PHILANDER FORWARD

ALUMNI, STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF WHO ARE MOVING PHILANDER FORWARD **SPRING 2016**

4



Rhonda Lovelace Promoted to Interim Dean of Students

6



African-American Honors Ceremony

8



2016 Apple HBCU Scholar Seneza Gaston

12



Choir Performs at 2016 Honors Convocation

PSC Alumnus Karlis Chappel returns to help the President to fulfill his Promise to Alumni to revive the World Renown Philander Smith Collegiate Choir

At the 2016 Honors Convocation, PSC Alumnus made his Directorial Debut as the Philander Smith Collegiate Choir impressed the audience with a new sound, new energy and new zest for performance.





PSC alumnus Karlis Chappel with President, Dr. Roderick L. Smothers, Sr.

PHILANDER SMITH COLLEGE

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PHILANDER FORWARD is about the people who are contributing to the forward movement and success of Philander Smith College

PHILANDER FORWARD is published by the Philander Smith College Office of Institutional Advancement, 900 Daisy Bates Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas, 501.370.5221.

WE NEED YOU to send us your ideas, comments and thoughts, along with your news and information. Send to Jennelle Primm at jprimm@philander.edu.

For up-to-the minute information about the College, go to www.philander.edu or visit Philander on Facebook.

philander.edu

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Dean of Students

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CLASS OF 2016
Complete Journey to Becoming Philander Men and Women

Philander Smith College will hold its 128th Commencement at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 7, at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock. AR.

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee is slated to be the keynote speaker. Since 1995, Jackson Lee has been a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, serving the 18th Congressional District of Texas. Having served on various House Committees, she was integral in the passage of legislation that impacted areas such as technology, security and infrastructure protection, bullying prevention and immigration. In addition, Jackson Lee played a significant role in the renewal and reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act, and contributed to an amendment that ensured equal access for minority and economically disadvantaged students to NASA's education programs.

A frequent guest on network and cable news including "Face the Nation" and "MSNBC," Jackson Lee has tenaciously served her community and country and earns the distinction of being one of the most influential and prolific legislators in the House of Representatives. Jackson Lee earned a B.A. in political science from Yale University with honors, and holds a Juris Doctorate from the University of Virginia Law School. *EBONY* magazine also named her one of the "100 Most Fascinating Black Women."

Commencement is only one of many activities throughout the weekend. Friday, May 6, alumni will gather with graduating seniors as they accept the class of 2016 into their ranks during the Alumni Rite of Passage Ceremony. The next day, Rev. Phillip L. Pointer, senior pastor of St. Mark Baptist Church, will deliver the Baccalaureate sermon in M.L. Harris Auditorium on the Philander Smith College campus.

More than twenty years ago, Pastor P, as he's affectionately known, recognized and accepted the call to preach. And in 2012, after ten years in pastoral ministry, God called Pastor P to Saint Mark where he serves.

It is also Reunion Weekend, when alumni from all over renew friendships and make new ones during a number of activities. Graduates of classes that end in "6" and "1" will celebrate their reunions while members of the class of 1966, will be honored during their 50th anniversary of their Commencement day. ◆



Congresswomen Sheila Jackson Lee



Rev. Phillip L. Pointer

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

May 6, 2016
2016 BACCALAUREATE SERVICE
7 p.m.

Baccalaureate Speaker
Rev. Phillip L. Pointer
Senior Pastor, St. Mark Baptist, Little Rock, Arkansas

M.L. Harris Auditorium
Philander Smith College
900 Daisy Bates Drive
Little Rock, Arkansas 72202

May 7, 2016
128TH COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES
10 a.m.

Commencement Speaker
The Honorable Shelia Jackson Lee
Congresswoman, 18th Congressional District

Statehouse Convention Center
Governors Hall
101 E Markham St , Little Rock, Arkansas 72202

For a complete list of Commencement and Reunion activities, go to www.philander.edu.

The Ozell Sutton Leadership and Service Endowed Scholarship



President Mark S. Tillman presents a $50,000 check from Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. to President Roderick L. Smothers, Sr. and PSC Board Members, Chairwoman Pat Lile and Bishop Gary E. Mueller, establishing the Ozell Sutton Leadership and Service Endowed Scholarship.



President Smothers and General President Tillman sign Memorandum of Understanding to formally establish the Ozell Sutton Leadership and Service Endowed Scholarship.

2 From the President

> "Through the lens of complexity, however, I realize that Philander's Vision belongs to thousands of constituents and stakeholders. To this end, as President, I see my role as a facilitator of a process that will result in a Vision that is shared by All."
>
> –President Roderick L. Smothers, Sr.

Dear Faculty, Staff, Students, Alumni, Friends and Partners:

I AM PLEASED to share the 4th Edition of the **Philander Forward** newsletter as a part of my commitment to maintain a continuous cycle of communication with all of the College's constituents. This edition features a number of examples of how faculty, staff, students and alumni are moving Philander Forward. It is often said that colleges and universities are only as great as their most successful students, alumni, and those who prepare them for successful post baccalaureate experiences. Based on my professional observations and experiences, I would suggest that this statement is most applicable to Philander Smith College.

