



*Hail, O Hail*

*Hail, O Hail*

*Hail, O Hail*

*Hail, O Hail*

*Hail*

*Hail,*

2020  
*Year*  
I N R E V I E W





---

The hill we climb has had no shortage of holes; of danger; of obstacles; of tragedy; but it has also had no shortage of triumphs. For every tear we have shed, we have also rejoiced. Here at Stillman, we have embraced, not just the challenge, but the opportunity to overcome. Stillman has a long history of developing and raising up leaders from all walks of life during some of the most challenging times in our nation's history; from disadvantage; from stigma; from the margins; from oppression in various forms. We continue this tradition to this very day. We have continued to do so even in the midst of a deadly, global pandemic- one like the world has never seen, and our future has never been brighter.

We did not simply react but responded. We responded with clarity, with certainty, and with confidence. From the leadership of Dr. Cynthia Warrick came the Coronavirus Task Force (later named the Public Health Task Force) that was tasked with Stillman's direct response to the Pandemic. Thanks to this group of dynamic leaders and individuals, Stillman saw and continues to see very low numbers of positive cases of the coronavirus. We continue to make our campus a safe place for our students to learn, grow, and tap into their potential.

In the following pages, you will find stories of endurance, of persistence, of resilience, of triumph. You will see just how, even in the midst of global confusion and pandemonium, Stillman has continued to RISE.

---

*Hail, O Hail...*  
**STILLMAN**

Fail. Fail. Fail.

TABLE OF *Contents*

---

---

<i>4</i>	MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
<i>6</i>	NEW LEADERSHIP NEW VISION
<i>10</i>	NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS
<i>12</i>	ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
<i>14</i>	YOUNG LEADERS TO WATCH
<i>16</i>	STUDENT IMPACT
<i>18</i>	NEW & NOTABLE PROGRAMS
<i>20</i>	NEW & NOTABLE SCHOLARSHIPS
<i>22</i>	PUBLIC HEALTH TASK FORCE
<i>24</i>	QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN

---



MESSAGE FROM THE *President*



**I**n a word- resilience. This is what we have learned at Stillman as an institution and as a family over the past year like never before. Stillman is a place with a rich tradition of providing light and truth to those who traverse its' hallowed grounds and is built on the foundations of empathy, enlightenment, and empowerment; with a mission undergirded with the principles of faith and ethical integrity, manifests constructive compassion as it pursues the best in scholarly inquiry and creative endeavors that is #preparingstudentsforadifferentworld!

There has never been a more exciting time to be a Stillmanite! This year alone, we have tripled the amount of institutional grant funding thanks to our innovative, forward-thinking faculty and dedicated staff. Our sponsored research efforts have allowed us to lay a foundation for Stillman that increases our capacity for innovation that enriches the ecosystem of human development for advances in Biomedical Sciences, Cybersecurity and Data Analytics. Our history of academic excellence in Theology has been canonized through our collaboration and support from the Lilly Foundation with the initiation of our Center for Thriving Congregations- a grant funded at \$1million. Stillman is blazing a path forward for campus constituents as well as the community at large. These initiatives have provided us new vehicles for offering students the best possible experience.

This past year, Historically Black Colleges and Universities nationwide became unfettered to a burden that would have cemented the epitaph for the financial viability of our institutions. In solidarity with Congresswoman Alma Adams, we successfully advocated for and achieved the forgiveness of outstanding HBCU debt under the Capital Financing Loan Program through the passing of the HBCU Capital Finance Debt Relief Act. Over \$1.3B were forgiven- including \$40M for Stillman. This was a crucial victory indeed, but there is still more work to be done.

Thanks to 2020, we know that "normal" is over. We know that the landscapes of industries have been forever altered. Here at Stillman, we continue to re-think education; to reflect on our experiences and to ponder our path forward. We must continue to work for increased voting rights, access to affordable healthcare, economic empowerment, and equal justice.

Here at Stillman College we will continue to build on the foundation of lifelong and diverse learning that supports original ideas that provide value to an inclusive and equitable society. We will promote intergenerational and collaborative communication to ensure our students are equipped for the workforce; to teach them not just what to learn but how to learn; to not just give them fish but teach them how to fish. Four years ago, I had no plans to stay. Four years ago, our outlook was grim. But four years later, we have a fresh start; a second wind- one we will be sure to maximize. We will educate. We will advocate. We will continue to #RISE to the occasion.

Hail, Oh Hail, Stillman!



Dr. Cynthia A. Warrick  
President





## Derrick Gilmore | Executive Vice President

Mr. Derrick Gilmore joined the Stillman family as the Executive Vice President. Twice a graduate of Albany State University, he has enjoyed a longstanding career in higher education, most recently joining us from Kentucky State University, where he served as the Deputy Provost at Kentucky State University.

Mr. Gilmore is a strong advocate for black male education and a prolific researcher and grant writer, having spearheaded and provided oversight for initiatives totaling over \$500M in applied and basic research. He also led the efforts for the Stillman College Fall 2020 Reopening Plan that set the stage for a safe and productive semester at Stillman in spite of the pandemic. He serves on the Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama Council for Innovation and Technology, a member of the Leadership Tuscaloosa class of 2021, and serves on the Shelton State Community College ASPIRE 2030 Community Engagement and Development Subcommittee.

He is a member of the executive committee of the Southern Regional Education Board, Office of Postsecondary Education, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's) and other Minority Serving Institutions. Mr. Gilmore is currently completing a doctoral degree in adult and higher education at Morehead State University.





---

**Irving Blue** | Stillman Foundation Executive Director

Mr. Irving Blue is a Stillman alum class of 1993 and serves as the new Executive Director of the Stillman Foundation. Mr. Blue comes to us with over 27 years of real estate & community development experience. He is a Certified Property Manager, real estate broker, and senior level executive, with the core of his experience documented in property management and real estate transactional services to investors of urban communities.

