every 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.

The Libation Rituals *by Elizabeth James*

The libation ritual is the custom of pouring a liquid, oftentimes a locally brewed wine, as a religious event that reunifies and harmonizes the past, the present, and the future. In human terms, this embodies the Creator, the ancestral spirits and those currently present. This age-old tradition is practiced throughout Africa and the Diaspora.

BLACK CELEBRATORY PLATFORM GUESTS

Administrators, Faculty & Staff

Naomi Andre, *Associate Professor of Women's Studies*

Juliet Ballard, *Manager, Executive Education Center*

Petula Brown, *Business Analyst, University of Michigan Health Services*

William Collins, *Director, Comprehensive Studies Program*

Tesenga Duncan, *African-American Coordinator, Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs*

Shinga Feresu, *Research Associate, LS&A & CAAS*

Theda Gibbs, *Coordinator, Black Celebratory*

Deborah Greene, *Coordinator of Executive Communications, Office of the Vice President for Communications*

Jeffrey Harold, *LS&A Academic Adviser*

Royster Harper, *Vice-President, Student Affairs*

James Jackson, *Director, Center for Afroamerican & African Studies*

Elizabeth James, *Program Assistant, Center for Afroamerican & African Studies*

Jon Lockard, *Adjunct Lecturer, LS&A, CAAS*

Alain Mabanckou, *Assistant Professor of Francophone Literatures & African Studies*

John Matlock, *Assistant Vice-Provost, Academic Affairs, Director, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives*

Ayanna McConnell, *Coordinator, University Mentorship Program*

Debby Mitchell, *Admissions Counselor, College of Engineering*

Lester Monts, *Senior Vice Provost, Academic Affairs, Professor of Music*

Chima Ozor, *Senior Clinical Microbiologist, University Health Services*

Gina Poe, *Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology & Physiology*

Sythinia Pryor, *Human Resource Officer, Dental School*

Stella Raudenbush, *Adjunct Instructor, LS&A*

Pamela Trotman Reid, *Professor of Education & Psychology*

George Shirley, *University Professor of Music & Director of the Vocal Arts Division*

Joyce Sutton, *Student Adviser, LS&A Health Science Scholars*

Phyllis Taylor, *Senior Program Coordinator for University Relations, Alumni Association*

Taminika Terry, *Program Assistant, Office of Continuing Dental Education*

Diane Thompson, *Director of Recruitment and Retention, Rackham School for Graduate Studies*

Myra G.Tucker, *Chair, African-American Alumni Council*

Alan White, *African-American Alumni Council*

Michael White, *Manager, Financial Aid & Scholarships, Business School*

Edward Willis, *Dean of Students*

Robin Wilson, *Associate Professor, School of Music*

Wendy Woods, *Associate Director, Michigan Community Scholars Program*

Magdalena J. Zaborowska, *Associate Professor, Program in American Culture & Center for Afroamerican & African Studies*

PLATFORM GUESTS CONTINUED

Marshals

Dwight Fontenot, *Assistant Director, Comprehensive Studies Program*

Elzora Holland, *Adjunct Lecturer, LS&A & Comprehensive Studies Program*

Darlene Ray-Johnson, *Housing Program Director, Residence Operations*

Denise Lee, *Lecturer, LS&A & Comprehensive Studies Program*

Black Celeb Committee Members

Kimika Edwards *is from Ypsilanti, MI, graduating with a B.S. in Industrial & Operations Engineering*

Dominica Groom *is from Silver Spring, MD, graduating with a B.A. in Biological Psychology & Cognitive Science with a minor in Spanish*

Kristen Harris, *was born and raised in Ann Arbor, MI, graduating with a dual concentration with Honors in African-American Studies & Biochemistry*

Michael Hendrix, *of Detroit, MI, graduating with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering*

Desiree Hunter *hails from the Bronx, NY, graduating with an honor's B.A. in Psychology*

Sheila Jordan *is from Milwaukee, WI, graduating with a B.A. in Psychology*

Charity McClain, *of Wayne, MI, graduating with a dual concentration in African-American Studies & Political Science*

Boatemaa Ntiri, *of Troy, MI, graduating with a B.A. in Sociology*

Erin Teague, *of Southfield, MI, is graduating with honors receiving a B.S. in Computer Engineering*

Ashleigh Toples *is from West Bloomfield, MI, graduating with a B.A. in Communication Studies*

Tiffany C. Williams, *from Detroit, MI, graduating with a dual degree with honors in Sociology & African-American Studies*

THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2004*

Saba Abebe
Tiffani Abrams
Andrea Adams
Jerry Allen
Shelly Anarado
Zachary Anderson
Angela Andrews
Krisha Arnold
Bensabell Asaye
Odinaka Azih
Travone Bartley
Brandi Basket
Layla Black
Jonathan Blair
Angela Blanchard
Darryl Boyd
Garry Boyd, Jr.
Audrey Brewer
Jeriesha Bridges
Autumn Brown
Latrice Brown
Simone Brown
Tamara Bryan
Nicole Buck
Eileen Buckle
Candice Burdette
Nefertari Carver
Brandon Carter
Essence Cash
Yolanda Chapman
Aisha Chappell
Madu Chikere
Tracy-Ann Cleveland
Kindra Coleman
Joseph Conrad
Kathryn Corbett
Lawrence Crawford
Steven Devougas
Rhonda Donoho
Angela Dudley
André Echols
Kimika Edwards
April Effort

Artesha Ervin
Hugh Ferguson
Shana K. Ferguson
Vernon Fleming, Jr.
Harold Frazier
Nicole Frazier
Tera Freeman
Martha Haile
Lauryn Hale
Edgar Garza
Candace Gaston
Tarik Green
Terrence Griffin
Kaye Guidugli
Dominica Groom
Esmé Tucker-Gruchala
Brandon Hairston
Lauryn Hale
Daniel Hardaway
Kristen Harris
Carolyn Hawthorn
Michael Hendrix
Carla Higgins
Gabrielle Holmes
Lauren Hooper
Christopher Hughbanks
Antron Hughes
Desiree Hunter
Innocent Isichei
Tiffany Ivey
Raymond Ivey, Jr.
Kim Jackson
Vance Jackson, Jr.
Jessica James
Terri Jenkins
Kristen Joe
Erin Johnson
Kiron Johnson
Lakaii Jones
Nachelle Jones
Olivia Jones
Sheila Jordan
Jennifer Kelso

Lola Ladeinde
Kimberly LaRochele
Abdul-Rahman Lediju
Dayna LePlatte
Victoria Long
Paula Macklin
David Malonson
Krystyn McAllister
Charity McClain
Ametria McCloud
Laura McCreary
Lauren McCreary
James McGinnis
Tiffany Means
Erick Michael
Tiana Millen
Myron Miller
LaJuana Mitchell
Phillip Morgan
Courtney Morton
Stephanie Nelson
Boatema Ntiri
Kristina Nunn
Chijioke Okafor
Obiageli Okoye
Bolaji Olasokan
Casey Overby
Bobby Owens
Blair Parker
Charles Patterson, Jr.
Monique Perry
Portia Peters
Ashley Pope
Tiffany Ginyard-Potts
Mary Pryor
Brian Rhodes
Lauren Rice
Toya Roberson
Jason Robinson
Nicole Robinson
Kristel Rodriguez
Eileen Sagini
Antonia Sanders

Olivia Scarlett
Dustin Seibert
Duane Smith
Krystal Smith
Terry Smith
Cassie Stafford
Cassandra Stewart
Nicole Taylor
Erin Teague
Lauren Teverbaugh
Amber Thomas
Devon Thomas
Joi Thomas
LaTasha Thompson
Laurice Thrasher
Michael Tounsel
Ashleigh Toples
Njemile Vinson
Tiffany Wade
Marcia Walker
Clarence Wardell III
Elizabeth Wathen
LaShaunda Webb
LaShanda Weldon
Myra Wilder
Aaron Williams
Akilah Williams
Ebony Willis
Arion Williams
Julian Williams
Kelly Williams
Tiffany Williams
Christa Wimberly
Marcus Wilson
Chinua Wright
Shavondee Wright
Shaleah Woods

*This is only a partial listing of the African-American students who are members of the 2004 graduating class of the University of Michigan's various undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Black Celebratory Planning Committee

Kamika Edwards
Dominica Groom
Kristen Harris
Michael Hendrix
Desiree Hunter
Sheila Jordan
Charity McClain
Boatemaa Ntiri
Erin Teague
Ashleigh Toples
Tiffany C. Williams

Student Volunteers

Cecilia Calhoun
Lesleigh Ford
Laban King
Je'Nai Talley

Special Thanks

Silvia Carranza
William Collins
Theda Gibbs
James Jackson
Elizabeth James
Damon J. Keith
Mark J. Lyons
John Matlock
Ayanna McConnell
Lester Monts
Gwendolyn Tandy
Gloria Taylor
Carol Williams
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Rebecca McGowan
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Andrea Fisher Newman
Ann Arbor

Andrew C. Richner
Grosse Pointe Park

S. Martin Taylor
Grosse Pointe Farms

Katherine E. White
Ann Arbor

Mary Sue Coleman
(Ex Officio)

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