

The University of Michigan

BLACK CELEB 2005

The Beautiful Struggle



11th Annual

BLACK CELEBRATORY

Saturday, April 30, 2005

7:30 pm

Hill Auditorium

CLASS OF 2005

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 achieve. The ceremony acknowledges the value and uniqueness of the African-American experience and serves to commemorate the accomplishments of the students who 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.

TO THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2005

Congratulations on your most recent achievement - graduating from the University of Michigan, which hopefully will be the first of many accomplishments that you will earn.

The annual commencement day ceremonies, where academic degrees are conferred on hundreds of students, are amongst the most important events for the University of Michigan's community. This is the day when the collective efforts of our students as well as their families, colleagues, friends, faculty and alumni are truly recognized. I join with the community in recognizing your accomplishments, and I share a tremendous sense of optimism that life will offer you many more successes throughout the years to come.

Black Celebratory 2005 is a time for reflection and for looking forward. The student planning committee has selected "The Beautiful Struggle" as the theme for the 11th annual Celebratory. The theme offers numerous connections that are very appropriate to the special ceremony that we are celebrating. Many students and their families have had to make various sacrifices to reach today's graduation exercises, but I think that you will agree with me - the sacrifices were worth it all.


A tree graces the cover of this year's program booklet. Like the towering tree whose roots are firmly planted in the ground, our graduates must always stay connected to events, ideas and individuals who represent the past. It is those individuals' hopes, dreams and visions that you proudly represent today. Long before you were born, there were many throughout the centuries who planted the seeds that then sprouted the roots of preparation for African American students to be successful at the University of Michigan. It is not necessary to see the roots to understand how vital they are to the life of the tree.

At the same time, like a tree whose branches reach toward the sky, you will now spread your arms toward the future and all that it offers. Your wisdom, your commitment, and your energies know no boundaries. And, as you strive to fulfill the visions and dreams of our ancestors, connect those visions of the past to the future. You have inherited this legacy and must bear the responsibility to keep it moving forward as you are the trunk that connects the tree's roots to its branches.

As graduates of this great institution, you will carry the past, the present and the future. You must always balance your commitment to all three; without these vital linkages, the future offers us very little. We must always be mindful that there are still many challenges before us, yet we must always find opportunities to extend a helping hand to others.

The graduates of the Class of 2005, both individually and collectively, have been given the awesome responsibility of preserving the best of their community. Go forth in a way in which your successes will continue to represent the successes of many people - both from the past and from the future. Good luck and stay connected!

Sincerely,



LESTER P. MONTS

Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

Senior Counselor to the President for the Arts, Diversity, and Undergraduate Affairs

Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of Music (Musicology)

BLACK CELEBRATORY PROGRAM

PROCESSIONAL	Faculty, Staff and Class of 2005
BLACK NATIONAL ANTHEM	Charis Vaughn & Lamar Willis
LIBATIONS	Elizabeth James
OPENING	Dr. James Jackson
REMARKS	Dr. Lester Monts
GREETINGS	Wendy Woods
STUDENT SPEAKER	Sidney Bailey IV
INTRO OF CORNERSTONE AWARD	Andre Brown
CORNERSTONE AWARD RECIPIENT	Elizabeth James
INTRO OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER	Porsha Cills
KEYNOTE SPEAKER	Dr. Kenya Ayers
PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES	L'Heureux Lewis
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	Rahwa Ghebre-Ab
AFRICAN-AMERICAN ALUMNI COUNCIL	Allan White
REMARKS	Je'Nai Talley & LesLeigh Ford
CLOSING	Theda Gibbs & Gena Flynn

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 African and the Diaspora.

6TH ANNUAL CORNERSTONE AWARD

Elizabeth Ann James



Is a native of Detroit, Michigan who spent much of her youth in Louisiana and Canada.

Is an alumna of Immaculata High School in Detroit, with Bachelor's degrees in the History of Art and Communications and a Masters degree in Journalism from the University of Michigan and a Masters of Science in Library Science from Wayne State University. She is a member of Kappa Tau Alpha, the national journalism and mass communications honor society and Beta Phi Mu, the international library and information studies honor society.

