

SUMMER 11

# HOWARD

magazine

Truth  
&  
Service

## Agents of Positive Change

*"Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve ... You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."* —Martin Luther King Jr.


When the current shield and motto (*Veritas et Utilitas*, or Truth and Service) were unveiled in 1910, the student-run *Howard University Journal* offered this reflection: "We trust that the spirit, thoughts and ideals presented by this seal will be embodied in the lives of the multitudes of students who, now and through the coming years, seek the advantages of this great national institution."

This prescient statement speaks volumes, and in the century since the motto was adopted, the Howard community has embraced these values and made a strong commitment to upholding them. It's the same commitment Dr. King called upon everyone to make—to serve those who are most in need in our society, those who often feel invisible and powerless.

This issue of the magazine highlights some shining examples of those in the Howard community who personify the spirit of truth and service—students who volunteer to help uplift communities, faculty and staff who inspire young people to excel and to create their own new footsteps, alumni who enlist and serve their country and others who use their expertise to help alleviate poverty and disease around the globe.

Incidentally, two alumni mentioned in this issue were also trailblazers in serving the underserved: former Sen. Harris Wofford (whom we featured in the summer 2009 issue of *Howard Magazine*) and Lena Frances Edwards. Wofford helped launch the Peace Corps and also helped draft the National and Community Service Trust Act, which created AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National and Community Service. And Edwards provided medical services to poor immigrant factory workers and migrant farmers during the early 20th century, when they were virtually ignored. These two alumni, along with thousands of others, are part of a global service movement to create a more equitable world. The

early part of this new century offers an opportune time for a renewed pledge to live and carry on the torch of the University motto.

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



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*Cover: Alumni like C.D. Glin, director of intergovernmental affairs and partnerships for the Peace Corps, exemplify the spirit of service at Howard.*

Front cover photo: Cesar  
Back cover photo: Justin D. Knight

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Raven Padgett, Editor



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# The Howard Mission, Tradition and Promise

By Sidney A. Ribeau, Ph.D.




In March, I had the honor of receiving, on behalf of the University, the Whitney M. Young Leadership Award from the Greater Washington Urban League. Howard was recognized for our unparalleled Alternative Spring Break (ASB) program and the significant impact we have made on the unification of the District of Columbia. The award acknowledged that for the 15th year in a row, hundreds of our students—accompanied by faculty and staff—gave their time and talent during ASB, this year volunteering in New Orleans, Detroit, Chicago, Atlanta, Washington, D.C., and Haiti.

ASB is just one example of how Howard University's motto, *Veritas et Utilitas* (Truth and Service), is alive and well. Student members of Engineers Without Borders are traveling to Kenya to help identify solutions to ongoing water shortages; law students are doing pro bono work for those in need; medical students are operating the New Freedmen's Clinic for low-income, uninsured patients; physicians are leading international medical missions; and faculty and staff are mentors in civic and social organizations. Every act of service provides dignity to those who may have felt abandoned and expectations to those who may have lost hope. Members of our University are leading the way, serving their communities, the public and humanity. Their actions speak to the Howard mission, tradition and promise. There is no question: We produce and nurture leaders who serve!

As one of the key pillars of our legacy, service expresses the sense of idealism and commitment to higher principles that makes this University such a special place. That spirit has inspired generations of students, faculty, staff and alumni since our founding in 1867 to devote their energies to historic struggles for justice, equality and an enriched human condition. It recalls many distinguished alumni who stepped away from our campus to make a difference in their chosen fields and, in the process, to make history.

But it also brings to mind countless others—now students, soon to be alumni—whose names you may not yet know, but whose impact on the world will be clear. We have made a 21st-century commitment to them to ensure that ours is a university where the undergraduate and graduate programs are of exceptional quality, the teaching and learning are the best in the country, the research is of the highest caliber and the students feel empowered to act on behalf of others. The scholarship, instruction and activism that have shaped our culture and tradition in the past—coupled with the dynamic academic enhancements currently being fashioned—will certainly help sustain academic programs and service opportunities to come. We are building toward the future.

We want Howard to be recognized as a vibrant community of innovation and change, with the best technology available to all students, and as a leading research institution, answering tough questions about major human issues. With the help of our alumni and friends, our University will be stable and fiscally sustainable and will be positioned to continue to fulfill our mission. We expect our graduates to be respectful of others in the global community, compassionate toward the human condition and equipped with the knowledge they need. We know we are preparing them to serve a world that is waiting. ■ 



# Dana Williams

By Erin Evans (B.A. '08)

At 18, Dana Williams (M.A. '95; Ph.D. '98) sat in English department curriculum meetings while still a student at Grambling State University. She was a freshman among tenured professors, with a healthy dose of curiosity and ambition. One of her mentors encouraged her to attend and offer input so that she would be equipped with the knowledge if she were ever in a position to run a department.

