



THE OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT 2019

“ON THE ROAD TO 100”



MISSION

The mission of American Baptist College, a Historically Black College with a liberal arts emphasis, is to educate, graduate, and prepare diverse students for Christian leadership, service, and social justice in the world.

VISION

American Baptist College's vision is to provide educational opportunities for gifted students who have limited academic experiences and resources, but unlimited potential for leadership in society.

FOUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

We align all work within our four strategic priorities:

Academics and Scholarship

Excellence in Education: Maintain a high quality collegial, supportive, and educational environment to motivate and engage faculty, administrators, staff, and students to achieve their personal and professional goals and the expected institutional outcomes.

Student Engagement

Excellence in Christian and Ethical Leadership: Develop a student-centered and justice-oriented institutional culture of Christian vocation rooted in leadership, service, and ethical living.

Institutional Advancement [Stewardship]

Excellence in Resource Management: Utilize best practices in resource management and allocation to support American Baptist College's commitment to sound stewardship. (Includes continuous institutional strategic planning.)

Strategic Partnerships and Alliances

Excellence in Community Partnerships: Pursue alignments with business, industry, government, religious, and civic organizations to create experiential education to facilitate a pathway to economic, social, and educational success for our students and the advancement of our college.

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BOARD CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Dear ABC Supporters,

I write to honor the leadership of American Baptist College, having celebrated its 95 years of existence and the 20th anniversary of the presidency of Dr. Forrest E. Harris, Sr.

The college has experienced some significant events during this past year, commemorating the anniversary of the establishment of the college and the two decades of service of President Harris. These milestones were honorably celebrated by the ABC family and the community at-large for the college's sound foundation and service.

Additionally, the settlement of the litigation between American Baptist College and the National Baptist Convention, USA, resulted in a fair and equitable situation for both institutions. American Baptist has the full authority to nominate board members and NBC is authorized to approve the nominees. This two-step process provides the opportunity for the NBC and ABC to move forward together.

ABC students are still growing and developing into strong leaders and agents of social change to make a positive difference in the world. From the college's first president, Mr. Sutton Griggs, to its strong Civil Rights history with such activists as Congressman John Lewis, Rev. Dr. C. T. Vivian, Rev. Dr. Julius Scruggs, Rev. Dr. Bernard Lafayette, and many others, we appreciate the activism of these former students and others to be social agents of change. There also are recent graduates who are working to change the world for the better, like Rahim Buford, working with formerly incarcerated citizens; Tremaine Sails, who worked to get a historical marker recognizing the Sit-In Movement involving so many ABC students; and Tamika Robertson, a pastor and community activist.

ABC is a treasure to Nashville, the state, the nation, and the world because of its rich history and its unimaginable future. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I proudly congratulate President Harris, as well as the college's leadership team, students, faculty, alumni, and community supporters for work well-done, a future ahead through all challenges, and a faith unshakable.

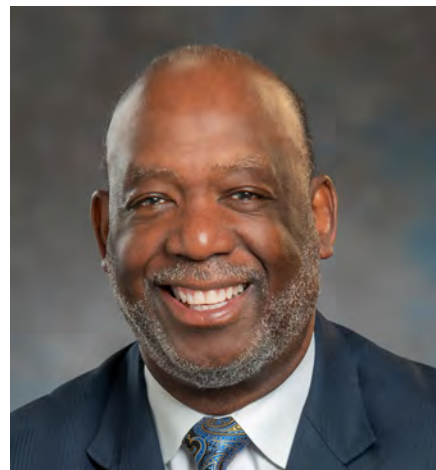
Let us move forward together, *"On the Road to 100!"*

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Don Darius Butler, Chairman of the Board
Pastor, First Missionary Baptist Church
Huntsville, Alabama



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear ABC Colleagues and Supporters,

I am excited about the future of American Baptist College as we embark upon this new decade. We find ourselves on the threshold of change to help develop an even stronger institution based on the values of our foundation. While at the time of this writing we are in the midst of the novel coronavirus pandemic, we know that historically we have withstood many challenges. In fact, noted scholar, author, and preacher Dr. Michael Eric Dyson has reflected on "COVID-1619" — the ills facing society since the first enslaved Africans were brought to our nation's shores in 1619. As we continue along our path, I am confident that, yet again, we will get through this situation and will be better for it.

In 2019 we celebrated the 95th anniversary of our beloved American Baptist College. We reflected on our past with our challenges and triumphs to forge ahead with renewed energy and faith to accomplish new goals. We are a Christian, liberal arts, learning community whose history looms large in graduating social justice and servant-leaders for the church and society.

We strive to work with a spirit of compassion and cooperation in fulfilling our commitment to providing access to the best educational experience possible for students who have limited resources. Our team solidarity is what gives ABC the power to hold ourselves accountable to values, as well as principles and practices, which make a positive difference in the lives of our students.

