Clark Atlanta University
Fall 2020 Opening Convocation
VIA ZOOM

Tuesday, September 15, 2020
12:00 Noon (EDT)

Facing The Rising Sun... Together
Prelude ................................................................................................................................. Video Presentations

Processional .............................................................. "Pomp and Circumstance" .............................................. Sir Edward Elgar

Invocation ............................................................................................................................... Mr. Porter Sanford V
Class of 2021

Negro National Anthem .................................................. “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing” ......................... James Weldon Johnson,
(AU, 1894 - degree) John Rosamond Johnson,
(AU 1917 – Honorary degree)

Welcome ............................................................................................................................... Mr. Alake Jacobs
SGA Undergraduate President
Class of 2022
Ms. Khadijah Bryant
SGA Graduate President
Class of 2021

Greetings ............................................................................................................................... Mr. Devin P. White, (CAU ’95,’00)
President
CAU National Alumni Association

Musical Selection ................................................................................................................ Mr. Glenn Burleigh
Clark Atlanta University Choir

Honorary Degree Awarded to Thomas W. Cole Jr., Ph.D., President Emeritus ..................... George T. French, Jr. Ph.D.
President
Clark Atlanta University

Centenarians Presentation .................................................................................................... President French

Occasion & Introduction of the Orator .............................................................................. Mr. Gregory Morrison
Chairman
Clark Atlanta University
Board of Trustees

Convocation Address ......................................................................................................... President French
Alma Mater ................................................................. C. Eric Lincoln

Sending Forth .............................................................. The Rev. Tonya Lawrence Miles, D.Ed. Min.
University Chaplain

Recessional ................................................................. CAU Spirit Song: “It’s in My Heart” ...................... Stacy Roberson (CAU ’18)
arr. Curtis Everett Powell
THE 2020 FALL OPENING CONVOCATION ORATOR

GEORGE T. FRENCH, JR., PH.D
5TH PRESIDENT OF CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY

Since September 1, 2019, George T. French, Jr., J.D., Ph.D. has served as the fifth president of Clark Atlanta University. Prior to his unanimous election to serve at the helm of CAU, French served as president of Miles College from 2005-2019. Under his leadership, Miles College exceeded all fundraising goals in the history of the college; achieved unprecedented financial composite score and credit rating scores; increased student access to educational funding; more than tripled the size of the existing campus with key land acquisitions; and elevated the total athletics program to the best men’s program within the Southern Intercollegiate Athletics Association (SIAC), as evidenced by receipt of the Commissioner’s Cup. Additionally, the Campus experienced a transformational beautification and construction program during his tenure, with the simultaneous construction of three major buildings (French Student Activities Center); (Snorton Women’s Residence Hall), and (Williams Welcome & Enrollment Services Building).

• Currently serving third term: Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACSCOC) Board of Trustees.

• Currently serving second term: National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI), serving two U.S. presidential appointees as advisor to U.S. Secretary of Education – specifically reviews and recommends all regional and national accreditors for federal accreditation recognition. Congressionally appointed.

• Chair, Council of Presidents, Atlanta University Center (AUC) (Morehouse, Spelman, Morehouse School of Medicine, Clark Atlanta University).

• Chair, Council of Presidents, Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC).

• Secretary of Member Presidents, and Chair of Accreditation, UNCF.

• Vice-Chair Board of Directors, National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education.

• Co-founder, Higher Education Leader Foundation (H.E.L.F.)

A native of Louisville, Ky., Dr. French earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with an emphasis in Policy Analysis from the University of Louisville. He was competitively accepted into the University of Richmond Law School and completed two years of studies before being recruited by Miles College to serve as the Director of Development. He completed his final year of law school at Miles Law School, earning a Juris Doctorate. Dr. French received his Ph.D. in Higher Education from Jackson State University, and has completed Harvard University professional education programs for experienced college presidents.
NEGRO NATIONAL ANTHEM
"LIFT EV’RY VOICE AND SING"

Lift ev’ry voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the list’ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun
Of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chast’ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet, come to the place for which our fathers sighed? We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path thro’ the blood of the slaughtered, Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might,
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

~James Weldon Johnson
THE CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY ALMA MATER

"REIGN, CLARK ATLANTA"

Thy noble tricolor now ripples the breeze,
Bridging the mountains, spanning the seas,
Calling thy sons and thy daughters so true;
Reign, Clark Atlanta, we rally to you.

