Jarvis Christian College Confers Degrees upon the Class of 2013

Accompanied by all the usual pomp and circumstance, the Jarvis Christian College commencement program held Saturday, May 4, 2013, in The Anthony Robinson Varsity Gymnasium, brought nearly one thousand people together to support, encourage, and celebrate the accomplishment of the graduating Class of 2013.

College President, Dr. Lester Newman conferred the degrees of Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Business Administration and Bachelor of Science degrees on the graduates as follows: Bachelor of Arts (1), Bachelor of Business Administration (6), and Bachelor of Science (35) including 1 in nursing and 3 in education.

Delivering a brief but energetic commencement address, Dr. Charles E. Steele, President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), told the audience that he came from humble beginnings, had teachers who did not believe in him, and that to keep moving forward sometimes
you have to lose old friends and acquire new ones. He also reminded the graduates that the milestone occasion of the day marks the beginning of their journey towards greatness.

The SCLC traces its beginnings back to the Montgomery Bus Boycott which began on December 5, 1955, after Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a white man on the bus. The boycott lasted for 381 days and ended on December 21, 1956, with the desegregation of the Montgomery bus system. In 1957, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. helped found the SCLC and served as the organization’s first president.

Student speakers Candis Davis, Criminal Justice Major, Class of 2013 Magna Cum Laude, extended a greeting and Shawnte Lawson, Education Major, Class of 2013 Magna Cum Laude and Miss UNCF Jarvis, delivered the farewell address. The Jarvis Christian College Choir sang two songs.

After inducting the entire class of 2013 into the Jarvis Christian College National Alumni Association (JCCNAA), Dr. Charles W. Edwards, President, increased the organization’s membership by 42.

Fourteen septuagenarians, who are members of the class of 1963, were presented golden diplomas marking the 50-year milestone as a Jarvis Christian College graduate still connected and involved with their Alma Mater.

Jarvis Christian College is a historically Black liberal arts, baccalaureate, degree-granting institution affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The mission of the College is to prepare students intellectually, socially, spiritually, and personally to pursue professional and graduate studies and productive careers, and to function effectively in a global and technological society.