Hampton University Holds Memorial Service in Honor of the Life of Alumna Dr. Gladys Hope Franklin White

The Hampton University family came together on Tuesday, November 13, 2018, for a Memorial Service in celebration of the life of Dr. Gladys Hope Franklin White, an outstanding Hampton University alumna and the namesake for the Gladys Hope Franklin White Hall residence facility, after her recent passing.

Reverend Dr. Debra Haggins, Hampton University Chaplain, opened up the service with a Prayer of Comfort. “We are here to celebrate the life and the legacy and the memory and the dedication and the devotion of Dr. Gladys Hope Franklin White,” she said.

Family and friends of Dr. White then enjoyed a beautiful musical tribute to Dr. White from the Hampton University Choirs. After a scripture reading from Justin A. Langley, Sr., Dr. White’s great nephew, Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey, shared some inspiring words about Dr. White.

“On behalf of the entire Hampton University family, I extend our deepest sympathies,” said Dr. Harvey. “As sad as a memorial service is, it really is when you think about Dr. White, a time of joy and a time of celebration. We find joy in her many, many accomplishments. She was the type of person individually and professionally that we should all strive to be. Hardworking, constructive, trustworthy, supportive, considerate, outgoing, faithful and loyal.”

Dr. Harvey talked about her faithful and unending love and devotion to Hampton University. Dr. White served as the Emeritus Class Leader and in this leadership role, she coordinated efforts that led to the raising of over $11 million from alumni members of the class. “During my 41 years as President, Dr. White generally loved and served Hampton University faithfully. She diligently raised funds for Hampton, recruited students from North Carolina, and brought students to the campus. She loved the choir, she loved the band, and she loved Hampton,” he said.

Dr. White’s granddaughter, Dr. Monique Sharaye White, who is also a Hampton University alumna, was in attendance and spoke on behalf of her family, and about how deeply woven Hampton University is within her family. “I thank you for recognizing the selfless spirit and tireless dedication that she gave to both of our alma maters,” she said. “My parents were married here, my mother was laid to rest here, and now here is where I begin the journey of saying goodbye to a woman who, quite frankly, I was convinced would outlive us all.”

She told of the story of how her and her grandmother would greet each other with a “Hello Dr. White, well, hello Dr. White,” as they both held that earned title.

“Dr. Gladys Hope Franklin White was an icon, a heroine, a paradigm of educational excellence, and purpose-driven service. She was a mentor, a benefactor, an unparalleled force of determination and will. A legend in her own right. And that, to be honest, is the hardest to accept, that someone so small in stature but large in heart is no more, that someone who lived so long through so many things and continued to rise like a phoenix, despite enormous losses and unimaginable grief, is actually gone,” said Dr. Monique Sharaye White.

Other speakers for the Memorial Service included, Ms. Naya Martin, President of the Gamma Iota Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and Dr. Joyce Melvin Jones, President of the Hampton Chapter, Links, Inc.

To conclude the service, Reverend Haggins gave remarks and benediction, leaving the entire congregation with warm words about Dr. White and her love for Hampton University.

“Make no mistake, today we’re not claiming perfection upon Dr. White for none is perfect but the Father, but there is one thing He can claim, one thing we know as certainty, one thing we can deduce from her life assure, that her heart for Hampton, her love for Hampton, her activity and activism on behalf of Hampton, her intent toward Hampton University was as pure as the driven snow,” she said.

Hampton University Announces Women’s Triathlon as Newest Sport

Hampton becomes the first Historically Black College and University (HBCU) to participate in the sport at the varsity level.

The addition of the Hampton women’s triathlon program is being made possible through a $225,000 grant from the USA Triathlon Foundation, which was reserved for the first HBCU that added women’s triathlon as a varsity sport. The funding is earmarked specifically for an HBCU in a proactive effort to increase diversity in collegiate triathlon. The grant will be distributed over a five-year period and may support travel, equipment, coaching, scholarships and other expenses related to building a sustainable varsity program.