In this edition of the **Philander Forward** newsletter, you will also find features of tangible examples of how the College's powerful brand and mission are being manifested in unique and powerful ways – on and off the campus. Of report-worthy significance is a brief update on the College's New Vision and Long- Range Planning Process. Since my appointment as President on January 1, 2015, I have always said that my vision for Philander Smith College illuminates with both simple and complex dimensions. Simplistically, my vision is to return Philander Smith College to a position of national prominence and international acclaim. By so doing, PSC will resume its rightful place as one of the Top 10 HBCUs in America. That was the promise that I made to the community as a presidential candidate, and that is the promise that I intend to keep. I am keenly aware of the reality that there will be a number of barriers and obstacles that will present themselves as challenges to accomplishing this goal. I am strongly convinced, however, that the Ministry with which we have been entrusted to lead Philander Smith College from excellence to greatness is ordered by God; hence, I have not even an infinitesimal doubt that He will see it to fruition.

Through the lens of complexity, however, I realize that Philander's Vision belongs to thousands of constituents and stakeholders. To this end, as President, I see my role as a facilitator of a process that will result in a Vision that is shared by all. The Vision has now taken the form of a Long-Range Planning Process, and, from that process, it will emerge as a roadmap that will guide our direction for the next ten (10) years. During the Summer of 2015, an all-inclusive task force was appointed, and I am looking forward to its work, which will culminate in July 2016. A product of the task force's work will be the creation of a Shared Vision. The entire community has been engaged to the extent that we have ensured that EVERYONE has the opportunity to have a voice in the creation of Philander's New Vision and Plan for Its Future.

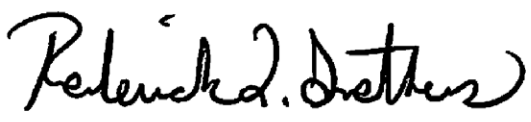


PSC Board Chairwoman Pat Lile hands the symbolic College Mace of Authority to 14th President Roderick L. Smothers, Sr.

I hasten to remind you that Philander Forward represents a look into the College's future and a claiming of the reality that the College is on a trajectory toward new levels of excellence and greatness. Philander Forward represents new ideas, a new vision, new attitudes, new behaviors and the abandonment of old practices, which have served as debilitating obstacles to impede institutional progress. Philander Forward is the embodiment of the College's powerful Mission Statement, as well as the personification of the superior qualities and attributes in which all Philander Men and Women are imbued. In this edition, you will find evidence of the manifestation of the brand, Philander Forward, in interesting and exciting ways.

In just one year (2017), we will celebrate the 140th Anniversary of our Dear PSC. Join the Philander Forward Movement today, and let's plan a celebration that is worthy of the contributions that Philander Smith College has made throughout its storied and inspirational history. ◆

Forever, I am Philander Forward!



Roderick L. Smothers, Sr., Ph.D.
President

PHILANDER FORWARD

Initiatives Update 3

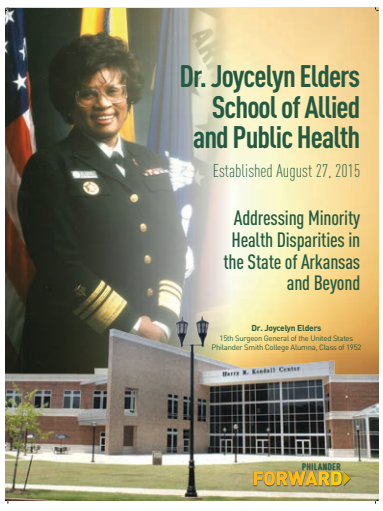
PHILANDER FORWARD DREAM INITIATIVES

IN 2015, at the onset of the new administration, the PSC Community launched a Campus-Wide Dream Initiative to inspire everyone to think big and imagine boldly for Philander Smith College. This initiative was inspired by a quote from Ellen Johnson Sirleaf who said: "The size of your dreams must always exceed your current capacity to achieve them. If your dreams do not scare you, they are not big enough." To this end, our one-year, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf - inspired dream exercise has resulted in five (5) "Forward Initiatives" on which we have been focusing more immediately while we continue to work collectively to shape Philander's new vision and Long-Range Plan. ◆



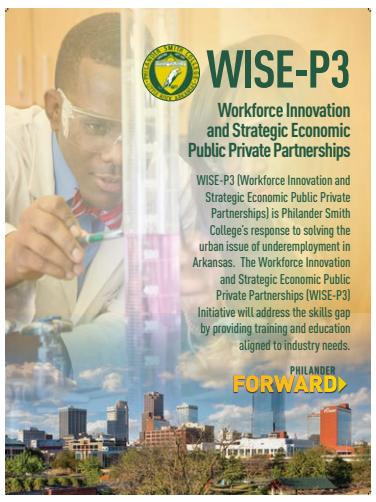
Dream/Initiative I. Campus Culture Transformation Task Force

Many of us dreamed of a Campus-wide Initiative that would address and eradicate the cultural traits that tend to impede progress at Philander Smith College. This Initiative endeavors to promote a culture of high expectations where all community stakeholders embrace the PSC Timeless Human Values of Self-Respect, Respect for Others, Respect for PSC, Leadership, Scholarship, Spirituality and Service.



