The University seal combines the basic elements of the seals of its parent institutions, Atlanta University and Clark College. The outer circle of the seal bears the name and founding date of the new University; the inner circle bears the traditional mottos "I'll find a way or make one" (Atlanta University) and "Culture for Service" (Clark College). In the field of the seal is an open book representing the search for and transmission of knowledge, and more specifically the enlightenment of the Bible. On the left page are inscribed the date of the founding of Atlanta University and its traditional emblems of the sword of truth and torch of knowledge. On the right page are the founding date of Clark College and its emblem of a lamp. Both the torch and the lamp signify knowledge and the illumination of the mind.