

National Alumnae Association of Spelman College



Celebrating
our 30th
Anniversary!

**NAASC
Executive
Board Meeting
Thursday, May 10**

**NAASC
Annual Meeting
Saturday, May 12**

17th Annual Jazz Ensemble Benefit Concert with Guest Honoree Dr. Billy Taylor

On March 10, 2007, the Northern NJ Chapter (NNJC) NAASC held its seventeenth annual Jazz Ensemble Benefit Concert. Under the direction of Dr. Joseph Jennings, the Spelman Jazz Ensemble presented a stellar evening of jazz to an appreciative audience in Plainfield, NJ. For the first time this year, free student tickets were distributed to those 18 and under, in order to encourage an appreciation of jazz music in young people. The proceeds of the concert are contributed to NNJC's scholarship fund, which has provided over \$200,000 in scholarships to over 40 women from New Jersey. Proceeds from the 2006

concert allowed the chapter to establish a \$25,000 endowed scholarship at Spelman in honor of the college's 125th anniversary. This contribution became part of Spelman's endowment, and all investment proceeds are used to provide financial assistance to students from New Jersey.

This year the chapter chose to honor Dr. Billy Taylor by presenting him with the 2007 African-American Classical Music Award. Dr. Taylor's career spans nearly six decades, during which he has performed with musicians such as Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, and Miles Davis. Dr. Taylor has worked in radio and televi-

sion, and is the recipient of two Peabody Awards, an Emmy, a Grammy, and a host of other highly coveted prizes. As the honoree, Dr. Taylor was presented with a portrait, and closed the concert with a solo performance on the piano.

Special thanks go out to Benefit Chairperson Sharon K. McGahee (C'79) for all of her efforts in planning this event, and to the many chapter members whose contributions helped to make this event a great success.

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Class of '62- Cookbook Fundraiser

The Spelman Class of 1962 has compiled favorite recipes contributed by several hundred Spelmanites from the class of 1940 through the class of 2005 into a fantastic cookbook. There are over 300 delightful recipes for appetizers, entrees, soups, salads, beverages and desserts and with each is listed the name and class year of the con-

tributor. You're sure to find several you must sample! Messages from President Beverly Daniel Tatum, Marian Rucker-Shamu, C'65 and alumnae from the class of 1999 endorsing this project add special meaning to this first-of-its-kind fundraising initiative. Copies are only \$30 (plus S+H)!!

**For information call
Dorothy A. Brooks at
(404) 691-0852 or
email:
cwnhbrks@bellsouth.
net.**

All proceeds will go to Spelman College as a 2007 reunion gift from the class of 1962.

UPCOMING KOMEN RACE FOR THE CURE EVENTS!

Atlanta, GA
May 12

Richmond, VA
May 12

Philadelphia, PA
May 13

Washington, DC
June 2

Seattle, WA
June 16

DID YOU KNOW...

that you can support the NAASC just by applying for and using the **MBNA NAASC Visa Credit Card**? Well you can! Here's how it works, the NAASC receives the following:

Every New Account: \$2.00
Renewal Accounts: \$2.00
Net Retail Purchases: .60%
Finance Charges: 2%

To apply for your card today, call

1-866-227-1553.

Get Involved: Race for the Cure '06-'07

Did you know that African-American Women have the highest death rate from breast cancer and are more likely to be diagnosed with a later stage of breast cancer than White women? In the age groups 30-54 and 55-69 years, African-American women have the highest death rate from breast cancer. Did you know that an estimated 20,000 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed this year? How many of us don't know someone in our class, family or among our friends who has been diagnosed with breast cancer? The executive committee of the NAASC feels so strongly about bringing awareness to this disease that we have again chosen this to be our National Public Service Project. Join the **Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure**. For more information and to find a Komen race near you, go to www.komen.org. So get your walking/running shoes on as we gather to do our part.

NAASC MBNA Visa Credit Card

The National Alumnae Association of Spelman College (NAASC) is proud to offer the Platinum Plus Visa® credit card, at a no annual fee credit card program that provides peerless benefits, service, worldwide acceptance, and convenience. Each time you make a purchase with this credit card, a contribution is made to the NAASC at no additional cost to you. Plans are underway for a new campaign that will be initiated soon. Please respond favorably when contacted by MBNA via US mail or electronic means. Questions may be directed to the NAASC MBNA Advocacy Committee at ljo1222@comcast.net. Join your Spelman sisters who are already enjoying the benefits of the NAASC MBNA card.

