

FISK

Volume 2 Issue 1

March 2007

The Official Magazine of Fisk University



PRINCETON REVIEW PLACES FISK IN THE
"Top 15 Percent of America's Universities"

A Dialogue with Nikki Giovanni
FISK ALUMNA, POET, WRITER AND EDUCATOR

FISK STUDENTS POISED FOR
GREATNESS
Our Nation's **Next Generation of Leaders**

Dear Friend of Fisk,

We are pleased to offer you this second edition of the FISK Magazine. Throughout its pages you will have the chance to learn about the outcomes and accomplishments from some of our finest alumni, faculty, staff, and students. You'll gain insight into how Fisk has earned a reputation for transforming good students into great leaders by sharpening their intellectual capacity and cultural literacy so essential to leadership today.

In no small way, 2006 was filled with many triumphs.

- Our incoming class of 2010 averaged a grade point average of 3.3 with an average ACT score of 22 (29% higher than the African American national average).
- Fisk now holds the distinction of producing more African Americans who go on to earn their PhDs in the natural sciences than any school in the nation.
- 9% of our May 2006 graduates (the maximum allowed) were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest and most prestigious academic honor society.
- Princeton Review ranked Fisk in the top 15% of American colleges and universities for the fifteenth consecutive year.
- We have expanded our global outreach with service-learning projects in Ghana, West Africa and in Brazil. The West African experience provides students with an opportunity to work on a project targeted at assisting HIV-positive orphans.
- Our Fisk Jubilee Singers™, recently inducted into the Music City Walk of Fame, have been invited by the U.S. Department of State to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the independence of Ghana.

We also inaugurated our Global and Community Engagement Lecture Series with the former U.S. trade representative Ambassador Mickey Kantor and international scholar Dr. Preston King.

Our faculty and administration's effort to promote scholarship, research, and values continued with the inauguration of the Exceptional Scholars Program. This fine group of students is comprised of 19 of Fisk's nationally ranked first-year scholars and is supported by the university's initiative to cultivate their shared interest in research and other activities in furtherance of scholarly achievement.

Please share this publication with young people seeking a challenging academic experience steeped in a rich historical and cultural tradition of Fisk.

Our efforts to keep student learning and development at the center of our university are a key part of why Fisk is such a special place. The opportunities that our students have to lead, serve, and create new knowledge in the form of supervised research are the basis of a paradigm of excellence which will yield benefits to the nation for many years to come.



President O'Leary bestows the honors degree on one of Fisk's Phi Beta Kappa inductees Darrel Jones, during commencement 2006.

Sincerely,

Hazel R. O'Leary
President, Fisk University

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FISK Magazine is a publication of the Office of Communications and Public Relations at Fisk University.

Ken West, Vice President of Communications and Public Relations
615-329-8767 • kwest@fisk.edu

Greg Bryant, Public Relations Assistant
615-329-8566 • gbryant@fisk.edu.

Fisk Sophomore and Women's Volleyball Player Diondra Johnson greets Mr. Jimmy Mitchell ('40) along with Ken West, vice president for communications and public relations. Mitchell is the surviving member of the original Fisk Football Team of 1936.



FISK UNIVERSITY'S VISION AND MISSION

VISION

To be the best small liberal arts university in America.

MISSION

Fisk University provides a rich academic experience steeped in the liberal arts tradition. Our faculty and students exhibit a passion for learning and personal growth. We are committed to ethical leadership and engagement in our local and global communities.

ON THE COVER:

In this issue, student leaders (from left to right) Alexandra Armstead, Terrica Sampson, William Campbell and Brianna Bell share their vision and goals as leaders of the next generation.



Energy and Legal Pioneers Join Fisk's Board of Trustees

Fisk congratulates and welcomes three new members to the board of trustees, Mr. Robert I. Hanfling, Dr. Kase L. Lawal and Mr. P. Andrew Patterson.

Mr. Robert Hanfling is the President of Evergreen Energy Inc. (EEI) in Denver, Colorado. EEI refines low grade coals and lignite to produce a higher energy, more environmentally compliant coal product. A chemical and nuclear engineer by training, with an MBA in international trade, Mr. Hanfling began his energy career in the 1960s as a plant and operations manager for United Nuclear Corporation. In the early 1970s, he managed two technology venture capital funds.

His government experience includes senior positions in the Department of Energy and its predecessor agency, the Federal Energy Administration, in the Ford and Carter administrations. He negotiated major energy agreements with the People's Republic of China, Japan, the former West Germany and other nations. After leaving the federal government, Mr. Hanfling had a wide-ranging career as an independent business consultant and corporate manager. In the 1990s, he served on the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board for eight years under three DOE secretaries, and was Chairman of the Board for four of those years.

"I welcome the opportunity to be part of the Fisk family and to once again be associated with President O'Leary," Mr. Hanfling said. Under her guidance and leadership the "DETAILS" program and the drive to be "THE BEST" are realizable objectives for the University. There are no more important responsibilities and goals than to expand the educational opportunities for the youth of America and the world."

Dr. Lawal is the chairman and chief executive officer of CAMAC International Corporation and chairman of Allied Energy Corporation. He

also serves as a member of the board of directors and is a significant shareholder in Unity National Bank, the only federally insured and licensed African-American-owned bank in Texas.

"It is indeed an honor and a privilege to serve on the board of directors for Fisk University," Dr. Lawal said. "Fisk University has a rich cultural legacy based on strong academic traditions that challenges students to excel and assume leadership positions in a globalized society."

As chairman and chief executive officer of CAMAC International Corporation, Dr. Lawal leads a diverse group of affiliate companies that comprise the second largest African-American owned company in the United States with more than 1,000 employees worldwide. CAMAC's principal business activities include energy exploration and production, crude oil/natural gas/electricity trading, and transportation services.

In addition, Dr. Lawal also serves as a commissioner on the Port of Houston Authority, the largest foreign tonnage port in the United States, and as vice chairman of the Houston Airport Development System Corporation, the sixth largest international airport system in the world. In 1994, he was a finalist for the United States Business Entrepreneur of the Year and also served on the United States President's Business Advisory Council. He is a graduate of Texas Southern University with a bachelor's degree in chemistry and a master's degree in business administration, finance and marketing from Prairie View A&M University of Texas. He was most recently awarded an honorary doctorate in philosophy from Fort Valley State University.

Mr. P. Andrew Patterson earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in History, with honors, from Fisk University in 1965. He earned the Doctor of Jurist Prudence degree from Harvard University School of Law in 1968. He is Senior Partner in



Hanfling



Lawal



Patterson

the law firm of Thomas, Kennedy, Sampson and Patterson in Atlanta, Georgia.

"I am elated to begin serving as a member of the Fisk University Board of Trustees," Patterson said. "Fisk has always provided the foundation for young students to strive for excellence in their respective fields and to create positive change through service."

He has served as a member of Atlanta's Legal Aid Society, president of the Atlanta Fisk Club, a member of Leadership Atlanta; president of Douglass High School P.T.S. A., chairman of the Georgia State Board of Examiners and president of the Atlanta Guardsmen. Mr. Patterson has life membership in Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Atlanta Fisk Club, and the General Alumni Association of Fisk University.

Some of Mr. Patterson's honors include Who's Who in the World, People to People Ambassador Delegate to South Africa; Who's Who in America; Who's Who in American Law; and the Amicus Curiae Award of the Supreme Court of Georgia. He and his wife, Gloria, reside in College Park, Ga. They are the parents of an adult son and daughter.

"It is indeed an honor and a privilege to serve on the board of trustees for Fisk University. Fisk University has a rich cultural legacy based on strong academic traditions that challenges students to excel and assume leadership positions in a globalized society."

—Dr. Kase L. Lawal



Ambassador Kantor speaks with junior and business major Jefferson Cox (right) following the Global and Community Lecture Series.

Fisk's Global and Community Lecture Series Begins with Ambassador Mickey Kantor

The Honorable Mickey Kantor, former United States Secretary of Commerce and United States Trade Representative inaugurated Fisk University's Global and Community Lecture Series on November 1st, 2006.

Kantor's message for the Fisk Family and the Nashville community concentrated on the challenges of a knowledge-based, global economy. In his presentation, Kantor discussed how the American entrepreneurial spirit lends itself well to the emerging global economy.

"Businessperson after businessperson tells me [what] they need most is trained workers," Kantor said. "It's beginning to happen, but we have to make sure we invest in our most precious asset human beings."

Fisk invited Ambassador Kantor as the speaker for the university's newly created Global and Community Lecture Series. The series gives the Fisk Family and Nashville community the chance to learn from and dialogue with leaders at the forefront of global and community engagement. This

fall, Fisk has hosted educator and author Dr. Dennis Kimbro as well as renowned author, poet, essayist and Fisk Alumna Nikki Giovanni.

"Our students benefited from Ambassador Kantor's experience in global affairs. I am certain that they will remain inspired by his commitment to public service and free enterprise," said Fisk President Hazel R. O'Leary.

Kantor, a Nashville native, gained national attention during his tenure as campaign manager for the Clinton-Gore campaign in 1992. During his tenure as U.S. Trade Representative, Kantor was a leading participant in negotiations that created the WTO, NAFTA, the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum. He was involved in the initial steps to implement the Free Trade Area of the Americas. Under his leadership, the U.S. completed 200 trade agreements.

Kantor is partner in the international Mayer, Brown Rowe & Maw LLP, an international law firm based in Chicago, Illinois.



Pictured outside of the newly renovated Boyd International House are the members of Fisk's International Student Association (L to R)

Ato Wallace
 Shanique Robinson
 Edwina Clarke
 Antoinette Matheson
 Marsha Palmer
 Melinda Robinson
 Tonja Khabir
 Tolulope Fatokun
 Twatasha Kabwe
 Olanrewaju Obadina
 Oluwole Oladele

Record Number of International Students Vie for the Chance to Become Fiskites

Fisk's reputation of academic excellence and rich history is expanding globally and attracting an influx of international students to the university.

For the first time in recent years, the university has a record 60 international students enrolled, representing 10 countries. Fisk is currently in line with the national trend of the increasing number of international students enrolled in higher education institutions.

Mikheil Miller of Sandy Bay Hanover, Jamaica didn't know what to expect as he headed to Nashville this semester, but calls his experience rewarding.

"I enjoy the family atmosphere, as it's a lot like being at home in a sense," Mikheil said. "It's a combination of things that make the entire Fisk experience worthwhile. Fisk nurtures students both academically and socially. We have programs to facilitate such growth to carry on the Fisk tradition."

While Mikheil said he is adapting to the climate and American cuisine, he is also a member of the executive body of the Caribbean Student Association (CSA). His goal is to help educate others about the Caribbean culture.

To achieve the goal of increased global and community engagement at the university, the Office of Admission seeks to recruit students from outside the U.S., said Keith Chandler, dean of admission.

"These students not only bring their unique perspectives, but allow our domestic students to strengthen their cultural competence as they prepare for leadership roles in a global society," Chandler said. "The Office of Admission

is specifically seeking college prep programs and working with our international alumni to identify talented students and share opportunities available at Fisk."

"International students choose Fisk for the same reasons as domestic students. Fisk has a reputation for academic excellence in an intimate, yet rich educational environment," said Chandler. "The school's emphasis on the sciences is also important."

The Boyd House, headquarters for the Fisk International Education Enrichment and Exchange Center (IEEEEC), serves as a hub for many of the international students, providing tutoring, academic workshops and opportunities to network with others adjusting to America's way of life.

"Our international students are excellent both academically and socially, and we are happy to have them here on campus," said Bettye Shipp. "They are very serious and focused on getting a good education."

"At the Boyd House we strive to make the students feel as comfortable as possible. One of our main concentrations involves tutoring," Shipp said. "We try to make sure that our international students meet their academic goals of excellence."

Although Fisk is a whole new world for Mikheil, he already recognizes its legacy for excellence and reputation for providing students with a balanced academic experience.

"I would highly recommend Fisk to others as the university will provide you with all the information you need and so much more," he said.



Fisk's First Fulbright Scholar Zablon Mgonja Sets the Standard for Future Global Scholars

For people who have been called to teach, the learning process never ends. So, it should be no surprise that, while studying at Tanzania's University of Dar es Salaam, Zablon Mgonja decided that he would give back to his primary school teachers.

By teaching *them*.

He and a friend tutored them, after which the senior pupils took that country's national exam. "And they all passed," Mgonja says. "They were so thankful." Two of them have registered at the university and are first-year students.

Mgonja's academic year here at Fisk University as a Fulbright scholar is but the latest chapter in what he says is a life committed to teaching.

Resting on his desk in Fisk's Park-Johnson Hall building is a small, hand-carved hunting staff. He says Masai men in his native Tanzania use such spears and machetes to kill lions, in order to prove they are suitable and ready for marriage. Mgonja, teaching Tanzanian culture and Swahili, comes equally committed – to a mission.

That mission inspired him to apply to the U.S. Fulbright program. The U.S.-sponsored program enables scholars from abroad to teach at American universities, in an effort to promote international understanding.

After he was accepted to the program, Fisk selected Mgonja based on the school's needs and his credentials. He speaks six languages – English, Swahili, Chasu, Masai, Shambala and Sukuma – and is learning French.

"The more languages a person speaks, the more opportunities they'll have," Mgonja says. "I'm a man of languages." His native Kilimanjaro is home to more than 125 ethnic groups – he is a member of the Wapai tribe – and more than 100 languages.

Consequently, he's shocked by many Americans' comfort with speaking only English. "Sometimes there is a need of understanding some things beyond your own culture," he says.

Still, he has found members of his newfound Fisk family to be warm and eager to learn. "The people are friendly. When I came here, I found students interested in everything I am doing. They respond to what I teach. It's been a very pleasant experience. Everyone is interested in learning what I've experienced. And I like learning from them, as well."

