

# The JARVISONIAN

2019 YEAR-IN-REVIEW

## Jarvis Awarded Accreditation of Its **Business Program**

THE “PRODIGAL  
SON” RETURNS

STUDENTS  
SEARCH FOR  
CANCER CURE

TWO INDUCTED  
INTO PIONEER  
HALL OF FAME

The Alumni Magazine for Jarvis Christian College

**ISSUE**

①

**Fall 2019**

# Jarvisonian



## ON THE COVER

Gabrielle Omichi-Quintero selected for Pre-Law Undergraduate Scholars Program at The University of Akron

## AUDIENCE

Alumni, Students, Community, and Friends of the College

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## ABOUT

### JARVIS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Jarvis is a historically black liberal arts baccalaureate degree granting institution. The College's mission is to prepare students, intellectually, socially, spiritually and personally to pursue professional and post-baccalaureate and productive careers.

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# President's Letter

Dear Alumni and Friends,

On behalf of the Jarvis Christian College Board of Trustees, Administration, Faculty, Staff and Students, I am pleased to extend greetings to you; and I would like to thank each of you for your support during the Fiscal Year 2018-2019.

As many of you know, the year was filled with a renewed energy and great programs and initiatives, which enhanced our students' academic experience. We were able to expose them to persons who have made a powerful impact on the lives of others. Below are some of those programs/initiatives.

- The Black History Convocation, with **Mr. Charles Steele Jr., President and CEO of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference**, serving as the keynote speaker on February 20, 2018.

- The Founders' Convocation, with **Reverend Teresa Hord Owens, General Minister and President of the Christian Church**, serving as the keynote speaker on March 20, 2018.

- The J.N. Ervin Lecture Series, with **Dr. Menah Pratt-Clark, accomplished author and Vice President for Strategic Affairs and Vice Provost for Inclusion and Diversity at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech)**, serving as keynote speaker on March 22, 2018. She is the daughter of Mrs. Mildred Sirls Pratt, an alumnae of Jarvis Christian College, who went on to become the first African-American female to receive a terminal degree in Social Work—on which one of her books is based.

- The Honors Convocation, with **Mr. Kevin Williams, former President and CEO of General Motors of Canada**, serving as the keynote speaker on April 17, 2018.

- The Social Justice Conference, held April 18, 2018, was an awesome conference with three major icons...**Dr. Charles Steele Jr., President of the Southern Leadership Conference; Dr. Bernard Lafayette, Co-Founder of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee; and Dr. Robert Franklin, the inaugural James T. and Berta R. Laney Chair in Moral Leadership at Candler School of Theology, Emory College.**

- The 2018 Commencement Ceremony, with **Mr. Jesse J. Holland, Race and Ethnicity writer for the Associated Press and author of the companion novel for the Black Panther Movie**, serving as keynote speaker. **Mr. Jamie Foxx, award winning actor, comedian, and singer**, was awarded the Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters.



In addition to the exciting events held in Spring 2018, we met many of our institutional goals. We have enhanced our academic programs to include courses in data analytics and cybersecurity. We have established an MOU with UT Tyler, which offers undergraduate degrees in engineering for majors they do not have. Professor Trenton Judson has agreed to serve as the lead on the student research journal. Academic offerings and courses at the Dallas Teaching Site have been enhanced through the offering of certification programs in data analytics, cybersecurity and continuing education courses in religion, business and criminal justice.

- We are looking forward to hosting a **Pre-Health Academy** in conjunction with the University of Texas Health Science Center. The Academy, scheduled to begin in August 2019, will be a venue to provide students seeking employment in health-related careers (e.g., medicine, nursing, dentistry, pharmacy, physical therapy, etc.) a structured curricular and co-curricular pathway to adequately prepare for advanced study. The Pre-Health Academy promotes research, job shadowing, volunteering, and clinical experiences in collaboration with the University of Texas Health.

We remain committed to the Jarvis Promise of providing an affordable education within an environment that is academically challenging, supportive, nurturing and responsive to the needs of the “whole” student. We will continue to focus intensely on student success, with indicators being retention rates, graduation rates and gainful employment, the latter of which will afford graduates to repay loans. We will continue to focus intensely on student exposure and student success! As always, I am appreciative of your continued support.

Sincerely,  
Lester C. Newman

# A MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT



## Greetings, Fellow Bulldogs!

Welcome to the year-in-review edition of the Jarvisonian! We hope you enjoy reading exciting news that is happening on campus as well as accomplishments of students and fellow alums. From an organizational standpoint, the state of the association is stable, but there is much room for improvement.

The executive cabinet will outline ways we can improve in three areas: membership, fundraising, and alumni engagement. Once that assessment is done, it will be sent out for your input. This will include quantitative targets for each area. We have to be intentional in our planning and execution.

So the question is what needs to be done? I ask each of you to do an honest self-assessment of your personal investment in Jarvis. Then ask yourself whether you have done your part and if there is more that you could do. If you think you're doing all you can do, please continue those efforts. They are much appreciated. If you think you could do more, please find an area that you are passionate about and invest your time, talents and treasure. We need you to actively participate with either a local alumni chapter, the national association, or on campus. The 2019-2020 Fiscal Year began June 30, 2019. Annual dues are \$40 for national dues. Each chapter establishes their own dues. For example, in Alabama our total dues are \$65.00 (\$25 local/chapter dues and \$40 national dues.). You do not have to be attached to a chapter to be involved with the association. If there is not a chapter in your area, just pay the national dues.

The important part is your love and affection for Jarvis and the yearning to make it better. Great change does not happen overnight. I really need your help to see this through. To quote our alma mater, "You can be none but great." But in this instance, I will change it slightly and say, "We can be none but great."

I am humbled that you trust me to lead this organization. There is much room for improvement for me. I promise to be more intentional in my stewardship of the organization. Please hold me accountable. I welcome your input and constructive criticism. I do not take this responsibility lightly. Without my Jarvis experience, I do not know where I would be. Because of my Jarvis experience, I am able to take care of my family and provide resources back to my community. I am forever thankful and indebted to Jarvis.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to call or text me at (256) 683-7077 or email me at [darnell.whitneyjr78@gmail.com](mailto:darnell.whitneyjr78@gmail.com).

**Darnell Whitney, Jr. c/o '02**

President

National Alumni Association

# A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI AFFAIRS



**Dear Jarvisonians,**

I take this opportunity to extend a warm and sincere greeting to each of you to solicit your support as we continue our recruitment and financial efforts for the year.

More than ever, we need your assistance in identifying young men and women who want to pursue a quality education as well as your financial support.

Jarvis Christian College is where we learned to be able to change one's mind, to ask better questions, and especially to get better at discussing disagreements. These are all truer measures of success than conventional benchmarks. Our classes were engaging and humbling experiences. We learned tools of resiliency, coping mechanisms and strategies for learning. All this and more resulting in one earning a college degree.

Think about the path your life has taken and the influence Jarvis has had on it—great friendships, your professional success, discovering lifelong passions, maybe even finding the love of your life. Our Jarvis education and experiences made, and continue to make, so much possible for us. So, can we help another student enjoy the same by recruiting him or her to Jarvis?

Additionally, there is strength in numbers and we believe alumni contributing \$250.00 or more above their current giving will have a positive impact on the College. Through the Jarvis Strong Campaign, we are encouraging all alumni to lead by example and to make an additional generous gift of \$250.00 to Jarvis by December 31, 2019.

As alumni, it is our charge to lead in the support of Jarvis Christian College. Please recruit and contribute to assure that we achieve our goal. Each of us is an important link in the continuous success of our Alma Mater.

Remember, a college is only as strong as its alumni. Thanking you in advance for your support.

**William Hampton, c/o '78**

Executive Director  
National Alumni Association

## Jarvis Christian College Awarded Accreditation for its Business Program



L to R: Dr. Joseph Esin, Dr. Alison Mukweyi, Dr. Isaac Adeeko, (seated) Dr. Benson Kariuki

The Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs Baccalaureate/Graduate Degree Board of Commissioners has awarded Jarvis Christian College accreditation for its business programs. “Jarvis Christian College has shown a commitment to teaching excellence and to the process of quality improvement by participating in the accreditation process,” said Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) Chief Accreditation Officer Dr. Steve Parscale, who presented the Certificate of Accreditation at ACBSP Conference 2019 in Houston, Texas last June.

“This accreditation is evidence that JCC is committed to providing the highest quality business education for their students.” Jarvis President Dr. Lester C. Newman said the designation reflects the excellence in the college’s business division. “This is very significant for our students, the business

faculty and the entire college,” Newman said. “This accrediting group has an international reputation. Receiving its seal of approval means we have a top-shelf business program.” Jarvis offers a business administration degree with concentrations in accounting, management, computer information systems and cybersecurity.