Fast-forward to today, and Williams is the chair of the Department of English in the College of Arts and Sciences, a leadership role she assumed in 2009 when Eleanor Traylor, Ph.D., retired after 30 years. Before she left, Traylor passed along her commitment to expanding the vision of the department, while stressing the importance of balancing scholarship, service and student and faculty engagement.

"I would like to see us become leaders in creating the next generation of writers in poetry, fiction and nonfiction, so we can give the world something really great to read," Williams says. "I would like to see a seamless integration between the first-year writing program, the undergraduate program and the graduate program. We need to train students to be change agents for the world, from the first semester all the way to the point when they graduate."

Williams is the next link in a long tradition of brilliance in Howard's Department of English. While pursuing her master's and doctorate degrees at Howard, she was mentored by Jennifer A. Jordan (B.A. '67; M.A. '70), a specialist in African-American literature. Jordan was trained by Sterling A. Brown and Arthur P. Davis. Pulitzer Prize-winning author Toni Morrison (B.A. '53) taught in the department during the 1950s.

Williams was inspired by one of Traylor's classes on Morrison and became interested in Morrison's time as an editor at Random House in the '60s and '70s.

"She was ushering in all of these African-American writers to create a canon of literature that would ensure that there was an audience that was interested and able to receive really good writing," Williams says.

Growing up in Tallulah, La., Williams recalls being surrounded by a community of mentors. Whether it was writing grants or working at her grandfather's dry cleaners, her small-town upbringing bred a desire to master everything she did. "When it was time to do any big project, I was either somewhere listening to my parents talk about the next big thing for the community or somewhere typing up a proposal," she says.

While studying at Howard, she discovered Leon Forrest, a writer who "understood culture the way Sterling Brown did." Reading and researching his work and the work of other lesser-known writers from the African Diaspora is something she finds unique

about the experience at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), especially in Howard's English department.

"We see our program as an example of how literature can offer solutions to age-old problems in ways that utilize the memory of Africa to solve contemporary problems," Williams says. "To be able to think about the impact of a classical African tradition on contemporary ways of thinking and the ways that we can learn from them, you just don't have that option at a non-HBCU because it's often seen as irrelevant."

Her commitment to upholding the legacy of historically and traditionally Black institutions can be credited, in part, to advice from the late historian John Hope Franklin. Williams served as a faculty fellow at the John Hope Franklin Humanities Institute at Duke University in 2008. Franklin encouraged the fellows to maintain a commitment to Black cultural institutions and to be empowered by that relationship.

Above all else, Williams values the relationships she has built with her students. She demands they master everything they do and admits she is driven by their determination, too.

"I don't know that I've ever had any experience that even comes close to the experience that you get from seeing a student grow," she says. "There's absolutely nothing like it." ■

*Evans is a writer based in New York.*



# On Campus

## News

### Student Named a Ben Carson Scholar

At age 6, Billal Sikandar knew he wanted to be a doctor. By age 13, he began shadowing physicians in hospitals across the Washington metropolitan area. At age 18, he enrolled in the accelerated B.S./M.D. program at Howard, where he averages 19-plus credits per semester, maintains a daily lab research schedule and works part time as a paramedic on weekends.

Last year, Sikandar, 19, was selected from more than 3,000 applicants as a Benjamin S. Carson Scholar. His academic record, research background and recommendation from the National Institutes of Health ranked him as one of three national candidates. The assistantship has a \$15,000 value.

As a research assistant, he works alongside Carson to investigate an emerging area of study involving embryonic separation of conjoined twins—babies conjoined at the cranium. The research experiments with the separation of these twins before birth using cellular division

and binary fertilization. This complex condition occurs in approximately one in every 2.5 million births.

“Working with Dr. Carson has been a tremendous learning experience,” Sikandar says. “He uses very simple terms and explains things in ways that are very understandable.”

After completing medical training, Sikandar plans to improve the lives of

children with disabilities through innovation and research. He aspires to also provide medical aid in developing countries.

“I want to give back to children because they are the future,” he says. “Helping children with disabilities will allow them to thrive in this world. With the right motivation and help, any child can succeed in life. I want to give that opportunity to children that do not have it.”

JUSTIN D. KNIGHT

# Board Approves Academic Renewal Plan, Two Residence Halls

The Howard University Board of Trustees unanimously approved an academic renewal plan and the construction of two residence halls, allowing the University an opportunity to continue its mission of enriching student learning opportunities, strengthening graduate and professional programs and advancing research initiatives.