As a senior-level manager focused on customer relationships, work-team accountability, budget planning and management, analytic research, creative problem solving, and business process optimization, Mr. Blue's efforts have yielded improved cash flow and asset stability and/or growth for his managed assets. He will offer key leadership for the Stillman Foundation. We are glad to welcome him home!



---

**Dr. Victoria Boman** | Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness

Dr. Victoria Boman serves as the Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness at Stillman College. She has over 19 years of administrative, operations, and program development experience. Dr. Boman has documented success in developing and executing strategic enrollment plans and initiatives designed to support recruitment, retention, and graduation. She possesses an in-depth knowledge of the dynamics and decisions of college enrollment, strategic planning, and program management practices. Victoria has a passion for both staff

and students' success and their ability to proactively see their respective values and contributions to the institution and beyond. She has served in various leadership roles at several institutions over the course of her career.

A Stillman alumna class of 2001, Dr. Boman attributes much of her professional success to the education and training she received as a student at Stillman College. We are excited about the leadership she will provide as she heads the Division of Institutional Effectiveness!



---

**RaSheda Workman** | Vice President for Strategic Initiatives

Born and raised in an impoverished region of Alabama known as the Black Belt, Mrs. RaSheda Workman has developed a solid reputation as an uncompromising advocate for change. She is a proud Stillman alumna who joined the Stillman family professionally in 2018 as the first ever Associate Vice President of Government and External Affairs. In this role, she facilitated, managed, and solidified corporate, governmental, and other external relationships and partnerships in support of the College. In January of 2020, she was promoted to Vice President of Strategic Initiatives where she currently serves and leads the division responsible for overseeing the

implementation of the college's strategic plan. Equipped with a bachelors degree in Biology and a masters degree in Health Studies, Mrs. Workman continues to use her experiences to successfully implement initiatives to promote public health, close achievement gaps, and develop rural and underserved areas into sustainable communities. She consistently ensures Stillman has "a seat at the table." Mrs. Workman is excited to provide a new lens of leadership and establish new flagship programs and initiatives to continue the mission of the college.



---

**Chavis Paulk** | Vice President for Finance Administration and Chief Financial Officer

Mr. Chavis Paulk comes to us from the state of Georgia, where he has enjoyed a fulfilling career that spans several local, state, and federal organizations. He will play a critical role in developing and implementing fiscal management and reporting strategies across the institution as well as be an advisor to the President, Board of Trustees, and other relevant internal stakeholders. Mr. Paulk understands the value of accurate data and reporting, and his analytical skills in concert with his project management and executive advising experience have made him a force in the

industries of government and finance. He has a knack for leveraging the power of technology to undergird and propel organizations forward.

Mr. Paulk has over 16 years of experience delivering proactive solutions spanning across a diverse cross section of governmental agencies. This experience in concert with his passion to see Historically Black Colleges and Universities thrive make him an excellent and strategic addition to the leadership at Stillman.



### DeMarcus Hopson | Executive Director for Military Student Services and Veterans Affairs

Mr. DeMarcus Hopson joins the Stillman family as the Executive Director for Military Student Services and Veterans Affairs and Coordinator for the Troops to Teachers Program for the State of Alabama. With a proven track record of collaborative and transformational leadership, he has organized and introduced scholarly research and case studies outlining the true value collaborative focus in the areas of leadership, education equity, and race relations can have on local and national scales concerning education. Mr. Hopson offers a wide range of expertise on multiple topics, including Military History,

Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Historically Black Greek-Lettered Organizations, the black experience, cultural competency, educating males of color, the modern Christian experience and United States History. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Behavioral and Social Sciences with a concentration in History and a double-minor in African American Studies and Speech Communication from Kentucky State University. Mr. Hopson was honorably discharged from the United States Army after serving over ten years in the organization. We are proud to have this distinguished veteran aboard.



### Natorio Howard | Director of Brand Identity

Mr. Natorio Howard joins the Stillman family as the Director of Brand Identity with over fourteen years of experience in graphic and web design. His award-winning credentials are a testament to the passion and love he has for the creative process.

Mr. Howard brings in a wealth of experience in the creative field that covers a wide variety of marketing avenues ranging from print, web and

mobile platforms. His concentrated background in higher education and sports media illustrate his ability to conceptualize, create and present innovative branding and advertising techniques, thus increasing awareness to the Stillman College brand. Mr. Howard's work has projected time and time again that his passion for design in conjunction with experience will enhance the Stillman's identity through design, storytelling and branding.



### Nicholas G. Jackson | Executive Assistant to the President's Office and Special Projects

Mr. Nicholas Jackson is a Stillman College alumnus class of 2014 who joins the team as the Executive Assistant to the President's Office and Special Projects. After earning his Bachelor of Arts in English, Nicholas dove deep into community engagement and relations in several capacities, including as a Joint Admission Transfer Counselor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Community Center Coordinator with the Housing Authority of the Birmingham District, a secondary English Teacher and tutor at area high schools, and was a long-standing volunteer

with community organizations such as the Birmingham Education Foundation, Empowered To Conquer, and S.I.R. Male Mentoring.

Nicholas is a coffee enthusiast and student of generations that enjoys serving as a bridge between people, ideas, and organizations and desires to be a well of information and resource to all with whom he comes in contact. He is proud to come home to serve at Mother Stillman.



