

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



2023

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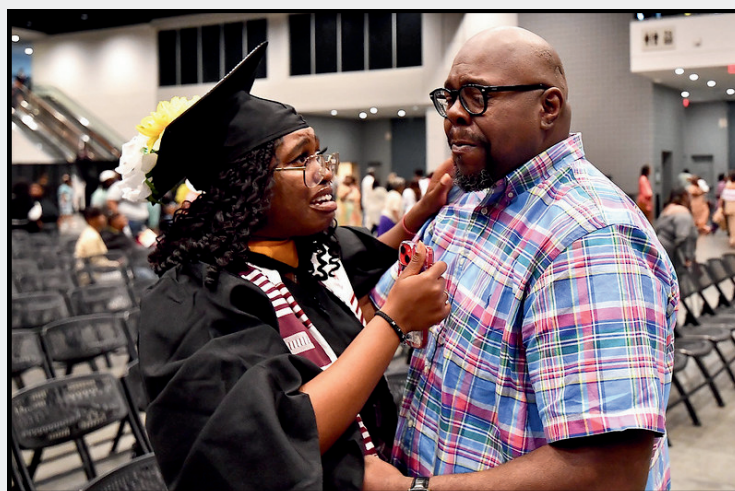
2025

ShawU Strong!
Innovation, Growth, and a Bright Future



Contents

- 3** President's Message
- 5** Enrollment Renaissance
- 7** Research & Innovation
- 9** ShawU Divinity School
- 11** Fueling Growth
- 15** Lighting the way Through Legacy
- 19** Juneteenth at ShawU
- 25** Shining in Athletics, Lighting the Way Forward
- 27** Alumni Spotlight
- 28** The ShawU District
- 29** Next Generation of Leaders
- 30** Thank You Donors
- 45** Board of Trustees



A Vision for **THE FUTURE**

Message from the President

Over the past two years, Shaw University has stood as a powerful example of what can happen when tradition is met with transformation. Rooted in our proud history and propelled by an unshakable belief in the potential of our students, we have leaned into change, challenged limitations, and positioned ShawU for a future that is not only bold, but purpose driven.

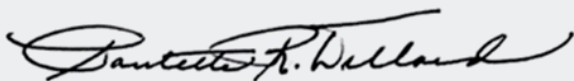
This report represents more than a collection of accomplishments. It reflects the heart of a university in motion—one that is continually evolving, innovating, and rising to meet the needs of our time. From academic growth and research breakthroughs to community engagement and institutional resilience, every success shared within these pages' points to a deeper truth: Shaw University is thriving.

We have made significant strides in enhancing academic programs, increasing access to education, and forging new pathways for student success. We have welcomed new talent and elevated the voices of those who reflect the excellence, diversity, and brilliance of our institution. Our faculty and staff continue to lead with both intellect and compassion, and our students embody the resilience and brilliance that define the Shaw legacy.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to expanding our reach and impact. We are investing in programs that empower, partnerships that strengthen, and strategies that sustain. Our goal is to create a university experience that prepares our students not just for the job market, but for lives of purpose, leadership, and service.

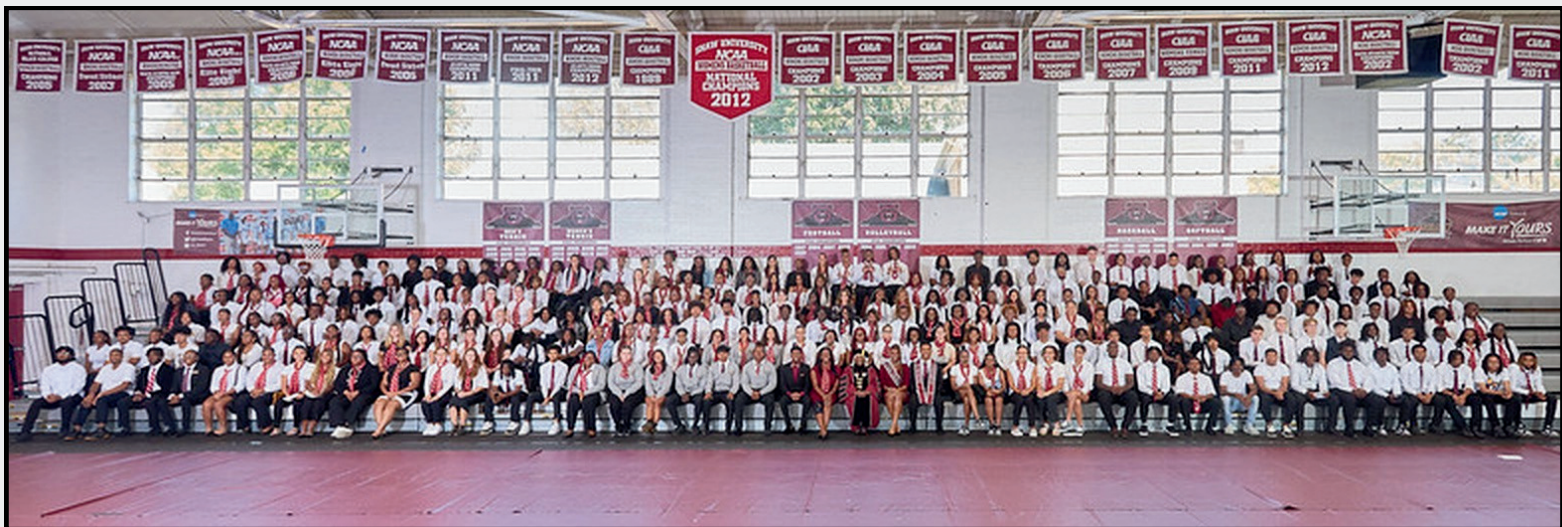
To the Shaw University community, students, faculty, staff, alumni, partners, and friends, thank you for believing in our mission and walking this journey with us. Let this report serve as a celebration of how far we have come and a recommitment to the path that lies ahead.

We are lighting the way forward with confidence, and the future we are building together is full of promise.

