

*A Scholar's Thought...*

**A Dream Achieved!**

**by: Chelsea Doyle, Spelman College c/o 2010**

When I received my admissions application to Spelman College in the spring of 2006, the envelope read, "A place built for you." Throughout my four years of matriculation, I was constantly reassured that Spelman was built for me, but never had I been more assured than I was during graduation week.

Beginning with the Senior Soiree on Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, Senior Graduation Week was a celebration to remember. The Senior Soiree is a traditional mixer in which seniors are celebrated and saluted by fellow alumna. This year's guest was none other than Rolonda Watts, 1980 Spelman Alumna. Watts was far from shy about sharing her impeccable resume, daring any unaware lady to "Google her," if they didn't know what she'd done in the 30 years since her graduation from Spelman. In addition to her boasting, Rolonda also left the graduates with a message to achieve greatness. She reminded students of the rich history of Spelmanites who had come before them and how important it is for us as Spelmanites to continue that legacy of "women who change the world."

Not straying from Rolonda's charge to the graduating class, 2010 valedictorian, Ariel Eckbland, delivered her Ivy Oration on finding comfort in the midst of uncomfortable situations. The Ivy Oration was very inspirational and personal to the graduating class. The Ivy Oration is the official valedictory speech given on Class Day. It is the first and only time in which the valedictorian formally addresses her peers.

Class Day is also the day preserved for graduating seniors to march two-by-two through the coveted Alumnae Arch. Throughout a Spelmanite's matriculation, she is forbidden to pass under the arch until Class Day. Dressed in cap and gown for the first time, seniors are greeted and pinned as alumnae by past graduates of the college.



On May 15, during Graduation Week, we participated in our baccalaureate ceremony. This year's baccalaureate speaker was Reverend Dr. Michael Beckwith, founder of the Agape International Spiritual Center. Beckwith's views center upon harmonious living and benevolence. His words of inspiration left Spelmanites feeling refreshed and enlightened. He reminded each and every one of us that we have a duty not as Spelmanites, but as humans to go out and serve the world.

**Your future lies in your ability to DREAM. For what you DREAM, you can create, and what you create, you can become!**

Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup> was the official day of commencement for two Spelman Brumley-GRAD Scholars. Both Nakeya Barner and I received Bachelor of Arts degrees at the 3:00 pm service. United States Ambassador to the United Nations, Susan E. Rice gave the 2010 Commencement Speech. She gave a brief history lesson on how hard civil rights leaders had fought before us and how fortunate our generation is for having it "better" than the generations before us. Although she acknowledged the challenging economic system, she let graduates know that we have it better than any previous generation of African-American women. Rice also

begged women to always strive for excellence, never settling for second best. Rice's speech was perfect for a diverse class of ladies who have affectionately been known as one of the most adamant classes in Spelman's history.

After Rice's speech, Children's Defense Fund founder, civil rights activist, and honorary doctoral degree recipient, Marian Wright Edelman, spoke briefly on the importance of becoming teachers. Although she does not expect every graduating senior to formally teach in the classroom, she bragged about the great rewards of being a teacher and how that profession can dramatically change the world.

Ironically, both 2010 graduating Spelman Brumley-GRAD Scholars are pursuing a career in education. Edelman's speech was the perfect conclusion to our life as matriculating Spelmanites, and a testimony to the deep impact education has had on our lives. Her words of wisdom confirmed Spelman's "A place built for you" tagline that undoubtedly rang true in both our hearts.

