

MORGAN

MAGAZINE

VOLUME I 2020



A Life of Service

Congressman Elijah E. Cummings, 1951–2019



MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY Magazine

VOLUME I 2020

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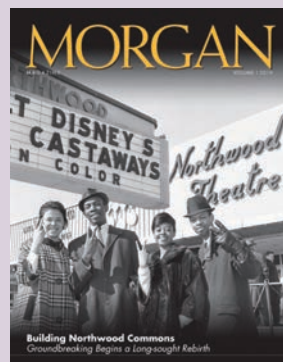


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2019 APEX Award of Excellence
2019 Communicator Awards, Award of Distinction
2019 Hermes Creative Gold Award

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Finalist, 2019 FOLIO: Eddie Award
Finalist, 2019 FOLIO: Ozzie Award
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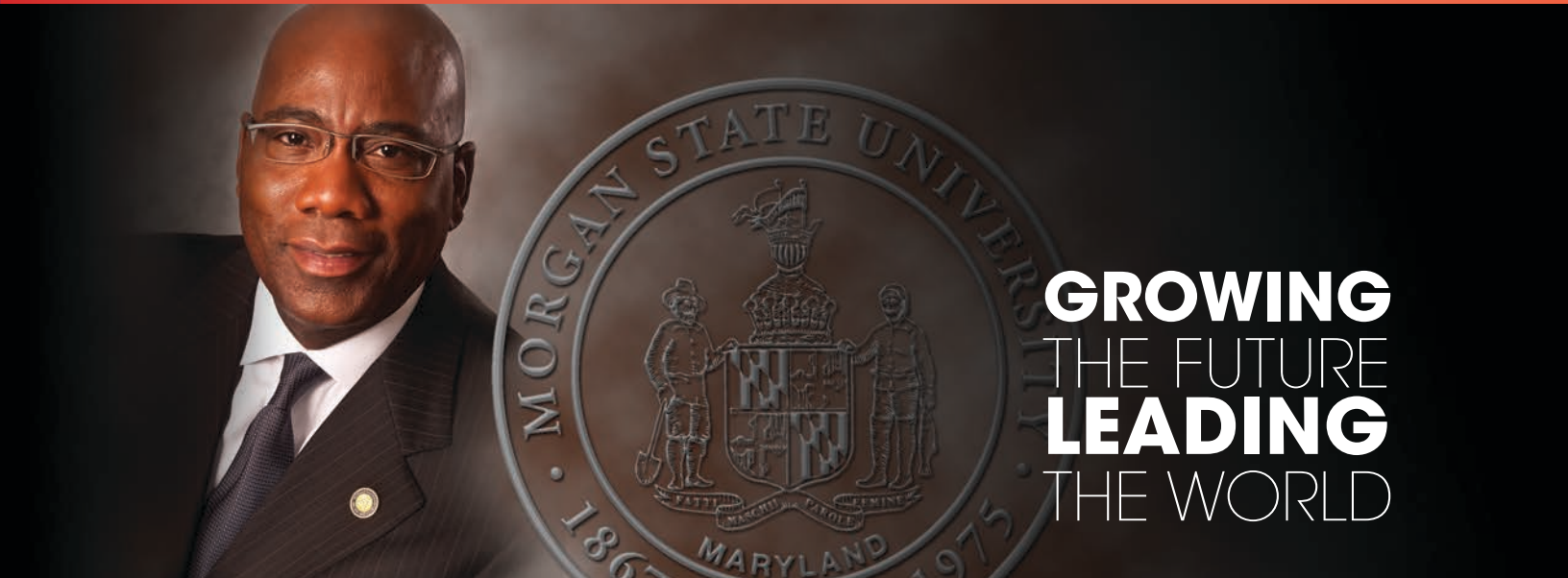
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Alumni and Friends,

Although a graduate of Howard University, in Washington, D.C., Ejijah Cummings was a pillar of Baltimore City and Morgan State University. His loss is still keenly felt, as is the absence of pioneering scholar and former Morgan State University Professor of History Rosalyn Terborg-Penn, Ph.D. But having read of Dr. Terborg-Penn's tremendous contributions to her field and having experienced firsthand Congressman Cummings' outstanding commitment to his hometown and MSU, I know that the greatest tribute we can pay them is to continue our work of *growing the future* and *leading the world*.

The stories in this issue provide clear examples of that work and "*The Morgan Way*." Long before his groundbreaking election as Howard County executive, Calvin Ball, Ed.D., profiled in these pages, experienced the transformational power of a Morgan education, first through his father then for himself as a doctoral student here early in his political career. Our article about Morgan's Entrepreneurial Development and Assistance Center tells how EDAC and its longtime director, MSU graduate Omar Muhammad, have cultivated success, often against the odds, by promoting business ownership.

Morgan's School of Social Work has long benefited communities in Baltimore and beyond with its research and treatment to address addiction, including the opioid crisis. The article in this issue spotlights that work as well as its importance to MSU students and faculty. Morgan's outsize impact on humanity through science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) also continues, as exemplified by the cutting-edge pancreatic cancer research of Simon Nyaga, Ph.D., and his team in Morgan's School of Computer, Mathematical and Natural Sciences.

Our scholarship and research require financial supporters, and the County Engineers Association of Maryland, featured in this issue's "Donor Profile," is one of our strongest. Our work needs good direction as well, such as that provided by the four new MSU administrators — all women — profiled in our "Leadership Spotlight."

With the holidays now past, but with the memories of the first-ever performance of Morgan's Magnificent Marching at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade still fresh, I am delighted to present this publication to you and yours. I look forward to seeing and working with you in 2020!

Sincerely,

David Wilson
President

CELEBRATING A LIFE OF SERVICE

Congressman Elijah E. Cummings, 1951–2019

Despite his long bout with a rare form of cancer, **Elijah E. Cummings**, Maryland congressman and Morgan State University (MSU) regent, left many shocked and saddened by his passing on Oct. 17, 2019, at age 68. MSU President David Wilson, Ed.D., was among his countless colleagues and constituents for whom Cummings was like family. The two had spoken by phone regularly and exchanged text messages frequently.

“He reminded me of my third oldest brother, Charlie,” Dr. Wilson recalled. “They had a lot of similar characteristics. They were very passionate about the things that they believed in. They cared deeply about others. They were



By Eric Addison

deeply rooted in their community. And then, my family and I grew up on a sharecropper's plantation in rural Alabama. (Cummings' parents had also been sharecroppers.) So I think it was no great surprise that Elijah and I had this very special connection, because we understood what it meant to grow up in an environment like that.

"...I never really had to guess where he stood on issues," Dr. Wilson continued. "I never had to guess whether he had an agenda other than the success of things that we had undertaken at Morgan and how he could support me to ensure that the University continued to improve in quality and expand its programs and its opportunities for our students."

Kweisi Mfume, a 1976 MSU graduate and chair of Morgan's Board of Regents since 2012, likewise describes a brotherly relationship with Cummings. The two young men met in 1978, when both were just becoming politically active in west Baltimore. Mfume was the first to run for and win elected office — Fourth District councilman in Baltimore City — and Cummings followed four years later, making a successful run for the Maryland House of Delegates with the support of one of his mentors, Delegate Lena K. Lee. U.S. Rep. Parren J. Mitchell of Maryland, also a Morgan graduate, later mentored Cummings and was a role model for him during Cummings' time in Congress.

"We were brought up in two households

separate and apart that pretty much relied on the same basic things, and those things were values," Mfume said. "Both Elijah and I were taught separately in our homes to fight hard for what you believe in, play by the rules, don't cheat, love your country, cherish your faith, respect your (elders), and believe in yourself. And it's kind of hard getting away from basic values like that.... When we talked, we realized almost immediately that we'd been raised in different homes, but the same lessons were there.... As we got older, Elijah and I would always talk about what those basic values mean in a home and how it can change the life of young people."

U.S. Rep. Elijah Cummings, a member of Morgan's Board of Regents, was Morgan's Spring Commencement Speaker on May 18, 2019.



"LIFE FLOURISHES MOST AT THE CROSSROADS WHERE TWO DIVERSE ECOSYSTEMS MEET."

— U.S. Rep. Elijah Cummings



Nurtured by Challenge

Born in Baltimore City in 1951, Elijah Cummings was the third of seven children of Robert and Ruth Cummings, who came to the city from South Carolina, where they had worked as sharecroppers. Elijah grew up in a religious household during the de jure segregation of the 1950s and '60s, as his mother followed her calling from domestic work to establish a church.

In the public schools in the underserved neighborhoods where he lived, Elijah was relegated to “the third group” of students, what is now called special education. But defying expectations, he became a stellar academic achiever, eventually earning a bachelor’s degree in political science from Howard University — where he served as student government president and graduated Phi Beta Kappa — and a J.D. from the University of Maryland School of Law.

He was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates in 1982, beginning his career of public service, and served there for 14 years, becoming the first African American elected as the body’s speaker pro tempore. In 1996, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, taking the seat that had been held by Kweisi Mfume before Mfume resigned to lead the NAACP.

During his 23 years as Maryland’s congressman from the Seventh District, Congressman Cummings became world renowned as a warrior for social justice, working continuously to ensure that the next generation had access to quality healthcare and education, clean air and water and a strong economy defined by fiscal responsibility. At the time of his passing, he was chair of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform and a senior member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. But his national and international following never diminished Cummings’ obvious love for his hometown of Baltimore City or his beneficial impact on Morgan.

Advocate for Morgan

Cummings was appointed to the MSU Board of Regents in 1999 and served on the body for 19 years. Mfume said the congressman was very thoughtful but often slow to speak in the position, rarely revealing to the public what Mfume said was one of Cummings’ defining characteristics: his great sense of humor.

