University of Illinois at Chicago
Office of the
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
The African American Academic Network

CONVOCATION CEREMONY

Class of 2013
“A New Beginning...
Lifting as We Climb”

Friday, May 10, 2013
UIC Forum
725 W. Roosevelt Rd.
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Mission of the African American Academic Network

Our mission is to increase the recruitment, retention, and graduation rates of African American students. In keeping with that focus, AAAN is also committed to establishing an inclusive and supportive campus environment. AAAN sponsors academic, social, and cultural activities to encourage student engagement.

History of the AAAN Convocation

In 1993, co-sponsored by the Black Student organization NSWT–The Uniter and the African American Cultural Center, the first “End of the Year Ceremony” was presented to celebrate the achievements of graduating seniors at UIC. Dr. Philip Royster and NSWT organization student leader, Malki Brown, coordinated and planned the 1993 and 1994 events. Two subsequent programs in 1995 and 1996 were planned by Dr. Royster, Sharon Simpson, and Jenelle Alexander. All of the ceremonies were attended and appreciated by increasing numbers of participating students and guests.

The size, length, and contents of the 1996 ceremony required a spacious campus location (Lecture Center A–1) as well as an official name change: Black–African Convocation Ceremony. In 1997, the coordination of the ceremony transitioned from the African American Cultural Center to the African American Academic Network. From May of 1997 through May of 2010, the annual AAAN Convocation Ceremony has feted the graduation and academic achievement of thousands of African American students. To accommodate large numbers of participating students, families and friends, the event was held at Northern Trust Bank, the UIC Pavilion, the Illinois Room in Student Center East, and now, the UIC Forum.

The inspiration and purpose for the original ceremony was to promote unity and the success of all black students. Supported by dedicated African American faculty and staff, this ceremony remains the singular event at UIC that celebrates the achievements of graduating African American students.
Processional
Graduating Class of 2013
Led By Dr. Lori Baptista
Director
African American Cultural Center

Salute to the Class of 2013
Carlotta Johnson–McGowan
Interim Director
African American Academic Network

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”
Led by Paula Williams

Welcoming Address
Dr. Barbara Henley
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Remarks
Dr. Paula Allen–Meares
Chancellor

Greetings from The Board of Trustees
Kenneth Thomas
2013 Graduate
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Student Speaker
Kenneth L. Vasser
2013 Graduate
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Musical Selection
Paula Williams

Keynote Speaker
Dr. Charles McPherson III
UIC Clinical Pharmacist
UIC Clinical Assistant Professor

Motivational Remarks
Allen Bryson
Director of Pre–Graduation Programs
Graduate College

Recognition of Graduates
Alex Sainviller
Academic Counselor
African American Academic Network

Presentation of Awards
Joel Shinault
Academic Counselor
African American Academic Network

Alumni Remarks
Reginald Cantave
University of Illinois Alumni Association

Closing Remarks
Carlotta Johnson–McGowan
Interim Director
African American Academic Network
“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

-1899

By James Weldon Johnson

Lift every voice and sing,

 till earth and Heaven ring,

 Ring with the harmonies of liberty,

 Let our rejoicing rise,

 high as the listening skies,

 Let it resound loud as the rolling sea

 Sing a song full of the faith

 that the dark past has taught us,

 Sing a song full of the hope

 that the present has brought us;

 Facing the rising sun of our new day

 begun,

 Let us march on till victory is won.
The Class of 2013
Professional and Doctoral Degree Candidates
Alice Phillips
Renee M. Smith–Quinn

Master’s Degree Candidates
Arthur G. Anderson
Lamont B. Bryant
Ashley B. Butler
Misha M. Cadet
Jeremiah I. Evans
Charisse R. Franklin
Mona Hurt

Bachelor’s Degree Candidates
Phillip T. Adeleye
Christiana T. Ajala*
Ciera A. Alexander
Amber D. Allen
Elizabeth A. Awoyemi
Edward H. Backstrom*
Martine L. Balthazar*
Daniel D. Barnes
LaToya C. Bracewell**
Brittany N. Brown
Briana T. Bryson
Erika T. Coleman
Shatell Coleman
Caitlin Cox*
Kierra C. Daniels