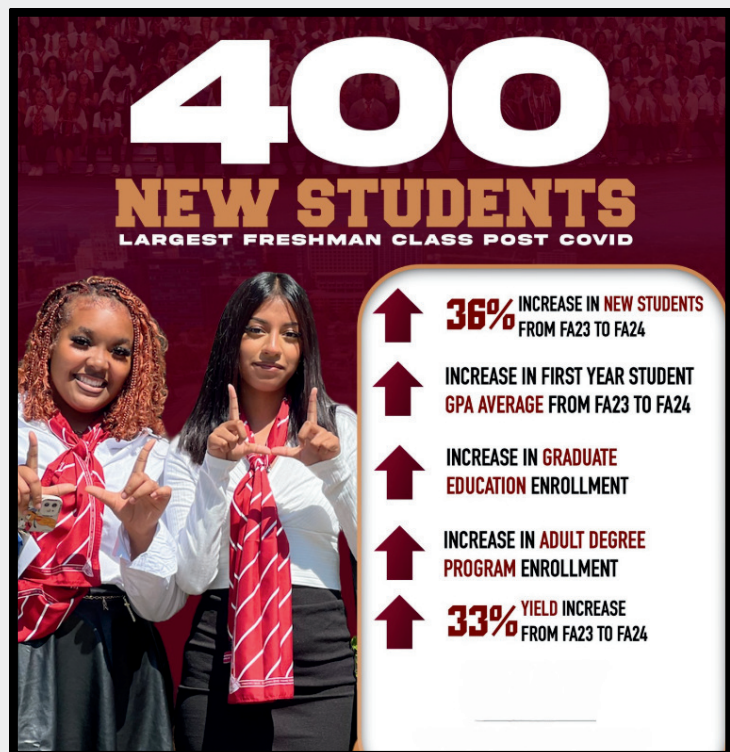


Paulette R. Dillard, Ph.D.
President & CEO, Shaw University





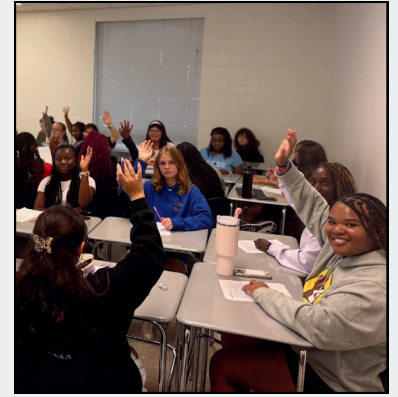
Illuminating Academic Excellence **SHAW UNIVERSITY'S ENROLLMENT RENAISSANCE**



Shaw University has achieved a remarkable turnaround in student enrollment. Thanks to a focused strategy that prioritized community connection and innovation in outreach, the University saw its **largest first-year class since 2020** and a significant increase in male student enrollment.

The Rural County Recruitment Initiative played a pivotal role, reaching over **500 prospective students across Eastern North Carolina**. Events like the "ShawU House Party" and an expanded Open House offering doubled attendance between 2024 and 2025, signaling the strength of Shaw's ability to engage students and families in fresh, relatable ways.

Additionally, the implementation of the AdmissionsPros CRM has modernized recruitment operations, allowing for streamlined communication and better data-driven decision-making. This foundation, combined with newly introduced retention strategies, positions Shaw to continue growing and graduating the next generation of leaders.



Expanding Access Through Early College Partnership

In 2024, Shaw University was proudly selected by the Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) as the new home for two of Wake County's Early College Programs, **Wake Young Men's Leadership Academy and Wake Young Women's Leadership Academy**.

This exciting partnership officially launched in August 2025! The partnership was unanimously approved by the Wake County Board of Education and Shaw University.

Through this collaboration, students will have the opportunity to **earn college credit in a supportive, affirming environment that fosters both academic success and leadership growth**. Early College students will have the opportunity to experience the outstanding history of Shaw University in downtown Raleigh, while still within arm's reach of their Wake County Public School community.

This initiative highlights Shaw University's commitment to expanding educational access and strengthening the pipeline for future leaders. **Together, WCPSS and ShawU are ensuring that the next generation of scholars is equipped with the knowledge, skills, and support they need to thrive in college, career, and life.**

Early College at ShawU

- The partnership with WCPSS launched in August 2025
- Dual-enrollment opportunity for high school students
- Strengthens Shaw University's pre-college pipeline
- College credit + leadership development
- Expanding access, building future leaders
- Learning on ShawU's historic campus

\$5 million financial assistance award from the National Telecommunications & Information Administration's (NTIA) National Institute of Standards and Technology fund for its Building Bridges to CODE (Cyber Operations & Digital Equity) program.

Beacons of Change

RESEARCH & INNOVATION

In February 2023, Shaw University received a **\$5 million** financial assistance award from the National Telecommunications & Information Administration's (NTIA) National Institute of Standards and Technology fund for its Building Bridges to CODE (Cyber Operations & Digital Equity) program.

The grant funds awarded to Shaw will be used to:

- Fund outreach and research activities for the Center for Cybersecurity Education and Research
- Expand the number of faculty in computer science to grow the Cyber Operations program
- Purchase computer equipment to offer students virtual hardware for use throughout the Cyber Operations degree program, which was launched in fall 2022
- Purchase computer equipment to establish a research and study lab
- Support undergraduate researchers to participate in cybersecurity-related research

The grant funds will enable the university to:

1. Execute a complete overhaul of outdated broadband infrastructure and provide campus-wide Wi-Fi 6 wireless access.
2. Provide digital devices and technology to low-income and under-resourced students attending the university.
3. Upgrade classroom technology to enable simultaneous operation of brick-and-mortar and virtual classes.
4. Expand the remote educational adult degree program
5. Fully implement the first HBCU Cyber Operations degree program in the nation.



Beacons of Change

RESEARCH & INNOVATION



The launch of a **fully AI-powered, 24/7** help desk marks a transformative step in the university's commitment to innovation and excellence.

Equipped with both chatbot and voice-assisted technology, the platform has revolutionized how students and faculty receive IT support anytime, anywhere.

Nearly 80% of common tech issues are now resolved instantly, reducing wait times.

This investment supports Shaw University's strategy to build a modern, student-focused campus that boosts retention, improves service, and advances its role as a digital leader in higher education.

Awarded a \$450,000 Research Grant from the U.S National Science Foundation (NSF)



Jorge Vasquez-Kool, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
of Biology, Department of Health
Human and Life Sciences

ShawU has secured over **\$1.5 million in federal and private grants** to support curriculum development, STEM workforce readiness, and faculty research, including awards from the Department of Defense and MSEIP.

These investments are funding the future, ensuring students are equipped to lead in industries and communities around the world.

