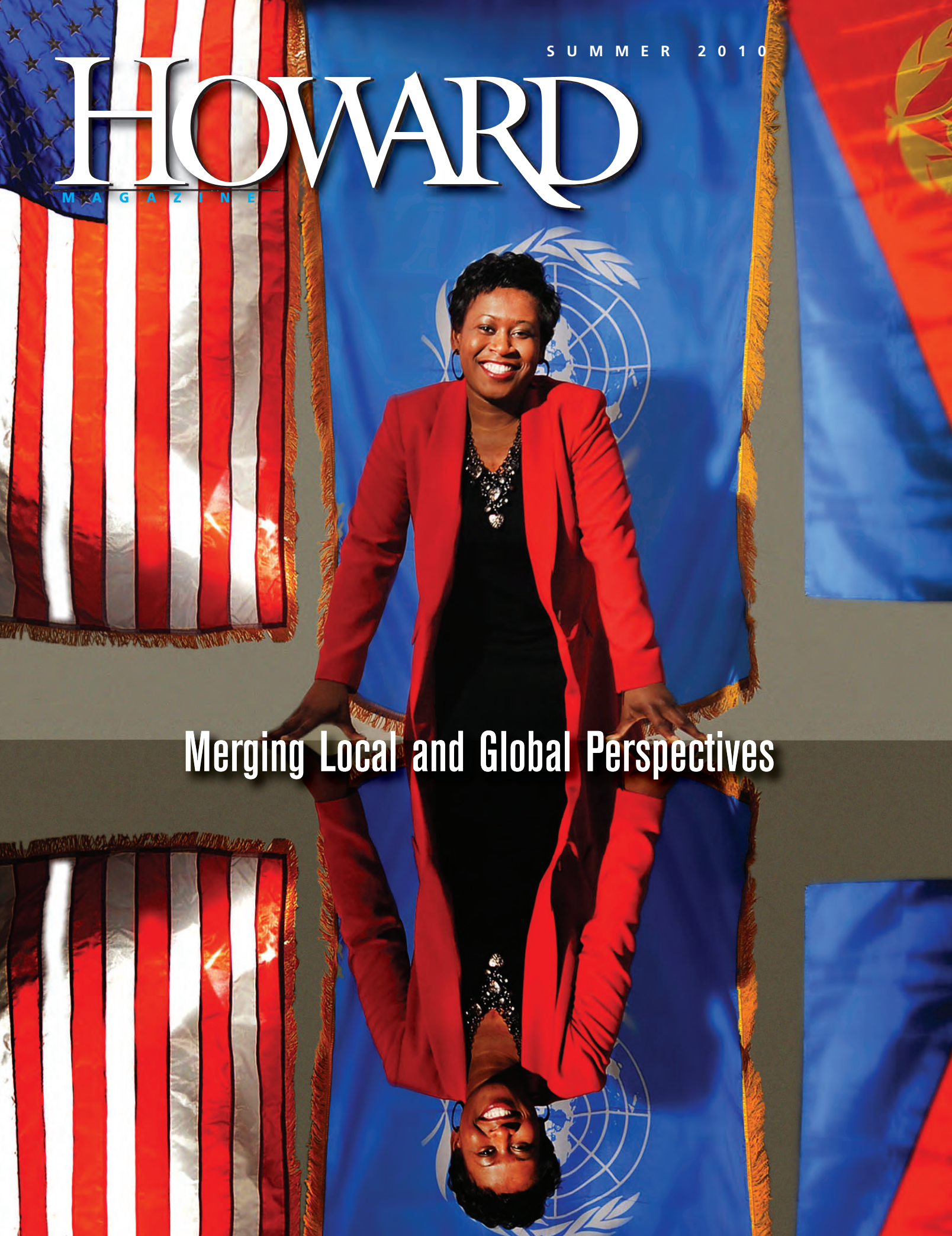


S U M M E R 2 0 1 0

# HOWARD

M A G A Z I N E

Merging Local and Global Perspectives







### Unlocking the Doors to a New World, a New Perspective

Novelist Henry Miller wrote, “One’s destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things.” Being a student of the world can help to shape our perceptions about ourselves and others, while opening the doors to an education that extends beyond the classroom.

Institutes of higher education have traditionally offered students the opportunity to study abroad—in essence, to help unlock those doors—yet less than 20 percent of minority students in the U.S. participate in these programs. Howard University’s longstanding commitment to offer substantive study abroad programs has ensured that thousands of students and alumni now see the world in new and exciting ways. This issue of the magazine explores that commitment, which is reflected in the University’s mission, to produce leaders for America and the global community.

In this issue, we also examine the impact that alumni and professors are currently making around the world—in China, Senegal, Ghana and the United Arab Emirates, among other places—in their professions and through their research. Their experiences demonstrate the depth and scope of Howard’s scholarship and the ways in which the University is preparing the next generation of world citizens.

Being a world citizen also means having compassion for those most in need, and in the

Hilltop View column, alumna Amy Nguyen, M.D., shares her recent experiences serving as a medical director of a family medicine clinic in Haiti. Though a mix of emotions overwhelmed her while she was volunteering, she says she was most affected by the incredible resilience and spirit of the Haitians that she met, many of whom lost family and friends in the earthquake.

One of the highlights for me in this issue was the opportunity to feature two centenarians, Helen Newberry McDowell, 106, and Malinda Polk Gerald, 101. Both women studied at Howard during the 1920s and 1930s, enduring racism and sexism along the way but never abandoning their

dream to graduate from the Mecca. Their success at Howard has made a difference in the lives of the many young people they taught during their careers. I met Ms. McDowell one morning as she prepared to teach an adult Bible class at a local D.C. church. (Still teaching at 106, amazing!) Her face still lights up at the mention of her *alma mater*. For Ms. Polk Gerald, celebrating her 100th birthday on the same day of President Barack Obama’s inauguration reinforced her belief in the power of education. These women are wonderful examples of what it means to leave a legacy for others.

As always, we welcome your feedback and encourage you to send us an e-mail at [ouc@howard.edu](mailto:ouc@howard.edu).

Raven Padgett  
Editor

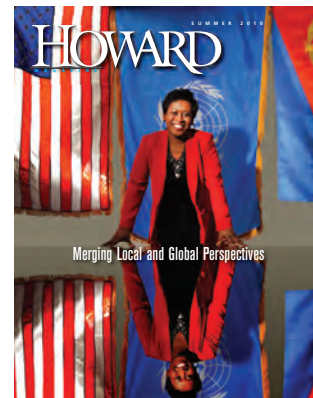
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Stay informed with the *Capstone*, the University’s official e-newsletter. Visit [www.howard.edu/newsroom/publications/default.htm](http://www.howard.edu/newsroom/publications/default.htm) to read past issues.

Howard University has a Twitter account. To follow the latest “tweets,” visit <http://twitter.com/HowardU>.

Visit the official Howard University Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/pages/Washington-DC/Howard-University/38238012184](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Washington-DC/Howard-University/38238012184).



#### ABOUT THE COVER

Tiffany McGriff (B.A. '01) is taking on the world, while helping to diversify the U.S. Foreign Service and the workforce of other international agencies where minorities are traditionally underrepresented. Currently a duty officer in the White House, McGriff has served abroad in a number of capacities and will next serve as a desk officer for the Bureau of African Affairs.

Cover photo: Ceasar

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Back cover photo: Joshua G. Thomas  
(Watching the sun set in Dakar,  
Senegal.)

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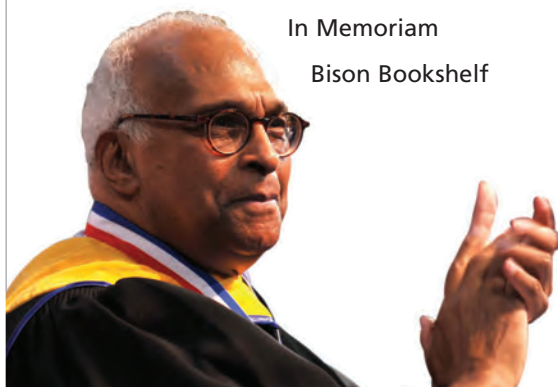
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### Ship Named in Honor of Renowned Surgeon and Blood Pioneer

The U.S. Navy named a 689-foot, 42,000-ton dry cargo/ammunition ship after Charles Drew, M.D., the former chair of the Department of Surgery. The *USNS Charles Drew* was christened this February in honor of the physician and researcher whose pioneering work revolutionized the medical field.

Bernard Kapiloff (M.D. '45), a retired plastic surgeon who taught at the College of Medicine for more than 15 years and a surgical assistant under Drew, applauded the honor. "He's worthy of anything and everything this country can give him," Kapiloff said. "It's amazing that his work on blood plasma was his doctoral thesis."

LaSalle Leffall Jr. (M.D. '52), one of the world's most prominent cancer surgeons and a longtime professor at the College of Medicine, was a member of the last class that Drew taught.

"He was an excellent teacher, and had a reputation among surgical residents and patients as an excellent surgeon," Leffall

said. "He had a saying, 'Excellence of performance will transcend artificial barriers created by man.' What he was talking about was discrimination. That is a message that I have carried with me all of my life."

The model for blood and plasma storage developed by Drew in the 1930s and 1940s has saved millions of lives over the years. In 1942, he was named the head of the Department of Surgery and chief surgeon at Freedmen's Hospital. The following year, he became the first African-American surgeon to serve as an examiner on the American Board of Surgery. From 1944–1948, he was the Hospital's chief of staff and medical director. He died as the result of an automobile accident in 1950.



Charlene Drew Jarvis, Ph.D., Bebe Drew Price and Sylvia Drew Ivie (above) attend the ship dedication ceremony honoring their father, Charles (right).





## Donna Brazile Calls on Students to Serve

At age nine, Donna Brazile helped a local politician get elected after he promised to build a playground in her neighborhood. Decades later, the veteran Democratic strategist and political analyst is still a force to be reckoned with.

Faculty, students and staff gathered in a capacity-filled room in the Blackburn Center Auditorium in January to hear her speak as part of the third annual Charles W. Harris Lecture. Invoking the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. in a speech titled “The Fierce Urgency of Now,” Brazile offered a passionate plea for students to continue to build on the successes that were evidenced by the election of President Barack Obama.

She noted that while King would be pleased with the monumental strides made by African Americans since the civil rights movement, he would encourage them to continue to agitate for social justice. “I don’t believe that we should ever rest after an election,” said the author of the best-selling memoir *Cooking with Grease: Stirring the Pots in American Politics*. “That is the moment of the greatest accountability.”

Several in the auditorium used the Q&A session after Brazile’s speech to ask her about

social issues affecting Black communities. One such student was Melech Thomas, a senior communications and culture major, who like Brazile believes that African Americans must continue to advocate for issues central to their communities.

“What President Obama is trying to get us to do is indirectly give him the push to address African-American issues within the public agenda, while not being seen as the Black president but as America’s president,” Thomas said.

Professor *emeritus* Charles W. Harris, Ph.D., who served Howard for 32 years as a scholar, teacher, administrator and mentor, funds the lecture series in the College of Arts and Sciences’ Political Science department.



JUSTIN D. KNIGHT

## Conference Reinforces the Value of Moorland-Spingarn

The College of Arts and Sciences assembled a list of nationally recognized archivists, librarians and scholars to celebrate the legacy of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center (MSRC), and to discuss its position in the future of Africana research.

While the two-day symposium focused on the rich intellectual heritage housed within MSRC, students, alumni and faculty sought answers to how the University would continue to support and enhance the 96-year-old repository. Included among its nearly 7,000 holdings are the rare works and manuscripts of Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, E. Franklin Frazier, Anna Julia Cooper, Alain LeRoy Locke and Mary Church Terrell.

Jessie Carney Smith, Ph.D., librarian and William and Camille Cosby Endowed Professor at Fisk University, stressed the need to capitalize on the scholars who seek out

collections housed at Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

“Sometimes scholars from around the world come to our campuses because they want to be close to these works so they can do their research. We can offer them access, and possibly have them research part time and teach part time,” she said.

Charles Johnson, Ph.D., assistant professor of History and assistant director of the South African Research and Archival Project at Howard, discussed providing greater access to MSRC’s collections in a digital form. In addition to allowing researchers to perform more robust searches, he explained, Howard would be able to charge institutional and individual fees for access to

JUSTIN D. KNIGHT



online collections. “Such a broad audience could generate some funding to underwrite the operations of the MSRC,” Johnson said.