On a personal note, my wife Jackie and I are honored to have served this institution for 20 years, which has been a labor of love. It was so special to have been celebrated by city leaders, government officials, educational institutions, and community activists who joined with the ABC family of faculty, staff, and students to observe these milestone events. It is my hope that we move forward working together to serve in a most honorable way.

We want to increase our visibility and offerings to the greater Nashville community and the nation. We are focusing on *Friends, Funds, and Freshmen* to increase our student population, endowment, and stakeholders to assist in fundraising and other resources.

We celebrate social justice, equity, advocacy, and leadership through the SEAL initiative, so that we develop students with a faith-based foundation and a sound perspective on social justice. Our diverse faculty, staff, and students bring a vast range of personal and cultural values, experiences, and views. While we are a Christian liberal arts college, we intentionally welcome persons of all religious faiths and all spiritual convictions, even those who have no religious affiliation or beliefs.

We are stronger together and move forward on the Road to 100.

Sincerely,

Forrest E. Harris, Sr.
President



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

As we move toward the threshold of change, it is a most appropriate time to reiterate what defines and guides American Baptist College's institutional values and practices.

While we celebrate the 95th anniversary of the college, I reflect on our meager beginnings and the milestones we have made in those nine and a half decades, beginning with the alliance of the all-black National Baptist Convention, USA, and the all-white Southern Baptist Convention to establish this institution. Teaching black men to be great preachers and leaders was the goal of the college at that time. The role the college played in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s literally changed the world, with students including Rev. Dr. C. T. Vivian, Rev. Dr. Bernard Lafayette, Rev. Dr. Julius Scruggs, and Congressman John Lewis, just to name a few.

Today's students also are making waves in the world, including Tremaine Sails, who championed the cause of getting a historic marker at the former site of F. W. Woolworth Company in downtown Nashville, where the infamous Sit-in Movement took place. Rahim Buford, a 2019 graduate, leads several organizations to help formerly incarcerated individuals. Dominisha Black, a current student, works with other female students to help them appreciate their gifts and qualities to be great leaders. Tamika Robertson, a 2019 graduate, is now a preacher in the Methodist denomination and a strong community activist in Nashville. These are just a few of our standouts.



ABC's institutional core values provide the foundation for our campus culture and all who join us. Through the work of senior management, as well as in the criteria for board of trustee governance, we endeavor to make all college policies, rules, and procedures consistent with the following principles:

- We celebrate social justice, equity, advocacy, and leadership (SEAL).
- We believe education is transformative.

- We champion just and equitable systems.
- We manage our resources with integrity and transparency.
- We embrace shared responsibility to better our college and community.
- We honor and respect the good and potential of all persons.
- We engage our work with humility and curiosity.

These values serve as the hallmark of the kind of learning community we strive to cultivate. We recognize there is variation within each member of our learning community in the ways these values or principles lead to responsible scholarship and action. We welcome this variety of insight and interpretation and seek to learn from our differences. We acknowledge that the practice of these principles may evolve with the reflection of the community as a whole, but they are values that win our shared consensus. Thus, by our daily actions, each of us contributes to the health and vitality of American Baptist College.

2018-2020 Accomplishments

All of the college's resources, including personnel, are dedicated to providing students with the best education possible. American Baptist College is comprehensive enough to help students become their best selves, yet small enough to care for and address each student's individual learning style. ABC is constantly assessing the work done as a college, but never stops imagining how to do a better job serving our students.



- Our newest degree programs include bachelor's degrees in behavioral studies and entrepreneurial leadership, and an associate's degree program in music and the arts. Our SEAL initiative is a unique program designed to attract, educate, and develop the next generation of indigenous, community-based, equity-informed leaders.



President Harris prepares for a media interview following the announcement of Congressman John Lewis's illness.

- Recognizing the college's 95th anniversary and the 20th year of presidential service were milestones celebrated at a scholarship gala in the fall. In addition to commemorating those two milestones, focus was placed on the fact that ABC received HBCU status in 2013 from the U.S. Department of Education, which paved the way for the college to apply for numerous federal grants. The event also saluted the 1960s Civil Rights luminaries, with former ABC student and president Rev. Dr. Bernard Lafayette as the keynote speaker,



President Harris interviews author Kirk Byron Jones for ABC's radio show *Plumblin'*, featured four days a week on Sirius XM Channel 142, the HBCU Network.

joined by many activists of the time who attended the event. ABC students had a rare and productive experience participating in this event, and funds were raised for student scholarships.

- The college garnered two grants from the Lilly Endowment: Called to Lives of Meaning and Purpose (\$1.5 million) and Thriving Congregations (\$500,000). These two grants provide faith-based entities with opportunities to fellowship, learn, and take these experiences back to their various congregations and communities.