Shaw University Receives \$736,838 Grant from U.S. Department of Defense

Shaw University Divinity School **STRENGTHENING FAITH, EXPANDING IMPACT**

Appointed in August 2023, **Dr. Mark Harden** serves as Dean of Shaw University Divinity School. An ordained Baptist minister with over **20 years in higher education**, he holds advanced degrees from Michigan State University, Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Marygrove College, along with leadership training from Harvard and Indiana University. He leads with a commitment to advancing the School's legacy of preparing well-rounded, faith-grounded Christian leaders for impactful ministry, church leadership, and service.

Strengthening ShawU's Legacy in Ministry Education

In 2024 and 2025, Shaw University Divinity School made significant strides in fulfilling its mission, with progress in **financial stability, academic innovation, and community engagement**.

On the funding front, the School submitted two major proposals to the Lilly Endowment: a **\$10 million endowment support request and a \$1 million scaling grant proposal**. The Divinity School was also invited to collaborate with Howard University on a **\$10 million Endowment Building Collaboration Grant**. In addition, fundraising efforts generated more than \$24,000 in 2024, supported by new strategic hires in donor relations and marketing.

Community programs also thrived. The **Lilly-funded Nurturing Children** initiative equipped youth leaders for ministry, while the relaunched **Thriving Congregations** program supported Black church revitalization. Partnerships with Radio One, USA Today, and the Deep River Missionary Baptist Association further strengthened mentorship, recruitment, and outreach.

Academically, faculty appointments expanded teaching capacity, and a comprehensive five-year business plan was finalized, outlining plans for a pioneering doctoral program in Artificial Intelligence and Ethics. The School completed its 2025 Self-Study for ATS re-accreditation and consolidated degree offerings to better serve bi-vocational leaders.

These accomplishments position Shaw University Divinity School to lead with vision, respond to evolving ministry needs, and prepare leaders who will positively impact both the church and the world.



Strengthening Faith
Expanding Impact

Faith in **ACTION**

General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and the Women's Baptist Home and Foreign Missions Auxiliary

When **45 Shaw University seniors** walked across the stage in July 2024, they did so debt-free —thanks in large part to the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and the Women's Baptist Home and Foreign Missions Auxiliary. Their extraordinary gift of **\$111,630.27** to the Campaign for Emergency Student Aid helped close every balance within just two weeks of the campaign's launch.

This act of generosity is part of a legacy. Since 1989, the Convention has invested nearly \$7 million in ShawU's mission, with more than \$325,000 given in the last two years alone. These gifts are more than numbers; they are answered prayers, open doors, and transformed futures.

As ShawU faces shifting federal funding and growing student needs, the University celebrates this powerful partnership and invites **continued support**. Together, anchored in faith and purpose, we can ensure that hope and opportunity remain within every student's reach.





Fueling Growth

FINANCIAL STRENGTH & INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

In one of the most compelling displays of **community-driven impact**, Shaw University's Campaign for Emergency Student Aid (CESA) exceeded expectations by raising over \$200,000 in just 15 days. The goal? Help students facing financial holds return to class and complete their degrees. The result? **Forty-five students** saw their balances cleared, enabling them to register, re-engage, and reimagine their futures.

This campaign was not just a fundraising milestone; it was a rallying cry that galvanized alumni, trustees, faculty, and supporters nationwide. It also exemplified a new era of giving at Shaw, one driven by urgency, transparency, and direct student impact.

In that same spirit, the University launched the **President's Leadership Circle (PLC)**, a prestigious cohort of donors committed to contributing \$2,500 or more annually to unrestricted giving. Since its inception in 2023, the PLC now boasts over 70 members. This group serves as a backbone for mission-critical funding, empowering ShawU to be nimble in addressing institutional needs and student success priorities.

These strategic moves underscore a growing confidence in ShawU's direction and a readiness among stakeholders to invest in its bright future.

President's Leadership Circle



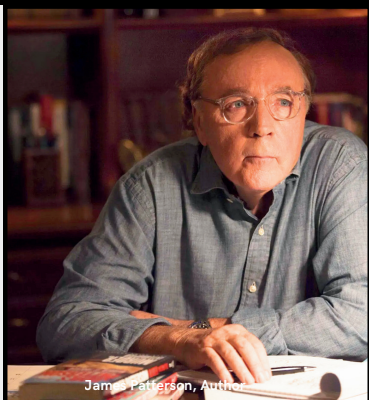
Jayniya Gamblin
Biology major | Class of 2027
Yardi Scholarship Recipient

"I chose Shaw University for its powerful legacy and because the scholarships made it financially possible for me to pursue my dream of becoming a physician."

She is not only preparing academically for medical school, but also growing as a leader through the Honors College, MAPS (Minority Association of Pre-Health Students), internships, and mentoring opportunities.



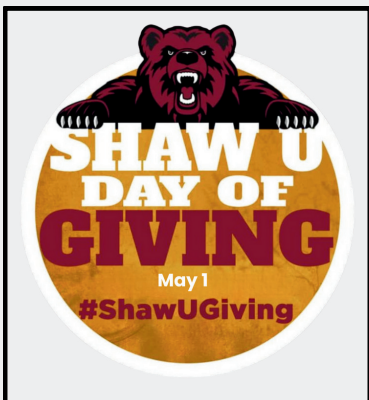
Molly Munger, Attorney & National Philanthropist



James Patterson, Author



Alfred Street Baptist Church Check Presentation



Yardi, Inc. Full-Ride Scholarships

Seven deserving students were awarded **full-ride scholarships** thanks to a generous partnership with **Yardi Inc.**, a powerful investment in our scholars.

Molly Munger's Transformational Gift to ShawU

In a memorable visit to Shaw University, attorney and national philanthropist **Molly Munger** met with students, faculty, and administrators to learn more about the University's mission and impact. Deeply moved by the experience, she committed a **Multi year, Six-Figure** gift to support ShawU's ongoing growth and student success initiatives.

James Patterson Scholarship Empowers ShawU Students

Shaw University proudly awarded the **James Patterson Scholarship** to ten deserving students, each receiving \$7,500 in financial support for the academic year. Funded by the acclaimed author and philanthropist James Patterson, this **\$75,000** scholarship program recognizes academic excellence and dedication to education.

Relaunched shawu.edu

We unveiled a redesigned **shawu.edu** with a modern, donor-centric user experience. The relaunch enhances storytelling, improves navigation, and strengthens digital engagement.