Dana A. Williams (M.A. ’95; Ph.D. ’98), professor and chair of the English department at Howard, urged the University to continue to embrace MSRC as a part of the overall institution. “The University has to own the center. Right now it’s a part of the campus, but it’s something that we completely take for granted,” she said.

Participants in the two-day conference discuss the future of Moorland-Spingarn.



JUSTIN D. KNIGHT

President Sidney A. Ribeau leads the commission's discussion on the uniqueness of Howard.

## Commission on Academic Renewal Prepares Final Report

Last fall, the Presidential Commission on Academic Renewal (PCAR) began an extensive review of academic programs to ensure a continued path of excellence at Howard. The process was undertaken by a presidentially appointed commission composed predominantly of faculty, but with representation from all University stakeholder groups, as well as nationally recognized external academic leaders and experts. The commission is scheduled to submit its findings and recommendations to President Sidney A. Ribeau, Ph.D., this year.

Among the highlights of the commission's work was the pivotal Feb. 19 discussion on the uniqueness of Howard. Commissioner Greg Carr, Ph.D., presented on behalf of the undergraduate work group; Sandra Crewe, Ph.D., on behalf of the professional programs, Non-Health Sciences; Allan Johnson, Ph.D., on behalf of the professional programs, Health Sciences; Joan Payne, Ph.D., on

behalf of the graduate programs; and Eric Walters, Ph.D., on behalf of the Faculty Senate. In his presentation, Carr urged an examination of characteristics of the "Howard Experience" that may be difficult to measure by conventional standards.

"What we have been attempting to name, qualify and quantify, and ultimately affirm, improve and leverage that is 'unique and irreplaceable' about Howard University are the culturally grounded, non-race-based modalities that inform teaching and learning dedicated to questions of the human condition. There is a Howard 'type' of faculty, student and staff, which we must identify and replicate in order to give the word 'quality' real meaning," he said.

Howard's historic advocacy positions on pressing national and international issues and the frequency of its outreach to the less fortunate, measured by activities designed to address such issues as

health disparities and discrimination in housing, were among some of the unique characteristics cited by presenters. Additionally, the University's status as a repository of the experiences of African Americans and people of the African Diaspora and its protective and nurturing environment for teaching, research and creativity among people of African descent add to its uniqueness.

Michael Winston, Ph.D., vice president *emeritus* of Howard, urged a broader perspective of what makes the University special and its overall contribution to higher education.

"What needs to be emphasized are the ideas to which it is committed as priorities, the focus of its programs and the social significance of its provision of education and health services to underserved populations, while not marginalizing those programs that are not tightly or obviously aligned with them or a mission statement," he said.

During three meetings in December, commissioners reviewed the PCAR plan and received presentations on the University's mission, President Ribeau's vision, the University's financial and budgetary status and physical facilities. The commission resumed its work with a two-day retreat in January, focusing on the evaluative framework and criteria used to assess the academic programs.

Alvin Thornton (Ph.D. '79) serves as chair of the commission, and Eve Higginbotham, M.D., senior vice president for Health Sciences, and James H. Wyche, Ph.D., provost and chief academic officer, serve as vice-chairs of the commission. A professional staff, coordinated by Ronyelle Ricard, Ph.D., provides support for the commission.



## Socially Conscious Senior Is a Give Back Day Hero

Senior Marquis Smith was named one of four national Allstate Give Back Day Heroes, an award honoring individuals who exemplify Martin Luther King Jr.'s commitment to service. As part of the award, Allstate funded a community service project coordinated by Smith, who partnered with the Heart of America Foundation and Howard for an educational event.

"I want to make a difference," Smith said. "I want to own and operate an NGO [non-governmental organization] designed to support the homeless and the elderly, and help dropouts earn their GEDs."

"We are very proud of Marquis; he truly has a spirit to give," said Angela Halamandaris, co-founder and president of the Heart of America Foundation.

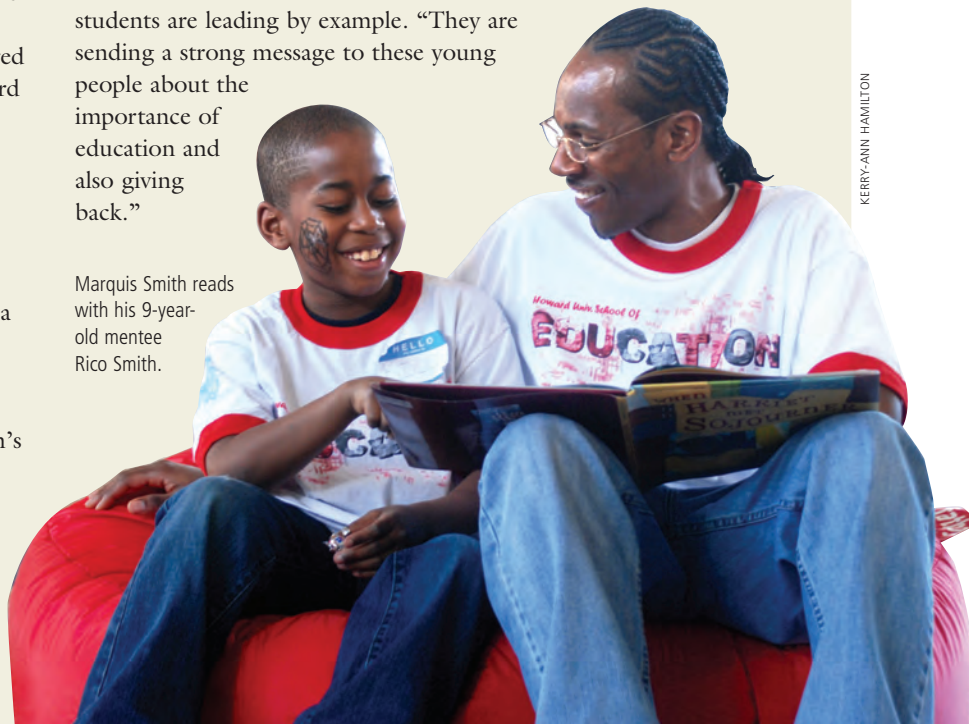
Smith is president of the School of Education's student council, interns with the foundation and also volunteers with various local and national organizations, including America's Promise.

"This is our second year of the Allstate Give Back Day and we wanted to participate in a service project that meant a lot to our honoree," said Adam Polack, senior communication

consultant for Allstate. "This was also a perfect way for our employees to give back on a workday and honor Dr. King's legacy."

Halamandaris said Smith and other Howard students are leading by example. "They are sending a strong message to these young people about the importance of education and also giving back."

Marquis Smith reads with his 9-year-old mentee Rico Smith.



KERRY-ANN HAMILTON

## Campaign Targets Mental Health in the African-American Community



COURTESY PHOTO

book *Black Pain* documents her struggle with depression—in February to kick off a nationwide, two-year campaign at Howard to increase awareness about mental health for African Americans.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) joined Williams' Stay Strong Foundation and the Ad Council to unveil

The leading federal mental health agency partnered with author Terrie Williams—whose

three television public service announcements they hope will diminish the stigma of mental health disorders among African Americans.

"Depression is killing Black people by the thousands and it's important to talk about it, no matter what our own personal fear might be," Williams said. "We must share our stories with each other, especially our young."

The campaign targets African Americans between the ages of 18 and 25 because they have a higher incidence of mental health disorders than the overall population, said Paolo del Vecchio, associate director for Consumer Affairs at the Center for Mental Health Services at SAMHSA.

"Additionally, less than one half of African Americans who need treatment receive it," Vecchio said.

The event, which coincided with the first HBCU National Mental Health Awareness Day, was coordinated by sociologist Donna Holland Barnes, Ph.D., an instructor in the Department of Psychiatry and director of the University's Suicide Prevention Program.

"Unfortunately, many African Americans do not recognize this is a significant problem within our community," said Barnes, who lost a son to suicide. "We are less likely to seek help. If we do seek help, we're less likely to comply with treatment. The result can be fatal, and can lead to either suicide or homicide."



FILE PHOTO

### Dean Will Lead Dental Education Association

Leo E. Rouse, F.A.C.D., (B.S. '69; D.D.S. '73), dean of the College of Dentistry, was elected president of the American Dental Education Association (ADEA). He will assume the presidency next March.

"I am humbled by this opportunity, which was provided to me through the nourishment, support, mentorship and leadership of the

Howard University family," he said.

Rouse is currently chair of the ADEA Council of Deans and serves as one of the four ADEA Commissioners on the Commission of Dental Accreditation. In 2009, he was awarded an ADEA Presidential Citation for distinguished service to the association and dedication to the advancement of the dental education community.

Rouse also serves on the board of directors for the American Dental Association Foundation and the National Children's Oral Health Foundation.

### Trustee Nominated Deputy Administrator for SBA

President Barack Obama nominated Board of Trustee member Marie C. Johns as deputy administrator of the Small Business Administration, an independent agency of the

federal government that counsels, assists and protects the interests of small businesses.

Johns, the retired president of Verizon-Washington, D.C., has been a long-standing advocate and champion of educational and economic empowerment. She is a member of the boards of directors of several organizations, including Girl Scouts of the USA, and is board chair for the Howard University Middle School of Mathematics and Science (MS)<sup>2</sup>.



JUSTIN D. KNIGHT

## Students Document Anniversary of Historic Sit-ins



ZELENA WILLIAMS

Howard students join marchers as they walk past the Woolworth's where the "Greensboro Four" challenged segregationist policies 50 years ago.

**T**wenty students from the John H. Johnson School of Communications traveled to Greensboro, N.C., in February to document the 50th anniversary of one of the most important efforts of the civil rights movement—the sit-ins at an F.W. Woolworth's restaurant.

Students from the Department of Radio, Television and

Film and the Department of Journalism interviewed the three surviving members of the "Greensboro Four," the college freshmen who challenged the segregationist policies at a popular drugstore chain and across most of the South.

The students documented the activities commemorating the anniversary of the effort led by

Ezell Blair Jr., Franklin Eugene McCain, Joseph Alfred McNeil and David Richmond, including the opening of the International Civil Rights Center and Museum in the old Woolworth's building. They also wrote for the University's radio, television, Web and print publications and shared their stories with news media across the nation.

Reginald Miles, assistant professor in the Department of Radio, Television and Film and the organizer of the school's participation, said it was important to see how students from a previous generation changed the nation.

"Those boys were 17 years old. They risked their lives and their futures," Miles said. "By participating in these activities, our students will be able to see how students their age, 50 years ago, changed the course of history and helped launch the civil rights movement."



## University Appointments

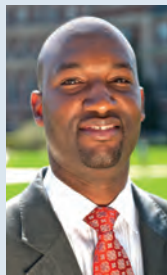
**James H. Wyche, Ph.D.**, was appointed provost and chief academic officer. A highly respected biochemist, cell biologist, researcher and academic affairs professional, he comes to the University from the National Science Foundation. His commitment to addressing the underrepresentation of Blacks in the fields of mathematics and science inspired him to co-found and serve as executive director of The Leadership Alliance, a consortium of 23 leading research and teaching colleges and universities (including Howard). The alliance is dedicated to improving the participation of underrepresented students in STEM-area graduate programs, as well as the public and



JUSTIN D. KNIGHT

private sectors. As the holder of two U.S. patents and principal investigator (and co-principal) on dozens of grants and projects, Wyche has helped define and refine his discipline.

**Rayford Davis** was appointed executive director of the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, where he will focus on supporting a data-driven management culture, developing systems and operating processes throughout the University. He previously served as an engagement manager in the Washington, D.C. office of McKinsey & Company, a strategy and global management consulting firm. In addition to his experience with McKinsey, Davis built and led the business development team



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at Cox Television and worked in marketing at Procter & Gamble.

**Troy Stovall** was appointed executive vice president and chief operating officer, and will be responsible for leading the institutional effectiveness efforts for the University. In particular, he will focus on business operations and the enhancement of the University's PeopleSoft system. Stovall will also provide leadership for public safety, facilities and planning, auxiliary services and materials management. He comes to Howard from Jackson State University, where he served as the senior vice president for Finance and Operations.