“Program accreditation is one of our key goals,” said Dr. Glenell Lee-Pruitt, Jarvis’ provost and vice president of academic affairs. “It means an independent, prestigious body has said your program measures up. I am so grateful to our dean, Dr. Benson Kariuki, and his staff (the business faculty).”

“This is an awesome achievement for us,” said Kariuki. “This designation sends a great message to our students and our faculty. To students, it says the education you are receiving at Jarvis will make you competitive with other business graduates in the workplace. To our faculty, it says you are a part of a first-rate program. To say that we are pleased is an understatement.”

Celebrating 30 years of excellence in global business program accreditation, ACBSP is the only organization offering specialized business accreditation for all degree levels, from associate to baccalaureate to doctoral degree programs. ACBSP accreditation certifies that the teaching and learning processes within the business programs offered through the Division of Business at Jarvis Christian College meet the rigorous educational standards established by ACBSP.

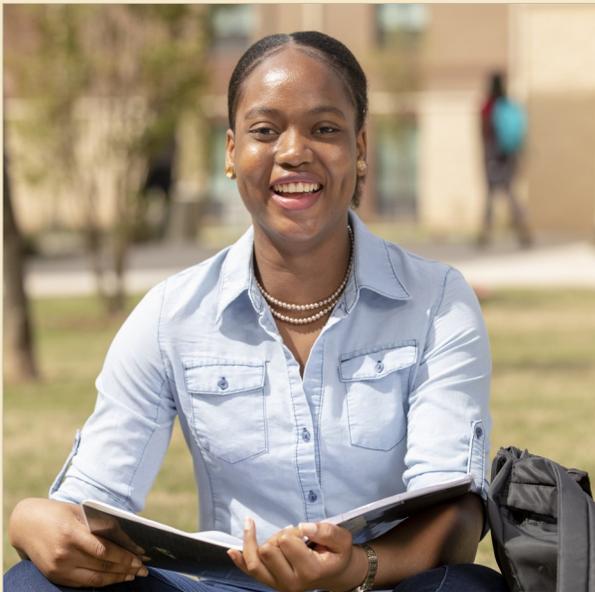
Based on the Baldrige Education Criteria for Performance Excellence, ACBSP accreditation evaluates aspects of leadership, strategic planning, relationships with stakeholders, quality of academic programs, faculty credentials, and educational support to determine whether or not the business programs offers a rigorous educational experience and whether or not it demonstrates continuous quality improvement.

# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



## **PricewaterhouseCoopers Selects Keilahn Garrett and Corey Harris, Jr. for START Program**

PricewaterhouseCoopers, the world's second largest professional services firm, selected freshmen Keilahn Garrett (at left) and Corey Harris, Jr. (at right) for PwC's Diversity Summer Internship Experience, START. Garrett is a Distinguished Scholar from Oklahoma City. Harris is a freshman Dean's List Scholar from Baton Rouge. Both are accounting majors.



## **Honour Adewumi Participates in Wake Forest Internship**

Honour Adewumi (at left), a rising senior from Benin, West Africa, is doing a summer internship at Wake Forest University. Honour's research poster placed first at the East Texas Research Conference.

## **Gabrielle Omichi-Quintero Selected for Pre-Law Undergraduate Scholars Program at The University of Akron**

Gabrielle Omichi-Quintero (at right), a criminal justice/pre-law major, was selected to participate in the 2019 Pre-Law Undergraduate Scholars Program at the University of Akron.



## **Students Represent Jarvis at 30th Annual Honda Campus All-Star Challenge**

Brian Alexander, Maombi Jenita, Honour Adewumi and Robert Taylor represented Jarvis at the 30th Annual Honda Campus All-Star Challenge. Students ranked 4th of 10th place in the region and, as a result, their team qualified to go to the National Competition in California.



“Until you change the way  
the things you look at

*The Prodigal Son...*

*...Returns*



you look at things,  
will never change.”  
-Dr. Wayne W. Dyer



COL. KHALILID M. SHABAZZ, formerly known as Michael Barnes, says he owes Jarvis an apology.

# HE LEFT 30 YEARS AGO IN HANDCUFFS

Michael Barnes left Jarvis Christian College more than 30 years ago in handcuffs following a gruesome retaliation fight on campus. His arrest and the events surrounding it not only disgraced Barnes but also his family and those who invested in his education and who had hoped the gifted student-athlete would be his family's first college graduate.

Barnes returned to Jarvis on Tuesday as Col. Khalilid M. Shabazz, a decorated soldier who has earned two doctorate degrees and four master's degrees.

Shabazz, who currently serves as command chaplain for the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command in Hawaii, also is the military's highest-ranking Muslim chaplain.

Shabazz shared his narrative during Jarvis' weekly Chapel Service for The J.N. Ervin Religion and Culture Lecture Series. Later that evening, he spent about three hours talking with a group of students. His story was one of humility, forgiveness, transparency and self-worth.

*Continued on page 10*



Col. Khalilid M. Shabazz posing with Dr. Lester Newman after a chapel service.

“Until you change the way you look at things, the things you look at will never change,” Shabazz said, repeating the phrase for emphasis.

“I must apologize to this institution of higher learning for taking it for granted, for not understanding that you were trying to make me a man and give me a solid foundation, and for being a nuisance, a bad student and a privileged athlete,” said Shabazz, a standout basketball player who was known as “Primetime” on campus.

“I beg your forgiveness. I have waited 30 years for an invitation to comeback here. I have spoken all over the continent. I have risen to the top of the military, but none of that was good enough. I needed to get back to you,” said Shabazz, who was supposed to graduate in 1991, but didn’t received his degree until 1994 without pomp and circumstance.

Shabazz, 50, acknowledged that he came to Jarvis with a lot of baggage, having been molested as a child by a family friend. He was in special

education by eighth-grade, failed the ninth grade and his senior year, which forced him to complete his high school education during the summer. His self-esteem and self-worth, he said, were virtually non-existent.

“While Primetime was dunking that basketball, people didn’t know that I was drinking myself to sleep at night, fighting every week to release this rage inside of me. Then someone shot me in the back and beat me with a shovel.” When he retaliated weeks later, he ended up behind bars.

The Rev. Sedaric Dinkens, Jarvis’ interim chaplain who also serves as an instructor of religion, said when the two met, he was in his first year at Jarvis and Shabazz was in his senior year. He said the two became Facebook friends in 2015 and exchanged telephone numbers in 2017.

“I remember him fighting a lot,” said Dinkens, who played a key role in getting Shabazz back at Jarvis. “He was always in one thing or another. On the basketball court, imagine Draymond Green (of the Golden State

Warriors), but in a college setting. The best way to describe him was, you didn’t mess with him.”

Deborah Mitchell, who serves on Jarvis’ Board of Trustees and is past president of the National Alumni Association, came from Houston to hear Shabazz’s presentation.

“I like to hear Jarvis success stories,” Mitchell said, who was a Jarvis staffer when Shabazz was a student. “What I really liked about his message was that he admitted that he was at fault. He came back and corrected the wrong.

“Even though Jarvis put him out, he grew up, matured and realized that he was the reason that happened to him at Jarvis. He isn’t one of those people who hold a grudge against Jarvis,” said Mitchell, who reconnected with Shabazz through Facebook. “When I was working for the military, his name used to pop up. Then I saw his picture. I said, ‘Hey, that’s Primetime! He was so talented in sports.’”

Following his release from jail, Shabazz, who has three children and

# The Prodigal Son

*Continued from page 10*

four grandchildren, said he worked a brief stint at K-Mart before realizing it wasn't enough to support a growing family.

He joined the U.S. Army as a last resort and served for seven years before taking a job as a middle school teacher in his hometown of Alexandria, LA. After six months, he returned to the military.

Even in uniform, he still got into fights and was almost kicked out of the military until leadership showed up in the form of Sgt. Major Jonathan Ballard. Shabazz said Ballard convinced him of his value and potential.

"He told me that he believed in me. And at 27 years old, I had never heard an adult say, 'I believe in you.' He saved my life," Shabazz said.

Shabazz, who was being trailed on Tuesday by a filmmaker producing a documentary on military chaplains, was promoted to colonel last October. His commendations include the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Army Commendation and Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal and the NATO Expeditionary Medal.

Shabazz has served on military bases across the globe, including Fort Lewis, WAashington; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; and in Bamberg, Germany and Heidelberg, Germany.

Shabazz currently serves as an adjunct professor at Claremont Lincoln University and United Theological Seminary and as a lecturer at the University of Washington. He also studied Arabic at the University of Jordan in Amman, Jordan, and has authored three books.

During Tuesday's presentation, he also challenged students to evaluate their relationships and take advantage of all that Jarvis has to offer.

# Jarvis Students Search for a Cure for Cancer

Justin Sharp, at first glance, appears to be a rather reserved, unassuming young man strolling the campus of Jarvis Christian College. He lights up like a Christmas tree, however, when asked about his research.

Whether in front of reporters or lawmakers at the State Capitol in Austin, Sharp transforms into a confident, authoritative expert in explaining his biomedical research.

Sharp, a senior biology major from Dallas, has been involved in a year-long research project, under the supervision of Drs. Shakhawat Bhuiyan and Glendora Carter, to find a cure for cancer.

"This is an opportunity to get me out there and communicate more, and to explore the research part of biology," said Sharp, who is delaying his graduation to return and get a chemistry degree. "It's been interesting."

"It's been informative in many ways. It opened my mind to do research as a medical doctor, whether it's cancer-based or medicine-based. It's just an opportunity to help people. It's been hard at times, but it has been very beneficial," said Sharp, who also plans to minor in mathematics.

The research by Sharp and five other students – Honour Adewumi, Chartaveoua Graggs, LaTerrian Wiley, DeQuaysha Greene and Kaejaren Caldwell – was made possible through a three-year, \$400,000 National Science Foundation grant.

Students presented their research in November at the annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students in Indianapolis. The organization is one of the largest professional conferences for underrepresented minority students,



Students in a science lab in The Meyer Building.

military veterans and persons with disabilities to pursue advanced training in the STEM fields.

More than 4,500 people attended, including undergraduate and graduate students, post-doctoral students and faculty from more than 350 institutions.

The students, who were chosen for the program based on academic performance, also presented in February at the Emerging Researchers National Conference in Washington, D.C. This gathering was hosted by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Education and Human Resources Programs, and the National Science Foundation Division of Human Resource Development. This conference was geared toward undergraduates and graduates participating in NSF-funded programs.

"The experience of traveling to show individuals what you know is just amazing," said Graggs, a junior from Shreveport, LA.

"Being able to go out and represent your institution makes you feel good as a person and a student. It has helped me get to know other scholars and be known in academic circles," said Graggs.

"You also learn from others and improve your own skills and

*Continued on page 28*

# Jarvis Named ‘Millennium Campus’



**The Millennium Fellows at Jarvis Christian College**

“We are small but mighty,” Makee, a feisty, petite international student from Equatorial Guinea, said of Jarvis Christian College. “There is a lot of talent here.”

The United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) and Millennium Campus Network (MCN) has endorsed Makee’s assessment.

The partnering agencies named Jarvis a Millennium Fellows Campus for the fall semester, based on a wellness campaign being executed by Makee and 19 other Jarvis students who all are Millennium Fellows.

Jarvis was among 30 colleges and one of two HBCUs worldwide selected as a Millennium campus, based on the Jarvis Diabetes Awareness Campaign. This effort targets youth aged 15 to 22 in Texas, which has the 10th highest diabetes rate in the country. No other Texas school was selected.

“This is a large forward leap for what we are trying to do with our diabetes campaign,” said Eric Clark, 19, a sophomore nursing major from Houston.

“It gives us that something extra,” Clark, Millennium Campus co-director, said.

Programs by MCN convene, challenge and celebrate student

leadership for social impact.

“Opportunities like this get us out of our silos and put us on a global stage,” said Kathy Graham, lead Millennium Fellows co-advisor.

Chestley Talley, Millennium Fellows co-advisor, said, “This is an excellent example of experiential learning like membership in our own pre-professional organizations.”

The Millennium Fellows are members of the award-winning Jarvis Enactus and Clinton Global Initiative Teams. Jarvis Enactus won first place in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Students for Health National Competition. The Global Initiative Team was a finalist in the Resolution Social Venture Challenge. The MCN is a global student network that addresses some of humanity’s greatest challenges. Sam Vaghar, its executive director and co-founder, said its collaboration with UNAI expands its reach.

“Partnering with UNAI enables us to engage more students, providing a powerful framework to help them convene, take action and elevate the important contributions they make,” said Vaghar. “I congratulate Jarvis for its bold commitment to strengthen community and help make UN goals a reality,” said Vaghar.

The UNAI works with higher

education and research organizations across the globe to help realize United Nations’ goals and objectives. It is engaged with more than 1,200 organizations worldwide to research, educate and convene campus activism.

Ramu Damodaran, UNAI’s chief, said the designation is an opportunity for students to help foster a culture of intellectual social responsibility. “Our collaboration with MCN will allow students to demonstrate how the wisdom and thought they invest in their formal curriculum can be extended to a great purpose of common good, lending their strengths to their communities and their world and, in turn, being enriched by them,” Damodaran said in a statement.

Jarvis President Dr. Lester C. Newman said he’s not surprised at this latest honor. “I am delighted and proud of our students for receiving such a prestigious recognition. I extend sincere congratulations to each of them. I am also thankful to our faculty and staff who worked relentlessly with them to ensure their success,” Dr. Newman said. “This designation is just another confirmation that JCC is world class.”

# Brown Crowned MISS UNCF

First it was her father. Then she lost her best friend, and no one, she said, could explain why. Why were they gone? What caused their deaths?

That's why Emani Brown, a junior chemistry major at Jarvis Christian College, decided she was going to be a medical examiner. She said she chose this career so no one or no family would have to deal with the mysteries she's faced over losing loved ones.

"I don't want another family to not know," said Brown, 20, of Rialto, C.A., a city of about 100,000 in San Bernardino County. Brown, who came to Jarvis to run track in exchange for a free education, has picked up another calling since she's been in East Texas. She wants to be an advocate for those smart, intelligent people who should be in college but are not.

"I know too many people who were not able to go to college because they didn't have the funds or because their parents didn't have the funds," said Brown, who was crowned Miss United Negro College Fund in January. "These are people who look like you and me. People already doubt us and don't think that we will amount to anything."

There were times when Brown, who is competitive on the track and in the classroom, struggled with her self-esteem. "I had poor grades in middle school. People called me stupid. I was lost. I was scared. I didn't think I would amount to anything," Brown said, adding that her confidence grew in high school.

Still, there were questions about what happens after high school. Then came Jarvis, the place where her brother attended a decade earlier, with an offer of a track scholarship.

Brown, also a member of Delta Sigma Theta, lights up and flashes a



wide smile when talking about her support system on campus. Rev. Sedaric Dinkens, Dr. Calvin Lester, Miss Jessica Marshall and Ms. Cleopatra Allen. "They have all kind of helped me out a lot," said Brown, whose track events include the 100, 200 and 400 meters and who sports a 3.6 GPA.

Brown has decided to step away from track this season, but Coach Jeremy Pratt said the team still benefits from her leadership.

"She is much more than an athlete. Her academics are first. She is the leader of the team, a two-time captain. Although she is not running this year, she gives us moral support. She always takes the freshman under her

wing. She's never steers them wrong. I trust her judgement. I've seen her grow from a young lady into a woman."

Brown said she was introduced to the concept of the United Negro College Fund by Gwendolyn Winters, assistant vice president for Institutional Advancement and coordinator of its Miss UNCF pageant.

"I did some additional research and decided to run for Miss UNCF," Brown said.

Winters said Brown does a nice job balancing school, work and service. "While maintaining a rigorous coursework schedule and two part-time jobs, Emani continues to balance her college and social life, along with other scholarly responsibilities. She is an extremely committed and hard-working student. I look forward to working with her during her reign as Miss UNCF Jarvis Christian College."

Brown participated in the national Miss UNCF Pageant in Atlanta last February, placing 7th out of 24 contestants. "It was actually better than I expected. I got to meet a lot of people. I wish I had gone last year. Maybe we would have had a different outcome."

Jessica Marshall, who served as Brown's advisor for the Peer Mentor Program for freshman students, said Brown was a leader.

That sentiment was echoed by Dinkens, an instructor of religion and Jarvis' interim chaplain.

"Miss Brown's leadership skills are exhibited through her high moral standards, academic excellence, and mentorship," Dinkens said.

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# FOUNDER'S CONVOCATION



## Provost Challenges Students to Step Into God's Plan

The Rev. Dr. Glenell Lee-Pruitt used an unlikely mix of characters to deliver a strong message about destiny to the Jarvis Christian College student body.

The cast included Abram and Lot, Destiny's Child and Kendrick Lamar, Larry Belton, once a college recruiter, and Samantha Stevens, a TV witch.

For the 2019 Founders Convocation, the stars were Mary Alphin, Virginia Hearn and Ida Van Zandt Jarvis.

During an energetic, emotional presentation that often brought applause from the audience, Pruitt, Jarvis' Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, told students they must separate, anticipate and actuate in order to step into God's destiny.