(Refrain)
Reign, Alma Mater, our hearts be thy throne;
Reign, Clark Atlanta! Thou reignest alone!
Reign, Clark Atlanta! Thou reignest! Reignest!
Reign, Clark Atlanta! Thou reignest alone!

Hail! Alma Mater, we ever aspire
Thy sacred mission to fulfill entire;
Thy noble banner has lighted our way.
Hail to the Crimson, the Black, and the Gray!

Deep in our hearts shall thy precepts abide;
Culture for service - our goal and our guide.
Through stern privation, through fortune and fame,
We’ll find a way and achieve in thy name;

Reign, Alma Mater, forever we pray-
Let the tricolor that heralds thy sway
Fly from the ramparts of learning so free,
For we shall ever be faithful to thee.

~ C. Eric Lincoln
THE CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY SPIRIT SONG

"IT'S IN MY HEART"

(Verse)
There is no place like CAU.
The choice to lift every voice is up to you.
I listened to my heart. It told me where to start-Clark Atlanta.
Yes, we'll never part.

(Vamp)
You taught me how to be strong when the road seems so long.
Because of you I can fight and carry on-(Why)

(Chorus)
It’s in my heart (Clark Atlanta). It’s in heart my heart (CAU).
The spirit of the panther is in my heart.

It’s in my heart (Clark Atlanta). It’s in heart (CAU).
That mighty panther spirit is in my heart.

(Repeat Verse I)
(Repeat Chorus-twice)

~ Stacy Roberson
CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY’S MISSION

Leveraging its distinctive history, Clark Atlanta University is an urban research university that transforms the lives of students and their communities by preparing citizen leaders to be problem-solvers through innovative learning programs; supportive interactions with faculty, staff, and students; exemplary scholarship; and purposeful service.

CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY’S VISION

Clark Atlanta University will increasingly become a dynamic 21st-century research university of choice for a diverse student body with enhanced student enrollment yields, success and global marketability.
Clark Atlanta University is committed to academic excellence, building character and service to others. The University will achieve its mission by cultivating an environment of honesty, kindness, mutual respect, self-discipline, school loyalty, trust, academic integrity and communal pride. As a member of this scholarly community, I make the following pledge:

- I will work to promote academic honesty and integrity

- I will work to cultivate a learning environment that opposes violence, vulgarity, lewdness and selfishness

- I will embrace the concept of mutual respect by treating others the way I want them to treat me

- I will support a campus culture of diversity by respecting the rights of those whose views and experiences differ from my own

- I will honor and care for the sanctity of my body as the temple of God

- I will commit myself to service so that I can make a difference in the world and a difference for more than just myself

- I will celebrate and contribute to the “spirit of greatness” left by those who preceded me, and I will work to leave this a better place for those who follow me

As a member of this community, I am committed to conducting myself in ways that contribute to a civil campus environment that encourages positive behavior in others. I accept the responsibility to uphold these noble ideals as a proud member of the Clark Atlanta University family.
THE CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH REPRESENTATIVE
The Rev. Dr. Michael T. McQueen
Clark Atlanta University (CAU) is a leading research institution of higher education, offering students the opportunity to engage in 40 exciting areas of study at bachelor’s, master’s, specialist and doctoral levels. CAU is classified by Carnegie as R2: Doctoral University – High Research Activity. Established in 1988 by the historic consolidation of Atlanta University (1865) and Clark College (1869), CAU leverages a proud combined 300 year African-American heritage to cultivate lifted lives that transform the world.

[www.cau.edu](http://www.cau.edu)

#cauforward