“He was very, very deliberative on every issue. And Elijah would listen,” Mfume said. “He wouldn’t always have a lot to say as issues were coming before us or being presented in board meetings. But when he did have something to say, he was right on the money with it.”

Dr. Wilson readily recounted a few of what he said were many instances of Regent Cummings’ assistance to Morgan.

“He was very instrumental in our getting a National Transportation Center in our School of Engineering — one of the few National Transportation Centers at an (Historically Black College or University) — and was also very instrumental in our continuing to be a part of the National Transportation Center legislation and funding,” Dr. Wilson said.

“He put us in touch with several major corporate partners when he saw opportunities for our students. As a result, we were able to put in place numerous internship programs at Morgan, and we have students who are now serving in those internships,” Dr. Wilson reported. “We have a thriving partnership with Wells Fargo, where we have eight to 10 Morgan students now engaged in fellowships or internships.”

“He also was a big proponent of extending the Pell Grant to year-round, during the first term of the Obama administration, to enable more low-income students to be able to finish college within four years,” Dr. Wilson added. “And, indeed, we went to a year-round Pell for a couple of years, and Morgan saw tremendous benefits from that. But then that stopped (during the current president’s

administration), and (Cummings) was really working with us to try and get that back on track.”

“And the first big win I was able to achieve when I came to Morgan came as a result of his intervention,” Dr. Wilson recalled. “That was in 2011, when we were able to sign a cooperative agreement with NASA, in a partnership with the Universities Space Research Association, USRA, valued at about \$96 million, of which Morgan’s share would be \$28.5 million. Elijah had met Fred Tarantino, the president of USRA, and basically said to him, ‘I think you should sit down and have a conversation with my good friend David Wilson at Morgan.’ Then he called me and said I should expect a call from Fred. And I did, shortly thereafter.”

In the end, Morgan’s proposal — in collaboration with USRA, Ball Aerospace & Technologies, I.M. Systems Group, The Johns Hopkins University and The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies — won the bid for the laboratory agreement, “but we would not have even been in the competition had Elijah not put us together with USRA,” Dr. Wilson said. “We’ve been in this now for over five years, and NASA and USRA have decided to extend it for another five years, which will bring to nearly \$40 million the total amount that Morgan will receive from this collaborative agreement over a 10-year period.”

“I can think of so many other things that Elijah has helped us to do,” Dr. Wilson said, “but these are the ones that loom large.”

“We have lost a tremendous soul,” Dr. Wilson said. “We’ve lost a little bit of the heart of Baltimore, the heart of Maryland, the heart of Morgan, the heart of the nation. And he would want us to be committed to growing back tenfold that which we think we have lost. As president of Morgan, I’m certainly committed to growing the institution in greater service to Baltimore and to Maryland and certainly keeping in mind the great expectations that he would have of us as we move Morgan forward.” □

Thousands Paid Tribute to Congressman Cummings at MSU Services

U.S. Rep. **Elijah Cummings** became a global icon in Washington, D.C., but he wanted the world to know he was a son of Baltimore City. On Oct. 23, 2019, thousands of Baltimoreans took advantage of the opportunity he had given them to say their goodbyes. Following the arrangements the congressman had made with his family during his long battle with cancer, Cummings’ body lay in repose for more than 12 hours at the Carl J. Murphy Fine Arts Center, on MSU’s campus, for a public viewing, followed by special presentations from fraternal organizations and a tribute service for the public.

The diversity of the crowd on hand to pay their respects during the viewing in the Fine Arts Center’s Gilliam Concert Hall reflected Cummings’ true humanity and dedication to social justice and equal opportunity.

“Elijah is a figure in this community unlike any other,” said Baltimore businessman Wally D. Pinkard Jr. “In my lifetime, the only other I can think of (like him) is Pete Rawlings: men who transcended race, who had incredible values and who stood up for principles.” He and Cummings worked together on numerous projects in the community, said Pinkard, who holds a number of leadership positions including president of the France-Merrick Foundation. “He had so much energy. It’s amazing what he did in the last months of his life.”

“The reason I came out today is to pay my respects to a man who made constant efforts to change Baltimore City, and he did a really good job during his time in politics,” said Morgan student Jeremiah Taylor, a sophomore civil engineering major from Baltimore City. His parents also liked and respected Cummings, Taylor added, and his peers benefited from the congressman’s initiatives such as the Elijah Cummings Youth Program’s Israel Experience.

‘Always for Others’

During the tribute service, 27 speakers paid homage to the late congressman and regent, including elected officials,

religious leaders, personal friends, and individuals who had collaborated with him in serving the community.

“He would investigate, legislate and agitate, but when he agitated it was never for himself. It was always for others,” said retired U.S. Sen. Barbara Mikulski, who served with Cummings for 17 years in the Maryland congressional delegation. “...He did not ask people to give up their anger. He talked to them in justice, discrimination, redlined, sidelined. What he did was to take all of that anger and passion and to channel it into bringing about change.”

“He was so genuine. He was so authentic. He was so real. He didn’t get caught up in all the trappings, all the accoutrements of the position. He was a person who led with his heart. And I connected to him on that level,” said MSU President David Wilson. Later, Dr. Wilson said, during the unrest in Baltimore City in 2015, “I was so deeply moved as I would turn on the television each night, and I would see Congressman Cummings in the street, fighting every single night.... I will forever remember the tears that were welled in his eyes as he was fighting with all of his heart and all of his soul to restore peace to our great city of Baltimore.”

Congressman Cummings’ funeral was held on Friday, Oct. 25, in Baltimore City, at New Psalmist Baptist Church, where he was an active member. He is survived by his widow, Maya Rockeymoore Cummings, Ph.D., and daughters, Jennifer J. Cummings and Adia Cummings.



Success, Diversity Took Center Stage at Morgan's 143rd Commencement

Congressman Elijah Cummings Called MSU Graduates to Action

More than 925 bachelor's, master's and doctoral candidates received their degrees at Morgan State University's jubilant 143rd Spring Commencement Exercises, which included a ceremony for undergraduates on May 18, 2019 and a School of Graduate Studies ceremony on May 16. **U.S. Rep. Elijah Cummings**, a member of Morgan's Board of Regents, was the guest speaker for the Undergraduate Ceremony, held in Hughes Memorial Stadium. Retired *New York Times* sports columnist, journalist and author **William C. Rhoden** of Morgan's Class of 1973 received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters during the ceremony. More than 100 members of Morgan's Class of 1969 led the procession into the stadium and were honored as representatives of the 50th anniversary class, a day after Morgan's Alumni Day luncheon, where the class announced its \$1.4 million in giving to the University in 2018.

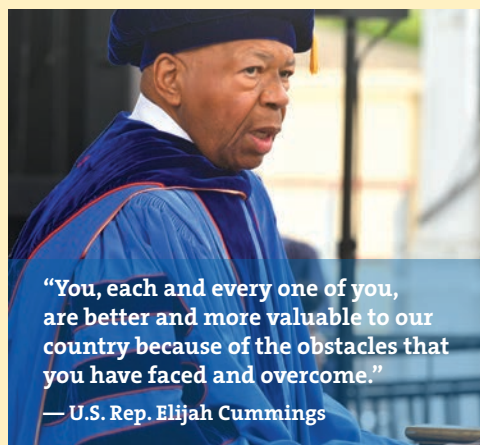
Morgan's Class of 2019 was rich with success stories reflecting the institution's diversity.

Alexis Samuels is a self-described "military kid" and former "nerd," who was born in Germany and grew up in Texas, Tennessee and in Frederick, Maryland, where she attended a predominantly white high school before following her mother's and sister's example to attend an Historically Black Institution. A Travelers EDGE scholarship paid her tuition and fees and provided internships with Travelers during her four-year Bachelor of Science program in actuarial science. She accepted a full-time position as a software engineer with JPMorgan Chase.

Lucas Krusinski, a native of France, arrived at Morgan unable to speak English but determined to play for the men's tennis team, which is the 2019 MEAC champion. Now fluent in English, and a Class of 2019 valedictorian, he has an MSU bachelor's degree in nutritional science and is pursuing a doctorate in food science on a fully funded fellowship at Michigan State University.

Withelma T. Ortiz Walker Pettigrew, a.k.a. **T. Ortiz**, received her Bachelor of Science in strategic communication, with honors, and joined the Baltimore Child Abuse Center as the anti-trafficking and anti-exploitation coordinator. Her 11-year journey through higher education came after she suffered years of childhood sexual, physical and verbal abuse and had become a nationally recognized advocate for children. A native of Oakland, California, she came to Baltimore homeless in 2014, the same year she was recognized as one of *Time* magazine's "100 Most Influential People."

Dominic Dingle received a Master of Science in sociology during the School of Graduate Studies Commencement and was commissioned with eight other MSU students as a U.S. Army second lieutenant, during a Morgan Bear Battalion ROTC ceremony the next day. Morgan's first graduate student to receive an ROTC commission, and the son of U.S. Army Maj. Gen. R. Scott Dingle of Morgan's



"You, each and every one of you, are better and more valuable to our country because of the obstacles that you have faced and overcome."
— U.S. Rep. Elijah Cummings



William C. Rhoden



Alexis Samuels (left) and Robyn Demetrius



Class of 1988, Dominic is now at his first duty station, Fort Carson, Colorado, with his wife, Deliana, beginning his military career as a member of the sports staff for the 10th Special Forces Group.

...

"Life flourishes most at the crossroads where two diverse ecosystems meet," said Congressman Cummings in his address. Drawing on his own childhood experience, Cummings spoke of the power of diversity to lead the U.S. past what he called a "critical crossroads" for the nation.