2023 HBCU of the Year

In 2023, we were selected as **HBCU of the Year** by Alfred Street Baptist Church, a national recognition of the university's enduring legacy and bold vision. The honor included a **\$50,000 donation** to support Shaw's mission.

ShawU Day of Giving: A Powerful Tradition of Generosity

From 2023 to 2025, the campaign has seen record participation and year-over-year impact, with **2024 marking our most successful Day of Giving to date**. These results reflect the enduring commitment of our Shaw family to invest in student success, campus growth, and the University's future.



The Tradition of **HOMECOMING**



Shaw University's 2024 Homecoming, themed **"Bearing Together,"** was a spirited celebration of unity, pride, and tradition. The weeklong festivities brought students, alumni, faculty, staff, and the greater Raleigh community together to honor the legacy and strength of the Shaw Bear family.

The celebration featured beloved traditions, including Founders' Day Convocation, the Homecoming Game, and the lively Vendor Village, which showcased local businesses, food vendors, and ShawU spirit. Throughout the week, the campus buzzed with energy as generations of Bears reconnected and created new memories rooted in shared purpose.

From the rhythmic sounds of the Shaw University Band to the joyful reunions across campus, Homecoming 2024 reflected the deep bonds that continue to define the ShawU experience. The theme "Bearing Together" served as a reminder that Shaw's enduring legacy is strengthened through community, connection, and collective pride.







Nellie Ashford

Nellie Ashford is a Shaw University alumna and a renowned North Carolina-born folk artist. Her work is in museums and art galleries throughout the globe.

The university commissioned alumna Ashford to create a piece commemorating the 150th anniversary of historic Estey Hall. The artist tapped into her creativity, turning pieces of Estey Hall's original wood flooring into a canvas.

The 5x6 visual pays homage to the iconic structure.



Roger James is an artist born in Washington, D.C., to West Indian parents from the Island of Grenada and raised in the Prince George's County area of Maryland.

Mr. James was also commissioned by Shaw University to create a signature piece depicting the historic Estey Hall. Both artists donated their talent and services.



Lighting The Way

THROUGH LEGACY

Inaugural HBCU Triumph Gala Raises \$600,000 for Student Scholarships

Supporters of historically Black colleges and universities gathered on December 1, the date Shaw University was founded in 1865, the First HBCU in North Carolina, for its sold-out inaugural HBCU Triumph Gala, raising more than **\$600,000 in scholarships** for ShawU students. The University presented its first-ever HBCU Triumph Legacy Awards to Congresswoman Alma Adams, the A.J. Fletcher Foundation, and the United Negro College Fund in recognition of their enduring commitment to HBCUs.

The 2023 Gala was the culminating event of a weeklong celebration that honored North Carolina's HBCU's, the ShawU legacy, and the milestone anniversary of the iconic Estey Hall. Highlights included the launch of the James A. Forbes Sr. Lecture Series, the unveiling of the transformed Forbes Conference Room, and an art exhibition featuring commissioned works of Estey Hall by Shaw alumna Nellie Ashford and Washington, D.C., artist Roger James.

Together, these events celebrated Shaw University's historic leadership, showcased the power of the arts and philanthropy, and strengthened the University's vision for innovation, collaboration, and opportunity.



Illuminating Legacy The James A. Forbes, Sr. Lecture Series Shines a National Spotlight on Shaw University

Smithsonian Institution **Secretary Lonnie G. Bunch III** headlined Shaw University's James A. Forbes Sr. Lecture Series on March 19, 2025, delivering a compelling message on cultural memory, leadership, and storytelling that resonated deeply with the ShawU community.

Titled "A Conversation with the Secretary," the evening program was moderated by WUNC-PBS host Deborah Holt Noel and drew an engaged audience of students, faculty, alumni, clergy, and civic leaders. In his remarks, Bunch emphasized the role of history as both a mirror and a guide, noting how communities are shaped by what they choose to remember and by the stories they pass forward.

As the **first African American to lead the Smithsonian Institution**, Bunch reflected on his groundbreaking journey as the founding director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. He shared behind-the-scenes insights into the challenges of building the museum from the ground up. He underscored the responsibility of institutions to pursue truth-telling through preservation, education, and expanded access.

The lecture invited students and attendees to consider how memory and leadership intertwine with justice, particularly in an era when narratives of history are often contested. Bunch encouraged Shaw students to see themselves as storytellers and leaders who can shape the future by embracing their heritage and amplifying voices often left out of the mainstream record.

The James A. Forbes Sr. Lecture Series, launched in 2021, honors the legacy of Shaw alumnus Bishop James A. Forbes Sr., '49, a nationally recognized pastor, scholar, and advocate for justice. Each year, the series brings to campus a nationally prominent figure to elevate dialogue at the intersection of history, faith, leadership, and social transformation—continuing Shaw University's longstanding commitment to preparing leaders for service to society.



Lighting the Way
THROUGH LEGACY

Shaw University Selected for Home Depot Retool Your School Innovation Lounge Grant



Gale Thomas, President of Greater Atlanta Alumni Chapter

Shaw University was proudly selected as one of only 12 institutions nationwide to receive **The Home Depot Retool Your School Innovation Lounge Grant**, securing a \$75,000 award to enhance campus life and student success. This milestone marks **ShawU's very first time** winning in the history of the Retool Your School campaign—a competitive program designed to uplift HBCUs through targeted campus improvement projects.

The grant will support the creation of a **state-of-the-art Innovation Lounge**, a collaborative space that gives students access to cutting-edge technology and modern environments that foster creativity, entrepreneurship, and academic excellence.

During the Retool Your School reception, the Greater Atlanta Chapter of Shaw University Alumni Association, along with President Gale Thomas and alumna Eintou Karima, proudly accepted the award on behalf of the University—demonstrating the power of alumni unity and advocacy in helping ShawU achieve this historic moment.

At ShawU, the grant funds will be used to **transform the Bears Den in the Student Center** into a dynamic Innovation Lounge. The reimagined space will feature **modern furniture, upgraded finishes, and advanced technology** to support:

- Student collaboration and teamwork
- Hybrid meetings and virtual learning opportunities
- Interactive programming that promotes innovation and leadership

This award is more than a grant, it is an investment in Shaw University's students, creating an inspiring space that reflects their talents, ideas, and future potential.

First Time Grant Recipient!

