

**HIDDEN AGNES**

A map of the past in Agnes Scott College's archives offers a view of the campus's history.

**SCOTTIES LEAD**

The college shares how it's educating students to become global leaders.

**SERVING UP COFFEE AND HOPE**

Alumna Kitti Smith Murray '78 makes a difference in the Clarkston community.

# AGNES SCOTT

SPRING '18

THE MAGAZINE



**THE BOLD  
CHANGE AGENT**

*President Elizabeth Kiss  
leaves a legacy of  
innovative leadership.*

spring '18

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challenges of their times.

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On the day of her inauguration on April 20,  
2007, President Elizabeth Kiss posed for  
an iconic photo with former female Agnes  
Scott presidents, representing 36 years  
of women's leadership. Ruth A. Schmidt,  
1982-1994, Sally Mahoney, 1994-1995  
(interim), Mary Brown Bullock '66, 1995-  
2006, and Elizabeth Kiss, 2006-2018.





KATE D. R. ELM...  
READING ROOM

# *in* side



# I4

*The Presidential Medallion was a gift from an anonymous donor prior to the college's centennial, and the medallion and chain were designed and executed by artist Richard Mafong. It was first presented to President Ruth A. Schmidt (1982-1994) at Founder's Day Convocation on Feb. 24, 1988. This symbol of the Office of the President, reflecting a tradition rooted in the Renaissance, is worn on ceremonial occasions. The chain's oval disks display the names of Agnes Scott's presidents.*



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## Elizabeth Kiss: A President Leaving an Indelible Mark



Elizabeth Kiss has been my president, mentor and friend since 2006, when she first came to campus as a candidate for the position of Agnes Scott College's eighth president. I was a sophomore and the student representative on the presidential search committee, and I can still vividly recall the moment

we first met Elizabeth at her interview. I was struck by a strong feeling that we had just found our president. She embodied everything we wanted for Agnes Scott students: an articulate, critical thinker with a strong commitment to ethical ideals, political engagement with the world and empowering students to become “feisty”—now a Kiss signature word—and so pursue their highest goals. Following her appointment, the community eagerly embraced her; I remember the entire student government board greeting her with giddy enthusiasm when she first officially arrived at her new home. The consensus was that we were lucky to have her and that Agnes Scott, under Elizabeth's leadership, was going places.

These first impressions have remained strong in my memory, and our expectations have been exceeded. Elizabeth has supported the college and countless Scotties, whether through personal mentoring, championing major institutional changes or simply being a wonderful role model over the past 12 years.

The ways she was involved in my own personal and intellectual development at Agnes Scott were numerous. During my junior year, she agreed to chair a panel featuring local nonprofit and government leaders working to end domestic violence as part of a Kathryn Wasserman Davis “Project for Peace” initiative I organized with the Student Government Association. She was an engaged participant at student presentations at the Spring Annual Research Conference, SpARC, and attended the very first “Collage,” a now-annual arts colloquium and student-curated and student-juried exhibition I co-founded. She also arranged to host mock interviews for students who were applying for national fellowships (a grueling but deeply valuable experience). I must add that Jeff Holzgreffe, Elizabeth's husband, also enriched other students' and my time at Agnes Scott. He read countless drafts of research statements, cheered us on in our graduate pursuits and always had a witty comment to share.

Since my graduation from Agnes Scott in 2008, my relationship with Elizabeth has grown despite our physical distance. Over the years, we have exchanged updates over lunch when I am in the Atlanta area and over email. She has generously offered much sage advice about jobs, graduate programs and developing my career in art history. Although my visits to Agnes Scott have become less frequent since beginning my doctoral program at the University of Chicago, Elizabeth is always in the back of my mind, continuing to inspire me even from afar. She is, without a doubt, precisely the kind of leader I hope one day to be—an engaged, compassionate intellectual who can speak to any audience and achieve countless things for the people and institution she has held most dear for over a decade.

I could go on about the many things that have been achieved for Agnes Scott under Elizabeth's impressive leadership, such as the development and launch of SUMMIT, increased enrollment, completion of major renovations on campus, the commitment to making our college's diversity a top priority, and other achievements that will be celebrated in this issue of *Agnes Scott The Magazine* with the fitting tributes they deserve. Suffice to say, that after 12 years of tireless work, countless purple suits and one onyx ring, Elizabeth has left an indelible mark on our cherished college and shaped the lives of so many students. I count myself fortunate to be one of them.

— NANCY THEBAUT '08

*During her time at Agnes Scott College, Nancy Thebaut '08 was president of Student Government Association and Honor Court, and she co-founded the arts colloquium and exhibition “Collage” with her friend and college roommate, Maja Tokić '07. Upon graduating, Thebaut earned master's degrees from the Courtauld Institute of Art and École du Louvre, and worked for artist Judy Chicago. She is now a doctoral candidate in art history at the University of Chicago. Thebaut currently lives in Paris, where she is completing her dissertation research with the support of the Kress and Mellon Foundations at the Institut national d'histoire de l'art.*

# main news

## Leocadia “Lee” I. Zak Named Agnes Scott College’s Ninth President



On Jan. 9, 2018, Board of Trustees Chair Elizabeth Daniel Holder ’82 announced that Leocadia “Lee” I. Zak had been selected as the ninth president of Agnes Scott College. The celebratory announcement was delivered to a packed Evans Hall on campus and livestreamed to alumnae and other members of the college community. Search committee co-chairs, trustees Deborah “Deb” Harris Painter ’75 and Elizabeth Hardy Noe ’86, introduced members of the search committee and described the search process.

Excited to be joining the Agnes Scott community, Zak spoke about her passion for a liberal arts education, saying, “In the travels that I’ve done internationally, I’ve had the opportunity to discuss the importance of a liberal arts education, and to me it is the most valuable way to learn. The result of a liberal arts education is that people think critically, they embrace change and they have the ability to manage their destiny.”

She also praised SUMMIT, calling it “outstanding” and noting, “There is nothing like it. It is unique, it is an opportunity to build world leaders, and it is an opportunity to understand one another.”

Zak comes to Agnes Scott with an extensive background in international economic development and international project finance. In 2000, she joined the U.S. Trade and Development Agency, an independent federal agency that advances economic development and U.S. commercial interests in developing and middle-income countries, serving as general counsel, deputy director and acting director under the Bush and Obama administrations before being confirmed as director by the U.S. Senate in March 2010.

Zak is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Mount Holyoke College, which recognized her as a Woman of Influence in 2012. She also holds a J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law and currently teaches

at the Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C.

“The presidential search committee vetted a number of highly impressive candidates, and the selection process was rigorous. Lee Zak stood out as an exceptional and accomplished leader, and the Board of Trustees unanimously concluded that she is the right choice at this stage in Agnes Scott’s transformational journey. We feel she is well-positioned to continue the momentum of SUMMIT and to contribute greatly to our growth as a premier liberal arts institution,” says Holder. “She will be stepping into the role armed with a solid foundation already built by President Kiss, and there is an immense opportunity for her to make her own mark. We are confident that she will.”

To read the news release, learn more about Zak and view the announcement video, visit the presidential search website at [agnesscott.edu/president/presidentialsearch](http://agnesscott.edu/president/presidentialsearch).



*President-elect Leocadia “Lee” I. Zak delivers remarks to the Agnes Scott community at the presidential announcement ceremony.*

## Center for Sustainability Series Gives the Community an Inside Look at the Rebekah Scott Hall Renovation



*Emma Dufresne '19 interviews Susan Kidd '78, M.A.T. '07, executive director of the Center for Sustainability (center), and Bryn Bassett '17, sustainability fellow (right), for the Rebekah Scott Hall Renovation video series.*

In order to educate the campus community about what Agnes Scott College is doing to work proactively toward its future as a more sustainable college, the Center for Sustainability has launched a biweekly video series documenting the Rebekah Scott Hall renovation project and is also hosting a lunch-and-learn series.

Emma Dufresne '19, an anthropology and sociology major from Charleston, South Carolina, came up with the idea for the video series. Dufresne, a communications intern in the Center for Sustainability, presented her concept to Susan Kidd '78, M.A.T. '07, executive director of the center.

"I expressed to her how I felt that there needed to be an easily digestible information flow to express the importance of this exciting renovation, and I was ecstatic when she supported my idea," says Dufresne. "I knew this

project would provide opportunities to spark dialogue, prompt questions, and provide accurate information about the renovation and the sustainability initiatives involved."

As the producer of the series, Dufresne wears many different creative hats—not only writing the scripts and filming the videos but also doing the voiceovers.

Each episode of the renovation video series covers a different subject, such as explaining the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification process and student perspectives on the renovation. Engaging and informative, the videos are proving to be an impactful method to share stories on the Rebekah Scott Hall renovation.

"Communication through technology is vital and is often the most compelling tool in today's age. Being able to picture complicated concepts is both beneficial and

necessary for a person learning about topics like geothermal energy or LEED building certification," says Dufresne. "Through the visual representation of these concepts that the videos allow, viewers are able to better understand these weighty initiatives in the context of Agnes Scott's goal to reach carbon neutrality by 2037."

The Center for Sustainability has enjoyed great response to the videos from students, staff, alumnae and even off-campus partners. One of the best comments on social media was on the geothermal video.

Elizabeth Hartman '06 posted a comment, noting, "For years, my dad has tried to explain ground source heat pumps to me. I've never quite understood it. Until now. Thanks, Agnes!"

Center for Sustainability staff members also had members of the Agnes Scott community approach them on campus to say how well-done the videos are and how they are looking forward to the next one. "Emma's project has accomplished what she set out to do and more," says Kidd. "Visibility of sustainability on campus has increased significantly."

The lunch-and-learns hosted by the Center for Sustainability cover some of the same topics as the video series. Led by sustainability fellow Bryn Bassett '17, the discussions provide students, faculty and staff an opportunity to learn about the work underway on Rebekah Hall and have their pressing questions answered face-to-face. For one session, attendees were able to meet the team working behind the scenes on the renovation.

"The lunch-and-learns were very well-received. I had a couple of regular 'customers' who would come prepared with questions for my current topic or even some throwbacks to the previous sessions," says Bassett. "It was exciting to see this kind of personal engagement



with LEED and Rebekah; it definitely helped me to see the impact this outreach was having. Many attendees of the 'Why LEED?' session already knew that the campus was committed to doing its part to address climate change and create living environments tied to the occupants' health, as well as that we were being leaders in our community on this type of building."

Projects like the video series and lunch-and-learns have become critically important tools for the Agnes Scott community in the consideration of climate justice on and off campus. They have also served as a highly useful resource in encouraging people to feel more comfortable and confident in speaking about different complex sustainability concepts.

The Rebekah Scott Hall renovation video series is complete, and the videos are still available on the Agnes Scott College Sustainability YouTube channel. The Center for Sustainability team is currently developing strategies for sharing other topics related to the college's sustainability goals. The lunch-and-learn series will continue through spring 2018 and will focus on a range of subjects related to the work of the Center for Sustainability.



*Emma Dufresne '19 edits a video in the college's Educational Technology Center.*



## President Kiss Joins the Rhodes Trust

On Jan. 17, 2018, President Elizabeth Kiss announced that she had been appointed as the new CEO of the Rhodes Trust and warden of Rhodes House in Oxford, England, starting in August 2018. Kiss, who was a 1983 Rhodes Scholar, will be the first female warden of Rhodes House.

In her new role, Kiss will have overall responsibility for selecting and developing exceptional students who are impatient for change in the world and who have the courage to act. The warden also oversees the Rhodes global network and ensures that Rhodes House is a place where individual achievement becomes a lifelong fellowship for those committed to addressing the world's most pressing issues. By holding topic convenings in Oxford and around the world, the Rhodes Trust creates hubs for the exchange of ideas, bringing together people of different backgrounds and viewpoints to develop solutions for global challenges.

The Rhodes Trust—the preeminent international scholarship program, established at the University of Oxford in 1903—selects creative young leaders with a commitment to serving others and standing up for the world. Currently 96 scholars are selected from 64 countries around the world each year, with further expansion on the horizon.

"I am excited and deeply honored to be given this opportunity to join the Rhodes Trust at such an exciting time in its history. Now more than ever, we need knowledgeable and courageous leaders from all walks of life who stand up for the world. Thanks to its bold vision and dynamism, the Rhodes Trust is uniquely positioned to serve this need," says Kiss. "I look forward to building on the remarkable accomplishments of the current warden, Charles Conn, and working to continue to expand the number and geographic reach of the Rhodes Scholarships, to deepen the lifelong connections among Rhodes Scholars past and present, and to enhance our impact through global partnerships. It will be a joy to return to Oxford and to get to know the current Rhodes Scholars, the university community and senior scholars all around the globe."

Kiss announced last May that she would be stepping down as Agnes Scott's eighth president after 12 years of service.



## Agnes Scott Launches New Master's and Graduate Certificate Programs This Fall

Agnes Scott College is on track to launch master's and graduate certificate programs in writing and digital communication, evaluation and assessment methods, applied technology, data visualization, social innovation and global leadership over the next three years. The first programs to launch, in fall 2018, will be a master's degree and graduate certificate in writing and digital communication and a graduate certificate in evaluation and assessment methods.

Each program of study includes interdisciplinary classroom instruction as well as flexible evening and weekend class schedules. The programs are available to individuals who hold a bachelor's degree and will be coeducational. Students pursuing graduate certificates can apply their earned credits toward the requirements of a master's degree, giving them flexibility as they work toward their goals.

"Throughout the strategic planning process, we received invaluable insights from alumnae and current students," says Kelly Ball, assistant dean for graduate and extended programs. "Spanning a range of topics, these insights highlighted the importance of balancing Agnes Scott's undergraduate experience with excitement for the college embarking on a new academic initiative. It was also valuable to have input from the Board of Trustees, the Board of Visitors, faculty, staff and alumnae steering decisions about how we develop graduate programs to best serve the college's mission."

"Effective communication is a hallmark of flourishing in any society," adds Aise Cannon, director of graduate admission. "Our graduate programs will provide each of our graduates with the skills necessary to convey information across a variety of professional contexts."

The writing and digital communication program offers a blend of innovative courses providing students the opportunity to use established and emerging technologies. Those who complete the program will be prepared to advance in careers such as film and video editing, digital media, web development, and digital marketing.

In order to graduate with a Master of Arts in writing and digital communication, a student will need to complete 11 courses. To earn the graduate certificate in writing and digital communication, a student will need to complete six courses.

Christine Cozzens, Charles A. Dana Professor of English and director of the Center for Writing and Speaking, led the development of the graduate program in writing and digital communication. She is chairing a search for the founding faculty program director of writing and digital communication.

The evaluation and assessment methods graduate certificate combines advanced skill development in an environment focused on critical thinking and creative problem-solving, both hallmarks of an Agnes Scott education. Students completing this graduate certificate will be able to quickly establish themselves as a go-to resource in their fields, conduct evaluation research and improve their ability to win grants in a challenging funding climate. To earn a graduate certificate in evaluation and assessment methods, students will complete five courses in as few as two semesters. Na'Taki Osborne Jelks, visiting assistant professor of public health, will serve as the founding faculty program director of evaluation and assessment methods.

The new graduate programs at Agnes Scott build on the success of the college's long-standing 13-month Post-baccalaureate Pre-medical Program for individuals with successful undergraduate academic careers in non-science fields who are interested in pursuing medical, dental or veterinary school but have little or no academic background in the sciences.

For more information on Agnes Scott's new graduate programs and the Post-baccalaureate Pre-medical Program, contact Aise Cannon at [gradadmission@agnesscott.edu](mailto:gradadmission@agnesscott.edu) or visit [agnesscott.edu/graduateprograms](http://agnesscott.edu/graduateprograms) to apply.



# Every Scottie, Every Year

It's more than just a saying. It's a commitment to college priorities—like student scholarships and faculty support—that strengthen the Agnes Scott experience. It's the driving force behind nationally recognized academic innovation. It's the difference between the status quo and the extraordinary.

Every Scottie, Every Year is the opportunity to shape the future of Agnes Scott, no matter the size of your contribution.

Questions? Contact Pam Cottrell, director of The Fund for Agnes Scott, at 404.471.5475 or [pcottrell@agnesscott.edu](mailto:pcottrell@agnesscott.edu).

**MAKE YOUR GIFT TO  
The Fund for Agnes Scott today  
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THE FUND FOR  
**AGNES SCOTT**

# faculty focus

## The Power of Inclusion: Exploring Diversity in the Workplace



Alison Hall wants employees—no matter what their backgrounds are—to know they make a valuable contribution to their workplace each day. She envisions a workplace that provides an inclusive environment for everyone as well as one that promotes creativity and productivity and encourages employees to bring the best they have to offer to their organizations.

In fact, her research is based on this premise. Hall, the Gail Savage Glover '66 and Marion Glover Assistant Professor of Business Leadership at Agnes Scott College, studies leadership, diversity and discrimination in the workplace and explores how surface-level diversity markers may act as barriers to and/or facilitators of individuals' experiences, opportunities and advancement in both the workplace and society. Heading to a new position this fall as an assistant professor in the University of Texas-Arlington's Management Department, Hall is passionate about social justice and aspires to use her research as a tool for discussing timely issues that concern us all.

"I believe my work should always have practical implications, not just academic implications," Hall says. "Workplace diversity is one of the most practical challenges in the 21st century. A lot of organizations are

not prepared, and I want my work to help them maximize the benefits of a diverse workplace and minimize the challenges."

"Managing diversity issues in the workplace is important not only for the organization but also for the employees," she continues. "In an inclusive environment, employees are encouraged to find creative solutions to problems and tend to be more productive."

Hall believes that a leader's most important job is to successfully create a work climate that enables all employees—from both advantaged and disadvantaged groups—to contribute more fully to accomplishing the goals and mission of their organization.

She asserts that "the hallmarks of good leadership are relatively unencumbered, self-responsible, whole employees who make things happen for the organization."

Aside from her research, Hall teaches three classes at Agnes Scott: Leadership in Organizations, Diversity in Organizations and Organizational Behavior. In these courses, she emphasizes self-assessment and self-development and underscores the value of students mastering the art and science of teamwork.

A self-proclaimed "organizational scholar," Hall is also interested in sociopolitical topics. She co-authored

a paper titled "Black and Blue: Exploring Racial Bias and Law Enforcement in the Killings of Unarmed Black Male Civilians" and has examined the potential bias facing ex-offenders entering the work environment after serving prison time.

Hall currently has nine active projects in different stages, but only three that she is "living and breathing" right now. One builds on her dissertation work and considers how stigmatized status influences employees' self-expectations and ultimately their career advancement opportunities.

When considering a topic for research, she says she asks herself this question: If the right people got hold of this paper, would it help them solve a problem by identifying the issues and coming up with a plan to resolve those issues?

"My downfall is that with every project I take on, I want to heal the world," she says. "One person can't do that, nor can one body of research. So my challenge is to isolate a single step toward healing the world, take that step and then repeat. Thankfully, I work with great people who help make that possible."





*Jing Paul, assistant professor of Chinese and director of Asian studies, teaching Chinese 101.*

Jing Paul was curious: How do language learners learn a foreign language? To discover the answer, the assistant professor of Chinese and director of Asian studies received a grant from the National Security Agency's STARTALK project to study two tracks of students—one studying Chinese and the other studying Turkish. STARTALK, which is overseen by the University of Maryland's National Foreign Language Center, was established to increase the number of American citizens learning, speaking and teaching in critically needed foreign languages.

Middle school through college students were eligible for Paul's program, which was designed for students who had no or limited prior knowledge of the target language. Classes were held for two weeks in July 2017 as part of Agnes Scott College's Summer at Agnes program, with the costs of tuition, teaching materials, meals and an excursion covered by STARTALK. For Paul, the classes provided an opportunity to conduct research that would offer critical new insights.

"I wanted to understand what we could do to help students learn better, and how the program could help the instructors improve their teaching skills," says Paul. "Most studies focus on learners of higher proficiency. Less research is focused on beginners."

## Unraveling the Mystery: A Project Explores How People Can More Readily Learn Foreign Languages

Paul's first surprise was the overwhelming number of applications for the 34 spots that were available in the two Chinese classes and one Turkish class.

"I literally had parents calling and begging for their children to be accepted," she says. "More than 100 people showed up for orientation."

More than 90 percent of the classes were conducted in the target language, and all teaching sessions were videotaped and audiotaped. Paul interviewed the teachers three times during the course of the program, both individually and in small groups.

"We wanted to see whether the teachers improved their teaching strategies," she says. "We asked the teachers questions related to effective instruction, such as how to facilitate a learner-centered classroom. Then we viewed videos of their classroom teaching to see if (and how) their classroom teaching reflected their beliefs."

In each language track, the students were engaged in an array of linguistically and culturally

enriching activities daily. Under the program theme "A Musical Journey to China; A Musical Journey to Turkey," the teachers incorporated dance, music and sports to help students experience the cultures of the languages they were learning.

Paul's next surprise came when site evaluators told her that the students did not want anything changed about the program. One student commented: "Everything is so good—why do you want to change it?" Students loved using what they learned in authentic tasks, which included creating skits, reading comic books, purchasing items in a shop and performing in the closing program.

The college also gave an internal grant—The Holder Fund for Faculty Innovation award—to start an after-school Critical Language Immersion Program so that the language teaching could continue. Paul has been awarded another grant for another STARTALK program this summer, and dates and registration information is available at [agnesscott.edu/all/summeratagnes](http://agnesscott.edu/all/summeratagnes).



*Students in the STARTALK program work on a language-learning activity.*

# AGNES SCOTT COLLEGE DECATUR GEORGIA TOPOGRAPHIC MAP OF PROPERTY

SCALE: 1 INCH = 40 FEET

B. M. HALL & SONS, ENGINEERS  
ATLANTA, GA. NOV. 1922  
AND JUNE-JULY 1930

AGNES SCOTT COLLEGE PROPERTY - 200 ACRES  
DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY AND  
THE LANDS ADJACENT THEREOF  
AS SHOWN ON THE ORIGINAL SURVEY  
CONDUCTED BY B. M. HALL & SONS  
IN 1922 AND 1930

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Built in 1891, the **Gazebo** remains one of the most beloved structures on campus. It was first placed on the quad in front of Main, moved to the west of Rebekah Scott Hall and in 1987 once again moved to where it stands today. The Gazebo was once enclosed and served different purposes over the years, including being used as a meditation chapel.