Growing up in an underserved area of Baltimore City, Cummings said, he attended a poor school and was assigned to "the third group" of students, what is now known as special education. He recalled wondering how the words "liberty and justice for all" in the Pledge of Allegiance applied to him, and he remembered being disparaged by a school counselor for aspiring to be a lawyer. Later, when he had become a lawyer,

he realized he was a rare Congressional expert in special education, and he was able to advance legislation to support special ed.

"You, each and every one of you, are better and more valuable to our country because of the obstacles that you have faced and overcome," Cummings told the audience. "...Your life experiences and your educational achievements are essential elements of our potential to lead our nation during a very difficult and challenging time."

"...Appreciate the value of our democratic republic in its hour of peril," Cummings said. "...Call upon the challenge and education that you have received at this great institution, and stand up for our democracy in your own communities."

Six undergraduate candidates with perfect 4.0 cumulative grade point averages shared the title of class valedictorian: Jamielle Davis (B.S., accounting),

Kristina Kincaid (B.S., social work), Lucas Krusinski (B.S., nutritional science), Eduardo Lopez (B.S., industrial engineering), Pierce Perkins (B.S., chemistry) and Ethan Simms (B.S., social work). Averi Maxine Turner (B.S., business administration) received the President's Second Mile Award for outstanding leadership and participation in student affairs, and Kayla Griffin (B.S., psychology) was presented with the President's Award for Exceptional Creative Achievement.

In her salute to the graduates at the Undergraduate Exercises, Senior Class President Emani Majors (B.S., construction management) called upon Morgan's newest alumni to disregard titles and instead search for their mission, their "why." Master's degree candidate Stanley Jenkins (M.A., African American studies) and doctoral candidate Valerie Riggs (Ed.D., urban educational leadership) inspired the audience with their salute to the graduates at the School of Graduate Studies Commencement. □



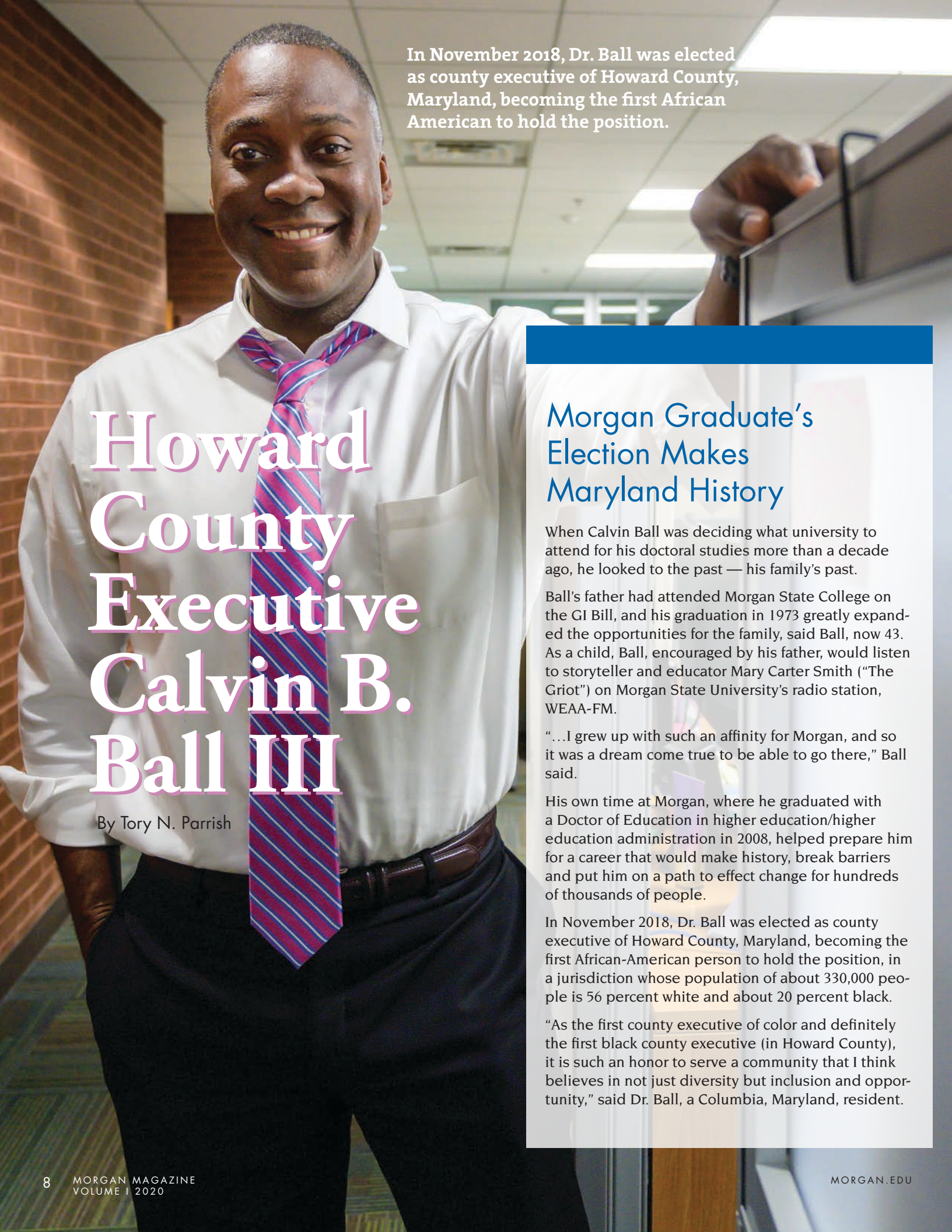
Lucas Krusinski



Withelma T. Ortiz Walker Pettigrew



Dominic and Deliana Dingle



In November 2018, Dr. Ball was elected as county executive of Howard County, Maryland, becoming the first African American to hold the position.

Howard County Executive Calvin B. Ball III

By Tory N. Parrish

Morgan Graduate's Election Makes Maryland History

When Calvin Ball was deciding what university to attend for his doctoral studies more than a decade ago, he looked to the past — his family's past.

Ball's father had attended Morgan State College on the GI Bill, and his graduation in 1973 greatly expanded the opportunities for the family, said Ball, now 43. As a child, Ball, encouraged by his father, would listen to storyteller and educator Mary Carter Smith ("The Griot") on Morgan State University's radio station, WEAA-FM.

"...I grew up with such an affinity for Morgan, and so it was a dream come true to be able to go there," Ball said.

His own time at Morgan, where he graduated with a Doctor of Education in higher education/higher education administration in 2008, helped prepare him for a career that would make history, break barriers and put him on a path to effect change for hundreds of thousands of people.

In November 2018, Dr. Ball was elected as county executive of Howard County, Maryland, becoming the first African-American person to hold the position, in a jurisdiction whose population of about 330,000 people is 56 percent white and about 20 percent black.

"As the first county executive of color and definitely the first black county executive (in Howard County), it is such an honor to serve a community that I think believes in not just diversity but inclusion and opportunity," said Dr. Ball, a Columbia, Maryland, resident.



Calvin B. Ball III, County Executive of Howard County, Maryland



Calvin B. Ball III, MSU Class of 2008

Transforming Lives

Attending an historically black university enabled him to take in academic perspectives that he hadn't encountered before. Many classroom conversations were centered on empowerment that "kindles a flame of hope" — i.e., uplifting black people in challenging situations — and the participants in those discussions were people of color who had personally experienced those cultural and socioeconomic challenges, he said.

"It was great. Being around so many professionals, people who were not only able to talk about the literature and the scholarship but also meld that with the experiences and social justice lens about how we, for the better, transform people's lives was exactly along the lines of what I feel my life's goals and purpose are," he said.

Ball also served as a faculty member at Morgan from 2010 to 2014, when he was tasked with serving as an academic adviser to graduate students, supervising clinical internships at community colleges, and other duties.

Llatetra Brown Esters, dean of students at the University of Baltimore, received academic guidance from Ball when he was a faculty member and she was a doctoral student at Morgan.

"I always felt that he was knowledgeable. He was helpful. He was truly concerned about ensuring that people had a voice and that issues were addressed as best as possible," said Esters, who earned her Doctor of Education in 2014.

Promoting Upward Mobility

Dr. Ball's four year-term as county executive began in December 2018. But his work on behalf of Howard County didn't start with his current job. He is a former Howard County firefighter and emergency medical technician who served three terms as a county councilmember. In 2006, he became the county's youngest-ever council chairman.

"...I grew up with such an affinity for Morgan, and so it was a dream come true to be able to go there."

Dr. Ball has a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy and religion from Towson State University and a Master of Arts in legal and ethical studies from the University of Baltimore. He's also a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

As Howard County executive, he is proud of his administration's accomplishments during his first 13 months in office, including enhancing public transportation by expanding bus service routes and connections provided by the Regional Transportation Agency of Central Maryland; launching the Youth Suicide Prevention Plan; and announcing a strategy to address opioid addiction that includes committing \$3 million over four years to a new residential treatment center to be formed in partnership with Delphi Behavioral Health Group.

Dr. Ball secured the largest funding increase for Howard County schools

in a decade. He has also successfully pushed economic development initiatives, such as signing a memorandum of understanding for an Innovation Center, holding the county's first Local Business Initiative Workshop and partnering with business accelerator Born2Global.