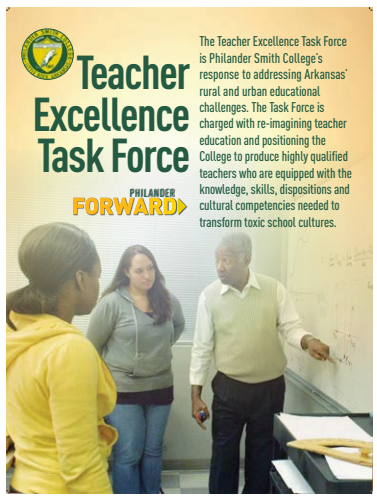
Dream / Initiative II. Joycelyn Elders School of Allied and Public Health

The Community dreamed of an initiative that would allow PSC to respond to the growing demand for minority health care professionals in strategic fields (nursing, rehabilitation counseling, public health, etc.) Thus, the Joycelyn Elders School of Allied and Public Health was born. The Joycelyn Elders School of Allied and Public Health will also provide an opportunity for PSC to become more engaged in critical research and knowledge production that contributes to the greater body of knowledge needed to eradicate health disparities in communities for people of color. The development of this new school opens the door for Philander to offer more relevant degree programs which are aligned with the economic drivers of the future in Arkansas and beyond.



Dream/ Initiative III. Workforce Innovation and Strategic Economic Public | Private | Partnerships (WISE P3)

The Community dreamed of an Initiative that would position Philander to be a key player in solving the urban issue of underemployment in Arkansas. Thus, the WISE P-3 Initiative was born. Already gaining tremendous traction and attention throughout Arkansas, this Dream will address the skills gap by providing training and education aligned with corporate and industry needs.



Dream/Initiative IV. Teacher Excellence Task Force

Many in the Community dreamed of a day when Philander could revisit its foundational academic programs (ministry/religion, teacher education and music) and "breathe life" back into them. We have embraced this dream; thus, the Teacher Excellence Task Force was born to conceptualize a way that Philander could become a leader in addressing rural and urban educational challenges in Arkansas. The Task Force has been appointed and charged with re-imagining teacher education and positioning the College to produce highly qualified teachers who are equipped with the knowledge, skills, dispositions, and cultural competencies needed to transform toxic school cultures.



Dream/Initiative V. Student Tuition Assistance and Readiness Tracks (S.T.A.R.T.)

Stakeholders dreamed of an educational opportunity that would open the doors of access to students on both ends of the academic spectrum. Such an opportunity would provide developmental and academic enrichment for those students who need it. Most importantly, this opportunity would provide these students with an avenue for them to have access to success. This strategic recruitment initiative was developed to identify a new type of student for Philander Smith College – one who is SERIOUS! Through four creative tracks (Community, Ambassador, Urban, and Christian), S.T.A.R.T. guarantees the participants a STRONG start at Philander Smith College.



UPCOMING FORWARD NEWS

- **Board Approves Naming of Student Center to National Alumni Association**
  At its February 2016 Meeting, the Philander Smith College Board Of Trustees granted naming rights of the Student Center to the National Alumni Association.
- **President's Student Leadership Council Formed**
  In January 2016, the President appointed 21 honor students (recommended by faculty and staff) to serve on the President's Student Leadership and Advisory Council. The Council will meet with the President regularly to discuss student-related leadership and engagement issues.
- **UNCF Career Pathways Grant Received**
  Thirty colleges have been selected as planning grant awardees for UNCF's new Career Pathways Initiative (CPI), a highly competitive grant process open to four-year historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and predominantly black institutions (PBIs) to help students gain the knowledge, preparation, insight and skills needed for meaningful employment upon graduation.

4 'Round Campus

Alumna Rhonda Lovelace '89 Promoted to Interim Dean of Students



ALUMNA RHONDA LOVELACE was recently promoted to the position of Interim Dean of Students. A 1989 graduate of Philander Smith College, Dean Lovelace has served the institution for eighteen (18) years. She began her career as an Outreach Coordinator with the Upward Bound Program in 1997 and was promoted to director of the Integrated Campus Center, now known as the Center for Student Services in 2007.

In 2012, she was promoted to her most recent position as the Assistant Dean for Student Services. Dean Lovelace possesses a wealth of experience in college student development and leadership. In her new role as Interim Dean of Students, she will be responsible for oversight of the following areas: Health Services (Campus Nurse, Disability Services, and Counseling Services), Residential Life, Career Services, Student Life, and Intramural Sports and Recreation. Additionally, she will serve as the Chief Student Conduct Appeals Officer and Title IX Coordinator. Dean Lovelace earned a Master's of Arts degree in Management and Human Resources Development from Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri. She is a doctoral candidate in the Higher Education Administration Program at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and currently in the completion phase of her dissertation. A lifetime resident of North Little Rock, Arkansas, Dean Lovelace is the proud mother of one daughter, Kharlissa Lovelace. ◆

Unique Scholars Academy Honors Alumnus Dr. Charles W. Donaldson

Four-year $10,000 Scholarship (and much more) made possible to eligible PSC Students who participate in Summer Bridge Program named in honor of PSC Alumnus Dr. Charles W. Donaldson.



Dr. Charles W. Donaldson

THE CHARLES W. DONALDSON SCHOLARS ACADEMY was established on the heels of the landmark desegregation settlement of three school districts, Little Rock, North Little Rock, and Pulaski County. After 30 years of payments to the school districts for desegregation efforts, the black-white achievement gap had not improved. In response to this disparity, the first iteration of the CWDSA was realized with the goal of preparing incoming freshmen for college-level work by eliminating the need for them to take remedial math and English courses. Since its inception in 2014, the CDSA has had a significant impact on the students it has served. After the first year, all 58 students who enrolled as the first group of Donaldson Scholars planned on attending college by the end of the three-week program, some who had no plans of attending college prior to attending the academy.

