Ruth E. Carter, Oscar Nominated Costume Designer, Challenges Hampton University Class of 2018 to Follow Their Dreams at 148th Commencement Ceremony

Thundering cheers poured from the 17,000 attendees in the stands of Armstrong Stadium on Sunday, May 13, to celebrate Hampton University’s 148th commencement ceremony. The 870 graduates in the class of 2018 marched across the field donning their caps and gowns and looking towards their bright futures.

Hampton University President Dr. William R. Harvey spoke to the crowd of graduate friends, families, and alumni to celebrate the class of 2018’s achievements. “As your president, I’m proud of your accomplishments,” said Harvey. “It is now your responsibility to determine the kind of life you will lead and to create a place for yourself in this ever changing world. I challenge you to allow your academic experiences to serve as the foundation for a very productive future career. Don’t be common or ordinary. Be extra ordinary and dream no small dreams.”

Keynote speaker Ruth E. Carter, Hampton University alumna, two-time Academy Award nominated costume designer, and first African American woman nominated for an Oscar in costume design, delivered a powerful message to the graduating class. Her message connected the newest graduates of Hampton University to the early beginnings of the world class institution and the heroes who paved the way for its founding over 150 years ago. “What I want to emphasize today, is the importance of our Afrofuture,” said Carter. “Our Afrofuture was first born with the vision of our first teacher here at Hampton, Mary Peak. She engaged former slaves who at one time didn’t have a choice, and who ran and fought for freedom. She authored the choice of education under The Emancipation Oak and when she did that, she planted seeds of freedom in all of us, so that today we can dream in these distinguished costumes of education.”

Following Carter’s keynote address, Dr. Harvey shared a special moment with the 1982 Hampton University graduate. Due to having already started working in the film industry, Carter did not attend her own graduation ceremony. Once Dr. Harvey learned of this, he ensured that she would receive her diploma at this year’s ceremony and proudly presented Carter with her bachelor’s degree, 36 years after she completed the requirements.

As the ceremony came to a close, class Valedictorian Payton Irene Newsome gave the class of 2018 one final charge before they embark on their next stage of life. “On this day, May 13th, 2018, we can finally press the reset button again,” said Newsome. “Today is our new beginning; today we have new endeavors, challenges, and opportunities. Today, class of 2018, we step out of our comfort zones and let life begin.”

AWARDS PRESENTED AT THE CEREMONY:

- Outstanding Alumnus-at-Large Award – Ruth E. Carter, Two –Time Academy Award Nominated Costume Designer
- Outstanding Alumnus-at-Large Award – Charles S. Harris, Executive Vice President at Averett University
- Outstanding Twenty-Year Alumnus Award – Ms. Mawiyah Husbands, professional school counselor
- Class of 2018 Valedictorian – Payton Irene Newsome
- Class of 2018 Salutatorian – Pearis Bellamy
- Edward L. Hamm, Sr. Distinguished Teaching Award – Dr. Kelwyn D’Souza and Dr. Harvey Stokes
Hampton University President Dr. William R. Harvey Delivers Keynote Address at Christopher Newport University 2018 Commencement Ceremony

Hampton University President Dr. William R. Harvey joined the recent graduates of Christopher Newport University to deliver the keynote address at CNU’s 2018 commencement ceremony this past weekend.

CNU’s President, Paul Trible, introduced Dr. Harvey to the audience of thousands, CNU’s newest graduates and regaled the crowd with Dr. Harvey’s legendary accomplishments over the past 40 years of his tenure as Hampton University’s President. “Hampton University has been absolutely transformed by Bill Harvey’s vision, intellect, passion, and hard work,” Trible said. “Applications have exploded, the quality of students soared, enrollment increased dramatically, a beautiful campus constructed, and world class academic programs and science facilities created. Dr. Harvey’s tenure at Hampton University is one of the great success stories in higher education.”

Dr. Harvey spoke beautifully to the students, alumni, faculty, staff and parents who came to partake in the graduation ceremony, weaving a theme of acting, comparing seeking higher education as being on stage and performing for an audience. “The commencement exercise has been described in many ways, but I like to think of it as a brief intermission between the act of formal academic study and the act of real life,” Dr. Harvey said. “As your participation in this commencement exercises a test, those of you in the 2018 graduating class obviously performed your parts well, you learned your lines, you mastered the meaning and sacrifice of your subjects, the subtleties and nuances of your parts. In the process, you came to a new awareness of intellectual exchange of social interaction of human relations and human understanding.”