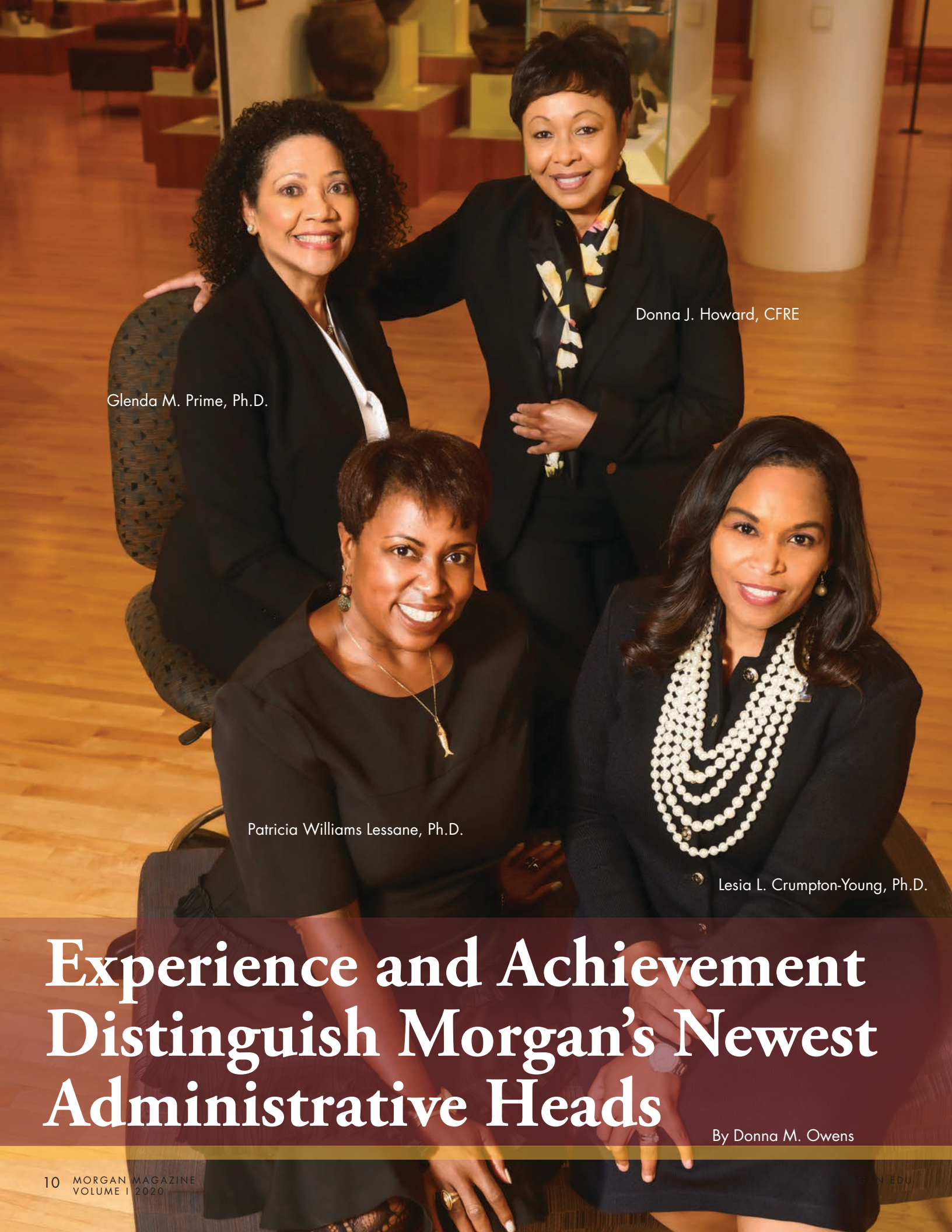
But Dr. Ball has much more on his plate for Howard County.

The suburb, located about 43 miles from Washington, D.C., and 24 miles from Baltimore, is known for its affluence and good public schools, said the married father of two daughters. The county's poverty rate is 5.9 percent, compared with 9.3 percent for Maryland and 12.3 percent for the United States, according to U.S. Census Bureau estimates. The county's median household income from 2013 to 2017 was \$115,576, compared with \$78,916 for Maryland and \$57,652 for the U.S. In June, Howard County had the lowest unemployment rate among all 24 counties and county-equivalents in Maryland, 3.1 percent, which was lower than the state rate of 3.9 percent, according to non-seasonally adjusted data from the Maryland Department of Labor.

But being an area known for having plenty "makes it easy for people to fall through the cracks," he said.

His plans include working to alleviate chronic homelessness, expanding the middle class and helping small, minority- and women-owned businesses grow.

"Economic mobility is something that is important to me," Dr. Ball said. □

A group photograph of four Black women in professional attire. Two women are standing in the back, and two are seated in the front. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The background features a wooden floor and museum-style display cases.

Glenda M. Prime, Ph.D.

Donna J. Howard, CFRE

Patricia Williams Lessane, Ph.D.

Lesia L. Crumpton-Young, Ph.D.

Experience and Achievement Distinguish Morgan's Newest Administrative Heads

By Donna M. Owens



Lesia L. Crumpton-Young, Ph.D., is an engineer, professor, researcher, author, coach and entrepreneur. She is eager to use her

talents in service to Morgan State University, as the new provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs.

"I was the first in my family to attend college, so I'm passionate about ensuring the success of students," said Dr. Crumpton-Young, who earned her doctorate in industrial engineering from Texas A&M University and was the first African-American woman to do so. "I want to be an advocate for both the faculty and students."

She is among the scholars and administrators who've joined the University's leadership ranks this year or have been elevated from previous posts at Morgan. The cohort also includes: Patricia Williams Lessane, Ph.D., associate vice president for Academic Affairs; Glenda M. Prime, Ph.D., dean of the School of Education and Urban Studies; and Donna J. Howard, CFRE, vice president for Institutional Advancement and executive director of Morgan State University Foundation, Inc. The four women each bring impressive credentials and a wealth of experience to their roles.

During her 25-year career in academia, Dr. Crumpton-Young has held positions at Tennessee State University, the University of Central Florida, Texas A&M University, Mississippi State University and the National Science Foundation. Widely known for her accomplishments in her field, she has published more than 150 scholarly articles and has received numerous national honors, including the U.S. Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring under the Obama administration.

"I'll work closely with (Dr. Wilson and his leadership team) to ensure we have transformative academic programs," said Dr. Crumpton-Young, who is also serving as a full professor in Morgan's Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering. "It's my job to ensure that we offer students promotable skill sets that will provide professional marketability and career vitality."



Dr. Lessane arrived at Morgan last spring, after serving as associate dean of Strategic Planning and Community Engagement at the College of Charleston, in South Carolina. She also held dual roles as executive director of the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture and as a tenured faculty member.

"Morgan has a legacy of black scholarship and scholastic excellence," she said. "I've followed Dr. (David) Wilson's career as president. I thought, 'I need to go work for them.'"

Dr. Lessane holds a Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Illinois at Chicago and served as a Fulbright specialist at the University of Málaga, in Spain. An author, researcher, documentary producer and social anthropologist, she frequently writes about the intersection of race, gender and class in black life in the U.S.

Higher education, however, is her passion.

"I have wide experience with all types of students, (including) international, first-generation (and) nontraditional students," said Dr. Lessane, who has also been appointed an associate professor in Morgan's Department of Sociology and Anthropology. "I'm hoping that insight will inform what I bring to the experience."



Dr. Prime, a native of Trinidad and Tobago, came to Morgan in 1999, after a decade of teaching at the University of the West Indies,

where she received a Ph.D. in education. Before being appointed dean at Morgan, she chaired the University's Department of Advanced Studies, Leadership and Policy, which houses graduate programs in education. Under her leadership, that department became the leading producer of doctorates at Morgan.

"I was able to grow enrollment in the mathematics and science education doctoral programs, and, later, I developed Master of Science programs in both of those areas," said Dr. Prime.

With two-and-a-half decades of experience as an educator, Dr. Prime has prima-

ry research interests that revolve around African-American students in urban science classrooms. A secondary research area involves the doctoral preparation of science education researchers. She has penned numerous journal articles and recently edited and coauthored a book titled, "Centering Race in the STEM Education of African American K-12 Learners," with Morgan faculty as co-contributors.

Having presented her work in several countries, she proudly notes Morgan's international reputation: "We draw students from all over the world."



Howard joined the University in December 2011 as director of the Office of Development. She is now applying her skills to a

broader purview as head of the Division of Institutional Advancement, which is Morgan's external communications arm and includes fundraising, public relations and alumni relations. Her responsibilities range from forging partnerships with corporate and civic organizations, to public engagement and building ties with alumni and friends of the University.

"I manage the scope and direction of our work to inform, engage and partner with a diverse spectrum of audiences," said Howard, who received her B.A. in nonprofit marketing from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. "We're the smallest unit of the University with the largest impact — reaching some 60 million individuals annually through direct reach and exposure to the Morgan brand. A big part of the work is building relationships."

Her vision has brought high achievement in her work, including her previous positions with the United Negro College Fund and the University of Maryland School of Social Work as well as with Morgan, where she was instrumental in the recent success of the Anniversary Campaign, which raised more than \$254 million.

"There's been a long line of caring people who've sustained Morgan since our founding," Howard said. "At 150-plus years, we are still going strong and positively impacting people. I love being part of the lineage that has helped carry this institution forward." ■

Leading Cancer Research and Science Diversity

Simon Nyaga, Ph.D., an associate professor of biology at Morgan, is developing a test that identifies faulty genes and could help doctors stop pancreatic cancer *before* it develops.

By Frieda Wiley

Simon Nyaga, Ph.D.



When U.S. Rep. John Lewis announced his struggle with pancreatic cancer this past December, he joined a growing list of high-profile individuals diagnosed with the disease: Alex Trebek, Aretha Franklin, Steve Jobs, Sharon Jones, Dizzy Gillespie and Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, among others. But the condition is not exclusive to celebrities, of course. Nearly 57,000 people in the United States are expected to receive the diagnosis this year, according to the American Cancer Society.