Students in the PCSSD who remain in the academy through their senior year of high school and attend Philander Smith College or the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, will be offered a $2,500 annual scholarship, renewable for up to four years. Additionally, the following advantages are realized for participants:

- Start preparing for college now with help from student success professionals;
- Meet others your age while attending summer sessions at Philander Smith College or the University of Arkansas at Little Rock;
- Gain help to improve reading, writing, and math skills, while also enhancing social and emotional development;
- Get ACT preparation and application assistance; and
- Build relationships with college student and professional mentors ◆

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



VERNITA BOWENS, currently serving as the Coordinator for Career & Volunteer Services in the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, joined the PSC Team in January 2016. In her capacity, Ms. Bowens is responsible for developing and implementing effective programs and services that will enhance the career placement preparation, necessary skills, and career placement outcomes for PSC students. Her prior experiences have provided her with opportunities to work in social and psychological services, career readiness programs, and the community college setting. She earned both Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees in Sociology from Arkansas State University. Additionally, she hold a Global Workforce Development Facilitator Certification awarded through the National Career Development Association.

Since joining the team, Ms. Bowens has led the charge in reestablishing a full-time presence for career and volunteer services which had been absent since late in the 2014 year. In her short time at PSC, we've established new partnerships with organizations like Girl Scouts of America and City Year as well as post-graduate opportunities with the Department of Homeland Security and University of Missouri – Vet School. Specifically targeting the skills our students need to succeed, Ms. Bowens planned a Career Services Week for spring 2016 that helped students build competence in the areas of resume writing, interviewing, business attire, and active job seeking in job fair settings. Additionally, she worked with organizations throughout the greater Little Rock community and neighboring territories to confirm close to 30 participants for the Spring Career Fair that was hosted on April 13, 2016. ◆

STAFF MOVING PHILANDER FORWARD

Dr. Lois Sheer Shares Her 3 Cs: Caring, Compassion, and Committment



Lois J. Sheer, Ph.D., Director, Academic Success Center counsels with PSC student Meka Green.

THE MISSION OF Philander Smith College (PSC) is "to graduate academically accomplished students…" At the forefront and embedded in the fulfillment of this mission is the need for effective academic advising by individuals who care, who are committed and who approach each student's circumstances with compassion. Dr. Lois J. Sheer possesses this unique blend of qualities and the students know it.

These qualities are manifested in her daily interactions with students in the Academic Success Center. From freshman to senior, students at PSC are empowered via advising to participate in and monitor their academic collegiate experiences. By utilizing the resources that are now readily available, along with other college services, students know where they are in their academic program, what has been completed, what needs to be completed, and when future endeavors can be pursued. As a value-added component of their college experience, effective academic advising encourages on-going communication with the advisor, ensures the development of intellectual skills in critical thinking, quantitative literacy, computer literacy, and oral and written communications; and recognizes milestones along the matriculation continuum.

This model not only promotes the fulfillment of the College's mission, but it also embeds attributes for lifelong learning; and guides students toward behaviors that will foster the attainment of professional and personal goals.

All students benefit from 3 Cs exhibited by Dr. Sheer and her colleagues in the Academic Success Center it enables them to understand and to navigate successfully through the academy. ◆

FACULTY MOVING PHILANDER FORWARD

Moving Forward with the McKinley Newton Honors Academy Shannon Clowney-Johnson

MOVING PHILANDER FORWARD is a top priority for Professor Shannon Clowney-Johnson McKinley, Director of the Newton Honors Academy. With a unique approach to teaching, advising and mentoring, Professor Clowney-Johnson proudly demonstrates how much she cares for the students and her compassion and commitment shows in and outside of the classroom.

Committed to the College's Forward Movement, Mrs. Clowney-Johnson believes that it is essential that the academic reputation of Philander Smith College continues to rise. The Honors Academy is committed to strengthening Philander's standing as a top liberal arts college that produces academically strong and competitive graduates. Like all incoming freshmen, Honors students will begin their academic journey in General Education courses. However, the Model of Student Development for Honors will require course contexts, applications of skills, and expected synthesis of skills via a capstone, all of which will be noticeably different from the coursework of most freshmen at PSC. Honors courses in the first and second years have been intentionally designed for first time, full-time entering freshman participants who enter with an English and Math ACT score of 22 or above (or English and Math SAT of 600 above). The academy admits new students during the fall semester of each year to create a cohort of students who will matriculate during their first two years together.

As a member of the teaching faculty for the Honors program, Professor Clowney-Johnson strives to challenge Honors students to reach their highest potential while remaining dedicated to the social justice principles that ground these young advocates. Beyond academics, the Honors Academy is dedicated to creating an enhanced experience for its members. Future living and learning communities are being planned within the PSC residence halls that will enable Honors students to create long-lasting friendships and alliances as well as encourage the constant exchange of intellectual ideas. Participation in the National Association of African-American Honors Programs also provides additional opportunities for our students to present research and participate in academic quiz competitions. Internationally, the Academy is focused on academically preparing its graduates to be both Global Leaders and policy makers and will aid students in study abroad opportunities as well as community service work and internships with global serving and centered organizations. ◆



Professor Shannon Clowney-Johnson advises PSC Honor Student Seneza Gaston.

