

MICHAEL A. BATTLE

TRINITY COLLEGE CLASS OF 1973

Doctor of Divinity

*Presented by Frank Kirkpatrick '64, Ellsworth Morton Tracy Lecturer and Professor of Religion
Escorted by John A. Gettier, Professor of Religion, Emeritus*

You arrived at Trinity as the beneficiary of a special scholarship created in memory of Second Lieutenant Michael P. Getlin, who died during the Vietnam Conflict. You have said that when you learned about Lieutenant Getlin's story, you decided to embark upon a career as a military chaplain. That decision—with its powerful mixture of public service and spiritual strength—has marked your path through life and has kept service to humanity as a central theme in your many leadership positions.

The education you received as an undergraduate at Trinity provided the foundation for a wide-ranging career grounded in your passion for the ministry. After graduating in 1973, you earned your Master of Divinity degree at Duke University and then completed your Doctor of Ministry degree at Howard University.

You also completed the Institute for Educational Management at the Harvard University Graduate School of Education; the Millennial Leadership Institute, sponsored by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities; and the William R. Harvey Leadership Institute at Hampton University. In addition, you graduated from the United States Army Reserve Command and General Staff College.

Over the years, you have enjoyed success as an administrator at some of America's finest educational institutions. You have been president of the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia; vice president of Chicago State University in Chicago, Illinois; associate vice president of Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia; and dean of the chapel at Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia, where you also served as pastor of the Hampton University Memorial Church and executive secretary and treasurer of the Hampton University Ministers' Conference, the largest interdenominational conference of African American clergy in the United States. For 20 years you served as chaplain in the United States Army Reserve, retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 1997.

You were chair of the Robert W. Woodruff Library of the Atlanta University Center and a member of the United Negro College Fund Institutional Board of Directors, 100 Black Men of Atlanta, and the steering committee of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Congressional Forum. You hold lifetime membership in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

You have had a long and distinguished history of involvement with the people and governments of Africa. From 1994 to 1998, you served as vice president of the American Committee on Africa. In 1994 you were an election observer for the first free election in South Africa and, at the same time, served as liaison between the Hampton University Ministers' Conference and the South African Council of Churches. And today, as the United States Ambassador to the African Union, you serve as the personal representative of the President of the United States to the African Union. Headquartered at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the diplomatic capital of the African Continent, the African Union is a multilateral continental body with 53 African member nations.

For building an exceptional career upon the foundation of your Trinity education—one marked by scholarship, successful leadership, and inspirational public service—I have the honor of presenting you, Ambassador Michael A. Battle, Class of 1973 for the degree of Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*.