

SANFORD HERALD



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THE BULLETIN BOARD: Congratulations to the graduating class of 2020

By Sheralyn Brinson

Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2020. “An investment in learning pays the best interest. Be grateful for how far you’ve come; have faith in how far you can go; go confidently into the direction of your dreams; and don’t forget to enjoy the journey. Ability is what you’re capable of doing; Motivation determines what you do; Attitude determines how well you do it! (Author Unknown)”

Marvin "Wayne" Allen II, completed his coursework this past week and is now a graduating senior at Morehouse College (Atlanta, GA) in the Class of 2020. He resides in Maryland with his parents, Marvin Wayne Allen I and Charlene Stallworth Allen (formerly of Sanford), but he will always consider Central Florida his home. Many proud relatives, including his grandfather, Deacon Lemuel Stallworth of Sanford, continue to cheer him on from the Sunshine State; and there are very few places that bring him as much joy as being in Florida where he can reconnect with his musical roots.

Wayne earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music with a concentration in vocal performance. Because of campus closure and social distancing affiliated with the COVID-19 Pandemic, commencement exercises have been postponed until December of this year; he is scheduled to receive his degree officially in June.

Wayne will be attending Indiana University (Bloomington, IN) in the Fall to pursue a Master's Degree in Opera and Vocal Music Pedagogy (education). He grew tremendously as a vocal performer and had many valuable experiences during his time at Morehouse, including serving as President of the Morehouse Glee Club and being a member of the acclaimed Morehouse College Quartet his senior year. Majoring in vocal music at this Historically Black College and University (HBCU) for men in a city with strong ties to decades of civil rights activism also provided him frequent opportunities to sing for and be in the presence of many great political leaders, humanitarians, and celebrities while there.

Other accomplishments worthy to note from his undergraduate experiences include studying opera in Salzburg, Austria during the summer of 2018; and the following year, being the featured soloist in a Black Lives Matter Musical Tribute, "The Seven Last Words of the Unarmed", which was written by Joel Thompson, a young Black composer, for full symphony orchestra and a male chorus. Thompson's seven-movement choral composition pays homage to the memory of seven unarmed Black men who suffered untimely deaths in this country; it has been performed in several cities since it premiered in 2016. In March 2019, the Morehouse Glee Club and the Florida A&M University (Tallahassee, FL) Concert Choir performed this piece along with the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra; and Wayne sang the solo in the Third Movement. A recording of this



Marvin "Wayne" Allen II
2020 Morehouse College Graduate

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performance can be viewed online at: youtu.be/15k2MoIAuyc. Read the online summary of the composition, “The Seven Last Words of the Unarmed”, at www.wikipedia.org.

In 2019, Wayne was selected to sing at Carnegie Hall as a featured performer during a college music festival; he was chosen to sing at St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church in Bermuda for several of their Christmas and Easter Concerts; his international travels include singing with the Glee Club in Algeria.

Classical music is in Wayne's blood. He credits his maternal grandmother, the late Sylvia Hammond Stallworth of Sanford, with inspiring him to perform music as a career. Her influence was not lost on him, as he will continue her legacy of keeping hymns, spirituals, and classical choral music alive in our community and in the world. Congratulations and best wishes for continued success to Marvin "Wayne" Allen II.

Morehouse College, founded in 1867, enjoys a proud tradition of producing outstanding leaders; and its mission remains steadfast: to produce academically superior and morally conscious leaders for the conditions and issues of today. Graduates include: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; former U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher, M.D., Ph.D.; Hon. Maynard Jackson, the first African American Mayor of Atlanta, GA; Donn Clendenon, World Series MVP-1969; and Shelton “Spike” Lee, filmmaker/producer/director.

The prestigious Morehouse College Glee Club, founded in 1911, is the official singing organization of the College. Made up of music and non-music majors, the group offers the opportunity for students to learn choral technique, vocal production, and diction by applying them to a wide variety of choral literature including classical works, African music, music by African American composers, arrangements of spirituals and more. The group has a long tradition of significant public appearances, i.e., at Martin Luther King Jr.'s funeral, President Jimmy Carter's Inauguration, 1993 Super Bowl and the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta. International performances include tours in Africa (Senegal, Ethiopia, Ghana, Uganda, and Nigeria), Russia, Poland and the Caribbean. The group appeared on the soundtrack for the movies “School Daze”, directed by Morehouse alumnus Spike Lee and “Miracle at St. Anna”, and in performance with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Atlanta Symphony Chorus under the direction of Robert Shaw in the television special *Christmas with Robert Shaw*. (www.morehousecollege.edu)



The City of Sanford’s Memorial Day Parade and Remembrance Ceremony previously scheduled for Monday, May 25, 2020, have been canceled because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Veterans Memorial Park, located at 110 W. Seminole Blvd. in downtown Sanford, will be decorated with flags and a wreath. Please take time out to remember those who died in service to our country.

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***This document is a Bulletin Board Column in
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