### LaKeya Goins-Thompson | Director of Human Resources

LaKeya Goins-Thompson first joined the family at Stillman College in August of 2008. Originally from Detroit, MI, she has fond memories of Stillman Homecomings prior to her moving to Alabama- the food, the fun, the family atmosphere- and it was those experiences that served as catalysts for her relocation and eventual employment with Stillman. Mrs. Goins-Thompson started here as the Payroll Manager, at which time some of her most fond memories included interacting with students as they flooded the Business Office to receive their refund checks. Later, she would earn her

Bachelors in Business Administration from Stillman in 2014 and went on to earn her Masters from Strayer University. While she was originally apprehensive about taking the new role as Director of Human Resources when it became available, she went with God and committed to putting her best foot forward. In addition to her official capacity, Mrs. Goins-Thompson was also instrumental in the creation of the Stillman College Girl Scout Troop at the request of Dr. Warrick. LaKeya continues to serve her beloved Stillman College, and we are glad to have this daughter of Stillman at home with us!









NEW Board of Trustees MEMBERS





**Dr. James Anderson**

Dean, College of Education  
University of Illinois at  
Urbana-Champaign  
Stillman College alumnus,  
Class of 1966  
Champaign, Illinois



**Katie Boyd Britt**

President and CEO  
Business Council of Alabama  
Montgomery, Alabama



**Taroue Brooks**

CEO, Taylor & Brooks LLC  
Washington, DC



**Tami Jackson Buckner**

Partner  
Michael Best Strategies LLC  
Washington, DC



**Ronald Falls, Jr.**

Chief Operating Officer  
Post Advisory Group  
Los Angeles, California



**Joe Hampton**

President, Spire  
Alabama, Gulf Coast, Mississippi  
Stillman College alumnus,  
Class of 1997  
Birmingham, Alabama



**Alex McCrary**

Director, Federal Government  
and Corporate Affairs  
Alabama Power  
Birmingham, Alabama



**Terry Saban**

Educator and Co-founder/CEO  
Nick's Kids Foundation  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama



**Sheila Smith**

President, T. S. Police Support  
League, Inc.  
Eutaw, Alabama



**Theresa Spralling**

Chief of Staff, Chief Diversity Officer  
AT&T Services, Inc.  
Dallas, Texas





## John Jackson | Music

John Jackson is no doubt a musical mogul and creative genius who has left his mark on the music industry. His roles and titles have included (and still include, in some cases) Minister of Music of the Greater New Testament Church (now the Impact Nation Fellowship Church), where he also served as Director for the albums "Assignment #1" and "Statement" by L. Spenser Smith and Testament, Music Director for American Idol Winner

Ruben Studdard, Staff Producer for hit-making producers Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis, and Assistant Music Producer of the world-anticipated mini docu-series "New Edition," to name a few.

He has also worked with artists such as Johnny Gill, Charlie Wilson, El DeBarge, Deborah Cox, Ledisi, Peabo Bryson, Japanese Pop Artist Yui, Jesse J, Yolanda Adams, Stokely, and the list goes on. He will soon be adding additional movie credits and album productions to his incredible list of accomplishments, so we will all stay tuned to what he does next. The 2001 Stillman alum has blazed an extraordinary path in the music industry, and we are proud to call him a son of Stillman!



## Jermaine Johnson | Entertainment

Millennial Alum Jermaine "FunnyMaine" Johnson is known as a "lifetime class clown," widely acclaimed entertainer, and an all-around great guy. A proud son of Stillman, the Kappa man began his career in 2005, where he exited the stage to a standing ovation at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. From small stages to large arenas, this multi-hyphenated creative has featured for Kevin Hart, Steve Harvey,

Rickey Smiley, Tony Rock, Tommy Davidson, and several others.

Though nationally known, Jermaine has always maintained a heart for his local community. If you didn't know him prior to 2020 as a hilarious and talented comedian, actor, writer, and sports commentator, you may now know him as a passionate and dedicated activist, strongly and successfully advocating for the removal of a Confederate monument in downtown Birmingham in the wake of the George Floyd tragedy. Last year he hosted the Inaugural "Princess Ball," honoring local dads and their daughters with a Disney Princess themed daddy-daughter dance. Jermaine is a (insert graduate year) of Stillman College and is a prime example of the types of talented leaders that have matriculated through the ranks of Stillman.





### **Dr. Kendra Royston** | Pharmaceuticals, Research & Scientific Journalism

Dr. Kendra Royston- Stillman Class of 2013- was inspired during her graduate studies to found Stupid Science, Inc.- an organization dedicated not only to exposure to but the fostering of an interest in STEM-related fields among teens & young adults. Stupid Science annually awards 2 \$1500 scholarships for Stillman students who are pursuing STEM degrees & careers. The purpose of these scholarships is to lessen the financial burden on students who are pursuing a STEM education and to promote retention at Historically Black Colleges & Universities.

Two Stillman students- LaDarien Rancher of Eutaw, AL & Trinity Curry of Atlanta, GA are the most recent recipients of the Stupid Science Scholarship. Dr. Royston continues her advocacy work through her Stupid Science Podcast, where she has featured brilliant minds from around the nation to speak on topics related to African Americans and women in STEM. We look forward to all that she will accomplish and are proud that she calls Stillman, "home!"



### **Brandon J. Johnson** | Telecommunications, Learning & Development, Leadership

Brandon J. Johnson lives "where the money resides." He has been in the Telecommunications industry since 2011. He has proven to be a stellar pacesetter and standard-setting practitioner in the Learning & Development space and is a certified instructor via competencies identified in the current Association for Talent Development (ATD) Models for Learning Technologies and the

International Board of Standards for Training, Performance, and Instruction (IBSTPI).

He holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Management from Stillman. After graduating from Stillman, Brandon went through a highly competitive six-month Leadership Development Program at AT&T. He graduated in the top 1% of the program, which positioned him to lead a team of 18-35 employees at AT&T. He later advanced to a Market Lead Role where he led support for over 120 dealers,

national, and company-owned retail stores for AT&T's startup security product, Digital Life. Brandon is currently a Training Manager in the Human Design and Development Organization at T-Mobile. In this role, he leads programs from a quality and compliance perspective for over 2,000 dealer employees nationwide. Brandon is also the founder of a brand-new start up called Influencer Academy Group, LLC (IAG) in Atlanta, Georgia, where he is responsible for overseeing the design, development, and delivery of new and exciting leadership and mentorship programs that promote inclusivity and engagement for clients such as Delta Airlines.