Dr. Harvey went on to speak about what this graduating class has had to witness over the last four years, both negative and positive situations, including drug abuse, international terrorism, political unrest, the unemployment rate decreasing and how people came together during national disasters. “Clearly, as graduates of 2018, you have witnessed the best of times and the worst of times and as an actor in this drama, I’m sure that as a result of the changes around you, you have experienced as an actor, a miscued line, an unsuccessful audition; on occasion you became an inept or ailing actor, struggling to survive a performance, yet you knew that the show must go on,” Dr. Harvey said.

As he continued on, Dr. Harvey expressed to the graduates that in the drama of life, the curtain eventually has to come down and their lives are paused between their four year degree experience and the next act of their lives.

“When the curtain rises on the act following this day, you will find that your roles have changed, you will no longer be the mere stars and starlets of the production which is to follow, rather you’ll assume the role of directors and producers, the leaders if you will, of the new stars and starlets of the next generation,” Dr. Harvey said.

As Dr. Harvey concluded his address, he charged CNU’s graduating class of 2018 with several goals and doled out expert advice to ensure their futures a great success. “My charge to you is to see the horizon not as a limit, but as an invitation, the torch has been passed to you with the expectation that you’ll hold it higher and carry it farther than those who have walked before you,” Dr. Harvey said. “I’ll tell you what I tell my own graduates, dream no small dreams.”

Dr. Harvey also advised CNU’s graduates to save something out of every paycheck to buy property because it appreciates, stay away from drugs, and support the university that has given them so much the previous four years. “Be positive role models, be leaders in your respective fields, be of service to others,” Dr. Harvey said. “I congratulate you Christopher Newport University class of 2018 on what you’ve already achieved and I say to you, make the world a better place through your continued achievements, the world is waiting for you.”

Hampton University President Dr. William R. Harvey Writes Chapter for Prestigious Higher Ed Leadership Book

Hampton University President Dr. William R. Harvey has written a chapter for a new book published by Johns Hopkins University Press, entitled “Leading Colleges and Universities,” which serves to share how today’s college and university leaders face complex problems in higher education. The book was edited by Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, President Emeritus at George Washington University, E.Gordon Gee, President of West Virginia University, former President of The Ohio State University and Gerald B. Kauvar, special assistant to the President Emeritus at George Washington University.

The book brings together presidents and other leaders in higher education who share real-life examples and stories of how they have dealt with challenges in their institutions and answer questions such as, “What do you need to know about crisis management and legal affairs,” and “How do you manage college athletics, faculty, donors, and a local community?”

“In my 40 years as President of Hampton University, I have seen the highs and the lows,” said Dr. Harvey. “If I can share my experience with other administrators and they prosper and they dream big, then I’m doing something right.”

Dr. Harvey has served 40 years as Hampton University’s President and in his chapter, penned by Dr. Harvey himself, Chapter 14 – “Exercising Institutional Autonomy – Entrepreneurship in Higher Education,” Dr. Harvey delves into the world of budgets and entrepreneurship. Dr. Harvey states, “Because of the pressures to identify new and additional sources of revenue, many institutions have begun to pursue entrepreneurial activities as one of the solutions.” Dr. Harvey utilizes his experience as an entrepreneur and an educator to share with other college administrators how entrepreneurial activities can serve as a new source of funding.

The book also contains other chapters and deals with varied topics such as managing donor relations, shared governance, crisis management, and many others. Each contributor to the book has been an effective president or other significant leader in higher education.
Hampton University Celebrates 150th Anniversary and President Dr. William R. Harvey’s 40 Years of Leadership at Anniversary Gala

Hampton University alumni, students, faculty and friends came together to celebrate Hampton University’s 150th Anniversary and President Dr. William R. Harvey’s 40 years of legendary leadership as University President at a once in a lifetime Anniversary Gala.

Dr. Harvey delivered a speech to the crowd and immediately gave his thanks to all those who have helped make Hampton University into what it is today. “I get a lot of credit for things, but at Hampton, it’s the team that makes things go,” Dr. Harvey said. “I am the team leader but without the talent, the wisdom, the hard work of the team, we could not do what we do, and as a result of that team, we have been able to build a world-class institution, so it is I who needs to thank them.”