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## New Members Named to Board of Trustees



COURTESY PHOTO

Sheila C. Johnson



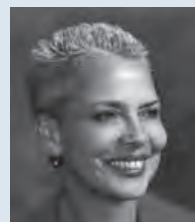
COURTESY PHOTO

Patrick T. Harker



COURTESY PHOTO

Joshua B. Rales



COURTESY PHOTO

Benaree Pratt Wiley

The University welcomed four new members to the Board of Trustees. **Sheila C. Johnson; Patrick T. Harker, Ph.D.; Joshua B. Rales, Esq.; and Benaree Pratt Wiley.**

**Johnson** is an entrepreneur and philanthropist whose accomplishments span the arenas of hospitality, sports, TV/film, the arts and humanitarian causes. She is the CEO of Salamander Hospitality LLC, a company she founded in 2005. She is also a television pioneer, having been a founding partner of Black Entertainment Television, and is the first African-American woman to have a stake in three professional sports teams—the Washington Wizards, the Washington Capitals and the Washington Mystics.

**Harker** is president of the University of Delaware (UD), with concurrent appointments as professor of business administration in the Alfred Lerner College of Business and Economics and professor of civil and environmental engineering in the UD College of Engineering. He previously served as dean of the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, reliance professor of management and private enterprise and chairman and professor of operations and information management at Wharton.

**Rales** is founder and managing partner of RFI Associates, a real estate investment company specializing in buying and renovating apartment communities. He is also founder of the RFI

Foundation, which focuses primarily on supporting Jewish causes and promoting educational equity, health care for the uninsured and cancer research.

**Wiley** (B.A. '68) is principal of The Wiley Group, a firm specializing in strategy, talent management and leadership development. She is a driving force in the advancement of leadership diversity. For 15 years, she served as the president and chief executive officer of The Partnership Inc., a talent management organization for multicultural professionals in the Boston area. Under her leadership, the organization strengthened the capacity to attract, retain and develop talented professionals of color and helped more than 1,300 African Americans integrate into the corporate community.



### International Exchange and Understanding at Howard

**A**t a time when the world needs change agents most, Howard University has a clear role in setting a global agenda and producing leaders to advance it. Since our founding in 1867, Howard has realized both the potential and the possibilities encased in preparing citizens of the world. In 2010, we remain committed to extending our worldwide reach, expressing our global identity and, in the process, articulating an international footprint.

During the past two decades, the Internet has grown, making the world smaller; political and social events have intensified, making the world more volatile; and personal and geo-political relationships have become critical. These factors have fueled the

**In 2010, we remain committed to extending our worldwide reach, expressing our global identity and, in the process, articulating an international footprint.**

urgency for higher education to provide more opportunities in the areas of intercultural and international studies. This urgency comes out of a realization that the 21st century is made more complex—not so much by the proliferation of nuclear weapons as during the Cold War, for example, but by the growing intermingling of cultures, and the profound lack of awareness and misunderstandings that characterize many of our relationships.

In this regard, several academic units at Howard maintain active and rigorous programs to ensure that as many students as

possible have the opportunity to study abroad before graduation. These units include the Graduate School, the College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Business and the College of Engineering, Architecture and Computer Sciences.

Another key entity is the Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center, which has answered the call to prepare leaders since its founding in 1993. In keeping with its mission to advance interest, knowledge and ideas in international affairs, the Bunche Center routinely hosts or co-hosts programs on women's issues, economic development, race and ethnic conflicts, democratization and the global financial crisis, among others. Speakers include emerging and established scholars, ambassadors, heads of state and chief executive officers, assuring the center's role as a focal point for discussion on these issues.

Ralph J. Bunche, the founder of Howard's Department of Political Science and the great internationalist for whom the center is named, was the first African American to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for his role in Arab-Israeli peace talks in the 1940s and was active in the formation of the United Nations. The center stands as a monument to his work.

Among its unique offerings, the center houses the Patricia Roberts Harris Public Affairs Program, which honors a distinguished alumna who served as secretary of Health and Human Services, as secretary of Housing and Urban Development and as ambassador to Luxembourg. The program includes an annual lecture, visiting fellows and paid

internships for students in federal, state and local government offices. The center also houses the Charles B. Rangel

International Affairs Program—a joint effort with the Department of State to increase the number of minorities in the U.S. Foreign Service.

This issue of *Howard Magazine* focuses on the activities of our students and alumni in the areas of international understanding and exchange and the role of the University, particularly through the Bunche Center, in facilitating their entrance and development. Their accomplishments and the manner in which they are upholding our traditions are certain assurances that Howard's legacy is fortified in a world that grows ever more complex, even as it shrinks into a "global village." Whether they are teaching in Senegal, like Austin Thompson and five of his former classmates, or working as Foreign Service officers in China, Nigeria or Dubai, our alumni are making a difference in the world. They are modeling the value of a diverse workforce and how our University continues to adapt in a changing world.

Further, they are demonstrating their understanding that each generation must pass the baton to the next and every succeeding runner must be better than the one before.

I pledge my support to helping to refine our international footprint and I thank all of you for your role in strengthening the University's tradition of leadership and excellence. ■



**By President Sidney A. Ribeau, Ph.D.**

CEASAR





### Hope and Healing in Haiti

I am jarred awake at 4:30 a.m. by a rooster's crowing, but I lie paralyzed with fatigue in my down-filled sleeping bag. I sleep indoors but cannot stop thinking about the millions of people sleeping on the streets of Haiti, unprotected from the natural elements, mosquitoes and epidemic disease. There is an overwhelming fetid odor of burning plastic, wood fires and human waste. The smell of desperation welcomes me to a new day in Carrefour, Haiti.

For the next two weeks, I am the medical director of the family medicine clinic at Operation Hope (in partnership with the humanitarian group ACTS World Relief). I coordinate medical volunteers at our clinics, both here and in surrounding rural communities. Some of our patients have not had accessible health care in almost 10 years. I've made a "wish list" of medicines and supplies for donors and volunteers and met with other non-governmental organizations, Haitian government leaders and U.S. military personnel in hopes of procuring food, water and tents for our patients.

Every morning, I roam the halls of the hospital in my blue scrub pajamas wearing thick, black-rimmed glasses and a headlamp. I aim my light into an empty patient room and I am greeted by flying thumb-sized cockroaches and a mouse the size of a rat. There is too much work to be done, so I quickly snap back to reality and start my day.

We begin seeing patients at 8:30 a.m. at our on-site clinic, situated across the street from the Adventist hospital. By 10:00 a.m. two groups of 10–20 medical

providers board a rickety school bus and head out to the surrounding community. On this day, one group will visit Cité Soliel, a densely populated area in the outskirts of Port-au-Prince inhabited by the poorest of the poor. The second group travels up the mountain to a convent owned by the Congregation des Petites Soeurs de Sainte Therese de L'Enfant Jesus. My workday ends around 6:00 p.m. when we wrap up our patient care.

I am so inspired and moved by the bright and luminous presence of our patients. They wear their Sunday best—children adorned in beautiful white dresses and women accessorized in dangling earrings—to stand in long lines, waiting to be examined; to receive a few weeks supply of medicine; and to get the attention and love that they deserve and desperately seek. I forget about my own fatigue, thirst and hunger. As the day progresses, I am consumed by an overwhelming mixture of anger, sadness, love and joy.

With every 10 smiles and "Bonjour" greetings I give, 10 faces light up. When they smile at me, I feel as if we are kindred spirits because they bring me closer to God. Their presence reminds me of the powerful ingredients of healing: compassion, devotion and mercy.

Between the local and mobile clinics, we care for almost 2,000 patients daily. We have provided physical, emotional and spiritual healing for close to 17,000 patients since the earthquake. Supplies are basic: one gallon-sized pot of boiling water, three clean towels and a battery clamp for a

potential baby delivery.

Back at home, I think about how I never got to thank the Haitian people for giving

me the great gift of joy—of serving them, caring for them, healing them and loving them. I also think about how my story mirrors theirs. I recall how my mother and sister fought for food and water in the refugee camps in Guam before our immigration to the U.S., and how once we came to the U.S., my father worked three jobs while my mother also worked to support my family.

With every 10 smiles and "Bonjour" greetings I give, 10 faces light up. When they smile at me, I feel as if we are kindred spirits ...

I lost my home and country to corruption, death and disaster, which is why I continue to answer the call to volunteer in places of poverty and destitution. I hope to use what I learned at Howard and in my career to inspire others to live better, healthier and more fulfilling lives. I hope that in my work, I can inspire the children of Haiti, and all over, to believe that one day they too can become doctors and help heal the next generation. **A**

The opinions expressed in this commentary are solely those of Nguyen, and do not express the opinions of Howard University or Howard Magazine.



COURTESY PHOTO

By Amy Nguyen (M.D. '00)

# Merging Local and Global Perspectives

*The Role of Study Abroad in Creating  
a Globally Competent Workforce*





*"I was 14 years old when I traveled to Haiti on a missionary trip. It changed my life. I had seen poverty in the United States, but I had never seen it in the way that I experienced it in Haiti. And although there were differences, there were universals that I saw between the two peoples; which was, no matter how difficult things got, the people in Haiti, just like African Americans in the U.S., always find a way to continue on. We saw that most recently with Hurricane Katrina. So once I got to Howard University, the first thing I did was to begin preparing myself for a second trip overseas."*

—Austin Thompson (B.A. '09)



JOSHUA G. THOMAS

**T**his spring, Thompson recounted his journey around the globe via Skype from his cramped bedroom studio in Dakar, Senegal, where he now teaches comparative politics as a fellow at the Senegalese American Bilingual School. While at Howard, Thompson traveled to a human trafficking conference in England and an appropriate technology for development symposium in Rwanda. He also completed service-learning missions in Ecuador and Senegal.

Inspired by the teachings of Mahatma Ghandi, the Atlanta native left his Washington D.C. classroom for the Jawaharlal Nehru University in India where he studied for a semester. However, according to Thompson, much of his learning about the history and political sphere of the East Asian nation took place outside the lecture halls, along the streets in New Dehli and in a home-stay with his adopted family.

Thompson has become a believer in the importance of travel. "Not in an abstract sense that you should visit these places just to learn cultures, but to find out what are the universal ideals and principles that come across borders and what we can use to inspire people." He credits his well-rounded worldview to his travels and immersion in cultures and international affairs, but says he could always relate it to home. "I think a lot of African Americans don't see how interlinked our 20th-century struggles were to the struggles of people in places like India, China, South Africa or the Caribbean," Thompson says.

The burgeoning scholar plans to enter graduate school this fall where he will study international development. Ultimately, he hopes to work in areas of development and community empowerment in places such as India or Senegal.

**“Howard is committed to doing its part to increase the number of African-American students and people of color studying abroad,” Aikens says. “We are a leader in this area, but we must continue to do more.”**

## **Increasing Participation in Study Abroad Programs**

The Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act, born out of the Abraham Lincoln Study Commission, is a congressional initiative to greatly expand study abroad opportunities for U.S. undergraduates. The goal is to have one million American students like Thompson study abroad between 2006–2017.

Study abroad is defined by the commission as an “educational program for undergraduate study, work, research or credit-bearing internship that is conducted outside the United States that awards academic credit towards a college degree.”

The increasingly interconnected world mandates a global citizenry realized through travel. The Lincoln Commission lists the need for economic competitiveness in a global environment as one of seven reasons for increased cultural and learning experiences. Other reasons include national security, especially the acquisition of strategic languages such as Arabic; bolstering the pipeline of future U.S. leaders; and the pedagogic

During her time studying abroad, Kim Howard (middle) has learned regional dances, including the Marimba, which she performs with her dance troupe, Cimarrones.



value of study abroad and international engagement. It is worth noting that the commission was forged in the post-9/11 era.

Some schools have responded with concerted efforts to increase participation. For example, in 2002, Goucher, a liberal arts college in Baltimore, began to lay the foundation for a mandatory study abroad program. By 2006, the strategic plan was executed, requiring that the incoming class earn academic credits through studies overseas. According to Daniel Norton, Ph.D., associate dean of the Office of International Studies, the Goucher program, *Transcending Boundaries, Creating a Global Community*, “ensures that students explore the international, intercultural and ecological dimensions of their studies through at least one faculty-led three-week intensive course abroad.”

On May 21, this first class will graduate with 100 percent participation in study abroad. “Many students opted to do a three-week course as well as a semester abroad,” Norton says. “The program has been a great success.”