Additionally, he serves as a liaison between dealer training organizations and T-Mobile headquarters on training topics and communications that influence Metro by T-Mobile Dealer training infrastructure, program management, and all things learning and development for those dealer employees. Brandon is an active member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., The Gamma Phi Psi Fraternity, Inc., and The National Society of Leadership and Success. He consistently pays it forward by formally mentoring others to excel and become more efficient and effective model citizens within society.



### **Tianna K. Jenkins** | Multimedia Journalist

Tianna Jenkins is a multimedia journalist with a creative twist. She has a passion for storytelling and loves being behind the camera, editing, and shooting videos.

Born and raised in the nation's capital, she loved writing short stories and taking pictures of everything. Tianna transferred to Stillman College in the fall of 2013 and became a member of Zeta Phi

Beta Sorority, Inc - Epsilon Gamma Chapter in the Spring of 2015. She graduated in the fall of 2015 with a bachelor's degree in Journalism.

She credits Stillman College for preparing her for the real world. While at Stillman, she was able to get an internship at WVUA 23. The internship allowed her to get hands-on experience in a real newsroom. With this internship, Tianna covered some important stories in Alabama, including the 50th and 51st anniversaries of Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March.

Throughout her professional career, she has held many hats in the newsroom. She has also had the opportunity to cover major stories in Texas and Florida and create new media tactics to help shape the future of local news.

Currently, Tianna is a Senior Reporter at FOX 47 News in Lansing, Michigan. She is a part of a team delivering news in a non-traditional way and focusing on community stories.



## Quinvarlio Kelly, Jr.

Quinvarlio “Quin” Kelly, Jr. is a lifelong native of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. After graduating from Hillcrest High School in 2014, he enrolled at Stillman the following fall. During his tenure at Stillman, he was elected as the 2017-2018 SGA President, where he was able to build inclusive and collaborative spaces for students to foster change on campus. After graduating, Quin was honored with

the distinction of becoming Stillman’s first ever Presidential Leadership Fellow and was invited to be a part of the 2019 class of Leadership Tuscaloosa.

Quin currently serves as an ambassador of the college and aide to President Warrick for the college’s research efforts and special projects. He is currently pursuing a Masters of Public Health (MPH) with a concentration in health education and promotion at the University of Alabama. Following his passion to advocate on behalf of student populations, Quin currently serves as the president of the Graduate Student Association, a member of the Blackburn Institute, and a Graduate Research Fellow at the Crossroads Civic Engagement Center, where he studies and leads workshops on civic engagement, the health of democracy, dialogue, and civic discourse. Quin also serves on the executive boards of The House Tuscaloosa, the Building Bridges Institute for Racial Reconciliation, and The Historic Stillman House.

Because of his mission to build the beloved community, he became the 11th recipient of the Realizing the Dream Horizon Award, his community’s highest honor for an individual who models Dr. Martin Luther King’s ideals of promoting social justice, peace, and equality by providing vision, courage, and leadership to improve the quality of life for all. In light of all that he has built and accomplished as a young and upcoming leader and social architect, Quin is most proud of being the eldest of seven children, where his role as a brother and mentor has shaped his philosophy on servant leadership.



## LaTrell Clifford Wood

Latrell Reese Clifford Wood began her matriculation at Stillman in the fall of 2016 on a full academic scholarship. During her time at Stillman, she earned several honors and recognitions, including: Presidential Scholar, Sarah S. Davis Endowment Scholar, Herman and Annie Smith Lavender Endowment Scholar, Lettie Pate Whitehead Scholar, Tuskegee University Merit Scholar, Thurgood Marshall College

Fund Wells Fargo Scholar, a Chick-Fil-A Leadership Scholar, AKAEAF, Inc. Scholar, Z-NEF, Inc. Scholar, and was the highest ranking member of her graduating class.

LaTrell served in the Student Government Association as Freshmen Class President, Senate Representative for the School of Arts and Sciences, and Senate Pro Tempore- spaces in which she advocated for her peers' rights to freedom of expression,

environmental justice, and safe spaces for marginalized students. In between classes, Ms. Clifford Wood was a student worker prior to becoming an AmeriCorps member. As a VISTA, she worked with the Department of Retention and Placement to create resources to facilitate Freshmen Success at the college.

LaTrell was also a prolific varsity player for the Stillman College Quiz Bowl (HCASC) Team, becoming the youngest varsity team captain in the institution's history and increasing program retention by nearly 300%. In spring 2020, Ms. Clifford Wood successfully defended her Thesis, earning a Bachelor of Arts in History with a minor in Fine Arts.

She currently serves as a Graduate Assistant in the Stillman College Department of Retention and Placement as well as a founding member of Sustainable Stillman – a sustainability project centered by a community garden taskforce led by the Director of Community Outreach, Mr. Mason Bonner, and in partnership with several internal and external stakeholders.



## Jaliciya Lowery

Jaliciya Lowery is what many would call "the best of both worlds." The stellar student-athlete is a 2020 graduate of the Illustrious Stillman College born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Jaliciya graduated with high honors as a double Business Major with concentrations in Marketing and Accounting. During her time at Stillman, Jaliciya was the first student from Stillman College

to receive the HBCU Competitiveness Scholar Award in 2019 Presented and acknowledged by President Donald Trump, all the way from Tuscaloosa, Alabama to Washington D.C.! This is one of the highest student recognition award coming from the government. Not long after arriving at Stillman, Jaliciya made her mark as the highest ranking academic member of her freshman and sophomore classes with a 4.0 GPA.