“This is another example of Hampton University leading the way,” said Hampton University President Dr. William R. Harvey. “I am proud of the Department of Athletics team that made the Hampton University Women’s Triathlon program a reality.”

“Hampton University’s addition of a varsity women’s triathlon program is cause for celebration for many reasons,” said Rocky Harris, USA Triathlon CEO. “USA Triathlon is in the process of working with HBCUs on a variety of upcoming initiatives to increase diversity in triathlon at the youth and collegiate level, and this is an important step in that journey. The academic and athletic administration at Hampton have proven to be leaders by committing to this unique opportunity for female student-athletes, who will shape the future of our sport for years to come.”

The NCAA named triathlon an Emerging Sport for Women in 2014. The designation gives programs a 10-year window to demonstrate sustainability as an NCAA sport.

The varsity season, which is composed of three regional qualifiers and the Women’s Collegiate Triathlon National Championship, features sprint-distance races covering a 750-meter open water swim, draft-legal 20-kilometer bike, and 5-kilometer run. Hampton will become the sixth NCAA Division I and 26th NCAA school to sponsor triathlon. Once a coach is on board, Hampton will be recruiting student-athletes, acquire the needed equipment for the program, and begin formalizing partnerships in the community necessary to begin a varsity women’s triathlon program.

(continued next page)
What others are saying about the addition of women’s triathlon at Hampton University:

Amy Wilson, Managing Director, NCAA Office of Inclusion

“Congratulations to Hampton University on adding women’s triathlon — an NCAA emerging sport — and further enhancing its remarkable tradition of providing meaningful opportunities for student-athletes. I commend USA Triathlon for partnering with Hampton University through its impactful grant program, as well as for its extensive plans to engage with HBCUs across the country to increase the number of diverse student-athletes participating in intercollegiate triathlon.”

John Cassimatis, President, USA Triathlon Foundation

“The USA Triathlon Foundation is proud to present Hampton University with grant funding to build a sustainable women’s varsity triathlon program. The Foundation’s mission is to open pathways to triathlon for all, and a key component of that is increasing racial and ethnic diversity in our sport. Hampton’s presence in the NCAA triathlon family means that young women with dreams of attending an HBCU can now consider triathlon as a collegiate sport option for the first time, which opens new opportunities both academically and athletically.”

Shelley C. Davis, Senior Associate Commissioner and SWA, Big South Conference

“There is tremendous significance in Hampton University adding triathlon. Not only does this provide additional opportunities for women to compete in the sport, but Hampton is also the first Historically Black College/University and Big South Conference member institution to sponsor triathlon. It is exciting to see the growth of triathlon as an NCAA Emerging Sport, and the Big South looks forward to celebrating Hampton’s success and exposing the rest of our member institutions to the sport.”

Charles Harris, Executive Vice President of Averett University, Former Commissioner of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference and Hampton University Alumnus

“I am delighted to offer congratulations to Hampton for taking an innovative step into offering women’s triathlon as a varsity intercollegiate sport. Hampton has a long history of being a pathfinder for opportunities. It comes as no surprise that under the leadership of President Dr. William R. Harvey and Athletic Director Eugene Marshall, Jr. they would seize the opportunity to take a leadership role in opening a new pathway for women in sport. This announcement is the first in what I anticipate will be a wellspring of unique opportunities for HBCU student-athletes to participate in sport at the highest level possible.”

Dr. Tekemia Dorsey, CEO, International Association of Black Triathletes

“Hampton University’s partnership with USA Triathlon provides a pathway into the collegiate arena for the sport at an HBCU for little black girls and girls from urban communities around the world. As IABT’s Youth & Junior Club Programs continue to expand here in Maryland through partnerships with urban local school systems, we are now able to advocate, support and encourage enrollment in Hampton University’s triathlon program. I have great hope that other HBCUs will come on board to introduce the program, especially in the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area. This has been an initiative of mine for several years, and I am ecstatic to see it come to fruition. Historic, groundbreaking, monumental. Great job, Hampton University and USA Triathlon!”