Membership Corner

by **Jennifer Doggett LaPoint C'84, Membership Chair**

Thank you to all who supported the NAASC for FY 2006. Your commitment to the alumnae association is greatly appreciated. But we are now in a new year and our goal for FY 2007 is 3000!

You may have or will be receiving a phone call from one of your Spelman sisters. Please, TAKE THE CALL and join the NAASC today!!

Your membership dues help to support the NAASC's Donald Steward Endow

Scholarship, the student emergency fund, programs, and initiatives. Our President, Marian Rucker-Shamu, has established a goal of increasing NAASC's membership by 50% and we cannot do it without your support. We are at the beginning of a membership campaign and we want to start off strong! Let's make this a break through year!!

ARE YOU A MEMBER?

Use the membership form on the last page to join or renew your membership today.

www.naasc.org

P.O. Box 42828,
Atlanta, GA 30311

Chapter Highlights!

COLUMBIA, MD CHAPTER

Upcoming Events:

Our chapter along with the Baltimore, Southern MD, and Washington DC Alumnae Chapters are hosting a tea in honor of Founder's Day. The event will take place on Sunday, April 22, 2007 at the Columbia Hilton at 5485 Twin Knolls Road, Columbia, MD 21045. Fox 45 News Anchor, Karen Veale Parks C'88, is the guest speaker for the event.

COLUMBIA, SC CHAPTER

On January 14, 2007 at the Brookland Baptist Conference Center, the Chapter gathered for a "send-off" honoring Robin Ford. Robin is a sophomore Hampton Univ. transfer student. Twelve alumnae attended the brunch and each brought gifts deemed as necessities for any college student. Alumnae shared stories of their time at Spelman, an overview of history and traditions was shared. Alumnae present ranged from the class of 1961 to the class of 2005.

DETROIT, MI CHAPTER

The Detroit Chapter has continued to meet on the third Sunday of each month. Meetings were hosted by Ellen Hill Zeringue, C'88 in January, Dr. Renita Barge Clark, C'88 in February, and Sylvia Glenn Simmons, C'74 in March.

We collected and donated pantyhose for Dress for Success, to be donated to women attempting to enter

or Dress for Success is a non-profit organization that provides interview suits, and career development to low-income women in over 75 cities.

Upcoming Events:

Second annual scholarship tea, April 28, 2007, 1:30 P.M. at Detroit Golf Club. Chapter to honor author and playwright Pearl Cleage, C'71 as well as our local support group, Friends of Spelman. The Friends were composed of a selfless group of men and women, many of whom have never seen Spelman College. But, because of their desire to see African American women succeed, they raised scholarship funds to benefit Detroit area women enrolled at Spelman.

HOUSTON, TX CHAPTER

January kicked off our HEALTH AND WELLNESS quarter. The goal for January was "Forget Resolutions...Get Fit for Life!", and highlighted physical activity. The event for the month was the Chevron Houston Marathon, which incorporated the Aramco Houston Half Marathon, Houston Press/Smart Financial 5K, and the Texas Children's Fun Run. NAASC-Houston President Jennifer Scott Williams represented Spelman in the 5K! [see photo]



Our last January activity was "Spelman Ladies" Night at [Cova Wines](#), where we went out and networked with our fellow sisters!

In February we promoted "Let's Stress less Stress"! Houston Alumnae T. McClam C'03, C. Toussant C'95, J. S. Williams C'00, K. Clermont C'00, N. Miller C'03, V. Byrd C'94 attended an introductory yoga session at the Rasa Yoga studio, after which the alumnae had a group session with the instructor, Tracie. Tracie explained the benefits of adding yoga as part of a typical workout schedule and gave advice on ways to reduce stress and live a healthier life.

Our second fundraiser of the year was a Spel-House Valentine Social, "All in the Name of Love". The event was held at the Mocha Life Café on February 10. In addition listening to the smooth sounds of Legacy, the band, the Dating Game and the Newlywed Game were huge successes! The event, hosted by C. Toussant C'95 was definitely one to remember.

Chapter members J. S. Wil-

Chapter Highlights (con't)

liams C'00 and C. Jackson C'96 also participated in a Volunteer activity with "I Have a Dream Houston". "IHAD-Houston inspires at-risk youths to dream and empowers them to believe in themselves and succeed." NAASC-Houston members participated in an annual activity where they helped IHAD students in the 3-6 grades fill out a survey about the program. It was a great opportunity to help another community organization in addition to meeting wonderful children.