# HIDDEN AGNES

## A Map of the Past

A topographical map in Agnes Scott College's McCain Library's Archives and Special Collections offers a snapshot of the campus' past, showing its trees and buildings. Engineering firm B.M. Hall & Sons created the map in 1922, updating it in 1930. Marianne Bradley '74, who will be retiring from her role as library administrative coordinator and archives manager this year, says the map is her favorite artifact in the archives. It is easy to see why—because it shows the interesting ways the college's physical campus has changed over the years.



Purchased in 1901, the Patillo House, renamed **West Lawn** because of its original location west of Main, was one of the campus community's favorite buildings. Serving as student and faculty or staff housing, it was moved three times—first for the building of Rebekah Scott Hall in 1906, then again to make space for McCain Library and once more until it was demolished in 1956.

Built in September 1929, the **steam plant and laundry center** served as heating and laundry facilities. Today's students may be surprised to learn that in the past, the laundry center used to do students' clothing. Both buildings still stand today, with the laundry center building being transformed into the college's dance studio and the steam plant used for storage until a new use is determined.



The **White House**, previously known as the Allen House, was the first building used on Agnes Scott's campus. It served as a student residence hall and one of the dining halls. The White House stood originally where Agnes Scott Hall (Main) is now, but was moved because George Washington Scott felt the higher ridge was a better location for Main Hall than the house.

The majestic **white ash tree** (*Fraxinus americana*), located near Hopkins Hall and Inman Hall, is believed to predate the founding of Agnes Scott, which means it is more than 129 years old. The white ash tree is a historic landmark in the Agnes Scott Arboretum ([arboretum.agnesscott.edu](http://arboretum.agnesscott.edu)).

Located in the middle of campus, the **Carnegie Library** was built circa 1910 and served as the college's library until 1936, when a new library building was built to accommodate the collection's growth. The old library building was renamed the Murphey Candler Building and nicknamed "The Hub," becoming the student center where Scotties participated in events, such as The Hub Sing, until the building was demolished in 1986.



Learn more about the history of the college's buildings and campuses at [libguides.agnesscott.edu/speccoll/buildings](http://libguides.agnesscott.edu/speccoll/buildings).





# THE BOLD CHANGE AGENT

*President Elizabeth Kiss leaves a legacy of innovative leadership.*

BY ECHO MONTGOMERY GARRETT

DURING HER 12-YEAR TENURE, President Elizabeth Kiss has taken on the tough challenges facing Agnes Scott College and mobilized faculty, staff and trustees to transform the institution. A thought leader in higher education, she leaves a legacy of innovation that has strengthened the college and raised its national profile.

Elizabeth Kiss seemed like a unique choice to serve as the eighth president of Agnes Scott College when she first met with the presidential search committee in 2006. A Rhodes Scholar, philosophy professor and founding director of the Kenan Institute for Ethics at Duke University, she undoubtedly had the intellectual agility and the pragmatic optimism that the job demanded, but she had never served as a president at an institution of higher learning. Yet the moment the committee members met Kiss, they knew they had found the woman who would lead Agnes Scott into a new era.

“Elizabeth Kiss walked in the door and just lit up the room,” says Elizabeth “Libby” Rhett Jones ’73, a former trustee who served on the presidential search committee and as chair of the Committee on Trustees. “After her interview, there was no doubt that we wanted Elizabeth. She was everything we were looking for. We knew that we needed a new perspective and someone who would think outside the box and who wasn’t stuck in her ways and unwilling to look at alternative solutions. She was that unique individual—lightning in a bottle.”

Jasmine Adams Langevine ’07 was a sophomore at Agnes Scott when she attended a search committee meeting to offer her perspective on the ideal candidates for college president.

“My first impression of President Kiss was that she was open and warm, the type of person you could talk with about anything, from shoes to politics,” says Langevine.

The intangible quality that Jones, Langevine and the entire search committee felt upon

meeting Kiss is gumption—a savvy and spirited approach to problems that makes obstacles feel like opportunities. Kiss possesses enough gumption—or, to use the word she often applies to Scotties, “feistiness”—to light up a city, and during her 12 years in office, she galvanized Agnes Scott and the entire liberal arts world through her transformative style of leadership.

## TACKLING THE CRITICAL CHALLENGES

Kiss assumed her new role at Agnes Scott during a difficult time for women’s colleges and small liberal arts colleges in general, and she recalls her early days as exciting but turbulent.

“You’re joining a community that has so many passionate members and stakeholders,” she observes, adding, “It was like drinking from the proverbial fire hose. I was navigating how to work with faculty, staff, students, trustees and alumnae as well as learning the culture, the history of the institution and parts of the job that were unlike what I’d done in any of my former roles. Endowment management, financial aid and admissions as well as maintaining a spectacular physical campus were all new challenges for me.”

As Kiss mastered these unfamiliar demands on campus, the school had to contend with a national climate hostile to its mission to educate women in the liberal arts tradition. Commentators questioned the value of liberal arts institutions and were especially skeptical about the contemporary relevance of women’s colleges.

Some women's colleges across the country struggled with the issue of declining enrollment and financial insecurity.

"The first week I arrived, Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Virginia announced that it was going coed," remembers Kiss. "It was a peer institution, and that made every one of our alumnae and donors nervous. Our board chair, Harriet King '64, and I sent out a letter reiterating our unequivocal commitment to being a women's college."

Since Kiss arrived on campus in 2006, almost one third of women's colleges in the United States have gone coed, merged or closed. From her first day, she faced these headwinds of change without trepidation, aggressively seeking ways to differentiate Agnes Scott and make it relevant and appealing to the small pool of high school students open to attending a women's college.

The worldwide economic crisis that began in 2007 exacerbated Agnes Scott's financial challenges, slashing the college's endowment by more than 20 percent.

"The college's endowment represents our single largest source of revenue," Kiss says. "We had to face up to the fact that the core financial foundation of the college took a big hit. Students and their families were also profoundly affected. Some lost their jobs and their homes. We had to be responsive to that and continue to support students, and at the same time, our own financial resources were so strained."

The onset of the Great Recession accelerated the strategic financial planning process taking place under the leadership of John Hegman, vice president for business



*Kiss greets the Agnes Scott community on May 30, 2006, the day she was announced as the college's eighth president, as her husband, Jeff Holzgreffe (far left); associate vice president and secretary of the board, Lea Ann Hudson '76 (center back); and Robert Brown (center front), trustee, look on.*

and finance, and the college's Board of Trustees.

Kiss notes, "We were already in this mode of looking not just at what next year's budget would be, but at what the business model of Agnes Scott should be over the next 10 years to keep the college strong for the long term."

These planning efforts resulted in a board-approved strategic financial plan, The Roadmap to 2020, which saw Agnes Scott's net revenues from students increase in all but one of the next 11 years—a rarity in the world of small private colleges. Adhering to the strategic plan required difficult decisions, but conscientious stewardship of the college's resources paid off. In 2011, the college initiated

an extensive restructuring to reduce operating expenses by \$3 million. Kiss acknowledges a painful process that included offering early retirement packages to faculty and staff, as well as laying off some staff members. Her leadership team's goals were to make the process as transparent as possible and to base every decision on Agnes Scott's core values and long-term goals.

Today, Agnes Scott has made significant progress toward the financial goals outlined in the roadmap.

Even during periods of financial turmoil, Kiss never forgot the college's deep commitment to inclusion, one that actively seeks to enhance the racial, ethnic and socioeconomic diversity on campus.

She has contended with various threats to state and federal funding for higher education, including efforts to reduce Tuition Equalization and Pell grants, as well as addressing political assaults on immigrants and undocumented students.

"It's critical to the success of our economy and society for young people from all backgrounds to have access to higher education," says Kiss. "We have a large number of students on Pell grants. As we're a college that's remarkably diverse and

one that recruits and enrolls many international students, all of us are threatened by anti-immigrant rhetoric and by attacks on DACA. It hurts us when America is not seen around the world as a welcoming place."

Increasing diversity among the college's student body and senior leadership was on the list of priorities from day one for Kiss. She supported programs and initiatives to increase diversity throughout her tenure that have resulted in



*The presidential medallion is placed on Kiss at her inauguration ceremony on April 20, 2007. Left to right: Harriet M. King '64, then-Board of Trustees chair; Nancy M. Kuykendall '61, trustee emerita; Kiss; and Robert C. Williams, trustee emeritus.*

**“After her interview, there was no doubt that we wanted Elizabeth.** She was everything we were looking for. We knew that we needed a new perspective and someone who would think outside the box and who wasn’t stuck in her ways and unwilling to look at alternative solutions. She was that unique individual—lightning in a bottle.”

ELIZABETH “LIBBY” RHETT JONES '73

Agnes Scott being recognized as one of the most diverse and inclusive campuses in the country today. One of her proudest achievements includes establishing the Gay Johnson McDougall Center for Global Diversity and Inclusion in 2016. She has also diversified her cabinet, which now includes four African-American women, and enhanced policies that support the LGBTQ+ community. Kiss’ commitment to building a more inclusive campus resulted in *Time* magazine ranking Agnes Scott as the second most diversified college in America in 2015. Also, as part of its ongoing strategic efforts, the college is conducting a campuswide climate assessment of diversity and inclusion.

mortar institutions out of business? That was just one of the many questions on our minds.”

She recognized that higher education needed to adapt to prepare students to succeed in a dynamic and increasingly global economy and society. “Some colleges that look like us are in a state of decline,” she says. “We thought hard about what could make us more compelling in a highly competitive marketplace. And unlike most colleges, we subjected our ideas to rigorous external testing.”

The result was SUMMIT, a radical overhaul of Agnes Scott’s core curriculum to one that focuses on global learning and leadership development. SUMMIT reinvents a liberal arts education for the 21st

century by preparing every student to be an effective change agent in a global society.

Beth Hackett, professor and chair of women’s studies, served on the faculty planning committee for SUMMIT and as the program’s interim director during the 2014-2015 academic year. She also co-authored a white paper with Kiss on SUMMIT and the transformation of Agnes Scott.

“We had to do something proactively to increase enrollment,” says Hackett about SUMMIT.

Kiss and the planning committee sensed the need for a robust curriculum that integrated leadership skills and global learning with traditional disciplines, and they

commissioned the consulting firm Art & Science to test their ideas with potential applicants. The results supported their changes.

“The consultants said go big on this,” she says. “Touch every student. Do it quickly, so you can be first out of the gate offering a distinctive, reinvented curriculum.”

Next, the 16-member planning group, including six elected faculty representatives, presented their ideas to the Board of Trustees.

“The situation Agnes Scott faced required bold action,” says Dennis

## BIG IDEAS PRODUCE BIG WINS

Kiss’ hallmark as a leader is her ability to approach a problem from many angles, engaging her constituents in a collaborative process that involves posing tough questions and giving weight to every perspective.

Of her early years at Agnes Scott, she says, “It was a time of disruption and pressure in higher education in general. For instance, everyone was wondering what online learning would mean. Would it drive brick-and-



President Elizabeth Kiss accepts the 2017 American Council on Education/Fidelity Investments Award for Institutional Transformation, which Agnes Scott received in recognition for SUMMIT. Left to right: Lynn Gangone, vice president for leadership, ACE; Debra Frey, vice president, integrated marketing, Fidelity Investments; Kiss; Gary Brahm, chancellor, Brandman University; and Molly Corbett Broad, president, ACE. Photo courtesy of Tim Trumble, ACE

Lockhart, retired president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, a former trustee and Enrollment Planning Committee chair. “In order to be more attractive to students both domestically and internationally and to attract students who might not otherwise consider Agnes Scott, Elizabeth got this big idea. Her approach to the whole project was scientific and extremely thoughtful. There was strong support from the Board of Trustees.”

What the board was not so sure of was whether Kiss could convince the entire faculty to embrace SUMMIT.

Lockhart says, “Faculties are notoriously difficult to get to move, but she pulled it off.”

Indeed, Agnes Scott’s faculty stepped up to provide creative leadership throughout the SUMMIT design process, electing a series of pop-up task forces to develop components of the new curriculum. Still, even after months of work, the birth of SUMMIT remained precarious until the final hours.

“Literally the week of the big vote on whether to adopt the SUMMIT curriculum, Sweet Briar College abruptly announced that it was closing,” says Kiss. “When I heard the news, I thought it was an early April Fool’s joke.”

Despite the turmoil at yet another sister institution, SUMMIT was approved by 82 percent of the faculty. The innovative program includes *Journeys*, a global immersion experience in a student’s first year, courses and cocurricular programs focused on building leadership skills, a personal board of advisors and a digital portfolio. Students also have opportunities to explore career paths and connect with alumnae and other mentors.

“This was not a small endeavor,” says Jones.

“The entire college had to change. Every one of the professors had to revamp his or her courses to fit SUMMIT. Elizabeth had the trust of the faculty and administration, so they were willing to put in all of this extra time and effort to make this huge change. She is an educational entrepreneur, and those two words don’t often go together,” observes Jones, a member of the Board of Trustees for 12 years.

down silos between trustees, faculty and staff and created something that is both mission-aligned and market relevant. We reinvented our liberal arts curriculum.”

For her innovative leadership with SUMMIT, Kiss was named to *The Chronicle of Higher Education’s* 2017 Influence List of eight individuals across the country who had an “outsized impact on higher education.” She also received the 2018 Council

for Advancement and Support of Education District III’s Chief Executive Leadership award.

Fundraising is another element of Kiss’ legacy. In October 2012, against the backdrop of financial challenges, the college publicly launched *The Greatness Before Us* comprehensive campaign, with a goal of raising \$100 million in five years—the most ambitious fundraising effort in the school’s history. The campaign blew past early projections, ultimately raising more than \$115 million.

“We had to mobilize donors and alums and convince them that we were worthy of their support,” Kiss says. “Now we are seeing the impact that this fundraising has had across the board, from professorships to scholarships to renovated buildings and innovative programs.”

Jones, who served as a national co-chair of *The Greatness Before Us*, says Kiss was wonderful to have on the campaign trail: “Elizabeth really helped us modernize and be unique in the educational world. We had an academically rigorous, worthwhile program that made sense for the future, both for students and for people willing to donate to us. She did her homework; she knew whom she was talking to and whether they would consider funding something for Agnes Scott.”

“[Elizabeth] has vision and direction, but she is also a kind person who is respected and gives respect.

**We need more people like her in leadership.”**

CARMEN AMBAR,  
PRESIDENT OF OBERLIN COLLEGE

Since SUMMIT was implemented, the school has experienced record-breaking enrollment and retention, and three out of four incoming students report that the program was important or very important to their decision to enroll.

“I’m proudest and most excited about how SUMMIT represents a new culture of innovation across our whole campus,” says Kiss. “We broke



The Dalton Gallery’s 2016 showing | *thinking: A Visual Journey into the Thinking Mind* exhibition included an installation on Kiss, featuring materials demonstrating her process of ideation.

Jones points out that over 50 percent of the funds raised in the campaign came from alumnae and that the college's alumnae participation in giving ranks Agnes Scott no. 20 among national liberal arts colleges in *U.S. News & World Report's 2018 Best Colleges* edition.

Lockhart adds, "As someone who is not an academic and who comes from the business world and public institutions, I was impressed with her ability to master the financial realities the

college had and at the same time stay true to a pretty inspirational sense of mission. You often get a leader who is good at one side of that equation. She was able to make the tough budget decisions and be a truly inspirational leader of college faculty and students as well."

Over the years, among her many accomplishments, Kiss is especially proud of the advancements her administration made toward environmental sustainability, a priority she strongly feels is crucial to any educational institution in the 21st century.

"When I arrived, people were passionate about environmental sustainability on our campus but there was no organized support," she recalls.

Shortly after becoming president, she signed on as a charter member of the Presidents' Climate Leadership Commitments, formerly known as the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, and set the target date of 2037 for Agnes Scott to be carbon neutral.

Since then, the college has reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent, diverted over 60 percent of waste from landfills, installed a quarter megawatt of solar power, established a \$1 million green revolving fund and installed geothermal HVAC systems in two renovated buildings—the LEED Gold-certified Campbell Hall, which



*Kiss in Hősök tere (Heroes' Square) in Budapest, Hungary, with first-years as part of the March 2017 Global Journeys visit to Central Europe, which was co-led by Gundolf Graml, associate professor of German and director of German studies.*

reopened in 2014, and Rebekah Scott Hall, which is scheduled to reopen this fall.

"In just a decade, thanks to great leadership from people all across campus, we've emerged as a highly respected green model for small colleges," says Kiss.

The college received a regional leadership award from Southface Institute and was a finalist for a national climate leadership award from Second Nature and the U.S. Green Building Council.

Susan Kidd '78, M.A.T. '07, executive director of the Center for Sustainability, says, "Everything that Agnes Scott has accomplished in sustainability traces back to President Kiss' leadership. Without her taking risks, raising funds and inspiring us all with her unwavering commitment, our carbon footprint would be bigger and our students would be less informed about these critical global issues. She's got the greenest heart on campus."

Beyond campus, Kiss has also filled leadership roles with several national higher education associations, serving on the Steering Committee of the Climate Leadership Network and chairing the board of the Women's College Coalition, the Association of Presbyterian Colleges and Universities and the Atlanta Regional Council for Higher Education.

Carmen Ambar, the new president of Oberlin College and past president

of Cedar Crest College, a women's college in Pennsylvania, served with Kiss on the board of the Women's College Coalition for nearly a decade.

"Elizabeth has always been a change agent on her own campus. She is also one of those folks who responds to national issues and challenges, someone people look to when discussing industry disruption," says Ambar. "She has vision and direction, but she is also a kind person who is respected and gives

respect. We need more people like her in leadership."

#### CHERISHING THE MEMORIES

When asked about her most cherished memories of her time at Agnes Scott, Kiss responds, "At the heart of my most memorable experiences is connecting with the members of this incredible community—everything from having impromptu conversations with students in the quad to meeting Pat Butler, class of 1928 and one of the first women to appear before the U.S. Supreme Court, when she was 100 years old."

One of her most extraordinary encounters was when Gay Johnson McDougall '69x, H'10 the first African-American student to enroll at the college, returned to campus.

"Presenting her with an honorary degree and seeing the students who are African-American, Latina and LGBTQ+ stand up and publicly thank her for opening the door they have walked through was an unforgettable highlight. There wasn't a dry eye in the room."

Kiss describes another special memory from last spring, when she traveled to Hungary with a group of first-year students as part of SUMMIT, returning to her homeland for the first time in 15 years.

"We sat down with Dr. Janos Horvath, a 95-year-old member of

the Hungarian Parliament, who had been imprisoned by both the Nazis and the Communists alongside my dad,” she recalls.

“To be able to share that moment with Dr. Horvath with Agnes Scott students was immensely powerful.”

She also mentioned her nostalgia for the sense of community that emerged from working with the faculty and the leadership team on SUMMIT.

“There is such a connection when you are doing important work together,” she says. “I will always remember the exhilarating feeling of building a movement.”

### PASSING THE BATON

When she thinks back on the early days of her presidency at Agnes Scott, President Kiss remembers how her predecessor, Mary Brown Bullock '66, made it clear that she wanted Kiss to succeed.

“She gave me a copy of Jim Collins’ book *Good to Great* with a note that said, ‘You can do it.’ I always felt I could call her with questions, but she never hovered. I wanted to build on her legacy. And now I want to do the same for my successor, President-elect Lee Zak—give her as much support as I can through the transition and then get out of the way.”

Kiss is leaving a strong foundation for success for the ninth president of Agnes Scott to build on, one made possible by the powerful commitment and dedication her husband, Jeff Holzgreffe, and her closest staff have witnessed over the years.

“Her days started at 5 a.m. and ended no earlier than 7 p.m. and usually 8 or 9 p.m.,” says Holzgreffe. “She is constantly on the



Throughout her time at Agnes Scott College, Kiss has been a frequent guest of NPR’s local Atlanta station WABE 90.1 FM, appearing on its news show “Closer Look.” In a final interview with host Rose Scott, Kiss discussed her career at the college and next steps. Photo courtesy of WABE

road, creating and maintaining these personal ties. She has served on every important education board in the country and helped get Agnes Scott national recognition for her insights on challenges and opportunities in higher education. She has kept this up for 12 years, which is an extraordinary testament to her commitment to the college.”

This passionate investment in the college made leaving Agnes Scott challenging for her, but the decision to step down was driven by President Kiss’ sense that it was a good time to pass the baton “both personally and institutionally.” The college was in a good position to attract a strong, innovative leader, and she was ready to figure out her next challenge as a leader and entrepreneur.

England. Her new role leading the world’s premier postgraduate scholarship program will give her the opportunity to promote ethical, public-spirited leadership on a global scale, working with Rhodes Scholars from 64 countries. She views it as a natural continuation of the vision for global leadership development she forged through SUMMIT. And she also hopes it will produce benefits for Agnes Scott.

“I am thrilled at the thought that my new role may inspire more Scotties to apply for the Rhodes and other prestigious global fellowships in the future,” she says.

As she anticipates the new challenges and exciting opportunities that await her and her husband, Jeff, at Oxford and beyond, Kiss will be carrying a special treasure with her wherever she journeys.

“A part of my heart will always be at Agnes Scott. I will forever be a Scottie,” she says, smiling.



On Nov. 13, 2017, Kiss was invited to moderate Hillary Clinton Live for the Atlanta stop on former Secretary Clinton’s H’05 North America book tour for her memoir, *What Happened*.

# The Elizabeth Kiss SUMMIT Directorship: *Honoring a Legacy Through Philanthropy*

By Erin Zellmer



“Agnes Scott is a magical place, and it has been an honor and a joy to work alongside you to advance our powerful mission to educate women to ‘think deeply, live honorably and engage the intellectual and social challenges of their time.’”

PRESIDENT ELIZABETH KISS

She has attended countless alumnae events, traveled thousands of miles and hugged hundreds of necks. She has paved the way for innovation at this beloved institution. She has been a fearless leader and Scottie sister.

Thanks to the strong and visionary leadership of President Elizabeth Kiss, Agnes Scott has strategic momentum and a growing national reputation as a dynamic and innovative institution. SUMMIT is going strong, an exciting portfolio of graduate programs has launched, and a Welcome Center in the renovated Rebekah Scott Hall is scheduled to open in fall 2018.