Carlos Mayers, Hampton University Student, Attended 2018 Clinton Global Initiative University in Chicago, IL

Carlos Mayers, Hampton University sophomore, Computer Science major, recently attended the Clinton Global Initiative University (CGI U) Class of 2018, which was held October 19-21, 2018 in Chicago, IL.

The 11th Annual CGI U meeting brings together more than 1,000 innovative student leaders to make Commitments to Action in CGI U’s five focus areas: Education, Environment and Climate Change, Peace and Human Rights, Poverty Alleviation, and Public Health. Through the CGI University Network, Resolution Project, Commitments Challenge, and other opportunities, over $750,000 in funding will be available to select CGI U 2018 students to help them turn their ideas into action.

“Great job Mr. Mayers for being accepted into the program, and for attending this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Mr. Mayers represented Hampton University fully, and we are proud of his accomplishments thus far,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

Mayers’ application to be part of the initiative was described as having “demonstrated a clear passion for change and a Commitment to Action that is new, specific, and measurable.” He spent the weekend on the campus of the University of Chicago, learning from President Bill Clinton, as well as many other incredible speakers.

“It was remarkable witnessing history, and learning from President Clinton, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and vice chair of the Clinton Foundation, Chelsea Clinton. This was a master class of a lifetime,” Mayers said.

Students attended plenary sessions, working sessions, and other special events which enabled them to network with their peers, build skills, and identify potential partners. The program featured dozens of topic experts, university representatives, and celebrities who joined students to discuss effective solutions to some of the world’s most pressing challenges. During the last day of the meeting, attendees took part in a Day of Action in the local community.

“My favorite part of the event would have to be the ‘Raising Money For Your Commitment’ skill session. The speakers interacted with the audience over the topics of accessing funding opportunities, navigating traditional grant-based funding streams, and pivoting as an entrepreneur. These topics were very important to my progress and gave me answers I was seeking for my own personal entrepreneur goals,” Mayers said. “At Hampton, I want to collaborate across majors and disciplines with the goal of students working on tech innovation projects of their choice and to encourage incubator spaces.”

“Carlos Mayers demonstrates the type of initiative and dedication, along with his developing computer science skills that will help to solve our global societal problems,” said Dr. Jean Muhammad, Chair of the Hampton University Department of Computer Science. “I am extremely proud of Carlos representing the Department of Computer Science and Hampton University in such a positive way.”

Mayers is involved with the Google Interview Club, on-campus Hackathons, and plans to be a global problem solver after graduation.
Three Hampton University Students Earn Exclusive Bloomberg News Business Journalism Internships

Three Hampton University Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications students have landed exclusive paid internships at Bloomberg News in New York City.

Senior strategic communication major Aviel Brown, who is taking her final classes at HU this semester, applied for and was accepted into the Bloomberg 451 Business Journalism course in HU's Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications. The school welcomed recruits from the media giant to campus four times this semester.

“I am so honored and excited to start as a Bloomberg winter intern in a few weeks,” Brown said. “I have worked really hard over the last year on my financial knowledge and writing skills to ensure I would be prepared for this opportunity.

“No, I just can’t wait to get started!” Williams was equally ready.

“Summer 2019 can’t come soon enough,” he said. “I took business journalism to learn more about [it] and Bloomberg. It’s helped me gain so much knowledge on that specific area of journalism. … I’d advise anyone who’s interested in writing/reporting to take this class because it helps you expand your mind on things you wouldn’t even think of.”

Dillard, associate editor for The Hampton Script, needed extra convincing from Maier -- adviser to the school newspaper -- to take the class.

“Initially, I took business journalism only because Professor Maier asked me to sign up,” he said. “But the class has far exceeded my expectations. ... When I got the call saying I was chosen for the internship, I was completely in shock and very excited.

“I’m so grateful for the class and all of the doors that it has opened for me.”