- Litigation between ABC and the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., came to a close in 2019, with both institutions having the opportunity to move forward together. Highlights of the court's ruling are below:
 - o Board appointments are a two-step process in which ABC identifies, vets, and nominates members to the board of trustees, and NBC approves or disapproves the selected candidates.
 - o The college campus is owned by the college.
 - o The convention has no role in the college's administration and operations.

The chancellor's ruling ends the two-year legal battle (in the absence of an appeal) between ABC and NBC regarding the rights to name the college's board of trustees. The convention's ability to approve the nominees selected by the college was clarified to exclude the power to remove members from the college's board.

This new decade offers us a glorious opportunity for continued growth and uplifting toward the betterment of humankind. Though our challenges are great, we have always survived and thrived through seemingly insurmountable odds, and we continue in that purposeful manner. As we show respect, demonstrate strong character and integrity, uphold justice, and embrace our community, we will be a model to the world.



Internationally renowned "Gospel Ambassador" Dr. Bobby Jones (seated) presents a Who's Who Award to Dr. Harris as (left to right) Dr. Phyllis Qualls, Torkesha Greenlee, Kyia Renee, Linda Bowling, Tyteanna Wells, Mondai Smiley, Jatoreaeon Walker, and Mondale Smiley look on.



SEAL: SOCIAL JUSTICE, EQUITY, ADVOCACY, AND LEADERSHIP

In 2019, ABC launched the Social Justice, Equity, Advocacy, and Leadership (SEAL) initiative, a unique program designed to attract, educate, and develop the next generation of community leaders. The SEAL curriculum links undergraduate coursework with secondary school enrichments and civic education for youth from low-income neighborhoods. Ultimately, SEAL will assist in producing students who are advocates of social change so that when they graduate they have a firm sense of social justice.

The SEAL initiative uses an interdisciplinary and justice lens approach to weave applied scholarship, biblical liberation ethics, and theology to achieve justice outcomes for the well-being of oppressed communities. In support of the mission of ABC, it is a theologically grounded moral vision for civic engagement. Simply put, the purpose of the SEAL initiative is to cultivate theological, ethical, and civic knowledge to advance justice. Its goal is to teach individuals how to become advocates for justice in society through collaborative leadership and civic learning and social justice projects.

Inaugural funding for SEAL came from the Dan and Margaret Maddox Charitable Fund, and served as the first step toward building an equity-based, justice-centered, integrated learning curriculum that fosters cradle-to-community leadership success for children in our community. By leveraging historic assets of ABC, social assets of the community, and civic assets of the city, the SEAL model gives youth access to systems of power, and levers of agency that they can see, touch, and relate to.



While attending ABC, Tremaine Sails led the effort to install a historical marker honoring Nashville's 1960 sit-in movement.



Celebrating the unveiling of the historical marker commemorating the Nashville sit-ins.



ACADEMICS AFFAIRS AND STUDENT SERVICES

Throughout our history of preparing students for lives of purpose and meaning, we have strived to provide a solid academic foundation. That remains consistent as we approach a century of service. Our academic program is strong and ever-growing, and we celebrate the programs and students who will carry on the American Baptist College legacy for many years to come.

Title III

With its federal designation as a Historically Black College in 2013, American Baptist College became eligible for Title III funds. Title III is a source of funding from the U.S. Department of Education which provides more than \$2 million to the college annually, over a five-year grant cycle, to enhance and support program offerings, services, and resources. Minority Serving Institutions utilize these funds to support academic initiatives and resources, such as faculty development, student success, student career development, and student health and wellness. Additional funding provides institutional support for the college's Advancement Office, Business and Budgeting Office, and information technology; and for establishing scholarship endowment funding. The college has delegated a portion of the funding to support the renovation and construction of academic facilities on campus.

Through the most recent grant award for fiscal year 2020, which began on October 1, 2019, ABC has received nearly \$14 million in Title III funding.

The Bridge Program

At the core of American Baptist College's mission and strategic priorities, the creation of student support programs and resources has long been a vision of President Harris and the college community as a whole. In October 2018, American Baptist College received an opportunity to design a Summer Bridge program to enhance college acclimation, academic preparation, and community cultivation through academic coursework and campus and community activities. Funding in the amount of \$80,000 from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission provided the college with the necessary resources to create and explore an on-campus residential Summer Bridge experience. Since receiving the grant, the college has established a pertinent relationship with THEC, fostered relationships with sister Historically Black Colleges and Universities in Tennessee, and developed a more robust component of the college's First-Year Experience program. The college intends on continuing the program for Year Two, and is currently taking steps to strategically craft an effective Summer Bridge program amidst the current global pandemic.

DEGREE PROGRAMS

- **A.A. Music and Arts**
- **A.A. General Studies**
- **B.A. Behavioral Studies**
- **B.A. Entrepreneurial Leadership**
- **B.A. Bible and Theology**
- **B.Th. Theology**

Recruitment

American Baptist College strives to recruit students, both traditional and non-traditional, who desire a small-school environment in a faith-based philosophy.