“We have seen extraordinary impacts from SUMMIT,” says Kiss. “We once again have record-breaking retention this year, with 87 percent of first-year students returning for their sophomore year; we have 50 upperclass students participating this year in a pilot career mentorship program; and, as I love to include, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* called SUMMIT ‘perhaps the best-known signature experience program in the country.’”

To honor these achievements and more, Agnes Scott has established an endowment to provide financial support for the SUMMIT director position. The college invites alumnae and friends who wish to honor Kiss’ legacy through philanthropy to make a gift to the Elizabeth Kiss

SUMMIT Directorship. Every dollar contributed to this fund will provide budget-relieving support to the college and ensure that SUMMIT continues to provide a unique and focused educational experience centered on global learning and leadership development. All gifts made to the Kiss SUMMIT Directorship may be pledged over a period up to five years, and donors will be recognized in the SUMMIT offices.

“Elizabeth shepherded SUMMIT from a vague idea into an intricate curriculum with inspiring reverberations across the entire campus,” says Gundolf Graml, associate professor of German, director of German studies and chair of French and German at Agnes Scott. “The design and implementation of SUMMIT truly took an entire campus, but it would not have been possible without Elizabeth leading this transformation, guided by the college’s liberal arts mission and its core values of justice, courage and integrity.”

**Honor President Kiss’ legacy with a gift that will directly support the SUMMIT vision that she made a reality. To make your gift today or to learn more, visit [agnesscott.edu/giving/kiss.html](http://agnesscott.edu/giving/kiss.html).**

# EMBODYING THE MISSION:

## THOUGHTS ON PRESIDENT KISS' LEADERSHIP

No one has more passionately supported Agnes Scott College's mission to educate women to think deeply, live honorably and engage the intellectual and social challenges of their times than President Elizabeth Kiss throughout her 12 years of service at the college. Members and friends of the Agnes Scott community share how she has reflected each of the three powerful pillars of the college's mission in her leadership.

# Live Honorably

"For more than a decade, I have had the honor of witnessing firsthand Elizabeth's steadfast commitment to educational equity. Through her leadership, the Division of Enrollment has successfully established partnerships with outstanding organizations such as the Posse Foundation, the MasterCard Foundation and Golden Door Scholars. Her dedication to this is evident in the role she has played in working to bring to campus academically gifted students who might not have otherwise had access to Agnes Scott. She has advocated not only for these types of partnerships at an institutional level but also at the state and national levels. **To Agnes Scott College, Elizabeth Kiss will leave a legacy of honor, service and moral fortitude that will resonate within our student body and the greater community for generations to come.**"

*Alexa Wood Gaeta '98, Vice President for Enrollment and Dean of Admission*

"I've never witnessed anyone else display President Kiss' degree of integrity and authenticity. It's all too easy for leaders to present different faces to different constituencies, to perform different versions of themselves in different contexts. President Kiss does not do this. **Regardless of whom she's interacting with—be it an anxious first-year student, an august alumna, a vocal faculty member or a famous speaker—she is always her one, whole, true self.**"

*Lara Denis, Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Ethics Program*

"Elizabeth is the embodiment of living honorably. In her policy work, I observed her work diligently on social justice issues specifically related to gun violence and DACA students. **She held fast to her deeply rooted calling for justice in a climate that was often hostile to her position.** That's living honorably. Elizabeth is distinguished among her presidential colleagues as an effective leader who is compassionate and approachable and who has impeccable integrity. It has been one of my great professional joys to work alongside such a remarkable, honorable leader."

*Susanna L. Baxter, President, Georgia Independent College Association*

"There's an old proverb that says a society grows great when people 'plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in.' Elizabeth Kiss is one of these people, and the trees she's planted will provide shade for thousands who have been touched by her strength, her generosity and her passion for education—and life. **The effervescence she demonstrates as a leader is matched only by the integrity and compassion that define her as a person.** It is an honor to know her and a privilege to learn from her."

*Jeffrey Arnold, Executive Director, Association of Presbyterian Colleges and Universities*





**“It is rare to find a bold and original thinker with a practical nous and the will and energy needed to realize her ideas, especially at the head of an institution dedicated to long-standing fundamentals of liberal arts education—rarer still for that thinker to find in such a domain an audience receptive to what are for it unfamiliar, and sometimes unwelcome, ideas.** But it is the rarest of occurrences for that thinker and leader to have the qualities necessary to persuade—and indeed to persuade and inspire—those harnessed to the day-to-day affairs of the institution she leads to implement those ideas and inject thrilling new life into a languishing environment. Elizabeth Kiss exemplifies such a leader and, what is more, has accomplished all this with unshakeable intellectual integrity, unflinching tact, remarkable good cheer and humility.”

**Waqas Khwaja, *Ellen Douglass Leyburn Professor of English***

“While living honorably includes ethics and honesty, it also includes building relationships with people. **President Kiss has made huge contributions not only to Agnes Scott College through her innovative leadership but also to Scotties individually by attending their sporting events, concert performances and recitals and by remembering specific details she may have heard the first time she met them.** President Kiss doesn’t cut corners when it comes to the time and energy she has given to the college, and we’ve seen it consistently in her 12 years of service. This is one of the many reasons why we will miss her. President Kiss has lived honorably for Agnes Scott in these ways, and will no doubt continue to do so in all avenues of her life.”

**Karina Leung '18, *Student Government Association President***

“Elizabeth has been an inspiring embodiment of the mission statement of Agnes Scott. I don’t think I’ve ever witnessed her answering a question or providing insight that wasn’t the result of deep thought. During the development of SUMMIT, she enjoyed assembling a large group of people from different constituencies to bounce around ideas. She would rest her hand under her chin, furrow her brow and consider all the viewpoints expressed, with an audible ‘Hmmm.’ **Her ability to synthesize truckloads of information and communicate the essence of her deductions clearly was marvelous and was a great model for Agnes Scott of ‘thinking deeply.’”**

**Douglas A. Fantz, *Associate Professor of Chemistry***

# Think Deeply

“President Kiss’ initial commitment to make sure the campus is as sustainable as possible has become a much greater commitment to be part of the global movement to address climate change. Her leadership on this issue, which she defines as one of the most pressing global issues that our students will face in their lifetimes, is based on her background in ethics. **She thinks deeply about what it means to be sustainable, and from her perspective, the right to a world without the detrimental effects of climate change is a human right.**

“Because of her leadership in sustainability, Agnes Scott has received national attention—both in terms of creative efforts to finance and implement a strategy to decrease the use of fossil fuel energy and in terms of educating students who will demand sustainable choices while they are here and once they leave Agnes Scott.”

**Susan Kidd '78, M.A.T. '07, *Executive Director of the Center for Sustainability***

# Engage

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"President Kiss spent every moment of her tenure creating a space for Scotties to engage the social and intellectual challenges paramount to our diverse communities. She took the time to become familiar with each of us, not merely by name, but by our passions and strengths. In doing so, she came to know what we truly cared about and ushered in an era at Agnes Scott of innovative problem-solving, student leadership and bold activism.

"While she surely championed causes dearest to her heart (e.g., fighting against human trafficking, preserving the rights of international students, equal opportunity education for women), to me it is even more admirable that she spent so much time and effort supporting causes that did not affect her directly. **She is leaving behind a legacy of selfless leadership and has instilled in generations of Scotties the desire to reach outside of their comfort zones and lend a hand to a fellow human being in our continual push toward equity.**"

*Amira Daugherty '20, Sophomore Class President and Student Government Association Executive Board Parliamentarian*

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# Social Challenges of Their Times

"More than a few intellectual and social challenges have come Elizabeth's way during her remarkable presidency, and I have watched her take hold of each with a firm hand, a clear eye and an unwavering moral compass. The strong stand Elizabeth has taken on protecting and sustaining the environment stands out particularly to me. With so many competing and urgent campus and global concerns, many might have put this on a back burner. Instead, Elizabeth led the campus community through innovative programs and strategies and set goals for campus carbon neutrality by 2037, pioneered the use of renewable energy by installing solar power and geothermal systems, promoted energy efficiency through the establishment of the \$1 million Green Revolving Fund, established LEED certification as the standard for campus building and renovation, integrated climate leadership and sustainable development into SUMMIT, and committed early to the global climate change and, more recently, to the 'We Are Still In' coalition of support for the Paris Climate Accord.

**"Elizabeth has provided the best kind of role model for students as they navigate a perplexing world—that is, to be alert to wrongs, identify proactive solutions, take action and bring others along with you."**

*Ann Glendinning '68, Trustee*

# Intellectual, and

"President Kiss is an outstanding example of intellectual and personal commitment to 'engage the intellectual and social challenges of [her] times' in her continuing support of those who find themselves as politically voiceless. The daughter of a Hungarian immigrant who had a notable role in the Hungarian Uprising of 1956, she knows secondhand the impact of choosing activism as a means of triggering sociopolitical transformations in the face of stringent governmental policies. Indeed, it is not surprising that as the daughter of political refugees Elizabeth became an ally of "Dreamers," our own Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients on campus, struggling to deal with the prospective political consequences after derogation of this policy this year.

**"Through open letters to the Agnes Scott community and op-ed pieces, Elizabeth bravely expressed dissenting views calling for more humane treatment of this youthful population, many of whom are outstanding scholars and rising professionals committed to the well-being of our nation.** Unknown to many at the college, Elizabeth often met with our Dreamers, lending them a shoulder to cry on and procuring professional help when needed. What a great example to follow: a well-rounded intellectual who is committed to transformative change and an activist citizen clearly attuned to the challenges of our times leading to social justice."

**Rafael Ocasio, Charles A. Dana Professor of Spanish**

"Elizabeth has been a wonderful colleague, collaborator and partner in the effort to support reasonable gun safety legislation at the state and national levels as well as ensure that our Dreamer students and alumni are able to continue to contribute to the health and well-being of the United States of America. **She is above everything else a woman of honor and integrity who remains committed, always committed, to doing the right thing.** I will miss her constant friendship and her amazing leadership."

**Lawrence Schall, President, Oglethorpe University**

"President Elizabeth Kiss has personified in her leadership and personal life the Agnes Scott mission to engage the intellectual and social challenges of her times. **She has been a national voice of conscience and action on the key moral, cultural and policy issues facing higher education: free speech on campus, Title IX support for women, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and opposition to pending tax changes before Congress that would deeply damage private colleges and universities and the students they serve.**

"During my eight years on the Agnes Scott Board of Trustees, and Elizabeth's three years on the board of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, I have witnessed her extraordinary conviction, deep commitment and relentless passion for seeking the highest good for our institutions and our lives. Through her ideas and actions, Elizabeth Kiss has modeled the mission of Agnes Scott College."

**David Warren, President, National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and Trustee Emeritus**

# Moments and Memories



As a Davidson College undergraduate, Kiss demonstrated strong academic promise and was a recipient of the college's Edward Crossland Stuart Scholarship. Pictured are the Stuart Scholars enrolled in 1983; Kiss is back row, third from the left. Photo courtesy of Davidson College Archives, Davidson College



In 1983, Elizabeth Kiss was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship, one of the most competitive and prestigious academic scholarships in the world. An outdoor enthusiast, she rowed for Balliol College in the University of Oxford's Torpids 1984 bumps race. Photo courtesy of Jeff Holzgreffe



From 1996 to 2006, Kiss was the Nannerl O. Keohane Director of the Kenan Institute for Ethics, which she co-founded, and an associate professor of the practice of political science and philosophy at Duke University. Photo courtesy of Duke University



In attendance at Kiss' inauguration on April 20, 2007, were two especially proud people—her loving and supportive mother, Eva (center), and sister, Barbara (right).



Each August on Move-In Day, new Scotties and their families have been delighted to see the college's president driving one of the golf carts from the parking deck to the residence halls.



Kiss walks with Tawana Lee Ware '96 and Ware's daughter, Nysia, during the 2013 Alumnae Weekend. Each April during Alumnae Weekend, Kiss enjoyed reconnecting with Scotties of all class years from around the globe.

President Elizabeth Kiss is perhaps one of the most photographed Scotties in the world, and the images of her are innumerable. In honor of her 12 years of exemplary service, here are 12 photos that capture just a small part of the spirit of the remarkable person who served as Agnes Scott College's eighth president.



Every fall, displaying her trademark energy and enthusiasm, Kiss has hiked Stone Mountain with other Scotties. In 2015, she was accompanied by mountaineer and activist Wasfia Nazreen '06 in celebration of SUMMIT's launch.



Kiss engaging with first-year students in August 2016 during the "Scotties Lead" session of Legacy: The Goizueta Foundation Leadership Immersion, which offers a foundational leadership experience spanning two days during orientation.



A passionate supporter of Scottie community causes, Kiss participated in many fundraising events, including the Lauren T. Giddings '06 Memorial 5K in April 2014.



In May 2017, Kiss celebrated the college's first graduating Posse Scholars at a reception with Deborah Bial, president and founder of the Posse Foundation (back, third from left), and Amy Lovell '90 (front, far right), professor of physics and astronomy and Posse mentor.



Kiss congratulates Sabrina Farley '20 (left) on receiving her onyx ring as Hadiya Mahmood '20 (back) looks on at the 2018 Sophomore Ring Ceremony, one of Agnes Scott's most treasured traditions.



Kiss and Board of Trustees Chair Elizabeth Daniel Holder '82 (right) hood global media leader and philanthropist Oprah Winfrey at the 2017 Commencement exercises.

Photo by Getty Images

# Scotties

Growing leaders has always been a critical part of Agnes Scott College's mission, and the college has demonstrated a strong commitment to making leadership an integral part of students' education. Since the launch of SUMMIT, there has been a strategic, intentional approach to developing essential skills in students that will prepare them to become the passionate and purposeful global leaders the world needs. It is key that this seed for leadership growth is planted from the moment they begin their educational journey at Agnes Scott.

mark and leaving a place better than you found it," says Honi Migdol, associate dean for integrative leadership and SUMMIT co-curricular programs. "We named this program Legacy because we want new students to start thinking right away about how they will create their legacies at Agnes Scott and out in the world."

The objective is for students to learn how to be leaders in a global society. In support of this learning, the college has identified five essential leadership skills that are introduced and reinforced throughout students' time at Agnes Scott: critical thinking, digital literacy, public speaking, teamwork and writing.

"These are valuable life skills to have," Migdol notes. "We are educating our students to be thoughtful, involved and engaged global citizens."

As part of SUMMIT, which is the cornerstone of this education, students are required to take a total of four classes—two each semester—in leadership and global learning during their first year. Students can choose from a variety of classes designed to give them foundational leadership skills as well as an overview of global learning.

"We have intentionally integrated leadership into the curriculum. In these classes, students are learning necessary, transferable skills that foster leadership development and global learning through the lenses of various disciplines within the liberal arts," says Migdol. "They are studying issues that plague a region, and then they will go to a city or country as a class in the spring semester for their Global Journey course. This real-world experience



*Students participating in the 2016 Legacy: The Goizueta Leadership Program experience a simulated lunch counter sit-in exhibit at The Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta, Georgia.*

The first lessons in leadership begin each August, coming right after orientation, when all members of the incoming class participate in Legacy: The Goizueta Foundation Leadership Immersion Program—a two-day immersive, experiential

leadership development program. During Legacy, new Scotties assess their leadership strengths, take on group problem-solving activities and consider how leadership fits into the global environment.

"A legacy is about making your

# Lead

## How Agnes Scott Is Educating Tomorrow's Global Leaders

By Sara Baxter



During the Explore session of the 2017 Legacy: The Goizueta Leadership Program, students gathered in groups to discuss their individual and unique leadership strengths.

reinforces everything they have learned in the classroom.”

Beyond the classroom, Agnes Scott has developed a number of cocurricular programs to help students strengthen their leadership skills from their first year through graduation, with most of these programs planned and hosted by the college's Gué Pardue Hudson Center for Leadership and Service, which was established in 2016.

“The purpose of the center is to provide a myriad of opportunities for leadership and diverse experiences based on students' needs,” says Karen Goff, vice president for student affairs and dean of students. “It becomes the hub to find those leadership opportunities, both big and small.”

In addition to offering a number of workshops and service projects for students, the center also hosts programming, including:

- Legacy Leaders Program – a three-year, cohort-based leadership development program that helps students further develop their leadership skills.
- Insight – an intensive, weekend-long retreat that helps students identify their own leadership qualities and develop a strong sense of self.
- Peak Week – a weeklong conference-like program for upperclass students to further develop their skills in digital literacy, leadership, diversity, service and global learning.

This all-encompassing approach to cultivating the global leaders of tomorrow sets Agnes Scott apart from other women's colleges.

“We're hoping to make Agnes Scott distinctive among the other colleges,” says Migdol. “We want students to be excited and proud

of their experiences: we want them to be equipped with what they need to go out and change the world.”

“I hope we become a model in higher education in terms of excellence in leadership,” adds Goff. “We've set a high standard, and other schools can learn from our programs.”



Honi Migdol, associate dean for integrative leadership and SUMMIT co-curricular programs (left), meets with Karen Goff, vice president for student affairs and dean of students (right).



Honi Migdol, associate dean for integrative leadership and SUMMIT co-curricular programs, catches up with students in the common area of the Gué Pardue Hudson Center for Leadership and Service in Alston Campus Center.

### Amber Kidd '19

*English Major*

#### How do you define leadership?

"I define leadership as taking care of people while all working toward a common goal. When I'm leading, I always want the people I'm working with to feel heard and valued. I don't ever want to sacrifice compassion for people just to get a job done. Leadership, for me, is about finding that balance."

#### What class or program taught you the most about leadership?

"While I learned a lot about leadership in theory in Legacy and LDR classes my first year, nothing made me truly feel like a leader quite like being an orientation and Legacy leader did. I got to practice what I've learned, in and out of class; work with other campus leaders; and make wonderful connections with our new group of Scotties. I was pushed outside of my comfort zone at times, but I grew so much, and I would not be half the leader I am now without that experience."

### Samiha Ross '20

*Anthropology Major/Human Rights and History Minor*

#### How do you define leadership?

"Leadership is innately different to each person. I believe a leader should have respect for the people they are leading, have the ability to communicate well and be unafraid to ask questions. Most of all, leaders should be passionate about whatever they are participating in."

#### What have you learned about leadership since being at Agnes Scott?

"I used to believe that a leader had to be the most outspoken person in the room, but I have learned that there is no one definition of how to be the perfect leader. It's about how you look at yourself and your willingness to learn and challenge yourself for the better. I believe that being a leader has a lot to with learning from the people around you. This is especially true when it comes to participating in leadership events at Agnes Scott. Being a

Legacy leader taught me to facilitate interesting conversations, bridging connections between individuals while stepping out of my own comfort zone. At the end of the day, I have learned that to be a successful leader, you have to come up with your definitions and goals that fit who you are as a person."

### Maya Brooks '17

*History Major/Music Minor*

#### How do you define leadership?

"I define leadership as being willing to step up and get done what needs to get done in a way that includes everyone in the group. All voices deserve to be heard, and a leader knows how to make that happen."

#### What class or program taught you the most about leadership?

"The class that taught me the most about leadership was HIS 324: The Civil Rights Movement. We not only learned about the heroes of the movement who spoke up in a time when they were meant to be silent, but we also learned about the

# Student Voices on Leadership Lessons



leaders who did just as much but are not remembered by the common narrative of history taught in classrooms. Both types of heroes, spoken and unspoken, were important examples of how leadership can take on different forms and have a positive effect on society. This was important for me personally because I feel like I am somewhere in the middle of those types of leadership at this point in my life, and that is OK.”

**Karina Leung '18**

*Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Major/Student Government Association President*

**How do you define leadership?**

I define leadership as the ability to connect people to a common goal and guide them successfully in the direction that will help achieve this common goal. Along the path to achieving this goal, many difficult and challenging events may occur, but as a leader, it is important to be resilient, determined, persistent and adaptable.

**What class or program taught you the most about leadership?**

Being in the Student Government Association for going on three years (sophomore through senior years) has really opened my eyes to the ways in which leadership doesn't just affect the people immediately around you. It's a trickling effect that can either help or hurt so many other people, which is why taking into account so many different people's thoughts, views and opinions is so important. I also gained a lot of insight by going

to the National Student Government Association Conference in Washington, D.C., where leadership is specifically applied to SGA. Leadership culminates over a period of time; I think the biggest thing that helps develop leadership is life experiences and how you deal with those unexpected situations.

**Diona Hall '20**

*Sociology Major/Environmental Science and Sustainability Minor*

**How do you define leadership?**

“I define leadership as using your talents and skills unselfishly to benefit others. I believe it's using your seat at the table for the benefit of those who do not have the opportunity or chance that you have.”

**What difference do you want to make in the world as a leader?**

“Whatever I choose to do after graduation, I want to empower people to make a positive impact on their communities. I want to use my skills to foster and encourage positive change within marginalized communities.”



*“It's using your seat at the table for the benefit of those who do not have the opportunity or chance that you have.”*

— Diona Hall '20

AMBER

MAYA

SAMIHA

DIONA

KARINA

# Serving Up Coffee &

# HOPE

*Alumna Kitti Smith Murray '78 saw a need and fulfilled it by starting a coffee shop.*



“This is so much more than a coffee shop.”

It is an early autumn day, and the customer speaking those words wears a smile and an expression of gratitude. He is describing Refuge Coffee Co., an independent coffee shop located in downtown Clarkston, Georgia.

Coffee is served from a bright red food truck that sits in the parking lot of a former gas station. Customers can sit outside at picnic tables or can find a small table or comfortable chair inside the converted space. With its eclectic artwork and a nice assortment of odds and ends, it is not surprising to see how charmingly unique the space is from a typical coffee shop, because Refuge Coffee is anything but typical.

Those serving the coffee are from faraway places such as Ethiopia, Morocco, Eritrea and Syria, with the 11 employees speaking a total of nine languages. They are all refugees who relocated to the suburban Atlanta city of Clarkston to find a better life, and the coffee shop where they work is giving them an opportunity to do so through gaining professional experience and skills.

Leela Basnet, a new employee at Refuge Coffee whose family fled religious persecution in Bhutan many years ago, is happy for this opportunity.

“I’m enjoying all that my co-workers are teaching me. It is fun to work with people of different backgrounds, to have conversations with people from different cultures to improve my English, and to help others by interpreting,” says Basnet, who hopes one day to become an immigration lawyer.