Maier, a former editor-in-chief of Inside Business in Norfolk who has 24 years of journalism experience, has been working at Hampton University since last fall teaching JAC 451, the Business Journalism course. Prior to 2017, only one HU student had been chosen to intern at Bloomberg. Since Maier has arrived on campus, four of his students have been offered internships by the company. That’s a sign of growth and progress underneath the leadership of Professor Maier.

“I am impressed and proud of the progress of this area of study in the Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications,” said DáVida Plummer, Dean of the Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications. “I look forward to a strengthened and even greater mutually beneficial relationship with Bloomberg LP.”

“I am ecstatic for Aviel, Jarrell and Randall,” Maier said. “Like a lot of students who take the course, these three were unsure about business journalism when the class started, but they soon learned the subject is not as intimidating as it sounds.

“The theme for the course is ‘Follow the Money.’ Aviel did, utilizing the Bloomberg Terminal the company allows us to use to dig deeper for business stories, and it has paid off for her with this valuable opportunity.

Hampton University Computer Science Majors Competed in Black Enterprise Smart Hackathon and Won First Place in Tech Challenge

Four Hampton University students competed in the 2018 BE Smart Hackathon in Silicon Valley, October 8-9, 2018. Ernest Horton, Coleman Scott IV, Tauren Bass, and Jeffrey Grant, made up the Hampton Pirate team where they spent an intense 36-hour developing an app and competing for prizes. The Hampton University Pirate team took home 1st place in the Tech Challenge and 3rd Overall.

“Congratulations to these four wonderfully talented students. They represented Hampton fully through their character of remaining a strong team through a stressful situation, and their creativity in developing a working app in such a short period of time. Their efforts demonstrate why Hampton University students are continually being sought out by industry leaders worldwide,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

The Black Enterprise 2018 BE Smart Hackathon is part of the TechConneXt Summit where 16 HBCU teams of four college students each work collaboratively to develop an app that will solve a real-world business problem. This year’s hackathon was sponsored by American Airlines, so hackers were charged with creating a way to make the flight experience better, easier and more mainstream.

Once completed, the team had to present their idea and product to the panel of judges. The product was evaluated on the viability of the app, its utility to individual users, and the efficacy of the technological platform. Team Hampton placed first in the Tech Challenge and third overall. They each took home 25,000 American Airlines miles for travel, a new MacBook, wireless headphones, the Echo Dot, and a travel backpack. The Black Enterprise covered all expenses for participating students of the event, including flights, hotel and food.

Dr. Chutima Boonthum-Denecke, Professor for the Hampton University Department of Computer Science, accompanied the students on the trip to serve as a coach to help keep them on task and focused. “We know that our students have a strong software development foundation so they were able to learn and integrate various APIs into their application. In addition, there were engineers from American Airlines assisting students during the hackathon. Those AA engineers were impressed by how skilled our Hampton students are and how much they were able to accomplish with little help from them,” Boonthum-Denecke said. “We are very proud of our students’ growth and accomplishments during the hackathon and throughout the TechConneXt Summit.”

Ernest “Xavier” Horton served as the team lead for the competition. He is a junior, computer science major, skateboarder, and interned at Google for the last two summers. “I had a really good time, it was awesome to see all the companies in San Francisco. The hackathon itself was exhausting but we learned a lot of new technologies that we had not used before. In addition, we were able to utilize our skills and knowledge acquired at Hampton in different ways to meet the challenges that were presented to us. It was definitely a good learning experience, I lost a lot of sleep, but it was a great time,” Horton said.

Tauren Bass, junior, computer science major and also a Google intern for the last two summers, was also on the team. Horton, Bass and Scott have competed at hackathons together before, but at the BE Smart Hackathon, they worked with freshman student, Jeffrey Grant, for the first time. "It was a great experience because trying to figure out how to help someone less experienced is a skill in itself. Our challenge was to understand what Jeffrey was capable of and how we could help him to move forward and have him be a strong contribution to the team. I learned how to walk him through what we were doing, and allowed him to feel a part of the team. It was a great leadership opportunity for me. Giving Jeffrey the skills that we have, passing our knowledge and experiences in a team setting will help him be a team leader in the future,” Bass said.

