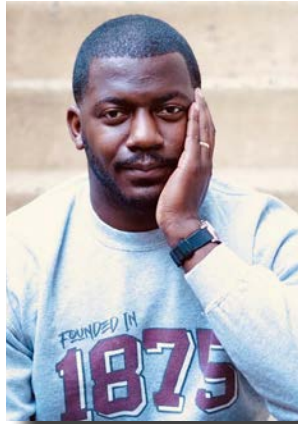


A Son Defends HBCUs, p.8

FREE



DRAKE: 'Constructing' Skills, p. 3



Friday
September 3, 2021
Vol. 7, No. 52
ValleyWeeklyllc.com

SALUTE!
Rosetta James Foundation
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mrs. Ida Crawford

"The oppressed will always believe the worst about themselves." - Frantz Fanon

Councilman Keith Says Johnson Legacy Extends Beyond Building

Councilman Devyn Keith made an appeal to members of District 1 and other Huntsvillians to find truth, get engaged and hold leaders accountable for their decisions. The appeal came during the Thursday, August 26, Council meeting and after what Keith called "great feedback and interactions surrounding the demolition of the Johnson High School site."



While he admittedly said that he has learned a lot of lessons as a leader, he would not be intimidated nor stand for the threats to his family and the badgering of his loved ones. He added that none of the negativity launched at him has "stuck" nor deterred him from his objectives.

Keith said he would nevertheless, despite the "blessed and stressed" nature of leadership, stay forthcoming and full of integrity, as well as accepting of accountability.

"So, to my district, I say this to you, whether your last name is Tibbs, Malcolm, Reggie to AJs, to Griffin ... The list could go on ... You have blessed our community," Keith said.

The Councilman said he disagrees that "the heart of North Huntsville" is gone. He called the Johnson Legacy Center a respectful attempt to remind people that they are the product of a generation before them and to give remembrance and respect.

Keith said the building could not hold the legacy, because the legacy has expanded far beyond the community. He added that the Johnson High School legacy will always be treasured in the Huntsville community.

Six AAMU Students Receive HPAC Scholarships

Officers of a local alumni chapter recently awarded \$11,000 in scholarships to six students enrolled for the 2021 fall semester.

Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter President Michael H. Walker, Esq., and Allen Malone, chair of the Chapter's Scholarship Committee, presented the scholarships during a photo session on campus adjacent to the Clyde Foster Auditorium.

Awards of \$1,000 each for the fall semester were awarded to Tylar Boyd, a freshman pre-nursing major from Madison, Ala.; Gabrielle Hammons, a freshman mechanical engineering major from Madison, Ala.; Kia Leslie, a senior business management major from Huntsville, Ala.; and Nicholas Fields, a freshman business management major from



Huntsville, Ala.

Awards were also given to (not present) AAMU students Christopher Richardson and Chancellor Turner.

"These are challenging times for students attending our alma mater and other schools around the country," commented HPAC President Walker. "We want to do our part to help lessen the financial burden that attending college imposes upon many students and their parents."

"I am proud that A&M

has so many academically talented from which to choose," stated Malone. "The selected students are certainly deserving of the scholarship, and we wish we could do even more."

The fall recipients of the Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter scholarship will receive an ad-

ditional allotment in spring 2022.

Pictured above (l-r): HPAC President Walker, Nicholas Fields, Tylar Boyd, Christopher Richardson, Chancellor Turner, Gabrielle Hammons, Kia Leslie and Allen Malone, HPAC scholarship committee chairperson.

Committee Names Finalists for A&M Presidency

The Alabama A&M University Presidential Search Committee, chaired by Trustee Wayne Watts, released the names of three finalists for University

President on Friday, August 27. The finalists were selected from a total of 53 applicants. Nine of the applicants were current or former presidents/CEOs.

The list includes Dr. Colette Pierce Burnette, president of Huston-Tillotson College in Austin, Tex.; Dr. Roderick Smothers, president, Philander Smith

College, Little Rock, Ark.; and Dr. Daniel K. Wims, provost and vice president for academic affairs and research, Alabama A&M University.