## Howard's Global Reach

There are nearly 15 million Americans enrolled at postsecondary institutions in the U.S.; however, only about 260,000 Americans study abroad, according to the 2009 Open Doors report published by the Institute of International Education. Indeed, the number is low, but it is woefully lacking among minorities. Of the nearly quarter million students who study overseas, roughly 4 percent are African Americans. The number is slightly higher for Hispanic/Latino Americans—6 percent. Yet these numbers pale in comparison to the nearly 85 percent of Caucasian students who complete internships or earn academic credit outside U.S. borders.

Howard is committed to narrowing this gap by offering a range of study abroad opportunities for students in a variety of disciplines. Each spring, students in the School of Business travel to England to learn about the London Stock Exchange. For the past three years, the Howard chapter of Engineers





Without Borders (EWB-HU) has completed service-learning projects in Panama, Brazil and Kenya, providing these aspiring engineers and architects a firm footing in their fields, while devising sustainable solutions for developing countries.

During the spring semester, a delegation of 21 students and eight faculty members from the School of Social Work, led by Dean Cudore Snell, D.S.W., traveled to Cape Town, South Africa, as part of an international service-learning project focused on social development. And this summer, students and faculty from the School of Law will participate in the South Africa Summer Program Abroad, now in its 14th year, and study at the University of Western Cape in Cape Town. Also, this summer, faculty from the College of Arts and Sciences will take scores of students abroad. The 2010 contingent includes: Matthew Amati, Ph.D. (Greece); Gregory Carr, Ph.D. (Egypt); Esther Kahn and Mercedes Vidal Tibbits, Ph.D. (Spain); James Davis, Ph.D. (Dominican Republic); Ceru Diggs, Ph.D. (Germany); Charles Johnson, Ph.D. and Quito Swan, Ph.D. (Ghana); and Evelyn Hawthorne, Ph.D. (Jamaica). The college offers study abroad opportunities to more than a dozen countries for up to four weeks of intensive courses, which include language, history, culture and politics.

The flagship study abroad program at Howard is coordinated through the Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center under the direction of Betty Aikens, who travels extensively to vet academic programs and accommodations, and to learn best practices in international education and exchange.

“Howard is committed to doing its part to increase the number of African-American students and people of color studying abroad,” Aikens says. “We are a leader in this area, but we must continue to do more.”

Kim Howard, one of Aikens’ students, is a senior history and Spanish double major. The 22-year-old has a keen affinity for Afro-Latino languages and the cultural continuities between African traditions and countries throughout the Diaspora.

She has volunteered at an orphanage for girls in Coclé, Panama with EWB-HU and spent a semester focusing on language immersion in Santiago, Dominican Republic. During this visit and others to Peru and Ecuador, Howard learned quite a repertoire of dances unique to the region, including the Marimba, the electrifying art form that she and members of her dance troupe—Cimarrones—express while wearing long white skirts and moving to the beat of indigenous music.

“Study abroad gives you an opportunity to reconnect and retain lost traditions,” Howard says. “You are able to connect with the music, dance and drumming, and it is almost like you have lived it your whole life.”


## Reducing the Diversity Deficit

Mark Overmann is the assistant director and senior policy specialist at the Alliance for International Educational and Cultural Exchange, a Washington-based organization committed to building the global competencies of U.S. citizens through international exchanges to further global peace, freedom, mutual understanding and international cooperation. He also advocates

on Capitol Hill to ensure that funding for cultural exchanges not only remains steady, but increases.

“In today’s increasingly interconnected and internationalized world, it is important for students—regardless of their field of study, whether it be engineering or history—to study abroad,” says Overmann, the co-author of *Working World: Careers in International Education, Exchange, and Development*. “Study abroad is often seen as a luxury or extracurricular and we are trying to change that image and to diversify study abroad.”

The study abroad statistics for undergraduates of modest incomes and minorities are comparably low. However, in 2000, the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship was established to enable study abroad participation for U.S. undergraduate students who are eligible for Federal Pell Grant funding at a two- or four-year college or university. Overmann says, “Gilman is an important step in the right direction, and a very successful program.”

Experts and advisors often use the words “life changing” to describe the study abroad experience. Thompson agrees; as someone who lives and works in Senegal, it has changed his life, and deepened his commitment to Gandhi’s charge to “be the change you want to see in the world.” 

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Hamilton is the media relations manager in the Office of University Communications.





# A Universal Experience

In November 2008, Tsovinar Nazaryan and several friends stood awestruck before a television in the wee hours of the morning in Armenia, bearing witness to the history that was being made in the United States—the election of Barack Obama. A little more than a year later, she found herself at Howard, among strangers in the McDonald's on Georgia Avenue, again staring at a television as President Obama gave his first State of the Union address. She looked around and felt like she was in a new home away from home.

For Nazaryan, who is the first Edmund S. Muskie Fellow at Howard, the beginning wasn't easy. The culture shock that she swore wouldn't faze her hit her hard. And she initially had a difficult time understanding how the University could help her achieve her goal of building up alternative media in Armenia. Then she enrolled in a class about African-American issues in the mass media. As she learned about Howard's involvement in the civil rights movement, and the historical impact that the Black press has made on political, social and economic issues in America, she quickly came to the powerful realization that the struggle to be heard and understood is universal.

Armenia, one of the 12 countries in Eurasia from which the Muskie Fellows are chosen, is home to much media censorship. For example, for 20 days in 2008, no mainstream media was available to report the news—a situation that Nazaryan can't believe still happens in the 21st century. One of her goals is to become a leader in the field of media management, so that in times of distress and emergency her country can always have access to the news and important information. She believes there is much she can learn in America and through the work in her fellowship program.

The Muskie Fellowship is a two-year graduate program established by the U.S. Congress in 1992 for students from Eurasia, to promote economic and democratic growth in those countries. Howard was chosen as one of several colleges and universities across America to host a fellow.


"In addition to its rich heritage of being a historically Black university, Howard has the added emphasis of the diversity of so many students from all over the



world," says Barbara Hines, Ph.D., director of the Mass Communications and Media Studies graduate program in the John H. Johnson School of Communications. "Howard, in its history, has always been a leader in the global community."

Nazaryan says she was instantly welcomed into the University community and felt like she fit in with the other students on campus. That is, until she confessed that she had never heard of celebutante and fellow Armenian Kim Kardashian. "What does she do? Who is she?" she asked her classmates. After a few explanations, Nazaryan says she still doesn't understand why Kardashian is famous or noteworthy.

Overall, Nazaryan has found many similarities between African-American and Armenian cultures, from porch conversations to smile-and-nod greetings to close-knit neighborhoods. And between her busy schedule of school, an internship and volunteer work at Policy Forum Armenia, she wants to create a portrait gallery of her friends and family in Armenia and her neighbors and Howard classmates.

"Sometimes when I walk the streets, I might see someone and think they remind me of a friend in Yerevan," she says. "It was really hard adjusting at first, but I'm really glad that I'm here. I'm so lucky to be able to be at Howard and to take back to Armenia what I learn here." 

Evans is a writer based in Washington, D.C.



Diplomat-in-Residence Barbara Cummings and Ambassador Horace G. Dawson

# Building a New Generation of Diplomats

**By Frank  
McCoy**

**Photo by  
Marvin T.  
Jones**

**W**hen Ambassador Horace G. Dawson visited China in 2008, he encountered three Foreign Service officers who were Howard alumni. They had been frequent visitors to the Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center, which Dawson managed until his recent retirement from the University.

For Dawson, meeting those three Black Foreign Service officers (FSOs) was a delight, but it also was an anomaly. In 2008, the U.S. Department of State reported that African Americans comprised just 5.6 percent of the 11,471 members of the Foreign Service. Since 1995, the Bunche Center has hosted the Department of State's Diplomats-in-Residence program, and, under the direction of veteran diplomats, many students have become FSOs.

The diplomats use their experience and personal touch to recruit students, expose them to opportunities and to help them prepare for the Foreign Service officer exam. The diplomats generally serve one- to two-year





terms at a “home” university, and visit other undergraduate schools in the surrounding region to disseminate information about internships and potential career tracks.

The State Department personnel at Howard are impressive. They include Ambassador Ruth A. Davis, a retired FSO, who was the first Black female director of the Foreign Service Institute and director general of the Foreign Service. As a distinguished advisor for International Affairs, Davis says her work on the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellowship is the highlight of her career. The program is “a unique partnership between Howard University and the U.S. Department of State” that offers 20 annual graduate fellowships worth approximately \$50,000 per year to students who want to become FSOs.

“Our HBCUs need to be a real part of the global world, and the Rangel program is the perch to help get them there,” Davis says.

When Dawson arrived at Howard in 1989, the University did not have a formal international relations program. He helped to begin one with a \$3 million

W. K. Kellogg Foundation grant and support from the University. He also used the Diplomats-in-Residence program “to encourage the study of international relations and the possibility of a diplomatic career.”


Akunna Cook (B.A. '09) embodies Dawson's dream. She is the special assistant to the assistant secretary for the Bureau of African Affairs and says that Howard introduced her to international issues. She recalls being impressed when then assistant secretary of state for African Affairs, and now U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice spoke at the center, because it helped her realize that “people of that stature were a cab ride away.”

Through the Diplomats-in-Residence program, Cook was encouraged to apply for the Thomas R. Pickering Graduate Foreign Affairs Fellowship, which provides up to \$50,000 for tuition and other support, and received one during her last two years at Howard. In 2004, she became an FSO, and since then has served in China and South Africa.

Barbara Cummings is the current Diplomat-in-Residence at Howard. Students chat with her regularly about domestic and overseas fellowships, and to prep for the FSO exams. One challenge is that until most students enter the center, many are unaware of a possible career in Foreign Service. Thus, Cummings says, she works closely with career services, academic departments and student organizations to spread the global “gospel.” She also visits universities throughout the mid-Atlantic region. Before she came to Howard, Cummings was deputy executive director in the Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs and consul general in Rome.

Kevin McGuire is another career FSO whose prominent participation in Howard's international relations program continues from its creation. The former ambassador to Namibia says the staff knew it had to proselytize to students, professors, chairs and deans across disciplines, because the goal was to create a Foreign Service that mirrors America. Since then, McGuire has mentored scores of students.

“When the Bureau of Consular Affairs told us it needed local students to fill temporary assignments, a buzz spread among students about receiving a salary and experience,” he says, “and that brought them to the center.”

Such opportunities are clear to Peter Carr, 24, a senior who visited the Bunche Center after a professor challenged students to do so. Now, Carr, who took the Foreign Service exam, has a paid internship at the State Department and will head to Nigeria for another one this summer. He credits the Bunche Center for showing him a clear path to his new global career. 

McCoy is a writer based in Maryland.

For further information, visit the Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center Web site at [www.howard.edu/rjb/Default.htm](http://www.howard.edu/rjb/Default.htm) or call 202-806-5904.





# WORLD CITIZENS:

## Alumni Around the Globe

### A View from the West Wing

By Dianne Hayes

After two years of service abroad, Tiffany McGriff (B.A. '01) finds herself in the heart of global action at the White House. As a duty officer in the Situation Room—the intelligence and crisis management center in the West Wing of the White House—she keeps the president, vice president, national security advisor, homeland security advisor, chief of staff and other key White House advisors abreast of events on a 24/7 schedule by drafting summaries and intelligence reports.

“It is truly an honor to work for President Obama and I take great pride in seeing him as our nation’s commander-in-chief,” says McGriff, who is scheduled to complete her work at the White House in August 2010.

Her next assignment will be as a desk officer for Sierra Leone and Guinea in the State Department’s Bureau of African Affairs.

McGriff was selected as a Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellow in 1999, which included two internships—one domestic and one international. After graduating from Howard, she attended the University of Denver, where she earned a master’s degree in International and Intercultural Communication. She also took intensive Portuguese and African Affairs courses for a year before heading to the U.S. Embassy in Luanda, Angola, as a consular-public diplomacy officer.

She has served as an assistant to the curator for the State Department’s ART in Embassies Program; as a special assistant to the ambassador at the U.S. Embassy in Pretoria, South Africa; as a political-economic affairs officer at the U.S. Embassy in Lisbon; as a Foreign Service officer in Angola and Portugal; and as a watch officer in the State Department’s Operations Center—the State Department’s version of the White House Situation Room.