And, he is learning with them, too, here at Fisk. Mgonja says some of his French classmates

also are taking Swahili from him. Is familiarity breeding contempt among his classmates? Not so, he says with a laugh: "We don't confuse things. They act as grown-ups."

His profession has taught him to be flexible, to constantly learn and to constantly find ways to serve others.

"Teaching is my passion, so I enjoy doing it. Every day, I'm gaining new skills. He and nine other Fulbright scholars from Tanzania – also teaching Swahili at other universities here in America – keep in touch, sharing their experiences and strategies. Their plan is to return to Tanzania and help improve it.

"At a certain point in life," Mgonja says, "I'll build a school. That's the greatest accomplishment I'll see in life. Getting this (Fulbright) scholarship is the beginning of that dream coming true."

Two students, strolling past his office, shout a greeting to him: "Habari!" They are asking how he's doing.

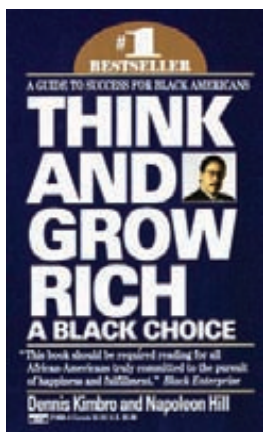
"Nzuri, nzuri!" he shouts after each of them in a gleeful response, telling them he is fine.

"Those," he says with pride, "are my students."

Mgonja's academic year here at Fisk University as a Fulbright scholar is but the latest chapter in what he says is a life committed to teaching.



Dr. Dennis Kimbro, author of *Think and Grow Rich: A Black Choice*, urges the Fisk Family to stay focused in the pursuit of academic excellence.



Students show their approval for Dr. Dennis Kimbro during his 2006 Opening Convocation Speech.



Fisk Commemorates 140 Years of Service and Leadership

with Honors Convocation Speaker Dr. Dennis Kimbro

In commemoration of Fisk's 140th year, the University family gathered in Fisk Memorial Chapel for the annual opening honors convocation on August 30th, 2006. In addition to celebrating a milestone anniversary for Nashville's oldest University, this year's ceremony centered on Fisk's new commitment to its values of diversity, excellence, teamwork, accountability, integrity, leadership and service (D.E.T.A.I.L.S.)

Educator and author, Dr. Dennis Kimbro energized the Fisk Family as he reflected on the subject, "What Makes the Great Great." Through a series of entertaining anecdotes and lucid accounts of his interviews with many of the current era's wealthy and successful personalities, Kimbro urged students to seek excellence at all levels.

"Most people are satisfied with settling for too little because it's safe," Kimbro said. "To find your life's destiny, you must break out of your comfort zone."

Kimbro's popular work, "Think and Grow Rich: A Black Choice," was published in 1992. Since publishing the book, he has devoted his life to promoting success strategies for African Americans. His work has been featured in the New York Times, CNN, Wall Street Journal, USA Today, Ebony, Essence and Black Enterprise. The series, in its various editions, have combined to sell over 15 million copies since 1937.

Honors Convocation also featured brilliance through song as Ms. Kawana Williams, Fisk Jubilee Singer, returned to performance with a rousing rendition of "Stand Still, Jordan". With the piano accompaniment of Dr. Phillip Autry, music department chair, Williams soared through the melody and lifted the audience to their feet for a standing ovation.

The Fisk Family also witnessed the formal induction of Mr. William Campbell as 2006-7 president of the Student Government Association. Campbell emphasized the importance of accountability, good leadership, and he reminded the Fisk Family of the cannon of greatness that the University has produced. He also urged the student body to be diligent through teamwork and to aspire to excellence in their academic and social experiences at the University.

In his first opening convocation, Fisk Provost and Executive Vice President Dr. Kofi Lomotey recognized the institution's best and brightest achievers. Among the standout students, nearly fifty were cited for their dedication to service and commitment to academic excellence as Fisk Presidential Scholars. These students have completed 16 or more credit hours and maintain a 4.0 semester average.

Dr. Matthew Kennedy stepped onto the platform to lead the Fisk Family through "The Gold and the Blue." With the precise guiding of Dr. Kennedy's signature baton, the University congealed into one large ensemble and concluded with a roaring cheer that demonstrated the joyful spirit associated with Fisk's latest milestone. For 140 years, Fisk University has remained a leader in the world of higher education and global and community engagement.

"Most people are satisfied with settling for too little because it's safe. To find your life's destiny, you must break out of your comfort zone." —Dr. Dennis Kimbro

Fifty years after graduating from Fisk University, one of the institution's noted sons returned home last fall with a story and lessons to share.

The renowned political philosopher, Dr. Preston King, came back to Fisk to teach a course that examines the relationship between the world's rich and poor nations. The topic, given conflicts that play out on the world's markets and battlegrounds, is certainly timely. But this fall was the right time for another reason.

"It's the first time I've been able to return," King said from in his office in Fisk's Race Relations Institute. For some busy alumni, that sentence would border on exaggeration. For King, it's a bit of an understatement. For most of the years since graduating from Fisk, King was unable to return to the United States from abroad, for fear of imprisonment.

Not long after he graduated from Fisk in 1956, the draft exemption deferment King had received was extended as he pursued a graduate degree in London. King says the U.S. board overseeing that deferment went from addressing him as "Mr. Preston King" in its correspondence to him to merely "Preston," when the board's members discovered he was African American. He refused to report for an Army physical until it resumed the more formal treatment he says it afforded other draftees. He was tried, convicted and sentenced for draft evasion in 1961, at which time he went into exile in London.

Over the years, King studied at the London School of Economics, as well as the universities of Vienna, Strasbourg and Paris. He holds honorary professorships and has taught at universities in Nairobi, Sydney, Cameroon, Uganda and Fiji. His published works include the renowned *Federalism and Federation*.

In 2000, King received a pardon from President Bill Clinton that allowed the scholar to return to the United States. When Fisk President Hazel R. O'Leary invited King to be a distinguished visiting professor at Fisk, he accepted. "It's good to get back," King said. "It's a great opportunity to go through today's issues with today's Fisk students."

King wants to see the institution continue to conduct socially relevant research. "Fisk is a historical institution," he says. "It's one where I grew up." He says such an institution bears a concern for "those people who have been least advantaged. It has a commitment to such a community."

Trade inequities' effects on less-advantaged people are clear to King. "There are many types of perverse trade – migration, the control of labor, trafficking in human workers, sex workers, prostitution, and animal skins – which are very much illegal."

"The inflow of migrants leads to the internationalization of labor. How far do you let that go?" he asked. King raised the example of a Nashville company that might outsource its accounts management to a South Asia company instead of a South Nashville one. "It may well be that the role of the government has to shift," King says.

King believes success in the classroom means inspiring students to confront the issues of the day – "that people will put their abilities to good use, pay attention and think. To the extent that that happens, that is a success."

"I didn't understand how much of an obligation that advantaged and developed countries have to help rebuild nations that face serious challenges to their economic and social wellbeing," said Nicole Battle, a student of Dr. King's. Battle is a senior at Fisk and is a political science major. She says she will pursue a degree in law after graduation. "Dr. King's presentation of the material also caused me to be thoughtful about the obligations I have, and the ways that I can contribute to positive changes in the years to come."

"Never forget your past," King said. "It will teach you something."



Fisk Welcomes Home Dr. Preston King as Visiting Distinguished Professor

For most of the years since graduating from Fisk, King was unable to return to the United States from abroad, for fear of imprisonment.

Biology Professor Dr. Patrick Martin Promotes Wellness with Fisk Students



Junior Kristin Clarkson (left) and senior Stephanie Turner (middle) conduct their research with the help of Dr. Patrick Martin

“I want to uphold and also advance the standard of greatness at Fisk in a manner that is pleasing to our university family.”

—Dr. Patrick Martin

Now in his second year as professor of biology at Fisk, Dr. Patrick Martin is leading the University’s participation in Tennessee’s HBCU Community Based Disease Management and Prevention Program. Dr. Martin leads a team of higher learning institutions that include Knoxville College, Lane College, Lemoyne-Owens and Meharry Medical College. The universities have teamed up to develop an initiative with service learning opportunities for students to become engaged in their local communities in the prevention and control of various health disparities.

As project director at Fisk, Martin supervises the \$270,000 wellness initiative funded by Tennessee’s legislature. He said that he is excited to guide and instruct students on ways to educate and interact with the community.

In the first phase of the wellness initiative, students from all academic departments and campus organizations at Fisk submitted disease prevention projects and focus ideas. The chosen ideas were approved by faculty representatives and the student teams developed information for presentations.

“This project was created with the intent of having students engage local campuses, communities and religious groups to educate them on proper nutrition and exercise in order to decrease the health disparities we see in America,” Martin said. “In addition to education, the program wants to see each HBCU represented on the team begin walking clubs, plan better menu options to promote nutrition, and create awareness and management of diabetes, obesity and other health disparities in adolescents.”

Although Martin is one of the newer faculty members at Fisk—that has not stopped him from getting involved. He is currently in the process of organizing a biotechnology/molecular biology laboratory at the University and will continue his research to test novel chemotherapeutic agents for their use in the treatment of malignant brain tumors. Since his arrival at Fisk in 2006, Martin has helped the biology department in securing over \$227,000 in grants and has co-authored two publications. His professional affiliations include the American Society for Cell Biology, American Association for Cancer Research and the Editorial Advisory Board for Recent Patents on Anti-Cancer Drug Discovery.

As an undergraduate at Virginia Union University and a Ph.D. graduate of the University of Virginia, Martin is well versed in the challenges to academic preparation that accost some students at HBCU’s. As a first-year graduate student, Martin said that he had to quickly become acclimated to the modern techniques and research methods necessary for success in the natural sciences. Martin knows the value of hard work and wants to challenge his students in order to prepare them thoroughly for academic success at all levels.

“I try to teach my students that success is the only option. It’s a competitive world, and you must compete for what you want,” Martin said. “I try to instill a competitive work ethic for success in any field that students pursue.”

Martin also said that he is enjoying his contribution as a professor and biologist at Fisk and wants his work to add to the legacy of the University’s stellar scientists and researchers.

“It’s an honor to be at Fisk,” Martin said. “The science department here has produced many great leaders in both the clinical and research sciences. I want to uphold and also advance the standard of greatness at Fisk in a manner that is pleasing to our university family.”

FISK SELECTED FOR
15th Consecutive Year
 BY PRINCETON REVIEW AS
 ONE OF AMERICA'S
"Best 361 Colleges"

Fisk University has been included among an elite group of 15 percent of the nearly 2,400 four-year colleges and universities in the United States. Fisk appears in the latest edition of The Princeton Review's "Best 361 Colleges" for 2006-2007. This year's selection marks the fifteenth consecutive inclusion of Fisk since the publication's inception in 1992.

"Fisk has a long tradition of transforming good students into great leaders," said University President Hazel R. O'Leary. "This designation affirms our commitment to excellence. We are grateful for the recognition."

"We chose schools for this book primarily for their outstanding academics," said Robert Franek, Princeton Review's V.P. of Publishing. "We evaluated them based on institutional data we collect about the schools, feedback from students attending them, and our visits to schools over the years."

"We also consider the opinions of independent college counselors, students and parents we hear from and survey year-long," Franek also said. "Finally, we work to have a wide representation of colleges in the book by region, size, selectivity and character. We also evaluated the schools based on institutional data, feedback from students, and our visits to schools over the years."

"We are proud to be recognized by Princeton Review," said Fisk Dean of Admission Keith Chandler. "High-achieving students depend upon the respected opinions of The Princeton Review, and we are pleased to be among the best 361 universities in the nation."

To create the final list, The Princeton Review surveys 115,000 students who attend schools that are nominees for the designation. Each chosen university's profile contains admission

requirements and academic statistics, as well as student responses and commentary on categories ranging from academic excellence to campus life.

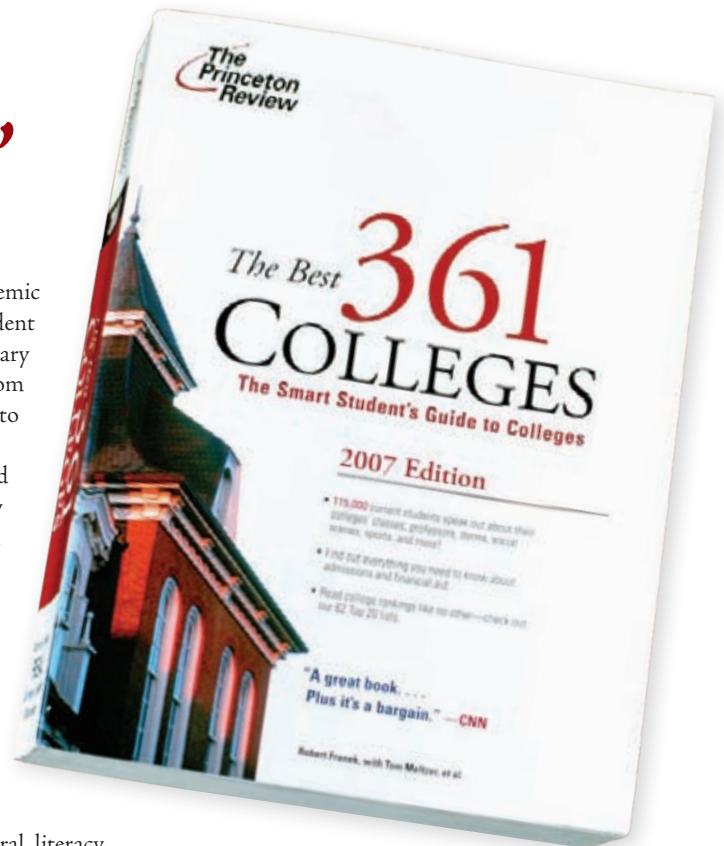
Fisk students interviewed by Princeton Review pointed to the impact and value that several legendary alumni have added to the enduring legacy of the 140 year-old university. Students also said that the Fisk experience is worthwhile because of the university's strong commitment to academic excellence, cultural literacy and preparation for the world of work.