The Valley Weekly

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Washington in One Minute



Here are the happenings in Washington, D.C., this week:

1. ON THE FLOOR. The Senate is adjourned until Monday, Sept. 13. The House has no floor votes scheduled until Monday, Sept. 20, but House committees will return to work this week, including a markup of the \$700+ billion FY2022 Defense Authorization bill on Wednesday (a Senate committee marked up its \$778 billion version of the bill in July).

2. THE WHITE HOUSE. On Sunday, President Biden

and First Lady Dr. Jill Biden traveled to Dover Air Force Base to pay respects to the 13 U.S. servicemembers killed in last week's terror attack at the Kabul airport and met with the families of the fallen troops. Last week, the President approved federal disaster declarations for Louisiana and Mississippi in advance of category 4 Hurricane Ida's landfall on Sunday (where today 1.2 million customers are without power) and also announced that he would, as of Jan. 1, 2022, increase the pay for civilian Federal employees by 2.7% (an across-

the-board base pay increase of 2.2% and a locality pay increase of 0.5%). A meeting at the White House with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, scheduled for Monday, was postponed until Wednesday as President Biden oversees the response to Hurricane Ida and the final withdrawal of U.S. forces from Afghanistan.

3. EVICTION BAN.

Last Thursday night, in an unsigned 8-page opinion the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the Biden Administration's eviction moratorium – put in place by the Centers for Disease Control on Aug. 3 – in a case brought by the National Association of Realtors. With the 3 liberal Justices dissenting, the court

ruled that the eviction moratorium can only be extended by congressional action and that the CDC had exceeded its authority.

4. JANUARY 6 COMMITTEE. Last Friday, the House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol sent letters to Facebook, Twitter, Google and several other tech companies requesting relevant phone and text records generated by foreign and U.S. actors, including Members of Congress. The tech companies have 2 weeks to comply. Earlier last week, the committee sent letters to the National Archives and 7 other federal agencies for records of communications within the White House with any Member of

Congress or congressional staff on Jan. 6.

5. COLLEGE LOAN FORGIVENESS. Last Thursday, the Biden administration announced that the Department of Education will offer \$1.1 billion in additional loan relief to 115,000 students who attended ITT Tech. The major for-profit education institution collapsed in 2016. The Education Department said borrowers who attended as far back as 2008 will be eligible to have their loans discharged.

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444 North Capitol Street, NW
Suite 840

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rhamm@hammconsulting.com

www.hammconsulting.com

"It's wonderful when the people believe in their leader. It's more wonderful when the leader believes in the people."

- Booker T. Washington

This is to give you a BIG SHOUT OUT for continuing an outstanding local Newspaper with photos large enough to tell who it is focused on. Thanks for all that you do for our community and the Tennessee Valley. Please give a BIG SHOUT OUT to Brother Saintjones, as well.

Warm Regards,
Sister (Katie) Byrd

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THE VALLEY WEEKLY

CHAMPION GAME PLAN

PRESTON BROWN

IS GOD FIRST IN YOUR LIFE ?

Matthew 6:33 says, *But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

One of the things we need to realize is that God demands to be first in our lives. And, when we put Him first, it establishes His

importance in our lives; because if God is not Lord of all, then He is not Lord at all when it comes to our lives.

For example, if your job and your money are first in your life, then your job and your money together are Lord of your life.

Now "Lord" is translated as Adonai, which is equivalent to ruler or master.

So if these things are ruling over your lives then you have entered a dangerous place that is not God's will for your life.

Anytime our will becomes greater than God's will for our lives, it will only end in separation from God. That's why it is important that we seek Him first so things



don't get out of hand.

Now, the definition of being first is "preceding all others in time and in order of importance. That's why God demands to be first, because He has blessed us so much. So, always remember that when we have total obedience to God it will produce total reward from God.

You see, whatever it is that we decide to seek first in our lives, will always determine the quality of our lives. Matthew 6:21 reminds us that "where your treasure is there your heart will be also."

Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters, and make sure you purchase a copy of my book, "A Champion Game Plan For Life" at amazon.com

PRESTON BROWN

A CHAMPION GAME PLAN FOR LIFE



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A New Generation Of Service

Drake State Combats Construction Trade Shortage

Builders are overwhelmed due to the growth of Madison County. Huntsville will need enough skilled construction workers to accommodate the number of businesses that are expanding and breaking ground at a rapid pace. Drake State Community & Technical College established its Commercial Construction Training program to combat the construction trade shortage and to help people develop technical skills to find jobs.