ON THE MOVE PSC Men and Women



DR. TIONNA JENKINS '01 was honored by Arkansas Business in its 2015 Class of Top 40 Under 40. Currently serving as a Regional Director for the Clinton Health Matters Initiative at the Bill, Hillary & Chelsea Clinton Foundation, Alumna Jenkins is representing the Philander Brand as an intriguing business and policy leader. Her profile reveals a deep commitment to "making the world a better place" through public policy. A true testament to Philander's powerful mission statement.



In August 2015 **DR. JOHN W. MCALLISTER '94** made history by being named Program Coordinator and Assistant (tenure track) Professor for the Rehabilitation of the Blind-Orientation and Mobility Program at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. This appointment made Dr. McAllister the first African American male in the history of the field of Blindness to lead a program at a major university. Committed to "making the world a better place" for individuals with disabilities, Alumnus McAllister personifies the PSC Mission Statement.



In February 2016, Alumnus **SHERMAN TATE '70** was inducted into the UNCF National Alumni Association Outstanding Alumnus/ Hall of Honor. Nominated jointly by the PSC NAA and the College, Dr. Tate was selected for outstanding achievements in his professional, civic and community endeavors and his dedicated service to Philander Smith College.



GERALD THOMAS '12 honored by the UNCF NAA with the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award. Nominated jointly by the PSC NAA and the College, this award is given to a recent graduate (graduated in the last 10 years) who has made outstanding contributions to his/her alma mater, the community and/or UNCF.

PSC Celebrates Excellence in the African American Community

IN CELEBRATION OF Black History Month, Philander Smith College (PSC) hosted its African-American Honors Ceremony. The ceremony, which took place on Sunday, February 28, 2016, recognized high achieving African-American high school seniors with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better from the Little Rock School District, the North Little Rock School District and the Pulaski County Special School District. This event was the College's first ceremonial acknowledgement of high school excellence in the African-American community.

The keynote speaker was Arkansas State Senator Joyce Elliott. Senator Elliott delivered a dynamic message which focused on the importance of honoring excellence by stating, "Be a thinking person…and have a fixed purpose." These words summarize what it means to be a PSC African-American Academic All-Star. Also in attendance for the ceremony were United States Congressman French Hill, Arkansas State Senator Linda Chesterfield, and Arkansas State Representative Fredrick Love.

The College honored over 125 young scholars and offered over 40 institutional scholarships. The ceremony was designed to bring public attention to the academic achievement of minority students who have excelled academically and who will become the leaders of tomorrow. The ceremony has given students and their families a closer look at what Philander Smith College has to offer and it is the College's intention to ensure that this is an annual celebration for Black History Month. ◆

DID YOU KNOW that 40% of all PSC Students are Honor Students

On March 31, the certificate and pinning ceremony at Honors Convocation recognized 79 students who appeared on the 4.0 List; 74 students who appeared on the President's List; 151 students who appeared on the Dean's List; 39 candidates for the Alpha Kappa Mu Honor's Society; and 37 undergraduate researchers who competed successfully in 2015-2016 on the regional, state, and national levels for scholarships, internships, fellowships, and awards. ◆
Philander Forward!



Arkansas Senator Joyce Elliott Keynotes the 1st Annual African American Honors Program.



Dr. Roderick L. Smothers, Sr. awards Presidential Scholars.



Arkansas Senator Linda Chesterfield congratulates the scholars and encourages them to go to college and to use their talents for a better Arkansas.



Mr. and Miss Philander Smith College



Ms. Danita Waller-Page renders solo at the African American Honors Program.



Congressman French Hill congratulates students on their high scholastic achievements.



Current and future Philander Smith College Honor students.

Moving Forward 7



Arkansas State Senator Linda Chesterfield and State Representative Charles Blake partner with the Administration to host the Philander Smith College's Annual Legislative Reception.

PSC Honors Arkansas Legislators at Inaugural Reception

PHILANDER SMITH COLLEGE hosted its inaugural Arkansas Legislature Appreciation Reception on October 29, 2015. The reception was created to acknowledge the state's legislators for their great efforts to improve economic and educational opportunities and access to healthcare for the people of Arkansas. The Philander Forward Initiatives were presented to the audience to showcase the monumental efforts of the College. It was noted that with the cooperation of our state's legislature, Philander Smith College can reclaim its position as one of the Top 5 Historical Black Colleges and Universities in the nation.

At the appreciation reception, some of the members in the Arkansas State Legislature visited Philander Smith College for the first time and were thoroughly impressed with the campus. The PSC community attended the appreciation reception and welcomed their respective elected officials.

Some of those in attendance for the ceremony were Philander Smith College's representatives, Senator Linda Chesterfield and Representative Charles Blake. Dr. Brett Powell, Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education as well as Dr. Rex Horne, President of Arkansas' Independent Colleges and Universities gave remarks about the forward progress of Philander Smith College. ◆

Black History Month Celebration Includes Variety of Programs

BLACK HISTORY MONTH continues to be an important time to pause and reflect on the accomplishments of African-Americans throughout American history. This year's Black History Month Celebration at Philander Smith College included a variety of programs, events, and lectures! Focused on sharing the legacy of African-American accomplishments, contributions, and achievements, the month kicked off with a mid-day Trivia Blitz! As students, faculty, staff, and community members arrived for their normal Thursday lunch in the Student Center, Black History buttons, bookmarks, and other items were distributed and trivia teams were formed! Participants were encouraged to use all of their resources to get the right answers – as this activity was focused on sharing and learning!

