



SHAW
UNIVERSITY
Divinity School

NEWSLETTER

New Year. Renewed Call. Faith in Action.

Rooted in legacy and guided by purpose, Shaw University Divinity School enters the new year renewed in faith and mission. We continue preparing leaders who are theologically grounded, socially aware, and equipped to serve with integrity and courage.

We invite you to remain connected and actively engaged in the life of the Divinity School.



Lilly Endowment Inc.
A private foundation since 1937



Dean, Mark Harden

January invites us to pause, reflect, and renew our commitment to the call God has placed on our lives—both individually and collectively. As we step into a new year, Shaw University Divinity School gives thanks for the gift of new beginnings and the continued journey of faith we share as a community.

Rooted in the rich legacy of the Black Church and guided by a vision for justice, transformation, and faithful leadership, SUDS enters this season prepared to engage the questions of our time with courage, wisdom, and hope. Whether in the classroom, the church, or the public square, we remain committed to equipping leaders who are theologically grounded, socially aware, and spiritually formed.

As the year unfolds, we look forward to gathering in meaningful ways—through worship, dialogue, academic exploration, and community engagement.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark Harden".



Dr. Seth Klayman

We were honored to begin Shaw University's Opening Institute 2026 with an invocation offered by Dr. Klayman, whose words grounded the community in faith, purpose, and gratitude. As faculty, staff, and leaders gathered to prepare for a new academic year, this moment of prayer reminded us of our shared calling—to teach, serve, and lead with integrity, wisdom, and hope.

The Dream Reimagined Event Recap



A heartfelt thank you to our Shaw University students, Dr. Dillard, our distinguished panelists, and SUDS staff for their dedication and support in making this event inspiring and impactful. Your contributions help create a meaningful space for reflection, dialogue, and community engagement. Together, we honor Dr. King's vision of justice, equality, and hope for the future. We look forward to seeing everyone and sharing in this important celebration.



(Pictured with Shaw University students are Dr. Paulette Dillard, Dean Mark Harden, Shaw University Police Chief Jermaine Cherry, and Wake County Sheriff Willie L. Rowe.)



“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’”
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Announcements

1. JOHN MENDEZ SHAW DIVINITY SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP

The **John Mendez Divinity School Scholarship** is established by Emmanuel Baptist Church to provide financial assistance to a student enrolled in the Divinity School Master's Program and to honor Dr. John Mendez, former pastor and Shaw University alumni. Dr. Elva J. Jones, Scholarship Ministry Chairperson
336-655-1053 / jones.elvajohnson@gmail.com

2. William G. and Margaret B. Frasier Scholarship

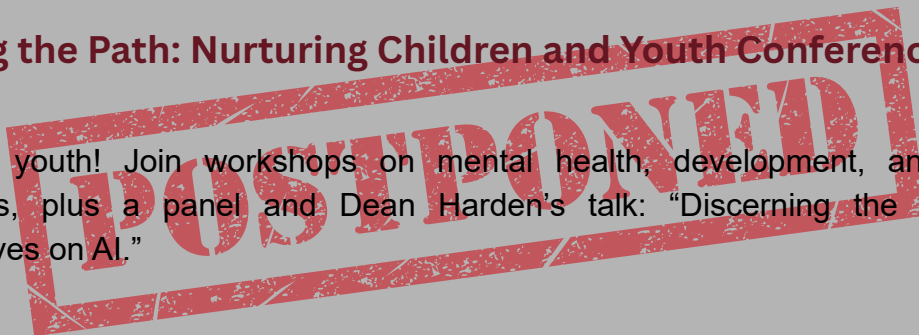
Applications will be accepted starting on **December 11, 2025** and ending on **February 16, 2026**. If you have questions, please call Deanna Nilsson at 864-268-3363 (Monday – Thursday: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.; Eastern Time) or send an email to admin@csascholars.org.

3. Annual Ministers Conference 2026

The Alexander / Peques Minister's Conference is more than an event—it's a time of reunion, renewal, and recommitment to the mission of ministry. We invite you to join us as we gather for learning, worship, and collaboration, all in the spirit of advancing the work of Christ. **Stay tuned:** registration details, speaker announcements, and full conference information will be released in the coming weeks. **We cannot wait to welcome you.**

Lighting the Path: Nurturing Children and Youth Conference

Empower youth! Join workshops on mental health, development, and high school challenges, plus a panel and Dean Harden's talk: "Discerning the Times: Biblical Perspectives on AI."



2026 Ministers Conference Sponsorship Opportunities

Booth-Only Exhibitor — \$250

- Table placement in Networking Room
- Recognition listing in conference program

Bronze Partner — \$500

- Exhibitor booth
- Logo placement on signage and in conference program

Silver Partner — \$1,250

- All Bronze benefits
- Five-minute speaking opportunity
- Social media recognition

Gold Partner — \$2,500

- All Silver benefits
- Ten-minute speaking opportunity
- Recognition in conference press release

Presenting Sponsor (Exclusive) — \$5,000+

- All Gold benefits
- Top-tier recognition across all conference platforms
- Verbal acknowledgment during conference programming
- One exclusive sponsorship opportunity available

Interested in becoming a Sponsor?

For more information or to secure your sponsorship, please contact:

Kevin Bradley

Director of Donor Relations and Strategic Partnerships

 kevin.bradley@shawu.edu

Join us in making the 2026 Ministers Conference a powerful experience of connection, visibility, and impact.

Planting Seeds of Impact: A January Call to Give and Grow with SUDS 🇩🇪

As we step into 2026, Shaw University Divinity School invites you to join us in Planting Seeds of Impact. This month marks the launch of our annual giving campaign, inspiring our community to invest in faith, leadership, and the next generation of ministry leaders.



January sets the foundation for the year ahead as we officially launch our annual giving campaign. During this pivotal month, we encourage our community to lead with intentional generosity—supporting the vital work of Shaw University Divinity School as we prepare and equip leaders for lives of faith, service, and impact. Each gift helps cultivate future pastors, scholars, and servant-leaders who will carry this mission forward, ensuring that the seeds planted today grow into lasting influence for generations to come.

Make Your Gift Today:

Support Shaw University Divinity School by making your contribution:

<https://www.shawu.edu/giving/>

Important: Please select “Divinity” as your Gift Designation so your contribution directly supports Shaw University Divinity School.

Together, we can plant seeds that grow a strong, faith-driven, service-oriented community of leaders.