Students are exposed to the philosophies of social justice, equity, advocacy, and leadership in all educational opportunities. The college is affordable and military-friendly, offering a small faculty/student ratio, distance learning, flexible class schedules, and a caring faculty and staff. When new students come to ABC, they can expect an educational experience that prepares them to be social agents of change in any and all arenas.

Our Students

As it has since 1914, ABC continues to attract students from across the United States and beyond who are seeking to grow academically, personally, and spiritually. Following in the esteemed footsteps of those who have gone before them, students distinguished themselves during our 95th year anniversary in a number of ways. For example:

- Student Success is a program that is intricately involved with students for academic and extracurricular activities. It provides a holistic lifestyle for both on-campus and off-campus students. Activities range from study sessions to activities such as viewing the movie *Harriet*, or attending the *Stirring the Waters* premiere in Nashville. The program also includes sessions with students to discuss great achievements, as well as challenges.
- ABC students serve the Nashville community in a number of ways, including ABC's collaborations with organizations such as Streetworks, The First Response Center, The Good Samaritan House, The Cookery Restaurant, and the Tabernacle of Glory Church. During the 2019 holiday season, students donated more than \$2,000 from unused meal funds to help these organizations purchase food and other goods for those in need.

Among the members of the Class of 2019 were Shané Carter, a U.S. Navy Veteran; and Rahim Buford, a social activist who transformed his life after being incarcerated.

Carter earned her bachelor's degree in entrepreneurial leadership 30 years after graduating from high school. In that time, in addition to her military service, she became a wife, mother, licensed minister, businesswoman, and author. Following her matriculation at ABC, Carter was accepted to Vanderbilt Divinity School to pursue a master of divinity degree in pastoral studies. She hopes to one day become a Christian counselor.

Buford spent more than two decades in prison after issues he faced as a high school senior. While serving at Riverbend Maximum Security Center in Nashville, he began taking classes through the Vanderbilt Divinity School — including a class taught by Dr. Forrest Harris. He excelled in class, and Dr. Harris told him that there would be a scholarship waiting for him at ABC when he was freed. Buford enrolled at ABC in 2015 and was consistently on the Dean's List. "Knowledge took me on a journey within myself," said Buford. "I wanted to experience what that journey could do."



Denero Rahming, from the Bahamas, is one of several international students attending ABC.



Linda Bowling prepares to record a public service announcement on radio station 92Q as Mondale Smiley looks on.



American Baptist College has been instrumental to my growth, both professionally and personally. ABC has an amazing program and believes in not just helping students, but the community, as well.

*~ Dominisha Black, Junior
Nashville, Tennessee*

ABC is an incubator of potential. I believe the leaders we're seeing come to American Baptist College today have that same passion for social justice, that same passion to see their communities have better opportunities, that same passion to see marginalized people have the ability to lead a better life.

*~ Demetria McCroskey
Director, Title III Programs
Coordinator, Bridge Program*



To learn more about enrolling at American Baptist College, visit abcnash.edu/admissions, or call (615) 687-6907.



God will change things in your life when you get too comfortable. ABC took me out of my normal routine of comfortability. There is something very special about American Baptist College, and I am hoping to get a better view of my purpose and the plan God has for me.

*~ Mondale Smiley, Freshman
Detroit, Michigan*

The students here are just diamonds. I've seen some of the students who have come through here and I was just like, "Wow. I wonder where they're going?" When I tell people where I work, I tell them that we may be small, but we are powerful in the product that we produce.

*~ Brooke Bell, Controller
Chair, Student Recruitment and Retention*



WAYS TO GIVE



SGA President Doncor Archie (center), with Board Chair Don Darius Butler and President Forrest Harris

American Baptist College strives to graduate leaders who are brilliant and community-driven. Your gift to ABC can make a difference in a student's life and, ultimately, help change the world.



- **DIRECT CONTRIBUTION**
- **EMPLOYEE MATCH**
- **ENDOWMENT**

Scan the QR code above or visit us online at abcnash.edu/give to learn more about each giving option and how you can invest in the future of ABC, or call (615) 687-6921.



ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE, AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

Throughout 2019, the Division of Administration, Finance, and Legal Affairs continued to help guide the college toward the new decade. Among the Division's accomplishments were:

- Implementing measures to grow the financial status of the college.
- Working to improve the 34-acre campus's grounds and facilities.
- Developing plans to enhance signage across campus.
- Maintaining a safe campus, with no reportable crime or fire events for the past six years.
- Ensuring financial aid is provided to students in need.
- Operating the Budget Office with strict guidelines for receipt, delivery, and investment of funds.
- Settling of the litigation between ABC and the National Baptist Convention, USA.

Financial Status

The recent audit of ABC revealed the institution is solvent and standing on solid ground for further growth and for future investments.

With strong growth in enrollment, increased contributors, and funding from federal and state grants, as well as enhanced alumni giving and ABC Days funding, we will be poised for solid, forward progress in our financial footing.