She is a proud member of The Delta Sigma Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and was named Soror of the Year 2019-2020. She also served in the Student Government Association as the Vice President of Academic Affairs as well

as in The Campus Kings and Queens Association her junior year to represent her class as Miss Junior. Jaliciya further personified student achievement, showing diversity of talent as the Captain and leading scorer of the Women's Basketball Team for 3 years. Jaliciya was the second woman basketball player to score over 700 points during her career here at Stillman in spite of not playing her senior year due to winning the title and serving as the 72nd Miss Stillman College.

Upon graduating from Stillman with honors and her many other accolades, Ms. Lowery is now the second Presidential Fellow working directly in the President's Office under the Division of Strategic Initiatives, allowing her the opportunity to build her skill sets by working under such dynamic and exceptional leaders. While working at the college, she is also putting her business degree to use and venturing out into the world of entrepreneurship, where she has begun her own small business for women building beauty and confidence from her lash services.

Ms. Lowery is planning to journey to New York in the fall to pursue her Masters in Business Applied Analytics at Columbia University. We are most proud of her and looking forward with great anticipation to what she will accomplish next!





STUDENT *Impact*



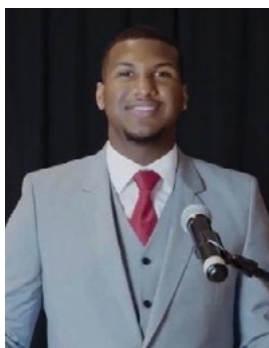


### Kaylah Humphrey | Ms. Stillman

Kaylah Humphrey is Biology major at Stillman hailing from Huntsville, AL. She is currently involved in several campus organizations, such as Virtuous Elite, the Renowned Stillman College Choir, The Delta Sigma chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and the Campus Kings and Queens Association, where she humbly serves as the 73rd Miss Stillman College 2020-2021.

Kaylah has always been very involved in her community and finds joy in helping others.

She enjoys giving of her time to others through community service as well as spending quality time with her family and friends. Kaylah's favorite quote is: "Life is like a camera. Focus on what is important, capture the good times, develop from the negatives and if things don't work out, just take another shot!" We are beyond proud of this stellar Stillman Queen and student, and we know that this is just the beginning for her!



### Pablo Vallejo | Stillman College 2020 HBCU Competitiveness Scholar

There he goes again! Congratulations to Pablo Vallejo, Stillman College Class of 2021 for being selected as a 2020 HBCU Competitiveness Scholar! This is the highest student recognition coming from the United States Department of Education's White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Though there are a total of 107 HBCUs throughout the nation, only 44 students from 33 of these institutions were chosen in this year's class.

According to the DOE, "scholars are chosen based on their academic achievements, campus and civic involvement and entrepreneurial ethos or "go-getter" spirits." Pablo was also selected to be a part of the HBCU Emerging Leaders with Deloitte. We are extremely proud of Pablo and are looking forward to all that he will accomplish in the future. Shine, Pablo, shine!



### Walik Gibson | Sports and Entertainment Marketer

Walik Gibson is no one to play with. He is the epitome of what a non-traditional student from a challenging background can accomplish at Stillman College; of what happens when faith meets action; when opportunity meets discipline. Walik's early years were marred with what many have lived but others have only seen on the silver screen- poverty and drugs.

"flipped" his life as an expert real estate investor flips a house. He took his past, gutted it, cleaned it, reframed it, redesigned it, and now, he is on the market as one of the most Intriguing People of Tuscaloosa as a Sports and Entertainment Marketer who has represented several clients from the NFL, connected with big names in the sports and entertainment world, and has launched Syndicate Marketing and Sports Management with rapper Boosie.

Walik was "discovered" by Dr. Warrick at Bethel Baptist Church in 2017. After convincing Walik to come back to school to earn his college degree, he also joined the Office of Admissions as an Enrollment Specialist, where he has impacted the lives of many students- many of which come from some of the same challenges he faced. Walik is currently on the Dean's List and will graduate with his degree in Business Administration with a minor in Human Resources in May 2021. We are beyond proud of Walik, and we look forward to what he will do next!

He wound up in Tuscaloosa when his great grandmother decided that his story would not be the drug game- like his parents. Though he still had several bumps in the road after moving from Paterson, NJ (the city that served as inspiration for the Morgan Freeman movie "Lean On Me"), including winding up in prison for a year at the age of 20, Walik has used those obstacles to his advantage; as inspiration and as fuel. He



## Cyber Security Center

In the fall semester of school year 2019-2020, Dr. Cynthia Warrick introduced a new concept in the field of computer science and cybersecurity at Stillman. She named it the Cyber Corps at Stillman. Seventeen (17) students were enrolled into the Cyber Corps classes and introduced to the exciting world of computer science and cybersecurity.

Dr. Warrick's vision was to eventually institute a cybersecurity program here at Stillman making available cybersecurity classes to all students, irrespective of discipline of study. Dr. Warrick's vision came true in the fall semester of school year 2020-2021. Stillman College started its Cybersecurity Program of study this semester with Professor Maria Laurent-Rice as the Program

Director. It is a two-year curriculum that teaches how to protect computer systems and conduct forensics of hacked systems. Presently there are nineteen students enrolled in the program and participate daily via online and in-person classes.

The classes presented by Professor Rice use an IBM Academy format and provide the students with cybersecurity certificates of training that will qualify them for employment in the cybersecurity workforce upon completion of the program. Additionally, students will receive a concentration in cybersecurity certificate upon graduation to accompany their primary discipline of study.