One researcher at Morgan State University is striving to lower pancreatic cancer's death rate. Simon Nyaga, Ph.D., an associate professor of biology, is developing a test that identifies faulty genes and could help doctors stop pancreatic cancer *before* it develops.

"We know that cancer cells divide much faster than normal, healthy cells," Dr. Nyaga said. "They're able to outsmart some of the biological processes that are there naturally to get rid of them."

At present, advanced-stage pancreatic cancer has no cure. Patients diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer typically live only three to six more months, although some may live longer. Because the condition is so deadly, early diagnosis is critical to prolonging one's life. However, pancreatic cancer is tough to pinpoint. In most cases, the disease is so far advanced when initially diagnosed that treatment proves too little, too late.

Early and Affordable

Scientists still aren't sure of the cause of pancreatic cancer, but Dr. Nyaga suspects cell trauma triggers the onset. In particular, he notes, exposure to oxidative stress — the same process that causes rusting of metals — makes healthy, functioning cells behave abnormally. Dr. Nyaga believes that faulty genes play a major role in the onset and/or progression of the disease. To date, his team has identified more than 100 abnormal genes in pancreatic cells that may be associated with carcinogenesis, the production of cancer.

Deoxyribonucleic acid, or DNA, is made up of three basic building blocks: ribose (a sugar), phosphate and nitrogen-containing bases. DNA is shaped like a winding ladder with four bases that unite in pairs to form the ladder-like rungs. Of



these bases, Dr. Nyaga said, one named guanine is more damage-prone than the rest. Oxidative stress alters guanine's structure, converting it to an abnormal version of the nucleic acid, called 8-hydroxyguanine (8-OHG). Normal guanine partners with the cytosine base, but 8-OHG partners inappropriately with adenine base. The faulty pairing alters the DNA's instructions that tell cells how to make certain proteins. Among the corrupted proteins are those that either repair DNA damage or suppress the growth of cancer cells. The unfortunate result is uncontrolled cell growth or cancer.

Following his hunches that oxidative damage of DNA triggers the development of pancreatic cancer, Dr. Nyaga and his team are developing a test that detects abnormally expressed genes and proteins. His aim is to develop a test that not only detects pancreatic cancer early but is also affordable.

"There is a breast cancer test in the market based on the Breast and Ovarian Cancer Susceptibility gene (BRCA 1) in breast cancer, but it is so expensive that very few people can afford to get tested," Dr. Nyaga said. "I want my test to be available to everybody."

Recruiting Students of Color

A native of Kenya, Dr. Nyaga was moved by fate, and some luck, in his journey to the U.S. Earning the top score on a national biology test landed him a spot in Kenya's International Laboratory for Animal Diseases. He agreed to work there for a year in exchange for the institution's full funding of his bachelor's degree at a university in the United Kingdom. However, when the promised matriculation failed to materialize after three years of

service, the multilingual scientist began exploring new prospects.

An American laboratory colleague suggested that Nyaga consider universities in the U.S. He was admitted to several but eventually settled on Texas Southern, an Historically Black Institution.

After earning his bachelor's degree in biology with honors in 1992, Nyaga pursued his Ph.D. in biochemistry and molecular biology at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas. He graduated in 1998 and went on to pursue postdoctoral research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), where he stayed on as a staff scientist.

Although the focus of his research at the National Institute of Aging was studying DNA repair in breast, prostate, skin and pancreatic cancer, Dr. Nyaga was not oblivious to his surroundings. Recognizing the lack of diversity, he approached his adviser about recruiting a more diverse group of scientists. The response surprised him.

"My supervisor welcomed the idea," Dr. Nyaga said. "He said they wanted to improve diversity but weren't sure exactly how."

With his boss' blessing, Dr. Nyaga began recruiting students of color to the NIH's summer research program, often at Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Since then, several of his student recruits have earned advanced degrees and landed professional or faculty positions at various institutions. Proud of his impact, Dr. Nyaga believes his tenacity and desire to promote diversity at the NIH more than 20 years ago have made a difference.

Since joining Morgan, Dr. Nyaga has mentored many students in his laboratory and has continued mentoring them even after they have left his charge. Two of his past trainees recently graduated with Ph.D.s and are pursuing postdoctoral research — one at a prominent university and the other with the National Academy of Sciences. Another recent trainee is a Ph.D. candidate at Brown University, and yet other is pursuing a master's degree in biotechnology at The Johns Hopkins University.

Clearly, Dr. Nyaga leaves a legacy wherever he goes. □

County Engineers Association of Maryland Supports MSU Engineering



By Cindy Atoji



CEAM officers at the association's 2019 Conference in Ocean City, Maryland, in May: (left to right) Erv Beckert, CEAM Past President; Greg Africa, CEAM Treasurer; Danielle Conrow, CEAM President; Ron Rye, Treasurer, CEAM Scholarship Committee; and James D. Wilson, Chairman, CEAM Scholarship Committee



Cierra Carter, MSU Class of 2019, earned her Bachelor of Science in civil engineering with assistance from CEAM

Increasing the racial, ethnic and gender diversity in the engineering profession remains a challenge in the United States, and civil engineering is no exception. According to U.S. Census Bureau statistics compiled by the website Data USA, more than 85 percent of the nation's civil engineers are male, and more than 80 percent are white. However, Morgan State University's Clarence M. Mitchell Jr. School of Engineering has long been a powerful force in the right direction, ranking among the nation's leaders, and at the top in the state of Maryland, in producing African-American civil engineering bachelor's degree recipients.

Among the Morgan alumni changing the face of civil engineering is recent

graduate Cierra Carter, who earned her bachelor's degree this past May with assistance from the County Engineers Association of Maryland (CEAM). Now a project manager for The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company, she tackled challenging technology and engineering tasks as an undergraduate intern in Prince George's County, Maryland's Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T). Her work there included reviewing and recalculating complex roadway sections to ensure that drainage and curb sections were properly designed.

Carter represents the next generation of civil engineers, defying stereotypes and pushing the boundaries of possibility.

But civil engineers have always made a difference, and not only by building bridges, repairing roads and upgrading levees and dams, said James D. Wilson of CEAM.

"There's a lot of infrastructure we take for granted, but it's a civil engineer who put that in place," Wilson said.

Scholarship Partner

CEAM is a coalition that includes county, state, municipal and consulting engineers as well as public works personnel, contractors and suppliers in the state. The association aims to raise the technical standards of public service by exchanging ideas and discussing shared problems in the civil engineering field,

supporting legislation that promotes the profession and aiding future civil engineers. CEAM was established more than 60 years ago and has grown exponentially to become a 600-member advocate for civil engineering and public works in Maryland.

CEAM established the Roger Willard Scholarship Foundation almost four decades ago. Named in honor of the first president of the organization, its goal is to attract more students to the field. The foundation first provided scholarships to civil engineering students at the University of Maryland, College Park and later added Morgan State University to its list of endowments. The Foundation, with the support of CEAM, entered into an agreement with Morgan to provide a scholarship endowment of \$100,000 over several years and continues to provide a one-semester scholarship to one student annually. Last year, the \$100,000 goal was reached.

"The Foundation looks for a strong civil engineering program and encourages students to intern and ultimately seek employment with local and county public works agencies in Maryland as well as the consulting engineering firms that work for those agencies," said Ronald W. Rye, the Foundation's treasurer. Scholarship recipients are invited to the annual fall CEAM conference in Ocean City, Maryland, and typically have internships with member agencies or companies. Rye works at a consulting firm, The Wilson T. Ballard Company, which is a member of CEAM and coordinates with the association's county departments of public works.

MSU graduate Daniel Savage (Class of 2012) works in Ballard's water and sewer design section and continually impresses colleagues with his knowledge, work ethic and ability to work as part of a team: just another example of a top-notch Morgan engineer.

Good Investment

CEAM is also among the "\$100,000-Plus" supporters on the list of donors to Morgan's recently completed \$250-million Sesquicentennial Anniversary Campaign. The Anniversary Campaign set out to raise funds from private and public sources to sustain and increase MSU's affordability and accessibility, which appeals to James Wilson, who is chair of the CEAM Scholarship Program. Wilson works with KCI Technologies Inc., a local engineering firm that actively recruits and hires Morgan graduates in civil engineering and other positions. Morgan alumni at KCI range from entry-level engineers to senior managers.

"Resources go a long way at Morgan, as students get more value than (at) other schools for the same amount of investment," said Wilson.

CEAM also appreciates Morgan's multiethnic and multiracial student body, believing that the broader the diversity of the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) workforce, the more society is likely to support the work that civil engineers perform, whether it be providing clean, plentiful water, power generation and distribution, waste disposal or an equitable transportation system.

"The civil engineering profession isn't just engineers but also technicians, inspectors, surveyors, planners, construction managers, contractors, developers and much more," said Wilson.

What does the future hold for the CEAM-Morgan affiliation? Erv Beckett, outgoing president of CEAM and chief of the Engineering and Design Division for Prince George's County's DPW&T, for one, has always been a great believer in Morgan talent. He says civil engineers from MSU and elsewhere will continue to transform the future, with the help of CEAM's contribution. □

CEAM fulfilled its \$100,000 scholarship endowment with Morgan this year.

DonorProfile

U.S. Civil Engineers:

> 85% male
> 80% white

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Morgan Making a Difference

Nationwide



Morgan ranks 7th nationally in producing African-American civil engineering bachelor's degree recipients.

State-Level



Morgan ranks 1st in Maryland in producing African-American civil engineering bachelor's degree recipients.

Source: IPEDS Completions: Awards/Degrees Conferred 2017-2018 by Program Survey

Top-Notch Morgan Civil Engineers



Building LEGACY Through Business Ownership

Morgan's Entrepreneurial Development and Assistance Center

EDAC

By Eric Addison



Omar Muhammad

A unit of Morgan's Earl G. Graves School of Business and Management, EDAC provides activities geared toward "anyone who's looking for resources to start operating or grow their business."