One element that was remarkable about Pruitt's presentation is that she wasn't the scheduled speaker, but was called on to serve at the last minute after the original speaker was unable to honor his commitment. It was hard to imagine how anyone could have delivered a presentation more appropriate than Pruitt's.

"There are some people in your life who are toxic. You need to separate from that zero in your life. Drop that zero and get you a hero," said Pruitt, who reminded students that Abram didn't embrace his destiny until he separated from Lot.

"If you don't separate from them, they will not separate from you and you will miss your destiny."

She also shared how Destiny's Child, Kelly Rowland, Michelle Williams and Beyoncé Knowles, stepped into their destiny and became world-class entertainers, with Beyoncé becoming a megastar.

"Not only were you not born, you were not even thought of," Pruitt said of Destiny Child's heyday. "But they were destined for greatness. God has a planned destiny for your life."

Pruitt also said she believes when Alphin approached Hearn about starting a school for negro youth and Hearn got Jarvis to get her husband to donate the land in 1904, there were consequences.

"You can't make me believe that some folks thought she had lost her mind," Pruitt said. "Given the time, I am sure she had to separate from some of her friends. Destiny is what happened in 1904. It is because of them walking into their destiny, this is the reason we are here today."

Pruitt told students they must also anticipate, using a funny story about how she looked forward to being a high school junior in order to meet Belton, whom she described as a tall, good-looking fellow with good hair. But in anticipation of meeting Belton, she had to do her part such as make passing grades and everything else that comes with getting into college."

She also said she believes Alphin, Hearn and Jarvis anticipated things would be better for black youth and their families in East Texas with an institution such as Jarvis. "It's your time and your season. You have to anticipate that God will take you to the next level, that God is about to open doors and close windows," Pruitt said.

Finally, Pruitt told students they must actuate, or to incite or move to action. She pointed out how Stevens, the star of TV's *Bewitched*, used to twinkle her nose to make things happen.

"You have to do something. These three women walked into their God-planned destiny and they activated. In this journey, it's about movement. It's about taking action and doing our part."

# J.N. ERVIN LECTURE SERIES



## Self Evaluation: Essential For Growth

Students should avoid “the bridge to nowhere” by using self-evaluations and resist the urge to be the best of the worst and the worst of the best.

“If you don’t take a look at yourself in the mirror, you are going to be a person that makes many excuses. We all know that excuses are bridges that lead to nowhere,” said the Rev. Rodney C. Curry, who served as speaker for the J.N. Ervin Lecture during Jarvis Christian College’s Founders/Homecoming Week.

“Many people make many excuses but in reality the choice is yours. Everyone here has a choice to make,” said Curry, a 1999 Jarvis graduate.

Curry said this point was driven home for him while a Winona High School student. A group of academic all stars were selected and he was not among them, even though he was just as good a student as many in the group.

“What kept me out of that elite group was my behavior and actions,” said Curry, who has a master’s degree from Stephen F. Austin University. “It wasn’t that they were smarter than I was. My actions kept me out. I had to look in the mirror and say, ‘Rodney, what are you doing? What can you do to change?’”

“I can get in there and close my mouth. I can wait and raise my hand. I do not have to be the one making all the jokes. I do not have to be the one disrupting the teacher in class. After I made those adjustments in my character, I found myself doing greater things,” said Curry, pastor of Tyler’s College Hill Missionary Baptist Church.

Both of Curry’s parents, the Rev. Dr. S.L. Curry and First Lady Mary Curry, are Jarvis

graduates. The senior Curry delivered the Ervin Lecture in 2017.

The J.N. Ervin Lecture honors the memory of James Nelson Ervin, Jarvis’ founding president. It was initiated by Dr. E.W. Rand, the college’s seventh president who was one of Ervin’s students and co-workers. The lecturer may be a teacher, clergyman, staff or faculty, an alumnus or former student who is knowledgeable about Jarvis’ heritage.

Curry, who is principal of Boulter Middle School, also told students to avoid mediocrity. “One of my teachers told me that average is being the best of the worst and the worst of the best. I looked at it then and thought that I was at the bottom of an average group,” he said. “However, being average I am the best of those who are bad. I do not want to be

average. I do not want to be mediocre. We should not want to be average. We should not want to be mediocre.”

And, Curry said, it didn’t matter how your college education was being financed. “Whether you are on scholarship, whether you get financial aid, or whether you are paying the whole bill yourself, it does not matter. You have been awarded the greatest opportunity,” said Curry, the former minister of music at New Zion Baptist Church. “There is a big world outside these walls. You have a chance to make a great impact if you take advantage of this opportunity now.

“Your parents did not send you here to sit in your dorm. Your parents did not send you here to be average. They did not send you here to suck up all this good air, this Piney Woods air. They did not send you here just to come for the party, the social gatherings. They sent you here to come back as a better person, a better individual and a contributor to society.”

**“If you don’t take a look at yourself in the mirror, you are going to be someone who makes many excuses.”**

**—Rev. Curry**



## Jarvis Senior Named to White House Initiative's Highest Honor

De'Janae Tookes, a senior at Jarvis Christian College, has been named a 2018 HBCU Competitiveness Scholar, the White House Initiative's highest student recognition.

Tookes, who serves as president of Jarvis' Student Government Association, was among 63 students from 54 Historically Black Colleges and Universities recognized as Competitive Scholars.

"I am extremely humbled. I am honored that President (Lester) Newman nominated me. Sometimes small schools like Jarvis go unnoticed. This is not only an opportunity to represent Jarvis, but all small schools," said Tookes, a history major from Austell, GA.

Competitiveness scholars are recognized for successfully preparing to compete for top opportunities that improve long-term outcomes. Comprised of undergraduate, graduate and professional students, each was nominated and endorsed by their insti-

tution's president. The selections were based on academic achievement, campus and civic involvement and an entrepreneurial "go-getter" spirit.

"De'Janae epitomizes the spirit of the Competitiveness Scholar," Newman said. "She is intelligent, open and honest. She is a great communicator and is committed to the many causes she supports, including initiatives and organizations at Jarvis Christian College and the student body she serves.

De'Janae, a natural leader, currently serves as president of the Student Government Association. Nominating her to represent JCC in this capacity was an easy decision."

Scholars assembled September 16-18 during the 2018 National HBCU Week Conference, which is set for the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in the nation's capital. Scholars participated in workshops designed to enhance leadership, promote personal and professional de-

velopment and explore areas of innovation and entrepreneurship.

During the 2018-2019 academic year, the White House Initiative will provide outreach and engagement activities as well as information and resources that scholars may share with other students on their campus. They are expected to take advantage of the opportunities given, engage with one another and showcase individual and collective talents across the HBCU spectrum.

Competitiveness Scholars also were given opportunities to highlight their contributions to institutions, ignite new passions and explore ideas critical to long-term development.

Scholars met on the evening of September 17 at the Initiative's Excellence in Innovation and Competitiveness Awards.

# ACADEMIC NEWS

## Social Work Program Awarded Accreditation Summer 2019

This summer, JCC's social work program was granted accreditation by the Council of Social Work Education (CSWE). CSWE is a 2,500-member partnership of educational and professional institutions, social welfare agencies, and private citizens that are recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation as the sole accrediting agency for social work education in the United States.

JCC's social work core course requirements lead to the Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work (BSW). The primary purpose of the BSW program is to prepare students for competent and effective generalist social work practice with knowledge, skills, and values to enhance the well-being of humans and to meet the basic needs of all people, with attention placed on the empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty.

Jene'a Jennings and Candance Minor are testaments to how Jarvis prepares students to be leaders in a competitive global workplace. Read about their success in their own words below.



Jene'a Jennings, c/o '19

"The social work program at Jarvis Christian College set the foundation I needed to grow into the social worker I am today ... I owe much of who I am as a practitioner to the teachings and guidance of Dr. Phillip Farmer, Mrs. Janice Toliver-King, and especially Mrs. Sonya Kay Holmes. Thank you will never truly be enough.

**-Jene'a Jennings**

"I loved my social work program because it shaped my character, which allowed me to perform the duties of a social worker. I had an excellent classroom experience. However, the hands on experience was most efficient for the type of field I chose ... After completing the program of social work program at Jarvis Christian College I entered the master's program at Texas A&M University-Commerce where ... I will be graduating with my master's degree in social work. I am truly grateful for the way my professors at Jarvis Christian College pushed me to pursue my dreams. That is the reason I was able to accomplish the things I have today. Further, I believe the knowledge and experience I received helped me succeed and prepared me to take on more challenges and to be an advocate for unfortunate individuals in need.

**-Candance Minor**



Candance Minor, c/o '18

## Jarvis Inducts Two Into ‘Hall of Fame’



**JAMES REDMON, SR.**

James Redmon, Sr. said he usually makes it his business to be immune to surprises or the unexpected, as much as possible. Redmon, like most of the other honorees, acknowledged he was caught flatfooted when he was announced the winner of the Fred Hearn Award during the Pioneer Hall of Fame and Preeminence Awards Gala.