The month continued with the annual Black History Chapel which featured Pastor Rickey Hicks of the Rufus K. Young Christian Church. Pastor Hicks' riveting message encouraged PSC scholars to not only honor Black history but also to become agents and advance African-American contributions. PSC also welcomed Bree Newsome for the Black History Month Edition of Bless the Mic! Ms. Newsome shared her story of faith, advocacy, and justice to a room of PSC scholars, faculty and staff members, as well as members of the surrounding community. The month of celebration concluded with the African-American Honors Ceremony which celebrated the accomplishments and achievements of high school students throughout the greater Little Rock Region! ◆

Student Town Hall Meeting Voices Issues

FROM TIME TO TIME, as part of a continual commitment to shared governance, the President calls Town Hall meetings that are focused on hearing the broader student concerns, challenges, and successes as part of their PSC experience.

This spring semester, the Town Hall meeting came at a critical time in the academic year as students prepared for Spring Break. Students from all classifications and majors attended the meeting. The presented concerns ranged from lack of social engagement and activities to the rigor of academics in some of our academic departments.

What a proud moment it was to see Philanderians call for action in their collegiate experiences! The concerns were presented to the President's Cabinet and each Vice-President was asked to respond to the students' concerns related to their respective functional area. Where appropriate, responses will be provided in written format with action steps to be presented to the Student Government Association. ◆

Black History Month Bless The Mic Speaker Bree Newsome Delivers Inspiring Message

Bree Newsome, orchestrator of the movement to remove the Confederate Flag from in front of the South Carolina statehouse, Blesses The Mic at PSC.



Bree Newsome



8 Moving Forward

Faculty, Staff and Students Moving Philander Forward

THE INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE accomplishments of Philander's faculty, staff and students represent a snapshot of the larger body of work and initiatives undergirding the Philander Forward Movement. Our faculty and students have excelled in unprecedented ways, receiving national recognition and attracting scholarships, and local and national funding to support the Colleges' unique programs. As we continue to focus on an entrepreneurial spirit of innovation and progress, we anticipate changes to our product and the way in which we do business—changes for the better. What will not change, however, is the need for your continued support as we prepare for some of Philander's most exciting days that lie ahead.

PSC Student Seneza Gaston Named 2016 Apple HBCU Scholar



Dr. Samir Swaid, Chair, Division of Natural Science, with one of her top scholars, Mr. Seneza Gaston.

A STATEMENT FROM MR. GASTON: "By awarding me the Apple HBCU Scholarship, I am able to concentrate on what is important to me: education. Getting this scholarship for me is a great honor. Being Apple HBCU scholar, I am sure my education has never been easier, and it's a sign that hard work has paid off. I am proud to represent my college, PSC, in the pool of talented students, as well. Apple has made it easy for me to finish my education without any debt. Not only will I get a $25,000 scholarship, Apple has also assigned me a mentor for the whole academic year to help me grow professionally. It has always been my dreams to become a software engineer, and I am proud to say that this summer I will be joining Apple as a software engineering intern, in Cupertino Silicon Valley. This is only the beginning of my story and I am excited for what lies ahead. I see a lot of potential in PSC students and I look forward to helping them receive this same scholarship in the future. I believe that no one is ever defeated until the defeat has been accepted as a reality."



Mr. Gaston visits the Apple Headquarters to learn more about the perks of his new Scholarship.

PSC Student Leader Tamara Bates was selected from Thousands to Attend AIPAC Conference in Washington D.C.

AIMED AT STRENGTHENING the pipeline of future leaders and global ambassadors, for more than 30 years AIPAC has helped students find their voices in support of a strong U.S.-Israel relationship. AIPAC student activists participate in a variety of training opportunities throughout the year. AIPAC offers political leadership training that gives pro-Israel students the tools they need to be effective. From intensive seminars in Washington, D.C. where students meet with members of Congress to rigorous trips to Israel where these up-and-coming activists can learn about the issues affecting Israel first-hand, AIPAC prepares young leaders to help build the pro-Israel community on and beyond the campus. PSC is extremely proud of Tamara Bates (aka Tap-Tap) who is also scheduled to graduate this semester.

Undergraduate Research on the Rise at PSC

THE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAM ensures PSC students are groomed to be competitive in obtaining internships, scholarships, fellowships, and awards at regional, state and national levels. As the College strengthens it "culture of research," several Philanderians are moving the College Forward with their excellence. For example, during the 2015/2016 academic year, five students have been admitted into Ph.D. programs with full scholarships. There are now four graduates in Ph.D. programs with full scholarships because one student chose to decline her acceptance into Tulane University and to attend The Ohio State University at the M.A. degree level before moving into a Ph.D. program at the same institution. The Ph.D. programs are at the following: Princeton; UAMS; The University of California at Riverside; and the University of Kansas.

The College has also been moving forward by placing three students into M.A. programs at top research institutions: The Ohio State University; Virginia Commonwealth Biomedical Sciences; and University of Missouri at Columbia. Research mentors who have assisted our students have worked closely with Academic Affairs and the College's Arkansas Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (ARK-LSAMP); the UNCF/Mellon Mays Undergraduate Research Fellowship program; the 4+ 1 Health Services Agreement between PSC and UAMS.