Giving kudos to the service learning projects of Fisk's faculty, staff, and students, The Princeton Review also highlighted the "motivation and involvement" in community based organizations as having critical impact on "successful candidacy" for admission to Fisk.

In the fall of 2006, the average incoming freshman at Fisk has an ACT score of 21.3. The national ACT average for African American students is 17, and the overall average is 21.1.

Of the graduating class of 2006 at Fisk, nearly 10 percent of the class qualified for membership in Phi Beta Kappa, the world's leading academic honors society.

A recent National Science Foundation study revealed that Fisk produces more African-Americans who go on to earn PhD's in the natural sciences than any university in the nation.



"We chose schools for this book primarily for their outstanding academics. We evaluated them based on institutional data we collect about the schools, feedback from students attending them, and our visits to schools over the years."

—Robert Franek,
 Princeton Review's V.P. of Publishing

LEADING THE PACK:

Fisk Student Leaders Speak Up

FISK Magazine recently organized a roundtable discussion with five students who have distinguished themselves as leaders among their peers. Our magazine asked the students to share their thoughts on the importance of leadership and how they feel Fisk has prepared them to attain career goals and aspirations. The students additionally expressed their vision for the Fisk Family as a whole, and shared suggestions for adding to the university's global and community outreach.

FM: Why did you choose Fisk?

WILLIAM CAMPBELL (Fisk University Student Government Association President): The way I would answer that question is that I didn't really choose Fisk. Fisk chose me.

That's a sentiment heard a lot on the yard when people talk about why they chose Fisk. But, I think that the history and legacy of Fisk chose me.

ALEXANDRA ARMSTEAD (Fisk Sophomore and WFSK Radio Assistant): My mother's family went to Fisk. I'm the seventh person in my family to attend Fisk. So, it's a tradition for us.

MERSHARD FRIERSON (Fisk Freshman Class President): I actually chose Fisk because it has a great science program. I'm a physics major, and I was drawn in by what the natural science program offers the world.

BRIANNABELL (Fisk Senior Class President): I also have to agree that Fisk chose me. I had a cousin that graduated from Fisk in 1998. When I came here for a tour...the moment I arrived on the campus, I fell in love with Fisk. It was very welcoming, calm and peaceful to me.

TERRICA SAMPSON (Fisk Sophomore Class President): Aside from the academics and history of Fisk, you can feel the family atmosphere. When I came to Fisk as a senior in high school, I went into the admission office and everybody knew my name. At Fisk, people make the effort to get to know you and find things that can make you comfortable. Fisk drew me near because of the family atmosphere.

FM: Do you see yourselves as leaders among your peers?

SAMPSON: I see myself as a leader. Currently, I hold many different leadership roles. I'm sophomore class president and also a resident assistant in Jubilee Hall. In my role as a resident assistant, I believe that I'm someone that the freshmen ladies look up to. Coming from their various backgrounds and living in our building, our ladies are looking for comfort and an authoritative figure to show them how a Fisk woman should conduct herself socially and academically.

As class president, I do try to get my classmates to become more involved and active in the Fisk community. Sometimes students need an extra edge [as well as] encouragement. I ask people to serve on various boards and committees so that they will step out of their shell and become a part of the Fisk Family.

BELL: I believe that I have a positive influence over my class, and most importantly, I always try to model the behavior that I would like to see. I try to be the positive energy that other people draw from. This year, I hold many different positions. I'm always very involved in acts on campus, and I try to draw people into campus events. I also believe that leadership builds character, and there's a lot of growth associated with it.

FRIERSON: In serving as the president of my class, I have to come up with a lot of creative ideas on setting the tone for how things should be, and there are certain things that I feel need to be achieved.

ARMSTEAD: I see myself as a leader although I don't hold any official position on campus. I'd like to think that the things I'm interested in, and the things I volunteer for, are positive activities that I can lead my friends to also partake in. I try to lead my friends to spend time helping a fellow student or doing work for the radio station or any office that needs assistance. I'd like to think that I lead people toward opportunities.

CAMPBELL: I like to look at what I'm trying to do on campus through the student government as empowerment for all of our students. We want to create a culture for students coming behind us who are talented visionaries, to have the opportunities to see their vision brought to fruition. That is the kind of culture that I want to create.

FM: How can your peers become more active at Fisk?

BELL: I feel as though some students are not motivated, and it's difficult to find something that can motivate them. Many of our students have great and wonderful ideas. I'm not sure if shyness or an unwillingness to step out of the box keeps certain students from contributing.

However, I would like to see more enthusiasm from several of our students.

FRIERSON: My true vision is to have every member of the freshmen class involved in something positive. We could have a segment of the class involved with outreach to deal with community service. We could have another set of students involved with what could be called "inreach" to deal with more spiritual issues among our class. Additionally, we could have an "upreach" department to deal with financial concerns among the class and to find ways of contributing to the well-being of the school. I would like to see more people involved.

SAMPSON: I would like to see the students yearning to learn more about the traditions of Fisk. I know many of us respect this tradition, and we take time to learn the background of Fisk's landmarks. I think that it's critical for the alumni to continue to come back often to tell us about some of the things that went on when they were here at the university. Times have changed but some of the old traditions can help some of our students today. As a result, we would have a greater respect for certain celebrations and campus events.

CAMPBELL: It's imperative to the current SGA members to try and create a situation where this can happen. There are measures being taken to open the government up more to the student body to allow initiatives put forth by the student body to be realized.

ARMSTEAD: I'd like to see current students and alumni invest their time back into Fisk. It's nice to hear alumni talk about what Fisk was like when they were here and what things have changed. I also think that students, while they are in the institution, should put some time and effort into making their school a better place while they're still here. They should use some of their spare time to try and fix some of the things they don't like. It's easier when you're here, and it's harder once you graduate to find time to give back to your alma mater. Before you get your degree, I think that more students should reinvest their time into Fisk.

FM: How can Fisk retain its position as a global and local leader academically and socially?

FRIERSON: One way to get Fisk back to the position that it once had is corporate sponsorship and also reaching out to the community. We

should work toward having more community based partnerships with local businesses. All of that together can raise Fisk back to the position it should have.

CAMPBELL: Many HBCU's have challenges. Many of the obstacles are similar in nature and scope. I think Fisk needs to be at the vanguard of thinking outside of the box towards solutions to those problems. I think that the current administration is doing a good job in coming up with creative solutions, and in making some tough decisions. Sometimes making tough decisions helps to solve problems that have existed for a long time. When other solutions haven't worked, instead of trying to recycle those same solutions, you have to come up with something new. From financial stability to academic excellence, Fisk must remain ready to develop creative solutions to old problems. And in that process, it's helpful to get the older generation's council on what to stay away from and what to repeat.

BELL: I believe that charity starts at home. It's important for current Fiskites and alumni to give back. It's also important to reach out to the community that surrounds Fisk, and to have our neighbors and entrepreneurs feel important and part of the Fisk Experience whether they attended here or not. We can get them more involved, invite them to events and send them "thank you" notes to follow up. We need to get more sponsor banners in our gymnasium. The wall should be full of them. I believe that if we continue to reach out to the community, we can get them more involved and motivated. This can provide a stronger foundation for the future.

ARMSTEAD: We have to ask alumni to tell us what they did to make their experiences at Fisk memorable. As the current student body, we want to improve on the great things in our past because we want memorable experiences at Fisk. We all came to Fisk for the same reason. We want to learn, but also interact with our peers in a safe environment. We have to keep that going, so that everyone can have an opportunity to enjoy Fisk.

FM: How are your activities at Fisk preparing you to be a complete and prepared young citizen?

ARMSTEAD: Time management is big because Fisk is very small, but in order to get things done, you have to do a lot of follow-up. It teaches you patience and also how to navigate in the corporate system to get what you need done in a timely manner. Everything we encounter here teaches us to be responsible. No one forces you to go to class or do your homework, so you have to take that responsibility. We're learning to make important life decisions.

I think that the bridge between good reasoning skills and communication is very powerful. . As class president and as a physics major, I feel that public speaking and science are powerful as a combination. —Mershard Frierson, Fisk Freshmen Class President

SAMPSON: Coming into this year at Fisk under the banner of "Success is in the D.E.T.A.I.L.S.," I believe that focusing on our values is helping the student body. With our new international student population this year, I see many of our students trying to get acquainted. They are discussing cultural things like languages and even dances. Many students seem to be taking a part in "Success is in the D.E.T.A.I.L.S." I believe that the statement is garnering closeness and the zeal needed for coming together. I think that people are working together to create a good experiences.

At other universities with larger and diverse student populations, it's hard to get permission to go

to the Caribbean Student Union, for example, if your heritage is not the same. At Fisk, all of these different organizations welcome everyone. Diversity allows you to have more options and become a well-rounded person in your academic concentration and social life.

FRIERSON: I think that the bridge between good reasoning skills and communication is very powerful. In industry, many people can crunch numbers but they cannot explain things in simple terms. Executives are the ones who must understand complex concepts and illustrate them through clear communication. As class president and as a physics major, I feel that public speaking and science are powerful as a combination.



Student roundtable discussion participants included (from left to right) Alexandra Armstead, Fisk Sophomore and WFSK Radio Assistant; Mershard Frierson, Fisk Freshman Class President (not featured); Terrica Sampson, Fisk Sophomore Class President; William Campbell, Fisk University Student Government Association President; and Brianna Bell, Fisk Senior Class President.

FISK JUBILEE SINGERS

Celebrate

135 Year Tradition with “Walk of Fame” Honors



As the Jubilee Singers celebrated their 135th anniversary, they were included among the first inductees into Nashville's Walk of Fame. The Jubilee Singers also gave a stirring performance during the opening celebration for the city's new concert hall, Schermerhorn Symphony Center.

For the Past 135 years they have wowed audiences from New York to Berlin with their renditions of Negro spirituals. The journey of the Fisk Jubilee Singers dates back to the late 19th century as nine of the school's most musically gifted students and their music professor, George L. White, began touring the northeastern United States in an effort to raise funds to keep the school from closing its doors.

Despite making their first stop in Ohio to a warmly receptive audience, the singers were only able to collect donations totaling less than fifty dollars. In spite of it all, they continued to prevail, gaining audience with the elites of the day including President Ulysses S. Grant, Mark Twain, Queen Victoria and royal families of Holland and Germany. They sang the spirituals such as “Steal Away” and other songs related to slavery and the dark past endured by many.

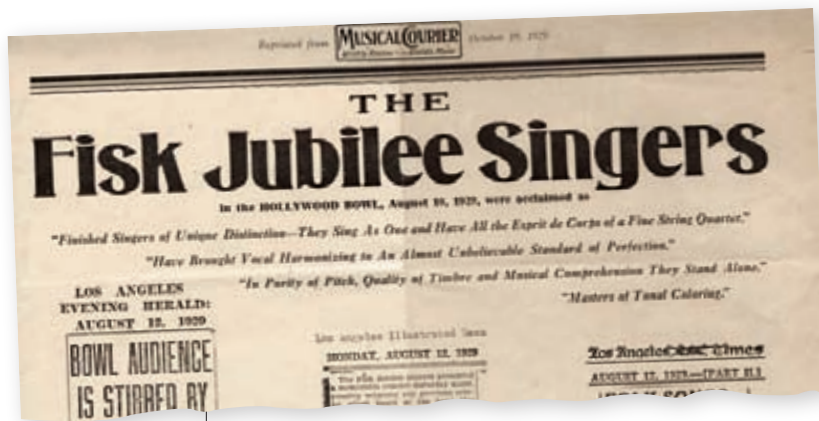
“Their music was enchanting,” said Dr. Reavis Mitchell, Jr. associate professor of history. “This was the first group of college students to take on the task of trying to raise funds to save an institution. At that time people didn't believe that the Negro could help themselves. Everywhere they traveled people were astonished because they helped dismantle the stereotypical idea of black people. While their music was delightful and they were musically gifted, their impact was far more.”

After several successful tours throughout the United States and Europe, the singers acquired enough money to secure the future of the university. Those funds were used to purchase the present 42 acre campus. Jubilee Hall was built as the first permanent building in America for the education of African-Americans and is now designated as a national historic landmark.

The internationally renowned a cappella ensemble arranged the music and took it on the road, ultimately introducing the world to a new genre that served as the genesis for many contemporary musical forms such as rhythm & blues and gospel. Continuing in the example set by its famous predecessors, the current 18 voices are students from all different parts of the world. Being apart of such an elite group requires more than just the ability to sing, as one must be committed and interested in preserving the prestigious tradition.



A delegation of the Fisk Jubilee Singers captured after performing at the 1898 American Missionary Convention in Concord, New Hampshire. Pictured in the back row are Mabel Grant (left) and Agnes Haynes (right). Seated in the front are Albert Greenlaw (left) and John W. Work (right).



By the turn of the century, the Jubilee Singers had established themselves in concerts locally and abroad as they brought attention to the Negro spiritual as the basis for America's emerging forms of popular music.

"We are continuing the tradition of performing Negro spirituals as an art form, while bringing awareness of the university to people," said Director Paul T. Kwami, who has been the director since 1994. "One must understand what it means to be a Jubilee Singer and the responsibility it carries."

Akua Taylor, a 2005 graduate, didn't take the opportunity lightly and embraced the responsibility and great deal of value that comes along with the task. The Milwaukee native was originally attracted to Fisk with hopes of becoming a member of the group.

"I felt a great deal of honor being apart of the group because of the history and all that we were called to do," she explained. "Those shoes (of the original singers) are so big to fill and it feels like someone is passing a baton to you and you have to take it and run with it. When we sing, the way our voices blend is nothing but God and the presence of the originals being with us. It's really powerful- unlike anything I've ever experienced."

