

BLACK CELEBRATORY 2007

BLESSED AS THE ROSE THAT GROWS FROM CONCRETE



THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF ACADEMIC MULTICULTURAL INITIATIVES
13TH ANNUAL BLACK CELEBRATORY
SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2007 ~ 7:30 PM ~ HILL AUDITORIUM

CLASS OF 2007

TO THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2007

Congratulations on your most recent accomplishment – graduating from the University of Michigan, which hopefully will be the first of many achievements that you will receive.

The annual commencement day ceremonies, where academic degrees are conferred on hundreds of students, is one of the most important times of the University of Michigan's community. This is day when the collective efforts of our students as well as their families, colleague, friends, faculty and alumni really are recognized and celebrated. 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 2007 is a time for reflection and for looking forward. The student planning committee has selected the theme: Blessed As The Rose That Grows From Concrete as the theme for the 13th annual Celebratory. The theme offers numerous connections that are very appropriate to the special ceremony that we are celebrating. Like the striking beauty of the rose growing from the concrete, you have been able to accomplish far more than perhaps was expected of you. Not only have you survived, but you have thrived as well. Many students and their families have had to make various sacrifices to get you to today's graduation exercises but I think that you will agree with me – the sacrifices were worth it all. I know that most of you have been in the k-16 system for 17 years, and it has been a long and difficult road but in reality, you have many more to travel - more challenges but more opportunities to be successful. It is our honor, as a University community, to celebrate you as our own very special rose that we know will continue to bloom.

There is a tree on the back cover of this year's program booklet – over the years, it has become a symbol of Black Celebratory. 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's their dream and hopes that you proudly represent today. Long before you were born, many, many individuals throughout the centuries planted the seeds that then sprouted the roots for African American students to be prepared to be successful at the University of Michigan. We don't have to see the roots to understand how vital they are to the life of the tree.

At the same time, like the tree whose branches reaches upward toward the sky, we too spread our arms toward the future and all that it offers. Our wisdom, our commitment, and our energies know no boundaries. And, as we strive to fulfill the visions and dreams of our ancestors, we connect, through our diligence, the visions of the past to future visions – it's the legacy that we have inherited and must bear the responsibility to keep it moving forward. We indeed are the trunk that connects the roots to branches. Our tree needs both to be strong and healthy in order to thrive.

As graduates of this great institution, you will carry both the past, the present and the future, and 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 but yet we must always find opportunities to extend a helping hand to others.

The graduating class of 2007, both individually and collectively, has been given the awesome responsibility of preserving the best of their community and continuing in a way that your successes will continue to represent the successes of many, many people and ideas – both from the past and the future.

Good luck and stay connected!

Sincerely,



LESTER P. MONTS, PhD

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 2007 |
| BLACK NATIONAL ANTHEM | Jillian Walker & Lamar Willis |
| LIBATIONS | Elizabeth James |
| OPENING | James Jackson |
| REMARKS | Lester Monts |
| GREETINGS | Wendy Woods |
| STUDENT SPEECH | Cachavious English |
| STUDENT REFLECTIONS | Alicia Morris |
| INTRODUCTION OF CORNERSTONE AWARDS | Meta Brown |
| CORNERSTONE AWARD RECIPIENTS | Charlae Davis & Hanes Walton, Jr. |
| INTRO OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER | Myra Tetteh |
| KEYNOTE SPEAKER | Juanita Moore |
| PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES | Lydia Middleton & Rochelle Woods |
| REMARKS | Jamila Fair |
| AFRICAN-AMERICAN ALUMNI COUNCIL | Gene Kelly & Regina Webb |
| CLOSING | Theda Gibbs |

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.

8th ANNUAL CORNERSTONE AWARD

The Black Celebratory Class of 2007 is honored to name Dr. Hanes Walton, Jr. as this year's recipient of the Faculty Cornerstone Award, and Charlae Davis as this year's recipient of the Staff Cornerstone Award.

DR. HANES WALTON, JR.