“I definitely feel like for how little experience I had, I felt I did a good job contributing to the product. I’m satisfied with the outcome,” Grant said. “I had no experience with JavaScript and minor experience with HTML, and so my team members helped me get through some of the harder aspects of it.” Grant is a freshman, computer science major, interested in learning new programming languages and plans to participate in future hackathons.

It was a strategic move to place a freshman on a team full of juniors. Grant will learn skills from the seasoned members and be able to turn around in the next few years and teach those same skills to new team members. “Every one of these young men have proven to be outstanding program developers. They have interned at Google and Microsoft. They have outstanding grades, and I knew they would be extremely successful at this event,” said Dr. Jean Muhammad, Chair of the Hampton University Department of Computer Science.

Tauren Bass, Coleman Scott IV and Ernest Horton all competed in the Google DC Hack Competition back in February 2018 where they won first place.
Hampton University Receives $1 Million Thriving in Ministry Grant for New Ministerial Program

Hampton University has received a $1 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to help establish the Pastoral Renewal Initiative for Ministerial Excellence (PRIME) program. This grant is in part of Lilly Endowment’s Thriving in Ministry, an initiative that supports a variety of religious organizations across the nation as they create or strengthen programs that help pastors build relationships with experienced clergy who can serve as mentors and guide them through key leadership challenges in congregational ministry.

“Hampton University has a long and rich history with ministers all across the country. Our Ministers’ Conference has been prospering for the past 105 years. We are grateful for Dr. Haggins’ leadership and the Lilly Endowment’s support of Hampton University,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

Hampton University is one of 78 organizations in 29 states taking part in the Thriving in Ministry initiative. Those organizations reflect diverse Christian traditions: mainline and evangelical Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Orthodox.

Reverend Debra L. Haggins, Ph.D., Hampton University Chaplain, and Executive Director/Treasurer for the HU Ministers’ Conference and Choir Directors’ & Organists’ Guild Workshop, wrote and prepared the grant proposal, and was successful in securing the funds from The Lilly Endowment for this program. “Lilly has always made strong provisions for pastors in support of Christian leadership. They are what I call trailblazers and pathfinders in the realm of advocacy for Christian leaders. When others ignored the call to nurture Christian leaders, The Lilly Endowment, Inc. made it a priority to strengthen pastoral leadership in Christian congregations. I am extremely proud that Hampton University is now part of this initiative,” said Dr. Haggins.

The Hampton University PRIME program is a three-year Christian pastoral education and clergy development program designed to strengthen and expand the current Church Development and Leadership Academy (CDLA) inclusive of the Church Music Guild and Academy for Leaders of Worship. The CDLA was developed in 2009 to function continuously as the professional development arm of the Hampton University Ministers’ Conference, now in its 105th year of continuous service and support to Christian leadership and congregational growth and vitality.

“One of the reasons I believe our proposal was fortunate to be chosen is because I took a developmental approach to pastoral well-being by offering a set of restorative retreats for pastors based on their level and years of experience: novice, early and mid-career pastors. Each cadre needs a specific skill-set in order to lead their churches and congregations efficiently and effectively. Specifically selected pastors will be participating as mentors to help clergy men and women from across the United States to build relationships. The pastoral mentors will serve as role models and guide the participants through leadership challenges in ministry based upon sound theology, theory, experience and expertise,” said Dr. Haggins. “Our program, The PRIME program, seeks to meet the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social and familial needs of the Christian pastoral leader which is essential to congregational well-being of the church and the Christian community at-large.”

For the program itself, 40 participants at various stages of ministry plus 15 mentors were pre-selected to be part of PRIME, which officially began October 1, 2018. Participants were selected from those who attend the Hampton University Ministers’ Conference and participate in academy activities. Once notified, participants will attend orientation sessions which help build a supportive community between the participants and mentors right away. Throughout the year, participants and mentors will attend four restorative retreats which contain community and breakout sessions, address common ground challenges that pastors share in their work, and provide intimate settings where participants and mentors can share personal struggles, life experiences and vulnerable exchanges while developing supportive relationships.

