



Presidential Scholarship Gala

Celebrating Elevation & Transformation



Claflin University • Friday, November 18, 2022 • 7 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP GALA COMMITTEE

Honorary Chair and Co-Chairs

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Mrs. LaKisha Warmack

Mr. Melvin Williams

A MESSAGE

from the President

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, administration, faculty, staff, and students at Clafflin University, LaKisha and I welcome you to the 28th Annual Presidential Scholarship Gala. We hope you will be rewarded with an enjoyable evening highlighted by a concert featuring the legendary R&B group, Midnight Star.

The Presidential Scholarship Gala brings us together to celebrate another milestone in the history of the University. It also raises funds to support Presidential Scholars, high achieving and academically talented students who are also members of the Alice Carson Tisdale Honors College.

We offer our deepest appreciation for your support, which is vital in helping the University recruit and retain outstanding students. These are students who will be tomorrow's globally engaged visionary leaders. You are also helping us create and sustain an environment that inspires the Elevation and Transformation students are currently experiencing at Clafflin University.

We extend best wishes to all of our guests here tonight. Again, thank you for all you do to help Clafflin University move to higher levels of recognition and distinction in higher education.

With Panther Pride,



A MESSAGE

from the Chair

Greetings:

On behalf of the Presidential Scholarship Gala Planning Committee, welcome to what promises to be a festive and memorable occasion.

The Presidential Scholarship Gala recognizes Claflin scholars who were awarded Presidential Scholarships because of their exceptional academic records. These outstanding students, who have risen above the crowd since high school, are also members of the prestigious Alice Carson Tisdale Honors College.

As this is Homecoming, this is the time when Leal and Loyal alumni reconnect with friends and classmates. However, we are also here to provide encouragement and financial support for these scholars as donors and sponsors of this year's Presidential Scholarship Gala.

Additionally, this event allows the community to celebrate the Elevation and Transformation Claflin is experiencing under its ninth President, Dr. Dwaun J. Warmack. His actions are consistent with his belief that Claflin, the City of Orangeburg, and Orangeburg County will experience superabundant prosperity by working together.

We are incredibly grateful for your support of Claflin University and this year's Presidential Scholars. Please enjoy tonight's performance by the legendary R&B group Midnight Star and have a safe and fun-filled Homecoming Weekend.

Sincerely,

Michael C Butler



ABOUT THE *Presidential Scholars*

The Presidential Scholarship is awarded exclusively to two or three students each year. This scholarship is highly selective and competitive. This prestigious scholarship is awarded to outstanding high school seniors who are committed to academic excellence and who plan to pursue graduate or professional studies after graduating from the University. Awards are made on the basis of outstanding academic achievement, leadership potential, and character. To be considered for this award, candidates must first score at least 1200+ on the SAT/27 on the ACT and have an unweighted grade point average of 3.5. This scholarship includes the cost of tuition, room and board, and a small monthly allowance.

The Alice Carson Tisdale Honors College

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS



Tierra Albert

Freshman • Political Science Major

Alexandria, VA

Nyasia Argrow

Junior • Biology Major

Orangeburg, SC

Justice Bell

Junior • Chemistry Major

Charlotte, NC

Isaiah Bowman

Freshman • Political Science Major

Washington, DC

Josten Bryant

Senior • Computer Science Major

Moncks Corner, SC

Lucas Cuseo

Senior • Criminal Justice Major

Monroe, CT

Yayi Dia

Sophomore • Biology Major

St. Louis, MO

Zecariya Fenwick

Freshman • Biology Major

Waldorf, MD

Amanda Johnson

Sophomore • Psychology Major

Saint Peters, MO

Evan Simms

Junior • Biology Major

Conyers, SC

Justin Smith

Sophomore • Business Administration Major

Grand Prairie, TX

Lauren Tolbert

Senior • African American Studies Major

Chattanooga, TN

Programme

Presidential Scholarship Gala

Celebrating Elevation & Transformation

Friday, November 18, 2022 • 7 p.m.

Claflin University • Jonas T. Kennedy Health and Wellness Complex



MASTERS OF CEREMONIES

Jamaal “Jay” Dukes, ’10
Host/Actor/Comedian

Megan Rivers, ’10
Reporter, WUSA9

GREETINGS

Dr. Dwaun J. Warmack
President, Claflin University

The Honorable Michael C. Butler, ’83
Mayor of Orangeburg, South Carolina

Dr. Marcus H. Burgess, ’96
Vice President of Institutional Advancement

Ms. Tiffany L. West
Senior Director of Public Affairs, Gilead
Sciences, Inc.

INVOCATION & GRACE

Rev. Larry D. McCutcheon, ’72
Interim Chaplain, Claflin University

DINNER & MUSIC BY CROWN

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS INTRODUCTION

Dr. Dwaun J. Warmack
President, Claflin University

Dr. Monica L. Greene, ’96
Assistant Vice President for Honors and
College Experiences

CONCERT

Midnight Star





PERFORMING ARTIST

The story of Midnight Star began in 1976 on the campus of Kentucky State University in Frankfort, KY. Two musical kindred spirits, trumpeter Reggie Calloway and saxophonist Bill Simmons, set their sights on creating a new band. The two friends had a vision of assembling spectacular musicians and entertainers who shared their dream of making it big in the music industry. Reggie and Bill enlisted fellow Kentucky State University students Belinda Lipscomb (lead vocals), Kenneth Gant (bass, vocals) Jeff Cooper (guitar), Boaz Watson (lead vocals, keyboards), Melvin Gentry (vocals, guitar, drums) to join in their quest for greatness. The group quickly developed a reputation locally as a jamming party band at dances, covering top 40 material of the day. They later added guitarist Dana Mattison and trombonist Vincent Calloway (Reggie's younger brother).