"This represents an important milestone in the history of the University and culminates extraordinary collaborative work by the faculty, students, staff and alumni," said A. Barry Rand, trustee board chairman.

President Sidney A. Ribeau, Ph.D., presented his recommendations during a January board meeting after a process that engaged and sought input from every segment of the University community.

"Universities must periodically review and assess themselves to respond to developments in higher education and the changing needs of our nation and the world," Ribeau said. "At Howard, we are doing just that. We must maintain the highest standards of academic and administrative excellence."

The plan approved by the board achieves six major goals:

- Revises the model for the delivery of undergraduate education and increases interdisciplinary academic programming;
- Strengthens the University's commitment to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), health sciences disciplines and research;
- Advances Africana and Diaspora

Studies to make Howard the leading University in the field;

- Enhances humanities, communications, urban education, business, and performing and visual arts academic programs and interdisciplinary studies;
- Increases the University's commitment to internationalism and global studies; and
- Streamlines and focuses graduate and professional offerings and encourages increased research.

Among the 171 degree programs offered, 71 undergraduate, graduate and professional programs were recommended for restructuring or closure—22 undergraduate, 11 graduate and 38 graduate professional programs. Students enrolled in modified or closed programs will be able to complete their degrees, and program tenured faculty will not lose their positions.

"Historically, Howard had to offer a comprehensive range of programs to meet the demands of students of color who were unable to attend other universities," Ribeau said. "We no longer have to be everything to everyone. We have identified specific areas of emphasis and we plan to be leaders in those areas."

The academic renewal initiative includes the restructuring of the core undergraduate curriculum and the creation of a single freshman

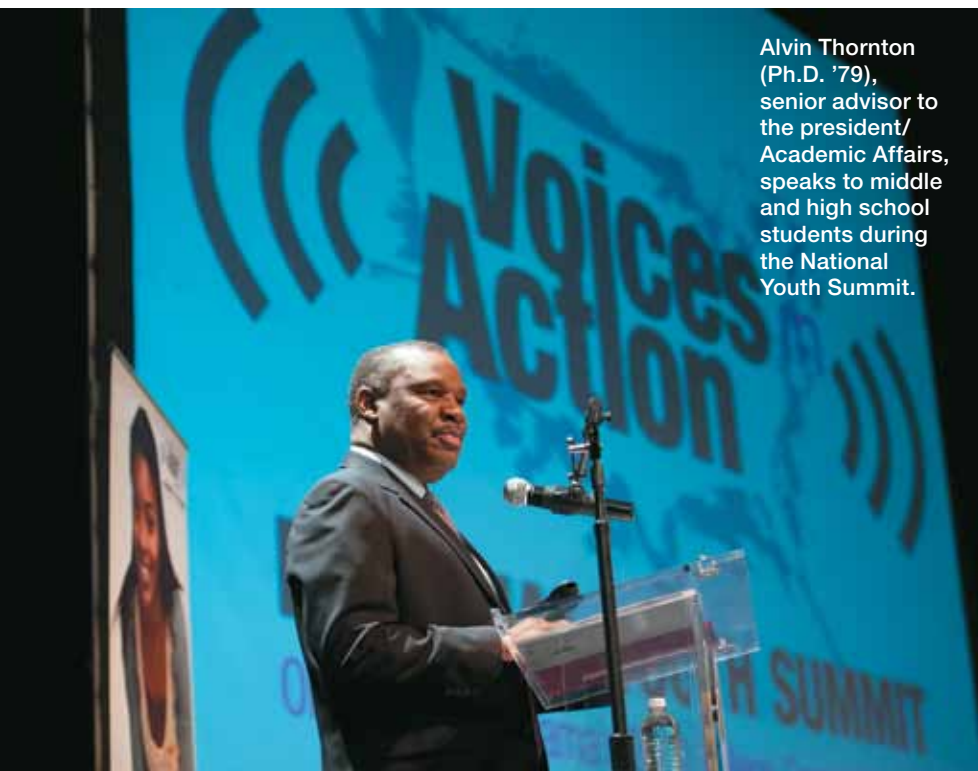
experience for all entering students. The board also approved the president's recommendations to retain bachelor's degree programs in African Studies and Philosophy.

Two new residence halls will be built along the Fourth Street corridor, creating a new undergraduate residential village on the east side of the main campus. The sites include the old Bethune Hall as well as 4th and Bryant streets, currently the Bethune Annex parking lot. The residential complexes will house a total of more than 1,300 students.