Campus Operations

There are plans to steadily improve the campus. Sidewalks that were broken and discolored are now repaired, creating a safe and functional environment for pedestrian-friendly travel. Furthermore, signage has been improved with clear, crisp markers for entrance, buildings, and directions.

Further plans to improve the physical plant through partnerships are being developed.



Griggs Hall was the first building on the ABC campus. It was the residence of Rev. Dr. Lewis Scruggs, Rev. Dr. C.T. Vivian, President Forrest Harris, and many others. It is now a life-learning center with academic offices on the first floor, and a recreational area and student housing on other floors.

Financial Aid

The long-standing financial support for students to attend college is a major part of the college's budget. Students are assisted in completing forms, and are monitored to ensure their FASFA and other applications are completed correctly and well-documented.

Fiscal Affairs

The financial core of the college has streamlined functions, with a strong accountability protocol. Incoming and outgoing funds are regularly reconciled to ensure fiduciary responsibility. The controller, business manager, and business office assistant keep work organized and flowing without delay for processing purposes.

Litigation

The litigation between American Baptist College and the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. came to an end in November 2019, with both parties in good position to move forward. Davidson County Chancellor Ellen Hobbs Lyle ruled that members of the ABC board of trustees will be appointed in a two-step process. The college will identify, vet, and nominate all potential board of trustees members, then submit the names of the selected candidates to the convention for good faith approval or disapproval.

ABC's board chair, Rev. Dr. Don Darius Butler, said, "From my reading, the ruling is fair — permitting the college the right to vet and nominate candidates for board appointment to the convention for final approval. This represents the spirit of a proposal that ABC offered the convention for consideration four years ago. The court has declared that the current composition of the board continues as the governing authority of the college, resetting some terms, and making the two-step appointment prospective."



The chancellor's ruling ends the two-year legal battle (in the absence of an appeal) between ABC and NBC regarding the rights to name the college's board of trustees. The convention's ability to approve the nominees selected by the college was clarified to exclude the power to remove members from the board. The ruling also clarifies that the college's campus is owned by the college itself. It was additionally determined that the convention would have no role in the college's administration and operations.

ABC's lead counsel, William J. Harbison, II, of Neal and Harwell, PLC, said, "American Baptist College's history and impact in the Civil Rights Movement and to the City of Nashville cannot be overstated. The college is thankful for the court's ruling. This collaborative process will protect the college's accreditation status and academic autonomy while recognizing the longstanding relationship between the college and NBC. We are optimistic the parties will work together to ensure the college's future success."



STRATEGY AND INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT



President Harris with recipients of the Nannie Helen Burroughs Award during the 2019 Garnett Nabrit Lectures: (standing, left to right) Rev. Dr. Judy Cummings New Covenant Church of Christ; Mrs. Sherri Neal, HCA; Senator Thelma Harper, retired; Judge Sheila Calloway; and Rev. Cora Alston, Faith Church Inc. The untiring Mrs. Susie McClure is seated.

The Office of Strategy and Institutional Advancement establishes long-lasting community relationships, enhances the image of the college, promotes educational opportunities at ABC, and builds financial resources to support students and programs. It accomplishes its mission through partnerships and the philanthropy of alumni, friends, and corporations, as well as faculty and staff.

An example of ABC's longstanding partnerships is the Lilly Endowment. Since 2003, the Lilly Endowment has provided nearly \$5.8 million in grant funding to ABC. The most recent awards have funded the Called to Lives of Meaning and Purpose Initiative and the Thriving Communities program.

Called to Lives of Meaning and Purpose Initiative (CLMPI)

The Lilly Endowment awarded ABC \$1.5 million in 2018 to launch the Called to Lives of Meaning and Purpose Initiative. The CLMPI enables ABC to create an Innovation Hub — the “Hub on the Hill” — that allows up to 24 diverse congregations from across the Southeast to journey together in a five-year process of discerning, defining, and deploying works of calling, living, meaning, and purposefully engaging in ministry. Congregations participating in the CLMPI returned to the Hub on the Hill in 2019 to consider how we are called to connect with mission, and how we can reimagine ways of proclaiming the eternal truths of love, justice, and salvation.

Lilly Endowment: Thriving Congregations Initiative

ABC received an award of \$500,000 from the Lilly Endowment in 2019 toward the Thriving Congregations Initiative: Empowering Congregations for Healing Communities. This funding will support

ABC's work toward empowering congregations to thrive as they understand and transcend changing social and systemic contexts; gain greater clarity about our collective gifts and missions; and draw upon the rich African-American traditions of theological and ecclesial Christian practice.

The Office of Strategy and Institutional Advancement works to promote the college, raise funds, and advocate for students, programs, and services through a variety of activities.



Members of the Nashville Links Chapters present a check to President Harris and members of the ABC leadership team. Pictured (left to right) are Attorney Richard Jackson, executive vice president, ABC; Lueatrice Lovett, Music City Links; Gail Williams, Nashville Chapter; President Harris; K. Dawn Rutledge, Hendersonville Area Chapter; Jan-Née Sheats-Mathis, Parthenon Chapter; and Dr. LaShante Walker, provost, ABC.

Constituency Services consists of coordinating ABC Days, establishing a Student Ambassador Program, and working with alumni.

ABC Days is a treasured program that allows students to travel to designated areas by invitation to preach at various churches. Each event typically ends with a rally, where President Harris preaches, and a reception during which the sponsoring convention of churches makes a major financial contribution to the college.

The **Ambassador Program** is a student development program that trains and teaches students to be hosts at significant college-sponsored events. Students are trained in voice and diction, dress, hospitality, and service. A minimum grade point average is required to participate in this program.

Alumni Relations are an integral part of the college. Alumni are the continuing life-blood of the college, and their stories build the foundation for others to follow. They include greats such as James Henry Garnett and James Madison Nabrit; to world-renowned Civil Rights activists of the 1960s, such as Congressman John Lewis, Rev. Lewis Scruggs, Dr. Bernard Lafayette, and Rev. C. T. Vivian; to present-day standouts such as Rahim Buford, Shané Carter, Tamika Robertson, and Tremaine Sails, just to name a few.



Dr. LaShante Walker, provost (far left), with student recipients of the Nannie Helen Burroughs scholarship: (left to right) Jacqueline Mayberry, Dominisha Black, and Esther Mitchell.

Marketing and Communications are vital to the college's activities, increasing public awareness and appreciation of ABC to prospective and current students, their parents, and key constituents. Internal and external communications assist in keeping messaging strong, steadfast, and factual, and is a major activity of the Strategy and Institutional Advancement unit.

Grant Development assists faculty and staff in developing competitive grant proposals to provide external resources for college initiatives.

Endowment Services strives to increase long-range funding. Our endowments are designed to keep the principal amounts intact while using the investment income for specific programs or activities. Increasing ABC's endowment allows the financial footing of the college to be solid.

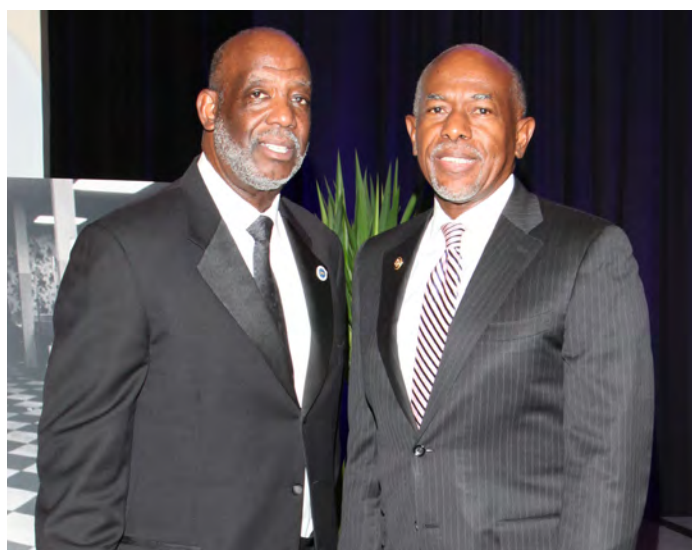
Data Services is the record-keeping program that houses, tracks, and acknowledges contributions and donations. The accuracy of this information is crucial to reconciling with overall budgets.

Special Events help bring notoriety to the college and are major fundraisers. One key event is the annual Garnett-Nabrit Lecture Series, which keeps alumni and other stakeholders involved in the institution through preaching, teaching, and discussing aspects of faith and social justice. As a part of the event, the Nannie Helen Burroughs Scholarship Luncheon recognizes outstanding individual women in the community and provides scholarships to female students.

Nashville is home to four Historically Black Colleges and Universities — American Baptist College, Fisk University, Meharry Medical College, and Tennessee State University. The institutions worked together as an HBCU Consortium on various projects in 2019, including an alumni intermural basketball tournament and a series of radio spots to air during Black History Month. This spirit of collegiality demonstrates that, while the institutions are sometimes competitors, they are always companions.

In 2019, the celebration of the 95th anniversary of the college, combined with the 20th year of President Harris's tenure, was a community-wide event. Educators, civic and community leaders, Civil Rights luminaries, and ABC faculty, staff, alumni, and students were involved in this outstanding event that garnered funds for the President's Scholarship Program.

These events and others continue to heighten the visibility of ABC and to raise funds for students.



President Harris and Meharry Medical College President Dr. James Hildreth



Tennessee State University President Dr. Glenda Glover (left) with President and First Lady Harris



Fisk University President Dr. Kevin Rome and President Harris



BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND SENIOR STAFF

Board of Trustees (* indicates ABC alumnus)

Rev. Dr. Don Darius Butler, Chair*
Pastor
First Missionary Baptist Church
Huntsville, Alabama

Bishop Lawrence Kirby, Vice Chair
Pastor
St. Paul Baptist Church
Racine, Wisconsin

Ms. Donnetta S. Butler
Financial Consultant
Nashville, Tennessee

Mr. Webb Campbell
Attorney
Sherrard & Roe, PLC
Nashville, Tennessee

Dr. Iva Carruthers
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Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference
Chicago, Illinois

Rev. Dr. Tellis J. Chapman
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Mr. James A. Crumlin, Jr.
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Temple Baptist Church
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Ms. Sherri L. Neal
Vice President of Cultural Development and
Inclusion
Hospital Corporation of America
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Rev. Dr. George Parks, Jr.*
Pastor
New Hope Baptist Church
North Little Rock, Arkansas

Ms. Linda Rose
Rose Immigration Law Firm
Nashville, Tennessee

Rev. Dr. Julius R. Scruggs*
Pastor
First Missionary Baptist Church
Huntsville, Alabama

Senior Leadership (* indicates ABC alumnus)

Forrest E. Harris Sr., D.Min.*
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Front row, left to right: Attorney Phyllis D.K. Hildreth, Dr. Phyllis Qualls, Attorney Richard Jackson.
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ABC board member Latrisha Jemison, board chair Rev. Dr. Don Darius Butler, and international gospel entertainer Dr. Bobby Jones toast the 95th year of ABC and the 20th year of Dr. Harris's presidency.



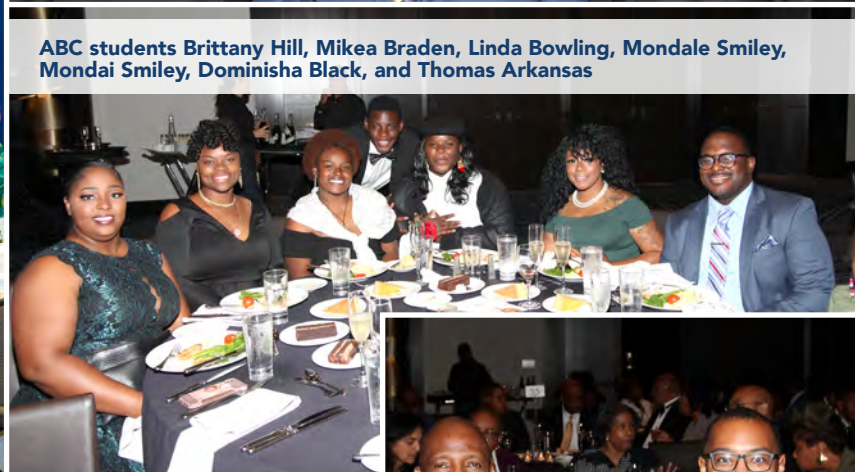
The ABC choir, under the direction of Professor David Thomas.



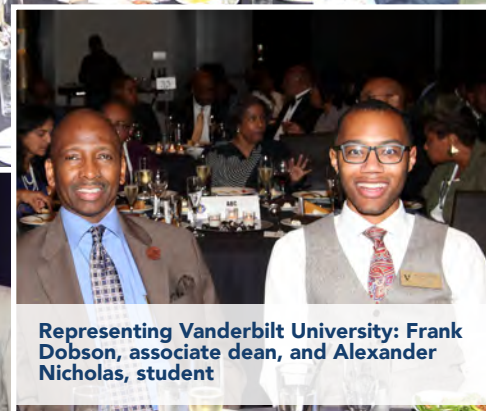
President Harris (center) with Nashville Civil Rights luminaries (left to right) King Holland, Dr. Mary Jean Smith, Allen Cason, Etta Ray Simpson, Gloria McKissack, Frankie Henry, Rev. Dr. Bernard Lafayette, Rev. Dr. Julius Scruggs, Rev. Troy Merritt, Dr. Leonard Haynes.



President Forrest E. Harris Sr., Rev. Dr. Bernard Lafayette, Rev. Dr. Julius Scruggs



ABC students Brittany Hill, Mikea Braden, Linda Bowling, Mondale Smiley, Mondai Smiley, Dominisha Black, and Thomas Arkansas



Representing Vanderbilt University: Frank Dobson, associate dean, and Alexander Nicholas, student



Dr. Phyllis Qualls, Dr. LaShante Walker, Annette Jackson, Attorney Richard Jackson, Dot Berry, Regina Prude, Liz Cleveland, and Attorney Phyllis Hildreth celebrate the 95th birthday of Rev. Dr. C. T. Vivian.



Students participated in a roundtable discussion with Dr. Bernard Lafayette and other Civil Rights icons at Woolworth's. Pictured from top center are: Dr. Rip Patton; Gloria McKissack; Chakita Patterson; Mondale Smiley; Joshua McCann; Rev. Troy Merritt; Linda Bowling; King Holland; Phyllis Hildreth; Dr. Lafayette; and Kate Lafayette.