“When my son said he was coming to the banquet and bringing the grandkids, something hit me. I thought that was odd. As I was walking up here to the podium, it all came together. Redmon and five others received Preeminence Awards for their contributions to the college and the community during a weekend celebration on the Hawkins’ campus while two new members were added to the Pioneer Hall of Fame.

Anne Loretta Briley and Annie Marie Walker, both retired educators, are the Hall of Fame’s newest members. Marine Jones, Zelma Brooks Washington, Dr. James Branch, Jared Williams and the Rev. Dani Cartwright took home Preeminence Awards in various categories.

The late Fred Hearn was a Jarvis student and secretary of its Board of Trustees. The award recognizes those who have made significant leadership and service contributions to the College.

“I have been so fortunate that Jarvis has given me so much, as a student and as an alum,” said Redmon, who was previously inducted into the Pioneer Hall of Fame. “When I say I love Jarvis, I am not saying it because it is fashionable. I am saying it because it is true,” said Redmon, a Huntsville, AL, resident, who is a 1972 Jarvis graduate and U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command Center retiree who served in the military for 43 years.

Redmon is past president of the Jarvis Christian College National Alumni Association and has served on the College’s Board of Trustees. He is president of the Class of 1972 and an officer in Jarvis’ Alabama Alumni Association. Walker, a Birmingham, AL, native, began her career at Jarvis after graduating from the College in 1979. She served three years as an admissions counselor and recruiter before being promoted to director of Alumni Affairs, a post she held for nine years.



**ANNE LORETTA BRILEY**

“I am so honored. I never thought they would recognize me like this,” said Walker, who helped establish more than 45 alumni chapters across the nation and raised funds for scholarships and college operations. “I love Jarvis. I just love coming to Jarvis. I hope this college remains here forever to educate young people,” said Walker, who also started Jarvis’ Pre-Alumni Council, which produced nine United Negro College Fund national queens.

“I thank President Newman for this award. It will always be cherished,” said Walker, a Gladewater resident who served the Longview Independent School District as a teacher for 19 years.

Briley, a 1964 Jarvis graduate and Texarkana native spent the bulk of her career teaching abroad in places such as Germany, Turkey, Spain, Italy, the Philippines and Japan. “I was shocked. Not quite speechless, but almost. I really appreciate everything Jarvis has ever done for me. I came from a small

country town on a farm in Texarkana. Jarvis changed my life. I will always appreciate it and love it dearly,” who retired in 2007 and returned stateside.

“A lot of our stories are similar. It made us capable of dealing with life and progressing in our careers. I’ve taught all over the world. I taught military children. I have done all kinds of wonderful things. Plus, I have seen the world,” said Briley, a longtime Jarvis supporter who earned a master’s degree from the University of North Texas. Jones, who lives in metropolitan Houston, is the honoree for the “Preeminence Award” for Education and Academics. The Jarvis graduate retired after 38 years at the Aldine Independent School District as a secretary, teacher, librarian and counselor. “It was awesome. I had no idea. I don’t know what I did. I have been doing this the entire time. I am just glad it all came together,” said Jones, who was appointed to the Aldine’s Board of Trustees after retiring and served in all four of the board’s leadership posts during her 10-year board tenure. “I guess it was the whole combination of the years that I put in and all. I didn’t expect to get this kind of recognition from Jarvis. This award is really something else.



**ANNIE MARIE WALKER**



**MARINE JONES**

# Six Others Awarded for Services to College and Community



ZELMA BROOKS WASHINGTON

I had to put it in a good spot because it's really heavy. I had to put it on something sturdy. But it is beautiful," said Jones," who had a new Aldine middle school named in her honor last fall.

Washington received the "Preeminence Award for Philanthropy". The Dallas native and 1962 Jarvis graduate served as a teacher in the Dallas Independent School District for 37 years. "I owe Jarvis quite a bit. A large portion of my success comes from being a student at Jarvis," said Washington, a former Jarvis student body president who has also served as president of the Jarvis Christian College/Southern Christian Institute National Alumni and Ex-Students Association. "I am sure there were several others who have been or could have been chosen as well. It was quite meaningful. I have tried to give back to Jarvis over the

years.

I am not sure I have words to express my gratitude. "I do hate that my husband and daughter were not present. We have given to Jarvis, not only in our presence but also financially and with my family's support. My husband's company for years matched our personal contribution. First, two to one, then one to one, before they stopped," said Washington, a life member of Jarvis' National Alumni Association. "We were happy that for years, we were able to get his company to give to Jarvis. My daughter worked for a company that when my class was in competition, she was able to get a contribution from her company. Branch, an instructor at Tarrant County College-Northeast, received the "Preeminence Award for Community Service and Civic Endeavors". Branch, who earned a master's from Prairie View



JAMES BRANCH

A&M University and a doctorate from North Central University, has worked with youths and adults from "at risk" environments.

"Obviously I was extremely honored. Anytime you do that work in the community you don't have time to smell the roses," said Branch, who has managed several businesses in the daycare industry as well as educational and tutoring facilities. "When you are out there feeding the homeless and working with at-risk people, you really get to the point where you are not looking for a pat on the back, you just do it because it needs to be done. It just shows that hard work does pay off, especially for my relatives to see. I've had 12 to 18 relatives that attended Jarvis. For them to see that as well was truly a blessing," said Branch, a member of Kappa Alpha Psi, President Obama's "My Brother's Keeper" initiative, and the NAACP.



JARED WILLIAMS

Williams, who serves as Chief Financial Officer for AccessHealth, is the 2019 recipient of the "Preeminence Award for Business and Entrepreneurship".

He received his undergraduate in management from Jarvis and has an MBA from Lamar University. "This was a neat surprise, for one. And a great honor. To be honored at this age in that capacity," a graduate of Central Fort Bend County's Leadership Program and is a member of the United Way of Greater Houston's Young Professionals. "It feels great to not only be honored, but to know that my alma mater is taking time to honor people like me in this manner. It shows that they care and are looking to see how great Jarvis products are."

Cartwright, Vice President of Operations for the National Benevolent Association, is the "Preeminence Award" winner for the John Dee Mangram Religion and Ministry Award. "Oh my God. I was so excited. Mangram was a dear, dear honored man and colleague. To get that award in particular, just bubbled my heart all over. We love Jarvis so much," said Cartwright, a member of Jarvis' Board of Trustees. She has served as the regional minister and president of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest and provided oversight for more than 400 congregations and 1,250 clergy. "My dad was a Jarvis board member when I was a kid. We went for the dedication of the chapel. I think I was 10 years old. We stayed in touch with Jarvis all these years. I was a pastor in Gladewater during Sebetha Jenkins' presidency. The choir came every year. I came for a number of worship services. My husband taught there. My daughter grew up wearing a Jarvis T-shirt," said Cartwright, a graduate of Texas Christian College in Fort Worth and Brite Divinity School.



DANI CARTWRIGHT

# Women Should Heed God's Calling By 'Any Means Necessary'



Rev. Dr. Teresa Fry Brown



Rev. Dr. Carolyn Knight



Rev. Dr. Brianna Parker

Women in ministry should execute God's calling by "any means necessary" and not allow their calls to service to be sabotaged or misdirected.

That was the inspirational message from the Rev. Dr. Teresa Fry Brown during her keynote for the John D. Mangram Institute/Religious Emphasis Week at Jarvis Christian College.

Brown, who serves in the Bandy Professor of Preaching Chair at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University, said women have long sacrificed for their work in ministry, which is often overlooked.

"Women in ministry get a bad rap," Brown, one of the country's leading experts on preaching and sermon development, told students, faculty and staff.

"They follow the instructions within their spirit. Here I am, Lord, send me. Then there are people that believe she didn't hear the right call, that she answered someone else's call. But women have led

believers, saints . . . praise houses, prairies, and roadside chapels, and hospital rooms and sick beds and kitchens and porches and protests inside church basements," she said.

"Women have been killed, cursed and beaten, and ridiculed and objectified, alienated, questioned, dismissed, assaulted by the persons who say they believe in the same God that she's talking about. You know, my Bible says women should be quiet in church. In reality, women have helped their communities, churches, temples and they have been behind the scenes for so long that people have forgotten that they helped build the very institutions that tried to darken them," Brown said.

She continued, "Throughout history women have made their own spot to stand. Used their own voices, validated their own understanding of God. Even when we were sick and tired of being sick and tired . . . we still tried to embody the faith that God has given us." Brown serves in what is considered

one of the country's premier endowed chairs in teaching sermon writing and delivery.