The academic renewal process began in 2008. In fall 2009, Ribeau established the Presidential Commission on Academic Renewal as part of the process, and Howard began a faculty-led comprehensive review of all its academic offerings. In fall 2010, the commission submitted its final report to the president recommending a series of University-wide enhancements and program-specific mergers, transformations, additions and eliminations. Ribeau then presented his recommendations for review and feedback from the University community. This review process continued for an additional three months, and faculty and other stakeholders offered alternative proposals that were included in the final plan approved by the board.







Alvin Thornton (Ph.D. '79), senior advisor to the president/Academic Affairs, speaks to middle and high school students during the National Youth Summit.

JUSTIN D. KNIGHT

# Voices in Action

In February, Cramton Auditorium came alive with discussions about improving education in the United States. More than 300 middle and high school students from across the country attended the U.S. Department of Education's Voices in Action: National Youth Summit. Urban, rural and suburban youth engaged policymakers in conversations about issues that affect the American school experience. Students debated the state of the public school system, accessibility of college and the overall improvement of education and support programs.

On his third visit to Howard, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan charged the students to be the voices of their generation, and urged them to help the U.S. become a world leader in higher education by 2020.

"When students go on to college or a career, they're competing with students in China, India and all over the world," Duncan said. "In order to best prepare students, we need to know that we're making every effort to meet their needs in achieving a world-class education. The National Youth Summit brings together students who have taken responsibility for their education, acted as leaders in their schools and communities and who can provide the best insights and feedback on what they need to be successful in the future."

Duncan also assured them that the Obama administration is advocating for increased funding for public school programs and higher education, with early childhood enrichment high on the list.

"Education is not an expense, it's an investment," Duncan said.

## Library's Namesake Honored for His Advocacy

The Louis Stokes Health Sciences Library unveiled a portrait of former U.S. Rep. Louis Stokes of Ohio in honor of the library's 10-year anniversary celebration in March. The building, completed in 2001, is a state-of-the-art library and learning research center. The library was named after Stokes because of his advocacy and tireless work to advance improved health care in the African-American community.



JUSTIN D. KNIGHT





# Town Hall Meeting Addresses the State of Black America

Jobs and the economy in the Black community were addressed during a March town hall meeting in Cramton Auditorium. The National Urban League released its annual report, “The State of Black America 2011,” during the meeting, while featured panelists discussed ways to stem the rising unemployment rate in the Black community.

Journalists Roland Martin and Jeff Johnson led the discussion, which included panelists Alvin Thornton (Ph.D. '79), senior advisor to the president/ Academic Affairs, Brandon Harris, president of the Howard University Student Association, and Michelle Singletary, *Washington Post* columnist.

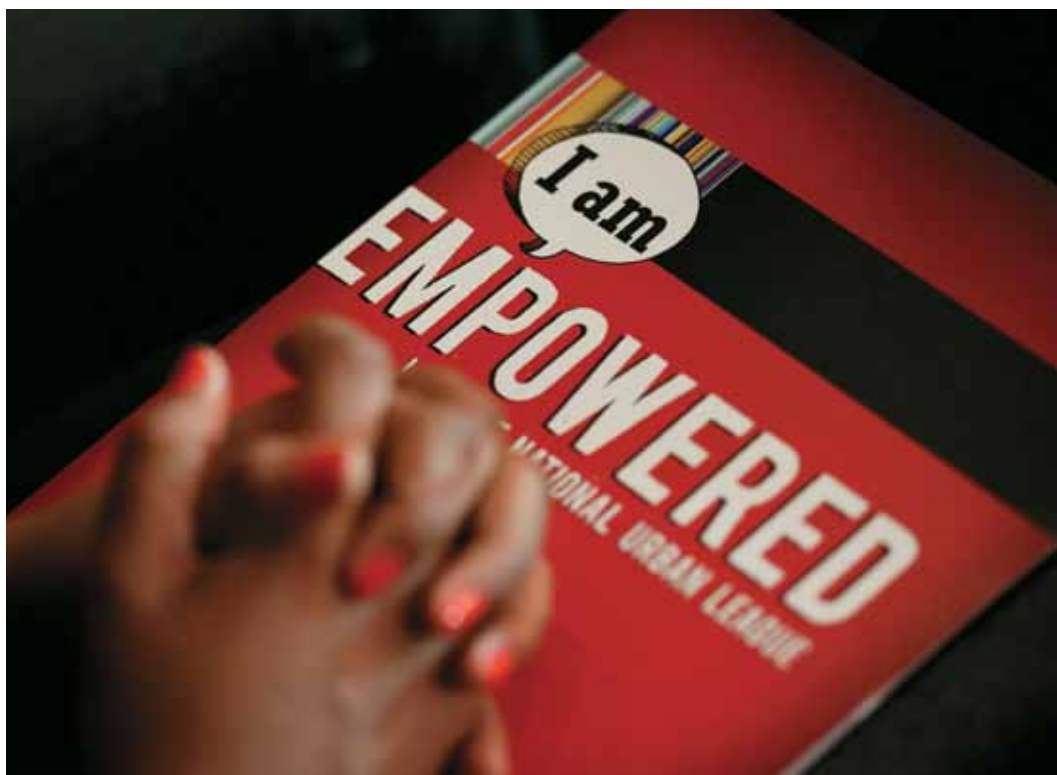
“We are appropriately focused on rebuilding American jobs, the American workforce and the American economy,” said the National Urban League’s Valerie Rawlston Wilson, Ph.D. “This year’s report not only focuses on the current conditions facing Black Americans, it offers insights and practical solutions for tackling many of the challenges of our time, including job creation, economic recovery, housing policy reform, education reform and debt deficit reduction.”