STEVEN ADAMS
BRIGHT ARTHUR
TAMARA BATES
JOHN BENTLEY
JEFFREY BOAKYE
TIFFANY BRYANT
FREDDYA BRIGGS
DAMIESHA BRYANT
RONISHA BYRD
NYASHE CLARK
DOMINIQUE CRAWFORD
JAKEIRA DAVIS
JASMINE DeHART
LAVAISA EZELL
JI'VONE FREEMAN
BREIONA HAMILTON
LATAVIA HILL
TIERRA HOLLAND
FELIX KYERE
BEUNKA MCVAY
JORDAN MILLER
BRIGHTON MLAMBO
MOBOLAJI KOSOKO-MORONFOLU
BERNICE OFORI
OLAMIDE OLAWOYIN
TIFFANY PHILLIPS-PETERS
BATHSHEBA PETTY
TARAI ROLLE
GASTON SENEZA
JASMINE SLOAN
CRAIG STEELE
KAPRESE WARREN

Philander Smith College and Hendrix College Senior Administrative Teams Meet to Discuss and Share Ideas



The Philander Smith College and Hendrix College Senior Administrations commit to partnerships between the two institutions.

KEEP CALM AND MOVE FORWARD

Celebrating Preaching, Teaching, Singing and Praising at Religious Emphasis Week 2016

WITH A THEME OF "Keep Calm and Move Forward," Religious Emphasis Week 2016 took place Feb. 21-26. The Week was celebrated with great preaching, teaching, singing, and praising all week long. The weeklong observance included featured guest speakers Rev. Maxine Allen, PSC Alum, the Rev. Dr. Christopher Davis of St. Paul Baptist Church in Memphis, TN, Evangelist Jacayln Carr of West Memphis, Arkansas and Minister Tim Rogers of Blytheville, AR.

A musical concert featured the Art Porter Singers of Little Rock, AR. Other music for the week was provided by the Chapel singers of Philander Smith and our special guest, LeAndria Johnson of Atlanta, GA.

The Week's highlight was the 9th annual Living Legends Banquet on Feb. 26. Those honored this year for their community leadership and demonstration of their faith in action were Mr. Jim Argue, Trustee Robert Blue, Professor Shannon Clowney-Johnson, Dean Rhonda Lovelace, Rev. James Lyles, Rev. Antoine Scruggs, and Mr. Shaborn Vail. ◆

Don't panic. I'm with you. There's no need to fear for I'm your God. I'll give you strength. I'll help you. I'll hold you steady; keep a firm grip on you.

-Isaiah 41:10: The Message



2016 Living Legends



President Smothers appoints Reverend Ronnie Miller Yow and Pastor Phillip Pointer to Co-Chair the College's new Summer Ministry Training and Outreach Program. Also pictured are PSC Student Ministers Shaborn Vail, William Currin, Wendell Smith and Reverend Ronnie Miller Yow.



Participants in the Philander Smith College First Annual Ministers Empowerment Luncheon.