"It's difficult to meet business demands, so we want to do our part by training the skilled workers companies need right now," said Placement and Apprenticeships Coordinator Karen Ray.

Interested participants are encouraged to apply today! They will learn the basics of commercial construction and safety fundamentals. In just eight weeks, students can become certified builders. Full tuition assistance is available to eligible students. Local companies have offered Drake State commercial construction graduates full-time employment opportunities – at a rate of 100% – since the program's launch.

To register visit <https://www.drakestate.edu/workforce-development/commercialconstruction-training> or call (256) 551-5227.



THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY DEATHS



NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

2501 Carmichael Avenue NW - Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-8189

Services for MS. SHIRLEY POPE (b. 1936), MRS. ESSIE PRICE, MR. MICHAEL "BLACK-BO" KELLEY (b. 1981) will be announced at a later date.

Funeral service for MS. VIVIAN DRAKE (b. 1945) was held Friday, August 27, at Syler Tabernacle with Pastor Phillip Ford officiating.

Graveside service for MINISTER SALLIE R. SALES (b. 1950) was held Saturday, August 21, at Faith Memorial Park (8100 Highway 20 West, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor "TK" Tiwarai Kufarimai officiating.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

4315 Oakwood Avenue - Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 534-8481

Graveside Service will be held for MS. TYRELL "Teri" DUNN DAVIS (b. 1959) at Saturday, September 4, at the Arlington Memorial Park (201 Mount Vernon Highway NW, Sandy Springs, Ga.).

Funeral service was held for MR. LARRY JERROD JOHNSON (b. 1959) was held Thursday, September 2, at the Rock Worship Center (3401 Holmes Avenue NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Rusty Nelson officiating.

Graveside service for MS. MARIA EILEEN JONES WALTON (b. 1947) was held Monday, August 30, at the Oakwood Memorial Gardens (1 HL Cleveland Way Huntsville, Ala.) with Reverend Karen Y. Garmon officiating and Reverend James A. Platt as eulogist.

Graveside service for PASTOR JURADA DARNAL FUQUA (b. 1971) was held Saturday, August 28, at the Rock Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery (Gunwaleford Road, Florence, Ala.) with Bishop Daniel Richardson officiating.

Graveside service for MR. BENJAMIN RAY "Ben Ray" HARRELL (b. 1947) was held Wednesday, August 25, at Valhalla Memory Garden (698 Winchester Road, Huntsville, Ala.) with Rev. Dr. Oscar Montgomery officiating.

SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

2505 University Drive NW - Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-9693

Graveside service for MS. ROBERTA ROBINSON was held Saturday, August 28, at Meadowlawn Garden of Peace (450 Mt. Lebanon Road, Toney, Ala.

Graveside service for MS. MARY COLLIER (b. 1950) was held Wednesday, August 18, at Berkley Cemetery in Gurley, Ala.

NAAACC Meetings

The North Alabama African American Chamber of Commerce (Huntsville) meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday at 12 noon.

The meeting location varies. Call (256) 564-7574.

"The place in which I'll fit will not exist until I make it."

- James Baldwin

Council Meetings

Huntsville City Council Regular Meetings are held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m., Downtown Huntsville.

Watch the meetings live via HuntsvilleAL.gov/HSVTV or on the City of Huntsville Facebook page (@huntsvillecity).

For more information, call (256) 427-5011.



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- Mahatma Gandhi



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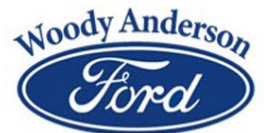


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NOTICE!!!