Lighting the Way
THROUGH LEGACY

**CONGRATS TO OUR
INNOVATION LOUNGE
GRANT RECIPIENTS**



Inaugural Durham UNCF Mayor's Ball Raises Support for HBCU Students

More than 400 guests filled the Durham Convention Center on May 31, 2025, for the **Inaugural Durham UNCF Mayor's Scholarship Ball**, reviving the city's UNCF fundraising tradition for the first time since 2018.

Co-hosted by **Durham Mayor Leonardo Williams and Shaw University President Paulette R. Dillard**, the black-tie event raised critical support for Shaw students and others across the HBCU network, especially in Durham, Wake, and Sampson counties.

"This is more than a gala. It's a celebration of the transformative power of education," said Mayor Williams.

The evening featured live entertainment, tributes, and the presentation of six UNCF awards honoring leaders in education, advocacy, and community impact. Honorees included ABC11/Rob Elmore, Dr. Dorothy C. Browne, Dr. Abdul Sm Rasheed, Emily M. Dickens, J.D. Frankie J. Perry, and Dr. Deondra Rose.

The event, part of Shaw's annual UNCF campaign, highlighted the university's growing regional presence and commitment to student success through community partnership.



Juneteenth at ShawU

Rooted in Freedom, Rising in Legacy



Montford Point Marines

Spectacular Magazine, in partnership with Shaw University, brought history to life as they hosted the capital city’s inaugural Juneteenth flag-raising ceremony, an unforgettable and historic moment on ShawU’s campus.

“This is a landmark moment for Raleigh,” said Phyllis Coley, NC Juneteenth State Director and CEO of Spectacular Magazine. “To raise the Juneteenth flag for the first time at Shaw University—160 years after both the first Juneteenth and Shaw’s founding—is to affirm our history and reclaim our future.”

The celebration began inside the historic Estey Hall, where voices, music, and reflections filled the room. From there, participants joined in a ceremonial processional to the campus flagpole, led with honor by members of the Montford Point Marines.

The program featured moving tributes, including a keynote address by Adrienne Nirdé of the N.C. African American Heritage Commission, and soulful musical selections from Stellar Award-nominated gospel artist Pastor Nell Smith.

Adding to the powerful atmosphere, foundational “freedom documents” were read aloud: Raleigh City Councilman Corey Branch presented the Emancipation Proclamation; U.S. Rep. Deborah Ross gave voice to the 13th Amendment; and the Rev. Dr. Kevin Sturdivant delivered General Order No. 3, the historic announcement of freedom to the last enslaved people in Texas.



Congresswoman Deborah Ross



Pastor Nell Smith



Lighting the Way
THROUGH LEGACY

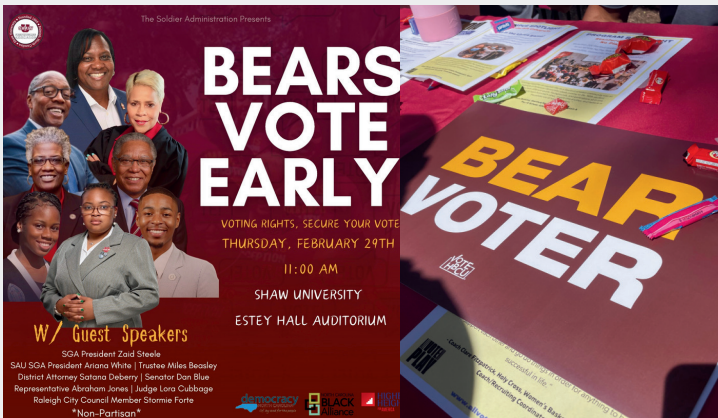
Students Lighting The Way

LEADERSHIP, LEGACY, AND LIVING THE MISSION



Shaw University students took the stage at TEDx to share bold ideas and personal truths.

- **Nakya Carter**, 2023-2024 Senior Class President, challenged the audience to rethink how past experiences shape present behaviors and how mindset shifts can unlock growth.
- **Alaya Mack**, a junior, spoke on the power of introversion, urging recognition of the value solo thinkers bring to collaborative spaces.

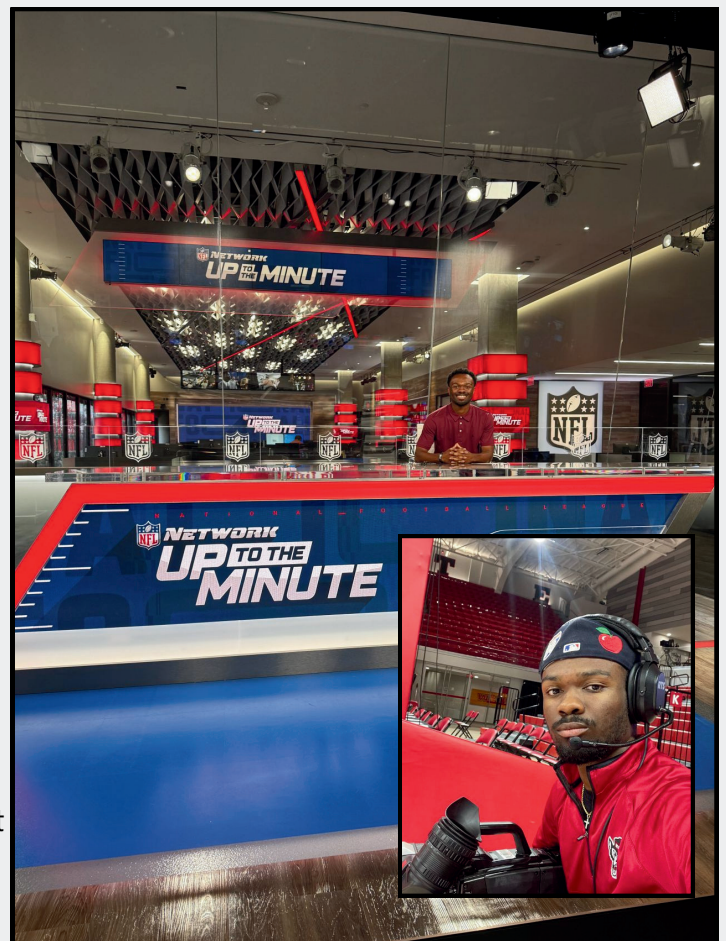


Zaid A. Steele - Civic Engagement & Leadership

- Zaid A. Steele, 2024 Student Government Association President, emphasized the importance of civic engagement. He encouraged peers to stay politically informed, get involved, and lead with purpose on and off campus.