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As the group pursued their journey into the music business, Midnight Star demonstrated natural camaraderie rarely experienced in the industry. This type of immediate unity cannot be forced or replicated: college friends dedicated to living together, enjoying themselves and sharing their passion for music. They rehearsed five days a week and toured clubs throughout Kentucky, Ohio & Indiana. Within two-years of its inception, Midnight Star showcased in New York City. This 1978 showcase inspired Solar Records chief Dick Griffey to sign the group to his label.

After being signed, the group was swiftly swept into the studio to record its first album, “The Beginning.” The album wasn’t an instant success, but it was a promising debut that made for some terrific listening. Released in 1980, “The Beginning” spawned one minor hit, “Make It Last” and received meaningful airplay with the soulful ballad “Searching for Love.”

The group was still establishing a name for themselves on the national stage with the release of their second album, “Standing Together,” in 1981. Two mid-charting singles “I’ve Been Watching You” and “Tuff” exuded the characteristics of how great the band would soon be. In 1982 the third album, “Victory,” which yielded the mid-charting “Hot Spot,” was an exercise in experimentation when Dick Griffey suggested that the band produce the album themselves with Reggie Calloway at the helm. Also, drummer Bobby Lovelace joined the group in late 1982, freeing Melvin Gentry to sing and play guitar exclusively.

Solar Records stuck by the group and the patience would pay off in 1983. On the fourth album, the phenomenal “No Parking on the Dance Floor,” Midnight Star was able to reap the rewards of its hard work. The technofunk classic “Freak-AZoid”, the title cut “No Parking on the Dance Floor” and the absorbing “Wet My Whistle” helped propel the group to new heights and launched Midnight Star into superstar status. The album, though, did not rely on growth solely from the single releases. Album cuts were beginning to jump off the vinyl, as the vibrant “Electricity” and the romantic ballad, “Slow Jam,” made their respective paths to the dance floors and radio airwaves. The “No Parking on the Dance Floor” album reached an amazing milestone in the group’s career with more than two million units sold and RIAA Double Platinum Certification.

Album five, “Planetary Invasion,” led way the following year with the group’s first No. 1 R&B hit, “Operator.” Using the creativity of a busy phone line signal and an operator’s

voice, the tune was completely mesmerizing and managed to remain at the No. 1 position for five weeks. The infectious and timeless album track “Curious” pushed its way onto radio and is still favorite to listening audiences to this day! “Curious” has been sampled multiple times by various Hip Hop artists. “Planetary Invasion” also became a huge success across the Atlantic, elevating Midnight Star to international status. Midnight Star struck gold again in 1986 with the exploding “Headlines” album, which opened the group’s next period with a hit single of the same title. But another single from the album, the golden “Midas Touch,” really made the difference. The tune’s gentle melody created another bonified chart topper. This would be the last album with the Calloway brothers, who left the band to pursue a career as music producers. The group carried on its hit-making ways with the self-titled Midnight Star album in 1988. Both “Don’t Rock the Boat,” which featured a guest appearance by Whodini, and the quirky “Snake in the Grass” jumped into Billboard Magazine’s R&B Top 10. Midnight Star broke into the 90’s with the smash “Do It (One More Time)” from “Work it Out,” an album that also featured the sultry ballads “Red Roses” and “Love of My Life.”

After a long hiatus from the stage, it became obvious to the group that the performing bug had hit them. It was time to give themselves and fans what they all were missing... Midnight Star concerts. The band reassembled in 1998 with Belinda Lipscomb, Melvin Gentry, Bo Watson, Bill Simmons, Kenneth Gant and Bobby Lovelace and quickly hit the concert circuit. In 1999, in support of touring, Capitol Records/Right Stuff released the Midnight Star “Anniversary Collection” which CD covered many of their past hits. It also gave the band the opportunity to contribute a brand new “Slow Jam Live” and Freak-A-Zoid remix track for the CD. In 2002 the Midnight Star released their first album in over 12 years, entitled “15th Avenue.

For the group, it’s been a thrilling rollercoaster ride, from obscure beginnings at Kentucky State University through the halls of Solar Records and onto stardom. Midnight Star created for itself an enviable track record that so many in the music business today would love to call their own. And not to say that hit records are the only true make-up of a group, it is what the music invokes in the listening public and the ability to sustain that feeling for a length of time. Midnight Star continues to perform its music to sold out halls and arenas all over the world.



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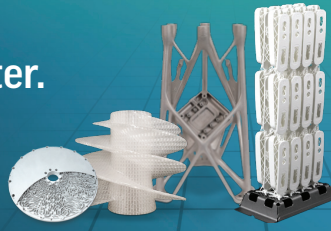
President Dwaun J., First Lady LaKisha & First Daughter Morgan Warmack

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Congratulations

to Claflin University on the celebration of
its' 28th Presidential Scholarship Gala.

My late husband, Howard (1968) and I have
truly been grateful to the "Hilltop High."

Theresa Thompson Davis
Class of 1967

Attorney William H. Johnson



Attorney William H. Johnson, '72, and
Mrs. Annette Johnson proudly support Claflin
University and the Presidential Scholarship Gala



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Congratulations and Best Wishes Presidential Scholars!!

Dr. Gloria S. McCutcheon, Chair and Professor
Department of Biology

Rev. Larry D. McCutcheon, '72
Interim Chaplain



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President Emeritus
Henry N. Tisdale

"Best wishes to President Dwaun J. Warmack and the Claflin Family and thank you for your relentless commitment to Elevation and Transformation."



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Presidential Scholars



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