Numerous measures are proposed in the report to help those who are most affected by the current economic and job crisis, including the establishment of a national public-private job creation initiative, Green Empowerment Zones and the creation of an urban homesteading program.

This marked the first year that the report was released at Howard, and featured a Foreword written by President Sidney A. Ribeau, Ph.D. Notable economists, policy experts and journalists also contributed to the report.

“Indispensable to the improvement of the state of Black America is the success of its children in accessing and completing college skills that will enable them to com-

pete, especially in a global environment defined by creative and analytical thinking, found, though not solely, in the important fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics,” said Ribeau. “As we have successfully done in the past, we are positioning Howard University so that it can continue to make strategic contributions to the improvement of the Black community, the nation and our world.”



# Howard Middle School Lands Google-Funded 'Fab Lab'

Google Inc. awarded a \$250,000 grant to the Howard University Middle School of Mathematics and Science (MS)<sup>2</sup>. The grant, through the Tides Foundation, will offset the cost of completing a state-of-the-art computer-automated design and manufacturing lab at the school. Students will use the new "Fab Lab" to construct prototypes of their own inventions. (The original Fab Lab is located at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.)

The announcement was made during a panel discussion and expo on science and technology, which was held at (MS)<sup>2</sup>. Panelists Harry Wingo, Google's senior policy counsel; Ahna Smith, chief of staff for the D.C. Deputy Mayor for Education; and James Wyche, Ph.D., Howard's provost, inspired students to consider a career in science.

Hassan Minor, Ph.D., founder of (MS)<sup>2</sup> and the University's senior vice president for strategic planning, operations and external affairs and chief technology officer, said the Fab Lab will be an important hands-on engineering asset to students throughout Washington, D.C.

"It will let you dream in 3-D," Minor said. "Students will be able to conceive designs and then use the lab's computer-assisted design and manufacturing tools to make models."



JUSTIN D. KNIGHT

Hassan Minor, Ph.D. (center), discusses science and technology during an expo at (MS)<sup>2</sup>.

"If you can think it, the lab will help you build it. Google is excited about the success that Howard University Middle School has had and we look forward to a great partnership with this project," Wingo said.

The Fab Lab will be built adjacent to the school's existing building. The grand opening is expected in the fall.



## Conversations on Leadership

Influential CEOs and executives spoke to Howard students, faculty and staff during an eight-week lecture series on campus in which they explored what it means to be a leader.

The Gwendolyn S. and Colbert I. King Endowed Chair in Public Policy, established by government and business leader Gwendolyn King (B.A. '62) and her husband, Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Colbert King (B.A. '61), sponsored the "Conversations on Leadership" series.

Richard Parsons, chairman of Citigroup and former chairman and CEO of Time Warner, organized the series and recruited the speakers. The speakers include Parsons; Kenneth Chenault, chairman and CEO of American Express; Ursula Burns, chairwoman and CEO of Xerox; and Vernon Jordan Jr. (J.D. '60), senior managing director of Lazard Frères & Co. LLC and a Howard trustee.

Pictured: Parsons discusses leadership with Valerie Jarrett, senior advisor and assistant to President Barack Obama for public engagement and intergovernmental affairs.

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# Congressional Black Caucus Commemorates Anniversary

After decades of dedication and service to the advancement of the Black community, the Congressional Black Caucus commemorated its 40th anniversary with a day-long symposium on campus.

The symposium included four panel discussions, covering the lineage of the CBC—"From the Beginning," "The Reagan Years," "Representing the Conscience of the Congress" and "CBC and the New Millennium." The event, marked by

introspection, attracted attendees from across the country as they revisited the challenges and victories of the CBC.