Isaiah Richardson - NFL Tech Operations Opportunity

- Isaiah Richardson, Class of 2025 and a mass communications major, was selected for the prestigious NFL Technical Operations Training Camp in Inglewood, California. There, he'll support national broadcast production, working alongside directors and producers.



Leadership. Legacy. &
LIVING THE MISSION

Rising to SUCCESS



Shaw University was one of 32 teams that competed in the 35th Honda Campus All-Star Challenge National Championship, held on the corporate campus of American Honda in Torrance, California.

**Shaping ethical,
empowered
leaders who
carry light into
the world.**

At Shaw University, **community engagement** is not a sidebar; it's central to the mission. Over the past three years, Shaw has strategically expanded its reach through innovative partnerships, service-based learning, and programming that bridges academic knowledge with social action.

These programs not only meet real-world needs, but they also reflect ShawU's unwavering commitment to shaping ethical, empowered leaders who carry light into the world.



ShawU scholar Jeffrey Adkisson Jr., a computer information systems major, interned with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina.

The Rebirth of WSHA Building From the Ground Up

The iconic WSHA 88.9 FM radio station is back—reimagined as an online, student-run platform led by the Mass Communications Department under the direction of Professor Titus J. Burrell. WSHA Shaw University Radio is poised to lift its veil and return as a modern voice for the Shaw community.



In 2023, the department launched **"The Bear Cave"** radio show and worked to secure a network home for student-produced programming. After a semester of persistence, the show found a home that fall on the HBCU Network via SiriusXM Channel 142 through a partnership with Howard University's WHUR.

Through 2024 and 2025, the department pursued streaming licenses, culminating in the establishment of **WSHA Shaw University Radio**. The station is licensed to stream in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, and Mexico, broadcasting 24/7 with a mix of old-school hip-hop, R&B, jazz, and educational and entertainment talk.

Over the past year, WSHA has covered and interviewed public figures, including **"Living Single"** star Erika Alexander and the 14th secretary of the **Smithsonian Institution**. The station's revival honors alumni who remember its legacy while providing current students with hands-on media training and real-world broadcasting experience.

WSHA currently streams on [TuneIn.com](https://tunein.com), the world's leading live streaming audio service with more than 75 million listeners worldwide. The station will launch its mobile app on Apple and Google Play by the end of fall 2025. After airing, programs are archived as podcasts for on-demand listening and sharing.

Listen live at [TuneIn.com](https://tunein.com).



A Brighter
FUTURE

A Brighter Future
**SHAW UNIVERSITY'S IMPACT
BEYOND CAMPUS**

SHAW
UNIVERSITY
1865



GrowLiberia

Four Shaw University students joined peers from across the country for an immersive Alternative Spring Break in Liberia, West Africa through the **GrowLiberia** initiative. Sponsored in part by Experian, the experience highlights Shaw's expanding international engagement and commitment to global awareness, leadership, and service, including opportunities through CIEE Study Abroad.

Shaw University Named Runner-Up
in 2025 Experian
#IYKYK Pitch Competition



Shaw University was named a **runner-up in the 2025 Experian #IYKYK (If You Know, You Know) Pitch Competition**, hosted at Experian’s North America headquarters in Costa Mesa, California. Powered by **Experian’s B.A.L.L. for Life initiative**, the competition challenged students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to create solutions that make financial literacy and credit education a rite of passage for young people.

The ShawU team included student scholars **Aydia Cobb, Cameron Kelly, Louichard Benjamin, Florence Wreh, and Isaiah Richardson**. Their forward-thinking pitch focused on expanding credit access and promoting financial education in underserved communities.



Shining In Athletics & STUDENT LIFE

Shaw University Celebrates Chi Alpha Sigma Inductees

Shaw University proudly recognizes its student-athletes who were recently inducted into **Chi Alpha Sigma, the National College Athlete Honor Society**. This honor is awarded to four-year collegiate athletes who have achieved junior or senior academic standing, earned a minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA, and excelled in their sport.

Founded in 1996, Chi Alpha Sigma is the only national honor society dedicated to celebrating both academic and athletic achievement, with more than 500 chapters nationwide. Induction reflects the highest standard of excellence by requiring student-athletes to successfully balance the demands of varsity athletics with outstanding academic performance.

For our Bears, this milestone represents **discipline, perseverance, and leadership** while connecting them to a national network of scholar-athletes and providing opportunities for scholarships and professional growth. Shaw University is proud to support and celebrate these exceptional individuals whose achievements inspire the entire campus community.

70 student-athletes inducted into Chi Alpha Sigma National College Athlete Honor Society

3.5 GPA | Excellence | Leadership|



Shining In
ATHLETICS

The Home of Champions



The Shaw University Lady Bears Soccer Team captured the USCAA Division I Small College National Championship in both 2023 and 2024.



The ShawU Lady Bears Volleyball team made history with their first USCAA Division I National Championship in 2023 and continued their dominance by winning the CIAA title in 2024.



The ShawU Women's Tennis Team extended its dynasty, capturing a seventh consecutive CIAA Championship with a winning performance in 2025





CITY COUNCIL

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Shaw University, one of the oldest Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the United States, located in the heart of Raleigh, North Carolina, has long been a beacon of academic and athletic excellence; and, **WHEREAS**, Shaw University Athletics continues to exemplify the values of teamwork, perseverance, and leadership through the remarkable accomplishments of its student-athletes; and, **WHEREAS**, The Women's Tennis Team, which has earned the title of Six-Time CIAA Champions, showcasing excellence, discipline, and commitment to the sport; and, **WHEREAS**, The Women's Volleyball Team, which has achieved the extraordinary accomplishment of being Back-to-Back CIAA Champions, demonstrating resilience and teamwork; and, **WHEREAS**, The Women's Soccer Team, which has secured the title of Two-Time USCAA D1 Women's Soccer National Champions, displaying outstanding athleticism and sportsmanship on the field; and, **WHEREAS**, these student-athletes, through their incredible achievements, have brought pride and recognition not only to Shaw University but also to the city of Raleigh, positioning our community as a hub for athletic and academic success; and, **WHEREAS**, the City of Raleigh recognizes and celebrates the commitment, dedication, and excellence demonstrated by Shaw University's student-athletes, who continue to serve as role models for future generations of students and athletes; **NOW, THEREFORE**, do I, Janet Cowell, Mayor of the City of Raleigh, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 21, 2025 as



Janet Cowell, Mayor
Raleigh, NC

SHAW UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS DAY

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Raleigh, North Carolina, to be affixed this 21st day of March 2025.


