



## **Shelia McDaniels, Paine College- c/o 2006, Mathematics**



**Name :** Shelia McDaniels

**Your HBCU :** Paine College

**Graduation Year :** 2006

**Major :** Mathematics

**Minor :** Chemistry

### **1. Where are you from? Who introduced you to HBCUs?\***

I'm from New Orleans. I was introduced to HBCUs at Bayou Classic. Each year, Grambling plays Southern in New Orleans in the Superdome. Every year, it brings tons of black people from all over to celebrate these two outstanding institutions.



PC Homecoming Tailgate 2018

### **2. Why did you choose an HBCU over a pwi?\***

Honestly, I chose an HBCU because I received a full ride and it wasn't in the state of Louisiana.

### **3. What is the story of your "experience" at Your HBCU given its heralded status as a stellar and prestigious institution?\***

My experience at Paine College was nothing short of amazing!! I've met some life-long friends. Besides being active on campus via Student Government (SGA), I also tutored in the math lab and joined the best sorority, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Being at Paine in the early 2000s, was like being a part of a large extended family. Everyone looked out for everyone no matter where you were from. It was great to see other young black adults seeking growth, knowledge, and life experiences. But the best part was that we were receiving that knowledge from other successful minority staff members. Leaders producing leaders. As my Paine student ID stated, Paine has been "producing leaders since 1882."

### **4. "First time" experiences at your HBCU?\***

My "first time" experience at Paine was a black letter greek organization probate. It was lit. I remember the Zetas came out on motorcycles that were driven by men of Phi Beta Sigma. Man, the crowd went wild on the outside basketball court. Another first was my first trip to Memphis. SGA went to a black student leadership conference in Mississippi. But Mr. Palmer also planned it so we could go to Memphis and see Beale St. and the National Civil Rights Museum. It was a wonderful experience. We had a great time.

### **5. Who are the professors that have impacted your life in and out of the classroom? How**

**did they do that?\***

Ms. Christine Crockett impacted my life the most. This amazing woman read my admission essay and made it her business to find me my freshmen year and mentor me. As faith may have it, I ended up being enrolled in her class. Ms. Crockett always guided me in the right direction. She was my sounding board. She was, no is, my Paine College mother. She had such a kind spirit. Even when my sister started attending Paine College, she treated her the same way. After I graduated, Ms. Crockett and I remained in contact. She actually has pictures of my daughter and I posted in her office.



Where it at began...Paine's student center

**6. What to date has been your proudest moment @ Your HBCU?**

May 6, 2006 - Graduation Day!!! I became the first member of my immediate family to graduate from college.

**7. What was your proudest moment in your life to date?**

My proudest life moment would have to be the birth of my daughter and my wedding to my husband.