Known as one of the first internationally renowned singing groups, the Jubilee Singers' performance for Queen Victoria at Buckingham Palace in 1873 gained the title of "Music City" for Nashville when, after witnessing the performance, the Times-Daily Mirror quoted the queen as saying, "These young people must surely come from a musical city." The Singers' impact on the music industry, both locally as well as international, is still as astonishing today.

"The Jubilee Singers were the first spiritual group to make recordings," said Mike Curb, chairman of Nashville's Curb Records. "They defined traditional spiritual music, and in addition created the gospel quartet recording technique, which virtually defined an entire century of gospel recordings."

Reflecting on its rich heritage, the chorus continues to make headlines as it graces some of the world's best stages. Next July the Jubilee Singers will travel to Ghana to perform throughout the country. The group was invited by the United States Embassy to commemorate the West African Nation of Ghana's 50th year of independence from Great Britain.

"I see this as important because the music the Jubilee Singers sing has its roots in Ghana," Kwami said. "It's more like taking this music back home for celebration. It will be a cultural, historical and educational trip."

Representing the best of the Fisk tradition, the Jubilee Singers remain as musical ambassadors for the university. They symbolize the courage, commitment and determination of those brave individuals who saved the then fledgling university and established a globally recognized cultural icon in the process.

"Considering the legacy, whenever people talk about Fisk University and the roots of American music, they have to talk about the Jubilee Singers," Kwami said.

"We are continuing the tradition of performing Negro spirituals as an art form, while bringing awareness of the university to people. One must understand what it means to be a Jubilee Singer and the responsibility it carries."

— Paul T. Kwami, Jubilee Singers Director

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Families, fans salute first Walk of Fame inductees

By Peter Gilstrap, Staff Writer

After months of preparation, Nashville took its final steps in the creation of the Music City Walk of Fame on Sunday as the inaugural class of artists was inducted into sidewalk immortality.

Among the select handful of honorees were Reba McEntire, Roy Orbison, Ronnie Milsap, Boudleaux and Felice Bryant, Maestro Kenneth D. Schermerhorn and the 135-year-old institution that is the Fisk Jubilee Singers.

"This is a special day," said Mayor Bill Purcell. "In fact, it really doesn't get any better in any city than it does right here in this place today. ... This first class of inductees represents in a perfect way the diversity of our music and why we are Music City. ... This Walk of Fame is forever, just like the music and the musicians we honor here today."

A roaring crowd that numbered well into the hundreds heartily agreed. The fans showed up to squeal for Reba and shout for Ronnie and last minute addition Hank Williams Jr., who arrived to pay passionate tribute to Orbison. (Post-speech, Bocephus was mobbed by a gaggle of worshippers. He finally broke free, shouting, "It's beer season! Got to go!") All the excitement occurred in Hall of Fame Park and was presented by founding sponsor Gibson Guitar, Great American Country, the city of Nashville and Metro Parks.

Roy Orbison Jr. was on hand to honor his father along with Barbara Orbison, wife of the late singer.

"I love it," gushed Junior. "We're right in the middle here. This is just a beautiful location. I'll bring my kids and my grandkids down here someday. The permanence is what I like. It's just fantastic."

This was Reba McEntire's second star; she has one 2,000 miles west, on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

"That's a huge honor," she acknowledged, "but I think this is even bigger because Nashville is my home, and music has been my livelihood all my life, and it's more near and dear to my heart. To be here near to the Symphony Hall and close to the Country Music Hall of Fame — two wonderful representations of different types of music but the music that Nashville loves — is very special to me."

A highlight of the presentation was the Fisk Jubilee Singers' rendition of "Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel?" which showcased the vocal prowess of coloratura soprano Kawana Williams.

"I'm excited and flattered at the same time, but you know what? It's not something that we deserve as the present group. It's something that the old group deserves because they worked so hard for it," she said.

"If it hadn't been for them, we would not be here.

"The old singers, they went through so much to get us where we are today. They had to endure racism, they didn't have enough clothes in the wintertime, they didn't have food, they didn't have housing. They probably barely had enough money to open Fisk, but being that they did, we owe so much to them, and this is more than an honor. I'm pretty sure all the other singers that went before us are smiling right now."

The editors of FISK recently sat down with the University's Provost Dr. Kofi Lomotey. Dr. Lomotey shared his thoughts on the importance of preparing students to become globally engaged and on bridging the gap between students and administrators.



Q: What is Fisk's role in the education of today's scholars?

Our most important responsibility as educators is to encourage our students to think critically. It is also important for them to be able to assess a situation, evaluate the pros and cons and make decisions in their own interests. We have a responsibility to increase our students' thirst for learning and to encourage them to want to explore a wide array of areas.

As a strong liberal arts institution we must encourage students to view the world from a transdisciplinary approach rather than a narrowly focused, single disciplinary approach. That's the potential that we try to achieve through our core curriculum. And as we move forward as a university, we have to make sure that we are doing all that we can to provide the continued training for faculty that will enable them to stay on top of their fields. Only in this way will they be able to serve as role models for our students, enabling them to become more critical thinkers.

Q: What is your philosophy regarding international learning and research?

Education has to be a lifelong process and students have to be active participants in their education. Education is a two-way learning experience. It's not a banking system, as some scholars have suggested, where information is simply deposited into students' minds—to be regurgitated or withdrawn on demand. We have to provide the type of learning experiences that extend beyond the classroom. As an undergraduate student, some of my most memorable learning experiences did not occur in the classroom. I attended powerful lectures by prominent individuals, viewed films and attended community events. Perhaps most important were the experiences I had traveling internationally. We can talk with students about the value of traveling abroad but they'll never fully understand it until they do it. More than anything else, travel expands our world view and our understanding of people, places, and things.

To supplement that global perspective, we're fortunate here at Fisk to have an environment that is small and familial so as to let our students experience education both in the classroom, and also in outside settings with administrators, faculty, and peers.

I've traveled in Europe, Asia, and extensively in West Africa, primarily to Ghana but also to Togo, Senegal, Benin, Nigeria, the Canary Islands, Ivory Coast, Liberia and Liberia.

Q & A with Dr. Kofi Lomotey

In 1975 I began taking students to West Africa—primarily to Ghana—and we are currently planning to take students to West Africa in the summer of 2007. W.E.B. DuBois spent his last years in Ghana and there is a W.E.B. DuBois Memorial Centre for Pan African Culture there. Scholars from all over the world come to the Centre to study. We look forward to taking our students to visit the last home and final resting place of DuBois, someone who was once in their place who went on to have a significant impact upon the world.

Invariably when I take students to Africa they see the many cultural similarities. There is a certain value in sharing with people who look like you in other parts of the world, especially in the cradle of civilization, Africa.

Q: How would you define your role as Fisk University's Provost?

Many people inside and outside of the academy don't know what the provost does. The provost is the chief academic officer and is responsible for the academic programs, faculty hiring, professional development and dismissal. In addition, the provost is responsible—with the faculty—for the curriculum of the institution. Typically the provost's responsibilities include other areas and at Fisk my office is responsible for the management of the University Galleries, the library, student life, and institutional assessment. I highlight student life because it's impossible to talk about academic excellence without addressing the cultural, social, spiritual and social development of students. They are most certainly linked.

Q: What attracted you to desire to become provost at Fisk University?

I was aware, of course, of the history and traditions of this great institution. When I had an opportunity to sit with President O'Leary I became intrigued by the possibility of working side by side with her to help to take Fisk to the next level. The institution has been challenged quite a bit in the past 10 to 15 years with regard to stability of the administration and fiscal demands.

Like many small liberal arts universities Fisk has had its financial challenges but our situation is improving. I've been impressed by a student population that is conscientious, hardworking and focused. One of our biggest challenges is to bring our faculty salaries on par with other comparable universities. President O'Leary and I have made this a priority.

It's been a good marriage and I am certain that it will continue to grow.

Q: What is the best way to gauge merit among the faculty?

It's really about acknowledging those who go above and beyond the call of duty. Those faculty members who really produce in terms of research and publications, grants, teaching, advising, and/or service are certainly deserving of greater remuneration. Another important part of faculty performances is what I refer to as good citizenship. It's not in our job descriptions, but it includes things like showing up for our scheduled office hours, turning in grades on time, attending faculty meetings and being punctual and prepared for our classes. These are important faculty responsibilities.

Q:

What messages should we Emphasize to our students about academic excellence?

It is very important to us that students strive for academic excellence and by that I mean, in part, we want to challenge them to think that getting “Cs” and “Ds” is not all right. We should constantly point out to students that their success (academically) at Fisk is directly linked to their success once they leave this institution.



Q: As provost, what is your strategy for addressing the needs of faculty members?

I understand how important it is to have a good rapport with your faculty. One thing that I have begun to do is have one-on-one meetings with faculty members in their offices and, in many instances, they're shocked. That type of interaction is essential in developing substantive two-way communication.

There are several key elements to supporting our faculty. In addition to striving for effective, two-way communication, we have to continue to cultivate and support leadership in the various academic areas. I think it is important for a provost to understand and acknowledge the foundation that faculty give to the whole academic enterprise. We have the responsibility to provide this faculty all that they need in order to be successful in the classroom.

Q: How do we make students more comfortable in their interactions with professors and administrators?

The more I interact with students on a daily basis, the more it reinforces my commitment and the more I gain insight into their perceptions of reality. I emphasize to them that I'm just a regular person. That's important because students tend to see senior administrators as off limits or unapproachable. Students ought to be able to benefit from the experiences of the people who provide leadership for the organization.

Q: As an educator, do you have any plans to teach a course at Fisk?

I still enjoy teaching and look forward to returning to the classroom to teach a class in the future.

Q: Why is teaching during this stage of your career as a scholar and administrator important for you?

It is important because of the feedback that I gain and the opportunity for students to have regular contact with a role model. Moreover, as the leader of the faculty, it is important that I lead by example. The insights gained from teaching will aid me in better providing for faculty so that they can do the best job possible in educating our students.

Q: What are African American students' major responsibilities in preparation for becoming global leaders and agents for positive change?

I think students have three responsibilities: Study, agitate the system, and take care of their bodies. Students have to study in order to be successful academically. And beyond that, they must study about themselves, their people, and the relationship between their people and other peoples. And that's the most difficult part of study because it is rarely included in the curriculum.

As long as people are discriminated against based upon the amount of money they have, their gender, race, height, degree of perceived beauty, and other forms of illegitimate exclusion, we all have a responsibility to agitate the system. Students can do this by being active in student government, by tutoring, and by participating in other activities like volunteering in hospitals and mentoring young children.

Lastly, we must emphasize to students the importance of taking care of their bodies, by being aware of what they put into their bodies and basic diet and nutrition and by exercising on a regular basis. And if they don't take care of their bodies, studying and agitating the system will be difficult, if not impossible.

A DIALOGUE

WITH

NIKKI

GIOVANNI



Fisk alumna, award-winning poet, essayist and educator Nikki Giovanni is one of the dynamic voices of our time. In this recent interview with FISK Magazine, Giovanni shares her observations and advice to the Hip Hop Generation, her various influences as a writer, and the impact of Fisk on her development.

FM: What environment did you encounter when you came to Fisk?

NG: I was an early entrant. It was very exciting, and Fisk was quite beautiful. That was 1960 and it was the beginning of the sit-in movement. So, it was very exciting to be at Fisk University at that point. As you know, the sit-in movement in Nashville started with Tennessee State students, but they started getting kicked out of school, and because Fisk is private, the Fisk students like Dianne Nash and John Lewis took it up. So, it was a very exciting time to be in Nashville.

FM: Do you see the Civil Rights Movement as a grand historical moment or as the chance to right a wrong?

NG: I think that there was a desire to right a wrong...but righting a wrong if you're black makes it a great historical moment. There was a French teacher at Fisk during that era, John Cotton, and he was a big supporter of the students. Not all of the faculty and administrators were. When the first students came back from being arrested and in jail, Mr. Cotton welcomed the students back at the oval at Jubilee Hall. That was a big thing. Roger Askew, in the music department, was another big supporter. There were other members that were supporters, but those are two that stand out in my mind.

Fisk has always been a leader. With the problems that Fisk has encountered over the last couple of decades, people forget what a [great] leader Fisk is and how important it is for Fisk to be in the forefront.

FM: Is it possible to separate yourself from your experiences?

NG: I am an East Tennessean by birth. In the eastern part of the state we have a great storytelling tradition. The best story to tell is the one that you're living. Not just me, but a lot of us that came out of that era [feel similarly.] Fisk has produced a number of great writers. David Levering Lewis is a great writer. John Hope Franklin, who was a Presidential Medalist, is a Fisk graduate.

My experiences informed some of the stories that I wanted to tell because it's who I am. I'm a story teller.

FM: And you're also a professor?

NG: Well, yes. That came late in life. Having a real job came late in life. (chuckles) I would recommend [doing] it that way. A lot of people say, 'I'll get a real job and then when I get to be sixty, I'll retire and then I'll write.' I would recommend [doing] it the other way.

When I was at Columbia working toward my MFA degree, I completed my first book, "Black Feeling, Black Talk." It was a small book that I published myself. It was well received, but I think a lot of people in the academic world didn't take it seriously. Columbia didn't take it seriously. Every time that I get invited to speak at Columbia now...which reminds me...they owe me a degree.

(Laughter)

NG: They do. It's a two-year program. We had the two years so that we could, in fact, write [our] book. But, I wrote [my] book in one year. So I figured, 'Give me my degree and I'm going on.'

For me the whole point [of the first book] was to capture the age at the beginning my career. And, it's been a long career, at this point. At the beginning of my career, my objective was to give a voice to a people without a voice. I don't think that's necessary now. I think that Black America has found a voice. I think that today, among the great practitioners of that voice, is the Hip Hop Generation.

FM: You've found affinity with one of the largest figures in Hip Hop the person of the late Tupac Shakur.