Refuge Coffee, built with equal parts of heart and hope, is the fruition of the vision of founder and CEO Kathryn “Kitti” Smith Murray ’78. She and her husband, Bill, moved to Clarkston several years ago, and Murray found herself lamenting the fact that the city did not have a place to sit and drink coffee.

“Clarkston needed a coffee shop,” Murray says. “That’s how the idea formed. But it has turned

into something much more than we ever imagined.”

Clarkston may have lacked a place to linger over lattes, but it had no shortage of refugees. In fact, a CNN report called it “the most diverse city in America.” That’s because thousands from Africa and the Middle East have relocated to Clarkston since 2000 as part of a federal government resettlement program. An estimated 55 languages are spoken in this city with a population of about 12,000.

Seeing the need, part of Murray’s idea was to provide job training to refugees so they could earn a livable wage.

“They work with us for one year and then move on to their next steps, whatever those may be,” Murray says. “We work to fashion mentorship and next-step opportunities around their future dreams.”

The story of how the startup nonprofit came to be could be described as a true grass-roots effort. The Murrays hosted block parties to meet their neighbors and gauge interest in the idea. She talked it up to everyone she knew. And she worked to learn the basics of launching a nonprofit.

“It was a lot of hard work and long hours,” she admits. “Our director of operations and I both had eye twitches for six months.”

In May 2015, Refuge Coffee opened in Clarkston, serving coffee

from the truck two days a week. The rest of the time, the truck is deployed to catering gigs, most notably on the sets of *Stranger Things*, *Vampire Diaries*, *Baby Driver* and other movies and TV shows. Catering, Murray says, was the only way the enterprise would work financially.

“Catering was part of the equation from the beginning,” she says. “So we had job training, a coffee shop and a catering business all rolled into a nonprofit that wanted to build community in the process. It was daunting, and I still don’t know how we did it!”

Eventually, the owner of the gas station rented them the inside of the building, which Murray knew would make an ideal gathering space. They cleaned the place out, painted walls, ripped up carpet and installed comfortable seating.

The business continued to thrive. Last year, Refuge Coffee added a second truck, allowing the shop to be open six days a week. In October 2017, the nonprofit bought the building.

Originally from Nashville, Tennessee, Murray now lives just a few miles down the road from where she went to college. She arrived at Agnes Scott College in 1974 with dreams of becoming a writer. When she visited the Agnes Scott campus, she says, she immediately felt at home. She

double majored in English and creative writing and German.

She met her husband, Bill, then a student at Mercer University, while still at Agnes Scott. They married and moved to Texas, where he attended seminary. Murray worked as a receptionist at a law firm and then as a manager for an apartment complex. They eventually returned to Atlanta and raised four sons. When her youngest was in elementary school, she went back to work as a writer, and she has authored or co-authored several books.

The grandmother of eight calls herself a “hyper welcomer” and “someone who loves to talk.” These skills have been useful in making Refuge Coffee the success it is today and are apparent in how she greets by name everyone who comes in. She credits her Agnes Scott education for honing her communication skills.

“Being able to communicate and distill language to tell our story is so important,” Murray says. “I learned that at Agnes Scott; the school was where I was meant to be. I wanted to make a difference in the world, to impact people and glorify God.”

And that is just what she has done.

Learn more about Refuge Coffee Co. by visiting [refugecoffeeco.com](http://refugecoffeeco.com).

## “THIS IS SO MUCH MORE THAN A COFFEE SHOP.”



The eclectic, bright red Refuge Coffee Co. truck stands out with its eye-catching and fun design. In addition to coffee, people can purchase specialty items.



Refuge Coffee Co. employee Frezewd Teklu (right) assists Leela Basnet (left), in preparing a customer’s order.





*Handwritten signature*

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# Social Justice Entrepreneurs

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**Living all over the country and representing seven decades, these Scotties have created groups, organizations, projects, blogs and documentaries, all of which are focused on issues of social justice here and around the world.**

## **Barbara Lake Finch '59**

Home Base: St. Louis, Missouri

Organization/Project: Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice

Mission: Women's Voices is the only multi-issue social justice organization in St. Louis that is not affiliated with a religious tradition. Members of this education and advocacy organization work on access to health care, women's reproductive rights, racial justice, education and gun violence prevention. Through its "Lock It for Love" program, members gave away more than 3,000 gun locks throughout the St. Louis metro area.

For more information: [womensvoicesraised.org](http://womensvoicesraised.org) or on Facebook at Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice.



## **Diane L. Hendrix '66**

Home Base: Boston, Massachusetts

Organization/Project: Hendrix Productions/Young World Inventors

Mission: This Boston- and Nairobi-based media group is working to spread invention through the oldest form of learning: storytelling. All of the young innovators documented work to resolve local problems and increase incomes and health information access, as well as provide alternative energy, clean water and healthy food.

For more information: [youngworldinventors.com](http://youngworldinventors.com) or [africanmakersmedia.com](http://africanmakersmedia.com). To see the latest documentary project, visit [micasitadocumentary.com](http://micasitadocumentary.com).



## **Janet A. Blount '78**

Home Base: Baltimore, Maryland

Organization/Project: Careers Are Us

Mission: To increase gender and ethnic diversity in professions and trades, Careers Are Us partners with parents, schools, businesses and nonprofit organizations to introduce a variety of careers to students, beginning as early as elementary school.

For more information: [careersareus.info](http://careersareus.info)



## **Michele Shumard Ritan '82**

Home Base: Decatur, Georgia

Organization/Project: East Decatur Greenway

Mission: To create community green space and remediate environmental contamination and to build safe trails for bicycling and walking in this densely populated part of DeKalb County.

For more information: [eastdecaturgreenway.org](http://eastdecaturgreenway.org)





**Mariotta Gary-Smith '95**

Home Base: Portland, Oregon

Organization/Project: Women of Color Sexual Health Network

Mission: The Women of Color Sexual Health Network (WOC SHN) is a group of women, both domestic and international, with a focus on the sexual and reproductive health needs of women of color. The mission of this working group is to empower and include more women of color in the field of sexuality, sexology and sexual health, which is underrepresented by people of color.

For more information: [wocshn.org](http://wocshn.org) or on Facebook at Women of Color Sexual Health Network.



**Charmaine Minniefield '95**

Home Base: Decatur, Georgia

Organization/Project: The New Freedom Project

Mission: The New Freedom Project encourages creative expression, collaboration and community partnerships that use art at their center to address issues of social justice. The effort of The New Freedom Project strives to leverage resources and assets in communities in order to bring artists together with civic leaders, volunteers, arts and cultural agencies, nonprofit organizations and government entities to create meaningful change and solutions for systemic issues involving civil and human rights today.

For more information: [thenewfreedomproject.com](http://thenewfreedomproject.com) or watch the new video produced by Mercedes Benz USA on The New Freedom Project on YouTube.



**Annie Chanpong Kuo '99**

Home Base: Seattle, Washington

Organization/Project: RESOLVE Support Group for Seattle

Mission: In focusing on the complex issues of infertility, members of this organization believe that all people challenged in their family-building journey should reach their resolution by being empowered by knowledge, supported by community, united by advocacy and inspired to act.

For more information: [resolveseattle.wordpress.com](http://resolveseattle.wordpress.com) or [nbcnews.to/2JqFRiK](http://nbcnews.to/2JqFRiK) (an article produced by NBC news).



**Beth Godbee '01**

Home Base: Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Organization/Project: Heart-Head-Hands.com Blog—feeling, thinking, doing for JUSTICE

Mission: Embodied knowledge matters. So do commitments. And especially acting on commitments as part of everyday life, big and small. This blog shares ongoing efforts of feeling, thinking and doing for justice. Posts include reflections, recipes, research and resources; all seek to make sense of what it means to live a life for justice.

For more information: [heart-head-hands.com](http://heart-head-hands.com)



**Asha Boston '14**

Home Base: Brooklyn, New York

Organization/Project: The Dinner Table Documentary

Mission: Started as a film documentary to provide healthy images of women of color, The Dinner Table Doc has grown to live dinner events and media literacy workshops. The organization has been able to serve over 300 girls in the Brooklyn area of New York, and they host a summer camp centered on the perception of young women of color in media.

For more information: [thedinnertabledoc.com](http://thedinnertabledoc.com) or on Facebook at The Dinner Table Documentary. The original documentary can be found on YouTube.



*Be a Part of*  
**SUMMIT  
CAREER  
CONNECT**

Join a network of alumnae helping Agnes Scott students successfully prepare for and navigate their career journeys.

Alumnae engage with students through:

- Career Panels
- Informational Interviews
- Resume Review and Mock Interviews
- Job Shadowing and Career Treks
- SUMMIT 1:1 Career Ally Program

Agnes Scott is using CampusTap, an online platform, to connect students with alumnae for conversations about professional and career development. Visit [agnesscott.thecampustap.com](https://agnesscott.thecampustap.com) and click on "Join Now." Once registered, alumnae can easily customize how they would like to engage with students.

Contact Dawn Killenberg, director of the Office of Internship and Career Development, at [dkillenberg@agnesscott.edu](mailto:dkillenberg@agnesscott.edu) for more information.

# *giving* highlights



## The Scott-Sams House: A Historic Residence With a Bright Future

**A**fter a complete renovation, one of the most iconic structures on the Agnes Scott College campus is open for company. The Scott-Sams House, located at 312 S. Candler St., was initially built in 1883, and after renovations were completed in the fall of 2017, it is now the residence of the Agnes Scott president.

In February of this year, President Elizabeth Kiss and her husband, Jeff Holzgreffe, hosted a small group of staff, trustees and members of the Scott, Sams and Daniel families, as well as Agnes Scott President-elect Lee Zak, for a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The history of the Scott-Sams House—the second house built on S. Candler Street—can be traced along the same lines as Agnes Scott College and the community of Decatur. George Washington Scott, founder of the college and son of Agnes Irvine Scott, owned significant acreage in Decatur in the late 1800s. He sold a tract of land to his son Bucher Scott, which extended from McDonough Street on the west through the Winnona Park neighborhood on the east. Bucher built the home on a portion of that land and was, along with his family, its first resident. In addition to succeeding his father as president





## FACTS ABOUT THE HOME

Bucher Scott's wife, Marie Louise Winn Scott, gave birth to six children (five boys and a girl) in the house.

As the family grew, the house was enlarged with the addition of bedrooms upstairs and down, and a kitchen attached to the house; the side and back porches were connected, and the back stairway was removed.

The original dining room table, which was built for the room, remains in the house. Many interesting people have eaten at the table, including Dr. Frank Henry Gaines, the first president of Agnes Scott; George Washington Scott and Rebekah Bucher Scott; Dr. James Ross McCain, the college's second president; and almost all of the Candler relatives from Decatur.

Dr. Joseph Roberts, who succeeded Rev. Martin Luther King Sr. as pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, was a frequent guest of the family for meals.



*President Elizabeth Kiss and Trustee Ann Glendinning '68, chair of the Environment and Facilities Committee, cut the ribbon during a ceremony to acknowledge the Scott-Sams House as the new residence of the president of Agnes Scott. Others present include (left to right) President-elect Leocadia "Lee" I. Zak, Elizabeth Daniel Holder '82, Rev. Lib McGregor Simmons '74, Rev. Dr. Phil Noble and Betty Scott Noble '71.*

of The George W. Scott Investment Company & Scottdale Mills, Bucher was the developer of the Winnona Park community and a trustee of the college.

Agnes Scott is delighted to have the Scott-Sams House as the new president's residence and is grateful to the generous donors who have made the restoration possible thus far.

**To be a part of this historic project or to inquire about naming a room in the home, please contact Elizabeth Wilson, associate vice president for development, at 404.471.6401 or [ewilson@agnesscott.edu](mailto:ewilson@agnesscott.edu).**

**TO LEARN MORE** about the Scott-Sams House and view photos from the ribbon cutting, visit [agnesscott.edu/giving/scott-sams-ribbon-cutting.html](http://agnesscott.edu/giving/scott-sams-ribbon-cutting.html).



# CHANGE THE FUTURE WITH YOUR LEGACY GIFT

Your Agnes Scott didn't offer immunology, politics of the European Union, or international finance. But as the world continues to bring new challenges, Agnes Scott continues to provide the education needed to meet them.

You can help, with your legacy gift. Made through your will, your IRA or a gift that provides you with lifelong income, your legacy could help a Scottie create positive change in a challenging future.

**TO MAKE YOUR LEGACY GIFT**, contact Lee Davis, director of legacy giving, at 404.471.5448 or [ldavis@agnesscott.edu](mailto:ldavis@agnesscott.edu).

[agnesscott.edu/giving/legacy-giving](https://agnesscott.edu/giving/legacy-giving)

JOIN AGNES SCOTT COLLEGE IN CELEBRATING PRESIDENT ELIZABETH KISS' LEGACY BY SHARING YOUR STORIES AND PHOTOS OF HER FROM OVER THE YEARS ON SOCIAL MEDIA USING THE HASHTAG:

# #AKISSGOODBYE





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# Agnes Engage

Agnes Scott College's new Agnes Engage programs offer summer **youth camps** for middle and high school students as well as **continuing education** courses for adults pursuing varied interests and programs that meet their unique needs. From pre-college to postgraduate opportunities for academic enrichment and intellectual exploration, Agnes Engage has much to offer.

[agnesscott.edu/agnesengage](http://agnesscott.edu/agnesengage)



**THE RETURN OF  
REBEKAH SCOTT HALL**

One of the college's beloved historic buildings gets a new look and life.

**GOING GREEN**

Agnes Scott provides an update on its journey to climate neutrality.

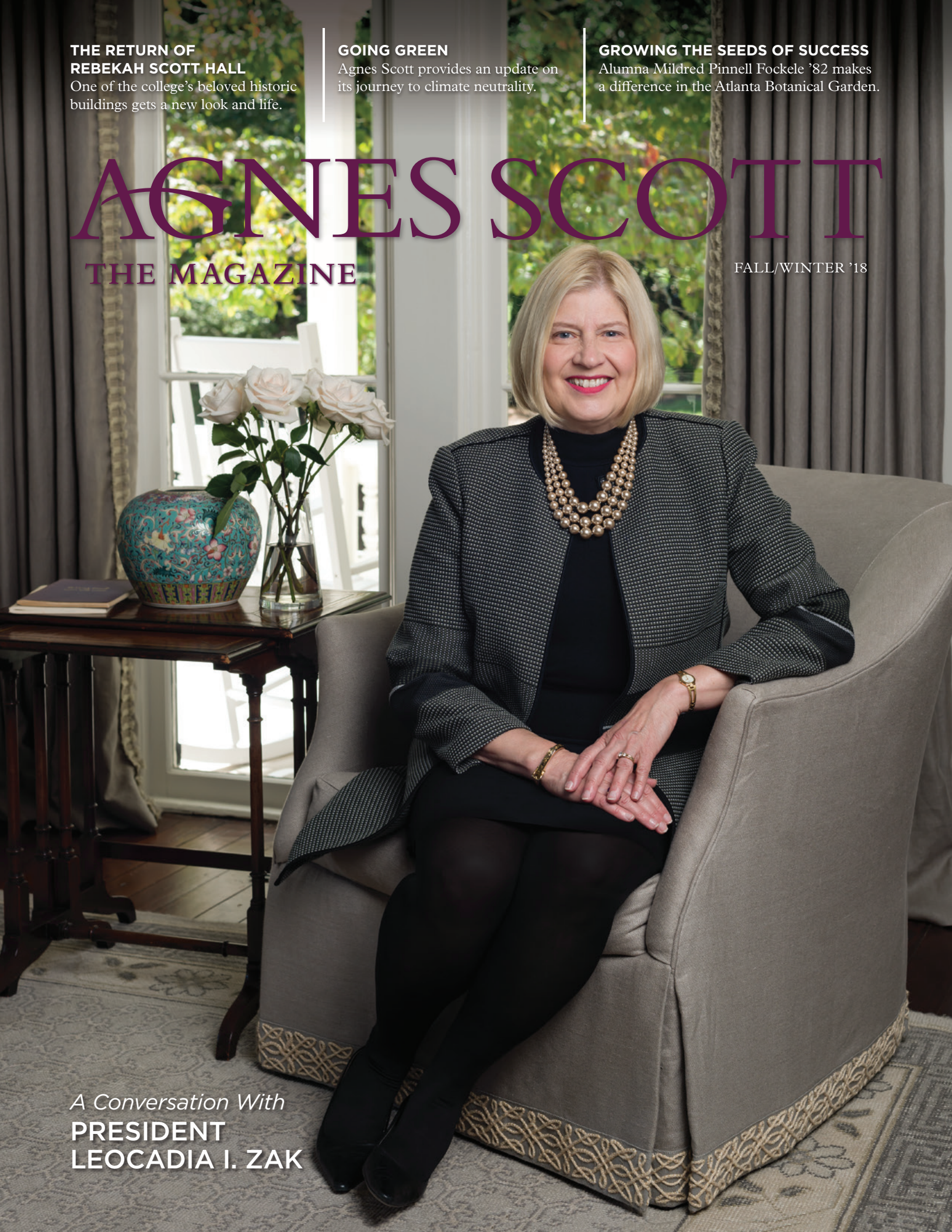
**GROWING THE SEEDS OF SUCCESS**

Alumna Mildred Pinnell Fockele '82 makes a difference in the Atlanta Botanical Garden.

# AGNES SCOTT

THE MAGAZINE

FALL/WINTER '18



*A Conversation With*  
**PRESIDENT  
LEOCADIA I. ZAK**

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*President Leocadia I. Zak with first-  
year students for Legacy: The Goizueta  
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held at the Center for Civil and Human  
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Photo courtesy of Gianni Rodriguez '17

# SUMMIT Making a Difference

## Agnes Scott College Proudly Celebrates Its 2019 *U.S. News & World Report* “Best Colleges” Rankings

SUMMIT, our college’s signature approach to a liberal arts education focused on global learning and leadership development, has been transformative for Agnes Scott and has helped the college receive national recognition. Our 2019 *U.S. News & World Report* “Best Colleges” rankings reflect our academic excellence, and we are honored to see this excellence recognized on a national stage. As one of the premier institutions in the country, Agnes Scott is truly leading everywhere.

See the story on Agnes Scott’s rankings on page 5, and learn more about SUMMIT by visiting [summit.agnesscott.edu](http://summit.agnesscott.edu).

**No. 1** Most Innovative School

**No. 2** Best Undergraduate Teaching

**No. 1** Social Mobility

**No. 23** Best Value Schools

**No. 51** Best National Liberal Arts

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## Presidential Transitions



As President Leocadia I. Zak begins her inaugural year, she stands on the shoulders of eight previous presidents, inheriting their institutional legacies and challenges. I have been fortunate to know all but one of these presidents and have often reflected on their individual and cumulative legacies. Each brought distinctive new perspectives

even as they preserved the college's core values.

Lee most immediately succeeds Elizabeth Kiss (2006-2018), whose transformative leadership and signature academic initiative, SUMMIT, garnered national recognition and boosted Agnes Scott's first-year enrollment this year to 324 students. Fortuitously, Agnes Scott was prepared for internationalization and diversity by the presidency of Ruth Schmidt (1982-1994), Agnes Scott's first female president. Global Awareness programs began under Schmidt, who also led the recruitment of a more diverse student body.

The recent enrollment success is also part of a longer story. In the early 1970s, when men's colleges went coed, women's colleges faced a crisis of confidence. Marvin Perry (1973-1982) was recruited to be Agnes Scott's fourth president, bringing a background in enrollment from the University of Virginia. Perry introduced merit-based scholarships, a strategy that has continued to bring high-achieving young women to Agnes Scott.

The legacy of academic excellence can be traced directly to Frank Gaines (1889-1923), Agnes Scott's first president. His vision of a women's college in the South of the highest academic standards has guided the institution throughout its history. He also bequeathed to the college and his successors its motto from 2 Peter 1:5: "... support your faith with goodness, and goodness with knowledge ..."

Like Kiss, Wallace Alston (1951-1973) was known as the students' president: He could address us by name upon our arrival. He was also deeply committed to the academic enterprise, significantly increasing academic offerings and hiring strong faculty, many of whom were women, and forming close intellectual relationships with them.

Both Frank Gaines and James Ross McCain (1923-1951) were builders and fundraisers. Our movie-ready campus—including Main, Rebekah, Inman, Buttrick, Presser, Evans and Campbell halls, McCain Library and the Bradley Observatory—was designed and constructed under their leadership. I was fortunate to also preside over a new building era, bringing a new campus center and science building online and designing a freestanding chapel. But it never ends. While Kiss renovated Campbell

and Rebekah, Lee inherits the huge challenge of renovating our first iconic building, Main, and establishing an ongoing maintenance plan for these gorgeous aging facilities. Increased enrollment, long sought, will bring the need for new residence space—not to mention the need to upgrade Winship and Walters.

All of Agnes Scott's presidents have faced financial challenges, and most have mounted funding campaigns of one kind or another. McCain's courtship of Frances Winship Walters was legendary: Her transformational endowment bequest in 1954 of \$4.5 million made Agnes Scott's endowment the envy of similar liberal arts colleges. Kiss' successful \$116 million campaign introduced the college to new donors and new generations of alumnae donors. Lee will build on that legacy as she continues the yeoman fundraising required of a college president. Who will be the next Frances Winship Walters?

Interim president Sally Mahoney (1994-1995) celebrated student and faculty accomplishments, fostering the warm and receptive community that I inherited. At a time of presidential transition, trustees, faculty, staff and students all play an important role in preparing for a new era.

During this past year, Elizabeth Daniel Holder '82, chair of the Agnes Scott Board of Trustees, led a comprehensive and inclusive selection process and put an exciting transition plan into place. We welcome Lee and her husband, Ken Hansen, both of whom have embraced this community from the moment Lee's appointment was announced. Lee has a distinguished reputation as a leader in international affairs and as an innovative advocate for women's leadership. She will build upon her inherited legacy but look for new ideas, for President Lee Zak's task is to lead us into the future.

— Mary Brown Bullock '66

*Mary Brown Bullock '66 is an alumna, trustee and president emerita of Agnes Scott College (1995-2006). After leaving the Agnes Scott presidency, she pursued her long-standing interest in China and U.S.-China relations, publishing three books, teaching at Emory University and most recently serving as founding executive vice chancellor of Duke Kunshan University in Kunshan, China. When they are not traveling, she and her husband, George, live in Decatur, Georgia. Their son, Graham, is a professor at Davidson College, and their daughter, Ashley, practices clinical psychology in Charleston. They have four grandsons.*

# main *news*

## Agnes Scott Rises in *U.S. News & World Report* Rankings



Agnes Scott College is ranked No. 1 in the country among national liberal arts colleges on the Most Innovative Schools list in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2019 edition of "Best Colleges," which was released this fall.