Brown's presentation was part of two days of activities for the Mangram Institute/Religious Emphasis Week, which focused on Women in Ministry.

The discussion also included the Rev. Dr. Carolyn Knight and the Rev. Dr. Brianna Parker. Knight is founder and president of "Can Do" Ministries, which focuses on the holistic development of youth and young adults. Parker is curator and founder of the Black Millennial Café Consulting and Data Resource Center. She also serves as an assistant professor at Jarvis.

In addition, Knight also served as keynote speaker for the Alphin-Hearn-Jarvis Women of Distinction Award Service, which honored local women, who distinguished themselves in community service, education, religion, medicine and government/law. The awards are named for Mary Alphin, Virginia Hearn and Ida Van Zandt Jarvis.

Jarvis Christian College paid homage to the trio of women who were the impetus for the College's founding by honoring five community trailblazers with the Alphin-Hearn-Jarvis Women of Distinction Awards.

The award ceremony was part of the college's festivities to celebrate Woman's History Month and the John D. Mangram Institute/Religious Emphasis Week with a focus on Women in Ministry.

The honorees were: Mary Curry, first lady of New Zion Baptist Church; Gloria Holland, first lady of New Hope Church of God in Christ and a Hawkins School Board Member; Clara Henry Kay, Hawkins' Mayor Pro-tem; Dr. Beverly Johnson, one of the first black female physicians in Wood County; and The Rev. Dr. Orientia Mason, Pastor of St. James Christian Methodist Episcopal Church and Tyler School Board Member.

Curry, a 1973 Jarvis graduate, is a retired educator. She has been named Winona Outstanding Teacher of the Year, the Dallas Independent School District Teacher of the Year and the Jarvis Christian College Distinguished Alumni. Curry also has worked with the American Cancer Society

and volunteers for a number of community outreach ministries.

"I was so thankful, so grateful that I was considered," Curry said. "Thank God for Jarvis. I love my school. It will always be my heart. I will always do whatever I can, not just for Jarvis but for the community as well."

Holland, a 1997 Jarvis graduate, is a retired special education teacher for Wood County. She has volunteered at Helping Hands and donates time weekly to Meals on Wheels. She was elected to the Hawkins School Board in 2018.

"I felt very overwhelmed," Holland said. "Jarvis made me feel

welcome. They did an excellent job in their presentation. I really felt thrilled to be nominated. It was an excellent thing to do. It makes you want to go out and serve others."

Kay, a graduate of Grambling College and former educator at several higher education institutions, including Jarvis, serves as an elder for the First Christian Church in Hawkins. She is a member of the Hawkins City Council and was elected mayor pro-tem in 2018, the first African-American to serve in this position.

Johnson is a family practice physician based in Quitman and has practiced medicine for 38 years. She is a wife, mother, volunteer, church musician and breast cancer survivor.

Mason is pastor of St. James Christian Methodist Episcopal Church and a veteran of the Tyler Independent School District (ISD), where she spent 27 years working as a teacher, elementary school consultant, Title I coordinator and principal. She also is a member of the Tyler School Board, the Smith County Appraisal District Board and Delta Sigma Theta sorority.

# Trailblazers Honored For Community Service



Left to right: Holland, Mason, Curry, Johnson and Kay

# Middle School Named for Jarvis Alum

Marine Jones, a longtime educator who served a number of roles, now has her own school. Hundreds of friends, family members and colleagues gathered last fall to honor Jones at the dedication ceremony to officially open “Marine D. Jones Middle School”. Jones, a graduate of Jarvis Christian College, devoted 38 years to Aldine ISD as a school secretary, teacher, librarian and counselor.

Following her educational career, she served for 10 years as an Aldine ISD Trustee on the Board of Education. Jones held all four Board offices and served on numerous committees. She has lived in the Aldine community for more than 50 years.

Jones thanked a number of groups she is close to who were in attendance at the dedication ceremony. “I want to thank the Board of Trustees for the honor of having my name placed on this beautiful building,” she said. “Thanks to Rev. Dr. Edwin Davis and my Galilee (Missionary Baptist Church) family for being here. Thanks to my Lincoln Park weight training class and Seniors on the Move, and to the members of the North Harris County Retired Teachers Association.

“To the Aldine family, current and former principals, co-workers and administrators in Aldine ISD, thank you all for being here. Relationships that are formed in Aldine are lifelong.”

Representing Jarvis at the event were William Hampton, Executive Director of Alumni Affairs, and Eric Stringfellow, Director of Communications.

Jarvis President Dr. Lester C. Newman said the designation was an appropriate tribute to Jones’ career. “Jones’ record of service speaks for itself. She is more than deserving of this honor. On behalf of Jarvis Christian College and its Board of Trustees, we extend our congratulations,” Newman said.



The Jones Middle School LOTC presented the colors and Jones students Lillian Flores and Layla Castillo led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and Pledge to the Texas Flag. Rev. Dr. Edwin A. Davis, pastor of Galilee Missionary Baptist Church, delivered the invocation, which was followed by a video highlighting Mrs. Jones’ service to Aldine.

The Jones Middle School Mighty Toro Choir then performed two songs. Board President Steve Mead then accepted the school on behalf of the Board of Trustees and Jones Principal Marcus Pruitt, also a Jarvis graduate, accepted the school on behalf of the school’s administration. Jones teacher ShaTia Hollaway accepted the school on behalf of the Jones staff and student Alana Jackson accepted the school on behalf of the student body. Wilkie Law, a parent of a child at the school, accepted the school on behalf of the community.

Following Jones’ remarks, she and her daughter Marcie Jones-Strahan, the principal of Hall Center for Education, unveiled the portrait of Mrs. Jones that will hang in the school.

Goffney delivered closing remarks, thanking Jones for her 58 years of service to Aldine. “Thank you so much, Mrs. Jones, for all that you have accomplished through the years in Aldine, most of which you accomplished volunteering,” Goffney said. “It’s amazing that you have given 58 years of service to Aldine. Thank you so much for all that you have done.”

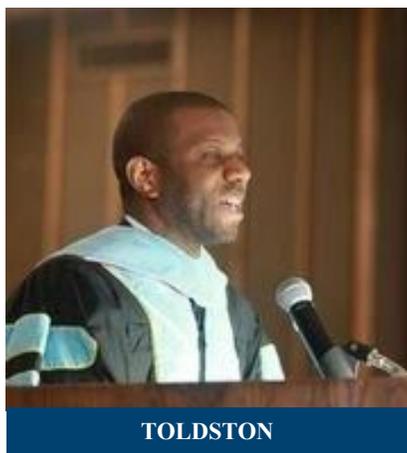


Jones recounted her Aldine journey, which began 58 years ago when she accepted a job as the secretary at Bethune Elementary School in Dallas, TX. In 1963, she moved to Drew Middle School and taught sixth- and eighth-grade language arts and later served as the assistant librarian. In 1967, she transferred to Aldine High School, where she became the first African-American teacher on that campus. She then moved to MacArthur High School, where she served as the school’s librarian. She also served as a counselor at MacArthur before moving to Aldine Contemporary Education Center, where she served as a counselor.

In 2002, she became the first female African-American to serve on the Board of Trustees when she was appointed to fill the unexpired term for former Trustee Doug Bussey.

“Throughout all of the firsts and positions I’ve held in Aldine, I’ve tried to maintain a pleasant and positive attitude, give 100 percent at all times and be on time while being myself,” she said. Jones concluded her remarks by reciting Albert Guest’s poem, *Myself*.

# Toldson: Control Your Own Narrative



TOLDSTON

Jarvis Christian College cited 24 of its students as Presidential Scholars – those sporting a grade point average of a perfect 4.0 on a 4.0 scale during the college’s annual Honors Convocation.

The college honored 87 students as Distinguished Scholars, students with GPAs of 3.5 to 3.99 while another 130 students were Dean’s List Scholars.

Presidential Scholar Crystal Dobbins and Distinguished Scholar ILeah Cox both received the Academic Achievement and Leadership Award. These students are not just excelling in the classroom, they are engaging in cutting-edge research and landing internships at high-ranking institutions.

Presidential Scholar Honour Adewumi, Distinguished Scholar LaTerrian Wiley, Dean’s List Scholars Chartaveoua Graggs and Justin Sharp are engaged in cancer research and have presented their work at conferences across the country.

Presidential Scholar Pilar Makee Lule and Dean’s List Scholar Eric Clark are Millennium Fellows for their work on diabetes awareness. Distinguished Scholar Keilahn Garrett and Dean’s List Scholar Corey Harris, Jr. both have landed internships at PricewaterhouseCoopers, one of the largest accounting firms in the world.

“They are doing great stuff,” said Dr. Cheryl Kariuki, the Honors Program Director. “I am pleased. The number of honor students is increasing every year. We have to challenge them. I am asking faculty to enhance the courses for honors students. That will help alot. I am striving to get more for them. We are going to write grants, for money, laptops and tablets. Those are good recruiting tools.”

