Office of the
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
The African American Academic Network

Convocation Ceremony

May 8, 2015
7:30—9:30p.m.
UIC Forum
725 West Roosevelt Road
Chicago, IL 60607
The History of the African American Academic Network Convocation

The first event recognizing graduating African American students from the University of Illinois at Chicago (End of Year Ceremony) was co-sponsored by the black student organization NSWT-The Uniter and the African American Cultural Center (AACC). AACC Director Dr. Phillip Royster and NSWT organization student leader Malki Brown orchestrated the first two ceremonies in 1993 and 1994.

In subsequent years changing dynamics necessitated a spacious campus location and an official name change to Black-African Convocation Ceremony. In 1997, the coordination of the ceremony transitioned from the African American Cultural Center to the African American Academic Network (AAAN). Since May 1997, the annual AAAN Convocation Ceremony has feted the graduation and academic achievement of thousands of African American students.

The inspiration and purpose for the 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.
“Lift Every Voice and Sing”
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.
<table>
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<th>Convocation Program</th>
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<td><strong>Salute to the Class of 2015</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Lift Every Voice and Sing</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Recessional</strong></td>
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Val Warner is the co-host of Windy City LIVE, ABC 7 Chicago's new morning talk and entertainment show airing weekdays at 9 am. From the first moment Val auditioned for the show, the producers knew they had someone special. Val's sparkle, sense of humor and warmth made her the hands-down favorite amongst the hundreds of candidates who vied for the top job. Val and her co-host put the fun back in daytime television as they cover everything Chicago from politics, to celebrity interviews and fashion, to what's on people's minds around town.

Prior to joining Windy City LIVE, Val was co-anchor and traffic reporter on WGN-TV's Morning News. She joined WGN-TV in July 2005 as weekday anchor of the station's 5:00 am newscast. She has covered everything from politics and money-saving segments, to the two-day breaking news drama of a runaway dog on the Eisenhower that gained national attention. Val enjoys fashion and celebrity interviews, and co-hosted the popular Morning Show "Mommy Test" segment. She also interviewed outstanding teachers in the Chicago-land area for the "Teacher of the Month" program featured on the WGN News at Nine. Val's work has been nominated for several Emmy Awards in Chicago and other markets.

Valerie is a member of the National Association of Black Journalists and received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California at San Diego in 1996. Val's family is her main focus. She spends most of her free time outside of work hanging out with her kids, mom, sister and grandmother as well as helping out in the community. She does manage to squeeze in time to take in a movie and work on her latest interest--running!
The Class of 2015

Doctoral Degree Candidates
Qiana Cryer, PhD in Social Work
Peggy Snowden, PhD in Special Education
Cheryl Watkins, PhD in Special Education

Master’s Degree Candidates
Matthew Berkley
Master of Business Administration & Master of Public Health
Kikelomo Buari
Master of Energy Engineering
Jenifer Burgess
Master of Social Work
Nedak Efetuei
Master of Industrial Engineering
Christine Leak
Master of Social Work
Shambriea McBrayer
Master of Public Health
Mylie Montgomery
Master of Education
Guillaume Ngonmeudje
Master of Science in Nursing
Olubusola Olatunji
Master of Science in Nursing
Aisha Pleasant
Master of Arts in Criminology, Law and Justice
Munirah Rahmaan-Harrell
Master of Science in Health Information
Jamel Russell
Master of Public Health
Kenneth Vasser
Master of Education
The Class of 2015

Bachelor’s Degree Candidates

David Aboagye
Dominiqe Adams
Ramone Adams
Iyabode Adejumo**
Adetokunbo Adeyefa
Enyioma Alilionwu
Kenechukwu Anigbogu
Samson Awoyemi
Seldiji Azogan
Rosa Bacio
Alexis Ball
Charan Bashir
Sana Bell (1)
Richelle Bernard (1)
Bradley Bibbs
Lyndia Bissell
Stephanie Blackwell (1)
Kara Ann Bland*
Allison Dawn Brackley (1)
Osman Braimah
Markeeta Bridges
Quamal Burton
Jeffery Childs
Paris Marie Clark*
Lexia Collins
Koren Nicole Cooper
Tyler Aundrianna Crump (1)
Ka’Derricka Davis
Aissatou Diallo (1)
Valencia T Dickerson
Taiser Elsaed
Jewell Ewing
Randa Figuiguï
Christopher Frazier (1)
Jeremy Frye
Brandon Gaskew