NG: Tupac was a wonderful young man. I didn't know him [personally] but, when he was with the group Digital Underground, he gave me a shout-out. I was aware of Tupac because his mother, Afeni, was a Black Panther. She had been arrested, and we were all aware of that. We did fundraising and a lot of other things to help resolve that situation.

I wanted to make sure that my generation recognized and respected the kind of genius that [Tupac] brought. The two people that I most worried about as "the little old lady looking at the younger generation" were Prince and Tupac. Prince did, in many respects, escape the horrible things they had for him. On the other hand, we lost his music. It's just nowhere near what it was when it began.

FM: The title of genius is probably not something that a lot of people from your generation would bestow upon Tupac.

NG: Well the reason is that they would listen to what people were saying about him and not what he was saying. That's always a mistake. [My generation] might say 'Those guys are always cursing, shouting at people and saying mean things', but they were saying important things. Thank God for Kanye West, because he is saying important things. We miss Tupac because a lot of music has gone to "shake your booty" and you do get tired of that.

FM: There are very few artists who have this kind of resonance after their passing.

NG: Yes, but he was a tender man. I spend time with some of our emotionally disturbed youngsters and they can hear that in Tupac. Afeni has been very kind and she's sent me a lot of c.d.'s and I give them away if I'm visiting hospitals and things. And, I watch the kids and how people respond to [him.] He was a very important young man.

FM: What do you tell young adults that aspire to levels of greatness?

NG: I remind them that when they look at great artists, whether they're examining Tupac Shakur or William Shakespeare, that no one aspired to be great. That's one of the real problems of [the young] generation. They think, 'I want to be famous, and I want to be rich'. If you look at Shakespeare or if you look at Tupac, they just wanted to say something important. They knew that telling the emperor he has no clothes is a dangerous thing. Shakespeare did not get killed but a lot of artists did. In our day, a lot of artists are in jail. Look all over the world. In Africa, Asia and Chile, many artists poets and painters are being arrested and jailed. That's why P.E.N. [organization to protect the freedom of poets, playwrights, essayists and novelists] exists, and we have guilds that try to keep track of what's going on with artists because it's a very dangerous position to be in for young people. When you get old nobody listens to you anyway, so I can say what I want to say, but it was a very different situation when I was twenty-five.

FM: Is there is a different interest in agitation when you compare today's generation with previous ones?

NG: I think so, but I have a lot of faith in the young generation and I'm a big supporter of the Hip Hop Generation. I think that the young people are doing the next step. That's not everybody, but the next step is the business end. So, I am a big fan of Puffy because he has flipped his palate and his money into expanding the culture. "Vote or Die" was wonderful, but what I think is equally wonderful was "A Raisin in the Sun". The point is that no matter what you do, somebody's going to laugh at you. But, he brought back an important play and Lorraine Hansberry to a group of people who had not seen it. He brought people to Broadway who had never been to a Broadway theater because they didn't feel welcomed.

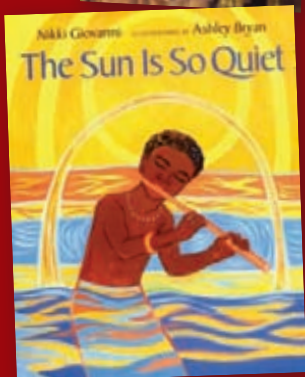
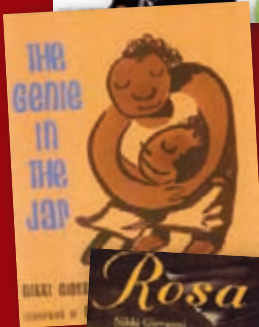
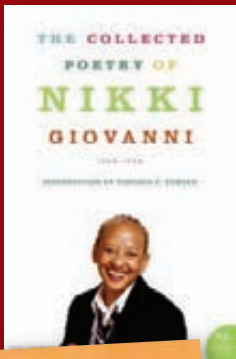
A SMALL SAMPLING OF NIKKI'S PUBLISHED WORK





In the subsequent years following her graduation, Nikki Giovanni has returned to her alma mater in various capacities to inspire new generations of thinkers.

A SMALL SAMPLING OF NIKKI'S PUBLISHED WORK



FM: What should young artists study to help them create new, relevant works?

NG: Well, young writers have to read. There's no getting around that. Spoken word artists have to listen to the spoken word. [Young artists] are sampling each other. It would be good if they would read more and delve deeper into the written word. Many people don't realize that Aesop was a slave and a black man. He was writing out of a desire to not have to be in the fields. A lot of people don't realize that Joel Chandler Harris, who is responsible for Uncle Remus, went to a cabin and listened to an old black man tell stories to his grandchildren. And, [the youth] have to realize that white people often sampled our culture and claimed it as theirs. A lot of black youngsters shy away from it thinking, 'It's not speaking to me.' But, they need to go back and [research] the origins.

FM: Who are some of your creative influences that you would recommend to young artists?

NG: All culture is in this mixing bowl and we're all baking a cake. I listen to the young people just as they listen to me. There are times when I'm going to stop and write a poem for Tupac. I didn't write a poem for [Notorious B.I.G.] because I didn't feel that close to [him] but that doesn't mean that he's not important...I can only [reflect] me, and I hope that other people do other things. One of the things to always remind people is that you have to listen to everything so that you can sift through it and make up your mind what is useful to you...John Coltrane was a great musician, but he also read poetry. Coltrane was a deeply spiritual man, too. All of these things come into play.

I do remind people, no matter how you feel about it, you should go to church every now and then. The music is fantastic, especially in the Holiness Church. If you were

interested in being a rapper and you said to me, 'Nikki, what do I need to do?' I would say to [visit] the Holiness Church. It's that preacher who is delivering your message. That's where it comes from. So, you have to go back and say, 'What's the source?' Then you have to learn how to do that. Now, he's talking about one thing, and he might be talking about something you may not be interested in. But, he has your rhythm, he has your beat, he has your delivery and he struts on that stage. He does what you want to do, and all the good emcees are going to do exactly what he's been doing.

FM: Is there a message of hope or inspiration for young Fiskites?

NG: First of all, you're at a great institution. Like anything that is great, it's so easy to overlook it because you're there and not seeing the history. Fisk is very meaningful, and like every other institution, Fisk has made some adjustments. People like me and some of the alums need to be a part of making a difference and some adjustments for the future. The idea of a small liberal arts college is extremely important.

The Fisk Experience has to continue. Although we educate proportionately fewer people, we send more people to grad school. Whatever we're doing in these small institutions, we're doing right and we must continue. We have to be concerned with how to insure that this experience remains for our children...Kids can go where they want to go, but the reality is that Black America needs to continue to have small liberal arts colleges. That doesn't mean that white people can't come, because we've [always] been integrated. It's the other schools that aren't. If we had not had the group that is now known as the United Negro Colleges, there would be no integration of colleges, because there wouldn't have been any reason.

FM: What new projects are you working on?

NG: I'm working on three books. My mother died in 2005. While I was sitting with her, I did what writers do. I wrote. Ultimately, two books came out of it. The first book will be called *Acolytes*. The other is called, "On My Journey Now" which is a look at the spirituals. I have page proofs on it and I'm going to be bringing it with me to Fisk. The Fisk Jubilee Singers are key elements in saving our University and a genre that everybody tried to suppress. Those spirituals are the testament to the greatness of our people in slavery.

The Living Legacy of the Harlem Renaissance: Dr. L.M. Collins

Dr. L. M. Collins is a lifelong learner, educator, and aficionado of literature.

He joined the Fisk University faculty in 1945 as a professor of English, teaching courses that have included all levels of composition and African American Literature. His course on the Harlem Renaissance featured his monograph "The Harlem Renaissance Generation." Dr. Collins' students have included Fisk Chairman of the Board of Trustees Reynaldo P. Glover, Fisk President Hazel R. O'Leary, as well as renowned poet Nikki Giovanni.

Dr. Collins has three advanced degrees (A.M., Fisk University; M.S.L.S., Case Western Reserve University; Ph.D., Case Western Reserve University) and has pursued further study at the universities of Havana, Oslo, Florence and Madrid. He continues to learn more about the interrelationships of the world's citizens through literature.

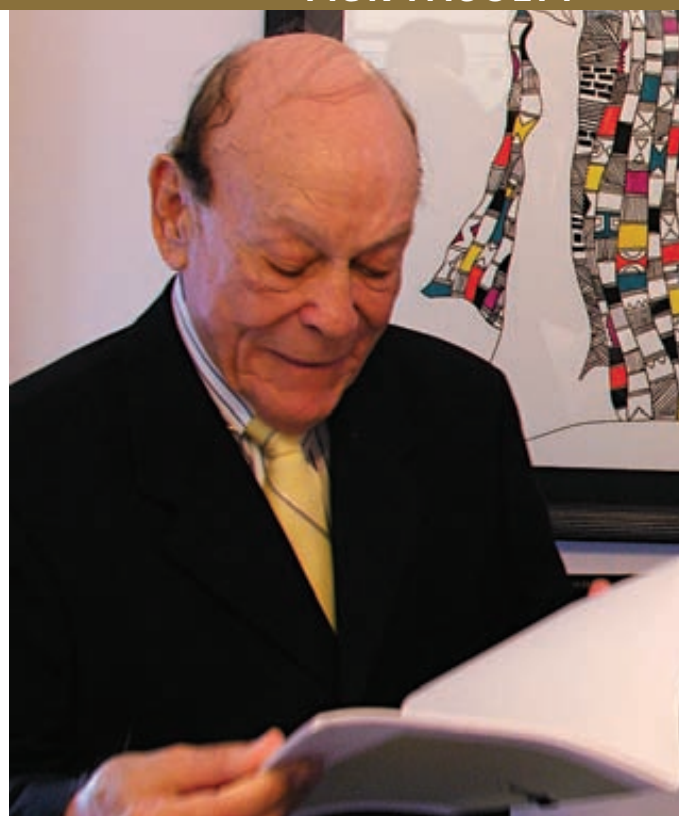
Recently FISK magazine sat down with Dr. Collins and asked him about key historical figures in his Fisk Experience and his steadfast commitment to teaching while providing inspiration to generations of Fiskites.

Origins and Introduction to Fisk

I first became associated with Fisk through James Weldon Johnson. I was interested in his guidance in creative writing. He advised me that he would be at Fisk and could counsel me. I was happy to do as he advised in that I have a keen appreciation for the African American authors (particularly as Johnson) since he was a potent force in the Harlem Renaissance. Another influence is Arna Bontemps, who was chief librarian for twenty-two years, as well as author of books for the younger reader. Johnson and Bontemps gave me entrée into meeting others of the Harlem Renaissance including Alaine Locke, Langston Hughes, Zora Neal Hurston and Sterling Brown.

Mr. Bontemps, himself an author, knew everybody on a first-name basis and corresponded with many. He and Langston Hughes had been the great promises of the Renaissance. My knowing him was an introduction to knowing and meeting these great writers. Through Mr. Bontemps, I became an associate of Margaret Walker. Bontemps and I invited her to come to the campus and talk to the students. She was a forceful public speaker and the author of the popular poem "For My People" and of the novel "Jubilee". Margaret Walker was a teacher at Jackson State College and brought her interest in the African American students' awareness of the very strong contributions of black authors to the literary scene. She

Apart from being a longtime faculty member and mentor, Dr. Collins reviewed books for the Tennessean, edited Listen Lord, a compilation of Jubilee Day prayers, meditations, tributes and testaments of faith by Fisk students, as well as publishing One Hundred Years of Fisk Presidents.



especially enjoyed her visits to Fisk where she said that the students inspired her with their very active reception of her as a person of color.

All of this leads me to observe that I know Fisk as a source of inspiration to be as strong and as sharing as a professor must be.

On "The Soul of Fisk University"

As any one of my students will certify, I am dedicated to the proposition that the university library may be defined as the soul of Fisk University. I honor the special mission of the librarians here as particular servants, teachers and preservers of the library and its system, through the long years of my service. I have maintained a cart of items from the Special Collections for use by students eager to learn whatever is presented for the preservation of the black experience and inclusive of the Harlem Renaissance.

They are the forces that define that soul constantly and insist that it be honored by everyone though everyone is not interested in the function of library. Sadly, many Americans do not want to read. It behooves those of us interested in the written communication of ideas, as well as in learning, to impress upon younger Americans to accept the mission and to lead younger citizens into strengthening their ability to communicate.

On "The Joy of Teaching"

My joy comes from being successful with a few who honor my mission and become disciples of learning. It is a joy when I discover that a particular student who had to discover the importance of books and reading as part of the factors in the learning process has achieved their goals and becomes a complete citizen in our society.

WFSK Recharges

to Capture Top Rankings Among National & Local College Radio Stations

With the help of the Fisk Family and a growing contingent of community supporters and volunteers, 88.1, WFSK-FM has become one of the freshest alternatives and popular choices among radio listeners in the Nashville area.

"Educating the students and keeping the community informed are paramount to the University," said Sharon Kay, station general manager and host of the city's highest rated Sunday morning talk show "What's The 411?"

Since 1973, 88.1 WFSK-FM has been the only non-commercial African American owned FM radio station in Nashville, Tennessee. In 2005, the station became a PRI affiliate and features smooth jazz, talk programs, and multicultural programming.

With Kay and WFSK Program Director Xuam "X-Man" Lawson's arrival, the University is building a stronger management and technical infrastructure, has increased student involvement, and has boosted community outreach. The new leadership team has directed and supervised the station's complete renovation and has moved to the forefront of radio technology with the addition of a new, computer automated broadcasting system. Since the duo's arrival, WFSK rose from 47th in the Nashville market of 52 stations to the 18th position.

"Fisk University is one of the most respected educational institutions in the United States, and it's our goal to make the radio station as equally respected," said Kay.

New and old listeners are proclaiming their support for the station and radio industry insiders are taking new interest in WFSK. In the fall of 2006, the station captured national honors by edging past Washington D.C.'s Howard and Louisiana's Grambling Universities and was chosen as "Best College Radio Station" at the second annual Black Press Awards.