Current and former CBC members, Howard scholars and researchers made presentations that spoke to the organization's role in the political spectrum.

"From taking the lead in the anti-apartheid movement to its 15-year battle to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with federal recognition of his birthday, to its work

in education reform, environmental justice and health parity, CBC's work has influenced lives beyond its members' districts and has been instrumental in determining international policy and growth," says Rep. Donald M. Payne of New Jersey, chairman of CBC and currently the fifth ranking member.



## Staff Appointments

**Darrell A. Brown** was appointed executive director of the Washington, D.C. Small Business Development Center (DC SBDC) at Howard. Brown previously served as director of Urban Policy and Development for the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation and director of Economic Development for the City of Cranston, Rhode Island. He was also an economic policy adviser in the Office of the Governor of Rhode Island, and served as chief of staff to the attorney general of Rhode Island and as an assistant attorney general in the Virgin Islands.



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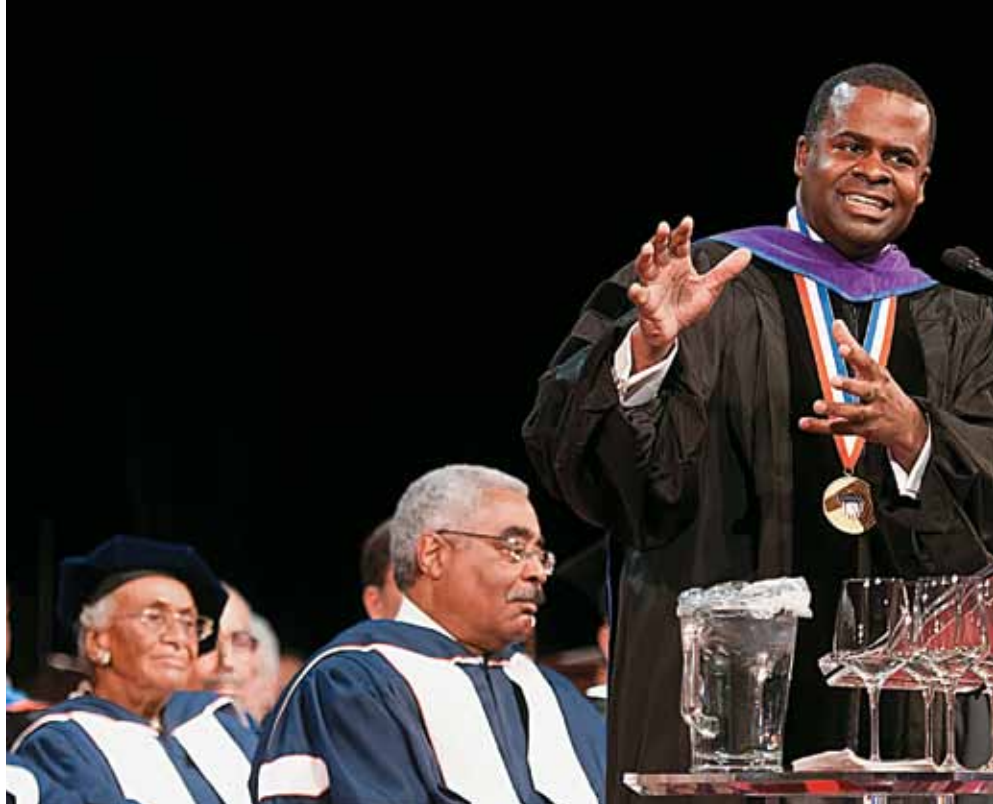
Howard has hosted the DC SBDC, a co-operative program in partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration, since 1979, serving tens of thousands of District small-business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs.

**James "Jimmy" Jones** was appointed chief talent management officer. Jones, who served in an acting role for this position for several months, most recently was the managing director of PRM Consulting Group. He has also served as senior vice president and chief human resources/administrative officer at Reebok International Ltd., among other executive-level roles. He is a seasoned and recognized leader in the design and management of contemporary human resources and employee-relations strategies.



JUSTIN D. KNIGHT

JUSTIN D. KNIGHT



# Charter Day 2011

Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed (B.A. '91; J.D. '95) delivered the address at this year's Charter Day Convocation, marking the University's 144th anniversary on March 11. (Charter Day commemorates the founding of the University in 1867.)

Reed urged students to be inspired by the legacy of leaders who came before them. "You don't have to look very far to see a successful product of Howard University," he said.