Since its founding in 1868, Hampton University has cleared a path for ultimate success. “For the last 150 years, Hampton has remained steady in its quest to establish itself as the standard of excellence,” Dr. Harvey said. “We have consistently been recognized by national organizations and publications for our high academic standards and our commitment to character.”

Dr. Harvey set the vision of the university 40 years ago and as the evening went on, he praised students, faculty members, and the amazing accomplishments Hampton University has been part of in that time, such as the Hampton University Proton Therapy Institute, and the world class scholars who have won competitions and received prestigious awards. These individuals have made Hampton University the world-class institution it is today.

In his closing, Dr. Harvey mentioned that many people ask him why he’s stayed at HU for so long. His response was, “Each and every day there’s something new, it’s almost like I get an ‘aha’ moment when I go to work, it has been my goal to dream no small dreams,” Dr. Harvey said. “I say to people that the only thing that will hold you back is your imagination and that’s what we’ve tried to do at Hampton. Dream no small dreams with honesty, dignity, class, energy, dedication, respect, responsible behavior and service. For 40 years Hampton has not been a job for me, it’s a way of life.”

The once in a lifetime celebration also featured a musical performance from the Hampton University Marching Force, a historical video documenting the 150 year history of Hampton University, as well as video tributes to Dr. and Mrs. William R. Harvey from alumni, students, staff, family and friends.

Hampton University President Dr. William R. Harvey to Receive Lifetime Achievement Award During 2018 HBCU Awards

The 2018 HBCU Awards finalists have been announced and Hampton University President Dr. William R. Harvey will be the inaugural recipient of the Lifetime Achievement award, which will also be formally named in his honor during this year’s awards ceremony. The 2018 HBCU Awards will be held on June 22, 2018 at the Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel at 6:00 p.m.

“This is a once in a lifetime honor for me,” said Dr. Harvey. “This recognition is truly meant to be this year, coinciding with Hampton University’s 150th anniversary year and my 40th year of being President. I hope the legacy of this award will inspire leaders in higher education and ensure future HBCU students, staff, faculty and alumni to strive to uphold THE standard of excellence that I have experienced over my career.”

The HBCU Awards is a national awards ceremony that honors individual and institutional achievement at historically black colleges and universities throughout the country. Winners are selected based on merit of accomplishment and for producing positive coverage of HBCU communities.

Hampton University received six total nominations for this year’s awards, including Ruth Carter as Female Alumna of the Year. Carter is a two-time Academy Award nominated costume designer and the first African American woman to be nominated for an Oscar in costume design. Dr. Harvey is also a nominee in the category for Male Alumnus of the Year, representing his alma mater Talladega College. Dr. Harvey was the first recipient of the ‘Male President of the Year’ award in the inaugural HBCU Awards in 2011.

Created by HBCU Digest Founding Editor Jarrett L. Carter Sr. in 2011 and crowning winners in the fields of leadership, arts, athletics, research, and community engagement, the HBCU Awards is the first national awards event to recognize the influence and impact of HBCUs on American culture.

Hampton University alumna Ruth E. Carter was nominated for Male Alumnus of the Year, Talladega College. Dr. Harvey was the first recipient of the ‘Male President of the Year’ award in the inaugural HBCU Awards in 2011.

For more information about the HBCU Awards visit: https://hbcudigest.com/.

• Dr. William R. Harvey – Male Alumni of the Year – Talladega College
• Female Alumna of the Year – Ruth Carter
• Best Student Government Association – Hampton University
• Best Research Center – Hampton University Center for Atmospheric Science Research
• Best Business Program – Hampton University School of Business
• Male Athlete of the Year – Maximilian Kuester
• Female Student of the Year – Martha Baye

For more information about the HBCU Awards visit: https://hbcudigest.com/.
Hampton University Celebrates Founding Day

Hampton University President Dr. William R. Harvey and Dr. Michael A. Battle, a former U.S. Ambassador to the African Union, gave fitting and memorable tributes to both Hampton University and its founder, Brig. Gen. Samuel Chapman Armstrong, during the Founding Day celebration at historic Ogden Hall. The special Easter Sunday service was part of Hampton University’s twin anniversary celebration which commemorates the university’s 150th anniversary and 40 years of visionary leadership under Dr. Harvey.

Dr. Harvey spoke to Gen. Armstrong’s belief in good character and how Gen. Armstrong would want those at HU to carry themselves. Dr. Harvey also spoke to how Hampton University has continued to thrive despite naysayers and critics over its 150-year history.