The Citizens Advisory Committee of the Huntsville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization will meet Monday, September 20, 2021 at 5:00 pm. The Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board meets on Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at 4:00 pm. ALL meetings will be held on the 1st floor of COH City Hall located at 308 Fountain Circle, unless otherwise noted on the Huntsville-Area MPO website at www.huntsvillempo.org. To review plans on the agenda for this meeting visit: <http://www.huntsvillempo.org/plans-and-reports/> For all other information on these meetings visit: <http://www.huntsvillempo.org/about/meetings-and-agendas/>



“Humpty Dumpty Sat on a Wall, . . .”: The Rise and Fall of New York’s Andrew Cuomo (Part 2 of 3)

Last week’s first installment of this now three-part series recounted three upward steps in Andrew Cuomo’s 2020 rise to national prominence:

1. A 2020 Emmy Award for his 111 daily Covid briefings;
2. His New York Times best-selling book touting his American pandemic crisis leadership; and
3. Early public health advocacy in saving New Yorkers’ lives, . . .

. . . All for which he was bolstered by his three top female aides: Attorney General Letitia James, Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul and his longtime Secretary Melissa DeRosa.

But those same upward steps that led to his national ascendancy became also his same downward steps to his resignation and disgraced legacy.

What happened to Cuomo can happen to you and me if we don’t learn some important lessons.

It might appear that we have it all together, but that could shatter in a flash, . . .

“ . . . Had A Great Fall, . . .”

Resulting early on from the state’s investigation of accusations that Cuomo sexually assaulted 11 women:

1. The Emmys rescinded his 2020 award;
2. Crown Publishing Group ceased promoting American Crisis: Leadership Lessons from the COVID-19 as the state began investigating his using its employees on his private memoir; and
3. Cuomo underreported New York’s COVID deaths by 12,000 persons. according to his successor and former Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul, one of his top female assistants.

“And All the King’s (Wo)Men, . . .”

Cuomo’s sexual harassment allegations began his final fall, then:

1. Letitia James’ 162-page investigative report accused him;
2. Kathy Hochul’s call for his resignation only validated James’ report, and her first press conference as the new governor confirmed Cuomo’s deadly undercount; but
3. Longtime Secretary DeRosa’s August 9th resignation became the final straw. He resigned a day later.

“ . . . Couldn’t Put Humpty Together Again.”

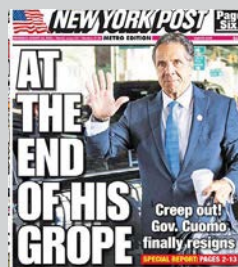
For all the commendable national crisis leadership that Cuomo provided in 2020, only his 2021 downfall likely will be remembered. Shakespeare’s Julius Caesar declared, “The evil that men do lives after them, the good is oft interred with their bones, so let it be with Caesar.” The prophet Isaiah wrote similarly of Lucifer-turned-Satan’s uprise and downfall:

How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! . . . But you are brought down to the realm of the dead, to the depths of the pit. Those who see you stare at you, they ponder your fate.” Isaiah 14:12,15,16.

Unfortunately, this too can happen to us. What leadership lessons can you and I learn from Andrew Cuomo’s rise and fall?

Join us next week for the final part 3 of 3.

tim allston is the two-time Amazon best-selling author of U.S. Politics: The Rise of Silver-Mettle Leaders (now on Amazon), and the author-narrator of The U.S. Coronavirus Crisis and the Rise of the “Silver-Mettle” Leaders audiobook, with a free sample chapter, when you click on <https://bit.ly/3xiZhP9>.



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Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention
cdc.gov

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THE VALLEY WEEKLY

CALLLED 2 PREACH

REV. MICHAEL RICE

The Altar on Top of the Stronghold

**Judges 6:25-26; 28;
2 Corinthians 10:4-5**

The battle that Gideon was commissioned to fight is symbolic of believers' battles in spiritual warfare. Gideon dealt with the same tension between faith and fear that all believers deal with. There

are lessons here that are tucked away in the instructions given to him that can be used in spiritual warfare as well. Gideon was told to build an altar *on top of the stronghold (rock)* and tear down the one to Baal. Gideon rightfully felt unable for this task. The obedience to

the instructions that God gave him was the ultimate conduit for the miraculous power exhibited by God once Gideon took the battlefield. Gideon also rightfully named the altar; *The LORD is Peace*. The sin that produced the perils that Israel was in were enough for God to

fight *against* them rather than *for* them.

The Apostle Paul wrote about another 'stronghold' that sets itself against *the knowledge of God*. The

way of Gideon is also the way of Paul. Gideon was told to build the altar *on top* of the stronghold and tear down Baal. Paul tells believers use our authority to *bring every thought into captivity*; another way of saying build our altars *on top* of those strongholds that seek to dominate by causing believers to trust in something or someone other than God. Gideon's was physical; for the believer it's spiritual.