He also reminded the audience that Howard was created as a solution for a

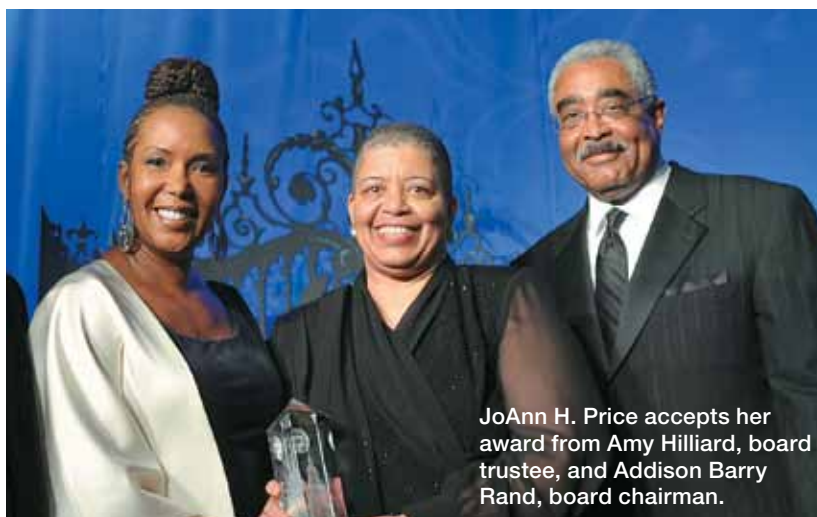
national problem. "If you did not have a Howard, you would have to invent it."

During the 87th Annual Charter Day Dinner, six alumni were honored for their extraordinary accomplishments in their respective fields: Taraji P. Henson (B.F.A. '95), entertainment; Weldon H. Latham (B.A. '68), law and public service; Mark A.L. Mason (B.B.A. '91), business; JoAnn H. Price (B.A. '71), business; Lydia W. Thomas (B.S. '65; Ph.D. '73), science and engineering; and A. Eugene Washington (B.S. '72), medical education.



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CEASAR



JoAnn H. Price accepts her award from Amy Hilliard, board trustee, and Addison Barry Rand, board chairman.

Weldon H. Latham



CEASAR





Kasim Reed delivers the keynote address during this year's Charter Day Convocation.



Former Bermuda premier Ewart F. Brown (B.S. '68; M.D. '72) speaks to the crowd at the Charter Day Dinner.

CEASAR



Taraji P. Henson accepts her award from President Sidney A. Ribeau, Ph.D., and Reed.

CEASAR

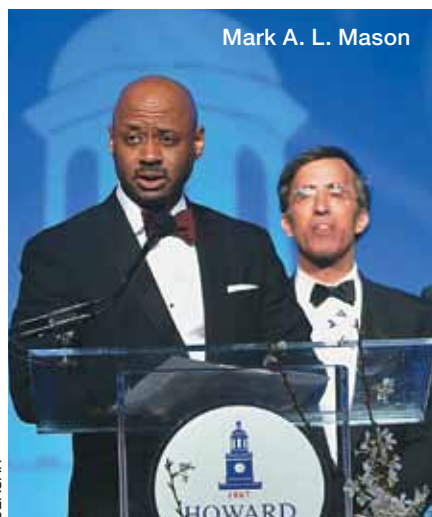


Harpist Jeff Majors



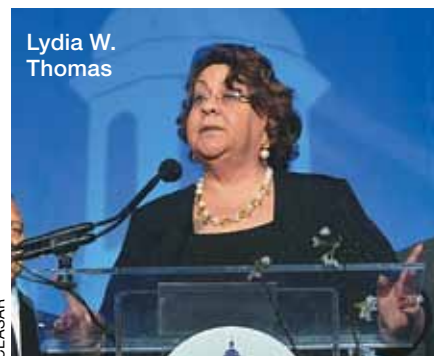
A. Eugene Washington

CEASAR



Mark A. L. Mason

CEASAR



Lydia W. Thomas

CEASAR



# The Long Walk

Celebrating a Centennial of  
Howard's Architectural Legacy

By Frank McCoy

For nearly six decades, the landmark view of Howard has been Founders Library, seen through the massive gates and iron fences that greet visitors to the campus on Sixth Street. Both structures were designed by men who transformed the architectural landscape of the Hilltop, and also helped plant the seeds for students and alumni from the School of Architecture to contribute to the overall foundation of the campus. This year, the School of Architecture and Design is marking its centennial with an appreciation for this past and a blueprint for the future.

## The Early Years

Louis E. Fry Sr. created the gates and fences, and Albert I. Cassell, who hired Fry as his senior designer, designed Founders. Cassell joined Howard's architecture department in 1920 and was appointed university architect and department chair a year later. He was later elevated to campus planner and builder, and during his 18-year tenure, set the foundation for campus architecture. He designed or oversaw the construction of at least 10 Georgian Revival-style buildings, three women's dormitories and the Chemistry building.



