

May 26, 2015

Dear Spelmanite:

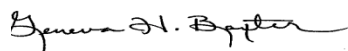
Congratulations on your high school achievements and graduation, and welcome into the awesome class of 2019. As dean of first-year students, I will extend this greeting personally during New Student Orientation, August 8th -18th. I am excited about your being at Spelman, the place you have chosen to continue your academic journey, and I, along with the Office of Undergraduate Studies, would like to partner with you by providing opportunities and resources that will assist you in reaching your educational goals. We wish to provide an integrated first-year experience to help develop the life of the mind for intellectually engaged students like you.

Our academic advising, curricular development, and social awareness programs will introduce you to Spelman's outstanding learning environment as well as to various leadership and service opportunities. Accordingly, you will engage in dynamic intellectual inquiry as you discover new ideas, solidify your goals, and develop relationships. I, therefore, encourage you to become actively involved in your own education.

One of the important spaces for intellectual engagement will be your First-year Experience Seminar (FYE), a two semester course that emphasizes the tenets of academic excellence, leadership and service, which are central to Spelman's mission. It highlights critical skills that facilitate productive and deliberate practices of mindfulness that undergird critical inquiry. This year FYE will use the theme "When and Where I Enter: Developing the Intellectual Community."

During the week of New Student Orientation, you will have many opportunities to engage select faculty and staff. I, along with Dr. Desiree Pedescleaux (Dean of Undergraduate Studies), and Dr. DeKimberlen Neely (Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies) will address you on several occasions. Please visit the New Student Orientation website on Spelman's homepage at MySpelman portal for more information on New Student Orientation, First-year Experience and advisement. To access MySpelman portal, which is located on the right hand side of the homepage, sign in with your Spelman username and 900 number (e.g., gbaxter 900000125). If you have questions feel free to e-mail us at undergradstudies@spelman.edu, or visit the Spelman Dean Team's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/deansquad) for frequently asked questions, or follow us on Twitter (www.twitter/scacademicdean). **Most of the future correspondences to you will be posted on the MySpelman portal New Student Orientation site or sent directly to your Spelman email.** Again congratulations on your accomplishments, and we look forward to your arrival on August 8, 2015.

Warm regards,



Geneva H. Baxter, PhD
Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies