



Office of Undergraduate Studies

June 25, 2020

Dear Spelmanite:

The Office of Undergraduate Study greets you during these times of uncertainty with hope and faith, the foundational pillars upon which Spelman was built. You, like your Spelman predecessors, are unique and have proven that you are prepared to meet the challenges that lie ahead. Spelman class of 2024, we applaud your accomplishments during these unprecedented challenges. For many of you, this moment is a dream come true, and for others, it's the beginning of a lifetime of exploration. Now that you have been accepted, know that we share your excitement as you prepare to enter the historic gates of Spelman College and embark on the next phase of your educational journey. I, along with Dr. Pedescleaux (Dean of Undergraduate Studies) and Dr. DeKimberlen Neely (Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies), would like to partner with you to provide an integrated, transformative first-year experience by offering a diverse curriculum and resources to help you reach your educational goals.

Our academic advising, curricular development, and social awareness programs will introduce you to Spelman's competitive learning environment as well as various leadership and service opportunities. You will engage in dynamic intellectual inquiry as you discover and explore new ideas, solidify your goals, and cultivate relationships. We, therefore, encourage you to become actively involved in your education. To continue to cultivate critical reading and thinking skills, we encourage you to select readings from the *New York Times* Best Sellers List or read local, national and international newspapers and journals and magazines as well as watch reputable news outlets. It is important to be apprised of current events, particularly in areas that interest you.

As your academic deans, we also will facilitate academic advising. In fact, your first advising session will take place prior to your arrival. In an interactive, virtual session, we will provide an overview of the general education requirements and a description of the typical first-year schedule; therefore, we recommend you visit the New Student Portal, which is located on the Spelman home page (see direction below). We will provide other sessions throughout the summer to disseminate information also. One of the courses that you may take during your first semester that reinforces the exploration of critical ideas is the First-year Colloquia (Interdisciplinary, Big Questions Colloquia), which is predicated on the tradition of free-thinking women exploring "big" questions. Some of the courses offered are "Covid-19: The Making of a Global Crisis," "From Ida B to Kaepernick: Protest as Moments and Movements," "Defund the Police! Abolition and Black Feminisms," and "Black Women and Mass Incarceration: When the Political IS Person." Other titles and descriptions will be posted on the New Student Orientation Portal.

Additionally, we will post a draft of the New Student Orientation schedule on the portal by mid-July. You may visit the site for more information. There, you also will find a checklist of items that you must complete prior to your August check-in, including information about your move-in time and process. If you have difficulty accessing this site or if you have questions regarding orientation, feel free to e-mail us at [undergradstudies@spelman.edu](mailto:undergradstudies@spelman.edu).

Again, we congratulate you on your academic accomplishments, your extracurricular accolades and your commitment to service. We look forward to your arrival in August.

Be well and travel safely,

Geneva H. Baxter, PhD

Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies

(First-year Academic Dean)

**(Please refer to your MySpelman portal's New Student Orientation site or your Spelman email for future correspondences. To access the MySpelman portal, go to the Spelman webpage and click on MySpelman in the upper right-hand corner of the page. Once on the login page, click *New Student* under the login tab, and it will direct you to the New Student Check List, which houses directions for logging into the portal.)**