Kay, Lawson and Fisk senior Frank Myers helped to capture the 2006 A.I.R. (Achievement



ABOVE: WFSK's Xuam Lawson, Frank Meyer and Sharon Kay accepted the 2006 March of Dimes' Achievement in Radio Award for best college station in Nashville.

in Radio) award for "Best College Radio Station in Nashville." The awards are sponsored by Curb Records and the March of Dimes. Winners are chosen by panels consisting of broadcasters from cities across the U.S. that evaluate each other's performances, show formats and broadcast quality.

"We're really looking to capitalize on the positive momentum from the recent accolades that the station has received," says Lawson. "The station has such a groundswell of new energy and community support."

"We are far from the peak of our momentum," said Fisk University Vice President of Communications and Public Relations Ken West. "After languishing for many years, the station is finally fulfilling its promise as a non-commercial entertainment and educational vehicle, and I think that it's refreshing for listeners to have WFSK as a choice on their radios. Soon we'll be streaming our programming on the Internet and subsequently, will be able to reach our alumni all over the world."

Volunteers and community advocates are rallying behind the station as never before.

When WFSK announced that it would have its first-ever, 48-hour radiothon to kickoff fall fundraising efforts, the station received financial

BOTTOM LEFT: With the diligent work of WFSK General Manager Sharon Kay (left) Xuam "X-Man" Lawson (center) and talented students like Nadira Freeman (right), the station has greatly improved its quality of broadcasting.

gifts, on-air support and behind the scenes help from the likes of Fisk President Hazel R. O'Leary, Mayor Bill Purcell, Congressman Jim Cooper, Dr. Roosevelt Peebles, former Tennessee Titan Chris Saunders, syndicated television and radio host Tavis Smiley, and musicians Ronnie Laws, Frank McComb and Kevin Whalum.

The listener support-base contributed \$32,900 during the entire month of October that will help WFSK enhance its technical infrastructure.

With the continued help of the Nashville community and the station's 40-plus volunteer staff, WFSK will continue to grow and provide Fisk with the opportunity for ongoing global and community engagement.

For more information on how to become an underwriter or supporter of WFSK, call 615-329-8754.



EXCEPTIONAL SCHOLAR PROGRAM Sets the Course for Academic Excellence

Twenty one first-year students at Fisk are making giant steps toward academic excellence, cultural enhancement and preparation for graduate studies by being selected to participate in the Exceptional Scholars Program.

"The Exceptional Scholars Program offers opportunities for high achieving incoming students to have a first-year experience at Fisk that is as holistic as possible," said program coordinator Dr. Adenike Davidson.

In addition to being the pathway for academically advanced freshmen to become honors students, the Exceptional Scholars Program's activities provide intimate contact with Fisk's invited convocation speakers, a "Fireside Chat Series" with professors at Fisk, networking seminars, summer internship programs and trips to two academic honors conferences.

With the National average ACT composite score at 20.9, successful candidates chosen for the Exceptional Scholars Program must have an ACT composite score of at least 26. Students must also demonstrate a record of community service and leadership.

In the program's first year of existence, the freshmen scholars are receiving opportunities for leisure activities that promote and enhance cultural development that include visits to Nashville's Frist Center Museum, Schermerhorn Symphony Center and the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis.

"We're trying to cultivate an environment in which star students don't feel alone, but can encourage each other in shaping their Fisk Experience," Davidson said. "We also want our students to be able to take the courses that meet the academic challenges they're looking for and to have experiences that can enhance their lives."

Students in the program have a variety of academic concentrations that include biology, business, math, engineering and sociology. The twenty one students meet three times weekly and discuss world issues, in addition to completing research assignments that sharpen their academic skills.

For students like India Wilson, Fisk's Exceptional Scholars Program has been the perfect fit. Wilson is a business major from Montgomery, Alabama, and she is the first in her immediate family to attend a four-year institution. In her first semester at Fisk, she earned a 4.0 grade point average.

"I like to motivate myself in ways that many of my peers avoid," Wilson said. "The Exceptional Scholars Program at Fisk includes a variety of people from different backgrounds. We all share the desire to engage in more in-depth study here at Fisk, so that we can be more competitive in the workplace."

Kaylia Duncan agrees and says the program provides the pathway she needs for excellence. As an international

student from St. Vincent & The Grenadines, Kaylia has found an environment in the Exceptional Scholars Program to stimulate her to consistent academic excellence. As a biology major and music minor, she also finished her first semester at Fisk with a 4.0 grade point average.

"I carry the thought of challenging myself everyday," Duncan said. "I want to stretch my academic limits to know what I can accomplish. In our study groups and in our activities outside of the classroom, we have one goal: We want to be successful students at Fisk University."

Dr. Davidson said the Exceptional Scholars Program is helping to raise the bar on academic achievement and provides the competitive environment at Fisk that adds to the school's legacy of 140 years of excellence.

"Our exceptional students will shape the future of Fisk," Davidson said. "We are proud of their contributions and models for academic excellence."

In January 2007, the Exceptional Scholars visited Nashville's Schermerhorn Symphony Center. Pictured with the students are Dr. Adenike Davidson; program coordinator and associate director of honors, Dr. Robert Nasatir; associate director of honors, Dr. James Quirin; director of honors, Chandra Ogleton; assistant director of financial aid, Aphreka Jemison; admissions counselor and Zablton Mgonja; Fulbright Scholar



Recent Fisk Graduate Begins New Life as Government Affairs Consultant

Since graduating from Fisk in May, Brandon Colvin has entered a world vastly different from the one he knew as a freshman.

During his collegiate tenure, he was a member of the elite Jubilee Singers, president of the Black Research Coalition, vice-president of the pre-alumni association, and a copy editor for *The Fisk Herald*. Since leaving the close-knit community he called home for the past four years, Brandon now resides in Birmingham where he works as an associate for a government affairs firm. His responsibilities include conducting government related research and consulting for the firm's clientele.

Armed with a degree in English, the Montgomery, Alabama native credits a holistic educational experience at Fisk as the tool that helped him successfully transition from the predictable college realm to the ever-changing real world.

"Fisk focuses on developing its students academically as well as providing them with the opportunity to develop interpersonal skills," he said recently. "You get more than just an academic foundation; you get a civic foundation at Fisk. As students we are not only prepared to compete with graduates from other institutions, but to excel in comparison."

"At Fisk you are welcomed into a network of successful people that treat you as a member of the family."

—Brandon Colvin

"At Fisk you are welcomed into a network of successful people that treat you as a member of the family. The level of instruction is top notch."

Schedule changes were probably the biggest adjustment Brandon needed to make once he entered the workforce.

"After graduation my schedule no longer evolved around when I had class," he stated. "I had to get used to a strict daily routine, which was probably my biggest transition."

The 2006 graduating class faced the best job market and highest starting salaries since 2001, according to a national employment survey. Brandon said he feels lucky to have been able to move directly into a promising career path following graduation.



"Whenever I speak to Fisk graduates, the perception is confirmed that Fisk prepares people to take charge of their lives as entrepreneurs, doctors, teachers, and for lives in government service," Colvin said.

Brandon found Fisk to be a nurturing but not coddling environment. He says the university conveyed a warm welcoming spirit and strong sense of community, which after an initial visit, validated his decision to attend.

"When I visited Fisk I was very impressed when I saw the administrators mingling with the students," he said. "There was a very personal element that I hadn't anticipated. When speaking with students and administrators, I was really shocked at how friendly and welcoming everyone was. It made me feel like I was home, although it was the first time I had visited the university."

"After that visit, I knew that's where I wanted to go."

Brandon often reflects on several individuals whom were instrumental in contributing to his overall development at Fisk. One in particular was Tarik Smith, an adjunct professor in psychology and research associate with the Race Relations

Institute whom he worked with while serving as a student research assistant at the institute.

"He was a professor that was very instrumental in preparing me mentally for what it was going to be like after college," he said. "He had a vested interest in me, not only as a student, but as an individual and helped shape my Fisk experience in a positive way."

Professor Smith said he isn't surprised about Brandon's accomplishments thus far and anticipates a promising future.

"He is an excellent student, and we are proud of his growth and development," said Smith. "His job as a lobbyist is perfect for him as he has excellent people skills and is business savvy. Brandon used his undergrad opportunity as a rite of passage to help him develop as a scholar, citizen and as a man."

Witnessing Brandon's success is a compliment to the objectives the faculty set out to achieve, Smith said.

"Brandon Colvin really embodies what we are trying to do here, which is to develop citizens. I believe he's going to make a good name for himself and continue to make the Fisk Family Proud," he added.

Brandon has joined the realm of a host of Fiskites who are contributors to the enduring legacy of the university. The 22-year-old hopes to one day become an entrepreneur, establishing himself to give back to the alma mater that has given so much to him.

FISK ALUMNI NOTES

If you are a Fisk alumnus with noteworthy news to share with the Fisk community, please submit your information to:

Joan Bahner, Executive Director of Alumni Affairs and Development, Fisk University, 1000 17th Ave. N., Nashville, TN 37208.

ALUMNI HONORS

1928

Beatrice Elizabeth McGhee Williams was surprised by family and friends with a celebration honoring her 100th birthday, November 19th. She is an educator, retiring from Spelman College. She is the mother-in-law of D. Bradley Williams '57.

1932

Geraldne I. Pierce Zimmerman has been recognized as Orangeburg's "Citizen of the Year" and received the state of South Carolina's highest honor, the Order of the Palmetto, for her community service. Mrs. Zimmerman is a retired educator.

1935

John Hope Franklin, Ph.D. is a co-winner of the prestigious John W. Kluge Prize for the Study of Humanity. Dr. Franklin has decided to donate a portion of the one million dollar prize to Fisk University. Dr. Franklin was additionally inducted into The National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame in Atlanta, Georgia during the 2006 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and was honored for Lifetime Achievement. Dr. Franklin is also included in *Ebony Magazine's* "100 Most Influential Black Americans" of 2006.

1941

Muriel Frasier Eneas has been listed in "Bahamian Legends" for her contributions in the field of education. She is the mother of **Cleveland W. Eneas, Jr. D.D.S. '64, Judson**



GAAFU, Inc. Chair, Denise Billye Sanders '74 (left) joins members of the Golden Class of 1956 (L-R), Alice Freese Church, Dr. Charles O. Dillard and Dr. Norman Hodges, at the podium during the Reunion 2006 Alumni Gala Banquet held at the Loews Vanderbilt Hotel.

F. Eneas, M.D. '67 and **Agreta Eneas-Carey, M.D. '75**; and grandmother of **Leah Eiliff Beatrice Eneas '05**; and mother-in-law of **Marcheta J. Eneas '70**.

Axel C. Hansen, MD., was honored in the U.S. Congressional Record for his stellar achievements and noteworthy contributions as a physician, educator, author and humanitarian.

1945

Antionette Roberta Baugh-James has published a novel "Our Dear Little Fields". It is the story of two highly professional families – one black – and one white, living in the early 70s. Struggling against the loathing, jealousy, envy, suspicion and bigotry from their communities; it shows how these two shameless societal sins were eventually defeated to some tranquility in their Dear Little Fields. It can be purchased at Borders, Barnes & Noble and on Amazon. She is working on another book, "Belle Meade", in which she will analyze growing up in Nashville.

1951

Sadie M. Clark received the Doctor of Arts in Special Education, June 2006, from Belford University. She was also honored with a Birthday Celebration in recognition of her 75th birthday in October 2005.

1953

Arnett W. Counts is Professor of Chemistry (Emeritus) with the Los Angeles Community College District; Missiles & Space (D.O.D).

1961

Carolyn Jordan Booker and her husband, Cary, celebrate the victory of their son, Cory, who has been elected Mayor of Newark, NJ.

To The Golden Class of 1956:

"Who We Are"

In '52, the Fates decreed
This tribe should find its meeting
The race commenced toward First Degree,
Four years were quickly fleeting.

We mavericks! We radicals!
We oddball mischief-makers!
We were the brightest and the best,
We movers and we shakers.

We studied, laughed, drank, marched, and sang-
Defended one another,
Stood strong and brave through "Sturm und Drang,"
With sister and with brother.

We've soldiered on with smile and tears
When circumstances battered;
We've given back our bounty's yield:
Each lived a life that mattered.

We traveled all around the earth
And gave each field a token;
But home from ten and forty years,
We've found our bond unbroken.

Our legacy? Another tribe,
With so unique a flavor,
Whose gathering five decades hence,
Has memories to savor.

So RAISE THE GLASS, O'56!
And hail our days rewarded!
And giving thanks, look up with joy,
We're signed, stamped, and recorded!

-By Vivian Elinor Beavers Norton,
Golden Class of 1956



Fiskites pause to remember fellow classmates at the memorial service during alumni weekend.

1956 **Johnetta Betsch Cole, Ph.D.** (FS) was featured in the September/October 2006 issue of "The Crisis". Dr. Cole currently serves as president of Bennett College in Greensboro, NC.

Alfreda Askew Johnson, Ed.D. has been awarded the Jesse S. Heiges Distinguished Alumnus Award by Shippensburg University. The Distinguished Alumnus Awards is the highest honor the university bestows upon a graduate.

He is the nephew of **Shirley A. Jordan Bailey, D.D.S. '58** and **Limuary A. Jordan, Jr. '67**.

Henry D. "Hank" Gaines, and his family, has produced a set of CDs, "The Family Trio" featuring "Henry" in a program "Henry D. Gaines presents Meditations", a group of traditional hymns, spirituals and selected Broadway hits that are appropriate for Christian meditation and fellowship. They are available for purchase through CD Baby at: cdbaby.com/familytrio.

Iral Davis Porter was honored with a "Retirement Celebration" by the University of Kansas School of Medicine – Health Careers Pathways Program, where she served as Assistant Dean, Office of Cultural Enhancement and Diversity. Porter retired after 32 years of service.