As director of Morgan State University's Entrepreneurial Development and Assistance Center for the past 15 years, Omar Muhammad has embraced a mission dear to his heart: *"Connecting budding and existing entrepreneurs to resources for venture management and growth."* Leading the center, which is better known by its abbreviation, EDAC, is work for which he was well-prepared, long before he earned his bachelor's degree in accounting from Morgan in 1993 or his master's degree in technology entrepreneurship from the University

of Maryland, College Park, in 2015, Muhammad said.

"My parents got me started with this when I was a kid," he recalled. "I have two brothers and two sisters, and my parents said, 'There's too many of you to give an allowance. Start a business.' So we had a candy store in our basement."

Role models such as Baltimorean Reginald F. Lewis, the first African American to own a business with more than \$1 billion in sales, boosted the motivation Muhammad's parents had instilled in him, and by the time he

arrived at Morgan as a student, he was a full-fledged entrepreneur: "I had a T-shirt company. I had a mobile car wash. I picked up cars from Giant (Food Store's) parking lot, took them to my parents' house, cleaned them and returned them."

Maryland Congressman Parren J. Mitchell, a Morgan graduate and a strong advocate for economic development in African-American communities, continued Muhammad's guidance down the business path by mentoring him and a number of other promising black entrepreneurs.



Tiffany Thompson

Small Staff, Big Impact

A unit of Morgan's Earl G. Graves School of Business and Management, EDAC provides entrepreneurship classes, workshops, pitch competitions, conferences and other activities geared toward "anyone who's looking for resources to start operating or grow their business," Muhammad said. The center, established in 1992, has focused on children, teens and preteens as well as adults over the years, presenting programs such as "BizTech Kids," for budding businesspeople aged 10 to 14, and a program named "Make It Happen," funded by music mogul Kevin Liles, a Morgan alumnus, for 11th graders. Recent EDAC events included a W.O.M.E.N. (Women-Owned and Managed Enterprise Network) conference, a Maryland Military and Veteran Women Business Conference with Morgan graduate Andrea Garriss Jackson and a "MNDSET Conference" on entrepreneurship for millennials. Planned events include a conference for black fathers who are entrepreneurs and a "Side Hustle Summit" virtual conference for current or prospective business owners who are also full-time employees.



SunTrust Foundation supported EDAC's "Side Hustle" program with a \$75,000 grant and recognized the center's work with a Lighting the Way Award, in August. Presenting the award, Stan Little, president of the SunTrust Foundation, called EDAC one of its local, nonprofit partners "that empower and strengthen the communities they serve. EDAC is making a meaningful impact with its programs to improve the

financial well-being of the people who need it most."

EDAC has a small staff: Muhammad, director, and Yvette Racks, administrative assistant. But it continues to make a large, beneficial impact on Morgan and the broader community. Muhammad would like to see that impact be even larger.

"Morgan students, staff, alumni and faculty are interested in entrepreneurship, and they're starting businesses. But we could start many more. My role is to help make that happen over the next couple of years," he said. "Also, I've noticed that many of our entrepreneurs have service-based companies, and I'd like to see more of them be product-based."

Muhammad sits on the board of the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) and is a member of the Morgan Entrepreneurship Alumni Chapter, a group whose mission is to maintain a network of MSU alumni entrepreneurs to promote business opportunities and serve as a resource for entrepreneurial development for students, the University and the surrounding community. For 20 years, he was host of a radio show about entrepreneurship on Morgan's WEAA Radio, and he now produces several podcasts on the topic and writes a column in the Baltimore Business Journal. Like many successful advocates, Muhammad sees his work as a lifestyle, and he works intentionally to influence everyone close to him with his mission, from business associates

to family members. His wife, Natasha, is a 2006 graduate of Morgan and owns several businesses, including a not-for-profit company that helps youth aged 10 to 18 develop an entrepreneurial mindset and start businesses. His four daughters — aged 12 to 34 — have all been entrepreneurs also.

Muhammad said his ultimate goal for EDAC clients is what he calls LEGACY, his acronym for "legacy building," "economic opportunities," "global competitiveness," "asset building," "community building" and "your personal development."

"LEGACY is why entrepreneurship is important," Muhammad said. "It's why we continue to do what we do at EDAC."

SunTrust Foundation supported EDAC's "Side Hustle" program with a \$75,000 grant and recognized the center's work with a Lighting the Way Award, in August.



Continued on page 18

Assisted by EDAC

Entrepreneurial Development and Assistance Center



Andrea Garriss Jackson

Principal
DPN Group, LLC

Andrea Garriss Jackson sought out EDAC's services in the late 2000s. The Hampton, Virginia, native and U.S. Army veteran had been downsized from her job auditing developers for their compliance with rules regarding inclusion of minorities, women and local residents as contractors and employees in their projects. A Morgan graduate in political science (B.S., 1993), Jackson was very familiar with the center by then and knew Omar Muhammad as a classmate. Encouraged by her former employer, Jackson decided to launch a third-party compliance monitoring company to continue her previous work. EDAC, she said, gave her "the basic foundation and education to start my business, understand how to operate it and keep it running successfully." Today, she reports that "I have made my first million" as head of DPN Group, LLC, a company that has served as third-party compliance monitor for the Johns Hopkins Science and Technology Park for the past 10 years and has numerous other high-profile clients. Jackson is also chair of the board of Stadium Place, in Baltimore City.



Brandon Davenport

Co-founder
Baobab Clothing Inc.

As an undergraduate in finance in Morgan's Earl G. Graves School of Business and Management, **Brandon Davenport** spent many hours at EDAC, working as a student intern and participating in the center's classes, the Entrepreneurship Society, the business plan competitions and other activities. So by the time he graduated from MSU in 2006, he felt prepared for business ownership. The Baltimore native started his first business, a mobile-device advertising technology company named Vesta Mobile Solutions, in 2007, with a friend, Hampton University graduate Marcellus Alexander III, and sold the company in 2010. The two launched their current company, Baobab Clothing, a maker and distributor of high-quality, high-tech polo shirts, in 2018. Davenport and Alexander are now seeking venture capital to grow Baobab, a search that led them to a national TV appearance on ABC's *Shark Tank* this past October.

Brandon Davenport (left) and Marcellus Alexander III on ABC's Shark Tank (Oct. 13, 2019)





Likia Hawkins

President and CEO
Steel Point Solutions, LLC

Likia Hawkins' Morgan education has brought multiple career benefits, including her involvement with EDAC. The Maryland native leveraged her B.S. in information science and systems to become a government contractor in her profession. Six years ago, she launched Steel Point Solutions, LLC, an information technology solutions services company supporting the U.S. intelligence community and Department of Defense (DoD). In 2015, the company applied for the DoD's Mentor-Protégé Program, to enhance Steel Point's ability to pursue larger federal contracts. In this initiative, her Morgan ties benefited her again, as did the network she had established at IBM while employed there for nearly eight years. Hawkins learned that IBM provides training to its protégés through EDAC. Through this program and the work of her employees, partners and clients, Steel Point, based in Calverton, Maryland, has grown to 40 employees in eight states and is on track to increase its 2019 annual revenue by 80 percent. Hawkins reports that the company is well positioned for further growth.



Tiffany Lymon

Owner
Tiffany Ignites

Tiffany Lymon, from the Bronx, New York, has two academic degrees from Morgan: a B.S. in international finance (1999) and an M.B.A. with a concentration in management information systems (2002). But one experience outside the classroom, working for EDAC for two years during her time as an undergraduate, turned out to be very important to her current work. Lymon launched her second business, Tiffany Ignites, in 2013. The seven-employee enterprise includes a fitness studio in Harford County, Maryland, and also trains and coaches clients in personal wellness and professional development. EDAC provided her with marketing ideas and financing options to get the businesses off the ground.

"Omar and Yvette were always able to help me, either directly or by pointing me toward someone who was able to help me," Lymon said. "EDAC is definitely a very good resource for individuals who are either starting a business or are in business."



Sam Henry

Managing Director
HD Multifamily

Sam Henry's interest in entrepreneurship dates back to his middle school years, when "Tycoon" PC games enabled him to simulate running businesses. Henry majored in industrial and systems engineering at Morgan but became an information technology entrepreneur before he received his bachelor's degree in 2010: he taught himself to program computers and develop software, and explored ways to monetize the websites he developed. His first job after graduation was as a technology consultant for Accenture, and he has continued in the software industry since then. Henry worked closely with Omar Muhammad and EDAC on a series of annual "hackathons" — software development competitions — for Morgan students. He said the center was instrumental in handling the logistics and promotion of the events, which were also recruitment venues for Baltimore area tech employers. A search for passive income for himself led him to launch a real estate investment firm, HD Multifamily, in 2011. Henry praises EDAC's work and its mission.

"I think it's a rare asset that Morgan has," he said, "a place where you can come with no knowledge of business and find all of the resources and coaching you may need to go from A to Z, and do it outside of the normal classroom setting. □"





Addressing the Opioid Crisis in Urban America

By Carla R. Jackson, Ed.D.

The tremendous increase in addiction and deaths caused by opiates over the past few years has changed the name and public face of the problem in the United States. The suffering of white, suburban Americans now figures prominently in the narrative of what is now known as “the opioid crisis,” however, the African-American, urban community has also experienced a significant increase in opioid deaths. Moreover, as with most societal ills in this country, the current epidemic of opioid addiction has made a deeper impact on the marginalized, the poor and those whom mainstream society judges most harshly.