Dr. Ivory Toldson, President and CEO of the QEM network, served as convocation speaker. Toldson also serves as a Howard University Professor, Editor-In-Chief of The Journal of Negro Education and Executive Editor of the Journal for Policy Analysis and Research.

“Being an HBCU scholar is better than being a scholar anywhere else. We didn’t have a silver spoon in our mouths. I conducted my research in a rusty pot.”

He challenged students to control their own narratives and be on guard for BS, or bad statistics, and said that to understand their value, they must understand their history. He cited two examples: Vaclav Konecny, a Czech refugee who settled as a mathematics professor at Jarvis and Robert Smalls, a runaway slave who was elected to Congress.

Toldson said the mathematician’s work first appeared in the Journal of Negro Education in 1933, a year after the publication was started.

Smalls’ master hired him out to a shipyard, where he eventually learned to be a ship pilot. When the Civil War commenced, Smalls found work on the CSS Planter and won the crew’s confidence. On May 13, 1862, while the crew was on leave, Smalls commanded the ship and sailed it through Confederate-controlled waters of Charleston Harbor to the U.S. blockage and surrounded the ship.

After the war he returned to South Carolina, became a politician and was eventually elected to The U.S. House of Representatives during Reconstruction.

He implored students to chart their own paths. “We have to be creative. We can’t just rely on those individuals that already exist. We have to look at our past but it’s just as important to look at where we are going and how we are going to get there.

“I am in the midst of people who are on the Dean’s List. I am in the midst of Presidential Scholars. I am in the midst of students with a 4.0. To me, that is very significant. But these are just markers, and they don’t say who you are. Even with a 4.0, people will try to tell you what it means, that it doesn’t mean as much as it would at the University of Texas. That’s BS.”

Toldson also told students to understand the difference between their assessed value and their true value. “There are jobs that you are going to get because of your diploma, but that’s not your true value. “People are going to try to impose their narrative on you as much as you tell them that Jarvis Christian College is the greatest College in Texas and that Texas A&M doesn’t have [anything] on us, don’t let them impose that on you.”

“In order to realize your greatness, you have to understand where your true value comes from, which are your convictions, your ingenuity, your integrity and your creativity. Your labor can always be replaced but your ideas can not. As you enter this space of greatness, always be creative in your ideas. Some of us didn’t quite make the Dean’s List . . . I am looking at greatness, because you have it within you. Don’t ever give up.”



PRESIDENT NEWMAN PRESENTS ILEAH COX WITH THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND LEADERSHIP AWARD

# Founders Homecoming Tailgate



# Founders Homecoming Tailgate



# Founders Homecoming Tailgate



# Founders Homecoming Tailgate



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## CURE to CANCER

knowledge about your field.”

Graggs, who was recently featured in a blog by the program director for the HBCU-Up program at the National Science Foundation, said the research has boosted her confidence. “I am now open to many different pathways of success. I have been granted different opportunities to attend different graduate and medical schools because of my research. It also has encouraged me to work harder and to take my work and my research more seriously.

Bhuiyan said the students are studying the analysis of biologically active molecules – including curcumin, ginger and garlic extracts – for potential use in the treatment of blood and breast cancer.

“This project resulted in opportunities for the under-represented minorities of undergraduate students to do state-of-the-art research in biological sciences, and the improvement of the STEM curriculum in the areas of biology and chemistry,” Bhuiyan said.

Each student worked on a separate biomedical research projects during the summer for eight weeks. Each received a stipend plus room and board.

# Jarvis Christian College Board of Trustees holds Spring Meeting on Campus

By Eric Stringfellow

The Jarvis Christian College Board of Trustees convened on May 3 for its regularly-scheduled Spring Board Meeting, a day before the college graduated its largest class in its history.

“Trustees approved the 2019-2020 budget as a financial instrument to guide the college,” said Torry L. Edwards, who serves as chair of the Board of Trustees.

Edwards also said the board approved facility enhancements as well as an expansion of an existing building, the Student Success Center, to support academic programming at the institution. The cost of the expansion totals \$318,000.

Also approved were policies affecting students, including amending the Student Government Constitution, housing policies and a residence life manual.

After Friday’s Board of Trustees meeting, Edwards and Trustee Glenn Etienne, at the invitation of President Lester C. Newman, attended graduation practice in the E.W. Rand Center and offered words of encouragement to graduates. “The Board of Trustees traveled from every corner of this country,” said Edwards.

“The Board continues to support the mission of the college and Dr. Newman, his faculty, and staff.”

The college graduated 101 students on May 4. About 76 percent of those receiving

degrees were from the greater Dallas area. Donna Brazile, a political strategist, TV analyst, campaign manager and long-time member of the Democratic National Committee, served as commencement speaker.

“With great enthusiasm, it was a pleasure seeing a record number of graduates participating in the 2019 commencement. We are pleased to see the institution producing a record number of graduates. I applaud the faculty and staff of Jarvis Christian College.”

Edwards also said he was pleased to see that the college’s recruiting efforts in the metropolitan Dallas area were paying dividends.

Edwards has been very instrumental in moving the institution forward. He has served as a trustee since 2008 and as chair since 2014. He is a strong advocate for the college and has more than 25 years of experience in local government and non-profit administration.

Continued from Page 13

## MISS UNCF

“Miss Brown is very disciplined about her academic pursuits, the type of person who meets adversity with a smile, and looks upon problems as opportunities instead of obstacles,” Dinkens said. “She is a humble leader and is well respected among her peers,” he added.



Jarvis President Dr. Lester Newman presents a plaque to Marc Morial (left) following his speech at Jarvis.

## Morial challenges Jarvis students to learn their history using ‘The Three Bs’

By Eric Stringfellow

When a black history exhibit was defaced at his overwhelmingly white American high school, Marc Morial was surprised not only by the vandalism but also by a question it prompted from his principal.

The principal was getting questions from white students asking about having a white history celebration, and asked Morial and two of his friends how he should respond.

“I don’t know where this came from, but I told him if the Italians, Irish and Germans understood their own history, they wouldn’t be threatened by ours,” Morial, President and CEO of the National Urban League said Tuesday during a Black History Program at Jarvis Christian College.

Morial, a former two-term mayor of New Orleans, challenged students to understand and embrace their history while being open to the history of others.

“Every ethnic group made contributions to the United States of America. If I know my own histo-

ry, I am not threatened by the glorification of another group’s history,” Morial said. “We are not trying to take anything from anyone else but so much of our contributions have been suppressed. Now, whether we got here as immigrants or slaves, this was not our land,” he said.

Morial said African-American history was somewhat different because of suppression and sharing of incomplete versions. He argued, for example that slavery didn’t start in 1619, which is widely held. He said data suggests there were people of color who arrived with Columbus in 1492 and that slavery had been practiced in the Caribbeans and South America long before it came to America.

“Sometimes our history is incomplete,” Morial said. “Stuff is left out. I don’t care how much black history you think you know. We don’t know the half of it. We may not know all the stories, but they exist.”

Dr. Lester C. Newman, Jarvis’ President, presented Morial with a plaque following his presentation. “We got a history lesson today,” Newman said.

One of Morial’s key points was what he called the three Bs – the ballot, the buck and the book.

“Every young person should make sure their voice is heard in the 2020 elections,” he said, urging them to also use the ballot to hold elected officials accountable and to participate in all elections.





# 107 years

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*We hope to see you in 2020*

# DONNA BRAZILE

## Noted political strategist: ‘Be hopeful, Graduates’

By Eric Stringfellow

Donna Brazile said her family was so poor growing up in New Orleans that they became waterfront property owners after every significant rainfall. But, she said, she never lost hope.

“It just goes to show that girls can aim high and be all that you can be,” Brazile, a political strategist, analyst and author, told 101 graduates during Jarvis Christian College’s 2019 Commencement Ceremony.

Brazile, the first African American woman to lead a mainstream presidential campaign, implored graduates to never lose hope, but it must be accompanied by faith and action.

“Choose hope because hope is God’s gift to help counter discouragement, to dissolve cynicism and despair. Choose hope and believe that you can be the change that you want to see,” Brazile said.

Brazile, who worked to make Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday a national holiday, said it would be up to this generation to get to the mountaintop. She also told graduates they must be willing to speak the truth to power.

“You can’t sit down and get anything. You’ve got to get up. You’ve got to step up, and sometimes you can’t wait for somebody to call. You’ve just got to be there because they know you should be there. And don’t wait for somebody to give you a seat at the table. Bring your own folding chair.”