2019 ANNIVERSARY SCHOLARSHIP EVENTS

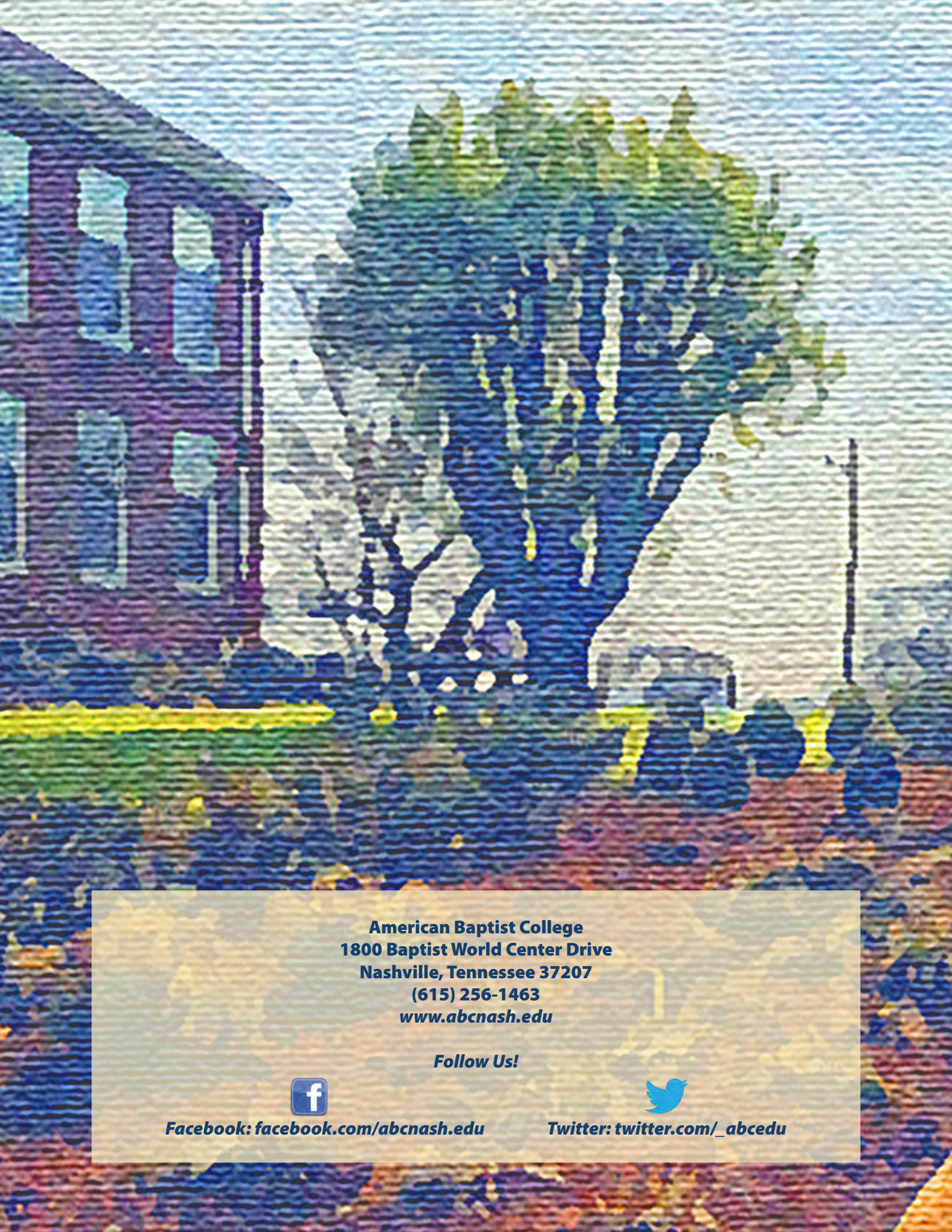


95 Years of American Baptist College 20 Years of Presidential Leadership

On October 10, 2019, American Baptist College welcomed approximately 300 supporters from throughout the city, state, and nation to the President's Scholarship Gala to celebrate the school's 95th anniversary and the 20th year of Dr. Forrest Harris's tenure as president. Altogether, the Gala raised nearly \$111,000 from nearly 50 contributors, including 25 first-time contributors.

In addition to the distinguished alumni, civic, and community leaders in attendance, the gala was fortunate to have the support of presidents from Nashville's seven other major colleges and universities — Belmont University, Fisk University, Meharry Medical College, Nashville State Community College, Tennessee State University, Trevecca Nazarene University, and Vanderbilt University. Such unified support is indicative of the city's solid academic foundation, as well as the role that American Baptist College continues to play in shaping Nashville as "The Athens of the South."





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