“Addiction intersects with homelessness, poverty, mental illness and high-risk behaviors outside of substance abuse. There is survival sex and other types of behaviors that are in the service of the addiction,” said Laurens Van Sluytman, Ph.D., LCSW, assistant dean and associate professor in Morgan State University’s (MSU’s) School of Social Work.

The lack of access to treatment and rehabilitation for those affected in urban,

African-American communities, and the lack of research and limited funding to address the problem there, have long challenged professionals serving the needs of these communities. These practitioners often fill the gap left by policies and public health campaigns that do not fully consider the areas’ cultural and historical nuances.

Since its founding, Morgan’s School of Social Work has been fully vested in its institutional mission to serve urban communities through a wide variety of social, economic and social justice initiatives. And under the direction of its dean, Anna McPhatter, Ph.D., the school has a long history of work with addiction. Of the more than 500 social work degree programs across the nation, the MSU undergraduate program is one of only four that require students to take a course in chemical dependence. That requirement has been a part of the curriculum for more than 25 years. Faculty have built on that foundation in recent years by creating a concentration in addiction, including required courses in treatment,

pharmacology and social work ethics focused on working with people with addictions or addictive behaviors.

“Our students have to be well-trained and deeply immersed in our ethics as social workers to approach these problems and these populations in a nonjudgmental space, in order to provide the services and the linkages, and the engagement and assessment,” said Dr. Van Sluytman. “It is difficult for people to sit sometimes with someone who has an open abscess, right?”

Moving the Needle

On any given day, at least 250 MSU social work students are serving as interns in agencies in Baltimore City, providing approximately 300,000 hours of free service annually, valued at about \$7 million. Dr. Van Sluytman noted that although the goal of the internships is to educate students, their work must also inform the field.

“We have to be sure that our students are driven by data,” he explained. “What works? How long does it take to work?”



“The epidemic (of opioid addiction) in our community is very different from what is being televised. Our students know our community, and they know the history of our community. That is what urban social work is about.”

— Laurens Van Sluytman, Ph.D.,
LCSW, Morgan State University
School of Social Work



What are the most effective interventions for this community?”

Many Morgan social work graduates return to the communities from which they hail, trained to advocate for and understand the cultural dynamics of the neighborhoods they serve.

“The epidemic (of opioid addiction) in our community is very different from what is being televised. Our students know our community, and they know the history of our community,” said Dr. Van Sluytman. “That is what urban social work is about.”

Dr. McPhatter echoed Dr. Van Sluytman’s thought that cultural awareness and sensitivity are pivotal in urban environments: “In general, the focus we’ve given to drugs, drug use and drug violence in our curriculum absolutely makes our students...more efficient at calming a situation down to get the information they need to assess and refer, without calling the police.”

Co-principal Investigators Anthony Estreet, Ph.D., and Taqi Tirmazi, Ph.D., associate professors in the School of Social Work, recently received a \$1.3-million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to develop an initiative titled Graduate Interns Future Trends (G.I.F.T.). G.I.F.T. provides specialized training in mental health and substance abuse to 90 Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) students to prepare them to address the addiction epidemic facing the city of Baltimore and other urban areas. Students received \$10,000 stipends to complete the training, and the School of Social Work developed extensive collaborations with community-based agencies to enhance their training. In addition, Dr. Estreet’s expertise in substance use disorders has evolved into a partnership with the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) and its Region 3 Addiction Technology Transfer Center, to provide ongoing training to community agencies and students.

To meet the goals of these initiatives, Dr. Estreet is conducting research that addresses treatment outcomes in the minority population.

“We have created the Health and Addiction Research Training Lab, which allows us to partner with M.S.W. and Ph.D. students to conduct research and to document the efforts that we are engaging in around the issues that are specifically related to addiction.”

Reflecting on the work that still needs to be done in this field, Dr. McPhatter raised Morgan’s obligation and responsibility to Baltimore.

“We’ve got to be the people at the table,” she said. “We have to develop the models, the plans and the interventions to move the needle on these challenges. As an urban research institution and an anchor university in this city, we must play a significant role in altering the narrative and trajectory of the critical issues facing our city.” □



Anthony Estreet, Ph.D. (right)

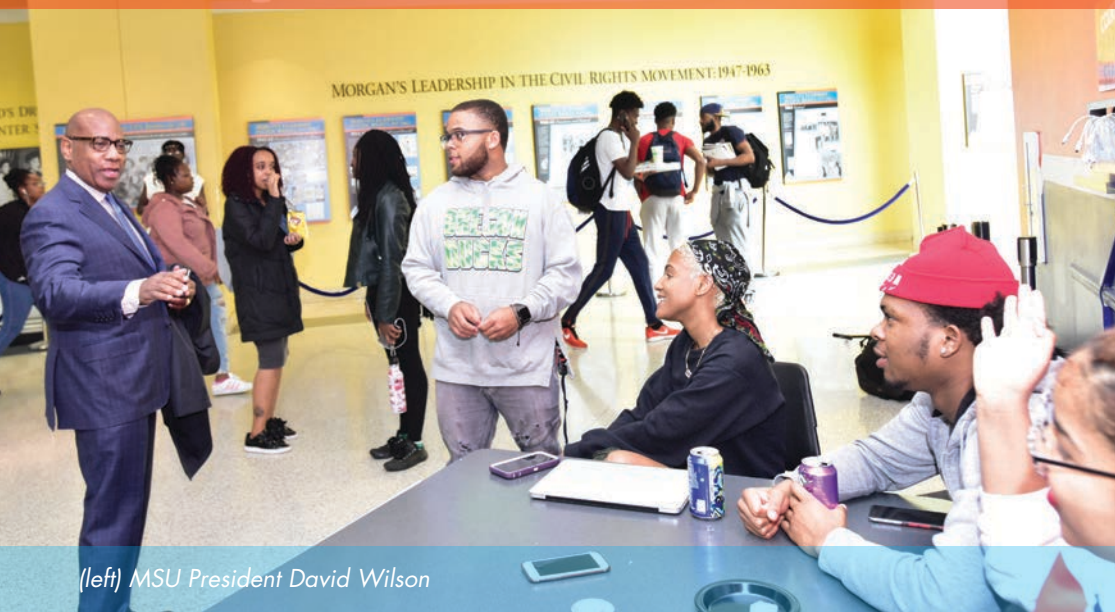


More Than a Motto, 'The Morgan Way'

By Frank McCoy

"I challenged the norm and challenged Morgan to embrace a different paradigm (of what constitutes 'The Morgan Way.')"

—MSU President David Wilson



(left) MSU President David Wilson



MSU Athletic Director Edward Scott

During his first months on campus, in 2010, said Morgan State University **President David Wilson, Ed.D.**, he confronted attitudes that he "could not accept."

One incident, in particular, stands out in his mind. He saw campus thoroughfares littered with music event flyers, and as he picked up the refuse, a student asked him, "Why are you doing that? That's the Morgan way parties are promoted."

Not anymore, the president replied, "(The promoters) are soiling our university."

Dr. Wilson also recalls MSU meetings in which he asked the assembled staff why his and others' emails were not responded to promptly and was told, "That's just how we do it."

The outraged president vowed to instill a new outlook.

"I challenged the norm and challenged Morgan to embrace a different paradigm (of what constitutes 'The Morgan Way')," he said.

The president found a number of allies in his initiative, including Morgan's athletic director, **Edward Scott, Ph.D.**, who joined the University in 2016. Scott grasped the concept immediately and told his senior staff to make the phrase "The Morgan Way" a positive rather than negative comment in their conversations with Bear athletes. He believed that if athletes, as admired individuals on campus, bought into the campaign and began using the phrase, its value would spread, said Dr. Scott.

His belief was correct. Since then, varsity and non-varsity players as well as students outside of athletics have begun to embrace various iterations of The Morgan Way



MSU Vice President for Student Affairs Kevin Banks



Ilan-Spencer McBorrough

concept. President Wilson also defines the phrase for hundreds of students and parents at student orientations and other events.

The Morgan Way exemplifies the University's six core values, Dr. Wilson explained:

- **Excellence** – Excel in all you do.
- **Integrity** – Be honest, ethical and accountable in word and deed.
- **Respect** – Respect everyone in the community.
- **Diversity** – Welcome and support a broad range of people and ideas.
- **Innovation** – Work to make things better than when you found them.
- **Leadership** – Develop leadership skills to compete on the world stage.

To spread the idea further, Dr. Wilson and MSU Vice President for Student Affairs

Kevin Banks, Ed.D., visit all Morgan residence halls holding fireside chats with students to explain Morgan's history, promise and purpose and telling them to hold that knowledge high.

Says Dr. Wilson, "We stress fixed core values at every opportunity we have."

Damali Young, a May 2019 Morgan graduate, is a believer. The Bears softball team's former right fielder earned her Bachelor of Science in construction management with a 3.59 cumulative grade point average. She was also the 2019 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Player of the Year; MEAC's 2019 Woman of the Year, the first Morgan player to earn that honor; and the 2019 HBCU Division I Player of the Year, with program records in hits, career runs scored and eight other categories.

Young knows that showing teammates to hustle on the field, study hard, perform

well on exams and display exemplary behavior at campus functions is the norm.

"You won't see a Morgan State student-athlete who isn't striving to the shining example of The Morgan Way," said Young, who is now a project engineer for Barton Malow Company.

Business administration major **Ilan-Spencer McBorrough**, 20, a senior on MSU's football team, has a ready response when asked how The Morgan Way slogan impacts him.