Houston alumnae K. Clermont C'00, C. Toussant C'95, and Joyann Phillips Rohan C'99 participated in AIDS WALK HOUSTON on March 11. The team raised \$120 toward AIDS research, and showed their support in the fight against this growing epidemic among African American Women.

Upcoming Events:

2007 Gladys Forde Scholarship Fundraiser: This is our annual fundraiser, and will feature the play "A Raisin in the Sun". It will be held at the Ensemble Theater on Sunday, May 6 with the reception beginning at 1pm.

HUNTSVILLE, AL CHAPTER

Supported Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, Delta Theta Lambda Education Foundation during their 22nd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Breakfast.

Participated in the HBCU College Fair Day, February 10, 2007 at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church (315 Winchester Road, NE, Huntsville, AL 35811); HAC set-up a Spelman booth. The North Alabama Morehouse Alumni Chapter was also in attendance.

Participated in the Parisian Education Sale, Saturday, February 24, 2007, Parkway Place Mall. The chapter partnered up with other school-affiliated organizations in the Huntsville area and sold discount tickets for a day of shopping at Parisian Department stores. The chapter receives a portion of all tickets sold in the store.

Supported the North Alabama National Society of Black Engineers - Alumni Extension Chapter (NSBE-AE) Scholarship Banquet, March 8, 2007. Space Camp Scholarships, High School Essay Contest Cash Awards and Scholarships for High School Seniors were awarded.

Upcoming Events:

The Huntsville Area Chapter of the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College (HAC-NAASC) will host its sixth biennial Dr. Bessie Washington Jones Scholarship Banquet on Tuesday, October 9, 2007, at 6:30 P.M. This event will take place at the Huntsville Marriott, 5 Tranquility Base. Guest speaker will be, Eloise Alexis, Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Spelman College. Proceeds and donations from the banquet will allow

the Chapter to continue award scholarships to each student from the Huntsville area entering Spelman. For more information, to purchase tickets, or to make a donation, please contact Wyndolyn Fuqua or La-Freeda Jordan at HAC-NAASC, P.O. Box 22255, Huntsville, AL 35814.

NORTH NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

CASA Christmas Toy Drive

The Northern NJ Chapter of NAASC has been busy making significant contributions to the well-being of those in our surrounding community. We closed out 2006 with our annual CASA Toy Drive, during which we donated more than 50 toys to deserving young people in the foster care system of Essex County. Essex County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is a volunteer, court-authorized, non-profit organization that advocates for the rights of children in foster care in Essex County, New Jersey. Led by Bonnie Carter C'89 who actively supports the organization, this endeavor pulled the hearts, minds, and holiday cheer of our chapter together to deliver a special gift to children in need.

Professional Clothing and Accessory Drive

Continuing in the spirit of giving, as we welcomed in 2007, the chapter embarked on a mission to help the women of Essex County build their professional wardrobes. Our first Professional Clothing & Accessory

Chapter Highlights (con't)

Drive yielded more than 450 clothing items, as well as countless other accessories, toiletries, make-up and beauty products. Sisters brought items by the carload to support this great cause. Our newly established partnership with Dress for Success of Newark, NJ promises to be one of great value. The organization's local office indicated that our chapter's donation was one of the largest they had seen in years. Kudos to the ladies of NNJC-NAASC for such a valiant effort.

Sisters in Scholarship at Saint Vincent Academy

In keeping with our Community Service theme, "Investing in the Lives of Women", the Northern NJ Chapter of NAASC came together in February to share their experiences with the young women of Saint Vincent academy, a private, parochial, all-female school in Newark, NJ. Saint Vincent Academy serves a largely African-American student body. When school administrators were searching for accomplished women to serve as role models for their students, they turned to the Northern NJ Chapter for assistance. Chapter members from all walks of life shared their knowledge

and love of Spelman with over 100 students and parents at Saint Vincent during an interactive session. The reception was very positive, and parents in particular were extremely appreciative of the information. We look forward to welcoming some future Spelmanites from Saint Vincent!