**"Graduation Really Achieves Dreams."**

**Inside this issue:**

*Ask an Ambassador* 2

*Scholar Spotlight* 2

*Staff Sentiment* 3

*You Just Had to be There* 3

*What, When, Where...* 3

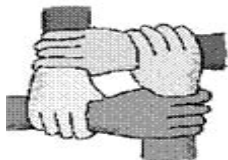
*Scholar Support* 4

*Campus Corner* 4

**Special point of interest:**

- Campus Corner: 2010 College Graduate List

**A  
S  
K**



## **B** BRUMLEY-GRAD **A** AMBASSADORS “**B**estowing **G**uidance & **A**ssistance”

**B  
Y**

By: Christopher Hardnett, University of West Georgia



**A  
M  
B  
A  
S  
S  
A  
D  
O  
R**

**Question:** I am interested in attending a study abroad program, can you tell me about your experience?

**Answer:** On May 18, 2010 I did something I thought I would never have been able to do, travel outside the United States of America. Nervous but gushing with excitement I embarked on a journey that few from my neck of the woods had ever had the chance to experience, and what an experience it was! Seeing the Eiffel tower, touring the tower of London, and visiting the Vatican City (just to name a few of the things I did while over there) still to this day remains to be a surreal moment in my life. It remains difficult to accept the realization that I was there; I stood where Anne Boleyn was beheaded, saw where Marie Antoinette slept, walked the gardens that Louis XIV once walked; I was there. Like Mr. Harrison once told me, “I went from the Westside of Atlanta to the West Abbey of London.” But one thing that took me back was the lack of a major culture shock.

Coming from America there has always been this preconceived notion that European countries lag behind the .U.S. in all aspects of society at least that’s the assumption we always make. In actuality, they are pretty advanced, if not more advanced than we are here in the US. What really surprised me was the music. The influence of American culture is so widespread that you cannot escape it no matter where you go in Europe. From Drake all the way down to some songs by Gucci Mane, they listen to what we listen to. I found the familiarity in the music to be weird to experience, being a visitor to this foreign place. Overall it was a great experience. I was asked when I returned whether I would want to go back overseas, my response is: bein sur! (of course!)

## **Scholar Spotlight**

### **Procrastinators Unite!!**

By: Cassandra Starr, Albany State University c/o 2010



Being a college student entails a number of duties, the more accurate title would be, **College Student: the Epitome of a Multi-Tasker**. With this newly established title in mind, it’s safe to suggest that when multi-tasking is involved, the concept of time management is a key component. In the life of the college student, a lack of time management skills and procrastination is like bubblegum on your shoe; a problem that sticks and is highly annoying.

As a college student, I find that this topic speaks to me directly. For example, some of my key phrases are, “I’ll start in a few minutes after I take a nap.” (These few minutes can range from a half an hour to two hours at the most). Or, the world famous line, “I’ll do it tomorrow.” (Tomorrow often becomes the day after tomorrow, and the Friday after next, depending on the urgency of the task assigned). On the bright side, procrastination can be stamped out of your college and professional careers if you take heed to a few tips that I’ve learned. Not to say that I have perfect time management skills (to say that I still need work would be an understatement!), but here are some handy tips that I have adopted that show immediate results when implemented.

**Purchase a planner.** Write out the following week’s schedule on the weekend. Allocate specific times to complete specific tasks. Be sure to use and refer to your planner often. Once you make your schedule, stick to it explicitly. Once you complete your tasks for that day or week, you will have more time for yourself. (And who doesn’t want that?)

**Make two activity/to do lists.** Label them “Things I Like to Do” and “Things I Must Do.” With these two lists, you can alternate between things that you enjoy doing and things you have to complete. This act makes the pending task at hand more fun and enjoyable. Besides, all work and no fun is not the way to go.

**Divide the larger task into smaller ones.** If you have a larger project that is due, break the assignment down into smaller tasks, this way you will prevent stress and that allows you to avoid feeling overwhelmed. For instance, these smaller tasks can include: researching the topic at hand, writing an outline, or creating a model. Completing all of these smaller tasks, will give you a sense of accomplishment and gratification.

**Do NOT; I repeat do NOT wait until the final hour.** This is simply an old adage that applies to everyone. Waiting until the last minute creates a stressful, overwhelming, and hostile environment. That is the LAST thing we need as college students. Just take a deep breath, relax and apply the knowledge and skills for success you have learned along the way.