She credits Ambassador Horace G. Dawson, former director of the Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center, for helping her start a career in foreign affairs.

“I will forever be grateful to Ambassador Dawson for making it his personal goal to bring African Americans like

myself into the State Department and for his dedication to making our voices heard in the fields of international and domestic affairs. He is a great mentor and a dear friend.”

After speaking with Dawson, McGriff changed her major from Fine Arts and focused on studying abroad and promoting U.S. cultural understanding.

“Just 20 years ago, people of color and women were not allotted the same opportunities that we enjoy today,” she says. “I am grateful for their sacrifices and honored that I am a part of a new generation of Foreign Service officers who are the voices and images of a diversified America.”

Hayes is a writer/editor based in Maryland.

### Representing the U.S. in Shanghai

By Dianne Hayes

Curiosity got the best of Andrea Corey (B.S. '05) after passing the Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center



COURTESY PHOTO

every day as a freshman. The day she stepped inside and met with Ambassador Horace G. Dawson changed her life, she says, and set her on a course to become a U.S. diplomat.

“Until that day, I had no idea what Foreign Service was or the process of becoming a U.S. diplomat,” says Corey, who is a Rangel Fellow serving as a U.S. diplomat in Shanghai. “However, after that chance encounter, I became a part of the Bunche Center network and was introduced to foreign policy and loved it.”

As a sophomore, Corey was chosen in the first class of the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs program. She applied for and was accepted to the graduate portion of the program in 2005.

She is now serving in China as a consular officer working in the American citizen’s service section of the U.S. Consulate in Shanghai. On any given day, her responsibilities range from giving a speech on civil rights or volunteerism at a university, to issuing a visa, or the difficult duty of contacting the family of an American to inform them of a death. She played a role in preparing for President Obama’s historic visit to China and his stop in Shanghai. “I was working behind the scenes to make sure this event went smoothly,” she says.

She also organized a successful Martin Luther King Jr. Day volunteer project that brought together American diplomats and American foreign exchange students to help Chinese orphans. “Dr. King has always been one of my heroes, so it was great to share his story with the group of young Chinese people.”

The Baltimore native says that living in China is a dream come true. “When I found out that I was assigned to Shanghai, I was happy and nervous all at the same time,” she says. “It was outside my comfort zone and challenged me to grow.”

The biggest challenge, she recalls, was learning Mandarin. “After almost three years studying and speaking Mandarin it seems simple, but in the beginning it was difficult.”

“China has been an eye-opening experience and, as an African American, I think that living here has been doubly rewarding. I find that people are very curious and have lots of questions about my experience as an American. Every day, I am able to shatter misconceptions about minorities.”

As a Rangel Fellow, Corey has also interned in Nassau, Bahamas and Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Shanghai is her first full-time assignment with the State Department, after which she will be heading to Washington, D.C. to the Foreign Press Center as a press officer and foreign journalist liaison.

“President Obama has described the relationship between China and the U.S. as the most important relationship in the world. I feel fulfilled knowing that my efforts here are helping to strengthen that relationship. Every time I go to give a speech or to represent at an event, I take pride in representing my country.”



CEASAR

## A Diplomatic Journey

By Fern Gillespie

When Ronald Goldman’s plight to return his son to the U.S. from Brazil was splashed across the global press, Dionandrea Shorts (B.A. ’04) could intimately understand his struggle. Assigned to the U.S. Bureau of Consular Affairs, Office of Children Issues, she is responsible for international parental child abduction cases in Cuba and in the South American nations of Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. Every day, she speaks with distressed American parents and mediates with U.S. consulates about reuniting families.

“You are dealing with a parent and you are dealing with a foreign country that’s a sovereign nation so it makes these cases very complex and delicate,” explains Shorts. “To get a return is extremely difficult. You have to have the cooperation of both the parents and law enforcement.”

Shorts’ diplomatic journey began when she ventured from her Denver hometown to major in chemical engineering at Howard. By the end of her freshman year, she discovered a different type of science—political. “What appealed to me about political science was really trying to understand people’s behavior,” she says. “I am a people person, and political science is dealing with people and their decisions and how their decisions affect the masses.”

During her sophomore year, she traveled solo on a whirlwind, two-week tour through Senegal, visiting relatives who worked with Peace Corps and Africare. This first visit to a developing nation expanded her political views to include the global arena. “I was amazed. It opened my eyes to what the world had



to offer beyond the U.S.," she says. "To talk to the people, go to the market, see a Peace Corps swearing-in ceremony helped me realize that I could make a difference; that I could be part of this global world."

A member of the first class of the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs program, she earned a master's degree in global finance, trade and regional economic integration at the University of Denver—the school where former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice studied.

In addition, the Rangel Fellowship placed Shorts in strategic internships in Congress and abroad, where she interacted with noted African-American foreign affairs officials. She interned with Congressman John Conyers Jr. (D-Mich.) and dealt with congressional delegations, assisted on a paper dealing with the Cuba trade embargo and attended the 2004 Democratic National Convention in Boston. Her first foreign placement was an internship at the U.S. Embassy in Honduras, which was headed by an African-American career diplomat, Ambassador Larry L. Palmer.

From 2007 to 2009, Shorts served in her first foreign policy post as a political officer in Lima, Peru. She represented the U.S. in its outreach to an Afro-Peruvian community that had limited access to educational opportunities, trade jobs and good housing, becoming a mentor to a young Afro-Peruvian woman who received a scholarship to study English and American culture at a bi-national center. "They are invisible in the country," observes Shorts, who speaks Spanish. "They sometimes get forgotten about."

In Lima, she also served as a control officer, where she facilitated logistics, working with security on President Jimmy Carter's visit to accept the Peruvian Human Rights Ombudsman Annual Award; and she operated as a site officer for former Secretary Rice's visit for the Asian Pacific Economic Conference.

Like many African-American women working in foreign affairs, she considers Rice a role model. "I think that former Secretary Rice is a role model for any Black woman seeking to work in the international arena," said Shorts, who was sworn into Foreign Service by Rice. "She has been extremely successful and worked her way up."

Gillespie is a writer based in New Jersey.

## Merging Finance with Diplomacy

By Fern Gillespie

Even before Chuka Asike (B.S. '02) became a Foreign Service Officer, with stints in Dubai, Ethiopia and Kenya, he was already a world citizen.

Asike was born in Nigeria to a Nigerian father and Haitian mother, who met in Belgium during graduate school. In 1992, Asike's family immigrated to suburban Maryland.



COURTESY PHOTO

"I wanted to experience going to school at Howard, particularly because it had a lot of history," Asike says from his Dubai office, where he serves as an economic officer to the U.S. Consulate. "And being a recent immigrant to the U.S., there was a lot that I could learn from being at Howard."

Asike initially wanted to be a doctor, and graduated *summa cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, with a degree in biology. Then he discovered finance on Wall Street, and an internship at Goldman Sachs blossomed into a career as a financial analyst in global investment research. "They took students from nontraditional backgrounds—nonfinance and nonaccounting majors—because they had a different way of thinking," he explains. "My experience at Goldman was great, in terms of learning business and learning what happens in high finance."

In 2004, he entered Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service to pursue a master's degree in international relations, with a concentration in global commerce and finance. He was selected as a Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellow, with the intent of joining the Foreign Service after graduation.

"A lot of my friends would not even consider joining the Foreign Service and becoming a diplomat. It's just not something that the average person thinks about," he says. "Because we have Howard's Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center, and the Rangel program that's administered through Howard, there's a great opportunity to find out about a career like this."

As a part of the fellowship, he worked part time as a U.S. House of Representatives' summer analyst on the International Relations Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere. The fellowship also included a 2005 summer internship at the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, where he analyzed Kenya's debt, learned protocol and studied bilateral trade relationships. Separately, he had a stint as a graduate fellow for a Washington, D.C.-based consulting firm, rubbing shoulders with former ambassadors, senators and other government officials, while researching business profiles and analyzing financial statements of potential clients.

From 2007 to 2009, Asike served in his first official Foreign Service post as an economic/commercial-consular officer in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, analyzing and reporting on industrials, telecom, agriculture, civil aviation, intellectual property rights, banking and financial sectors.

Asike is proficient in French and Ethiopia's Amharic and advocates that Americans speak more than one language. "A lot of people that I dealt with in Ethiopia were multilingual," he says. "The important thing about speaking more than one language boils down to being a world citizen. Many people around the world, even in the poorest nations, speak a minimum of two languages."

Since August 2009, Asike's post in Dubai has focused on analyzing banking, finance, trade and real estate sectors and maintaining strong government relations between the U.S. and Dubai. Today, he considers his career "serendipitous."

"It's about being flexible and thinking outside of the

box," he says. "I was a bio-chemistry major, worked on Wall Street and now I'm working in diplomacy. At the end of the day, it's about being a critical thinker and taking risks is a valuable thing. Don't limit yourself to a narrow avenue. The world has too many opportunities."

## SABS Teaching Fellowship

By Joshua G. Thomas (B.A. '09)

"When fellows have the opportunity to work in their fields, they get to feel their passion for the subject matter and we know that passion rubs off," says Madame Stephanie Kane, director of the Senegalese American Bilingual School (SABS) in Dakar, and an instrumental force in the creation of the SABS Teaching Fellowship.

The teaching fellowship is a budding program that gives recent college graduates "an opportunity to learn from the African experience and give back at the same time," says Kane. The program is currently hosting six Howard alumni—Joshua G. Thomas (B.A. '09), Camille Kashaka (B.F.A. '08), Gary Loggins (B.A. '09), Cecily Stewart (B.A. '05), Austin Thompson (B.A. '09) and Charlotte Young (B.B.A. '09). The fellowship utilizes their various backgrounds and interest in the classes they teach, including English, ESL, biology, comparative government and environmental science. This marks the second year that the fellowship is operating as a more formalized program and plans are being laid out to continue that progression in the future.

Masake Kane (B.A. '08), the program coordinator and daughter of Madame Kane, says the school's primary feeder is Howard. She is working to get the program offered through the Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center. While the fellowship is on the road to becoming more formalized, the atmosphere is still very communal and personal.

"I went to Masake's house one day and she convinced me to apply and I did," Kashaka says of her first exposure to the fellowship. "The idea of spending an entire year in Africa was very attractive to me, and that it was a French-speaking country was attractive as well because I have a background in French."

From left to right: Masake Kane, Charlotte Young, Austin Thompson, Joshua G. Thomas, Camille Kashaka and Gary Loggins (Not pictured: Cecily Stewart).





Kashaka's desire to improve her French has been assisted through interactions at SABS but more so by interactions in her home-stay. Each of the fellows is placed in the home of a Dakar resident where they become part of the family—eating meals together, going on family trips and even participating in religious events.

The first of these, the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, was already underway when the fellows arrived in September. They tackled the challenge of fasting during daylight hours, while adjusting to the sweltering heat and humidity of the rainy season.

These opportunities to observe and participate in Islamic traditions were eye-openers to Loggins and the other fellows. In Senegal, where 95 percent of the population is Muslim, these traditions are not just religious but a part of the national culture. Loggins remarks that of all of the holidays he has been exposed to in Senegal, Tabaski affected him the most.


"I suffered through Tabaski, watching all the goats being slaughtered. It's not like American holidays where you eat and you're removed from where it came from," he says.

Young, another fellow, took the opportunity to dive further into Senegal's religious culture by going on a journey with her host family. The pilgrimage, known as Magal, was a trip to the religious city of Touba. "People piled into any vehicle they could find," she says. "I have a lot of respect for the traditions of the Islamic faith."

Living in Senegal has given the fellows a better perspective of West Africa from a cultural standpoint and also given them a chance to challenge their ideas and preconceived notions about the motherland. Thompson, who had been to Senegal before, was still taken aback by some of what he witnessed this time around.

"I was shocked to see how the American influence has affected the culture here and how the values are shaped more by the U.S. than by tradition or even the colonizers," he says. He also found it paradoxical that Americans, especially African Americans, have a romanticized vision of a utopian Africa, while most of the African students strive to be as "American as possible."

The overall consensus among the alumni is that the experience has been a positive one. Kashaka relishes her opportunities to not only give back through teaching and experiencing Africa, but to also establish her connection to the continent.

"Seeing the similarities between Blacks in Africa and Blacks in America has been a high point," she says. "I knew that we came from the same place, but until now I had no proof of it in my own experiences." 