1963

Theopolis Fair, Ph.D. is serving a term (2003-2009) with Phi Beta Kappa Senate, the national governing body of the Phi Beta Kappa Society. He is also president of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society and begins 40 years as a member of LaSalle University's history department.

1964

Donna Daniels Rice was recognized as one of Maryland's Top 100 Women in 2006 by "The Daily Record". This annual program is designed to recognize women who not only have achieved professional success, but also have contributed to bettering the communities in which they work and live. This is the eleventh year for the recognitions.

The awards were distributed and the women celebrated on May 8, 2006 at the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall in Baltimore. Mrs. Rice is a current member of the Fisk Board of Trustees.

1965

Rita Sanders Geier, Esq. returned to Nashville, September 11, 2006 as a party in a 38 year old civil rights case to file a motion in court to dismiss the lawsuit. Tennessee State University will receive about \$40 million in state and federal funds over the next five years as part of the signing agreement settling the Geier desegregation case. It was formally dismissed in a federal court in Nashville on September 21st. Geier was a 23-year-old black law student and college instructor at Tennessee State University, when she sued the state over racial segregation in Tennessee's higher education system. The suit ended after Tennessee met its requirements to increase diversity, scholarships and opportunities for minorities at state universities and colleges.

P. Andrew Patterson, senior partner in the law firm of Thomas, Kennedy, Sampson & Patterson was awarded the Coca-Cola "Partner in the Promise" Award as the Minority Business Enterprise Supplier of the Year. Patterson is a member of the Fisk Board of Trustees.

1968

Lonnetta M. Taylor-Gaines, Ph.D. has written a new children's book called Fia and the Butterfly: 7 Stories for Character Education. The book is published by RoseDog Books and is available on line at: www.taylor-gaines.com or

call 800-834-1803. Dr. Gaines is vice president of the Lorraine Monroe Leadership Institute in New York City, consulting with principals and their teams helping them to increase student achievement in their schools.

Margo M. McKay was sworn in as U.S. Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Civil Rights by U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns. Ms. McKay follows Vernon B. Parker, who served as the first Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the Department of Agriculture (USDA). In this position, Ms. McKay ensures compliance with all equal employment opportunity and civil rights-related laws by USDA agencies and programs, and coordinates administration of these laws and regulations for the Department's employees and customers.

1969

Mary K. Bush has been elected to serve on the UAL Board of Directors. UAL's primary subsidiary is United Airlines. Bush is president of Bush International, which advises governments and corporate clients on capital markets and banking systems, as well as strategies to support market development and free enterprise.

1970

Amyre Porter Makupson was the featured speaker at the annual Christmas Market-Author Luncheon at St. James Episcopal Church in Houston, Texas. She signed copies of her book "So What's Next?" at the book signing that followed.

Celestine Cooper Williams, Ed.D. has been appointed Acting President of the Bahamas Baptist Community College in Nassau, Bahamas, where she is also serving as Academic Dean.

1971

John W. Bluford, III, has been elected to the American Hospital Association (AHA) Board of Trustees. The AHA is a not-for-profit association of health care provider organizations that are committed to health improvement in their communities. Bluford, who earned his MBA from Northwestern's Kellogg School of Business, is CEO/President of Truman Medical Centers.

Jeanetta Britt Newton has published "Pickin' Ground", "In Due Season" and "Lottie", with Twelve Stones Publishing. For information, go to: www.poemsfromthefast.com.

1973

Camilla J. Cobb, M.D. is Associate Professor of Pathology - Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California. She is also a member of the Cytopathology Resources

Committee for the College of American Pathologists, as well as a FDA consultant.

1974

Reverend Dr. William Flippin, Sr. - Inducted into The National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame in Atlanta, Georgia during the 2006 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. Dr. Flippin was honored for Faith & Theology. He is Senior Pastor at Greater Piney Grove Baptist Church in Atlanta, Ga.

Henry Lockett is serving as Director, Holmes County Department of Human Services in Mississippi.

Frank T. Martin (MA) has been appointed to the Florida Board of Governors by Governor Jeb Bush. The board is responsible for overseeing Florida's 11 public universities. Martin is vice president and division manager of PBS&J's national transit services division.

Denise Billye Bowers Sanders, JD, was honored by the YWCA of Nashville & Middle Tennessee and First Tennessee during the 15th annual Academy for women of Achievement awards ceremony. The event honors those whose leadership and success serve as role models for women and girls, encouraging and empowering them to lead by serving. Sanders is a Partner in Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis and currently serves as the chair of the General Alumni Association of Fisk University, Inc.

Marcus D. Williams, J.D. made his third appearance performing on bass with the Moonlighters on the Millennium Stage of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on August 23, 2005. He recently completed 15 years of service as a judge on the Fairfax Circuit Court in Fairfax, Virginia.

1976

Gwen Currie Edwards is the senior producer and host of Our Lives, with News 12 Connecticut. Our Lives celebrates African-American culture in southwestern Connecticut. Edwards was honored by the Foundation of American Women in Radio and Television with a third Gracie Allen Awards®, in the category of "Talk Show" for the weekend program. The Gracie Awards® were presented at the 31st Annual Grace Allen Awards® Local Market Awards Luncheon on Monday, June 20, 2006 at Tavern on the Green, New York City.

1978

Walter E. McGowan, Esq. has become a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. The induction ceremony took place before an audience of 460 persons during the Spring 2006 Meeting of the College in Hollywood, Fla. McGowan is a partner in the firm of Gray,

2000

Mandisa Hundley completed the tour with the top 10 American Idols. Mandisa is pursuing a career in contemporary gospel/worship music.



Fisk Alumna and American Idol finalist Mandisa Hundley shares in the Fisk Jubilee Day 2006 festivities.

Langford, Sapp, McGowan, Gray & Nathanson in Tuskegee, Ala. In January 2006, he became the first African American attorney for the State of Alabama to be inducted in the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA). He is married to Lowri M. Howard-McGovern, D.V.M. '73.

1982

Charlene D. Portee, DPT was reappointed to the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy. She is a charter member and current president of the American Academy of Physical therapy and chapter delegate for the Physical Therapy Association of Georgia.

1987

Theola V. Carter has been promoted to Section Chief – Bureau of Insurance Programs, Department of Workforce Development – Division of Worker's Compensation, with the state of Wisconsin.

1989

Kevin J. Hales is associate professor of History at Parkland College and a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He spent the summer in residence at the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture, at the College of Charleston. His project involves writing a book on the lives of free black people in Georgetown and Charleston Counties in South Carolina. He was included in the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's "Incomplete List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by They Students", "Who's Who Among American Teachers" (for the sixth straight year) and the "NISOD Teaching Excellence Award" given by the University of Texas at Austin.

1996

Terita R. Redd is in the cast of the New York Company Broadway play "Hairspray".

1993

Rel Dowdell, filmmaker, served as the Mastery Charter High School Commencement speaker in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

1996

Ruth E. Anderson, Esq. is Senior Counsel with Nissan of North America, Inc. in Farmington Hills, Mich.

Vikisha T. Fripp, M.D. has completed her General Surgery training at Howard University Hospital and her Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery training at Cornell University. She has affiliation with Piedmont Fayette Hospital, Rockdale Medical Center, Henry County Medical Center, Southern Regional Hospital and the operative suites located at Advanced Aesthetics, P.C., in the Greater Atlanta area. She is associated with the American College of Surgeons, Association of Women Surgeons, Atlanta Women's Medical Alliance, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., National Medical Association and the American Medical Association.

1998

Aisha X. Francis, Ph.D. is working at Boston Medical Center, concentrating on grant writing and fundraising.

2000

Rachel C. Waiters completed a season at Opera Memphis as an Artist-in-Residence 2006. While in Memphis, she made her operatic debut in the role of Maddalena in the opera "Rigolletto". She will return to the Opera Memphis to be a 2007 Artist-in-Residence and

to perform in the operas "Porgy and Bess" and in "Carmen".

2001

Angelica Katrice Butler wed Courtland Ramon Brooks-James on March 11, 2006 at Ebenezer Community Church in Nashville, Tenn. Angelica teaches sixth grade at John Early Paidea. The couple resides in Nashville, Tenn.

Sarah C. Igbokwe is in her third year of medical school in Havana, Cuba. She is among 100 Americans studying at the Latin American School of Medical Sciences on a full scholarship.

Sharia Kharif has completed her M. Ed. at Tennessee State University and recently published her third book. One of her publications was nominated for a 2005 NAACP Image Award. She lives and teaches in Nashville, TN.

Candace Robinson has joined the faculty at Fisk University as a professor in Department of Fine Arts and Modern Foreign Language.

Sarah C. Igbokwe is in her third year of medical school in Havana, Cuba. She is among 100 Americans studying at the Latin American School of Medical Sciences on a full scholarship.

2003

Robert Levon Poole directed a production of James Weldon Johnson's "God's Trombones" at the Belcourt Theatre on June 29, 2006 in Nashville, Tenn. He is the son of **Kathleen Walker Poole '73** and **Robert S. Poole '72**.

Francyss Pratt is serving as head of the Department of Specialist Teachers at Kingsway School in Nassau, Bahamas. She has taught at Kingsway since 2004.

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Cecelia N. Adkins, woman of many 'firsts,' dies at 83

By Anita Wadhvani, Staff Writer

Nashville's Cecelia Nabrit Adkins, who broke the gender barrier by becoming the first woman in the United States to head a religious publishing house, has died. She was 83.

Mrs. Adkins worked her way up from junior accountant to executive director of the Nashville-based Sunday School Publishing Board of the National Baptist Convention U.S.A. in 1975.

She attributed her success in the then-male-dominated world of Christian publishing—where she worked 53 years—to competence, toughness and "thinking like a man," she said in 1989.

"I hope I can be a role model for young women," she said at the time. "I want them to see that it's possible, actually, to be the first at something."

She led in many areas

Mrs. Adkins was the first African-American woman to be appointed to the Metro-Nashville Board of Education and the first woman to serve on the Board of Directors of the Nashville Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta.

She was also the first woman and African-American to serve as head of the Protestant Church-owned Publishers Association. A graduate of Fisk University and a certified public accountant, Mrs. Adkins was also the first woman to serve as chairman of the board of the university.

"She was a pioneer in terms of women moving in financial circles that were exclusive

to men," said the Rev. Edwin Sanders, pastor of the Metropolitan Interdenominational Church. "She was someone who clearly had tremendous credentials and status in the community but was accessible to everyone."

Her niece, Cynthia Clark Matthews, a retired federal government attorney, said Mrs. Adkins was "a great inspiration. I always felt like I would never be able to live up to her standards. She was smart and beautiful and so glamorously dressed," wearing business suits and ball gowns with the panache of a 1930s movie star, Matthews said.

Siblings were achievers

A native of Atlanta, Mrs. Adkins was the youngest of eight children who moved to Nashville when their father, the late Dr. James Nabrit Sr., became president of the American Baptist Seminary.

Among her siblings, who have all died, were James Nabrit Jr., a civil rights attorney and president of Howard University in Washington, D.C.; Margaret Curry, the first African-American professor at Spelman College in Atlanta; Samuel Nabrit, a marine biologist and president of Texas Southern University in Houston; and Lois Clark, head librarian at Knoxville College.

As a teenager, Mrs. Adkins met her husband, the late John Willis Adkins, while a musician for the choir of the Progressive Missionary Baptist Church. They married in 1944 and together opened the J.W. Adkins Funeral Home, which



is now operated by their nephew. The couple had no children.

"Cele," as she was known to acquaintances, was known for her warmth and loyalty to friends, said Tabitha Williams, who met Mrs. Adkins in the seventh grade. "Even with all of her intelligence, her grit, her great strides in life, she was a people-person who never lost touch with her friends along the way."

Mrs. Adkins died Saturday at her home after a long illness. Visitation will take place from noon to 7 p.m. today in Adkins Funeral Home, 2510 12th Ave. S. Services are scheduled for 11 a.m. Friday in World Baptist Center, followed by the funeral at noon. World Baptist Center is at 1700 World Baptist Drive.

MEMORIAL NOTES

Friends

Mavis Walker Donnelly, b. June 24, 1923, d. December 13, 2004, Nashville, Tennessee. Mavis Donnelly served as the former administrative assistant in the Office of Alumni Affairs, and was the widow of William Dickerson Donnelly '31, former Fisk Alumni Secretary.

Reginald L. Jones, Ph.D., d. September 24, 2005, Oakland, Calif. Dr. Jones taught at Fisk University.

Dr. Nathan Riser, b. April 11, 1920, d. July 26, 2006, Swampscott, Massachusetts. Dr. Riser served as chair of the Zoology Department at Fisk University.

Reverend Wilson Q. Welch, d. June 3, 2005, Nashville, Tennessee. Reverend Welch served on the faculty of Fisk University in the Department of Religion and Philosophy. He also was the husband of Mary McKelvey Welch, Ph.D., retired Fisk University professor and father of Jean Welch Wilson '65.

Graduates and Former Students

Edward J. Daniels, d. February 12, 2006, Hyannis, Massachusetts

Alicia Pearl Simmons Fuller (FS), b. September 8, 1949, d. June 26, 2006, Dallas, TX. Sister of **Dr. Sheila Simmons '68**.

Natona Emorette Pope Hamilton (FS), b. May 6, 1954, d. June 11, 2006, Atlanta, GA.

Dr. Laurence Milton Hayes, b. June 24, 1921, d. May 12, 2006, Montgomery, AL.

Robert Douglass Hudson, Jr. (FS), d. December 30, 2004, Greenfield, OH.

Willie Lee Marsh, Sr., d. May 19, 2006, Nashville, TN.

Rickey Matthews, d. August 14, 2006, Memphis, TN.

Delores Delrio "Dee" Moore (FS), d. March 20, 2006, New York, NY.

Marguerite Ogleton Penn (FS), d. September 28, 2003, Los Angeles, CA. Mother of **Donna Penn Towns '58**.

