

MILESTONES

40s

The Honorable Robert L. Carter, LW LLB 1940, was honored by New Jersey's governor. The State Department of Education building was dedicated in honor of Carter.

50s

Anita Moore-Hackney, ASF BA 1950, was honored on Nov. 19, 2006, by The Friends of Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel for her years of leadership and service.

Reverend Thomas A. Wright, DIV BD 1954, recently retired after 44 years as pastor of Mount Carmel Baptist Church in East Gainesville, Fla.

60s

James P. Comer, MED MD 1960, was named the winner of the "2007 University of Louisville Grawemeyer Award in Education" for his impact in the field of education.

The Honorable Ewart F. Brown, LA BA 1968, MED MD 1972, was elected and sworn in as premier of Bermuda, WI. Brown previously served as the deputy premier and as minister of transportation and tourism.

The Honorable Shirley A. Franklin, ASF BA 1968, mayor of Atlanta, was inducted into The National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame. She was nominated by *alma mater* for her leadership in government.

The Honorable Joyce London Alexander, ASF BA 1969, chief U.S. magistrate judge in Cambridge, Mass. recently wed The Honorable Johnny Ford, mayor of Tuskegee, Ala.

Jeff Friday Celebrates Black Filmmakers

When the first DVDs under the American Black Film Festival (ABFF) label hit stores this month, it will culminate a year of fulfilled dreams for Jeff Friday (B.S., '85), founder and CEO of Film Life, Inc., a marketing, media and production company based in New York City.

Friday co-founded ABFF, a property of Film Life — in 1997. The retreat and international film festival, held annually in Miami's South Beach, is dedicated to nurturing independent Black filmmakers while recognizing Blacks working in Hollywood. The festival celebrated its 10th anniversary last July. That same month, Friday sealed an exclusive deal with Warner Home Video to distribute quality, independent Black and urban-inspired DVDs under the festival label.

"Film Life's mission has always been to make and market movies that go beyond the stereotypical portrayals of the Black experience — films that enlighten and inspire, but also entertain," Friday says.

As a young adult, Friday desired a career in film, but he didn't see a way to realize that dream. A double finance/insurance major in the Howard University School of Business (HUSB), he assumed that a numbers-crunching career was in his future. He also didn't see himself as a creative artist. Then, one day he shared his interest in film and other media with the late Col. Maurice Williams, his adviser.

"He told me to follow my heart," he says. Friday credits Howard with providing him with the mentors and guidance that he needed to be successful. Many of his experiences at the University, such as being treasurer of the HUSB, helped to shape his skills as an entrepreneur and leader. Friday further honed those skills as he negotiated the ABFF DVD deal and grew the ABFF from a festival that drew 190 participants in its first year to one that drew 3,700 in its 10th year.

In 2006, Friday achieved one of his proudest accomplishments: taking the Black Movie Awards (BMAs), which he initially created, to national television. In fact, when Friday strode onto the stage of Los Angeles' Wilshire Theater last October to welcome the audience to the 2006 BMAs, which aired on TNT, he said that the night's star-studded telecast "was proof that dreams can come true."

— Nicole Crawford-Tichawonna



Thomas C. Battle, PHD, LA BA 1969, director of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center edited and released with Donna M. Wells a book entitled "Legacy: Treasures of Black History" (National Geographic).

70s

The Honorable Isiah "Ike" Leggett, GRD MA 1972, LAW JD 1974, was elected the county executive for Montgomery County, Md.