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**Thomas is a Maryland-based writer who is spending a year teaching in Dakar, Senegal, through the SABS Fellowship.**



# Views From Abroad



**Mercedes Vidal Tibbits, Ph.D.**, (pictured), professor, Department of World Languages and Cultures, and **Esther Kahn**, lecturer, Department of World Languages and Cultures, say that students benefit from becoming aware of other cultures, their values and ways of living. *"Meaningful exposure to these other cultures opens students' minds to different ways of seeing their own lives, aspirations and country. This knowledge can reveal alternative career opportunities that they might otherwise have overlooked."*

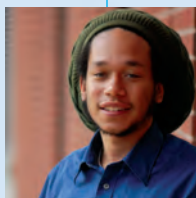


Howard

Jamaica

Frankfurt

Ghana



**Justin Dunnavant (B.A. '09)** is on a Fulbright scholarship in Jamaica researching African cultural retentions

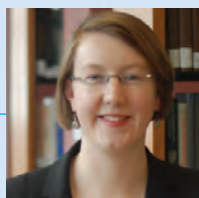
through archaeological data, with a goal of expanding the understanding of the African experiences in the Americas.



**Kwaku Ofori-Ansa, Ed.D.**, associate professor, Department of Art, College of Arts and Sciences, is on a Fulbright scholarship at the Kwame Nkrumah

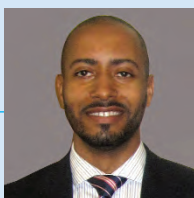
University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Kumasi, Ghana. Since August 2009, he has been involved in research, teaching and curriculum development with a focus on cross-cultural education between Ghana and the U.S. He plans to develop a pilot distance learning program between Howard and KNUST and interdisciplinary courses to encourage America-Ghana cross-cultural studies, among other things.





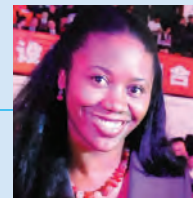
**Florence Maher (B.A. '09)** is on a Fulbright scholarship to study the Polish-German border integration, using her host region of

Frankfurt (Oder)-Slubice as a case study. She recently passed the oral assessment for the Foreign Service. *"If hired, I could be sent anywhere in the world. I am curious about everywhere, so that would be fine."*



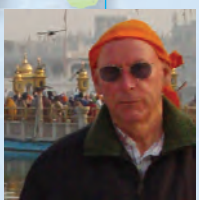
**Chuka Asike (B.S. '02)** is a Foreign Service officer based in Dubai.

*"Don't limit yourself to a narrow avenue. The world has too many opportunities."*



**Andrea Corey (B.S. '05)** is a Foreign Service officer based in Shanghai, China.

*"I feel fulfilled knowing that my efforts here are helping to strengthen the relationship [between the U.S. and China]. Every time I go to give a speech or to represent at an event, I take pride in representing my country."*



**Raymond Butcher, Ph.D.**, professor, Department of Chemistry, College of Arts and Sciences, completed a second Fulbright scholarship in

Mumbai, India, where he taught students how to interpret the results of crystal structures and the arrangement of atoms in solids, using an X-ray diffractometer. Butcher receives crystal samples from people around the world who rely on his expertise, which he has been providing for more than 30 years. *"All chemists want to know the structures of crystals and the best way is through the use of X-rays, but not everyone has access to the type of resources and research that we have here."*

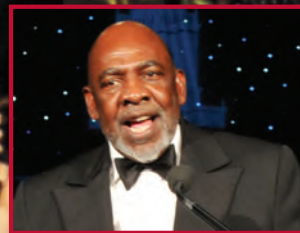


**Kelly McCray (B.A. '09)** is on a Fulbright scholarship, teaching English to 9-12 graders at a rural school outside of Chiang Rai, the northernmost

province of Thailand. She loves her students and appreciates the cultural exchange, including her conversations with a colleague from China with whom she discusses how things compare between U.S., China and Thailand and what can be learned from the three different cultures. *"I would recommend the Fulbright program to everyone. And I still have so much I want to see and explore."*



# CHARTER DAY 2010





“**E**quanimity under duress” is a quote often echoed by College of Medicine alumni and faculty. The originator of the quote—LaSalle D. Leffall Jr. (M.D. ’52)—has inspired them to always maintain the highest standards of excellence throughout their careers. The prominent surgeon, oncologist and medical educator was equally inspiring when he delivered the keynote address during the University’s 143rd Charter Day Convocation on March 12.

Leffall implored students in the Health Sciences division to conduct, support and encourage research; to be team players, rather than focusing on individual accolades; and to employ the highest ethical standards. “The object of our affection is the patient and we want the very best for them,” he said. “We must never forget that. You must always give them hope. Genuine concern for the patient is the hallmark of providing good health care.”



The first African-American president of the American Cancer Society, Leffall has spent his career educating people about cancer risks, particularly in minority communities. In 1962, he became an assistant professor at Howard and later served as assistant dean of the College of Medicine from 1964 to 1970. He has also served as a visiting professor at more than 200 medical institutions.

During the 86th Annual Charter Day Dinner, seven alumni were honored for their extraordinary accomplishments in their respective fields—Cheick Modibo Diarra (Ph.D. ’88), in science and international business; Cain Hope Felder, Ph.D., (B.A. ’66), in religion and biblical studies; Jacqueline Jordan Irvine, Ph.D., (B.A. ’68), in education; Floyd J. Malveaux, Ph.D., (M.D. ’74), in medical education research and international health; Congressman Gregory W. Meeks (D-N.Y.) (J.D. ’78), in law and public service; The Honorable Peggy A. Quince (B.A. ’74), in law and public policy; and Christopher J. Williams (B. Arch. ’79), in business and philanthropy.

Charter Day commemorates the founding of the University in 1867. The founder’s day ceremony and awards dinner also commemorates the University’s rich legacy of producing national and international leaders. [A](#)



Opposite page: Seven alumni were honored during Charter Day—Jacqueline Jordan Irvine, Ph.D., (top, second from left, with President Sidney A. Ribeau, Trustee Elizabeth Early and Trustee Chairman Addison Barry Rand); (bottom, L-R) Gregory W. Meeks (D-N.Y.); Christopher J. Williams; Floyd J. Malveaux, Ph.D., M.D.; Cain Hope Felder, Ph.D.; The Honorable Peggy A. Quince; and Cheick Modibo Diarra, Ph.D.

LaSalle D. Leffall Jr., M.D., (top right and bottom right, with Trustee Vice Chairwoman Renée Higginbotham-Brooks, B.A. ’74) delivered a poignant speech during this year’s Charter Day Convocation.

President Ribeau paid tribute to Leffall and seven other alumni for their outstanding contributions in their fields.





## Living Legacies

**Centenarians Recount How Howard Transformed Their Lives**

**W**hen Howard's first African-American president, Mordecai Wyatt Johnson, took office in 1926, the University had eight schools and colleges and 1,700 students. That's a far cry from today's 12 schools and colleges and 10,500 students. But for two alumni who have outlived a century, those early days were part of their personal history, as they witnessed firsthand Howard's coming of age.

"I had always heard so much about Howard," recalls Helen Newberry McDowell, Ph.D., (B.A. '31; M.A. '32; M.A. '42), a 106-year-old retired teacher whose voice still contains a lilt of excitement when she talks about her *alma mater*.



McDowell was a sixth grader growing up in Abingdon, Va., when she first developed an interest in the University. “One of my cousins married a girl who had graduated from Howard and I just loved to be around her to hear her talk about it. I got Howard set in my head and I didn’t stop until I landed on the campus.”

McDowell taught elementary school for three years to save money for the tuition, and then “everybody in my family who could earn a dollar, gave to me so that I could stay at Howard,” she says.

McDowell and her first husband, William L. Newberry, then moved to Washington, D.C., so she could pursue her studies.

While at Howard, she majored in education and was influenced by such instructors as Grace Coleman, who she says taught her “Old English,” and Charles H. Thompson, Ph.D., who was chairman of the Department of Education and founder of the *Journal of Negro Education*.

Thompson even inspired her to turn a complaint into the subject of a master’s thesis. One day she asked why there was no required introductory course in statistics for everyone taking educational psychology. “Dr. Thompson said, ‘That would make an excellent problem to solve for a master’s degree’” and offered her a fellowship to do so.

McDowell says she rarely missed a Sunday at Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel. Her favorite speakers: President Johnson; Benjamin E. Mays, Ph.D., who was dean of the School of Religion; and Howard Thurman, who was dean of Rankin Chapel.

With her degrees from Howard and a doctorate from the University of Ohio, McDowell taught for 47 years in Washington, D.C. public schools, and at Miner Teachers College and Morgan College, now Morgan State University. Yet she always kept one foot planted on Howard’s campus, even renting a home out to students between

1949 and 1973. She credits Howard with nurturing her love of learning and helping her to fulfill her purpose of molding young minds. “I was born to teach,” she says.

## Breaking the Gender Barrier

For 101-year-old Malinda Polk Gerald (B.S. ’31), Howard invokes memories of a time when women were underrepresented on campus, particularly in the sciences. Polk Gerald’s major was chemistry, and as the only woman in some of her classes she worked hard to prove herself in a male-dominated environment.

“Dr. Percy Julian was my first chemistry teacher,” she recalls, “and one of the first things he said was no girls had ever done anything worthwhile in his class. That scared me to death.”

But Polk Gerald got over her fright and earned a ‘B’ and a compliment from Julian, a renowned African-American research chemist. “You got a very good grade,” he told her proudly.

Polk Gerald’s uncle was enrolled in the School of Divinity at the same time, and she lived with him to save money on room and board. Adjusting to life in the District was tough, however. “I had come from a small country high school in Salisbury [Maryland],” she says. But she acclimated well and flourished in her studies.

After graduating, Polk Gerald sought a job teaching chemistry. “It was very difficult for me,” she says. “People weren’t hiring Black teachers to specialize in something back then.”

Eventually, after marrying minister Charles Gerald, she learned of a job opening in the chemistry department at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and was hired to work with students in the lab.

Having lived long enough to raise two sons, Charles Jr. and Lloyd, and enjoy the company of so



many grandchildren, “I’ve stopped counting,” Polk Gerald has seen wars, assassinations and an economic depression. She’s witnessed good times as well, including one event that surprised and delighted her more than any other: the election of President Barack Obama, which took place on her 100th birthday. Though the time she spent at Howard taught her just how far education could take African Americans, she still wasn’t expecting to see a Black president in her lifetime. “When I was at Howard, we would have never thought of that happening,” she says.

Just like those who paved the way for Obama to be elected president, McDowell and Polk Gerald, with their enduring Bison spirit, are representative of a generation of African Americans who paved the way so that future generations would be afforded new opportunities. **A**

Holmes is a writer based in Maryland.

Centenarians Polk Gerald (opposite page) and McDowell (top) are true examples of the lasting Bison spirit.

# A Legacy of Excellence and Service



**J**ames E. Cheek, Ph.D., Howard University's 13th and second longest-serving president, is being remembered for initiating widespread changes on the campus leading to significant institutional progress. A memorial service honoring his legacy was held on campus this spring.

Cheek, who died Jan. 8 in Greensboro, N.C., began his tenure at Howard in 1969—five years after assuming the presidency at his *alma*

*mater*, Shaw University, where he gained recognition for his efforts to provide remedial instruction for disadvantaged students and for significantly improving the institution's financial standing. He was selected from among 16 finalists to lead Howard, which was also facing financial challenges and prolonged turmoil among the student body.

## The Vision

In his inaugural remarks, in April 1969, the new president pledged to

make Howard “a bold and vivid contradiction to the belief that Black men and the institutions which serve them are inherently, intrinsically and generically inferior.” And, at his first press conference, he promised that his administration would not “promote change for the sake of change but where necessary, we will regard it as urgent.” His desire to make Howard a “university of the first rank” and to make “being Black synonymous with being excellent,” became his mission. Furthermore, he





*“We are lifters, rather than learners.  
We are drivers, rather than drifters.  
We are winners, rather than whiners.”*

—James Cheek, Opening Convocation, September 1986

said, the students’ demand for relevance and the faculty’s demand for excellence were not contradictory or mutually exclusive.