The obedience required is the same. Victory is also guaranteed.

"I WILL
NEVER BREAK
MY COVENANT
WITH YOU"
~Judges 2:1

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

Thru September 14

Free Computer Refresher Course
Huntsville Bible College
906 Oakwood Avenue NW
Huntsville, Ala.
5-6:30 p.m.

September 2

McCalep-McIntosh Building Ribbon Cutting
Alabama A&M University
11 a.m.

Marketplace Leadership Luncheon

Huntsville Country Club
2601 Oakwood Avenue NW
Huntsville, Ala.-11:30 a.m.

Open Invite Fun in the Sun VOLLEYBALL
John Hunt Park - 6:30 p.m.

September 3

ROTC Golf Tournament
Bulldog Brigade of Military Alumni Association
Sunset Landing Golf Course
346 James Record Road SW
Huntsville, Ala. - 8 a.m.

Oakwood Farmers Market Pavilion
Oakwood University
5001-A Adventist Blvd.
Huntsville, Ala. - 12-4 p.m.

September 4

Free Burn & Brunch Yoga/Fitness Series
Stovehouse
Huntsville, Ala.-10:30 a.m.

Night Blooms at Huntsville Botanical Garden
4747 Bob Wallace Avenue SW

Huntsville, Ala.

September 5

The Market at MidCity
Third Season
Outdoors
1 p.m.

September 30

Kenny G
Concert Hall
Von Braun Center

October 24

Historic Marker Dedication
Recognizing Huntsville's Black Suffragists
Sponsor: Historic Huntsville Foundation, WHCAA
William Hooper Councill Memorial Park
620 St. Clair Street
Huntsville, Ala.
2 p.m.



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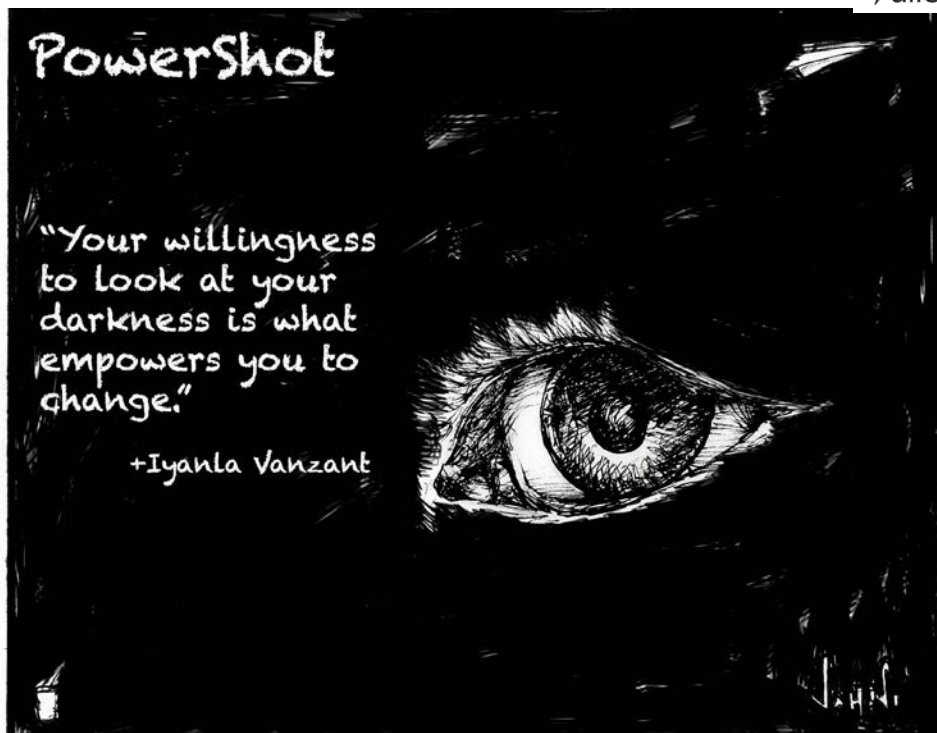
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This project is being supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number ERA-2101123007 awarded to Madison County Commission by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.