Dorothy Lee Kapp Poole (FS), b. July 12, 1927, d. March 12, 2006, Cleveland, OH.

Garland H. Puckett (MA), b. October 12, 1917, d. May 29, 2006, Los Angeles, CA.

Mary Louise Brown Roberts (FS), b. July 8, 1927, d. May 10, 2006, Houston, TX.

Joyce Gunner Townes, b. December 24, 1931, d. June 25, 2006, Spokane, WA.

Aaron "Baby Brother" Wade, III (FS), d. July 10, 2006, Murfreesboro, TN. Husband of **Connie A. Jones Wade, Ed.D. '75** and brother of **Jacqueline E. Wade, Ph.D. '62**.

Ruby B. Washington (MA), b. December 7, 1949, d. August 16, 2006, Greensboro, NC.

Helen Louise West (FS), b. June 13, 1916, d. July 23, 2006, Dayton, OH.

1926 Helen P. Holland, d. December 2, 2004, Tuskegee Institute, AL.

1927 Jesse J. Gandy, b. August 3, 1900, d. March 11, 2002, Birmingham, AL.

1931 Emma Mae Baugh, d. March 8, 2006, Beaumont, TX.

Nadine R. Stanfield, d. February 18, 2006, Dallas, TX. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions be sent to Fisk University, Office of Alumni Affairs, 1000 17th Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37208 and designated for the scholarship fund in her memory.

1934 William Allison Vivette, b. May 4, 1911, d. January, 2004, Oklahoma City, OK.

1935 Dr. William J. Harvey, III, d. Sept. 20, 2006, Philadelphia, PA.



Family members of Dr. Charles S. Johnson, Jr. late of Dayton, Ohio, the eldest son of noted Sociologist and first African American president of Fisk University (1946-1956) Charles S. Johnson, Sr, gather on steps of Jubilee Hall after funeral services in Nashville, Tennessee on October 3, 2006. The Repast was hosted by Fisk President Hazel R. O'Leary and Fisk University.

Evelyn Evans Spencer, d. July 6, 2006, Chicago, Illinois.

1936 Lois R. Smith, b. April 20, 1917, d. July 11, 2006, Walkertown, North Carolina.

1937 Evelyn Hardin Dillon, b. August 1, 1919, d. September 23, 2003, Durham, NC.

Elizabeth Howse Tipton, d. January 14, 2006, Silver Springs, MD.

1938 Lillian White Allen (MA '40), b. August 8, 1918, d. October 30, 2001, in Columbus, OH. Sister of **George R. White, DDS, '42**. Her family produced five generations of Fisk University students, including Georgia Gordon Taylor, one of the first Fisk Jubilee Singers. The family requests that memorial contributions be made to the General Alumni Association of Fisk University, Inc.

Wylene F. Royal, Los Angeles, CA.

1939 Ruthcelia Lane, d. 2004, Houston, TX. Sister of **Franceta M. Lane '42**.

1940 Dr Alexander L. Brewer, D. December 3, 2006.

1941 Olyve M. Lacour, Diamond Bar, California.

Hon. Alpha L. Montgomery, Sr., b. February 1, 1919, d. March 31, 2004, San Diego, CA. One of San Diego's first black trial lawyers, he provided the legal impetus that forced the San Diego, U.S. Grant and El Cortez hotels to rent public rooms to blacks for meetings and social functions. He was appointed to the Superior Court bench in 1979. Father of **Anne LeVonne Montgomery Harris '66**.

1942 Maude Cummings Smith, d. August 4, 2004, Orchard Beach, ME. Mother of **Anne LeVonne Montgomery Harris '66**.

Charles S. Johnson, Jr., M.D., d. September 26, 2006, Dayton, OH. Husband of **Rosamond (Darden) Johnson '44**; brother of **Patricia Johnson Clifford '45**; brother-in-law of **Gloria Darden '47**; uncle of **Janice E. Darden Frame '70**. Dr. Johnson is the son of Charles S. Johnson, the first black president of Fisk University. Contributions in the memory of Dr. Johnson may be made to the Charles S. Johnson Scholarship Fund, Office of Institutional Advancement, Fisk University, 1000 17th Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37208

1943 Tardiefay Davis Dorsey, b. December 16, 1922, d. May 30, 2006, Chicago, IL.

Yvonne White Ruffin, d. October, 2003, Columbus, OH. Sister of **George R. White, DDS '42**, of Columbus, OH. Her family produced five generations of Fisk University students, including Georgia Gordon Taylor, one of the first Fisk Jubilee Singers.

- 1944** Edgar Cosby, DDS, b. August 4, 1921, d. August 22, 2004, Gainesville, FL.
- 1946** Enid C. Hairston, b. September 3, 1924, d. June 16, 2006, Washington, DC.
Lydia T. Wright, MD. (FS), d. August 23, 2006, Buffalo, NY.
- 1947** Ruth Bryant, d. June 2005, Nashville, TN.
Lottie S. Hampton Knight, b. October 1, 1927, d. August 28, 2006, Hampton, VA.
Merlyn Y. "Dolly" Dailey Morrisette, b. April 26, 1927, d. August 9, 2006, Chicago, IL. Mother of Wanda Day '77, Sheralyn Hector '72, and Walter Morrisette '74; grandmother of Kelly Day '03, Stephani Day '05; sister of Earl Dailey '51 and Barbara Dailey McIntosh '57; sister-in-law of Nina Lloyd Dailey '52. Dolly served as treasurer for the General Alumni Association of Fisk University, Inc. for many years.
Frances E. Calhoun Murray, d. April 4, 2006, Jacksonville, FL.
- 1948** Thomas W. Stanley, b. September 8, 1930, d. October 16, 2003, Chevy Chase, MD. Husband of Joan M. Jackson Stanley '48.
Geneva McCarter Hawkins, b. November 26, 1926, d. September 6, 2006, Louisville, KY.
- 1950** Edwyna Goodwin Anderson, Esq., d. July 31, 2003, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
Reverend Snowden I. McKinnon, b. November 17, 1913, d. April 20, 2006, Dallas, TX. Husband of Linda R. McKinnon '51.
Theodore Wallace, b. November 16, 1922, d. February 9, 2005, Dallas, TX. Brother of Earnest L. Wallace '48.
- 1951** Marjorie Boyd Debnam, d. October 18, 2004, Raleigh, North Carolina. Mother of Marjorie Lynnette Debnam, M.D. '86, Marie G. Debnam, M.D. '86, and Qadriyya J. Debnam, Ph.D. '94
Gwendolyn W. Henderson, Ph.D., d. July 25, 2006, Fletcher, NC.
William R. Lewis, M.D., d. December 13, 2004, Griffith, IN.
- 1952** William H. Anderson, b. May 10, 1928, d. October 27, 2004, Chicago, IL. Husband of Betty Bramlette Anderson '52. Father of Michael Anderson '76.
James Eaton, Sr., d. October 26, 2004, Tallahassee, Florida.
Carlton Roy Hodgson, M.D., b. October 19, 1930, d. January 10, 2004, White Plains, NY. Husband of Jocelyn Smith Hodgson '55.
Ruth Sneed Jefferson, d. December, 2004, mother of Glenn Edgar Jefferson, Houston, Texas.
- 1953** Joseph Robinson Phillips, b. July 27, 1957, d. December 24, 2005, son of Sarah L. Phillips, Guthrie, Oklahoma.
John Henry Stubbs, b. May 9, 1923, d. February 18, 2006, Kansas City, MO.
- 1954** Andrew "Buddy" Dancy, M.D., Memphis, Tennessee. Husband of Arlie Caswell Dancy '60.
Coleman Miller, Jackson, Mississippi.
Aline A. Rivers-Jones, Ph.D., b. April 20, 1932, d. June 30, 2004, Stone Mountain, Georgia. Former Director of Admissions at Fisk and Spelman College.
Wilbia Ann Williams, b. September 10, 1933, d. May 12, 2003, St. Louis, MO.
- 1955** Margaret M. Crosthwaite, d. Sept. 15, 2003, Charlottesville, Virginia (formerly of Detroit, Michigan). Mother of Harold J. Crosthwaite and mother-in-law of Sarah S. Austin-Crosthwaite '54. Daughter-in-law of Minnie Crosthwaite, who served as Registrar at Fisk and for whom Crosthwaite Hall is named.
Norma Ann Allen-Parker, d. July 22, 2006, Tampa, Florida.
- 1956** Charles G. Costley, Ph.D., d. March 22, 1997, Mt Vernon, NY.
- 1957** Barbara Lane Baxer, November 2001, Chicago, IL.
John E. Brown, Jr., b. August 27, 1934, d. August 20, 2006, Long Branch, NJ.
Vander E. Harris, Sr., b. December 17, 1932, d. October 19, 2004, Baltimore, MD. Husband of Janie Greenwood Harris, JD '60; brother of Virginia Harris Bright '61.
- 1958** Gene Raymond Plunkett, b. October 6, 1936, d. October 18, 2004, Jamaica, NY.
Bobby Leonard Shelton, D.V.M., b. April 19, 1932, d. April 14, 2006, Detroit, MI.
- 1959** Daisy Shirley Reddix, d. Oct. 1, 2006, mother of Shirley A. Reddix Vanderpool, Jackson, MS. Mrs. Reddix was 106 years old, and the widow of Dr. Joseph L. Reddix, former president of Jackson State University.
- 1961** Harriett A. Wedgeworth Clark, Esq., d. June 1, 2003, Oakland, CA. Former Parliamentarian for the General Alumni Association of Fisk University, Inc.
Roland Lewis, d. December 9, 2004, Dyer, IN.
Judith L. Hicks Thompson, d. August 17, 2003, Jacksonville, FL. Mother of Candace A. Thompson '85; sister of Lauren Hicks Barton '75.
- 1963** Frankie Campbell Green, d. November 17, 2003, Schaumburg, IL.
Dr. John Edward Perry, II, b. October 20, 1935, d. September 10, 2006, Houston TX. Husband of June Marilyn Mitchell Perry.
- 1964** Aubry Carter Douglas, M.D., b. February 1, 1943, d. January 7, 2004, Houston, TX.
Armand Anne Bush Hawkins (FS), d. March 8, 2006, Cleveland, OH.
Willard Williamson, d. April 6, 2005, Las Cruces, NM.
- 1966** Samuel M. Weeks, M.D., d. October 2, 2002, Lexington, KY.
Dr. Hayward O. Handy, b. August 16, 1926, d. September 20, 2006, Huntsville, AL.
Rhoda Jean Beasley Malone, b. February 26, 1945, d. July 24, 2006, Champaign, IL.
- 1968** Francena Culmer-Brooks, d. August 6, 2001, Miami, FL.
- 1970** Chrystine Askew Gomillion, d. October 2004, Detroit, MI.
- 1974** Stephanie Y. McMillan, b. September 27, 1952, d. June 6, 2006.
- 1975** Philip J. Browning, M.D., d. June 22, 2004, Brentwood, TN.
- 1976** Donnie Sadler, d. September 18, 2006.
- 1978** Dino Meminger, d. January 2004, Ithaca, NY.
- 1979** Michael Duke, d. September 22, 2006, Cincinnati, OH.
Trinita G. Fitzgerald (MA), b. June 17, 1954, d. August 3, 2005, Franklin, TN.
- 1980** Michael Eugene Stiner, b. October 27, 1956, d. May 24, 2006, Clarksville, TN.
- 1982** George B. Hill, Brooklyn, NY
- 1985** Robert Xavier Williams, III, M.D., b. November 29, 1952, d. August 4, 2006, Baltimore, MD. Husband of Erin Toole Williams '91; son-in-law of Blanche Thompson Toole '59 and Theron Toole '58.
- 1994** Tracey A. Miller-Torbert, Ph.D., d. July 2, 2006, Nashville, TN.
- 1996** Reginald Galloway (FS), November 8, 2005, Houston, TX.
- 2000** Leah Lorencia Dixon, b. November 15, 1977, d. August 12, 2003, Saint Louis, MO.
- 2002** Koehler Q. Ramsey, b. June 30, 1978, d. August 4, 2004, Nashville, TN (formerly of Tunica, MI).

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Enhanced Physical Assets

As a historic university, we are blessed with a campus on the register of Historic Places. Our campus master plan sets out priorities to address the challenges associated with maintaining these grand structures, as well as modernizing our facilities to meet the needs of our students.

With the aid of a Department of Justice Security Grant in the amount of \$700,000, phase one of campus security enhancements began in February 2007. That phase includes exterior cameras throughout campus, emergency call boxes placed around the campus, card reader access at all residence halls, interior and exterior cameras in the Carl Van Vechten Gallery, and the installation of a security monitoring system, located in the office of public safety.

Fisk, in conjunction with a local architectural firm, is finalizing a document that will outline the University's master plan for facilities and grounds. This plan supports the key initiatives of global and community engagement, enhanced physical assets, financial strength, academic excellence and infrastructure.

"We are caretakers of a century and a half of historical architecture."



Clockwise from top right:

Jubilee Hall is the first permanent structure erected for the exclusive use of educating African American students.

The renovation of the Boyd House provides an updated facility for tutoring and outreach for Fisk's international students.

Fisk's restored outdoor tennis courts represent a partnership between the university and our local government. They will be ready for use by Fall 2007.

Fisk's facilities and grounds team provides maintenance for the University's nationally recognized landmarks.

Fisk's Special Collections in the John Hope and Aurelia Elizabeth Franklin Library is a source for cultural enrichment for visitors from around globe.





140 Years of Leadership



- Over 70% of Fisk graduates go on to attend graduate and professional schools
- A recent National Science Foundation study revealed that Fisk graduates more African Americans who go on to earn a PhD in the natural sciences than any college or university in the nation
- Nearly 10% of Fisk's Class of 2006 qualified for the Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society
- For the fifteenth consecutive year, Fisk has been included among the "Best 361 Colleges" as selected by the Princeton Review

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