## Stillman College Center for Thriving Congregations

Stillman College was founded in 1876 by a Presbyterian congregation led by Rev. Dr. Charles Stillman. It is the only Historically Black College or University started by the southern branch of the Presbyterian Church, and since its inception, Stillman has maintained and enriched this relationship with what is now the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

In the spirit of this relationship between the College and the Christian Church, the Stillman College Center for Thriving Congregations (SCCTC) will begin with a five-year plan for fifteen traditional African-American congregations in central Alabama representative of three denominations: Presbyterian Church U.S.A., the

African Methodist Episcopal Church, and the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. The SCCTC will take each congregation collectively and individually through three phases: 1) recognize the changing social and cultural context, clarifying their values and mission, and cultivate appropriate Christian practice for the sake of transformation and vitality.

This plan will be executed in consultation with the Center of Lifelong Learning at Columbia Theological Seminary and the Office of Vital Congregations for the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. We believe this work is critical for our Christian witness in central Alabama.



## American Heart Association HBCU Scholars Program

The AHA's HBCU Scholars Program aims to increase the number of black & minority students in medicine overall but with a special emphasis on cardiology. This program works to help participating students overcome challenges and obstacles they may face as they matriculate through their academic journey. Stillman College is fortunate not only to have Dr. Walton head

up the Biomedical Sciences Academy and as a part of the Stillman College Public Health Task Force, but she also serves as the Director of the AHA HBCU Scholars program, making Stillman the heart of this initiative. We are proud that she now calls Stillman "home," and we look forward to the great work she & her students will accomplish.

---

## The Five Spot

It is no secret that the ongoing pandemic has put pressure on many areas of our culture and society at large; some well-known and others not so much. While we are all paying special attention to our mental health in times of necessary isolation and abstinence from our normal activities, one area that still requires a lot of attention is physical and sexual health. To this extent, Five Horizons Health Services now offers free on-campus STI/STD testing and education for all current

students of Stillman College. Led by Mr. Derrick Steverson, services will be provided from Room 213 of the Johnson Robinson Building. "Five Spot" accepts walk-ins Monday through Friday from 9am-11am and 2pm-4pm and also serves as a place of connection and safety for Stillman students. For more information, please visit [www.fivespot.org](http://www.fivespot.org).





## The Nick and Terry Saban Scholarship

Many may know the Sabans in light of Nick Saban's legendary number of winning seasons and won national college football championships, but they are also known as champions for the community and social empowerment. The Nick and Terry Saban Scholarship will be awarded to an African American student with at least a 2.5 GPA and in good standing with the College.

The recipient must have a financial need or a gap in funding that will prevent the student from meeting their financial obligation or decrease loan debt. This scholarship is renewable each year until graduation (preference given to freshmen, followed by needs of students). The scholarship can be used for tuition and fees. We are thankful for the Sabans' support in helping us prepare students for a different world!



## The George Floyd Memorial Scholarship for Criminal Justice

The summer of 2020 was one for the history books. Generation Expert Jason Dorsey would define that time as a “generation-defining moment-” a moment that shapes a generation and is forever etched in their memories. Last summer was eerily similar to the Red Summer of 1919, where over 100 years ago, the country saw widespread violence towards African Americans in the Jim Crow South and beyond. While the primary weapons of choice may not have been nooses and trees, we saw many lynched all the same. We will never forget what we saw last summer, and it is in memory of such atrocities that scholarships like the George Floyd Memorial Scholarship for Criminal Justice have come about.

Established in memory of George Floyd, this scholarship was created to benefit students of Stillman College majoring in

Criminal Justice in order to equip them to become the voices of the next generation who will continue to advocate for equal justice, equal opportunity, and equal access to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The scholarship is awarded to an upcoming junior or senior majoring in Criminal Justice. Students must have at least a 3.0 GPA and a financial need. Students must be enrolled in Senior Seminar or Research and Writing. A submission analyzing policing issues, criminal justice reform, or a related scholarly topic is required. Finally, students must be a member of the Stillman Pre-Law Association. We are grateful for this scholarship in that it will not only prepare our students for a different world, but equip them to CREATE a different world.



## The Thomas Clinton Smith Memorial Scholarship for the Arts

On January 20, 2021, during the much awaited and extremely controversial inauguration of President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, the first black female Vice President of the United States and an HBCU graduate, a true diamond was revealed. We all watched and listened in amazement at Amanda Gorman's amazing performance as she graced the stage with unimpeachable confidence. Listening to her story and learning of the many challenges Amanda has faced and overcome to perform with such power and poise brings light to just how important it is to support the arts. Yet, over the years, many school systems country-wide have seen decreases in funding and support for programs in the arts.

The art of expression is an essential human experience; a crucial outlet; one that gives life through the spoken and written word,

song, dance, art, and many other forms to express the deepest levels of human joy and pain and the heights of human intellect and innovation. Dr. Cynthia Warrick is an avid supporter of the arts, and The Thomas Clinton Smith Memorial Scholarship for the Arts is a timely scholarship that will aid and propel students in discovering, cultivating, and performing their innate artistic gifts and talents.

This scholarship was established by Ms. Sheila Hahn Smith and the T.S. Police Support League, a Greene County charitable organization. The scholarship was established in memory of the late Thomas Clinton Smith, who was an art and fashion designer. The eligible recipient must be from Greene County, majoring in the Arts. The scholarship can be applied to tuition, board, and fees.





PUBLIC HEALTH *Task Force*







The COVID-19 pandemic has been a generation-defining moment. It has been a phenomenon that caught the world off-guard- disrupting economies, canceling plans, and warranting an unprecedented amount of crisis management . In February of 2020, President Warrick established the Stillman College Coronavirus Task Force to closely monitor the activity and development of the spread of the novel coronavirus. In the fall of 2020, Dr. Warrick renamed this group the Stillman College Public Health Task Force (PHTF).