Rosetta James Foundation "Spotlight on Our Elders" ... Featuring

Mrs. Ida Crawford



Mrs. Ida Belle Henderson Crawford is an Alabama native, who at six years old entered the public schools and graduated with a high school diploma in 1961.

In the fall of that year, she began her freshman year at Alabama A&M College at Normal, Ala. In May 1965, Crawford received a bachelor's degree in history and social science. Two weeks before graduation, she received a letter from the Superintendent of Shelby County Schools Board of Education. She scheduled an interview and was hired to teach at Calera Elementary School in August, but later taught at Calera High School. She remained at Calera High as the librarian until she relocated to Huntsville, Ala., in 1970.

During that summer, she enrolled in Alabama A&M University's School of Library Media, and was also employed by the Madison County School Board of

Education as the librarian for Owens Crossroads Elementary School. In the summer of 1973, she received a Master of Science degree in library media and the following year was employed by the Huntsville City Schools Board of Education as a librarian for Lee High School.

She also was employed by a contractor to coordinate the Summer High School Apprenticeship Research Program (SHARP) at NASA'S George C. Marshall Space Flight Center. She retired in 2002.

Crawford and her family are members of Lakeside United Methodist Church, where she participated in the choir and Sunday School, served one term as Administrative Board Chair and president of the United Methodist Women, and on many programs.

In 1964, while a student at Alabama A&M, she became a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated. She

served as president of Sigma Beta Chapter and the Pan-Hellenic Council. She has served on the national level as coordinator of Zeta Challenger Kids Program. Youth were sent to the Space and Rocket Centers. She served two terms as the South Central Region Parliamentarian, chaired the Alabama State Executive Board, chaired the Scholarship Committee, and served as Historian.

She is married to Lambert Crawford, and they have two adult children.

"Spotlight on Our Elders" is a weekly feature sponsored by the Rosetta James Foundation to promote volunteerism and activism in our community among those who are 70-plus. The Foundation also provides scholarships. Learn more about us at www.rosettajamesfoundation.org. Know an outstanding elder (70+) that you would like to see featured? Send us a photo and 250-word write-up to info@valleyweeklyllc.com.



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SEPTEMBER 3 - YOLANDA ADAMS - A native of Houston, Tex., Yolanda Yvette Adams is an American gospel singer, record producer, actress, and former radio host of her own nationally syndicated morning gospel show.

- BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com



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The Atlantic Writer Pens Book on Inequalities in Higher Education

by Jerome Saintjones

An Alabama A&M University alumnus is making waves throughout the historically black college and university (HBCU) community with a newly released book on righting the inequalities in American higher education.

Adam Harris is a staff writer at *The Atlantic*, a more than 160-year-old monthly magazine founded in Boston (now based in Washington, D.C.) that is revered for its target audience of a half-million national readers and thought leaders.

It was *The Atlantic*, in fact, that in 1963 published Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail," as well as Ta-Nehisi



Coates' "Case for Reparations" in 2014.

Harris' new book, *The*

State Must Provide: Why America's Colleges Have Always Been Unequal—And

How to Set Them Right (HarperCollins), has been described as a narrative

history on the "pervasiveness" of racial inequality in higher learning, as well as a "daring solution" to counter the underfunding of HBCUs.

In 2018, New Media Alliance presented Harris with its coveted "rising star" award and traced his come-uppance through a series of freelance ventures at the *Chronicle of Higher Education* and *ProPublica*. In addition to being named to the 2021 *Forbes* 30 Under 30 list, the journalist is a 2021 New America Fellow.

Moreover, Harris has delved into higher education desegregation, adding significant depth to how that issue impacts black colleges in Mississippi and

other states.

In his July 2021 online article on Affirmative Action, Harris revealed that his mom had attended Alabama A&M and so had his drum major uncle in the 1980s. Lastly, his sister had played on the volleyball team.

Harris' writings also have appeared in BBC, *Bleacher Report* and *EBONY*. During his brief time at *The Atlantic*, the prolific writer has covered a wide range of topics, from racial injustice and its seeds to the plight of the "Unvaccinated South" to critical race theory obsession to the policy of Affirmative Action.

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