"We are incredibly excited to be named the No. 1 Most Innovative School. With its focus on global learning and leadership development, SUMMIT has redefined a liberal arts education, offering students a unique academic experience that sets them on the path of success in their careers and in the world," says President Leocadia I. Zak. "SUMMIT has been truly transformative for Agnes Scott, and as we continue to rise in the rankings, we are proud to be recognized as one of the premier institutions in the country."

The Most Innovative Schools ranking identifies "schools that the public should be watching because of the cutting-edge changes being made on their campuses." It is based on a peer assessment survey in

which college presidents, provosts and admissions deans nominate up to 15 colleges or universities "that are making the most innovative improvements in terms of curriculum, faculty, students, campus life, technology or facilities."

Julia King '22 was immediately drawn to Agnes Scott's SUMMIT curriculum, seeing it as the perfect way to prepare herself for the ever-changing world. "The biggest thing that helped me during my college search was finding schools that had programs that excited me; for me, that was SUMMIT," she says. "In every part of my journey through SUMMIT, my education will be given thought and care. As a conscientious learner, I appreciate this concept."

Agnes Scott was also ranked second nationally for Best Undergraduate Teaching, which recognizes institutions where faculty have a strong commitment to undergraduate teaching.

"The students are why we are here, and no one understands this

more than Agnes Scott's faculty, who are models of teaching excellence," says Zak. "They care deeply about their work and are invested in their role of shaping tomorrow's leaders, thinkers and game changers. Their passion, creativity and dedication foster the inspired and effective teaching happening in our classrooms."

Agnes Scott climbed in the *U.S. News* Best National Liberal Arts Colleges rankings, placing No. 51, ten spots higher than last year, while remaining among the top 25 Best Value Colleges. The college also ranked No. 1 among national liberal arts colleges that promote social mobility, improving its overall ranking by 10 places as one of the "strongest performers."

Additionally, Agnes Scott is recognized as an outstanding example of all eight "Academic Programs to Look For," which *U.S. News* believes lead to student success. These are: First Year Experience, Internships/Co-ops, Learning Communities, Senior Capstone, Service Learning, Study Abroad, Undergraduate Research/Creative Projects and Writing in the Disciplines.



*Li Qi, professor of economics, discusses economic development with students.*





*Agnes Engage offers a selection of engaging and enriching youth camps for students, including (clockwise from left) the Atlanta Chamber Festival, Fugees Literacy Camp and STARTALK: Chinese and Turkish Language Program.*

## Agnes Engage Youth Programs Continue to Grow

While summer camps and conferences may not be new to Agnes Scott College, college leadership has been excited about expanding opportunities for collaborations that engage youth and adults during the summer months, leading to the launch of Agnes Engage last year.

“Summer opportunities offer a great service to the community and excellent exposure for college,” says Demetrice Williams, senior director of special events and community relations. “This year proudly boasts 100 percent repeat business from last summer as well as four new programs.”

New camps offered for middle and high school students included creative writing camps, in which

participants directed their learning toward crafting original fiction or creative nonfiction works, and academic writing camps that provided a natural practicing ground for students to strengthen their analytical and written communication skills.

Agnes Scott has also continued to host a variety of youth summer programs offering youth the opportunity to develop leadership, team building and problem-solving skills. Programs included the Duke University Talent Identification Program, the National Youth Leadership Forum: Pathways to STEM, the Atlanta Chamber Music Festival and more.

Along with the youth camps, Agnes Scott offers other summer

opportunities, including a Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Medical Program. The Women’s Bridge to Business Program, a partnership between Agnes Scott and Georgia Tech’s Scheller College of Business, is a collaborative effort to develop the business interests of college and university women.

“We’re thrilled to be sustaining our amazing partner programs and at the same time exposing youth to higher education,” says Williams. “We hope some of the students from our Agnes Engage programs will become students and eventually alumnae of Agnes Scott College.”

To learn more about Agnes Engage and other Summer at Agnes programs, visit [agnesscott.edu/summeratagnes](http://agnesscott.edu/summeratagnes).

## New Trustees Elected to Agnes Scott College's Board



New Agnes Scott College Board of Trustees members Joanne D. Smith (left), Douglas A. Hicks (right) and Giselle F. Martin '98 (middle).

Three new trustees have joined Agnes Scott College's board: Douglas A. Hicks, Joanne D. Smith, and Giselle F. Martin '98. Their terms began July 1, 2018.

**Douglas A. Hicks** is the dean of Oxford College of Emory University and William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Religion. As dean, he serves as the chief administrative and academic officer of Oxford College, one of the nine academic units of Emory University. He joined Oxford College from Colgate University, where he served as provost and dean of the faculty. Prior to that, Hicks was a professor of leadership studies and religion at the University of Richmond. In 2012, the State Council of Higher Education of Virginia awarded Hicks its Outstanding Faculty Award, the commonwealth's highest honor for faculty members in higher education. Hicks' scholarship focuses on leadership, religion in politics and the workplace, and the ethical dimensions of economic

issues. An ordained Presbyterian minister, Hicks holds a doctorate and a master's degree in religion from Harvard University and a master's degree in divinity from Duke University. He began his academic career at Davidson College, earning a bachelor's degree in economics.

**Joanne D. Smith** is executive vice president and chief human resources officer for Delta Air Lines. She is responsible for preserving the airline's unique culture of positive engagement with its more than 80,000 employees, overseeing talent management and development, recruitment, HR service delivery, diversity and inclusion, and HR policies and programs. Smith first joined Delta in 2002 as vice president of marketing and customer service for Song and later served as Delta's vice president of marketing. Under Smith's leadership, Delta was named one of the 2017 and 2018 Fortune 100 Best Companies to

Work For. Throughout her 30-year career in the travel industry, Smith has received numerous awards and recognitions, including 25 Power Women to Watch in Atlanta, *Advertising Age's* Top 10 Women to Watch and *Wall Street Journal's* Top Women to Watch. Smith holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from California Polytechnic State University.

Also joining the board as the Agnes Scott Alumnae Association president is **Giselle F. Martin '98**, who is the associate dean of admissions at Emory University. Martin holds a bachelor's degree in international relations from Agnes Scott and a master's degree in history and sociology of science and technology from Georgia Tech.

"I am excited to welcome Douglas, Joanne and Giselle to our Board of Trustees. They each bring a wealth of experience in their respective fields and will provide critical knowledge and perspectives that will serve to strengthen our board," says Elizabeth Daniel Holder '82, chair of the Board of Trustees. "They are arriving at an exciting time at Agnes Scott, with Leocadia I. Zak assuming the presidency in July, record enrollment this past fall and the college being named the No. 1 Most Innovative School by *U.S. News & World Report* in recognition of SUMMIT, Agnes Scott's signature approach to a liberal arts education that focuses on global learning and leadership development."

Trustees ending service on the board as of June 30, 2018, were Susan S. Hitchcock '67 and Susan A. Phillips '67. Two former trustees, along with Phillips, were honored with emerita status: former Atlanta City Councilwoman Clair M. Muller '67 and Joyce K. Essien, a physician who retired as a captain from the U.S. Public Health Service.



## Kenneth England Joins Agnes Scott as Vice President for Business and Finance

In August 2018, Kenneth England assumed the position of vice president for business and finance. His appointment came after a search process that was led by a search committee composed of trustees, faculty representatives, staff members and students. England succeeds John Hegman, who retired in August after 13 years of service.

England has a strong track record of working collaboratively with various campus constituencies to manage scarce financial resources while meeting strategic goals. He comes to Agnes Scott with 15 years of broad experience in higher education operations, having risen quickly through the ranks with increasing responsibility at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, where he began in 2003 in the university mailroom as a postal clerk and by 2016 had assumed the role of assistant dean for administration at Samford University's Cumberland School of Law.

Most recently, he served as chief financial and business officer at Corning Community College in Corning, New York. While at the community college, he led the effort to retrofit many of the campus facilities with energy-efficient components through a public-private partnership with Siemens Industry Inc. He also developed multiple strategies to ensure that the community college was more financially stable and its limited resources were utilized in the most strategic and impactful way.

"I'm pleased to have Ken join the senior leadership team at Agnes Scott," says President Leocadia I. Zak. "With his analytical and emotional intelligence, communication skills and ability to think strategically about higher education finance and administration, he will be instrumental in executing the college's strategies for growth."

England holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Samford University and a doctorate in higher education administration from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. He and his wife, Annie, have three daughters, Alexis, Addison and Annalise.

## Writing and Digital Communication Graduate Program Launches

More than 30 students, ranging in age from 22 to 70, started graduate classes in Agnes Scott College's new writing and digital communication master of arts and certificate programs. Designed to excite minds and enrich careers, the program will set these students up for professional success and positive community impact, and it is one of the few programs of its kind in the country.

While earning their master's degree or graduate certificate, students learn to develop strategic content for the web and emerging media and to think critically about the future of digital communication and its impact on the world. Through the program, they will be prepared for a variety of career fields, including digital strategy, public relations, marketing, strategy consulting, advertising and publishing.

"We are committed to providing our graduate students with the kind of education that only Agnes Scott can deliver. A core component of the curriculum is shaping digital communication to advance inclusion, courage and integrity within students' work or organization," says Shannan Palma, founding faculty director of the program.

"The currently enrolled students' interests and past experiences are vast and wide-ranging. They've chosen this program because they have a passion for writing and critical thinking, a commitment to their own professional growth and development, and a deep curiosity about how to engage with digital media practically, strategically and ethically," adds Kelly Ball, assistant dean for graduate and extended programs.

To learn more about the writing and digital graduate degree and certificate programs, email [gradadmission@agnesscott.edu](mailto:gradadmission@agnesscott.edu) or visit [agnesscott.edu/graduateprograms](http://agnesscott.edu/graduateprograms) to apply.





# Every Scottie, Every Year

It's more than just a saying. It's a commitment to college priorities—like student scholarships and faculty support—that strengthen the Agnes Scott experience. It's the driving force behind nationally recognized academic innovation. It's the difference between the status quo and the extraordinary.

Every Scottie, Every Year is the opportunity to shape the future of Agnes Scott, no matter the size of your contribution.

**Questions?** Contact Pam Cottrell, director of The Fund for Agnes Scott, at 404.471.5475 or [pcottrell@agnesscott.edu](mailto:pcottrell@agnesscott.edu).

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**AGNES SCOTT**

# faculty focus

## Learning Literacy in the Digital Era



*The Center for Digital and Visual Literacy leadership team and tutors. Top back, left to right: Reagin Turner '19; Zoe Katz '19; Vaneeta Danhoui '19; Zubaidah Farhan '21; Hadiya Mahmood '20; Nicemode Charles '21; Joann Yujung Lee '20; and Kierstynn Schulze '19. Middle, left to right: Emily Gwynn, associate director; Dancy Flanagan '20; and Amira Daughtery '19. Bottom, left to right: Lisa Jones, assistant director; Eve Barrett '21; and Rachel Rosetti, director and assistant professor of mathematics.*

As a part of SUMMIT, students create a digital portfolio—a showcase of what they learned and accomplished during their four years at Agnes Scott College. To produce their portfolios, they use digital tools, including creative computer software, audio and video recordings, interactive media and more. Using this technology may sound intimidating, but luckily, students have a resource for support.

Through the college's Center for Digital and Visual Literacy, students receive the training, guidance and tools to build their portfolios, and at the same time, they gain a critical skill—digital literacy.

“Digital literacy is the ability to identify, manage, integrate, evaluate and synthesize digital tools to effectively construct and present knowledge,” explains Rachel Rosetti, assistant professor of mathematics and director of the center. “Being digitally literate means identifying the tools you need to present or create

knowledge, gaining the skills to use the tools, and presenting the information in a way that informs and engages your audience in ways they understand.”

The center was created three years ago, with Nell Ruby, Kathy Ashe '68 and Lawrence Ashe Professor of Art, serving as its first director. The position rotates every three years, and Rosetti is in her second year as director.

Housed in McCain Library, the Center for Digital and Visual Literacy offers state-of-the-art equipment, including a classroom of computers loaded with the latest digital software, computers and tablets for individual tutoring, two film studios and an audio booth—all designed to help users create portfolios, videos and podcasts. Students are introduced to the center during their first year, when they learn how to set up their digital portfolios and receive portfolio assignments.

The center is staffed by 14 student tutors trained in digital portfolio work and in at least one other specific area. Students, faculty and staff can make appointments for class trainings and one-on-one tutoring or just drop by with specific questions.

As for her part, Rosetti enjoys the role she plays in developing students' digital literacy.

“There is a lot of really important work to be done in this area, and I have learned a lot,” she says. “I really enjoy reading and implementing the current academic research on the efficacy of this type of learning.” In addition to helping students develop digital skills, the center provides professional development opportunities for faculty and staff. Rosetti has invited experts in the field to run workshops on technology and digital learning at Agnes Scott. Grants from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Sherman-Fairchild Foundation fund the center. The Mellon grant funds the full-time assistant director position as well as the student tutors, speakers and professional development workshops. It also covers the cost for faculty and staff to present at conferences. The Sherman-Fairchild grant funded the equipment and recent renovations to the space in the library.

By fostering digital literacy, aside from helping students with their required work, Rosetti says the college is preparing students for the future and helping them gain valuable skills.

“We are committed to developing our students to be leaders and change agents in today's global environment,” she says. “Women are currently underrepresented in technical fields, so it's particularly important for women to feel empowered to engage with technology and in the process change the face of the demographics in technology-related positions.”





*Kamilah Aisha Moon in her Introduction to Poetry course.*

## The Poetry of Teaching: Nurturing the Next Generation of Writers

Kamilah Aisha Moon was an undergraduate studying journalism in 1997 at Paine College in Augusta, Georgia, when she submitted a poem to an annual contest held by a women's college she had never heard of in Decatur, Georgia. Author Pearl Cleage, the judge for that year's Agnes Scott College Writers' Festival, selected Moon's poem as the first-place winner and changed her life.

"I used the money that I won to go to my first big writing conference at NYU, and that cemented my journey as a writer. I said, 'This is what I'm supposed to be doing.' I left journalism and switched to English," says Moon.

Today, she is assistant professor of poetry and creative writing at Agnes Scott, arriving in 2017 after several years of teaching for institutions including Rutgers University, Drew University and the City University of New York system.

"It feels like things have come full circle," she observes.

Moon has taken the lesson from the validation of receiving the Writers' Festival's award more than twenty years ago to heart and strives

to bring the same encouragement to the aspiring writers in her classroom. She has found her students to be ready and eager learners.

"They're already voracious readers; they're used to rigor," she says. "I've taught at the graduate level, and here at Agnes Scott, what they're doing approaches that level, even as undergraduates."

Although her students have a serious sense of scholarship, she sometimes finds that the emphasis on testing during their high school years leaves them struggling with issues around independent thought.

"It is important to give them permission to make up their own minds, to trust their instincts about what they're reading and writing, to say these are my ideas and thoughts and my ways of approaching my work. It is great to see them get that bravery and that courage in class."

Along with doing her part to bring along the next generation of creative writers, Moon continues to work on her own poetry. In 2017, Four Way Books published her second collection, *Starshine and Clay*. Last December, on NPR's All Things Considered, poetry reviewer

Tess Taylor named the collection as one of the three books that capture American life in poetry.

"The collection is responding to some old wounds that have never healed, some old fissures that have made themselves known, especially under this new administration," Moon says.

Just as her own writing focuses on today's world, Moon's work in the classroom emphasizes the vitality and relevance of today's writers to her students.

"I have colleagues who cover from way back, Shakespearean and Victorian writers," she says. "I try to bring something from the major movements in American poetry and bring it up to today. The students are so excited about that. They say, 'We are always reading older poems, and it's so neat to see what people are doing today, to read something that is relevant to us.'"

As for what she hopes for the students in her classroom who dream of being a published writer like her, Moon says she tells them "to remember that poetry is about close observation and discovery. Keep reading widely and writing the best poems you can, and persevere even when outside validation may be scarce. Use craft to serve each poem's integrity, learning to trust your intuition about your work and as you interact with others in the publishing realm."



*Kamilah Aisha Moon with author-activist Alice Walker at a book signing after Agnes Scott's *An Evening with Alice Walker*.*

# The Best of Both Worlds

## Aina Stratton '19

**Hometown:** Lake Toxaway, North Carolina

**Major:** Business Management

**Sport:** Soccer

**Athletic Achievements:**

- Five-time Scholar-Athlete Recipient
- USA South All-Academic Team Member

### The Balancing Act of Studies and Sports

I take advantage of the free time I have by studying in between classes and waking up early in the mornings to study until my classes start. For me, it was important to figure out what part of the day I tend to focus the best, which is in the mornings. Luckily, a lot of my classes for my major are in the late afternoon, which is very helpful. In addition, I always try to get a head start on assignments whenever I have the chance.

### What It Means to Be a Scottie

Being a Scottie means to be supportive of each other, which is something I value a lot about the students at Agnes Scott. It really means a lot to the athletes whenever there is a good turnout for the games because it makes us want to play our hearts out for them, knowing people took the time to come out and support us.



### Learning About Leadership Through Athletics

Being an athlete has made me realize how important it is for everybody on the team to gain each other's trust in order to be on the same page when it comes to playing together as a team. In addition, having good communication is key for building team cohesiveness.

### My Favorite Class

My favorite class is Adaptive Leadership. The class did a great job of giving me the confidence to take on leadership roles, especially when I learned that just because a person has the authoritative status, the resources and the tools to lead, this does not make them a great leader. Instead, a great leader is one who takes action. This class had the most impact on me because I felt like a different person at the end of the class because I was able to understand how to navigate through adaptive leadership challenges, which is such an important skill to have in order to succeed in a world that is constantly changing at a rapid pace.

### Few People Know

I have been to six continents.



Agnes Scott College's student-athletes enjoy the best of both worlds. As students, they are on the same exciting college journey as their fellow Scotties, and as athletes, they participate in the competitive sports they love to play. Balancing their studies with sports is hard work, but the same determined focus they apply to scoring winning points for their teams, they apply to making the grade in the classroom. From their favorite classes to learning about leadership, student-athletes Aina Stratton '19 and Tiara White '21 talk academics, athletics and more.

## Tiara White '21

**Hometown:** Sinton, Texas

**Major:** Psychology

**Sports:** Volleyball and Softball

**Athletic Achievements:**

- 2018 Rookie of the Year for Agnes Scott College
- 2018 All-Conference for Softball
- Helped Volleyball Program to First USA South Conference Postseason Appearance

### The Balancing Act of Studies and Sports

Being an athlete is honestly my getaway from the stress that academics bring throughout the year. Playing the sports I love is the perfect distraction. Agnes Scott Athletics makes sure that academics come first, making it easy to be able to balance athletics and academics. On the other hand, the professors at Agnes Scott are very supportive and understanding when it comes to sports games. I never find myself stressed about missing a class for a game because I know that my professor will help me stay on track.

### What It Means to Be a Scottie

To be a Scottie means commitment, self-love and happiness in everything you do.

### Learning About Leadership Through Athletics

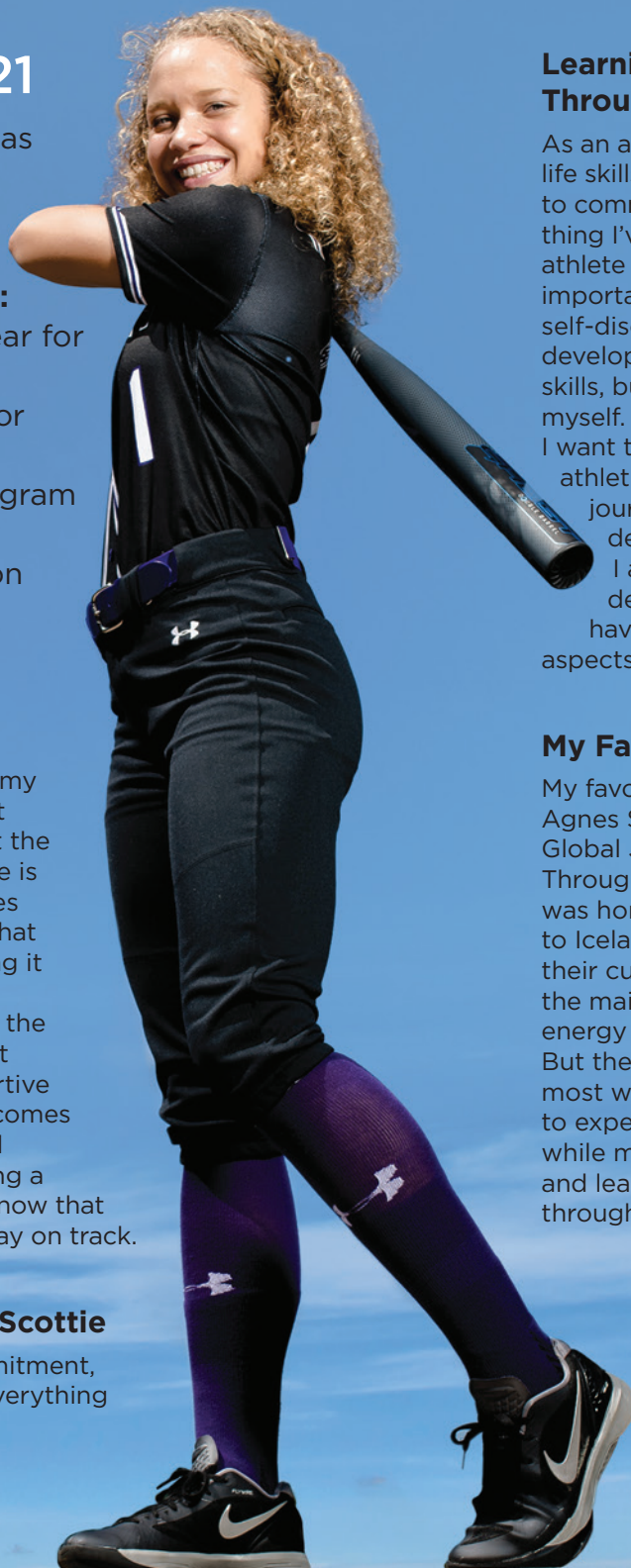
As an athlete, you learn important life skills, from time management to communication. But the best thing I've learned while being an athlete is leadership. I learned important aspects of teamwork, self-discipline, strategic development and organizational skills, but most important, I found myself. I know who I am and who I want to always be, thanks to athletics. Throughout my journey in the athletics department at Agnes Scott, I am part of a leadership development group and have learned the important aspects that a leader should have.