She told graduates that they must prepare to act. “You can pray over a pile of bills and when you open your eyes the bills are going to still be there. Prayer works, but it always must be accompanied by hope, faith and action. God expects action,” Brazile said.

Brazile, a Louisiana State University graduate and college professor, has served as interim chair of the Democratic National Committee and recently signed on as a political commentator for Fox News. She served as campaign manager for Al Gore’s 2000 presidential campaign. She also worked for other Democratic presidential candidates: Jesse Jackson and Walter Mondale in 1984 and Dick Gephardt in the 1988 Democratic primary.

Brazile implored graduates to embrace their responsibility as leaders. “You soon will be in charge. Whether it’s as a national leader or a small-business owner, or as a neighborhood leader, the responsibility for what happens next will be yours.”

Brazile has been active in Democratic politics since her teens. She was a volunteer for Jimmy Carter’s presidential campaigns in 1976 while in high school and in 1980 as an LSU student.

She has twice served as interim chair of the Democratic National Committee in the spring of 2011 and again from July 2016 until February 2017. She also has served as vice chair of the DNC. Following her presentation, Brazile said she was done with running campaigns and would likely opt to be a party elder. She declined to identify her choice for the Democratic nomination. “It’s still early,” she said, “And the race is wide open.”

Brazile was a weekly contributor and political commentator on CNN’s *The Situation Room* and appeared on *American Morning* and its successor, *New Day*. She regularly appeared on *CNN Tonight with Don Lemon* and frequently appeared on Anderson Cooper’s guest panel of political experts on CNN’s election coverage. She also served as a contributing writer for *Ms. Magazine* and a columnist for *Roll Call*.

Brazile also is the author of *Cooking with Grease – Stirring the Pots in American Politics*, a memoir of her life and work in politics. She noted that her parents put eight of their nine children through college, and their achievement was significant.

“Generations of men and women have struggled just to see this day that you appear on this stage with your diploma. We are proud of you.”





# CLASS OF JARVIS CHRISTIAN



# OF 2019 IAN COLLEGE



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### **PICTURE:**

An aerial shot of the Jarvis Christian College Campus.

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White picket fence  
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north end of  
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# class notes

## ACROSS THE DECADES

### 1980s

#### Marvin Owens '87

Mr. Marvin Owens ringing the bell at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE)! What an honor!



#### Cletis Cabbil '82

Mr. Cletis Cabbil was named "Teacher of the Year" at Fort Worth, ISD. He is a 6th Grade Math Teacher at J. Martin Jacquet Middle School in Fort Worth, TX. Congratulations, Mr. Cabbil!

### Submit your class notes!

We love hearing from our alumni! Share your life changes, job updates, and accomplishments with us and we'll share them. Submit your first name, last name and class note via postal mail or email.

#### EMAIL

Mr. William Hampton, [whampton@jarvis.edu](mailto:whampton@jarvis.edu)

#### POSTAL MAIL

Mr. William Hampton  
Executive Director, Alumni Affairs  
Jarvis Christian College  
P.O. Box 1470  
US HWY 80 EAST, PR 7631  
Hawkins, TX 75765

# 1990s

## Michael J. Hickey '96

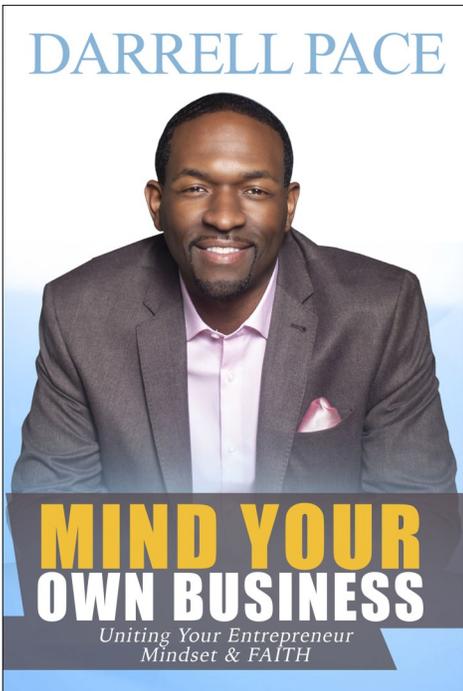
Michael J. Hickey, Jr. named Head Football Coach at Jack Yates High Magnet School.

# 2000s



## Deandra Chenault '06

City Councilor Deandra Chenault was named Mayor Pro Tem and was appointed in Wichita Falls, TX in the 2019 Election. Photo source: TimesRecordNews.com.



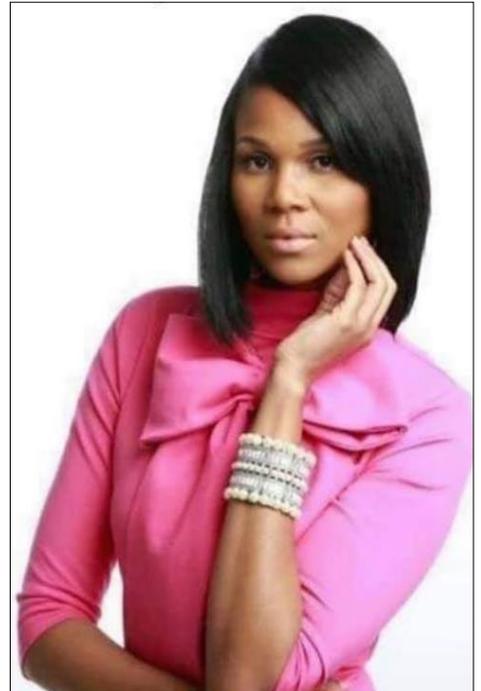
## Darrell Pace '00

Darrell Pace released his book entitled "Mind Your Own Business, Uniting Your Entrepreneur Mindset & Your Faith". For more about Mr. Pace and his endeavors, visit his website [www.betteryourbusinessnow.com](http://www.betteryourbusinessnow.com). Congratulations, Mr. Pace!



## Alma Bell '03

Ms. Alma Bell was named Teacher of the Year at J.A. Hargrave Elementary School, located in Fort Worth, TX. Congratulations, Ms. Bell!



## Latasha Roach '04

Ms. Latasha Roach was selected as the Head Women's Basketball Coach at Cedar Valley College in Lancaster, TX. Congratulations, Ms. Roach!

# in memoriam

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF

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Jarvis mourns the loss of its sons and daughters. Here, we pay homage to fellow Bulldogs who have recently passed away. Please note, this information is updated by our Institutional Advancement & Development Team. If you wish to submit information on an alumna or alumnus who has passed away, please email [alumni@jarvis.edu](mailto:alumni@jarvis.edu). If you would like to submit a personal message, you may also submit a Class Note request. All information will be verified before your note is published.

Charles W. Bennett

Elijah Benson

Clarence Beverly

Joseph K. Booth

Barbara E. Cannon

Lacy B. Chimney

Zella J. Cole

Demeka Carter-Merritt

Lela Doll Hinchon Jackson

Gloria Humphrey Collins

Jimmy Crowder

Frank Penny Edwards

Marvin G. Edwards

Carl B. Evans

Kay W. Ford

Ja'Lia Franklin

Larue Hawkins

Edith Darty Jackson

Eugene Keahey

Annie Lane Jobe

Lucille J. Luak

Willie J. McClure

Spaesio W. Mothershed

Charles A. Patterson, Jr.

Winifred Perpener

Raymond E. Pierce

Thelma Pitts

Bridget Pruitt Eatman

Deborah Cooper Russell

Otis R. Russell

Oma D. Sanders

Billy Lee Shears

DeQuail D. Thibodeaux

Claude Walker

Simeon S. Waters

J.C. Watkins

Debra K. Wesley

Johnnie Wills

# save the date

## 108TH FOUNDERS & HOMECOMING WEEKEND

**MARCH 16 – 22, 2020**

### **HOTEL INFORMATION**

#### **Candlewood Suites**

2904 Tuttle Blvd.

Longview, TX 75601

903-663-9751

Single: \$80.00 Double: \$87.00

Cutoff date: February 19, 2020

#### **Homewood Suites**

205 N. Spur 63

Longview, TX 75601

903-234-0214

King Suite or Double

Queen Suite: \$109

#### **Holiday Inn Express North**

300 Tuttle Circle

Longview, TX 75601

903-663-6464

Single or Double: \$99.00

Breakfast Included

#### **Sleep Inn and Suites**

615 City Center Way

Longview, TX 75605

903-212-6520

Single or Double: \$85.00

#### **Hilton Garden Inn**

905 E. Hawkins Parkway

Longview, TX 75605

903-212-3000

Single or Double: \$109

Cutoff date: February 21, 2020

\*Additional details will follow as plans are finalized. Please mention Jarvis Christian College Homecoming when reserving your room(s).

# JARVIS

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## CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

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Hawkins, TX 75765

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