Hanes Walton, Jr., is a professor of political science at the University of Michigan and is a graduate of Morehouse College. He holds a master's degree in political science from Atlanta University and a Ph.D from Howard University. He is the author of twelve books (all except one dealing with African-American politics) and more than sixty articles, essays, and reviews. His latest book is "Reelection: William H. Clinton as Native-Son Presidential Candidate." He is a member of the editorial boards of numerous academic journals and has served as a consultant to the National Academy of Sciences, the Educational Testing Service, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. He has been a Ford, Rockefeller, and Guggenheim Fellow and holds membership in several honor societies, including Pi Sigma Alpha, Alpha Kappa Mu, and Phi Beta Kappa. For two years, he worked on Capitol Hill in the office of African American congressman Mervyn Dymally of California. Professor Walton has taught African-American politics and American government at the graduate and undergraduate level for more than twenty-five years. In 1993 he was the recipient of Howard University's Distinguished Ph.D Alumni Award.

CHARLAE DAVIS

Charlae Monique Davis was born and raised in Kalamazoo, Michigan. As a youth her parents, public school educators, instilled in her a passion and love for education. Charlae is an Alumna of the University of Michigan where she received her Bachelor's of Art in Sociology and her Master's of Social Work. For the past few years, Charlae has enjoyed working with students on campus within the University of Michigan's Residence Halls as well as the CSP Summer Bridge Program. Charlae presently works as an Academic Adviser with the Comprehensive Studies Program.

Charlae's next step is to obtain her PhD in Educational Policy to help develop culturally sensitive and effective policy. She also would like to open multi-faceted community centers and programs that offer educational, social, and cultural resources focusing on African American students all over the United States. Charlae believes an adequate education is not a privilege but a right that all children deserve. Charlae believes the measure of success is never individualistic, but instead measurable by the collective strides within our community.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



JUANITA MOORE

Juanita Moore is an experienced museum professional working for the past 30 years as a curator, educator, administrator and museum planner. She is currently the President /CEO of the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. Before assuming her current position she served as Executive Director of the American Jazz Museum and the Gem Theater located in the 18th & Vine Historic District in Kansas City, Missouri. Ms. Moore also served as the founding Executive Director of the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis. As Executive Director, she oversaw the

construction and opening of the museum located at the Lorraine Motel, the site of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis, Tennessee.

Prior to Memphis, Ms. Moore spent a number of years on the planning and opening of the National African American Museum and Cultural Center in Wilberforce, Ohio. As a senior member of the planning team, she developed a strategy and concept for building a nationally donated collection.

Ms. Moore began her career at the Ohio Historical Society as the first African American curator on staff. She also served as Director of the Kuumba Na Nia Dance and Theatre Company.

She has served on numerous boards and committees including: President and Board member of the African American Museums Association, Board member of the American Association of Museums, and Board member of the American Association of State and Local History.

BLACK CELEB PLATFORM GUESTS

2007 BLACK CELEBRATORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Aisha Akpabio - Bachelor of Science, Dental Hygiene

Meta Brown - Bachelor of Arts, Political Science

Whitnee Dillard - Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, minor in Political Science

Jamila Fair - Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, minor in Afroamerican & African Studies

Janel Johnson - Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, minor in Afroamerican & African studies

LaDonna Moore - Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, minor in Afroamerican & African Studies

Andrea Pendergrass - Bachelor of Arts, Brain, Behavior, and Cognitive Sciences

Jessica Perkins - Bachelor of Business Administration, emphasis in marketing

Lauren Perkins - Bachelor of Arts, English Literature & Language and Developmental Psychology

Christian Reed - Bachelor of Arts, General Studies, concentration in Public Relations

Daquent Robinson - Bachelor of Business Administration, emphasis in Marketing and Corporate Strategy

Kwaku Opoku Sarpong-Agyeman - Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, minor in Anthropology

Myra Tetteh - Bachelor of Arts, dual major in Political Science and Sociology

ADMINISTRATORS

Lester Monts - Senior Vice-Provost for Academic Affairs & Senior Counselor to the President for the Arts, Diversity & Undergraduate Affairs, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of Music

Royster Harper - Vice President, Division of Student Affairs

James Jackson - Director, Institute for Social Research & Daniel J. Katz Distinguished Professor of Psychology

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

FACULTY AND STAFF

Rosa Angulo-Barroso - Associate Professor of Movement Sciences

Lisa Bellamy - Assistant Chair, Army Officer Education Program

Sharon Burch - Director, Office of Recruitment & Admissions, College of Engineering

Dwaine Campbell - Postdoctoral Fellow, Counseling & Psychological Services

Linda Chatters - Professor, Health Behavior & Health Education, School of Public Health

Charlae Davis - Academic Adviser, Counselor & Adjunct Lecturer, Comprehensive Studies Program

Moses Davis - Coordinator of Residence Education, Housing

Angela Dillard - Associate Professor, Center for Afroamerican & African Studies & Residential College