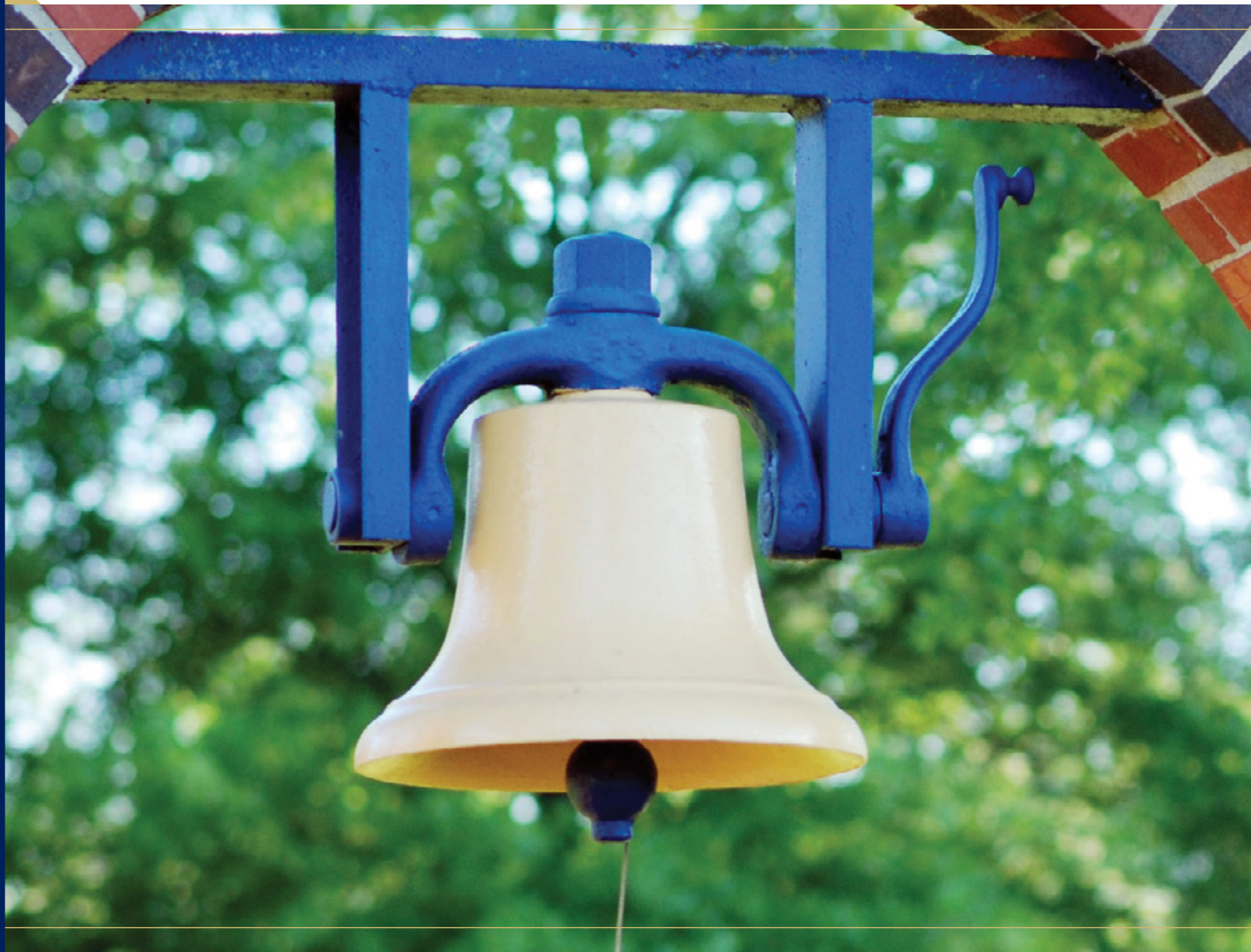
The purpose of the Task Force is to advise the administration of the College in its policy-making in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The PHTF works interdepartmentally to respond to questions and concerns from students, faculty, staff, and administration of the College. Stillman is fortunate to have a very talented and experienced team that comprises this Task Force by the appointment of the President. The Task Force is comprised of the following members:

- **Dr. Lisa Gary, Chair**  
Associate Professor, Department of Natural Sciences
- **Dr. Charlene Walton, Co-chair**  
Director, Stillman College Undergraduate Biomedical Academy
- **Ashley Irby**  
Director of Student Development
- **Nicholas Jackson**  
Executive Assistant to the President's Office and Special Projects
- **Marcus Kennedy**  
Dean of Student Life
- **Dr. Reginald Little**  
Associate Professor, Department of Natural Sciences
- **Tamara Marshall**  
Executive Data Analyst
- **RaSheda Workman**  
Vice President for Strategic Initiatives

This dynamic group has been instrumental in mitigating the spread of COVID-19 on the campus of Stillman College, spending hours planning and executing on-campus testing, contact tracing, educating the Stillman community, and advising on campus-wide policies and safety measures.

Following closely the recommendations of the CDC, pulling on past experience and expertise, and exercising excellence in judgment, said measures advocated for by the Stillman College PHTF have led to a minimal number of positive cases as the College continues in its mission to offer students a safe and productive learning environment.





## Over-communicate. Over-collaborate.

Anyone who has had the pleasure of working under Dr. Cynthia Warrick has been told to “over-communicate” and to “over-collaborate” more times than can be counted. In any organization, across divisions, across departments, and between individuals, communication is essential, and collaboration is key. Considering the fact that there are four primary generations currently in the workforce—all bringing different perceptions, perspectives, ideas, norms and more to their respective places of employment— we have a conundrum of sorts.

With the advent and increasingly ubiquitous nature of technology, interpersonal and oral communication skills, or the lack thereof, amongst younger generations have warranted increased scrutiny from academics and practitioners alike as these young, enthusiastic, yet

often underprepared soon-to-be professionals seek to enter the professional world.

COVID-19 has dramatically shifted narratives and altered landscapes, including that of the workforce. To prepare our students for an ever-evolving workforce, Stillman chose to pursue “Intergenerational and Collaborative Oral Communication: Preparing Students for Success in the Professional Workplace” as its Quality Enhancement Plan.