Is currently responsible for programming in the Center for Afroamerican and African Studies at the University of Michigan after serving as the CAAS Librarian. She's also been a public librarian in Detroit and Ann Arbor, a reporter for the Louisville Courier-Journal, and a curatorial assistant at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

Is the recipient of U-M's Michigan Leadership Awards' Advisor of the Year, the Ginsberg Center's Award for Social Activism, and a member of the Traditional Healers' Association of South Africa.

Is a third generation storyteller and a second generation librarian, following in the tradition of her grandmother and mother. Her love of words and books in any shape or form has led her to become an advocate for literacy. She founded the Umoja Book Club for children on U-M's campus, and has volunteered her skills to promote reading with a variety of community organizations such as Peace Neighborhood Center and the Detroit Piston's Read to Achieve Program.

Is a curious soul, intrigued by all the universe has to offer. The students at U-M have provided her with a world of wonderful experiences and they are a blessing to her everyday.

Is a dreamer, in a constant state of re-creation, drawing upon her past to help define her future.

The Black Celebratory class of 2005 is honored to name Elizabeth James as the recipient of this year's annual Cornerstone Award.

BLACK CELEBRATORY PLATFORM GUESTS

Black Celeb Committee Members

Andre L. Brown is graduating with a B.A. in Sport Management with a minor in Afro-American Studies. He will be pursuing a Master's Degree in Public Health in the fall.

Porsha Cills is graduating with a B.A. in Sociology. In the fall she will be working for a consulting firm in Chicago.

Chanise Dennis is graduating with a B.A. in Sociology.

Sherene Flemmings is receiving a B.A. in English and a B.A. in Psychology. In the fall, she will be teaching with Teach For America in Houston while receiving her teaching certification and Masters.

Lesleigh D. Ford is receiving a B.A. in Political Science and a B.A. in English with Honors. She will pursue a Masters degree in Education in the fall.

Rahwa Ghebre-Ab is graduating with a B.A. in History. She will work for a year before attending graduate school.

Androni Jocelyn Henry is graduating with B.S. in Environmental Geology with Honors. In the fall she will be a first year medical student.

Wadia Sancho is receiving a B.A. in Psychology with a minor in Biological Anthropology. She plans to go abroad in the fall prior to attending graduate school.

Je'Nai Alicia Talley is receiving a B.A. in African American Studies with a minor in Crime and Justice. She will attend law school after completing a Masters degree in Public Policy.

Administrators

Royster Harper, Vice President for Student Affairs

James Jackson, Director, Institute for Social Research; Daniel Katz Distinguished University Professor of Psychology; Professor of Health Behavior and Health Education

John Matlock, Associate Vice Provost for Academic Affairs & Director, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

Lester P. Monts, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Senior Counselor to the President for the Arts, Diversity, and Undergraduate Affairs, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of Music (Musicology)

Faculty and Staff

Devon Adjei, Center for Afroamerican & African Studies

LaNorris Alexander, Undergraduate Admissions

Nikki Andrews, University of Michigan Hospital

Juliet Ballard, Undergraduate Education, Housing Office

Edna Brown, Psychology Department

Sharon Burch, Undergraduate Education, College of Engineering

Frenchie Burroughs, College of Engineering

Cleopatra Caldwell, Health Behavior & Health Education, School of Public Health

Linda Chatters, School of Public Health/School of Social Work

Mary K. Clark, School of Public Health

Patricia Coleman-Burns, School of Nursing, Office of Multicultural Affairs

PLATFORM GUESTS CONTINUED

Theresa Cry, *Office of Financial Aid*

Princess Currence, *School of Social Work*

Juanita Davis, *University of Michigan Hospital*

Robbie Dye, *Residence Education, Housing Office*

Luke Edwards, *University of Michigan Hospital*

Frieda Ekotto, *College of Literature, Science & the Arts*

Anthony Elliott, *School of Music*

Ixchel Faniel, *School of Information*

Geri Fields, *School of Music*

Susan Frazier, *Research Center for Group Dynamics, Institute for Social Research*

Juana Gissendanner, *School of Dentistry*

Oyamo Charles Gordon, *Theater Department*

Carmen Green, *Anesthesiology Department*

Barbara Guthrie, *School of Nursing/Women's Studies*

Patricia Hall, *University of Michigan Hospital, Internal Medicine*

Francoise Hamlin, *College of Literature, Science & the Arts/Center for Afroamerican & African Studies*

Jeffery Harrold, *College of Literature, Science & the Arts/Student Academic Advising*