Janet Cowell
Mayor

Alumnus Spotlight

Arminius Patterson Class of '15



Arminius Patterson, a proud Shaw University alumnus, is making his mark as a celebrated fashion designer and entrepreneur. Founder of Audacious by Arminius, a luxury brand specializing in custom suits, shirts, shoes, and rentals, he has dressed high-profile clients, including NFL stars, with his signature style and craftsmanship. Patterson received the Outstanding Young Alumni Award for Shaw University at the UNCF Legacy Gala during the 2025 National Alumni Council/National Pre-Alumni Council Leadership Conference in Memphis, TN.

Alumnus Spotlight

Lauren Samuel, Class of '96

Lauren Samuel, Vice President in the Strategy, Corporate & Investment Bank Division at Barclays, is a dynamic leader committed to driving impact in both her professional and volunteer roles. She serves as Chair of the Board for The HOPE Program, a New York City-based nonprofit that empowers individuals to achieve economic self-sufficiency through employment and career advancement. Since 2023, Lauren has also served as the inaugural Chair of Shaw University's President's Leadership Circle, guiding the group in strengthening alumni engagement and advancing institutional priorities. Her work reflects a steadfast dedication to excellence, leadership, and service—hallmarks of the Shaw University legacy.



Alumnus Spotlight

Evelyn Lane Sanders, Class of '71

Evelyn Lane Sanders, a proud Shaw University alumna, is a visionary leader in healthcare and community empowerment. As the Founder & CEO of Southeastern Healthcare of North Carolina, she leads with compassion and purpose. In 2022, her generosity was on full display when she contributed \$500,000 to become the first alumna to name an academic program at Shaw University known as the Evelyn Lane Sanders Social Work Program.



Alumnus Spotlight

Lou Torres, Class of '02

Lou Torres turned his entrepreneurial spark into CocoCrissi Tropical Icees in 2009, now the largest mobile Italian ice vendor on the East Coast. A true Bear for life, he never misses a ShawU Homecoming—bringing his signature treats and infectious school spirit to the celebration.



Alumni
SPOTLIGHT

The ShawU District Takes Shape

Shaw University has embarked on a bold journey to reimagine its presence and purpose at the heart of downtown Raleigh with "The ShawU District." In partnership with Little Diversified Architectural Consulting.

The University launched a comprehensive master planning effort aimed at creating a vibrant mixed-use district that integrates academic, residential, commercial, and recreational spaces to fuel long-term innovation and community connectivity

This initiative grows from a strategic vision first proposed in 2019 by the Urban Land Institute. Following Raleigh City Council's approval of zoning changes in June 2023, Shaw engaged stakeholders across campus and community through workshops—most recently in September 2024—to **shape a future-forward design that positions Shaw students, faculty, and staff within an economically sustainable environment**

What Makes This District a Beacon of Growth:

- Purpose-Driven Design: Focus on student housing, with other elements defined by Little's market analysis and stakeholder feedback
- Mission-Aligned Intent: Campus land will generate mission-enhancing revenue via leasehold, joint ventures, and selective redevelopment of non-core properties
- Revitalization Through Partnership: Little brings a proven record of designing inclusive urban environments centered on HBCU campus culture
- Meaningful Engagement: Community and university participants shaped amenities, cultural spaces, and infrastructure during the September 2024 planning workshop
- The ShawU District will do more than preserve heritage; it will catalyze campus life, foster Downtown Raleigh connections, and generate sustainable funding to support cutting-edge academic programs and student success well into the future.



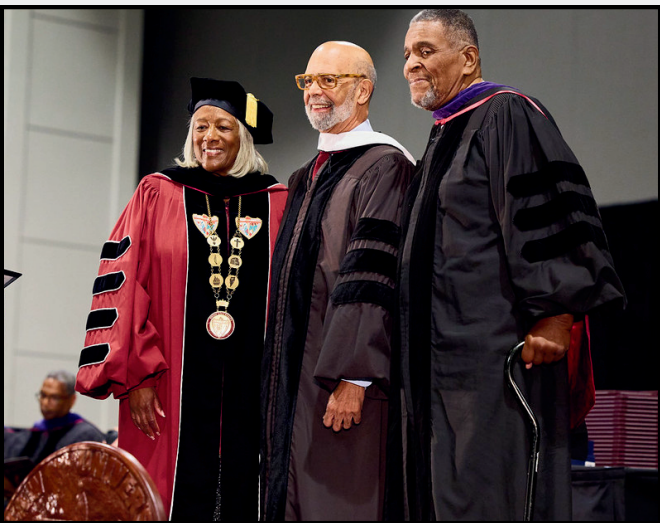
Lighting the Way for the **NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS**



Shaw University celebrated more than **500 graduates** over the past two years with commencement ceremonies at the Raleigh Convention Center.

In 2024, UNCF President Michael L. Lomax, Ph.D., encouraged graduates—many of whom started during the pandemic—to embrace their resilience and the legacy of HBCUs in social change.

In 2025, Durham Mayor and Shaw alumnus Leonardo Williams urged graduates to lead with emotional intelligence and purpose. President Paulette R. Dillard, Ph.D., honored Williams with an honorary degree recognizing his commitment to education and public service.



“You belong in every room where every decision is made.”

United Negro College Fund (UNCF) President and CEO Michael L. Lomax, Ph.D



“The world doesn’t need more noise—it needs more grounded leaders.”

Durham Mayor Leonardo Williams



Donor HONOR ROLL

Fiscal Year
2023-2025



Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the Donor Honor Roll for the fiscal period **July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2025**. We sincerely regret any omissions or inaccuracies. If your name has been inadvertently excluded or listed incorrectly, please contact Alicia Bynum at 919-546-8535 (office) or alicia.bynum@shawu.edu (email) so we may update our records and express our appreciation accordingly.