“On this Founding Day 2018, I want you to know that we are here today because of General Samuel Chapman Armstrong,” Dr. Harvey said. “I have read where there were two things he wanted people associated with his institution to possess: They are strong academics and good character. Of the two, he thought character was more important. These things were not only important in 1868, but in 2018 they may be even more important. I want Hampton University faculty staff, students and alumni to emulate General Armstrong’s wishes and demonstrate honesty, integrity, responsible behavior and trust in their personal and professional lives.

“Hampton University’s history is replete with individuals both black and white who were critical of projects and proposals that the leadership brought forward. Despite their resentment and opposition to the progress that this great institution has achieved over the last 150 years, we have persevered by accepting and following the values and standards which Gen. Armstrong espoused and thereby set us on the path of becoming the world-class university that we are today.”

Dr. Battle, executive vice president/provost at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, and a former Hampton University chaplain of 20 years, delivered a powerful sermon recognizing and tying together the three important events coinciding on the historic day.

“Without the resurrection of Jesus celebrated each Easter Sunday, Hampton University would not be what it is today,” Battle said. “Armstrong needed the strength he drew from Jesus’ resurrection to persevere and follow his vision to found the school. Dr. Harvey would not have survived the challenges he faced as president for 40 years and overcome the obstacles in his and the university’s way without the power of the resurrection.”

Sunday’s service also featured Emmy Award-winning gospel musician Earnest Pugh performing with the Hampton University choirs. Pugh led the choirs and congregation through multiple songs that had the near capacity crowd on their feet from beginning to end, clapping and singing.

The celebration was capped off by the Hampton University Student Government Association (SGA) releasing 40 doves outside Ogden Hall. University SGA President Martha Baye said the symbolism behind the doves was to recognize and honor 40 years of visionary leadership and service from Dr. Harvey.

“President Harvey’s 40 years represents the birth and development of one of the most important forms of student advocacy on Hampton’s campus,” Baye said. “Since the start of the monthly admin meetings, many of the student demands and needs have been met. Jared Bourke, [university] SGA vice president, and I wanted to release doves on behalf of SGA to represent 40 years of outstanding service and the commitment to always give back and return home.”

Hampton University President Dr. William R. Harvey Shares Leadership Knowledge at the 2018 School of Liberal Arts and Education Read-In

Hampton University President Dr. William R. Harvey was honored to speak and share his leadership knowledge at the School of Liberal Arts and Education’s 2018 Read-In. Dr. Harvey’s book, “The Principles of Leadership: The Harvey Leadership Model,” was chosen as this year’s Read-In novel. The Hampton University Read-In was started 30 years ago by the Department of English. Its purpose is to bring together faculty, students, administrators and the Hampton community and to provide an avenue to create stimulating conversations about literary works.

Dr. Harvey started this year’s Read-In by explaining that because of the outstanding achievements at Hampton University, he was compelled to share with the world how this world-class institution has excelled the last 40 years under his direction. “There were many people who witnessed these successes, asked me time and time again to explain the reasons for all these accomplishments because we were doing things that no other institutions were doing,” Dr. Harvey said. “They asked me to explicate the principles that guided our achievements, as a result of those many inquiries and with the encouragement that our story at Hampton could serve as a guide and a model for those that are interested in administration to emulate, I decided to reduce to writing the characteristics and principles of leadership which I have practiced throughout my tenure. I call those principles “The Harvey Leadership Model.”

Dr. Harvey calls his 10 principles of leadership, which can be applied to not only higher education institutes, but to various organizations, “leadership lessons for living.” He explains that “leadership can make a positive difference such as building or reviving a great corporation or university but it can also provide a negative difference such as building or controlling a crime syndicate, either way, success is defined by effective leadership,” Dr. Harvey said.

Throughout the Read-In, Dr. Harvey explained each of the 10 steps of “The Harvey Leadership Model” in depth. The audience was able to step away with invaluable information from a truly exemplary leader.

As Dr. Harvey concluded this year’s Read-In, he left the audience members with great expectations. “Years from now, what will others be able to say about your leadership?” Dr. Harvey asked. “What will others be able to say about your contribution to the lives of others? What will others be able to say about you uplifting people? About your service to humankind? Hopefully the list will be long and the contributions will be great. I expect no less from Hamptonians.”