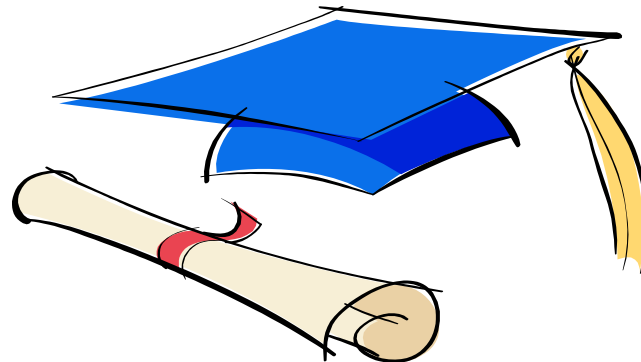


**University of Illinois at Chicago**  
Office of the  
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs  
**The African American Academic Network**

## **CONVOCAATION CEREMONY**

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



Friday, May 10, 2013

UIC Forum  
725 W. Roosevelt Rd.  
7:00p.m. – 8:30p.m.

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## *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*

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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.

<b>Processional</b>	<b>Graduating Class of 2013</b> <b>Led By Dr. Lori Baptista</b> <i>Director</i> African American Cultural Center
<b>Salute to the Class of 2013</b>	<b>Carlotta Johnson–McGowan</b> <i>Interim Director</i> African American Academic Network
<b>“Lift Every Voice and Sing”</b>	<b>Led by Paula Williams</b>
<b>Welcoming Address</b>	<b>Dr. Barbara Henley</b> <i>Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs</i>
<b>Remarks</b>	<b>Dr. Paula Allen–Meares</b> Chancellor
<b>Greetings from The Board of Trustees</b>	<b>Kenneth Thomas</b> 2013 Graduate College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
<b>Student Speaker</b>	<b>Kenneth L. Vasser</b> <i>2013 Graduate</i> <i>College of Liberal Arts and Sciences</i>
<b>Musical Selection</b>	<b>Paula Williams</b>
<b>Keynote Speaker</b>	<b>Dr. Charles McPherson III</b> <i>UIC Clinical Pharmacist</i> UIC Clinical Assistant Professor
<b>Motivational Remarks</b>	<b><i>Allen Bryson</i></b> <i>Director of Pre–Graduation</i> <i>Programs</i> Graduate College
<b>Recognition of Graduates</b>	<b><i>Alex Sainvilier</i></b> <i>Academic Counselor</i> African American Academic Network
<b>Presentation of Awards</b>	<b>Joel Shinault</b> <i>Academic Counselor</i> African American Academic Network
<b>Alumni Remarks</b>	<b>Reginald Cantave</b> University of Illinois Alumni Association
<b>Closing Remarks</b>	<b>Carlotta Johnson–McGowan</b> <i>Interim Director</i> African American Academic Network

*“Lift Every Voice and Sing”*

-1899

By James Weldon Johnson

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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**

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## **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

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

## **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

Janise S. Dismuke

Kirk Douglas II

Darnell D. Durham

Adaora C. Enemuo

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



# Graduates Continued

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Sheeba F. Hall	Ashley A. Miller
Taofik Hassan*	Keijuan L. Moore
Jeanne A. Herry	Roy Mwale*
Triana Hickman	Tia C. Nix* ♦
Le’Kai S. Hicks*	Malachy Okeke
Anthony E. Hollingsworth	Erika K. Oliver*
Tiffany G. Hondras	Mariah Omokaiye
Austin D. Hood	Bianca E. Owolabi
Kellee S. Jamison	Nicholas G. Parker
Erin N. Jarrett	Ashley D. Pate
Arielle S. Johnson	Brittany C. Pickens
Breanna C. Johnson	Tiffany L. Powell*
Courtney C. Johnson	Exavius T. Rice
Sean L. Johnson*	Tashauna M. Rogers
Shatara N. Johnson	Ina M. Sales
Alyssa V. Joiner* ♦	Tyesha J. Shempert* ♦
Cornell K. Jones	DaLayna D. Smart
Kenea W. Kedida*	Alyssa M. Spratt* ♦
Jemel I. Kyles*	Delorth C. Stallworth
David I. Larry	Kiara L. Strickland
Dree C. Lynn	Caleb J. Sturghill
Chorlatte J. Mack	Faithful T. Talabi
Kimberly T. Marshall	William G. Talton
Tameshia Q. Martin	Breanna M. Taylor
Misha P. McCullough** ♦	



# Graduates Continued

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Tiana A. Terrell

Brittany N. Thomas

Kenneth M. Thomas\*\*

Amanda F. Tompkins

Jasmine K. Tucker\*

DeAundra 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

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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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Christiana T. Ajala	Jasmine K. Tucker
Edward H. Backstrom	Precious Marie Walker
Martine L. Balthazar	Taimane V. Walls
LaToya C. Bracewell	Alexandria D. Warner
Caitlin Cox	Sebrina N. Williams
Addis M. Enyew	
Candace S. Exson	
Gia N. Franklin	
Taofik Hassan	
Le’Kai S. Hicks	
Sean L. Johnson	
Alyssa V. Joiner	
Kenea W. Kedida	
Jemel I. Kyles	
Misha P. McCullough	
Roy O. Mwale	
Tia C. Nix	
Erika K. Oliver	
Tiffany L. Powell	
Tyesha J. Shempert	
Alyssa M. Spratt	
Kenneth M. Thomas	

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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

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## 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

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## Special Thanks To

The UIC Forum Staff

University of Illinois at Chicago Administration, Faculty, and Staff

Dr. TeRence Brown of LandMarc Studio & Productions

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