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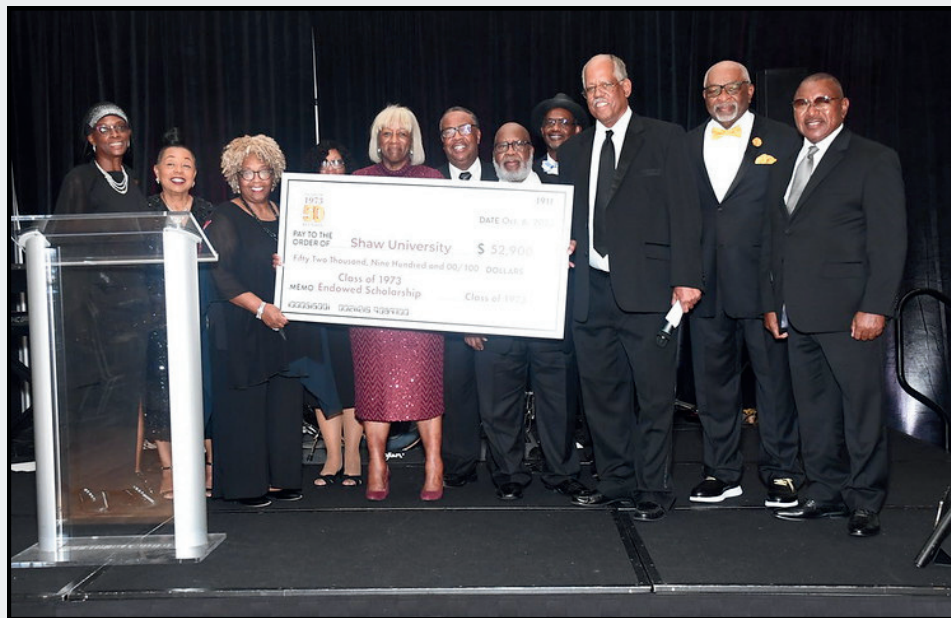
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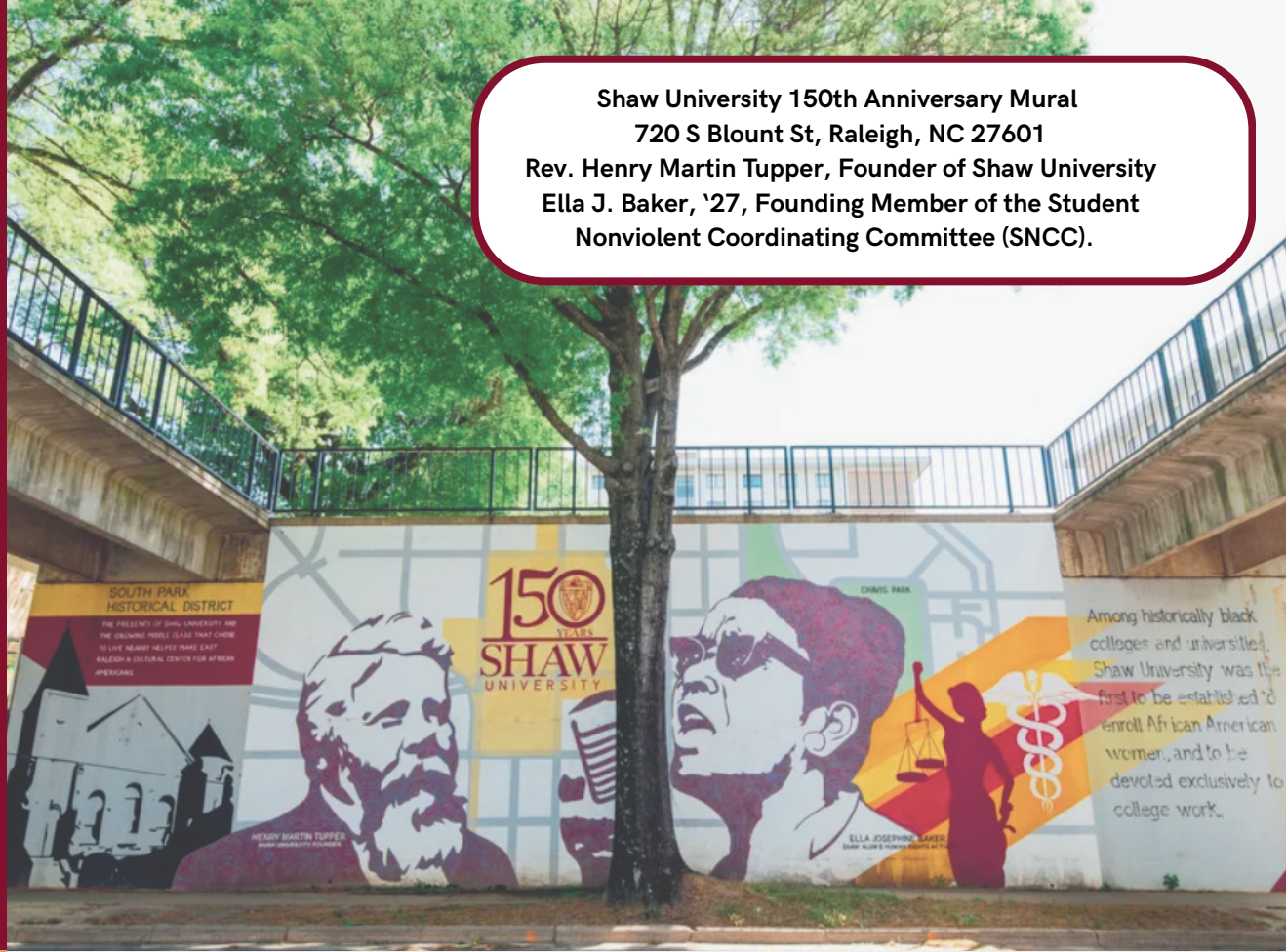
Marilyn Baldwin Richards, Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Chief Development Officer
 Melodie Carter, Senior Director of Development and Strategic Partnerships
 Jamesia Harrison, Senior Director, Communications and Marketing
 Alicia Bynum, Advancement and Data Services Manager
 Dianne Pledger, Development Associate/Special Events
 Corliss Pauling, Digital Media Manager

Shaw University Executive Leadership

Dr. Paulette R. Dillard, President & CEO
 Mr. George Knox, Director of Athletics
 Ms. Michelle Lane, Vice President of Financial Operations
 Mr. Leon Lewis, Chief Information Officer
 Dr. Vanessa Raynor Moore, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs
 Mrs. Marilyn Baldwin Richards, Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Chief Development Officer
 Dr. Stacey Sowell, Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Success

*Deceased

Shaw University 150th Anniversary Mural
720 S Blount St, Raleigh, NC 27601
Rev. Henry Martin Tupper, Founder of Shaw University
Ella J. Baker, '27, Founding Member of the Student
Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).



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