Alumnae in The News

The Columbia Maryland Chapter is pleased to announce the engagement of **Carmen Brower C'05** and Derrick Cash. Derrick is a 2005 graduate of Morehouse College. He proposed to Carmen at Scoma's Restaurant overlooking the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, CA. When the two are married, Carmen will join a family of Spelman legacies. Derrick's mother, Debora Johnson Cash, is a Spelman graduate from the class of 1977. Derrick's grandmother, Rubye Singleton Cooke, is a 1949 graduate of the college. Their wedding is planned for August of 2008 in Atlanta, GA.

Also planning to join the ranks of successful Spel-

man-Morehouse marriages is **Lasheka Brown C'99**, and Nicholas Bassey C'97.

Nicholas surprised Lasheka with a trip to Paris, France and proposed at the top of the Eiffel Tower. Their wedding will take place in the DC Metro area in September of this year. We wish them the very best. (see photo)



Michelle Shorter, C'85 was named Michigan Social

Studies teacher of the year in February 2007. Michelle teaches civics and economics to seventh and eighth graders at Detroit's Halley Magnet Middle School. The national competition is next on Michelle's agenda.

Detroit will be well represented at the Alumnae Achievement Awards. **Renita Barge Clark, M.D., C'88** will receive the award in health and sciences when she visits Spelman on March 31, 2007. Renita is a board certified obstetrician gynecologist. Janice E. Hale, Ph.D. C'70 will receive the award in education.

Sonji Lynn Smith, C'88 and John Kennedy Revis,

Alumnae in the News

Morehouse C'86 were married in an intimate ceremony on Sunday, March 11, 2007 at Detroit's Roostertail.



Gina Jones, C'93

Gina Jones C'93, Huntsville Area Chapter, Recording Secretary, participated in the Spring 2006 session of the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce Connect Leadership Program. Gina was one of two employees The Boeing Company sponsored to learn more about Huntsville and Madison County. The Connect Leadership Program provides young professionals the skills and connections to become a business and community leader. Gina currently works for The Boeing Company, on the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense Program, as a Senior Systems Engineer. Gina was nominated by local community leaders and peers and later approved by Boeing Huntsville senior leadership to participate in the program. Boeing Huntsville is very fortunate to have such a positive environment in which to do business, and programs such as Connect simply help solidify that re-

lationship. Gina said her interest in the program stemmed from her desire to gain more exposure to community issues and concerns, get young professionals more engaged in the community, and to help make a difference in the community.

Alumna **Jeanette Brummell** performed in a recital with The New York Grand Opera's at Carnegie Hall. Jeanette, who is a soprano, has appeared in numerous recitals throughout the northeastern United States as well as in Nice, France. She has also appeared with The New York Grand Opera Chorus in fully staged operas in Central Park.

Dr. Sandra Lewis C'80 has been selected as a 2007 Alumnae Achievement Award Recipient in the area of Health & Science.

New Arrivals

Amy Palmer-Laster C'95 and her husband, Louis Laster Jr., are the proud parents of Nigel Louis Laster. Nigel was born on October 27, 2006.

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VACANT

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Southeast Regional Delegate

Valjeanne Estes C'84
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Far West Regional Delegate & South Central Regional Delegate

Open Positions

Member-at-Large (East)

Keva Wright Berry C'79
kwrightb@earthlink.net

Member-at-Large (West)

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VACANT

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National Alumnae Association Of Spelman College

Alumna Profile and Dues Transmittal Form

July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

Please Print

Name _____
Last First Middle (Maiden)

Address _____
Street City/State Zip

Telephone _____
Home Business Fax

E-Mail _____

Class Year _____ Occupation _____

NAASC Chapter Affiliation (if any) _____

Were you a financial member of NAASC in FY 06 (July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006)? Yes ___ No ___

Who encouraged you to join NAASC this year? _____ Class _____ (optional)

MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Class of 2006: Free

Recent Graduates (classes of 2002-2005): \$25 per year

Regular Membership: \$50 per year

Life Membership: Fully Paid? Yes ___ No ___

Life membership is \$1,000 and may be paid in annual installments of at least \$200 for five consecutive years.
Annual Installment (circle one): 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th payment toward life membership

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Local chapter dues are paid directly to the chapter in your area. Visit www.naasc.org for chapter information.

DONATIONS:

Student Emergency Fund Amount of Contribution \$ _____

Check/MO Number:

Total Remittance for Dues/Contributions: \$ _____

Return to: NAASC Membership, P.O. Box 42828, Atlanta, GA 30311-0828