The culminating component of the PRIME Program will require each pastor to develop and implement an innovative project about which they are passionate, is compatible with the goals of the program and fosters pastoral thriving in congregational ministry. Mini-grants from the $1 million grant will help fund these projects.

“Leading a congregation today is multi-faceted and exceptionally demanding,” said Christopher L. Coble, Lilly Endowment’s vice president for religion. “When pastors have opportunities to build meaningful relationships with experienced colleagues, they are able to negotiate the challenges of ministry and their leadership thrives. These promising programs, including Hampton University’s PRIME program, will help pastors develop these kinds of relationships, especially when they are in the midst of significant professional transitions.”

Nurse Mo, Hampton University Alumna, Motivates Nursing Students to be Excellent

Hampton University alumna, Monique Doughty (’10), visited campus during Homecoming weekend to deliver a powerful keynote speech to students interested in the nursing profession where she held a question and answer session, and provided giveaways such as medical apparel and stethoscopes.

“It is delightful to have our alumni step back onto their ‘Home by the Sea.’ I believe that life is a game of choice, not chance. Ms. Doughty has chosen to succeed, and we love seeing our students flourish in life,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

Doughty, also known as “Nurse Mo” or The Resilient Nurse, is a critical care nurse from Philadelphia, PA. After graduating from Hampton University in 2010, she started her nursing career at the #1 Level Trauma Center in Atlanta and began working in Intensive Care. After that, Doughty began travel nursing and has traveled to many states working at top institutions in the country in various aspects of critical care including Cardiac Intensive Care, Liver Transplant Intensive Care, and Neurosurgical Critical Care.

Nurse Mo began blogging a few years ago and now has a social media network of over 162,000 followers, primarily women. Her purpose is to “motivate, uplift and empower women to remove limiting beliefs, particularly those of color,” Doughty said. “My voice is to encourage my audience, regardless of where they come from, and let them know that their possibilities are limitless. I encourage those facing adversity to use my speech as a stepping stone to be resilient.”

The purpose of her speaking engagements is to provide women and listeners with the tools they need to see the world. Doughty wants to uplift and encourages her audience to choose faith over fear.

“To come back somewhere you left over eight years ago and still have a presence is really phenomenal, which shows you how strong our network truly is here at HU, so it’s an honor,” said Doughty. She has great advice for students. “Stop making excuses and be excellent. Believe in yourself and if you don’t believe in yourself yet, brainwash yourself into thinking you’re amazing, you’re phenomenal, you can do it and that takes a lot of work. It’s reading, positive materials, course work, praying or meditating, whatever your choice is, and really making an active decision that you’re going to accomplish whatever you want to because thousands of people do every day and you’re just as special.”

In an interview with Ms. Twanda Gainer, Assistant Professor, Hampton University School of Nursing, she was asked about how the idea of having Nurse Mo participate in the homecoming activities came about. Ms. Gainer said, “recently, as I was instructing a class in Fundamentals, the students asked me if I knew anything about Nurse Mo. My response was no, who is she? The students were so enthusiastic as they spoke of Nurse Mo, it prompted me to research this individual using the social media approach. As we were reminded during the Faculty Institute, we need to begin to bridge the gap between generations in our approach to education. As the result of my research, I discovered that Nurse Mo was a Hampton graduate who was gaining attention on a local, state, national and international level. I felt it would be inspiring and motivational for our Hampton University nursing students to have an opportunity to interact with Nurse Mo. I contacted Nurse Mo and invited her to return to her “Home by the Sea” and she was delighted to do so.

The students were quite impressed with the achievements of Nurse Mo and were very receptive to the advice she gave them. Nurse Mo gave them some insight to the potential they possess as they enter into the profession of nursing. Nurse Mo’s visit brought to light the need for faculty to be open to the ideas of the next generation in regards to what motivates and influences them. I believe that social media is a big part of that.”