Frieda Ekotto - Associate Professor, Comparative Literature and Center for Afroamerican & African Studies

Gena Flynn - Program Manager, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

BLACK CELEB PLATFORM GUESTS

FACULTY AND STAFF

Juana Gissendanner - Adjunct Clinical Lecturer, Dental School

Royster Harper - Vice President, Division of Student Affairs

Jeffery Harrold - Academic Adviser, College of Literature, Science & the Arts

Kurt Hill - Academic Adviser, College of Engineering

Lori Diane Hill - Assistant Professor, School of Education & Center for Afroamerican & African Studies

James Jackson - Director, Institute for Social Research & Daniel J. Katz Distinguished Professor of Psychology

Elizabeth James - Program Associate, Center for Afroamerican & African Studies

Coleman A. Jordan - Assistant Professor, Center for Afroamerican & African Studies & Architecture

Gene Kelly - Board of Directors & Vice Chairman, The University of Michigan African-American Alumni Council

Denise Lee - Lecturer in Mathematics, Comprehensive Studies Program, College of Literature, Science & the Arts

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

Lydia Middleton - Program Specialist, MultiEthnic Student Affairs, Division of Student Affairs

A.T Miller - Director, Global Intercultural Experience for Undergraduates, Center for Research on Learning & Teaching

Lester Monts - Senior Vice-Provost for Academic Affairs & Senior Counselor to the President for the Arts, Diversity & Undergraduate Affairs, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of Music

Harold Neighbors - Professor, School of Public Health, Health Behavior & Health Education

Kelly Quinn - Sojourner Truth Visiting Faculty Lecturer, Urban & Regional Planning & Center for Afroamerican & African Studies

David Schoem - Director, Michigan Community Scholars Program & Adjunct Associate Professor, Sociology Department

Margaret Scisney-Matlock - Associate Professor of Nursing, School of Nursing

Robert Taylor - Professor, School of Social Work

Tehsome Wagaw - Emeritus Professor, Center for Afroamerican Studies & School of Education

Hanes Walton Jr. - Professor, Political Science, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Regina Webb - Alumni Activities Chair, The University of Michigan African-American Alumni Council

Warren Whatley - Professor of Economics & Center for Afroamerican & African Studies

Tyrone Winfrey - Associate Director, Undergraduate Admissions

Rochelle Woods - Research Associate, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

Wendy Woods - Member, Ann Arbor City Council & Associate Director & Lecturer, Michigan Community Scholars Program

THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2007

Mutiyat Ade-Salu
Aisha Akpabio
Emma Akpan
Ayodele Alli
Ashley Amye
John Andrews
Amery Anyiah
Andrew Arrington
Mikahal Ashe**
Rachel Banks
Ebonique Bargainer
Ashley Bell
Tiffany Beverly
Sabrina Biggens
Michelle Black
Yolanda Blackwell
Aneika Bookal
Alijah Bradley
Janai Brodnax
Meta Brown
Nathan Broyles
Carla Bryant
Marquita Burk
Chanelle Campbell
Ryan Carmichael
Andres Carter
Angela Carter*
Antoinette Chapman
Cheryl Clark
Victoria Cohen
Brandon Colbert
Lauren Cottingham
Benecia Cousins*
Larry Cox II
Alan Crawford
Angelicia Danielle
Kiana Daniels
Staci Daniels
Brandon Davis
Michael Davis, Jr.
Yvita Dickerson-Houilles
Jessica Dickson
Whitney Dillard
Tiffany Dillard
Ryne Dominguez
Rayna Edwards
Misty Elder
Cachavious English
Jamila Fair
Karissa Fitzgerald
Alexis Floyd
Dominic Foster
Cherine Foty
Noelle Frazier
Chelsea Freeman
Brian Frey
Robyn Fuller
Theda Gibbs*
Jessica Glenn
Chi'Von Golden
Bernice Hardman
Breeanna Hare
David Harris
Jason Harris
Ryan Henyard
Domonique Hinton
Shana Holden
Lauren Hornes
Brittany Hunt
Diamond Ingram
Anthony Jackson*
Christopher Jackson
Tamela Jackson
Julio Jamal
Fallon Jenkins
Angelique Johnson
Janel Johnson
Joshua Johnson
Katrina Johnson
Leslie Johnson
Veronica Johnson
William L. Johnson II
Jelani Jones
Carissa Jones-Daniels Muniz
Danielle Kellogg
Amanda King
Ramon Kinloch
Veronica LaDay*
William Justin Laury
Allyson Lindsey
Michael Logue
Briana Maclin

THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2007

Bridget Maclin
Ingrid Macon
Deena Marshall
Kamaria Mason
Martins Matthew
Whitney McKinney
Kyla McMullen*
Rita McMullen
Miriam Medhanie
Kwasi Mendoza
Venus Miller
Alexandra Moffett-Bateau
Daniel Moore
Dean Moore
Diamond Moore
LaDonna Moore
Alicia Morris
Angelicia Morton
Ryan Mundy
Celeste Northern
Ikedihi Nwankwo
Robert Oden
Aketa-Marie Ogletree
Jeffrey O'Neale*
Ruben Paillere
Jonathan Parker
Ashley Payne
Allen Peck
Andrea Pendergrass
Jessica Perkins
Lauren Perkins
Tala Perry
Morgan Pierce
Jason Pitts
Jared Pryor
Erika Purcell-Williams
Danielle Pureifory
Christian Reed
Nicole Retland
Mpumelelo Richards
Donald Richison II
Daquent Robinson
Kristina Robinson
Kyeshia Robinson
Chastity Rolling
Rosalyn L. Russel

Kwaku Opoku Sarpong-Agyeman
Tony Saunders
Justin Sewell II
Alexandra Shannon
Brionne Shepherd
Temeca Simpson
Lauren Simpson
Allison Smith
Jomo Smith
Nicole Stallings
Anwar Stephens
Carl Tabb II
Ryan Taylor
Myra Marie Tetteh
Ashley Thomas
LaShawndra Thornton
Ashley Varner
Anita Vinson
Jillian Walker
Whitney Weathersby
Shantel West
Jessica White
Michael Whitehead
Nina Wiggins
Timothy Wiggins
Darla Williams
Jessica Williams
Iyabo Williams
Kalyn R. Wilson
Natashia Young
Melanie Younger

This is only a partial listing of the African-American students who are members of the 2007 graduating class of the University of Michigan's various undergraduate, graduate and professional programs.

* Master's Degree

** Doctorate Degree

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BLACK CELEBRATORY PLANNING COMMITTEE

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Aisha Akpabio | Stedine Laroque |
| Skylar Andrews | LaDonna Moore |
| Kellen Brackins | Andrea Pendergrass |
| Meta Brown | Jessica Perkins |
| Chantal Cotton | Lauren Perkins |
| Whitney Dillard | Christian Reed |
| Jamila Fair | Daquent Robinson |
| James Logan | Kwaku Opoku Sarpong-Agyeman |
| Janel Johnson | Myra Tetteh |

John Matlock - *Associate Vice-Provost, Office of Provost & Director, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives*

Theda Gibbs - *Program Coordinator, Black Celebratory*

JeNai Talley - *Program Coordinator, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives*

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Jeffery Harrold - *Academic Adviser, College of Literature, Science & the Arts*

Kurt Hill - *Academic Adviser, College of Engineering*

Denise Lee - *Lecturer in Mathematics, Comprehensive Studies Program, College of Literature, Science & the Arts/Robert*

STUDENT MARSHALS

James Logan - *College of Literature, Science & the Arts junior majoring in Sociology with a minor in Afroamerican & African Studies*

Chantal Cotton - *College of Literature, Science & the Arts junior majoring in Political Science and English*

SPECIAL THANKS

Gwendolyn Tandy - *Conference Management Services*

Kathy Mann - *Conference Management Services*

Staff of the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

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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, regardless of race, ethnicity or national origin, 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.

REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Julia Donovan Darlow - *Ann Arbor*

Laurence B. Deitch - *Bingham Farms*

Olivia P. Maynard - *Goodrich*

Rebecca McGowan - *Ann Arbor*

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 - *(ExOfficio)*

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FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

The University of Michigan strives to create an open form in which diverse opinions can be expressed and heard. Members of the University community, speakers, artists, and other invited guests have a right to express their views and opinions, and the University will protect that right. The University also supports the rights of those with differing views to express their opinions.

In the interest of protecting these rights for all, University representatives may warn anyone unduly interfering with a speaker or performer's freedom of expression, and if the warnings are not heeded, may remove those individuals from the building.

The policy extends and affirms University policies set forth by our Civil Liberties Board in our Student Handbook; and in the U-M Standard Practice Guide; Regents Ordinance Article XII, Section I; and state statutes.



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