## The Achievements

Cheek soon set out to restore calm to the campus and to identify and implement some urgently needed changes. Many of the facilities now in use were constructed or acquired under his leadership, including the University’s Beltsville Campus, the Armour J. Blackburn University Center, the School of Business building, the Howard Inn (Howard Center), the Howard Plaza Towers and the Howard University Hospital, which replaced Freedmen’s Hospital. The University’s Cancer Center and the Center for Sickle Cell Disease, WHMM (the first Black-owned PBS station, currently WHUT-TV) and WHUR 96.3 FM radio were also acquired under his leadership.

Through the acquisition of multiple new entities, the reorganization and streamlining of the University’s administrative structure and the expansion of its academic offerings, Cheek charted the course for the modern University. His contributions were recognized in multiple ways, including being named Washingtonian of the Year in 1980. In 1983, President Ronald Reagan presented him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor.

Cheek retired in 1989, 20 years after he assumed the helm at Howard, but his legacy endures. [F](#)

**Virtue is the executive communications manager and senior writer in the Office of University Communications.**



Cheek laid the foundation for the modern University. Whether he was spending time with students (opposite page) or scholars, such as Howard presidents Mordecai Johnson and James Nabrit Jr. (above), or receiving awards, such as the Presidential Medal of Freedom (left, pictured with President Ronald Reagan), his focus remained on the expansion and improvement of Howard.

(File Photos)

# Alternative Spring Break 2010

*The Alternative Spring Break (ASB) program, now in its 14th year, continues to support the University's mission of truth and service. This year's contingent of 300-plus students volunteered in New Orleans, Chicago, Detroit, Atlanta and Washington, D.C., refurbishing homes, mentoring and tutoring children and working on environmental restoration.*

*For Carla Gordon, a New Orleans native and former ASB volunteer, it was a powerful reminder of the spirit of volunteerism that her classmates have and their commitment to help rebuild her hometown since Hurricane Katrina struck nearly five years ago.*

## Reflections from a New Orleans Native

By Carla Gordon



Top: Gordon, a former ASB volunteer, is thrilled about the impact that students have made in her hometown since Hurricane Katrina.

Bottom/opposite page: More than 100 students volunteered in New Orleans this year, working on environmental restoration and refurbishing homes.

At the end of my senior year in high school, I saw a display in New Orleans about Howard University students who had traveled to my hometown during spring break to volunteer in the Lower Ninth Ward. Months earlier, my family had been forced to relocate to Houston because of Hurricane Katrina, and I was “visiting” my hometown to see my sister graduate from college.

I was already planning to attend Howard, but it was really touching to know that some of my future classmates wanted to help my city. If they felt that way about helping my community and they weren’t even from there, then I knew that I had to find a way to make an impact too. In 2006, during my freshman year at Howard, I decided to volunteer and serve on the planning committee for ASB.

The bus trip from Washington, D.C., to New Orleans was only my fifth time returning to my hometown since the hurricane. While many of the volunteers were concerned about what they would do on a 24-hour bus ride, I sat back and remembered how it took my family 20 hours to drive to Houston when we evacuated after the hurricane. The long bus ride wasn’t such a big deal to me.

When we arrived in New Orleans, I worked with a team of volunteers

from Habitat for Humanity, building a house in the Musician’s Village in the Upper Ninth Ward. I worked alongside my peers and focused on helping the family we were building the home for. It reminded me of the first time I had returned to my New Orleans East neighborhood after the hurricane.

The remains of my house stood behind a seven-foot tall pile of debris, like a guard watching his possessions. I could still see the watermarks on the house. I hesitated slightly before entering the house—the walls were gone, along with the floors, furniture, appliances and cabinets. Incredibly, my bedroom was exactly how I left it, which was in complete contrast to the scene downstairs. Over the past several months, my only connection with home had been the media coverage on TV. For that brief moment in my room, I ignored the images I saw downstairs and the memory of the abandoned streets and buildings. Instead, this was my chance to get the closure I had been waiting for. I finally achieved the familiarity I had been looking for.

As I helped build a new house in the Musician’s Village, I thought about how we were providing the same familiarity to the family that would move in. The ASB program gave me a chance to help people who went through what I did. Building that house gave another misplaced family a chance to return home. When given the opportunity to give back to my city, I chose to do it without hesitation. And it’s great to know that year after year, Howard students continue to return to help those in my hometown who need it most. **A**

Gordon, a third-year medical student in the B.S./M.D. program, volunteered for two years in the ASB program.







# Dennis F. Hightower: A Leader in Business, Government and Life

**D**ennis F. Hightower's (B.S. '62) successful rise through the military and business ranks has come full circle with his current position as deputy secretary for the U.S. Commerce Department. "I've done a lot of different things, but this position brings together almost every job that I've ever done," he says.

After receiving numerous military decorations throughout his career, for meritorious achievement and valor, Hightower turned to business, becoming president of the largest operation of one of the country's premier entertainment companies. Today, he oversees 12 Commerce Department bureaus, including the Bureau of the Census, the Patent and Trademark Office, the Minority Business and Development Agency and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

"It is an honor to have been tapped by the first African-American president of the United States, Barack Obama, to help American businesses and workers compete in the new global marketplace."

Hightower is a key player on the Obama Administration's team, helping to push forward the president's National Export Initiative, purposed to double U.S. exports in the next five years, supporting two million American jobs.

He finds the work "exhilarating," and is proud to be "doing something important for a man who walked into a situation unlike any other president in the history of this country."

Yet at the root of his accomplishments is a support system made up of a family that values education and excellence, and a University that taught him the power of preparation, performance and perseverance. "Howard taught me how to live my life," he says.

Hightower's grandfather attended Howard's law school at night in 1920 and his uncle graduated *magna cum laude* in 1937. His mother graduated in 1938 from Miner Teachers College, across from Howard's campus, and "the Howard faculty were in large measure friends of my family," he says.

When he was a teenager, he and his friends spent nearly as much time on campus as they did at their school. "We would play on the campus, pretending like we were already going to school there," he recalls.

When he enrolled at the age of 16 in 1958, he says, "I felt like I was at home."

One of the greatest insights he gained about himself while at Howard was that he was a born leader. He was the president of the Military Honor Society, president of the Education Honor Society, treasurer of the Liberal Arts Student Council, a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, a varsity swimmer, a varsity rower and a member of the varsity rifle team.

With six family members leaving a legacy as graduates of the U.S. Military Academy or the Naval Academy, he had every intention of following in their footsteps and becoming a career military officer. He finished number one in his ROTC class and left Howard as a distinguished military graduate—a designation given to those who rank in the top 20 percent of Army ROTC graduates nationwide.







## A Bend for Business

His successful path continued while in the military. “I’d been promoted to major in just over six years, which was sort of phenomenal at the time,” he says. He also received an early selection to the Command and General Staff College, a graduate school in Fort Leavenworth, Kan., for military leaders.

But as life would have it, things changed. On the heels of the civil rights movement, a number of businesses were looking for high-achieving African Americans who would fare well in management positions. Hightower was invited to interview with several companies in New York, one of which was Xerox. The firm impressed him so much that he decided to see if the skills he had learned in the military would transfer to business. In 1970, he found himself starting a new career at the age of 28. “That was the beginning of the business story,” he says.

At Xerox, he was promoted three times in two years, prompting him to earn his MBA from Harvard Business School. After graduating from Harvard, he worked at McKinsey & Co., General Electric and Mattel, climbing the corporate ladder in positions in the U.S. and abroad. In the midst of his corporate rise, Howard recognized him with the Alumni Achievement Award in Business in 1986. (He served on Howard’s Board of Trustees from 1996–2003.) In 1987, he joined The Walt Disney Company, eventually serving as senior executive, where he led multibillion dollar enterprises as president of Walt Disney Television and Telecommunications, and as president of Consumer Products for Europe, the Middle East and Africa, based in Paris.

He retired from Disney in 1996 to enter the field of academia as a professor of management at Harvard Business School, and while there he reached out to Howard, recalls Barron H. Harvey, dean of the School

of Business. “He immediately called me and said, ‘Barron, I want you to come to Harvard and we’re going to work out partnerships,’” Harvey says. Howard and Harvard have had a good working relationship ever since.

## From Boardroom to Government

Hightower was wooed back to the boardroom, serving as chief executive officer of Europe Online Networks S.A., a privately held broadband interactive entertainment company based in Luxembourg. Then, while contemplating a life of serving on corporate boards, traveling, swimming and scuba diving in retirement, he received the opportunity of a lifetime. On Aug. 11, 2009, he was sworn in as deputy secretary.

Since his appointment, Hightower has continued to reach back to his *alma mater*. Last fall, he returned to Howard and participated in the Bi-Annual Education and Science Forum with the NOAA Educational Partnership Program. During the forum, he spoke about the importance of increasing the number of minorities in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

“We don’t have enough of our young people who are pursuing the kinds of programs that STEM is all about,” he says. “The Cold War is over so this is an intellectual and global economic battle that we’re now dealing with. We’ve got to make sure that our young people are at the table.”

Throughout his career, Hightower has inspired military officers, business executives and government employees. He’s just as proud of the impact he’s had on students at Howard and across the country.

“I have a very strong passion for what happens to the next generation of leaders and how I can help nurture their development and their ability to lead,” he says. **A**







## 1950s

**Constance Jefferies Price, B. Mus. Ed. 1958**, received the 2010 Outstanding Educator Award from the Organization of American Kodály Educators. The award is presented in recognition of amazing contributions made to music education using Kodály's vision and philosophy.

## 1960s



**John Allen Malone Sr., B.S.P. 1960**, is a member of the Jefferson County Kentucky Academy of Pharmacy, and serves as a faculty

member at the University of Kentucky Medical Center. A former commissioned officer in the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps, he spent close to 30 years as a chief pharmacist and store manager for chain drugstores, and as a pharmacy director at a community health center.

**Col. Gorham L. Black III, B.A. 1963**, was named Maryland State Director of Selective Service. He will be a liaison between the Selective Service System and the governor's office, and will represent the governor and the acting director on Selective Service matters in Maryland.

**Col. Frederick H. Black, B.A. 1968**, was elected president of the North Carolina Council of Chapters of the Military Officers Association of America.

## 1970s



**Alice Gresham Bullock, B.S. 1972; J.D. 1975**, former dean of the Howard University School of Law, was appointed to the American Bar Association (ABA) Section of Legal Education Accreditation Committee. She is the

first committee member from an HBCU law school. A nationally recognized tax expert, Bullock recently published the article "The Tax Code, the Tax Gap and Income Inequality: The Middleclass Squeeze."

**Lenore Carter, M.S.W. 1973**, and **Gary Carter, B.B.A. 1973**, are new sales agents with Weichert Realtors-Coastal Properties in South Carolina. Lenore has been a licensed realtor for 25 years, and Gary has been a licensed broker and realtor for 30 years.

**Dr. Reed Tuckson, B.S. 1973**, executive vice president and chief of medical affairs at UnitedHealth Group, was named to *Black Health* magazine's "Top 25 Most Influential African Americans" in the third annual commemorative Black History month issue.



**Alfred Mathewson, B.B.A. 1975**, received the Keep the Dream Alive Award from the MLK Multicultural Board during Martin

Luther King Day events in Albuquerque, N.M. The award is presented to individuals who are promoting King's legacy through their work in the community. Mathewson was also named the 2009 Business Lawyer of the Year by the New Mexico State Bar.

**Nkechi Caldwell Taifa, B.A. 1977**, was reappointed commissioner of the District of Columbia's Commission on Human Rights.



**Tracey Pinson Dennis, B.A. 1978**, director, Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, Office of the Secretary of the

Army, received the 2009 Distinguished Presidential Award. Recipients of this award are strong leaders, professionals and scientists who achieve results and consistently demonstrate strength, integrity, industry and a relentless commitment to excellence in public service.



**Jessye Norman (Mus.B. '67)**, one of the world's most celebrated sopranos, received the National Medal of Arts for her outstanding achievements and support of the arts.

President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama presented the medal to Norman in an East Room

ceremony at the White House. The National Medal of Arts is a White House initiative managed by the National Endowment for the Arts, and is the nation's highest honor for artistic excellence.

Norman, who enrolled at Howard at age 16 and graduated *cum laude*, has served on the University's Board of Trustees since 2002.

## 1980s

**Michael T. Harrison Sr., B.A. 1980**, was promoted from Brigadier General (one star) to Major General (two stars) at the Fort Myer Officers' Club in Virginia.



