

American philanthropy, leads one of the nation's largest community foundations. Hicks is a renowned theologian, author, educator and activist. Smith excelled during a long career in medicine and scientific research while also serving as a higher education administrator.

Also recognized were the late Donnie Brooks Taylor Jr. and Jarrett Crockett-Brown '08.

Taylor was a Morehouse business student who was killed in an automobile accident on Aug. 19, 2007. His mother, Sarah Taylor, was presented a certificate of attendance recognizing her son's matriculation at Morehouse.

Crockett-Brown was a business major and member of the class of 2008 who died suddenly in December 2007 while visiting family in Boston during the Christmas break. His mother, Vanessa Crockett-Brown, received her son's bachelor of arts degree that was posthumously presented to him.

Then in a commencement ceremony

“ I am asking that each of you live up to and honor the highest traditions and expectations of being a Morehouse man. I am expecting that you reach a hand back while you continue to climb even higher. ”

—Emmett D. Carson '80

that for the first time was broadcast globally, via the Internet at [www.morehouse.edu](http://www.morehouse.edu), the umbrellas began to pop up as the graduates finally began their walk across the stage.

A smiling Franklin shook their hands and gave many a hug and a pat on the back as the sun began to break through the clouds.

“Remember, when a Morehouse man

bears the insignia of a Morehouse graduate, he is expected to do exceptionally well. In fact, we expect nothing less,” said Phillip McCall '69, president of the Morehouse College National Alumni Association. “We hope you will represent us well and play an active role in supporting both your alumni association and your college, forever.”

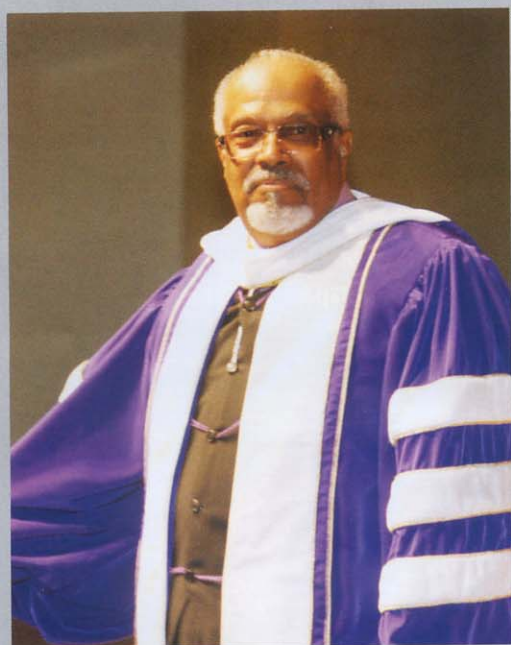
Then it was time for members of the class of 2008 to make their final march as a full group. But before the ceremony ended, Franklin gave his presidential charge:

“More than anything, we need you to lead the Renaissance in our villages, to help make being smart cool again, to promote healthy relationships and strong marriages and families,” he said. “So I ask you, class of 2008, will you heed the wishes of your president today?”

“Yes,” they yelled back.

“If you will, I say up and be doing,” Franklin continued. “Up, young men. Go forth to build a brave new world. Up, you mighty men! You can accomplish what you will.” ■

## BACCALAUREATE



Rev. H. Beecher Hicks Jr.

## Signed, Sealed *and* Delivered!

The class of 2008 should be proud of their achievements, but they should never forget that God, family and others who came before them helped in their becoming Morehouse men, the Rev. H. Beecher Hicks Jr. said during the baccalaureate ceremony at the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel on May 17.

“This is no time for selective amnesia,” Hicks said. “Do not forget that somebody prayed for you and do not forget again that somebody did your jail time.”

In a rousing address titled “Signed, Sealed and Delivered” that had the capacity audience shouting and on their feet, Hicks, senior minister of Metropolitan Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., spoke of an America that has not always been welcoming of African American men.

But he cited the work of icons such as Malcolm X and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. '48 along with the love from family and friends as very important contributors to the graduation of the approximately 520 men of Morehouse.

“Truth of the matter is that if you were to be measured by sociological (statistics) alone, you should be in jail,” Hicks said. “But now you have what you have. You look like you look. You will graduate from this institution because somebody else suffered on your behalf.”