

LeMoyne-Owen COLLEGE

LEADERSHIP. OPPORTUNITY. CHANGE.

May 1, 2018 – One hundred twenty-two LeMoyne-Owen College students will be awarded bachelor's degrees in multiple disciplines during the college's 148th Commencement ceremony Saturday, May 12, 10 a.m. at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church-Westwood, 620 Parkrose Ave.

Jesse J. Holland, an award-winning journalist and the author of the first novel featuring comics' most popular black superhero, The Black Panther, will deliver the commencement address. The novel was commissioned by Marvel books and the Black Panther is now a blockbuster movie.



Holland is from Holly Springs, Mississippi. He is an accomplished novelist, also having been trusted by Lucasfilm to chronicle the history of their newest black hero in Star Wars _ Finn _ in the Star Wars young adult novel Star Wars: The Force Awakens - Finn's Story.

In addition to fiction, Holland also is an award-winning nonfiction author, with his book *The Invisibles: The Untold Story of African American Slavery In The White House*, being named as the 2017 silver medal award winner in U.S. History in the Independent Publisher Book Awards and one of the top history books of 2016 by Smithsonian.com.

In addition to his books, Holland also is a Race & Ethnicity writer for The Associated Press, as well as a former White House, Supreme Court and Congressional reporter.

He also is a recognized educator and public speaker, having served as the Visiting Distinguished Professor of Ethics in Journalism at the University of Arkansas in 2016. He now teaches creative nonfiction in the Master of Fine Art in Creative Nonfiction program at Goucher College in Towson, Maryland.

He graduated from the University of Mississippi with a Liberal Arts degree with an emphasis in journalism and English. He received his Master of Fine Arts in Creative Nonfiction from Goucher College in 2012.

LOC's commencement also will recognize the Diamond Anniversary of the Class of 1958, the Gold Anniversary of the Class of 1968 and the Silver Anniversary of the Class of 1993.

The Class of 1968 was the last to graduate under the LeMoyne College banner. This is the 50th-anniversary year of the merger between LeMoyne and Owen colleges. Students from both schools began taking classes under the LeMoyne-Owen College banner in the fall semester of 1968.