"The Morgan Way means that you always have to get your work done in an efficient manner," said the starting linebacker and team captain. "Even though you have practice, meetings and traveling, our first priority as student-athletes is to get a degree. Therefore, the phrase emphasizes doing the right things in all aspects of college." □



Damali Young





Morgan's Marching Band Lights Up Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

By Eric Addison



Rising early to watch the **Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade** on television is an annual holiday tradition in the Fabiyi-King household, in Hyattsville, Maryland. But last fall, the family had a special motivation to see the event, up close and live. This past Nov. 28, Justin Fabiyi-King, an information systems major in his junior year at Morgan State University, led the MSU Marching Band — a.k.a., **the Magnificent Marching Machine** — on a 2.7-mile course through Manhattan, in New York, for the 93rd iteration of the parade. The occasion marked the band's first-ever appearance in the event and was only the fifth time in the parade's history that an Historically Black College or University (HBCU) was featured. The band's high-energy performance was witnessed by an estimated 3.5 million spectators in New York and 22.1 million television viewers nationwide.

MSU President David Wilson was the impetus for the historic march, said Melvin N. Miles Jr., director of University Bands at Morgan since 1985. The president suggested that Miles apply for the marching band to perform in the world-famous event.

"I felt that if we applied, we'd be accepted. I felt rather confident in that," said Miles, who ranks the band's appearance in the Macy's parade high on a long list of prestigious MSU musical performances he has directed over the years. That list includes the marching band's annual participation in the Harlem Day Parade for nearly 30 years, the Magnificent Marching Machine

drumline's performance for President Obama in 2016 and, most recently, the band's joint performance with Baltimore's Marching Ravens band on the field of M&T Bank Stadium before nearly 71,000 football fans.

As a fourth-year member of the band, Fabiyi-King, an alto saxophonist, is likewise inured to big performances. But he admitted before the parade that, as a first-year drum major, he might feel some nervousness at the start of the event. In the end, hard work and daily rehearsals prevailed, as the Magnificent Marching Machine "killed it," as they say, in New York City. Morgan's band held the distinct honor of leading the parade participants along the route and was the first marching band performance on the famed Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade star.

"...When you do something like the Macy's parade...and you get those mentions on television, it advertises the University across the board," Miles said. "It drives alumni, who are givers, and it may drive some students who may be attracted to Morgan and enroll. So it has its purpose."

"But for me, personally, what I'm always excited about is the opportunity that students have," Miles added. "If I can be a part of something that gives the students a significant memory, a different kind of opportunity, then that, for me, is an extremely important personal gain." □



Melvin N. Miles Jr., Director of University Bands



Honoring the Legacy of a Legend

Renaming of Convocation Recognizes the Lifework of Historian Rosalyn Terborg-Penn

By Burney J. Hollis, Ph.D., and Edwin T. Johnson, Ph.D.



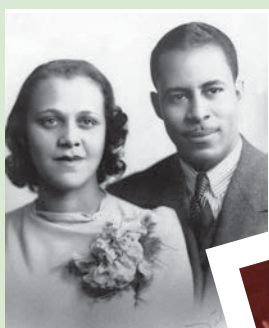
Dr. Rosalyn Terborg-Penn

Morgan State University's Women's History Month Convocation is part of the yearlong convocation series that began celebrating African-American history at Morgan in 1989. The annual assembly honors the achievements of African-American women in the history of the nation and the world. On March 14, 2019, Morgan State University President David Wilson issued a proclamation renaming the event as **The Rosalyn Terborg-Penn Women's History Month Convocation**. MSU professor of history emerita since 2009, Terborg-Penn was one of the nation's leading authorities on African-American women's history. She passed away unexpectedly on Christmas Day 2018.

Rosalyn Marian Terborg was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1941, the daughter of Jeanne Knox Van Horn and Jacques Arnold Terborg Sr. Two years later, her brother Jacques Arnold Terborg Jr. joined the family.

Jacques Sr. was a jazz musician and sky-cap who was originally from Paramaribo, Suriname. Jeanne had roots in Indianapolis, Indiana. She worked as a homemaker then, later, as an administrative assistant. A strong interest in her family history and identity was the foundation of Rosalyn's lifework.

The Terborgs moved from Brooklyn to Queens, New York, in 1952, and it was there that Rosalyn received her education, attending John Q. Adams High School and Queens College, City University of New York, where she earned a bachelor's degree in history in 1963. She often remarked that her first interest was architecture but that she was discouraged from that pursuit by counselors who cautioned it was not an appropriate career for women. This was one of many early instances that would shape her feminist philosophy.





Student, Activist, Wife and Mother

Influenced by her father and events unfolding in the country, Terborg-Penn was drawn to activism. She found her place in the civil rights movement, beginning with a boycott of Woolworth's on 5th Avenue in New York in solidarity with the students in Greensboro, South Carolina. She also led a protest when Queens College refused to allow Malcolm X to speak on campus. In 1963, Terborg-Penn attended the historic March on Washington with her father and brother.

During her time at Queens College, in 1961, Terborg-Penn was initiated into Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. The sorority served as both a source of lifelong friendships and another avenue for activism. In her later work, she often acknowledged the invaluable role of black women's clubs and societies in organizing efforts around women's suffrage and civil rights.

After graduating from Queens College, Terborg-Penn moved to Washington, D.C., to pursue a master's degree in history at George Washington University. She chose the city in part because many other members of her extended family, including her aunt and namesake Rosalyn Coleman and her cousins James Fletcher Robinson



Meeting First Lady Claudia ("Lady Bird") Johnson

and Charles Bailey, had relocated to the area. While attending GW, Terborg-Penn worked at Friendship House, a settlement house in D.C. that provided educational and social support to the city's underserved families. In addition to meeting First Lady Claudia ("Lady Bird") Johnson, it was there that she met her husband-to-be, William Thomas Penn. The couple married in 1968, and shortly afterwards they moved to Columbia, Maryland. In 1969, Terborg-Penn began her teaching career at Morgan State College, joining a faculty that included notable historians Benjamin A. Quarles, Ph.D., and Roland C. McConnell. Terborg-Penn chose to spend her entire academic career helping to build a thriving history program at Morgan while teaching countless generations of Morgan students.

The Penns welcomed their daughter Jeanna Carolyn Penn into their family in 1972, but their marriage ended in divorce in 1979. Despite the challenges of furthering her career as a single mother, Terborg-Penn made parenthood her highest priority, dedicating herself to providing an enriched life for Jeanna.



Rosalyn Terborg-Penn:

Student
Activist
Wife
Mother
Researcher
Writer
Teacher and
Organizer

During her early years at Morgan, Terborg-Penn entered the doctoral program in history at Howard University. While a student there, she was influenced by historians Rayford Logan, Ph.D., and Merze Tate, Ph.D., the first black woman appointed to Howard's History Department, among many others. At Howard, she also met and collaborated with a group of dynamic women who lamented the lack of scholarship in black women's history and endeavored to change that reality.

Researcher, Writer, Teacher and Organizer

As a graduate student at Howard, Terborg-Penn won an award for her essay, "Discrimination Against Afro-American Women in the Women's Movement." She and Sharon Harley, a fellow graduate student, published a book, "The Afro-American Woman: Struggles and Images." During this same period, Terborg-Penn completed her dissertation, titled, "Afro-Americans in the Struggle for Woman Suffrage." The dissertation became the blueprint for a groundbreaking book two decades later. Terborg-Penn earned her Ph.D. in history from Howard in 1977.

Among Dr. Terborg-Penn's pioneering contributions to the field of history, three stand out as the brightest examples of her genius and unique position among her peers. In 1979, she, along with colleagues Eleanor Smith and Elizabeth Parker, founded the Association of Black Women Historians (ABWH). Dr. Terborg-Penn and her sister-founders set forth important goals for the fledgling organization, including work to promote black women in the profession and to enlarge the field of black women's



history through research, publications and teaching. Four decades after its founding, ABWH has a robust membership whose accomplishments mirror Dr. Terborg-Penn's international reputation for outstanding historical research and analysis.

Another significant contribution was the 1998 publication of Dr. Terborg-Penn's seminal book, "African American Women in the Struggle for the Vote, 1850–1920." Her research broke new ground by documenting that, contrary to previous reports, black women actively participated in the women's suffrage movement. Dr. Terborg-Penn chronicled that at every stage of the long-fought struggle for the vote, black women organized on behalf of the suffrage movement, argued Constitutional doctrine and staged protests to secure the franchise for all women. Through her research, Terborg-Penn positioned black women in their rightful places within the suffrage struggle. This year, scholars across the country are revisiting

her work, as the centennial anniversary of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment is commemorated.

Morgan was the beneficiary of the third of Dr. Terborg-Penn's most significant contributions: she played a leading role on the committee that drafted the proposal for Morgan's doctoral program in history. The proposal was approved in 1995, leading to the creation of Morgan's first Ph.D. program. Donna Tyler Hollie was the first candidate to earn the degree, at Morgan's May 2000 Commencement Exercises. Since that time, 34 Ph.D.s in history have been conferred at Morgan. Dr. Terborg-Penn coordinated MSU's Graduate Program in History from 1986 until she retired in 2006. She continued teaching Dissertation Guidance at the University until 2009.

A consummate professional and scholar in life, Dr. Terborg-Penn has left a rich legacy for her family, her former students, her former colleagues,



Morgan State University and the history profession. She was the portrait of a modern black woman who balanced her family, activism, exceptional teaching, scholarly research and organizational enhancement of her field. Dr. Wilson's leadership in renaming the Women's History Month Convocation in her honor ensures that her contributions will never be forgotten on Morgan's sacred campus. □



Contributions to the Rosalyn Terborg-Penn Endowed Scholarship Fund can be made by calling Morgan State University Foundation, Inc. at (443) 885-3040. Donations to the fund are tax-deductible and will support African-American female graduate and undergraduate students pursuing degrees in history at Morgan State University.



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