

Taylor Harris

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Hampton University Athletic Co-Founder to Deliver Keynote Address for 75th Annual Opening Convocation



Photo by: The Hampton Script

Hampton University continues its celebration of President Dr. William R. Harvey's 40th anniversary and the 150th anniversary of Hampton University with the 75th Annual Opening Convocation. This ceremony took place at 10:45 a.m. on September 24, 2017 at Ogden Hall where Alumnus Calvin L. Butts Jr., who is a healthcare and pharmaceutical strategist and co-founder of #Hampton Nation, was the keynote speaker of the ceremony.

University Chaplin Rev. Debra L. Haggins opened the 75th Annual Opening Convocation with the Innovation. The University Symphonic Choir under the instruction of Mr. Omar J. Dickenson sang "Hallelujah from Christ on the Mount of Olives" by Ludwig van Beethoven. Mr. Kristopher Anderson, President of the Senior Class, gave greetings to the faculty, staff, students and graduating seniors. "We have a reciprocal responsibility to stand on the shoulders of alumni and let future Hamptonians stand on our shoulders" said Mr. Anderson. Anderson did a great job of encouraging his fellow classmates to continue to be a catalyst for change.

Dr. William R. Harvey presented the 2016-2017 E.L. Hamm, Sr. Distinguished Teacher Award to Drs. Karen Ward and Sylvia Rose. Dr. Rose is currently serving as assistant dean of the School of Business. Dr. Ward is currently serving as the chair of the Fine and Performing Arts department in the School of Liberal Arts and Education. The E.L. Hamm, Sr. award is a distinguished teacher's award that recognizes faculty that inspires students to that commit to excellence and have a passion for learning.

Mr. Calvin L. Butts is a recognized for his ability to bring technology to the forefront combined with his solid background in sales and marketing. He has worked with top pharmaceutical

companies and digital agencies. In the End Results, Butts is PharmaVoice 100 (100 most inspiring people in pharmaceutical industry) as well as New Jersey 40 under 40. He is an active Hampton alumnus and has served as a National Hampton Alumni Association Board Member and is currently active at local and regional levels. Mr. Butts is a co-founder of the Hampton University Young Alumni Council. Recently, Butts along with his classmate, Dr. Michael Greene, founded and funded the launch of a national athletic campaign to help raise money and awareness for Hampton University Athletics.

The highlights of the ceremony when Dr. Harvey & Mr. Butts spoke inspirational words. Dr. Harvey stated “Hampton instills two principles into each Hamptonian. We instill a strong academic program and we develop character.” This statement is a fact because we have a lot of notable or famous alumni like Mr. Calvin Butts. Keynote speaker, Calvin Butts stated “Your character is built here at Hampton University.” Which also proves that Dr. Harvey’s statement is accurate. This ceremony was just the kick off of the big celebration Hampton has in store this year.