This dynamic, multidimensional, and interdisciplinary plan will incorporate project-based learning, techniques, and experiences to ensure that our students are gaining crucial hands-on experience to ensure they are competitive on a global scale.





Our QEP addresses an essential need for our students who will soon enter the professional world. The ability to effectively communicate with the four generations currently in the workforce will in part determine their success. This plan seeks to accomplish the following:

- Develop students' competencies in oral and collaborative communication theory and principles
- Enhance students' understanding of intergenerational communication challenges in the workplace.
- Develop students' competencies through experiential project-based opportunities.
- Expose students to discipline-specific communication concepts and jargon.

These four goals will lead us in achieving the following outcomes for our students:

- Demonstrate proficiencies in dialogue, listening, and feedback in oral communication within intergenerational settings.
- Demonstrate proficiencies in group communication productivity, context situational analysis, and team dynamics in collaborative communication within intergenerational settings.

As our world continues to grapple with the dramatic shifts and changes of this past year, Stillman stands as an anchor for our students as we continue to create, innovate, and evaluate our programs and course offerings to ensure we are indeed “preparing our students for a different world.” Our QEP will serve as a baseline and foundation for doing just that.









STILLMAN  
COLLEGE  
FOUNDED 1876





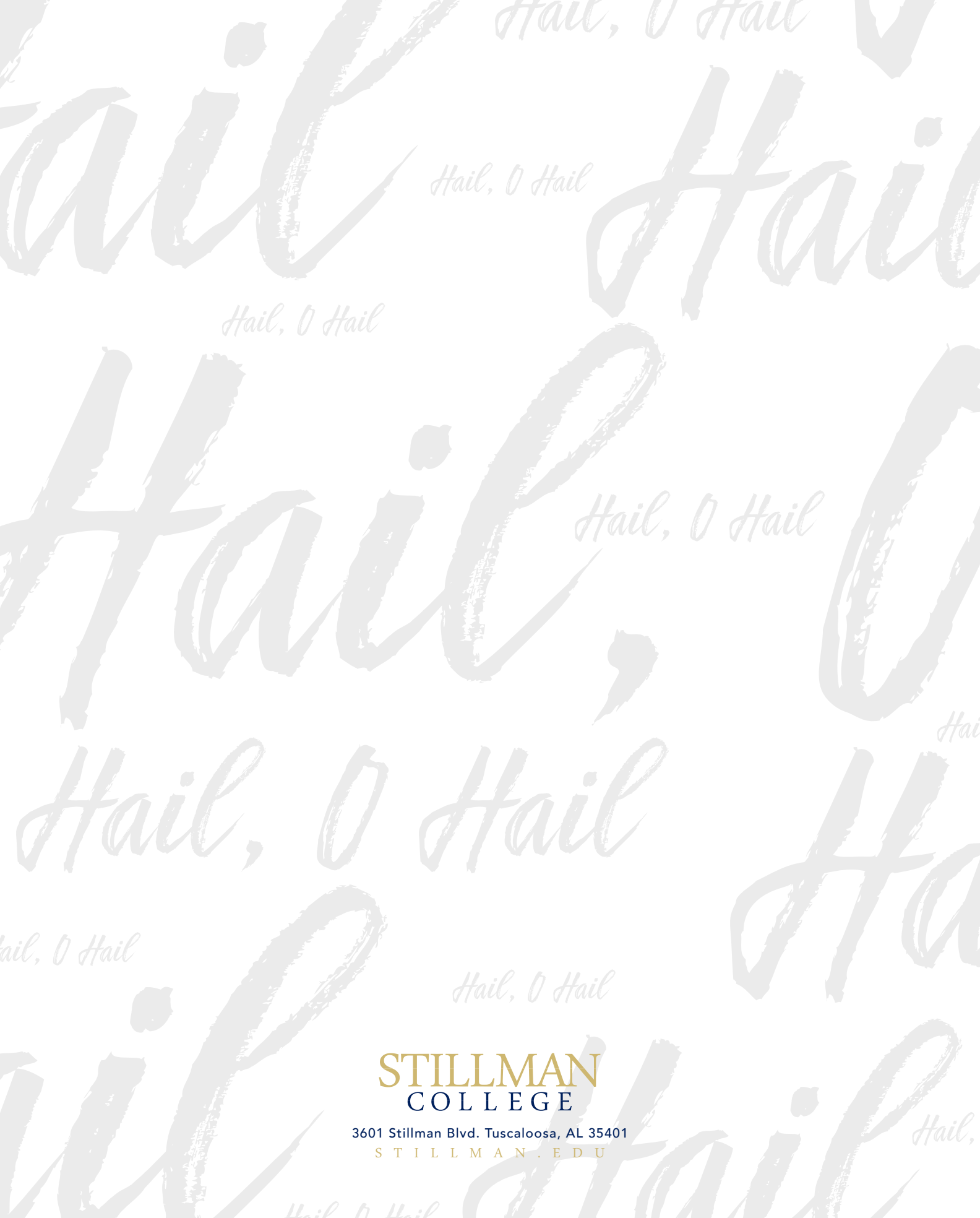
*We will rise from the gold-limbed hills of the west,  
We will rise from the windswept northeast,  
Where our forefathers first realized revolution,  
We will rise from the lake-rimmed cities of the midwestern states,  
We will rise from the sunbaked south  
We will rebuild, reconcile, and recover...  
For there is always light  
If only we're brave enough to see it  
If only we're brave enough to be it.*

— Amanda Gorman  
from *The Hill We Climb*

**STILL, WE RISE.**

**#STILLMANRISING**





STILLMAN  
COLLEGE

3601 Stillman Blvd. Tuscaloosa, AL 35401  
S T I L L M A N . E D U