

**The School of Humanities, Social Sciences,
Media Studies, and Education
Presents**

**The 29th Richardson – Etheridge Conference
on the Harlem Renaissance**



Theme:

***The Fire This Time: Politics, Protest,
and the Future of American Democracy***

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2026

ELEVEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING

GILBERT-LAMBUTH MEMORIAL CHAPEL • AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

Dr. Lester Aygei McCorn, President

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Reverend Dr. Jamal-Harrison Bryant



Reverend Dr. Jamal-Harrison Bryant is a nationally recognized faith leader, civil rights strategist, public theologian, and community architect whose work stands at the intersection of spirituality, social justice, economic accountability, and public policy. A devoted husband and proud father, Dr. Bryant is widely regarded as one of the most influential justice-centered voices of his generation. His leadership reflects a core conviction: faith must function as a catalyst for liberation and systemic change. A recipient of the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award, Dr. Bryant is also a Grammy Award-recognized contributor, earning honors for his spoken-word performance on *The Urban Hymnal* by the Tennessee State University Aristocrat of Bands, contributing to two Grammy-winning projects. His influence extends across faith communities, civic institutions, and national movements advocating equity and accountability.

Dr. Bryant's personal journey from earning a GED to completing a Ph.D. underscores a life marked by resilience, purpose, and transformative leadership. Prior to entering the pastorate, he served six years as National Youth and College Director of the NAACP, where he mobilized more than 70,000 young people worldwide in coordinated nonviolent civic, political, and social justice campaigns, establishing his national reputation as a skilled organizer and strategist. A third-generation minister, Dr. Bryant founded Empowerment Temple African Methodist Episcopal Church in Baltimore, Maryland, which became the fastest-growing congregation in the 200-year history of the AME Church. Under his leadership, the church emerged as a nationally recognized model for community development, political engagement, and economic empowerment.

In 2018, Dr. Bryant became Senior Pastor of New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Stonecrest, Georgia—one of the nation's most influential congregations. Serving alongside his wife, Dr. Karrianna Bryant, First Lady and Executive Pastor of Creative & Experience, he has led a season of revitalization marked by multigenerational unity, expanded cultural relevance, and increased national impact in community outreach, economic justice, and public-policy engagement. Dr. Bryant is also a leading national voice in economic justice advocacy. His leadership of the Target FAST and Boycott represents one of the most significant, Black-led consumer accountability movements of the last 50 years, advancing equitable business practices, supplier diversity, and respect for Black buying power. Rooted in the historic legacy of the Civil Rights Movement, the campaign reflects his belief that economic leverage remains one of the most powerful tools for social transformation.

A proud graduate of Morehouse College and a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Reverend Dr. Jamal-Harrison Bryant continues to serve as a modern prophetic voice calling institutions, corporations, and communities to higher moral ground through faith, strategy, and action.

ORDER OF SERVICE



PRESIDING

Mr. Jaylen Miller, '27
Mr. Paine College Elect, 2026-2027

~Program~

Invocation.....	Mr. Johnathan Jackson '28 <i>First Attendant to Mr. Paine College</i>
Scripture.....	Miss Kennedy Graves '27 <i>Basileus, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.</i>
Campus Annoucements.....	Mr. Jehmiel Pitts '30 <i>Student Athlete and Biology Major</i>
Occasion.....	Professor Jeffrey Lanier Jones '01 <i>Chair, Richardson-Etheridge Conference on the Harlem Renaissance</i>
Poetic Selection.....	If We Must Die, Claude McKay – Mr. Miller
Introduction of the Speaker.....	Dr. Lester Aygei McCorn <i>President, Paine College</i>
Musical Selection.....	The Paine College Choir <i>Mr. Trey McLaughlin, Director</i>
The Address.....	Reverend Dr. Jamal-Harrison Bryant <i>New Birth Missionary Baptist Church, Stonecrest, Georgia</i>
Remarks.....	Dr. Dan Johnson <i>Chair, School of Humanities, Media Studies, Social Sciences, and Education</i>
The Paine College Hymn (on back of program)	Frank Yerby '37
Benediction.....	Reverend Dr. Luther B. Felder, II <i>Campus Pastor</i>

PROTOCOL

Please silence all electronic devices and remain for the entirety of the program as a sign of respect.

LEGACY OF ART, IDEAS & IMAGINATION



History of The Lola M. Richardson/ Evelyn G. Etheridge Conference on the Harlem Renaissance

The Richardson - Etheridge Conference on the Harlem Renaissance was founded in 1997 when Dr. Lola M. Richardson, Paine alumna and Chair of the Division (now Department) of Humanities, envisioned a gathering of scholars and artists that would celebrate one of the greatest cultural and global movements of the 20th Century, the Harlem Renaissance that began in Harlem, New York. This conference has been one of the first in the country to highlight this exciting epoch in American sociocultural and literary life and history. The Conference is named in honor of Dr. Richardson, the Conference founder, and former English professor, playwright, and Paine alumna, Evelyn Gilbert Etheridge.

FRANK GARVIN YERBY, '37 (1916–1991)

Frank Garvin Yerby was an internationally acclaimed author who produced numerous short stories and poems and 33 novels, including the 1946 publication of his first novel, *The Foxes of Harrow*, which was adapted into an Oscar-nominated film. Two other novels, *The Golden Hawk* and *The Saracen Blade*, were also adapted for film. He enjoyed considerable success during his lifetime and was the most prolific and commercially successful author of his time. He was a native of Augusta, Georgia, and a 1937 graduate of Paine College. After his death in Madrid, Spain, in 1991, Yerby's influence upon American and world literature continues to be analyzed and treasured.

THE PAINE COLLEGE HYMN

Words by Frank Yerby, '37 and Mark Fax

O College of our heart's desire,
resplendent in our gaze,
Awake in us thy sacred fire
and let us to thy truth aspire
throughout the coming days.

And may the thing that thou hast sought,
our nation's woeful lack,
True union of the heart be brought
and differences be set at naught
between the white and black.

Paine College, guardian of the way
that each young foot must tread,
Thy gates are open to this day
and our firm, martial strides display
hearts clean and unafraid.