### My Favorite Class

My favorite class so far in my Agnes Scott journey was my Global Journeys 102 class. Throughout the global seminar, I was honored to be able to travel to Iceland and learn all about their culture while focusing on the main points—gender equity, energy and the financial crisis. But the thing I learned about most was globalization. I was able to experience traveling abroad while making friends of a lifetime and learn things that I will use throughout my career.

### Few People Know

I participate in Army ROTC at Georgia Tech.



# HIDDEN AGNES

## Unearthing Energy: *A Radiator in the Ground*

With the Rebekah Scott Hall renovation came a new greenscape, adding more than just beauty to Agnes Scott College's campus. The greenscape is a geothermal field, using the Earth's energy, or heat, to function as a heating, ventilation and air conditioning system both for heating and cooling Rebekah Scott Hall and for heating the building's domestic water. The geothermal field is the college's second, with the first one installed under the Science Quadrangle next to Campbell Hall as part of the building's 2014 renovation. As a renewable resource, the geothermal fields are environmentally friendly and cost-effective, greatly reducing emissions and requiring minimal electricity, and they are moving the college forward on its sustainability journey to climate neutrality. Read the Going Green story on page 30 to learn more.

### BOREHOLES

Drilled more than 500 feet deep are 42 boreholes that are interconnected by pipes creating a closed-loop, heat-exchanging underground system of wells that lead from beneath the greenscape into the basement of Rebekah Scott Hall. Tunneling through soil and granite, these boreholes absorb the Earth's temperature of approximately 63 degrees.



## REBEKAH SCOTT HALL BASEMENT

In the building's basement, a number of different pieces of equipment—including air circulation systems, water pumps, geothermal pumps, a heat exchanger, a hot water storage tank, and a variable-frequency drive regulating the electrical power and frequency going to the geothermal pumps—all work together as part of the geothermal system.



## GEOHERMAL PUMPS

Geothermal pumps circulate the heat from the earth to the building through the closed-loop system of the geothermal field. This continual heat transfer can be likened to what Brendan Gardes—director of energy and sustainability associate partner of Newcomb & Boyd's Consulting Engineering Group, who advised on the geothermal field—calls a “radiator in the ground.”



# The Return of Rebekah Scott Hall

*A venerable campus building is back—and better than ever*





“I would say it lacked life, and the decor was really dated.” This is how one alumna described what the inside of Rebekah Scott Hall felt and looked like, but this description is one that certainly no longer fits today. One of the most iconic buildings on Agnes Scott College’s campus has reopened this fall after completion of a \$17 million 15-month renovation project, and the transformation is impressive.

“It’s a beautiful new building that lives up to its old standards, and we’re really proud of it,” says John Hegman, Agnes Scott’s former vice president for business and finance, who was charged with overseeing the renovation on behalf of the college. Hegman retired from Agnes Scott in August 2018 after 13 years of service.

Opened in 1906 and named for the wife of the college’s founder, George Washington Scott, Rebekah Scott Hall is the second-oldest building on Agnes Scott’s campus and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Throughout its history, the building has been a mixed-use space, most recently housing students on the top two floors. On the first floor were the enrollment division, the office of the vice president for college advancement, development offices and the Katharine Woltz Reception Room. Inside its historic halls and walls, Rebekah Scott Hall surely holds many interesting stories and fond memories, and over the past 100-plus years, it has faithfully served the college well in spite of its cracks and creaks—but these years eventually took their toll. While there was an earlier renovation in 1986 and necessary repairs have been made continually since then to keep the building in good condition, the list of needed improvements grew steadily, soon to such a length that the college elected in 2014 to undertake a renovation.

This renovation of Rebekah Scott Hall became a key priority in the college’s seven-year, \$100 million capital campaign, *The Greatness Before Us*. Through initiatives such as the Scottie Sleepover—during which alumnae were given the opportunity to sleep in the hall’s residence rooms while learning about the importance of the Rebekah Scott Hall renovation to the future of the college—opportunities for alumnae to name the rooms they lived in as students, and two generous challenge matches, the college was able to generate substantial enthusiasm and support for the renovation.

“Thanks to the incredible generosity of alumnae, parents, friends, foundations and corporations, we were able to successfully raise more than the \$17 million needed for the renovation,” says Robiaun Charles, Agnes Scott’s vice president for college advancement. “It is inspiring to walk through Rebekah and see so many donor plaques. This renovation will be a constant reminder of the long-lasting and far-reaching power of philanthropy.”

With funding in place, the college’s next key step was to assemble the Rebekah Scott Hall renovation project team. First hired was Todd Bradford, vice president of development at the firm Carter and Associates, who served as the overall project manager and worked closely with Hegman.

“I came early on to help develop the strategy for implementing [the renovation] from start to finish,” Bradford says. “That included helping to select the architect and the design and construction teams as well as making sure all the pieces were in place.”

“No two rooms are the same. We had to make hundreds of decisions that impacted the historical appearance of the building. Agnes Scott was clear about being respectful of the architectural legacy of the building and the college.”

— Benjamin Benson, Partner at Jenkins•Peer Architects

The selection of the architectural firm was particularly key because the college did not want to change the entire face of Rebekah Scott Hall but instead wanted to give the interior new life.

“We didn’t need a redesign of the building. We were not changing the footprint, but the architect needed to understand the interior changes we wanted to make,” says Hegman. “We looked for firms that had experience in this type of renovation and architects who had a real desire to be a part of the campus and connect with Agnes Scott. We wanted someone who would look at it as not just another job.”

The firm that fit the bill was Jenkins•Peer Architects, an industry leader in historic renovations.

“Once we were selected, we came up with a concept design that would lay out the scope of the project,” explains Benjamin Benson, a

partner at Jenkins•Peer Architects. “This also involved talking to the different user groups to determine their needs and to make sure those were included in the design.”

“We studied the building in great detail, interior and exterior, taking measurements and photographs from the tip of the cupola to the confines of the crawl space,” adds Benson, speaking of the early process. “No two rooms are the same. We had to make hundreds of decisions that impacted the historical appearance of the building. Agnes Scott was clear about being respectful of the architectural legacy of the building and the college.”

Benson, who is married to a Scottie, Elizabeth “Tiz” Faison Benson ’84, felt deeply connected to the college and was committed to maintaining that legacy throughout the project.

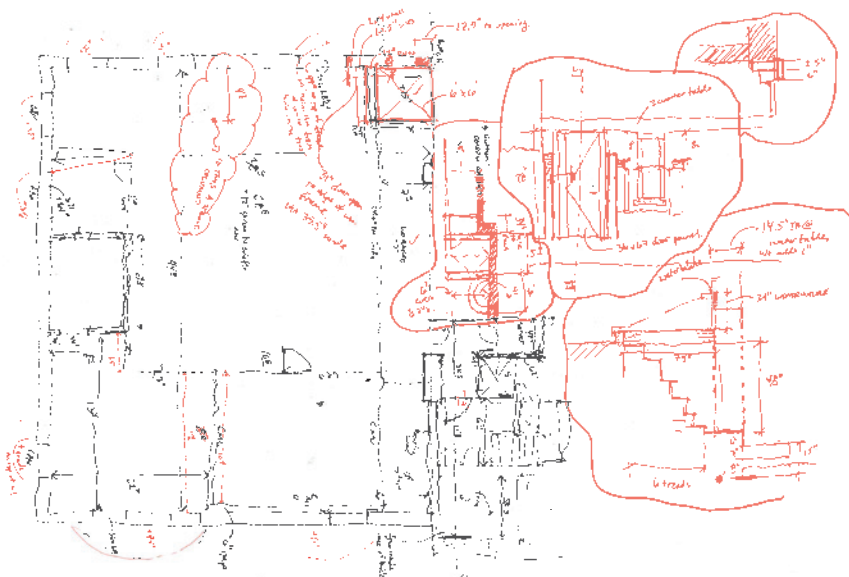
The other member of the renovation team was Holder Construction, which served as the general contractor for the project and also played an integral role.

“We procured and managed all of the subcontractors in order to fully renovate Rebekah Scott Hall per the design team’s specifications and to meet Agnes Scott’s vision and schedule,” says Allie Thacker, the project manager for Holder Construction. “My on-site team coordinated all scopes of work for a seamless and complete installation, including facilitating answering questions from the design team and the college, obtaining necessary permits and scheduling inspections. We also managed and set expectations for safety and quality while overseeing the construction teams to deliver the project on time for the college.”

Armed with input from representatives in Agnes Scott’s enrollment and student affairs divisions as well as the communications and marketing office, the renovation project team worked on the challenging task of keeping the historical charm of Rebekah Scott Hall and meeting the new and diverse present-day needs of the college. Needless to say, they more than met this challenge, and the result is a remarkable renovation that ushers the building into an exciting new era.

While the exterior of the building remains familiar, with its wraparound veranda, comfortable rocking chairs and the gazebo on the quad intact, much of the landscape surrounding it has changed, offering a powerful new first impression to campus visitors. It is now positioned as the welcoming point of entry for Agnes Scott. Gone is the parking lot next to Rebekah Scott Hall, located off S. McDonough Street; in its place are a geothermal field funded by the college’s Green Revolving Fund, a greenspace, and a monument sign bearing the college’s name. (See Hidden Agnes story on page 14 and Going Green story on page 30.)

When visitors step inside the lobby on the main entry level, they



Survey measurements in an architectural composite sketch of Rebekah Scott Hall’s basement prior to its demolition and renovation.



will encounter an open, vibrant and inviting space, which includes the Elizabeth Kiss Welcome Center.

“We believe that visitors will be stunned by the beauty of the new lobby,” says Benson. “A campus visit has become a huge part of college recruitment—where they park, the signage that welcomes them and where they walk in. Integrating that welcome center experience was a big part of the entire experience.”

Meant to tell the Agnes Scott story in an engaging and compelling way, the welcome center is a highly visual and interactive space, and its standout features are four large, freestanding displays that take future Scotties through their four-year campus journey, sharing general information about the college, including academics, student life and SUMMIT, among other things.

“These new displays also have an attached flipbook and what we call an ‘artifact box,’ which features physical items like a sophomore class ring or mascots from different Black Cat class years,” explains Alexa Wood Gaeta ’98, vice president for enrollment and dean of admission. “While the displays give visitors an overall idea of what life is like at Agnes Scott, the flipbooks and artifacts are items they can actually interact with while they await their campus tour.”

The space also includes wall maps on the east and west gallery walls. The “Around the World” wall map showcases students’ global journeys and study abroad experiences, while the “In the Community” map gives visitors a bird’s-eye view of popular eateries and entertainment locations in downtown Decatur and greater Atlanta. Additionally, there are digital monitors on each wall that display running slideshows of high-quality imagery relating to each wall theme.

Two other walls, called “Careers After Agnes” and “Education After Agnes,” document where Agnes Scott graduates have gone on to work and the top graduate schools they have attended, and panels of profiles of successful alumnae Scotties complement this wall.



*Woltz-Garretson Great Room*



*Residence Hall Kitchen and Gathering Space*



*Year Four Display in the Elizabeth Kiss Welcome Center*



Adjacent to the welcome center, the Office of Admission has a redesigned office space, including dedicated rooms where admission staff can meet with prospective Scotties and their families. The Division of College Advancement offices have been relocated to 213 S. Candler Street, the former home of the college's president.

While a lot has changed downstairs in Rebekah Scott Hall, just as much has happened upstairs, and student residences on the upper levels of the building have been refashioned.

"We created a whole new living experience for students on the second and third floors, and that experience includes updated bathrooms and kitchens, new study rooms, the addition of water-filling stations and—for the first time—central air conditioning," says Bradford. "Students now have their own separate keycard access, too; they no longer have to walk through the admission area to get to their rooms."

Other exciting additions for Rebekah Scott Hall residents are a new elevator, upgraded laundry rooms, more modern furniture, improved hangout areas and the inclusion of several accessible residence hall rooms with features such as doorbells that flash a light for hearing-impaired residents and pephholes at wheelchair height.

"The best aspect of the renovation is seeing the awe and appreciation on the residents' faces, just how excited and proud they are to be in this enlivened space that supports their different needs. This is their home away from home, and Rebekah captures that feeling and sense of belonging," says Karen Goff, vice president for student affairs. "The renovation represents the vision of a living-learning environment, truly capturing and telling the stories of the overall student experience. In addition, SUMMIT is reflected thoughtfully throughout the design and the displays, conveying that our students are in fact residents of the world."



*The official opening of Rebekah Scott Hall was celebrated with a special ribbon-cutting and rededication ceremony. From left to right: Elizabeth "Libby" Rhett Jones '73, former trustee; Clyde Tuggle, former Board of Trustees chair; Elizabeth Daniel Holder '82, Board of Trustees chair; President Leocadia I. Zak; Amira Daugherty '19, Student Government Association president; Ann Glendinning '68, trustee; Alexa Wood Gaeta '98, vice president for enrollment; and Robiaum Charles, vice president for college advancement. Rhett Jones, Tuggle and Holder served as co-chairs for The Greatness Before Us national campaign.*

All of the improvements and enhancements completed throughout the building, from top to bottom, were made with sustainability first in mind. The project team assured that attention was paid to how the building's design and materials impacted the environment, and Rebekah Scott Hall attained LEED Platinum certification as a result.

"The material selections made on the renovation had to meet LEED standards," says Thacker.

"For example, materials had to have low to no volatile organic compounds content. And a percentage of our building materials had to be regional materials, which required sourcing these materials within 500 miles of Agnes Scott's campus."

Having worked previously on the college's John Bulow Campbell Hall renovation, Thacker found being a part of the Rebekah Scott Hall renovation project team particularly meaningful



*Rebekah Scott Hall has the distinction of being the first building on Agnes Scott's campus that has earned LEED Platinum certification, the highest-level rating, from the U.S. Green Building Council. Photo courtesy of Ellis K. '20*

because her late grandmother, Anne Treadwell Suratt '48, was a Scottie. This connection meant Thacker had a unique understanding of and love for Agnes Scott's campus and its history, which was evident in such things as her passion for ensuring that the construction team preserved the original millwork and wood floors and the tall and wide hallways of Rebekah Scott Hall.

As an example of how much keeping the heart and character of the building mattered to the Scottie community, when asked her favorite memory of Rebekah Scott Hall, one of its former residents, Lindsey Garland '15, mentioned these hallways, describing them as "two-hoopskirts wide."

"Something about the big hallways made Rebekah feel more like a home and less like a dorm," she says. "The same can be said for the tall ceilings, crown molding and hardwood floors. I wouldn't say Rebekah used to be particularly fancy, but those unique details made the space feel special."

As the building begins a new life, the specialness of Rebekah Scott Hall will remain for the next generation of Scotties.

**"The best aspect of the renovation is seeing the awe and appreciation on the residents' faces, just how excited and proud they are to be in this enlivened space that supports their different needs. This is their home away from home, and Rebekah captures that feeling and sense of belonging."**

— Karen Goff, Vice President for Student Affairs



*Rebekah Scott Hall residents Abby Breuker '20 (left) and Jessa Rhea '20 (right) chat in their room in the newly renovated building.*

## Life in Rebekah Scott Hall

Roommates Abby Breuker '20 and Jessa Rhea '20 are two of the 77 Scotties currently living in the newly renovated Rebekah Scott Hall and are a testament to how the building improvements have made a significant impact on the student living experience in their home away from home at Agnes Scott College.

"I was so excited to get to live in Rebekah once the renovation was completed. It is wonderful to live in such a historic building but with all of the comforts of the newer buildings on campus. I still feel lucky every day to live in such a beautiful space," says Breuker, who is a classical languages and philosophy double major.

She adds that she likes the feeling the renovation has engendered in the building, noting, "When I come home, I feel calm because I am surrounded not only by my friends but also by the space. It is always nice to come back to a shiny, clean space after a stressful day."

Roommate Rhea, who is a mathematics major and environmental studies minor, agrees and is impressed by how the building has been updated but maintains its history and unique charm.

"The Rebekah Scott Hall renovation is fantastic. I used to visit the building before it underwent construction, and it's incredible to see how much of the structure was preserved during the renovation. I can still see where past Scotties used to keep their plants on the hardwood floor, and I love being reminded of all the incredible Scotties who came before me," says Rhea. "As an environmental and sustainability studies minor, I have a deep appreciation for what makes this building LEED Platinum certified. Life in Rebekah post-renovation is phenomenal. I grew up in a historic home in Iowa, and I love having both the new, full kitchen, restrooms and study spaces in addition to the sloping floors and just slightly off-center doors."

In the room that Breuker and she share, Rhea has quite a few things she particularly enjoys, saying, "I love the lofted ceilings in my room and the adorable little alcove with a shelf where I can display all of my books. The brand-new furniture is wonderful, too."

As for the standouts on her residence hall floor, she says, "Oddly enough, what I enjoy most is the hydration station right outside of my room and the printer that's in the common room. Last year, I lived in a living learning community; and while I loved living in the house with all of my friends, I missed having filtered water and a place to print. It's the little things."





The successful candidate will be a bold and inspiring leader who can engage the diverse community in further developing and executing a clear, contemporary and distinctive vision for a liberal arts education for women that serves society and sustains the college on the path to a successful future.

Excerpt from the *Presidential Leadership Profile*

# IN SEARCH OF A PRESIDENT

*Agnes Scott College's journey to discover its next leader*

By Sara Baxter

On the day the ninth president of Agnes Scott College was announced, Presidential Search Committee co-chairs Trustee Deborah “Deb” Harris Painter ’75 and Elizabeth Hardy Noe ’86 stood on the stage in Letitia Pate Evans Hall with fellow members of the search committee. As Painter watched and listened to the announcement, she tried to gauge the reaction of the audience of faculty, students, staff and alumnae.

“We were hoping everyone would be as excited as we were,” says Painter.

Judging from the wild applause that greeted the introduction by Board of Trustees Chair Elizabeth Daniel Holder ’82 of the person the board had selected—Leocadia I. Zak—the audience was thrilled.

“As Lee spoke, we could see the reaction on the faces of people in the audience,” Painter says. “She was connecting with them, and they loved it. This is why we chose her.”

President Zak is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Mount Holyoke College and holds a law degree from Northeastern University. She brings a broad portfolio of experience to the job: attorney, professor, global economic adviser and director of a U.S. government agency. All of these attributes made her stand out in a field of well-qualified candidates.

The announcement, made on Jan. 9, 2018, was a moment eight months in the making. A group of 15 people was given what has been called a “monumental task”—naming a successor to then-President Elizabeth Kiss H’18, who announced in May 2017 that she would be leaving Agnes Scott on June 30, 2018.

“When I first met her, I remember thinking ‘Lee Zak must stand out in every room she is in,’” says Janelle Peifer, assistant professor of psychology and a member of the search committee.

“She is an experienced global leader, and she has accomplished some amazing things. She embodies what we value.”

The search committee was composed of current and former trustees, faculty, staff and students and was led by Noe and Painter. Witt/Kieffer, an executive search firm, aided the committee by utilizing its network of prospects and by vetting candidates.

**“When I first met her, I remember thinking ‘Lee Zak must stand out in every room she is in.’ She is an experienced global leader, and she has accomplished some amazing things. She embodies what we value.”**

—Janelle Peifer, Assistant Professor of Psychology

“One of the important decisions we had to make early on was how willing were we to look at nontraditional candidates, or those outside of academia,” says Painter. “We decided we were willing to do that.”

The first thing the committee did was develop a leadership profile, which Peifer describes as “the most detailed job description ever,” to summarize what the Agnes Scott community was looking for in its ninth president and provide potential candidates with a thorough description of the college and the job. The profile was crafted following a series of web surveys and listening sessions in which different stakeholders shared the qualities they wanted in the new president.

“We wanted a champion of the liberal arts and of women’s education,” says Painter. “We also wanted someone who would honor and respect our traditions.”

Two things stakeholders were not looking for: someone who wanted to fix things, and a copy of Kiss. Instead, they were looking for a candidate who would continue Agnes Scott’s momentum in terms of rising national reputation, increased enrollment and emphasis on SUMMIT.

“This is an important time in the life of Agnes Scott with the success of SUMMIT, and we’re moving in the right direction,” says Noe. “We were seeking the next great leader to capitalize on SUMMIT and move us to the next level of success.”

With the criteria and perspective both in place, the committee pored through dozens of resumes of candidates who had either applied or been nominated. Following initial interviews, the list was narrowed down to four finalists. Over a two-day period, the committee as well as delegates from the college interviewed each candidate.

“We had four great candidates,” notes Noe. “We were very fortunate because all had a lot to offer.”

Of those four, Zak stood out.

“Her experience as an international thought leader complemented the objectives of SUMMIT,” says Emily Duncan ’19, one of two students serving on the search committee. “She will inspire current students to see Agnes Scott as an incubator for those who want to pursue those same values. We were honored President Zak was drawn to Agnes Scott. She will take us into the future so that Agnes Scott can continue to grow and thrive.”

The inauguration of Leocadia I. Zak as Agnes Scott’s ninth president will take place on Friday, April 26, 2019. Check [agnesscott.edu](http://agnesscott.edu) periodically for informational updates. Welcome messages to President Zak can be shared on social media using the hashtag: #WelcomePresZak.



A Conversation with  
President

# Leocadia Zak

*By Sara Baxter*

In the days following the announcement of Leocadia I. Zak being named Agnes Scott College's ninth president, there were more than 10,000 visits to the presidential search website. Understandably, people were excited about the news and interested in learning more about the woman leading the college into its next chapter, and since President Zak officially assumed her role on July 1, 2018, that excitement and interest has remained high. President Zak shares her thoughts on how attending a women's college shaped her career, the importance of SUMMIT, joining the Agnes Scott community and more.