Brumley Scholars, I encourage you to adopt these anti-procrastination laws. By doing so, you will create a less hostile and stress-free zone during your college careers and you will definitely become more productive and efficient. Feel free to add your own time management skills to the rules that I have given you as well. Besides, who knows you better than yourself? So in short, **ALL PROCRASTINATORS UNITE... TOMORROW! NO, TODAY!**

**“Graduation Really Achieves Dreams.”**

## Staff Sentiment...

**By: Alvin Glymph, Director of Evaluation & Strategic Partnerships**

My name is Alvin Glymph and I serve as the Director of Evaluation and Strategic Partnerships for Project GRAD Atlanta. My undergraduate degree is from Colgate University and I majored in religion. My graduate studies were completed at Emory University, where I earned a Master of Arts in Education.



As the Director of Evaluation and Strategic Partnerships, my responsibilities include managing methods for evaluating outcomes for Project GRAD Atlanta and strengthening the relationship with current partners and cultivating the relationship with prospective partners.

I am fortunate to have a very diverse professional life at GRAD. It is my responsibility to help monitor the organization's progress, serve as the organization's liaison with partners, assist on grants and reports to funders, serve on the committee to improve the implementation of the Summer Institute, attend meetings to share data and stimulate discussions, and serve on the Project GRAD Atlanta Management team to collaborate with other team members to implement the strategic direction of the organization.

One of my greatest professional pleasures is tracking the Brumley-GRAD Scholars as they enroll around the country and reporting the news to our Board of Directors. That data makes us so proud!

## YOU JUST HAD TO BE THERE...

**By: Dr. James Dabney, Director of Scholar Support Programs**

**The Senior Scholar-Parent Institute (SSPI) Proves to be a hit among Senior Scholars, Parents**

The inaugural SSPI was a great success! On January 30<sup>th</sup>, over 300 Project GRAD Atlanta Senior Scholars and their guardians participated in a successful convention that covered a variety of college success and access topics. Specifically facilitators spoke about savvy financial management skills, getting into your first college choice, as well as provided information on successfully passing college placement exams. Participants were also inspired by moving words during the keynote luncheon, by Olu Brown, Lead Pastor of Impact Church.

Several Brumley-GRAD Scholars as well as current AMC students and parents of Brumley-GRAD Scholars participated in panels to provide valuable information about the college experience from their perspectives to the Senior Scholars and parents, respectively. Atlanta Metropolitan College (AMC) served as the official host and provided outstanding service throughout the day: AMC President and Project GRAD Atlanta Board Vice Chair, Dr. Gary McGaha, welcomed the Project GRAD Atlanta family; AMC staff was on staff to assist in the smooth operation of SSPI, and AMC Student Ambassadors were dynamic hosts. The first installment of SSPI has made it an already premiere event within Project GRAD Atlanta.



## What, When, Where...

### Fall 2010 Scholarship Request/Appeal Deadlines

September 15, 2010 - Scholarship Request Deadline (Fall Semester/Quarter)

October 15, 2010 - Appeal Submission Deadline (Fall Semester/Quarter)

November 1, 2010 Appeal Status Notification Letters Mailed (Fall Semester/Quarter)



***"Graduation Really Achieves Dreams."***

Scholar Support Staff:

James Dabney, Ph.D.  
Director of Scholar Support Programs

Natasha L. Ball, M.S.  
Scholar Support Program Manager

Misty Wright  
Scholar Support Administrative Specialist

260 Peachtree Street  
Suite 402  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
P: 404-880-3500  
F: 404-523-9603  
gradatl@yahoo.com  
www.projectgradatlanta.org

Chronicle Staff:

Chelsea Doyle,  
Editor & Writer

Cassandra Star,  
"Ask An Ambassador" & Writer

Jovan Johnson,  
Layout & Writer

We are on  
**facebook**

Name: **Brumley-grad Scholar**



Project GRAD Atlanta is the signature reform initiative for Atlanta Public Schools (APS). Its aims are to increase the number of APS students graduating from high school and participating in higher education. The Scholar Support Division works closely with the Project GRAD Atlanta Senior Scholars from New Schools of Carver, Schools at Washington, and South Atlanta Educational Complex in preparing them for college and with Brumley-GRAD Scholars in their persistence and leadership development as they matriculate through and graduate from colleges, universities, and technical schools across the nation.