Armrhad R. Johnson
Danny L. Lambouths III
Mylie C. Montgomery
Ambrose U. Odiari
Nicaya C. Rapier
Allyson R. Scrutchens
Theresa C. Thompson
Felicia C. Warner

Janise S. Dismuke
Kirk Douglas II
Darnell D. Durham
Adaora C. Enemu
Addis M. Enyew* ◈
Candace S. Exson*
Rose A. Ford
Breanna L. Foster
Taylor S. Foulks
Gia N. Franklin*
James T. Freeman
Jalisa A. Gibson
Christine V. Goggins
Kelin K. Hagan
Schamira S. Hall
Sheeba F. Hall
Taofik Hassan*
Jeanne A. Herry
Triana Hickman
Le’Kai S. Hicks*
Anthony E. Hollingsworth
Tiffany G. Hondras
Austin D. Hood
Kellee S. Jamison
Erin N. Jarrett
Arielle S. Johnson
Breanna C. Johnson
Courtney C. Johnson
Sean L. Johnson*
Shatara N. Johnson
Alyssa V. Joiner*◇
Cornell K. Jones
Kenea W. Kedida*
Jemel I. Kyles*
David I. Larry
Dree C. Lynn
Chorlatte J. Mack
Kimberly T. Marshall
Tameshia Q. Martin
Misha P. McCullough**◇
Ashley A. Miller
Keijuan L. Moore
Roy Mwale*
Tia C. Nix*◇
Malachy Okeke
Erika K. Oliver*
Mariah Omokaiye
Bianca E. Owolabi
Nicholas G. Parker
Ashley D. Pate
Brittany C. Pickens
Tiffany L. Powell*
Exavius T. Rice
Tashauna M. Rogers
Ina M. Sales
Tyesha J. Shempert*◇
DaLayna D. Smart
Alyssa M. Spratt*◇
Delorth C. Stallworth
Kiara L. Strickland
Caleb J. Sturghill
Faithful T. Talabi
William G. Talton
Breanna M. Taylor
Graduates Continued

Tiana A. Terrell
Brittany N. Thomas
Kenneth M. Thomas**
Amanda F. Tompkins
Jasmine K. Tucker*
DeAundrea M. Underwood◈
Kenneth L. Vasser◈
Precious Marie Walker*◈
Nikole U. Wallace
Taimane V. Walls*
Alexandria D. Warner*
Nakylia K. Williams
Sebrina N. Williams**
Simone S. Wilson
Skyler C. Winfield

*Denotes cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above
**Denotes Cum Laude Latin Honors
***Denotes Magna Cum Laude Latin Honors
◈ Denotes TRIO program participant
Advisor Recognition Awards

Caitlin Cox
Kirk Douglas II
Addis M. Enyew
James T. Freeman
Taofik Hassan
Breanna C. Johnson
Sean L. Johnson
Alyssa V. Joiner
Jemel I. Kyles
Tia C. Nix
Malachy Okeke
Erika K. Oliver
Exavius T. Rice
Tyesha J. Shempert
Alyssa M. Spratt
Caleb J. Sturghill
DeAundra M. Underwood
Kenneth L. Vasser
Precious Marie Walker
Sebrina N. Williams
## Academic Achievement Awards

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Convocation Planning Committee

Paula Benton-Pierce    Chanel Bishop    Joseph Fields

Carlotta Johnson-McGowan    Juanita McCary    Alex Sainvilier

Joel Shinault

Student Planning Committee Members

Alyssa V. Joiner    Tia C. Nix    Felicia C. Warner

Co-Sponsors

African American Cultural Center

Chancellor’s Committee on the Status of Blacks

University of Illinois Alumni Association

Office of Career Services

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Special Thanks To

The UIC Forum Staff

University of Illinois at Chicago Administration, Faculty, and Staff

Dr. TeRence Brown of LandMarc Studio & Productions

African American Academic Network

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Fax: 312–413–7907

This Ceremony Will Be Video Recorded And Uploaded to the UIC Website.