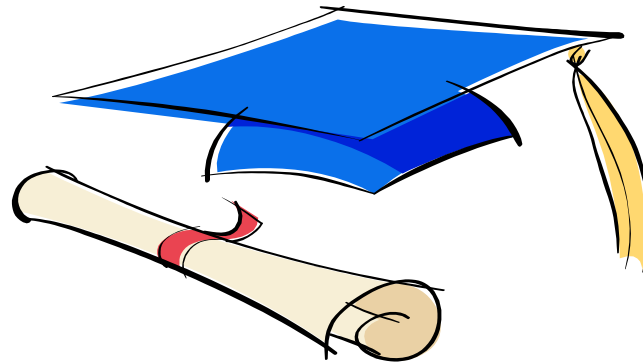


University of Illinois at Chicago
Office of the
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
The African American Academic Network

CONVOCAATION CEREMONY

Class of 2014
**“Upholding the Legacy While Setting
a Precedent”**



Friday, May 9, 2014
UIC Forum
725 W. Roosevelt Road
7:00 — 9:00p.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, 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 2014 Led by Manuela A. Ayee <i>UIC College of Engineering 2014 Graduate</i>
Salute to the Class of 2014	Carlotta Johnson–McGowan <i>Interim Director</i> African American Academic Network
“Lift Every Voice and Sing”	Led by Gorlon Teah <i>Class of 2017</i>
Greetings from the Office of the President	Dr. James D. Oliver <i>Senior Advisor to the President</i> University of Illinois
Remarks	Dr. Barbara Henley <i>Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs</i>
	Dr. Lon Kaufman <i>Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs/ Provost</i>
Student Speaker	Easter Mae Young <i>2014 Graduate</i>
Musical Selection	Kelly S. Wells <i>2014 Graduate</i>
Keynote Speaker	Dr. Danielle J. Simmons <i>Assistant Director for Psycho–education/Outreach</i> UIC Counseling Center
Recognition of Graduates	Alex Sainvilier <i>Academic Counselor</i> African American Academic Network
Undergraduate Student Message	Blessing N. Okere <i>2014 Graduate</i>
Presentation of Awards	Ashley Stone <i>Academic Counselor</i> African American Academic Network
Motivational Performance	Allen Bryson <i>Director of Pre–Graduate Programs</i> Graduate College
Closing Remarks	Paula Benton–Pierce <i>Manager of the Learning Resource Center</i> 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 2014

Professional and Doctoral Degree Candidates

Manuela A. Ayee

Camille R. Quinn

Harish P. Kanchi

Master's Degree Candidates

Priscilla Beecham-Joseph

Alejandro C. Woods

Dorothy I. Fatunmbi

Easter Mae Young

Chelsea R. Matthews

Rochelle S. McDonald

Estherine N. Morgan

Paula L. Thigpen

Bachelor's Degree Candidates

Oluwafemi A. Aboloye***

Collin A. Davis

Bakkah Al-Nurridin

Kathryn Davis*

Starr L. Alston*

Rhiannon D. Davis

Ashle' D. Anderson

Kevin D. Dixon

Helen A. Ashaye**

London L. Doggett

Nasihudeen Azizz*

Jillian I. Duncan-Poole

Raschelle N. Barnes

Kaila A. Edwards

Tiera R. Booker*

Tiffani G. Elmore

Jessica L. Boyd

Bekele Ferede*

Shanee D. Butler*

Jerlesha K. Findlay

Phanethia Carter

Reagan N. Gant

Shanita S. Crosby

Sable J. Griffin

Ayokunle Daramola

Tiffany N. Harrell



Graduates Continued

Kiah A. Henry*

Lakema S. Hickman

Sameena N. Hicks

Jantel J. Hines*

Erika Natira Holmes*

Elavaeme Homawoo

Brandon R. Homere*

Obehi Ilenikhena*

Jeremy T. James

Milissa R. Jordan

Abraham K. Kamara

Sam P. Kirkwood*

Sharmaine S. Lee

Jamesetta S. Mator*

Justin E. Maxwell

Ashley K. McKinnie*

Blessing N. Okere*

Chika M. Okoro*

Simbiat K. Olayiwola**

Zainab T. Olayiwola**

Vivian Oyegunle*

Ian J. Pierce

Cassie K. Ramsay

Aeriel A. Robinson*

Jasmine A. Rogers*

Arreanna J. Scott

Alexandria A. Simms

Ibrahime Sow

Cursten J. Sturghill

Trivia S. Sumpters*

Danisha K. Taylor

Raymond D. Thomas

Emeka C. Umeadi

Jacquelyn D. Washington

Chad K. Webb

Kelly S. Wells

Sharmeka S. Williams

Tierra N. Williams*

Ebonee' L. Woodfork

Sarah Yankey-Frempong*

*Denotes cumulative G.P.A. of 3.0 or above

**Denotes Cum Laude Latin Honors

***Denotes Magna Cum Laude Latin Honors



AAAN Staff Recognition Awards

Oluwafemi A. Aboloye

Starr L. Alston

Manuela A. Ayee

Tiera R. Booker

Rhiannon D. Davis

Jillian I. Duncan-Poole

Dorothy I. Fatunmbi

Jerlesha K. Findlay

Reagan N. Gant

Harish P. Kanchi

Sam P. Kirkwood

Jamesetta S. Mator

Estherine N. Morgan

Blessing N. Okere

Simbiat K. Olayiwola

Zainab T. Olayiwola

Ian J. Pierce

Trivia S. Sumpters

Chad K. Webb

Kelly S. Wells

Sharmeka S. Williams

Academic Achievement Awards

Oluwafemi A. Aboloye

Starr L. Alston

Helen A. Ashaye

Nasihudeen Azizz

Tiera R. Booker

Shanee D. Butler

Kathryn Davis

Bekele Ferede

Kiah A. Henry

Jantel J. Hines

Erika N. Holmes

Brandon R. Homere

Obehi Ilenikhena

Sam P. Kirkwood

Jamesetta S. Mator

Ashley K. McKinnie

Blessing N. Okere

Chika M. Okoro

Simbiat K. Olayiwola

Zainab T. Olayiwola

Academic Achievement Awards

Vivian Oyegunle

Aeriel A. Robinson

Trivia S. Sumpters

Tierra N. Williams

Sarah Yankey-Frempong

Convocation Planning Committee

Paula Benton-Pierce

Chanel Bishop

Joseph Fields

Carlotta Johnson-
McGowan

Juanita McCary

Alex Sainvilier

Joel Shinault

Ashley Stone

Student Planning Committee Members

Starr Alston

Jerlesha Findlay

Dyshida Hightower

Jamesetta Mator

Blessing Okere

Vivian Oyegunle

Co-Sponsors

Black Alumni Advisory Council

Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Blacks

University of Illinois Alumni Association

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Special Thanks To

The UIC Forum Staff

University of Illinois at Chicago Administration, Faculty, and Staff

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