The Scholar Support Division offers numerous service, educational, and leadership development opportunities for Brumley-GRAD Scholars. To learn more about the offered activities please visit the Brumley-GRAD Scholar webpage on the Project GRAD Atlanta website, connect with us on Facebook, and/or make certain you are a member of our yahoo listserv. Opportunities are multiple; Get Involved!!

## CAMPUS Corner: Where Brumley-GRAD Scholars Roam

Congrats to the Brumley-GRAD Scholars who graduated during the 2009-2010 school year. Each of you is truly a shining example that **Graduation Really Achieves Dreams!!** We at Project GRAD Atlanta are excited of the possibilities the future has in store for you and the great places you will go.

|                             |                                 |                             |                                   |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Brandon Coleman</i>      | <i>Luis Oropeza</i>             | <i>Ariana Sharpe</i>        | <i>Andre Wicker</i>               |
| Hampton University          | Atlanta Metropolitan College    | Piedmont College            | Middle Tennessee State University |
| <i>Jasmine Green</i>        | <i>Stacia Waters</i>            | <i>Chelsea Doyle</i>        | <i>Kenyata Williams</i>           |
| Atlanta Technical College   | Savannah State University       | Spelman College             | Atlanta Christian College         |
| <i>NyAsia Gray</i>          | <i>Martavis Parker</i>          | <i>Kendra Smith</i>         | <i>Rashida Winston-Paul</i>       |
| Albany State University     | South Carolina State University | College of the Holy Cross   | Georgia State University          |
| <i>Angel Guice</i>          | <i>En'Tuwan Williams</i>        | <i>Taneshia Fisher</i>      | <i>Deanna Ashley</i>              |
| Talladega College           | University of West Georgia      | Paine College               | Atlanta Metropolitan College      |
| <i>Nakita Head</i>          | <i>Derrick Poole</i>            | <i>Justin Spurley</i>       | <i>Jerel Griffin</i>              |
| Albany State University     | Florida Memorial College        | Middlebury College          | University of West Georgia        |
| <i>Conetrise Holt</i>       | <i>Roger Williams</i>           | <i>Jasmine Stamper-Cain</i> | <i>Jasmyn Hardy</i>               |
| Middlebury College          | Bowling Green State University  | Canyon University           | Georgia State University          |
| <i>Kyona Jarrett</i>        | <i>Bernard Saunders</i>         | <i>Christopher Webb</i>     | <i>Krystal Branford</i>           |
| Georgia Southern University | Morehouse College               | Georgia State University    | Atlanta Technical College         |
| <i>Shalanda Hughley</i>     | <i>Nakeya Barner</i>            | <i>Larry Thompson</i>       | <i>Amanda Lockett</i>             |
| Atlanta Technical College   | Spelman College                 | Amherst College             | Savannah State University         |
| <i>Byron Jones</i>          | <i>Christopher Miller</i>       | <i>JeNae Newman</i>         | <i>Kempton Thompson</i>           |
| Morehouse College           | Fort Valley State University    | Clark Atlanta University    | Atlanta Metropolitan College      |
| <i>Jasmine Graham</i>       | <i>Cassandra Starr</i>          | <i>Daniel Stevenson</i>     |                                   |
| Bowdoin College             | Albany State University         | Georgia State University    |                                   |

**"Graduation Really Achieves Dreams."**