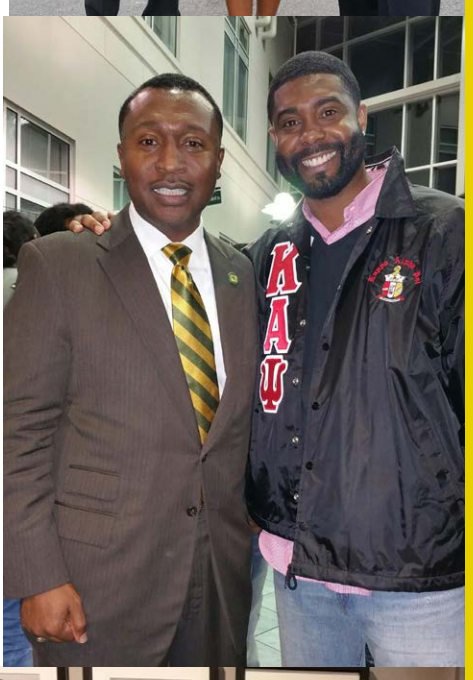


2015 HOMECOMING



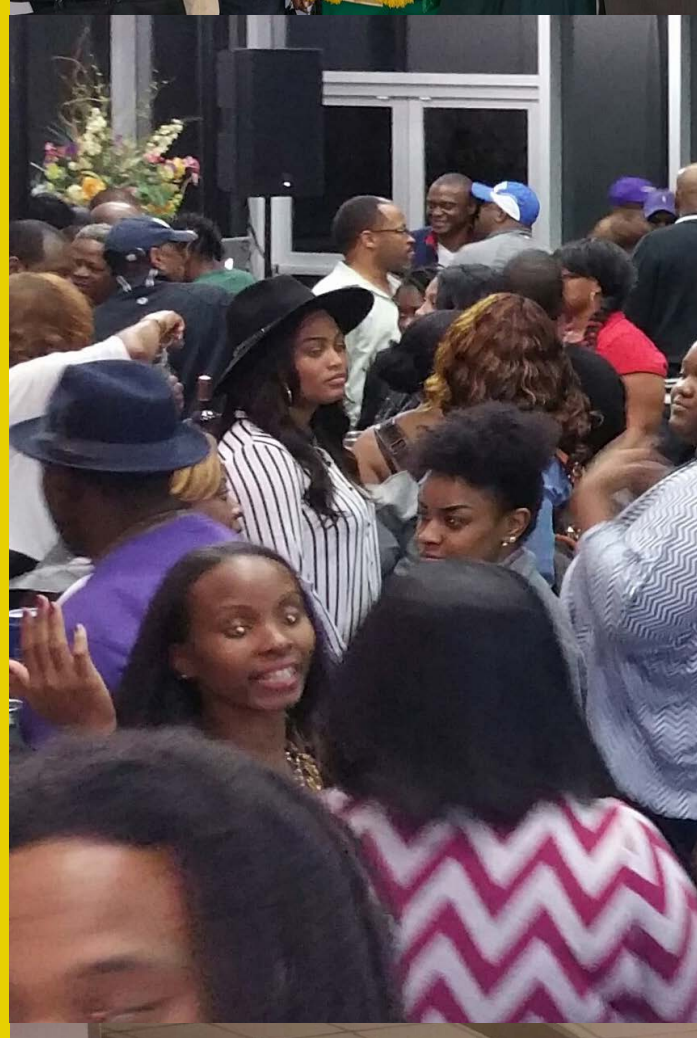


Continuing a rich tradition at Philander Smith College, Homecoming 2015 brought students and alums from near and far together to celebrate Dear PSC! This year theme, "It's A Different World – PSC Edition," was selected as both a tribute to the 90's hit NBC television show and as an indicator that PSC is Moving Forward ! Students, Alumni, and Friends enjoyed a variety of events that kicked off with a campus bonfire! Staples to the HBCU Homecoming experience like the Comedy Show and Fashion show were also part of the week-long celebration. Student models brought out their best 'threads' and showcased some of the hottest fall fashions. Special to PSC, a Bless the Mic Lecture was also hosted as part of Homecoming Week and featured former Destiny's Child singer LaToya Luckett!





PSC Alums showed up in numbers as the Alumni Association hosted the annual Alumni Business Meeting. The School Daze Greek Step Show received a standing room only crowd and was a big hit for students, alums, and the community. On Saturday, the Office of Student Affairs along with the current Miss Philander Smith College, Whitney Westmoreland, presented the inaugural Queen's Brunch! This event, purposed in bringing together all of the past Miss PSC Queens, was a hit! Ladies from recent years to the days of old returned and enjoyed a time of fellowship. A total of ten queens participated. R&B sensation Sevyn Streeter headlined this year's Homecoming Concert! From stepping to performing to fellowshipping, Homecoming was truly a time to be a family! We look forward to an even better Homecoming 2016. ◆



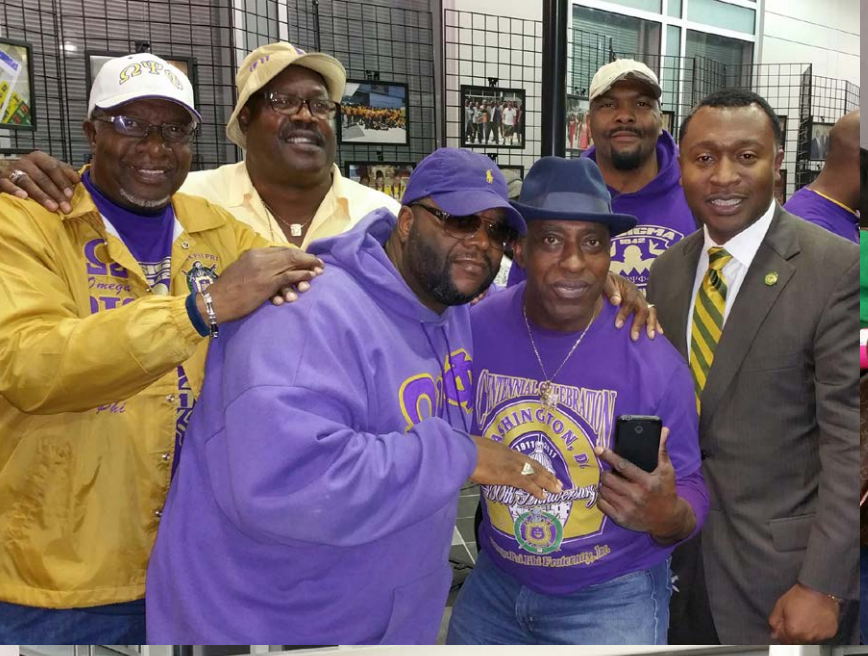
Welcome to the Homecoming Photo Collage Page featuring President Roderick Smothers with Mister and Miss PSC and their Royal Court; Mister and Miss United Negro College Fund (UNCF), the famous Panther Dolls and multiple generations of PSC Alumni, Students, Greeks and Friends. If you spot yourself in one of these photos, e-mail the President's office today to get your free Philander Man/Woman T-shirt. A great time was had by ALL – We hope to see you for Homecoming 2016.



Panthers

















Save the Dates

UPCOMING EVENTS (VISIT THE PSC WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION:

May 5-8, 2016
10 a.m.
PSC NAA Convention

May 5, 2016
7 p.m.
Baccalaureate

May 6, 2016
10 a.m.
Commencement

June 12-16, 2016
2016 Philander Forward
Church Leadership Institute

June 20-July 22, 2016
S.T.A.R.T. Summer Bridge Program

July 8-30, 2016
Dr. Charles W. Donaldson
Scholars Academy

August 5-12, 2016
PSC New Student Orientation

PHILANDER
FORWARD philander.edu