*“I cannot be happier to be Agnes Scott’s president. It’s a dream come true; it’s like coming home. I’m looking forward to having an opportunity to be deeply involved with the community and hopefully to give back a little bit of what was so meaningful to me—the encouragement, the leadership and the inspiring confidence.”*





*Associate Professor of Biology Jennifer Larimore (far left) and Zak take photos with students after Opening Convocation and Senior Investiture.*



*Zak opens the 2018 Legacy: The Goizueta Foundation Leadership Immersion program at the Center for Civil and Human Rights.*

### **Where did you grow up?**

Lynn, Massachusetts—just north of Boston. I am a proud product of Lynn Public Schools.

### **What led you to choose Mount Holyoke as an undergraduate? Were you looking for a women’s college?**

When I was in high school, one of the things I was focusing on was becoming a lawyer—it was a dream of mine. When I was looking at colleges, I wanted one that had top-notch academic credentials. I also wanted to be at a place where I thought I could grow the skills and have experiences that would help me become an effective lawyer. I stepped on the campus of Mount Holyoke, and I had that “I belong here” feeling, which was the exact same feeling I had when I stepped on the campus of Agnes Scott.

### **How was your undergraduate experience influential in shaping you?**

It put me on the path to my next adventure. Mount Holyoke has stayed with me my entire life, particularly the faculty, the staff, the friends that I made—they have all

had a profound influence on me. The faculty was amazing in teaching me the skills that I needed, including critical thinking and writing. They demonstrated a belief in me, and that translated into a belief in myself. I was also extremely fortunate to meet people who have been my lifelong friends, and they have been cheering me on as the president of Agnes Scott. Mount Holyoke was clearly an environment where I was able to grow and to obtain the confidence as well as the voice that I needed for the future. These were extremely important skills for me to have as I went forward in my law school career, as a practicing attorney, as someone who ran a government agency and now as a college president.

### **What made you decide to become a lawyer?**

It came out of a sense of wanting to help people. When I was in middle school, I had a sense it would be a way I could do good to help people. My goal when I was in college and law school was to focus on public service as an area in which I wanted to practice. I took a little bit of a different route. I went to a large law firm first. And this was very valuable because it gave me critical skills and

exposed me to areas, such as meaningful finance and international practices, that led me to ultimately focus on public service. If you had told me in college that I’d have expertise in finance, I would have laughed. But I did develop the expertise that is important, particularly focusing on colleges and universities. Also, as a lawyer, I gained experience working through the process of getting projects done. My work was very much about execution, getting to win-win solutions, getting things built, and ending with a situation where all parties felt they had a good result. These are skills that served me well and will continue to serve me well.

### **What led you to apply for the Agnes Scott presidency?**

As the Obama administration was coming to an end, people would ask me what I wanted to do, and I would tell them: “Become a college president.” I was so influenced by my experience at Mount Holyoke; it had been with me every day. So when I was considering the next chapter in my career, I wanted to return to what had such a profound impact on me.

I had heard of Agnes Scott



through the women's college network. Also, Agnes Scott and Elizabeth Kiss have done a wonderful job of letting the world know about the school. I read an article in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* about Agnes Scott and SUMMIT, and I was truly impressed to see SUMMIT featured there.

There were really two things that attracted me to Agnes Scott. One was the school itself—it has an extremely good reputation and clearly is a place that focuses on students and the ability to think critically, which are things I strongly value. The college also focuses on honesty and integrity, which are very much part of my values. But in particular, the SUMMIT experience is something that spoke to me. The focus on leadership development and global learning is invaluable in this day and age. Other things that are also important to me are vision and innovation, and I saw the development of SUMMIT at Agnes Scott as being representative of the college's innovative spirit.

**As you were going through the interview process during the presidential search, what were some of the things you**

**learned about Agnes Scott that made you excited about being a candidate?**

Throughout the entire process—the search committee interviews, meetings with members of the community—the people were absolutely amazing. They were incredibly caring individuals, really focused on doing the right thing for the college as well as being extremely welcoming. For me, it was the feeling of community that was extremely important in my decision making and something that was exhibited from the moment I walked in the room for that first meeting. There was a strong sense of love for Agnes Scott and a high level of integrity.

**What does it mean to you personally as a graduate of a women's college to become the president of one?**

I cannot be happier to be Agnes Scott's president. It's a dream come true; it's like coming home. It's an opportunity to be deeply involved with the community and hopefully to give back a little bit of what was so meaningful to me—the encouragement, the leadership and the inspiring confidence. I hope to create an environment where that can be done, and I'm honored to be

able to be a part of it.

**Do you remember your first thought or reaction the day you were announced as the college's ninth president?**

It was amazing. I was thrilled, and I was also really honored. I do know it's a very special place, and I'm sure there were many extremely well-qualified candidates. I called all my supporters—my friends and family. But the other thing that was very special was all the calls and the emails I received from members of the Board of Trustees and the search committee. In a very short period of time, the spirit of the Agnes Scott community, everyone's welcoming nature and belief in the college, came through very quickly, helping to make the day extremely special.

**What stood out to you as particularly memorable in your conversations with the students, faculty and staff the day of your announcement as president?**

First, in everyone I spoke to, I could see the love for Agnes Scott. They talked about how much they loved the college and what a wonderful place it is. I knew I was going to love it, too. Also, I could see a pride in the institution and how strongly



One of Zak's favorite places on campus is McCain Library, which she visits frequently.



Zak, with a Walters Hall resident assistant, Josephine Brodie '21, enjoys her first Move-In Day.



Zak speaks on a panel at the 2016 U.S. Global Leadership Council State Leaders Summit.



Zak with her husband, Kenneth Hansen, in the president's home, Scott-Sams House.

*“What I hope for is to continue SUMMIT’s extraordinary trajectory and ensure it receives the recognition it truly deserves. Agnes Scott has reinvented the liberal arts, and it’s important for this to be known throughout the academic world as well as by leaders and prospective students across the country.”*

everyone felt it was a special place.

**Are there things you are particularly looking forward to enjoying or experiencing at Agnes Scott?**

Clearly, it’s the people. Every time I step on campus, I’m just amazed at how at home I feel, and this comes down to the people. The students have been absolutely incredible. During the announcement, from the stage, it was wonderful to look out and see the diversity of the students and the ones who had been part of the interview process right in the front row. I’m really looking forward to getting to know everyone on campus. Both my husband, Ken, and I enjoy being in a learning environment—I have been an adjunct professor for 13 years, and early in his career, Ken was a professor of economics at Wellesley College. We are excited to be in an environment where all aspects of learning are valued.

**What are your hopes for SUMMIT as the college moves into the next phase?**

First, I have to acknowledge the vision of the Board of Trustees, President Emerita Elizabeth Kiss and the faculty and staff in the creation of SUMMIT. It really is unique and took a tremendous amount of vision. They have done a remarkable job in not only developing but also implementing SUMMIT.

What I hope for is to continue SUMMIT’s extraordinary trajectory and ensure it receives the recognition it truly deserves. Agnes Scott has reinvented the liberal arts, and it’s important for this to be known throughout the academic world as well as by leaders and prospective students across the country. I think Scotties will be the best ambassadors for the program, and I am delighted that this May we will have an outstanding graduating class that has experienced SUMMIT across all four years. I know they will be tremendous ambassadors, as

will future Scotties.

**An integral part of SUMMIT is global learning. How did your previous role at the U.S. Trade and Development Agency inform your global perspective?**

The USTDA is very similar to Agnes Scott. It clearly is a gem with heart. It gave me an opportunity to not only travel but also meet people from around the world. I think the most important part of that was the ability to develop relationships with people from other cultures and other backgrounds. I think this level of learning and being able to work collaboratively and being able to listen and learn from others are skills that are extremely valuable and ones that will be particularly beneficial to Agnes Scott and the SUMMIT experience.

**What do you hope you will have accomplished in five years?**

It really is a matter of everyone

working together—the faculty, staff, board and students—to see what we can accomplish. I hope that we will have continued to both prepare students to be global change agents and guide them in whatever it is they want to achieve in the future.

### **How will your family support you in your new role?**

I have an incredibly supportive and encouraging family. My mother, who recently passed away, was an amazing influence with respect to the value of education, as was my father, who was a veterinarian. They were among the first in their families to go to college. Both my brother and sister have been involved in secondary education and are strong advocates. My brother is a high school principal, and my sister is a middle school math coach. They are particularly excited to have me join the fold of education, and I know they will continue to have advice because they have always been supportive—as have my friends. I'm very fortunate that way.

### **As you and your husband are new residents of Decatur, what are you most excited about experiencing here?**

We're enjoying meeting people in the community and learning more about the history of the city. We're also excited to experience the food, and we have already visited some local restaurants. There's so much happening in Decatur and a lot for us to do, see and be a part of!

### **What is one thing people might be surprised to learn about you?**

I'm pretty much an open book.



*Zak takes a tour of the Gay Johnson McDougall Center for Global Diversity and Inclusion, learning about the center's history and work from (left to right) Rafael Ocasio, Charles A. Dana Professor of Spanish and faculty fellow, Madelyn Kent '18, diversity and inclusion LGBTQ fellow, and Amy J. Lovell '90, professor of astronomy and faculty director.*



*Zak joins other new college employees, including Vice President for Business and Finance Kenneth England, for a group photo at the post-Community Forum reception.*



*Connecting with Agnes Scott alumnae, Zak spoke at the Atlanta Chapter's Fall Luncheon.*

STAY CONNECTED WITH PRESIDENT ZAK.



@preszak







# Going Green:

## Agnes Scott's Leap of Faith to a Road Map for Sustainability

By Lea Agnew

Residents of newly renovated Rebekah Scott Hall are the first students in the building's 113-year history to enjoy central air conditioning. (See the Return of Rebekah Scott Hall story on page 16.) Their comfort comes from the world's cleanest, most efficient source—geothermal energy. This is the latest milestone in Agnes Scott College's progress toward balancing what it takes from and returns to the natural world.

A system of 42 boreholes, each extending 500 feet into the earth, is generating cooling and heating for all of Rebekah Scott Hall in addition to the first floor of Agnes Scott "Main" Hall. (See the Hidden the Agnes story on page 14.) It is the second such system on campus and brings almost 10 percent of the college's footprint under geothermal climate control. As an aesthetic bonus, there is no aboveground chiller to make noise and take up space. Geothermal HVAC is one reason the Rebekah Scott Hall renovation met LEED Platinum standards. LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is a rigorous certification awarded by the U.S. Green Building Council.

### LEGEND



HYDRATION STATION



FOOD SCRAPS COMPOSTING



FRYER OIL RECYCLING



GEOTHERMAL FIELD



LEED LAB



LEED SILVER



LEED GOLD



LEED PLATINUM



SOLAR ARRAYS



SINGLE-STREAM RECYCLING/LANDFILL BIN



An ambitious goal adopted back in 2007—carbon neutrality within 30 years—has made sustainability integral to the Agnes Scott culture. From facilities to finance, from student life to community outreach, the college’s holistic sustainability approach has become a model for other institutions to learn from and use.

For Agnes Scott, sustainability leadership is a source of pride. From those who are off campus, it draws admiration and praise.

“What they’ve done is groundbreaking,” says Andrea Pinabell, president of Southface Energy Institute, a sustainability partner of the college. “Agnes Scott has been a first mover, navigating risks and taking a real leadership role.”

### **MAKING A BOLD COMMITMENT**

The college’s outsized reputation in sustainability stems from a decision made by President Emerita Elizabeth Kiss H’18, soon after taking office in 2006, to join the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment. The commitment involved pledging to achieve carbon neutrality, conducting an in-depth greenhouse gas inventory as a baseline, and meeting stringent accountability and reporting requirements. After assessing the limited sustainability work then underway and engaging trustees, faculty, students and alumnae, she signed on in September 2007.

“We didn’t have a road map,” she recalls. “It was a leap of faith.”

To create and follow the road map, significant capabilities had to be added. Agnes Scott’s Center for Sustainability was created to lead the way, with Susan Kidd ’78, M.A.T. ’07, hired first as the sustainability director in 2008, then as executive director of the Center for Sustainability in 2016. The first greenhouse gas inventory was conducted in 2008 and a comprehensive Climate Action Plan was adopted the following year.

Five subsequent greenhouse gas reports, the latest in 2017, have confirmed a 20 percent reduction in overall carbon emissions to date, including a 30 percent reduction in emissions from purchased electricity and

An ambitious goal adopted back in 2007—carbon neutrality within 30 years—has made sustainability integral to the Agnes Scott culture. From facilities to finance, from student life to community outreach, the college’s holistic sustainability approach has become a model for other institutions to learn from and use.

natural gas combustion and refrigerants. The Climate Action Plan has become the playbook for sustainability programs that touch practically every aspect of the college: cutting greenhouse gas emissions, planning renovation and construction projects to meet LEED standards, reducing commuting and travel impacts, embedding sustainability in the curriculum, making the campus a living laboratory for sustainability research and collaborating with organizations like Southface Energy Institute as well as other campuses.

### **PUTTING ALTERNATIVE ENERGY TO WORK**

Today, Agnes Scott is on track to zero out its carbon footprint by the 2037 target date. Alternative energy plays an increasing role. Along with the two geothermal systems, Agnes Scott has attracted external investors to install four solar-array installations on campus. The college has also installed one of its own. Solar energy on campus eliminates more than 150 metric tons of carbon dioxide annually from the college’s carbon footprint.

Less exotic steps have made a difference as well. Kidd recalls that an early energy reduction initiative was simply to turn off computers when not in use. One of the first big monetary investments was installation of LED (light-emitting diode) lighting and turn-off sensors in buildings and throughout the grounds.

“Currently, more than 80 percent of campus lighting is energy-efficient,” she notes.

Sustainability addresses the responsible use of all resources, not just energy. Water efficiency enhancements have reduced usage and costs significantly. Every faucet, showerhead and toilet on campus has been upgraded to low-flow or is scheduled to be. In addition, geothermal HVAC in Campbell Hall eliminates 500,000 gallons of annual water usage.

Altogether, projected utility savings from energy and water efficiency measures are reaching \$250,000 a year. Once made, savings from a sustainability project recur year after year.

### **UPPING THE ANTE: GREEN REVOLVING FUND**

Agnes Scott’s savings have turned plenty of heads. Retired Vice President for Business and Finance John Hegman says that when peer CFOs hear the word ‘sustainability,’ “their eyes glaze over. But when I talk about a 23 percent return on investment, they get interested in a hurry.”

Not every green project hits that high mark, he adds, although many do. A capital-intensive geothermal system has a slower payback, yet the blended return on all efficiency investments since 2007 is a very attractive 13 percent.

The savings go into a green revolving fund for additional campus sustainability projects. This fund was set up with donor gifts and foundation grants in 2012 when Agnes Scott took yet another leap of faith. The college joined the nationwide Billion Dollar Green Challenge for campus-based institutions, which meant starting a green revolving



fund for resource efficiency projects and raising at least \$1 million for it by 2015.

Pioneering campuswide efficiency upgrades, the timing of the Billion Dollar Green Challenge coincided with Agnes Scott's participation in an innovative program called Grants to Green. It was created by the Atlanta-based Kendeda Fund to help nonprofits make their facilities resource-efficient, both for a healthy planet and to generate savings for mission-related programming. Already Agnes Scott had received Grants to Green funds for renovations of the gym and Campbell Hall. Fortunately, the Kendeda Fund desired to expand the program from single buildings to full campuses.

Agnes Scott was the ideal place to start, and the college was invited to launch the Grants to Green campus program, which included a generous Kendeda Fund gift to put the green revolving fund over its goal. Southface Energy Institute was the Grants to Green technical partner, analyzing the campus for green opportunities, recommending solutions and forecasting savings. The Rebekah Scott Hall renovation and ongoing projects are part of the full-campus phase of Grants to Green.

Kidd says, "This has been a huge validation of our efforts and a great opportunity to take sustainability to another level for Agnes Scott."

### ENGAGING STUDENTS

The college's sustainability emphasis heavily involves students in and out of the classroom. Environmental and sustainability studies, an interdisciplinary minor, is paving the way for meaningful careers in a range of fields. Also, each residence hall has more than one environmental resident who takes the lead in providing environmental responsibility education, diverting waste and promoting green volunteer activities. During the 2018-2019 academic year, there are a record number of 27 students serving as environmental residents.

Working in the Center for Sustainability, upperclass interns gain valuable skills as they participate in data collection, analysis and progress reporting for the carbon neutrality commitment and grant requirements. Postgraduate sustainability fellowships are offered as well. Gianni Rodriguez '17 was one of the first interns to work multiple semesters on the greenhouse gas inventory, and now she is the Center for Sustainability's full-time climate action fellow. She has a lead role in the Climate Action Plan revision now underway and also in intensifying sustainability activity and awareness throughout the student body.

"This year's class will be graduating in 2022, which will be our halfway point in becoming carbon neutral," says Rodriguez. "Starting with New Student Orientation, we've been educating the class about energy reduction opportunities and explaining ways to get involved."

### BECOMING A MODEL

In the decade-plus since committing to carbon neutrality, the college has seen strong ripple effects. Kidd and

## Join the Sustainability Alumnae Network

The Center for Sustainability, in partnership with the Office of Alumnae Relations, is creating an alumnae network for Scotties who have careers or volunteer experience in the field of sustainability and all related fields, such as environmental justice, natural resource protection, forestry, landscape architecture, green building and waste diversion.

If you would like to join the network, please email [sustainability@agnesscott.edu](mailto:sustainability@agnesscott.edu) with the following information:

- Full name (including your last name when you were a student)
- Class year
- Name of company, nonprofit, service project, etc. where you have worked or volunteered
- Current contact information

See [agnesscott.edu/sustainability](http://agnesscott.edu/sustainability) for updates.

Hegman frequently hear from other colleges and campus-based institutions that want to know more about Agnes Scott's sustainability experience and lessons learned. Both speak frequently off campus at conferences and workshops. They have also hosted groups visiting from the Hawaii Preparatory Academy, Oxford College of Emory University, the Centers for Disease Control and the Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance.

Kennesaw State University is using the college's McCain Library as a LEED Lab case study for a course on LEED certification for operation and management of existing buildings, known simply as LEED O&M. LEED Lab is a program of the U.S. Green Building Council, home for all LEED certifications, and this partnership between a university teaching construction management and architecture students about LEED along with a college hosting the program in one of its historic buildings is the only one of its kind in the United States.

Projects like these are why Agnes Scott has become a sustainability model for other colleges since joining the Climate Commitment. As the college continues to demonstrate leadership in sustainability, it reflects powerfully the institutional mission of educating women to think deeply, live honorably and engage the intellectual and social challenges of their times.



2007

- President signs the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment.
- Sustainability steering committee is established.



- Office of Sustainability opens with hiring of director, Susan Kidd '78, M.A.T. '07, and first sustainability fellow, Lies Van Bekkum '08.
- Agnes Scott's Climate Action Plan is completed.
- First greenhouse gas inventory completed by sustainability intern, Adrienne D'Agostino '09.
- Trustee LEED Silver or higher policy passed.
- First shared City of Decatur/Agnes Scott intern is hired.

- Environmental Resident program established.
- Anna I. Young Alumnae House certified LEED Silver, becoming first LEED building in Decatur.
- Environmental and sustainability studies minor established.

2009

- Student-led organic garden started with gardener Lois Swords '77, alongside student volunteers, providing educational programming.

- First Southface Energy Institute/ Agnes Scott intern is hired.

- Green Revolving Fund established with donations to help the college undertake energy and water efficiency projects.

- Agnes Scott joins 32 other institutions in launching the Billion Dollar Green Challenge, which has the national goal of investing a cumulative total of \$1 billion in self-managed green revolving funds that finance energy efficiency upgrades on campuses.

2011

- Office of Sustainability renamed the Center for Sustainability.

- Campbell Hall is certified LEED Gold.

- Agnes Scott receives Georgia Urban Forest Council Outstanding Education Grand Award.

- Additional solar arrays installed on campus.

- "Harnessing the Sun" solar project case study published with Southface Energy Institute.

- Agnes Scott reaches \$1,000,000 goal for Green Revolving Fund, and fund is featured in *New York Times* article.

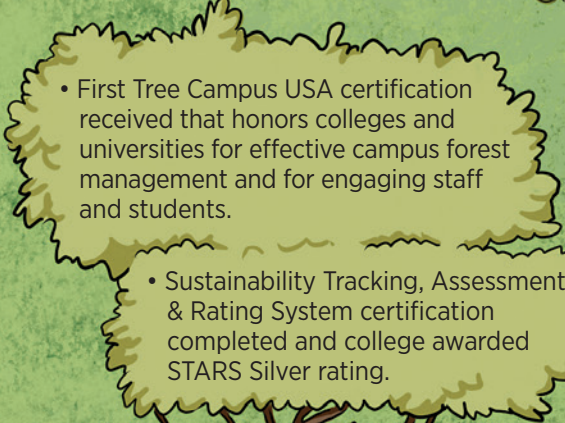
- Agnes Scott featured in *Atlanta Magazine* for its solar energy program.
- LEED Lab course initiated with Kennesaw State University and U.S. Green Building Council.
- Tree Memorandum of Understanding with City of Decatur signed.

2015

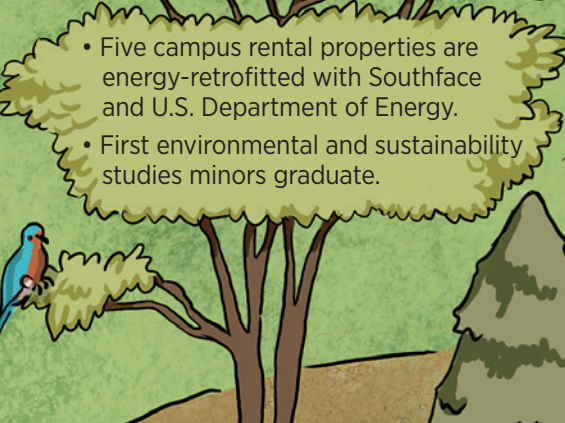
2016



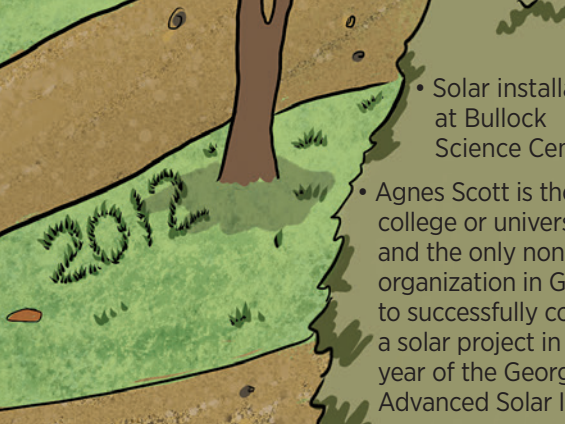
# Sustainability Milestones



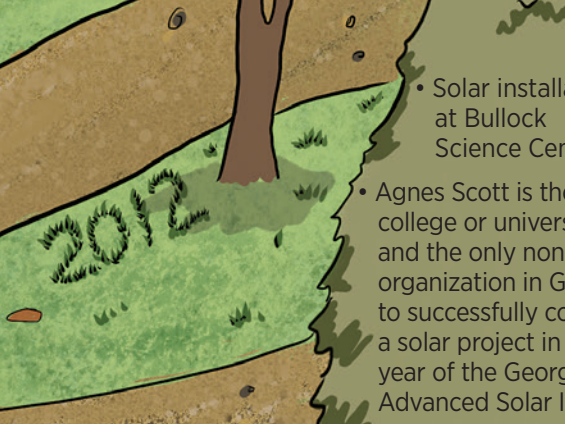
• First Tree Campus USA certification received that honors colleges and universities for effective campus forest management and for engaging staff and students.