Lori Diane Hill, *School of Education/Center for Afroamerican & African Studies*

Nicole Huby, *School of Medicine*

Henry Johnson, *Vice President for Student Affairs Emeritus*

Tamra Maben, *Department of Family Medicine*

Matthew McGhee, *University of Michigan Hospital*

DeBora McIntosh, *University of Michigan Hospital/Housing*

Joe Myers, *Health Services Clinic*

Juanita Nathan, *University of Michigan Hospital*

Tara Nichols, *University of Michigan Hospital*

Fatima Parker, *Otorhinolaryngology Department*

Afeworki Paulos, *Graduate Library/Center for Afroamerican & African Studies*

Stacey Pearson, *Counseling & Psychological Services*

Valener Perry, *College of Pharmacy*

Stella Raudenbush, *School of Education*

Margaret Scisney-Matlock, *School of Nursing*

Jason Sims, *University of Michigan Hospital*

Ladreka Stubblefield, *Undergraduate Admissions*

Joyce Sutton, *College of Literature, Science & the Arts/Health Sciences Scholar Program*

Robert Joseph Taylor, *School of Social Work*

Diane Thompson, *Rackham Graduate School*

Monique Ward, *Psychology Department*

Wendy Woods, *Ann Arbor City Council, Michigan Community of Scholars Program*

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Kenya F. Ayers



Dr. Kenya Ayers is ardent in her quest to guide others toward destiny fulfillment and personal success. To that end, her 15-year career in post-secondary education has involved identifying, supporting, nurturing, celebrating and encouraging the growth and development of those around her. Dr. Ayers shares with transparency, humility and humor her personal, spiritual and professional triumphs and challenges in an effort to allow people to see possibilities for their own journeys. As a Christian, Dr. Ayers is passionate about encouraging others to reach their God-given potential. As a second-generation educator,

she is fervent about learning. The marriage between these two ideals represents the essence of her life's work.

Dr. Ayers earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from The University of Michigan, a Master's degree in Clinical Psychology from Eastern Michigan University and a Doctorate of Education in Administration and Supervision from the University of Houston. Dr. Ayers has also completed post-doctoral professional development through the American Council on Education's National Leadership Forum and Harvard University's Institute for Management and Leadership in Education.

Dr. Ayers is founder of The Choice Network – www.choice-network.com – a consulting firm designed to demystify the doctoral degree pursuit process for women. Through this vehicle, Dr. Ayers engages audiences in dynamic, interactive dialogue regarding their future aspirations. Dr. Ayers has also lectured nationwide on issues of program development, assessment/evaluation, undergraduate student retention, adult student learners, and student success.

In 2001, Dr. Ayers was named by Ebony magazine as one of the "Top 30 Leaders of the Future 30 and under". Dr. Ayers is co-author of *Hitching a Ride to Success: A Roadmap for Collegiate Travelers* (1996, Simon and Schuster). She is currently writing three books and is praying for more hours in the day to actually complete them! With interests and experiences spanning both academic and student affairs, Dr. Ayers currently serves as Vice Provost and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at Kettering University and most recently held the position of Dean of Students at Trinity University (then Trinity College) in Washington DC.

THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2005

Agnes Aleobua	Ugochi Emenaha	Thomas Laing, Jr.	I. Bernard Rothstein
Christopher Aguwa	Trevor Epps	Rondra Lee	Wadia Sancho
Sidney Bailey, IV	Brandi Evans	E'Ron Leveston	Lauren Savage
Oscar Barbarin	Vinchelle Evans	Falen Lockett	Christopher L. Shropshire
Brynne Barnes	Denise Zakiya Fair	Evan Lowe	Keyanna Silverman-Maddox
Dion Beatty	Christen Flack	Rosalyn Maben	Phillip Darnell Simpson
Todd Belcore	Ashley Flakes	Somerset Mack	Curtis Smith
Abeba Berhane	Sherene Flemmings	Michael Martin	Mark Smith
Ashley Biscoe	Brian Fogerty	Kenneth Matthew	Stefanie Smith
Shawn Blanchard	Darrell Ford	Mika Matthews	Tony Smith
Razzaaq Boykin	LesLeigh D. Ford	Charsha Mauldin	Siabhon Sturdivant
Camille Boykins	Stephen Friend	Courtney Mays	Dallas Lindsey Sutton
Kameron Brackins	Nerissa Germain	Albert McCreary	Natalie Taliaferro
Andre D. Brown	Rahwa Ghebre-Ab	Katherine McGee	Je'Nai Alicia Talley
Andre L. Brown	Garlin Gilchrist, II	Kaz McNellie	Cecelia Thomas
Jason Brown	Dara Gray	Adrienne Melita	Elizabeth Thomas
Leasa Brown	Monique Grinnell	Arthur Merriweather	Jessica Thomas
Monique Brown	Branden Hackney	Courtney Mitchell	Tiffany N. Torres
Ricardo Brown	Morgan Hafler	Walter Moore	Christina Treece
Stephanie Brown	Jennifer Hamlett	Stephen Nabors	Calise LeShay Tucker
Tania Brown	Alena Hamlin	Michelle Nelson	Candice Turner
Harold Tres Bulger, III	Robert J. Hampton, III	Vernon Newhouse	Bethany Underwood
Charnetta Butler	Norma Hargrow	Chuoh Ngeh	Ramona Vanel
Nina Joy Butler	Victor D. Harrell	Kwanza Nicholson	Christopher Vaughn
Amber Buycks	Willie James Harrell, Jr.	Nkechi Nwachukwu	Autumn Warren
Bryce Carter	Desiree Harrison	Chibuzo Okafo	Kevin Washington
Shi-Kela Chambers	Sierra Hauser-Price	Esohe Osai	Natasha Weatherspoon
Christina Chang	Androni Henry	Victor Osisanya	Matthew Weaver
Jamaal Chatman	Tiffany Hewlett	Mary Patillo	April Wells
Jeré Christian	Nicole Hines	Sheree Patmon	E. Chase Wesley
Porsha Cills	Antonia Holmes	Chantez Pattman	Brandon Q. White
Sabrina Claude	Karissa Holmes	Crystal Payne	Ivore White
Aaranisa Clay	Kikora Hosey	Andrea Perkins	Geraine Nicole Whiteside
Carin Cole	Evan Hurst	Ravi Kumar Perry	Celica Whitley
Brandon Coleman	Effat Id-Deen	Kimmeke Pipkins	Candice Williams
Natoya Coleman	Brian Jackson	Natassia Polynef	Danielle Williams
Stephanie Cook	Joelle Jackson	Andrea Pope	Jahmal Williams
Brandi Cross	Kiesha Jackson	Rachael Potts	Michael Williams
Eboni Curry	Tannoa Jackson	Efua Prah	Brandi Williamsen
Adrienne Melita Cuschieri	Michele Jeffrey	Kynetia Pressley	Jason Wilson
Bron Daniels	Alyce Johnson	Nicole Prince	Kedon Wilson
Arielle Davis	Cherice Johnson	Cassandra Pringle	Natasha Wilson
Erica Davis	Nicole Johnson	Allayna Ratliff	Phononzell Williams
Lakeisha Davis	Rita Johnson	Vellenie Ray	Dana Woolen
Shanasha Davis	Chad Ryan Jones	Lawrence Reid	
Chanise Dennis	Cora Jones	Joi Rencher	
Marsha Desormeaux	Kailyn Jones	Tiffany Riley	
Mame Khady L. Diouf	Tajuan Jones	Alexander Robinson	
Natasha Dorsey	Alain Kaleta Olony	Nicholas Robinson	
Rachel Easley	Tonton Kashama	Michael Rollins	
Lisa Edwards	Keri Kirk	Kyre Roper	
Kayla Ellington	Keturah Ladd	Jason Ross	

This is only a partial listing of the African-American students who are members of the 2005 graduating class of the University of Michigan's various undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Black Celebratory Planning Committee

Riana Anderson
Andre L. Brown
Cecelia Calhoun
Porsha Cills
Chanise Dennis
Sherene Flemmings
Lesleigh Ford
Kimberly Gaston
Rahwa Ghebre-Ab
Androni Jocelyn Henry
Olusolape Oluborode
Wadia Sancho
Je'Nai Alicia Talley
Ashley Whitfield

Marshals

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Denise Lee, *Comprehensive Studies Program, College of Literature, Science & the Arts*
Valener Perry, *College of Pharmacy*
Tyrone Winfrey, *Undergraduate Admissions*

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