Sernard Gill
Shannon Hastings (1)
Aerial Henderson (1)
Jallisa Henry
Sharice Hill*(1)
Gladys Ijelu (1)
Nicole Jacobs
Johnnice Johnson
Ariel Jordan**
Moses Kagimu-Mbogga*
Tierra Keys
Jasmine Kidd
Alexander Kimbrough (1)
Stanley King
Morufat Kosoko
Elias Lawal (1)
Mia Lee
Carrington Lemon (1)
Sherren Lewis
Sade Lindsey
Sienna Little
Ronalyssa Loiseau (1)
Jazzlyn Luckett**
Gregory Madden Jr.
Jasmine Marshall
Michelle Matthews
Karl Miller
Chantal Mondji
Stephanie Moore
Patricia Mutai
Laeticia Ngamboma
Blessing Obioma*
Vera Odedoyin
Oluwefemi Ogunsanya
Philomina Okegbe**
### Bachelor’s Degree Candidates Continued

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hannah Oluyadi</td>
<td>Ashley Sturdivant</td>
<td>Shahtavia Young</td>
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<td>Chizelle Onochie***</td>
<td>Evan Taylor** (1)</td>
<td>Aminat Yusuff-Akinbo**(1)</td>
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<td>Chelsea Owens</td>
<td>Warren Taylor</td>
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<td>Porsche Palmer</td>
<td>Gabrielle Thomas (1)</td>
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<td>Ciera Patrick</td>
<td>Max Thomas (1)</td>
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<td>Abrianna Phelps</td>
<td>Nina Thompson</td>
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<td>Triton Pressley</td>
<td>Takeisha Thompson</td>
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<td>Kimberly Randall</td>
<td>Antoinette Todd</td>
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<td>Latiera Rayford (1)</td>
<td>Samara Toney</td>
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<td>Demitrius Redding</td>
<td>Gisselle Truiett</td>
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<td>Leon Reed</td>
<td>Shamari Truss (1)</td>
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<td>Casina Rice</td>
<td>Rayneisha Ubamadu (1)</td>
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<td>Jeanette Richardson</td>
<td>Briana Vasser</td>
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<td>Richmond Richter (1)</td>
<td>Janea Vinson (1)</td>
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<td>Ashley Riley</td>
<td>Kimberly Walker</td>
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<td>Alexis Roberts</td>
<td>Shoma Webster* (1)</td>
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<td>Peggy Sally</td>
<td>Raven Wells*</td>
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<td>Jacob Schulz</td>
<td>Daniel Whesu</td>
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<td>Shante Erika Shaw</td>
<td>John Williams (1)</td>
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<td>Morinola Shobajo (1)</td>
<td>Carla Wilson (1)</td>
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<td>Brittney Shurn (1)</td>
<td>Michael Wilson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catina Smith</td>
<td>Admasu Wondmagegn***(1)</td>
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<td>Essence Smith*</td>
<td>Kamaria Woods</td>
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<td>Tamika Stevenson</td>
<td>Abdul Aziz Yakubu***</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kelsye Stone Moore</td>
<td>Basit Yakubu</td>
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### Student Recognitions & Honors

- * Cum Laude
- ** Magna Cum Laude
- *** Summa Cum Laude
- (1) AAAN Student Advisor Awardees
The African American Academic Network (AAAN)

**MISSION**

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.

**STAFF**

Jeff Brown, Director
Carlotta Johnson-McGowan, Senior Associate Director
Joseph Fields, Associate Director
Juanita McCary, Assistant Director
Paula Benton-Pierce, Learning Resource Center Manager
Ashley Stone, Academic Counselor
Joel Shinault, Academic Counselor
Alex Sainvilier, Academic Counselor
Fuad Raji, Academic Counselor
Qetsiy’ah Yisra’el, Math Specialist
Tiera Booker, Office Support
Special Thanks

UIC Office of the Chancellor

The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost

The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

The University of Illinois at Chicago Administration, Faculty, and Staff

Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Blacks

UIC Forum Staff

University of Illinois Alumni Association

Campus Auxiliary Services

Val Warner

Paula Williams

Najwa Dance Corps

Student Convocation Planning Committee

Sana Bell

Shannon Hastings

Alex Kimbrough

Carrington Lemon

Stephanie Moore

Morinola Shobajo