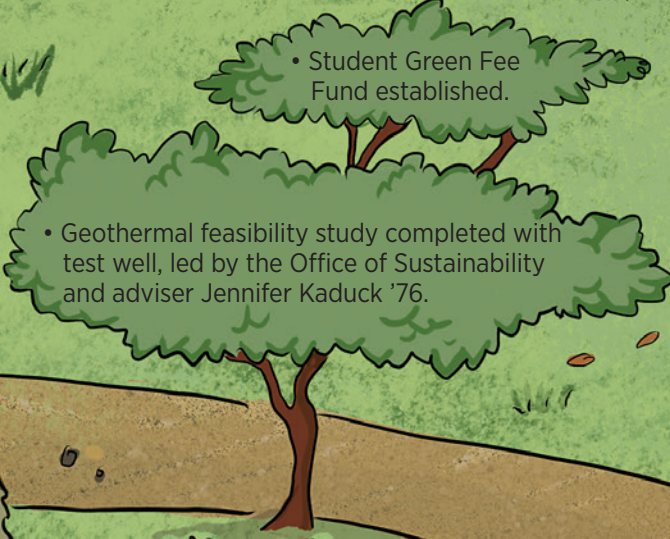
• Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System certification completed and college awarded STARS Silver rating.



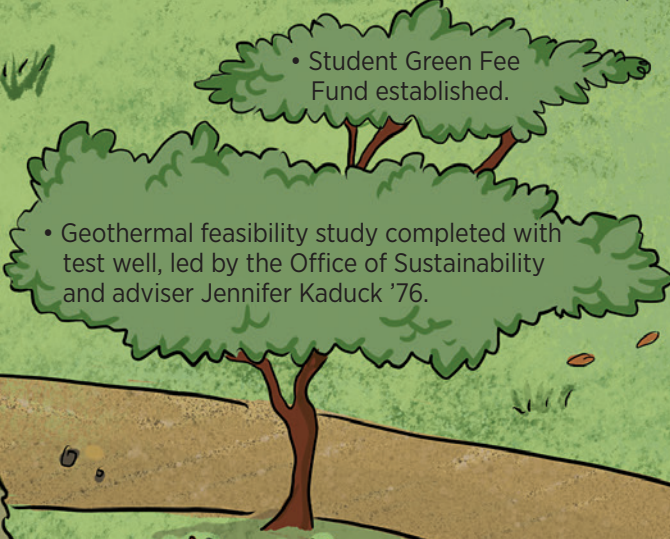
• Five campus rental properties are energy-retrofitted with Southface and U.S. Department of Energy.



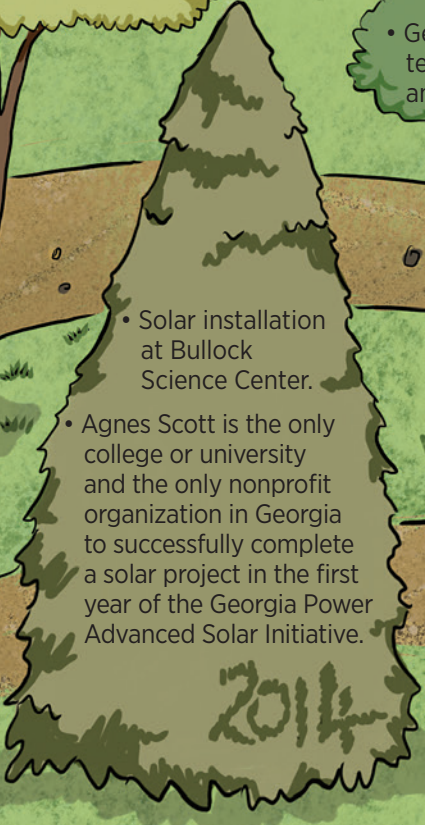
• First environmental and sustainability studies minors graduate.



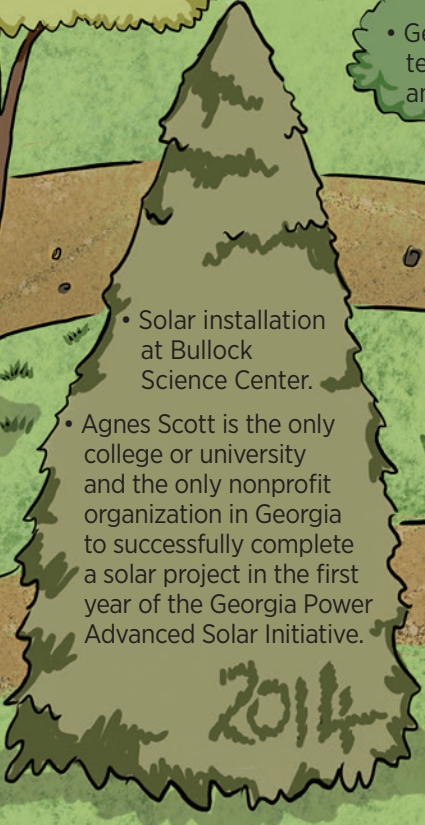
• Student Green Fee Fund established.




• Geothermal feasibility study completed with test well, led by the Office of Sustainability and adviser Jennifer Kaduck '76.




• Solar installation at Bullock Science Center.




• Agnes Scott is the only college or university and the only nonprofit organization in Georgia to successfully complete a solar project in the first year of the Georgia Power Advanced Solar Initiative.




• Rebekah Scott Hall reopens after LEED renovation.  
• The Center for Sustainability begins the process of completing a Climate Resilience Plan in partnership with the City of Decatur.  
• Agnes Scott earns a STARS Gold rating.  
• Rebekah Scott Hall places second in Georgia Green Awards' Community Impact category.



• Rebekah Scott Hall is certified LEED Platinum.



• Weatherwise/Otherwise Dalton Gallery exhibit on climate change.



• Joined We Are Still In, the national coalition supporting climate action.



# Growing the Seeds of Success

*Alumna Mildred Pinnell Fockele '82 shares how she cultivated her long career at the Atlanta Botanical Garden*

*By Sara Baxter*

Names like *Distylium*, *Edgeworthia* and *Hamamelis* may sound like Greek—or in some cases Latin—to most people, but to Mildred Pinnell Fockele '82, these are familiar names she comes into contact with every day.

Fockele is the vice president of horticulture at the Atlanta Botanical Garden and director of its satellite location in Gainesville. She has spent her entire career around plants, cultivating and maintaining their beauty for thousands to enjoy.

She credits her grandmother, an avid gardener, for instilling in her the love of gardening.

"I have fond memories of digging in the dirt with her when I was young, planting pansies," says Fockele, adding that growing up in Macon, Georgia, and playing outside in the woods near her house also fueled her love for the outdoors.

But she credits her time at Agnes Scott College for really shaping her career.

"I came to Agnes Scott thinking I would major in political science," says Fockele. "But I had this wonderful, dynamic professor in biology who opened my eyes to the wonders of biology and science."

That biology professor was Eloise Carter, who previously taught at Agnes Scott and picked up on Fockele's interest in plants when she saw her tending to the small greenhouse behind Campbell Hall as part of her work-study program.

"She noticed I enjoyed weeding and caring for the plants and encouraged me to try horticulture," Fockele says. "She set up an interview for me at the Atlanta Botanical Garden for a new internship program. She really encouraged me every step of the way."

Although attending Agnes Scott jump-started her career, it was not her original plan. Her mother was a Scottie, and because of that, Fockele did not think she would want to attend the same school.

"I think we always say, 'I'm never going to a school where my mother went,'" she says. "But I had an opportunity to visit during a prospective students' weekend, and



I fell in love with the school. I felt an immediate sense of community.”

During her four years at Agnes Scott, Fockele was involved in many activities: the dorm council, yearbook staff and field hockey team. During her senior year, she served as a member of Mortar Board and became the editor of the yearbook.

“One of the benefits of a small school is that you can dip your toe into a lot of things,” she says of her undergraduate experience.

After graduating with a bachelor’s degree in biology, she went on to pursue a master’s degree in horticulture at the University of Georgia. While in graduate school, she applied for and received a Garden Club of America Interchange Fellowship to study and work at three prominent botanical gardens in England and Scotland. During the 10-month program, she gained valuable experience working in botanical gardens, which laid the groundwork for her career.

Over the Christmas holidays that year, she returned home and had lunch with her former boss at Atlanta Botanical Garden when she was an intern.

“She told me she had a job opening, and if I was interested, she would hold it for me until I completed my fellowship.”

Fockele was definitely interested, and she went to work at the Atlanta Botanical Garden in 1986, beginning a career that has lasted 32 years.

Starting as a “plant recorder” in the horticulture department, Fockele was the official record-keeper of all the plants that were coming into the Atlanta Botanical Garden’s collections. She eventually became the head of the department and now manages a large staff. She has seen the garden grow from a three-acre space with offices and classes held in two double-wide trailers to an expansive complex with a conservatory, greenhouse and dozens of formal gardens and displays, making it one of the top 10 botanical gardens in the country.

“We used to get so excited when we would get even one or two visitors,” she says of the early days.

“Now 500,000 visitors come to the Atlanta Botanical Garden each year.”

She and her staff oversee all of the outdoor gardens around the 30-acre complex adjacent to Piedmont Park in midtown Atlanta. When a new garden is built or renovated, she works with the landscape architect to design it.

“There is an art to the science of plants,” she notes. “You can have the most special plant, but if it’s not grown well or displayed attractively, the public won’t notice.”

In 2015, the Atlanta Botanical Garden grew even more when it opened a location in Gainesville, Georgia, under the guidance of Fockele, on land donated by a local family. The Gainesville location is seven acres of gardens, including an amphitheater and walking trails, in what Fockele calls “a diverse mini version of Atlanta’s garden.”

“Opening a garden in Gainesville helps us not only expand our audience but also expand our plant collections,” Fockele says. “In Gainesville, we will also be growing plants for conservation because we don’t have the space in Atlanta. These efforts support the Southeastern Center for Conservation and allow us to expand our mission-based work.”

The expansion of the Atlanta Botanical Garden’s reach to Gainesville is just another accomplishment in Fockele’s long and successful career. And she firmly believes her Agnes Scott

education contributed to that success, helping to shape her in several important ways.

“I learned to communicate well in terms of both speaking and writing,” she says. “I also learned how to problem-solve and to push myself outside of my comfort zone. That’s what gave me the ability to apply for the fellowship in England. I didn’t even hesitate.”

As her own career has flourished, Fockele has excitedly watched Agnes Scott College grow, particularly in the area of sustainability.

“It is so rewarding to be in a field that connects people with plants and nature. That’s why I am so thrilled to see the incredible work of the college’s Center for Sustainability and Executive Director Susan Kidd and how it has helped integrate academics and the real world,” she notes.

In January, she will leave her post in Atlanta and work exclusively in Gainesville, where she lives with her husband and daughter. Ironically, for a person who has stayed in one place for so long, she says it is the ever-changing environment of the garden that has kept her motivated.

“I have always enjoyed watching things grow and change,” Fockele says. “A garden is never static. I have been so lucky to be in a place that is constantly growing. And I love watching the public’s reaction and seeing the impact the garden has on the community. To be a part of that has been absolutely amazing.”



*Mildred Pinnell Fockele ’82 speaks with volunteers who dedicate their time at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, which includes 30 acres of beautiful outdoor gardens.*

# 2018 Outstanding Alumnae Award Winners

*by Kim Vickers '87*



*Back, left to right: Outstanding Young Alumna award winner Kate Chapman Kauffman '02 and Service to the College award winner Audrey Grant '77. Front, left to right: Service to the Community award winner Helen Roach Rentch '68 and Distinguished Career award winner Margaret VanDeman Blackmon '63.*



Last spring during Alumnae Weekend, Agnes Scott College celebrated the 2018 Outstanding Alumnae Award winners at a luncheon in their honor. It was a special day for the Scottie community, and through introductions and speeches, attendees heard about the amazing work of the honorees. In these interviews for *Agnes Scott The Magazine*, the Outstanding Alumnae Award winners share more about themselves.

## Audrey Grant '77

### SERVICE TO THE COLLEGE

Audrey Grant '77 was always active in campus life, and she did not skip a beat after graduation—she continued to be involved and engaged with her alma mater and her classmates, even during medical school and her busy career afterward as a physician. She has served the college tirelessly for more than 40 years and has been an active voice for women of color.

**Q Why have you remained so actively engaged with Agnes Scott College for more than 40 years?**

**A** I've remained active with my alma mater for over 40 years mainly because I believe with all my heart the mission of Agnes Scott, "to educate women to think deeply, live honorably and engage the intellectual and social challenges of their times." And I felt it was part of my purpose in life to help Agnes Scott achieve this mission. From the first day I learned of Agnes Scott's Honor Code, I found comfort in knowing and being associated with a community that truly believes it is trying to do the right and just thing. We may not have always gotten it right, but we have always striven to do what was right. Especially when I see what is happening in our society today, I have hope that it will get better especially because of institutions and communities like Agnes Scott College.

**Q What has changed the most and what has stayed the same at Agnes Scott since you graduated in 1977? What one change have you been the most excited about and why?**

**A** There have been many changes, but I guess the one thing that has changed the most is the diversity that I have seen embraced by the community—racial, ethnic, religious, etc. I have been excited by the diverse community, but now I'm even more excited by the direction our educational programs are taking with the introduction of SUMMIT. I'm actually a little envious and saddened because that type of educational programming was not available to me when I matriculated at Agnes Scott, but *c'est la vie*.



## Margaret VanDeman Blackmon '63

### DISTINGUISHED CAREER

Margaret VanDeman Blackmon '63 has dedicated her career to public education through teaching, supporting public schools and mentoring educators—particularly women—to become leaders. She worked in the Virginia public school system for 18 years, becoming the first woman superintendent for the Prince Edward County Public Schools, a position that she held for nine years. Her impressive career includes serving as president of both the Virginia Association of School Superintendents and the Virginia Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.



**Q** If you could go back to 1963 when you graduated from Agnes Scott College, would you do anything differently as far as your career?

**A** The simple answer is no. Like many women in the 1960s, I became a teacher. For careers, there were three options—teacher, nurse, secretary—although I had numerous Agnes Scott classmates who became college professors, attorneys, artists, etc., I knew of no women who were superintendents of school districts. As I taught in public schools in Texas, Atlanta and Virginia, I recognized the need for women to become principals and superintendents. I credit Agnes Scott for preparing me to move into leadership, earn a doctorate and serve very successfully as a teacher and a school superintendent.

**Q** What has changed the most and what has changed the least in the education sector during the years you were working in the field?

**A** There have been significant changes, but the most significant may be the great diversity of students in our schools in terms of socioeconomics, language, race, learning abilities and backgrounds. The thing that has changed the least is a parent's desire to have a high-quality education for their child.

## Helen Roach Rentch '68

### SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

Helen Roach Rentch '68 was not the first person in her family to attend Agnes Scott College, and she is not the last either. In fact, there are 12 family members who attended Agnes Scott, and 11 graduated from the college. Rentch knows what it is like to follow in family footsteps—not just to attend Agnes Scott but also to give back to the community. Rentch's mother, Ruth Slack Roach '40, won the same award for Service to the Community in 1983.

**Q** What made your decision to attend Agnes Scott College unique from that of the other 11 women in your family who also attended?

**A** I don't think there was anything unique regarding my decision to attend Agnes Scott. It was made simple by my mother's advocacy and the fact that I did not have a vision for my life at the time. I was a traditional girl who fit the mold of family values. It was also the case that expectations for girls then were not very high or varied. I don't think anyone asked us, "What do you want to do when you grow up?" It would have been remarkable if I had decided not to go to Agnes Scott.

## About the Outstanding Alumnae Awards

Each year, the Agnes Scott Alumnae Association recognizes outstanding alumnae in four categories: Distinguished Career, Service to the College, Service to the Community and Outstanding Young Alumna.

Visit [agnesscott.edu/alumnae/outstanding-alumnae.html](https://agnesscott.edu/alumnae/outstanding-alumnae.html) to learn more and how to nominate an alumna for the 2020 Outstanding Alumnae Awards. Any alumna may be nominated for an award, regardless of class year (i.e., the alumna does not have to be in a reunion year to be nominated or to win). Contact [alumnae@agnesscott.edu](mailto:alumnae@agnesscott.edu) for questions.



It was a cousin my age who broke the mold and chose to go elsewhere because she knew she wanted to go into nursing.

**Q What is the best and worst thing about having so many family members who have also attended Agnes Scott College?**

**A** I can't think of a negative aspect about having had so many family members who went. I don't remember any family pressure once I was there about grades, courses or activities. I was not aware of the positive advantage I may have gotten from being from a "known" family either. All of us felt we had an excellent experience and got a great education and foundation for life, along with lifelong friends. We have also enjoyed having shared memories and shared support for the college through a family scholarship and participation in the alumnae activities.



## Kate Chapman Kauffman '02

### OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNA

Kate Chapman Kauffman '02 has dedicated her life to working and volunteering for nonprofit organizations and making a difference in her community. Kauffman's day job was working to advance the missions of many great Atlanta-area nonprofits, while nights and weekends she was donating her time to a variety of other worthy causes through her volunteerism.

**Q How do you think volunteerism has changed since you graduated in 2002?**

**A** When I graduated, people generally volunteered for larger tried-and-true organizations. Their name recognition brought them volunteers and donors. However, over the past 15 years, grassroots organizations have grown. Now there are places to fulfill any sort of passion you might have. I think the ease of sharing information over social media has also helped. It has led to the rise of GoFundMe-type campaigns. People are now not as tied to helping a nonprofit as just helping.

**Q You have worked and volunteered for nonprofits. How do those two positions differ?**

**A** Both positions are critical to an organization's success, and I think serving in both roles has made me more impactful in serving either role. Volunteering can vary from being on a board to digging into a project. The nice thing is one can pick and choose based on one's current capacity. And knowing there is staff support allows you to stretch yourself further. However, being that staff member can bring on new sets of challenges and responsibilities. Staff have a clearly defined role with specific goals. It allows you to work behind the curtain to ensure success. Both roles support the mission of the organization and should work hand in hand. This relationship is just one of the special characteristics of a nonprofit.



# giving highlights

## Seven New Donors Inducted Into The 1889 Society



President Leocadia I. Zak with The 1889 Society inductees (left to right) Flavel McMichael Godfrey '68, John Munro Godfrey, Mary Brown Bullock '66 and George D. Bullock.

The 1889 Society, established in 2012, distinguishes the college's most generous benefactors. It recognizes donors with cumulative lifetime giving of \$500,000 or more in cash and includes donors dating back to the founding days of the college. Their giving has transformed this institution in many ways over the years. Agnes Scott College is pleased to announce the induction of its newest members into

The 1889 Society since fall 2016. These benefactors have supported causes across the institution, including The Fund for Agnes Scott, capital projects such as the renovation of Rebekah Scott Hall, student awards and scholarships, sustainability and the Green Revolving Fund, the Posse program and faculty programs.

- Mary Brown Bullock '66 and George D. Bullock
- J.B. Fuqua Foundation, Inc.
- Virginia Keller Gray '57\*
- Flavel McMichael Godfrey '68 and John Munro Godfrey
- The Halle Foundation
- The Hertwig Family
- Louise Franklin Livingston '41\* and Harry W. Livingston Jr.\*

\*Deceased

For information on The 1889 Society and other donor recognition societies, visit [agnesscott.edu/giving/donor-recognition.html](http://agnesscott.edu/giving/donor-recognition.html).

## Every Scottie, Every Year

It's more than just a saying. Every year, Agnes Scott College alumnae support everything from student scholarships and programming to faculty research and capital projects. Alumnae participation has always been a point of pride at Agnes Scott, with generous Scotties giving at a rate higher than the national average. It has also helped bolster the college's *U.S. News & World Report* rankings, in which alumnae participation is a factor.

Alumnae are the college's largest donor base, so your support is vital to everything that makes Agnes Scott extraordinary. Gifts to Agnes Scott support the entire SUMMIT experience and students like Eduige Kayigirwa '20 (right), a scholarship recipient who dreams of becoming a computer and electronic engineer.

To help Agnes Scott reach its goal of 40 percent alumnae participation and continue to educate resilient, innovative, global leaders, please make a year-end gift today at [give.agnesscott.edu](http://give.agnesscott.edu). Every Scottie, every year. And every gift counts!



**"The generosity of donors to Agnes Scott helped provide a pathway to my dream internship at the Space Telescope Science Institute. Your kindness has allowed me to pursue my passion."**—Eduige Kayigirwa '20, pursuing a dual degree from Agnes Scott (physics and mathematics) and Georgia Tech (computer engineering)





## WITH YOUR LEGACY GIFT

Nationally recognized for innovation, value, classroom teaching and social mobility, Agnes Scott educates young women to reach for the future and make it theirs. Imagine what that future could be like with your legacy gift leading the way.

Made through your will, IRA, investment account, life insurance or a gift that provides you with income, your legacy could help future Scotties create positive change in a challenging world.

**TO MAKE YOUR LEGACY GIFT**, contact Lee Davis, director of legacy giving, at 404.471.5448 or [ldavis@agnesscott.edu](mailto:ldavis@agnesscott.edu).



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**Inauguration and  
Alumnae Weekend  
April 25-27, 2019**