**Dr. Gina White Francis, B.A. 1981**, was named a 2009 Intriguing African-American Woman in Jacksonville, N.C. A civilian veteri-

nary medical officer for the U.S. Army, she is the first Black veterinarian to practice in Jacksonville. Prior to veterinary medicine, she was a reporter and medical writer. She is also a 25-year Silver Star member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

**The Honorable Tanya Walton Pratt, J.D. 1984**, has been nominated to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana-Indianapolis. Additionally, she is currently the first African-American probate judge in Indiana.



**Cheryl Renee Gooch, B.A. 1984**, was appointed dean of the School of Humanities and Fine Arts at Gainesville State

College in Georgia. Her responsibilities include the planning and implementation of new baccalaureate-level programs of study.



**Rev. Dr. Youtha Hardman-Cromwell, M.Div. 1986**, was appointed assistant dean at Wesley Theological Seminary at Mount Vernon Square.

**Yvonne Turner Johnson, M.D. 1987**, was selected by the Orange Bowl Committee as an active member for the 2010–2011 year. She is currently the director of the Heart Attack Unit, South Miami Criticare/South Miami Hospital. She has served as a member of the South Miami Hospital Executive Committee for the past four years, was recently elected vice president of the medical staff and will serve as president of the medical staff for the 2012–2014 term.

## 1990s

**Rev. Wyndell O. Banks Sr., J.D. 1990; M.A. 1999; M.Div. 2003**, was installed as the new pastor of the Hillandale Baptist Church in Adelphi, Md. He was ordained in May 2004, and has been a practicing attorney since 1990. He most recently served as director of Legal Programs for the Neighborhood Legal Services Program, a nonprofit organization that provides free civil legal services to low income residents in Washington, D.C.



**Jackie O. Asare, B.A. 1991**, welcomed the birth of her first child, Jazmine Cidne Asare, on May 5, 2009. Asare is president/CEO of 4Sight Media Relations, based out of Atlanta and New York City.

**Marshall D. Edwards, B.A. 1991**, was appointed to a two-year term on the New Jersey Martin Luther King Jr., Commemorative Commission Board by former governor Jon Corzine (D-N.J.). The commission raises public awareness of King's ideas and philosophy throughout New Jersey and the nation.

**Clayton Craddock, B.B.A. 1991**, is the drummer and in-house contractor for the Tony Award-nominated musical "Memphis."



**Kimberly Mayhorn, B.A. 1992**, was nominated for an Emmy Award for Outstanding Single Camera Editing for "Art Attack," with Lee Sandstead, on the Travel Channel.

**Gerard Robinson, B.A. 1992**, was named secretary of education for Virginia. Prior to his appointment, Robinson served as president of the Black Alliance for Educational Options.

**Maria Pinkston-Bazile, B.A. 1993**, successfully defended her dissertation for a Ph.D. in marriage and family therapy from Nova Southeastern University on November 5, 2009. Her dissertation topic was "Spousal Abuse in the Life of an African-American Christian: A Womanist, Autoethnographic Exploration."

**Patrice Simms, J.D. 1998**, was appointed the deputy assistant attorney general for the Environmental and Natural Resources Division of

the Justice Department in the Obama Administration. Simms is an environmental attorney with more than a decade of experience working on environmental issues involving federal and state litigation and policymaking. He is also a former professor at the Howard University School of Law.

## 2000s

**Cleve Mesidor, M.A. 2001**, is the new director of public affairs for the Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce. She held the position of communications director for Rep. Betty McCollum (D-Minn.) for the past two years.

**Tiffany Veronica Monroe, J.D. 2002**, was married to William Monroe on January 2, 2010, in St. Lucia, and honeymooned in Martinique. She works for the Virgin Islands Department of Justice as an assistant attorney general.



**Victor Blackwell, B.A. 2003**, an evening anchor with WPBF in West Palm Beach, Fla., won a regional Emmy Award for Outstanding Feature/Human Interest Reporting.

**Renee Russell, J.D. 2006**, was hired by Burford Group to be the business affairs manager at Burford Group Ltd., the investment advisor to Burford Capital.



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### 1940s

**Robert L. Myers, B.S. 1940**, died November 25, 2009. He was co-owner of Myers Funeral Home, a business his father founded in 1921, and the oldest continuously run African-American business in Omaha, Neb. He was involved in many organizations, including the NAACP and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. He was also the first African-American male to be appointed and then elected to the Omaha Public School Board. He was 91 years old.

**Joseph Flowers, B.S.M.E. 1944**, died January 18, 2010. He worked for the Naval Air Systems Command of the U.S. Navy for 39 years. He was also a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. He was 91 years old.

**Sylvia M. Anderson Nelson, B.S.N. 1946**, died November 9, 2009. She was 85 years old.

**Joseph Henry Earle Sr., B.S. 1949; D.D.S. 1955**, died October 6, 2009. He served in the U.S. Air Force as a Tuskegee Airman during World War II. He also served as a professor in Howard's Department of Oral Medicine and the Department of Orthodontics. He was a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. He was 83 years old.

### 1950s

**Philip Scott Walker, L.L.B. 1950**, died December 6, 2009. He was a retired civil rights attorney with the NAACP, arguing desegregation cases against Newport News Shipbuilding and Riverside Hospital. He later served as a substitute judge at Hampton General District Court, making him the first Black person to hold that position. He was 87 years old.

**James Wiley Habron, B.S.C.E. 1958**, died December 16, 2009. He worked for the United States Agency for International Development and received a presidential selection to the Senior Foreign Service. He was 76 years old.

### 1960s

**Lawrence Seymour, M.D. 1961**, died February 23, 2010. He was one of the first African-American urologists in Memphis, and was known for his medical ability and as a champion in the battle against prostate cancer in Black men. He was 75 years old.

**Edward Delk, L.L.B. 1961**, died December 31, 2009. He worked for the Department of Justice and as a law professor at Commonwealth College and Strayer University. He was a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. He was 79 years old.

**Ingrid Mitchell Garvin, D.P.L.N.U.R. 1968**, died January 14, 2010. She was a devoted member of Jack and Jill of America, Inc.

### 1970s

**Boniface Olekamma Odor, B.S. 1978; M.S. 1981**, died April 10, 2009. He was 65 years old.



JEFFREY JOHN FEARING

**Donna Marcia Wells**, the prints and photographs librarian at Moorland-Spingarn Research Center (MSRC), died November 2, 2009, at the age of 56. She devoted her career to the care and interpretation of African-American collections and to the preservation of Washington, D.C. history. She served on the city's

Emancipation Celebration Commission and the Historical Records Advisory Review Board, and was a member of the Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

In 2006, Wells and Thomas C. Battle, MSRC's director, co-authored the highly praised *Legacy: Treasures of Black History*, which highlighted the many photographs, books and documents housed within the Moorland collection. Wells retired from her position at Howard in July 2009, becoming an independent curator.



COURTESY PHOTO

**Sadanand Singh, Ph.D.**, died February 27, 2010. Singh served as the first chair of the Department of Speech (currently Communication Sciences and Disorders) at Howard. In addition to being a university educator, he was a well-respected publisher. He founded College-Hill Press, which became one of the largest publish-

ers in the speech and hearing sciences field, with more than 250 titles, and also established Singular Publishing Group. A giant in the fields of audiology and speech-language pathology, his contributions as a book publisher have had an enormous impact through the dissemination of knowledge to students and practitioners in those fields.



COURTESY PHOTO

**Davon Durelle Green-Franklin** died March 14, 2010. He was a graduating senior and an administration of justice major.

Originally from Baltimore, he enrolled at Howard in 2005. Known by many at Howard to be outgoing and friendly, he was an active member of Campus Pals and the Xi chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi

Fraternity. He also enjoyed traveling in the U.S. and abroad. He received his ministerial license in 2006, and planned to pursue a degree in theology upon his graduation from Howard.

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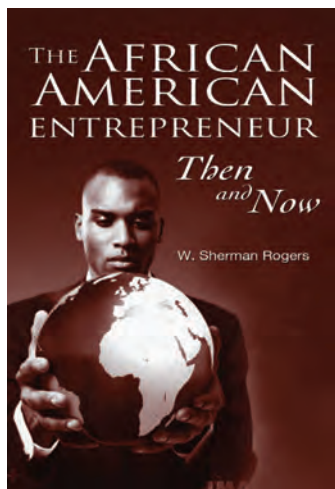
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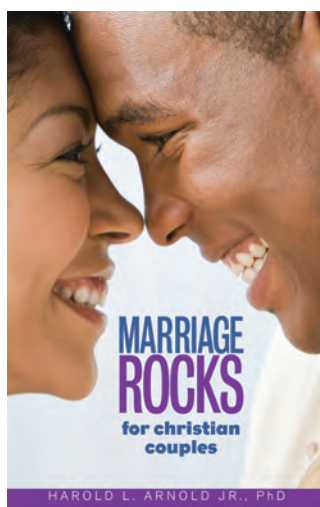
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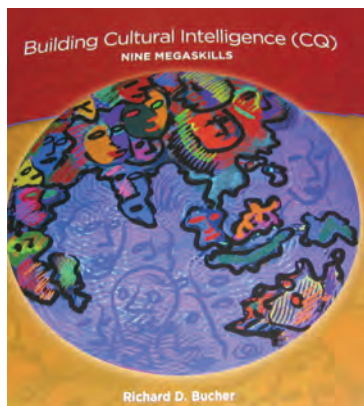
*The African American Entrepreneur: Then and Now* (Praeger), by **W. Sherman Rogers** (J.D. '76), professor, Howard University School of Law, explores the legal, historical, sociological and political factors that help to explain the economic condition of Black

people in America from their arrival in this country to the present. In the process, the book spotlights the many amazing breakthroughs made by Black entrepreneurs, even before the Civil War and Emancipation. In his book, Rogers provides many of the skills, tools and information necessary for business success—success that can help chart a new path to prosperity for all African Americans.



*Marriage ROCKS for Christian Couples* (Judson Press), by **Harold Arnold** (B.B.A. '87), leads couples on a journey to discover how marriage (1) develops the human capacity to experience the fullness of God's love and (2) becomes a ministry through which to share God's love with

others. Designed for use by individual couples, with small groups or in counseling contexts, this book includes biblical study, discussion questions and action steps.



*Building Cultural Intelligence (CQ): Nine Megaskills* (Prentice Hall), by **Richard Bucher** (Ph.D. '84), with Patricia L. Bucher, is a must read for any course that emphasizes cultural awareness and understanding, human interaction and cultural communication among diverse populations. This engaging book promotes critical thinking and skills development.

*Equal Work, Unequal Careers: African Americans in the Workforce* (First Forum), by **Rochelle Parks-Yancy** (M.B.A. '96), examines the ways that people find jobs, lose jobs and get promoted while illuminating the subtle nexus of race, social networks and societal barriers that can make or break a career trajectory.

*Grandma Wants You To* (AuthorHouse), by **Judith Kitz** (M.S.W. '69), was inspired by the



birth of Kitz's first grandchild. The book provides children with a glimpse of the many things grandmothers want for their grandchildren, such as living life to the fullest.

*The Whispering Winds of Putnam County* (RoseDog Books), by **Frank T. Allen** (J.D. '94), is a harrowing fictional story about an African-American female attorney, Harriet Douglass, who is also a descendant of Frederick Douglass. While she feels an obligation to live up to the legacy of the Douglass name, Harriet constantly struggles with the duality of her femininity and her racial heritage.



*Electronic Health Records* (Second Edition, American College of Physicians), by **Jerome H. Carter** (M.D. '81), offers guidance on the selection and implementation of electronic health records systems across care settings. The impact of information technology on health care delivery receives additional attention in this edition, including addressing decision support, quality improvement and standards for health data exchange and interoperability.



# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2010

For 143 years, Howard University has been a leading institution of higher education, and today it has retained that high standard of excellence. This year we will celebrate not only the golden anniversary of the Class of 1960, but also our newest alumni, the graduating Class of 2010.

It is now up to you, our latest members, to carry the torch and lead the way for the alumni who will follow you. *Alma Mater* wants you to enjoy the 2010 Commencement Weekend “on the hill.” May your commitment to Howard be strengthened during this celebratory occasion and sustained for many years to come. It is important that you, as the newest ambassadors of *A Legacy Renewed*, do your best in the name of *Alma Mater*.

Once again, Congratulations Class of 2010!



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