Cassell and Fry saw the west-side gates as an inviting public entrance. Harry G. Robinson III (B.Arch. '66), former dean and professor of Urban Design, School of Architecture and Planning, from 1979–1995, says the gate's beauty and strength signified Howard's desire to move from being a small college to a world-class

university. Key elements of that journey were buildings designed by the school's faculty and alumni.

Howard-trained architects, including Robinson, were chosen to create seven subsequent master plans. An executive consulting architect for the American Battle Monuments Commission and co-author of *The Long Walk: The Placemaking Legacy of Howard University*, Robinson

is currently writing the 100-year history of architecture education at Howard.

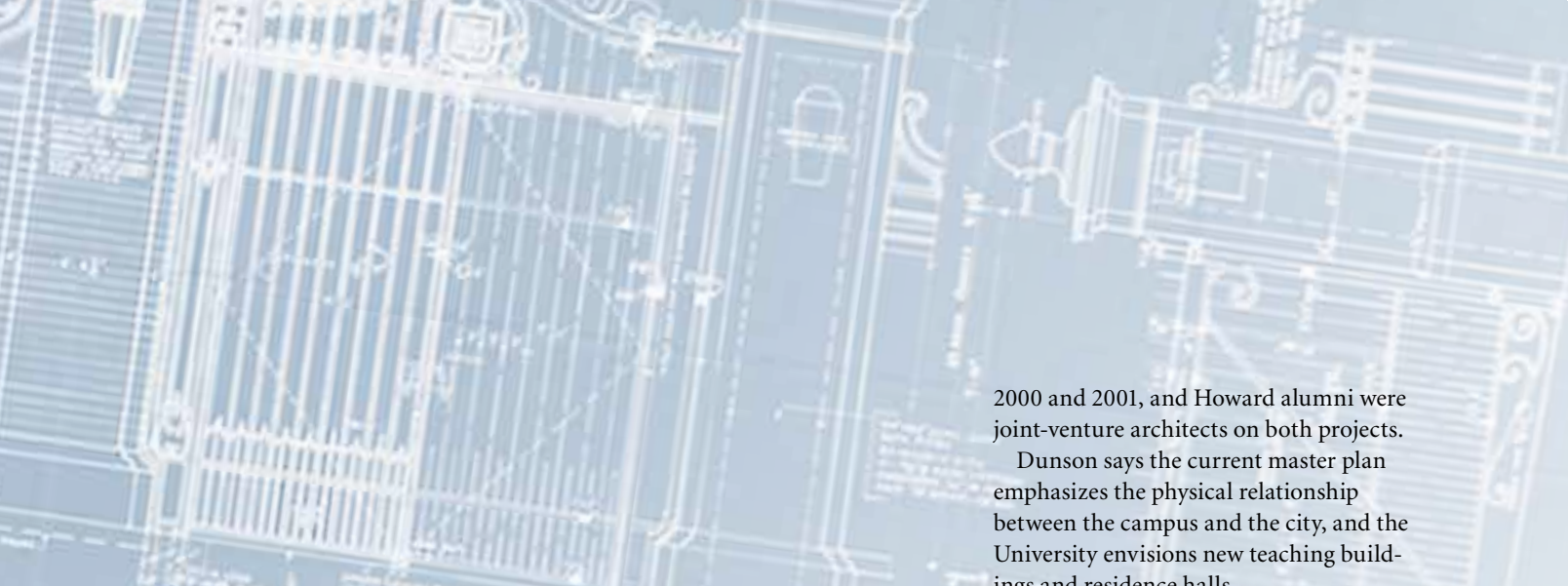
## Blueprint for the Future

The key multi-decade influence on the University's architecture was Howard H. Mackey Sr., who led the architecture program for 32 years. During his tenure, it gained its first accreditation and educated the majority of African-American architects in practice at the time, and others from Africa and the Caribbean.



Today, Edward D. Dunson Jr. (B.Arch. '71), is chair and associate professor of the Department of Architecture, and believes that the school will expand its reputation as a force dedicated to smart growth and sustainability.





2000 and 2001, and Howard alumni were joint-venture architects on both projects.

Dunson says the current master plan emphasizes the physical relationship between the campus and the city, and the University envisions new teaching buildings and residence halls.

Adds Robinson, "Architecture has always been a transformative force at Howard."

*McCoy is a writer based in Maryland.*



That means moving beyond being generalists or master builders. Alumni must be architectural leaders and activists who, Dunson says, "set policy for change within a complicated world, and our education has to address that complexity."

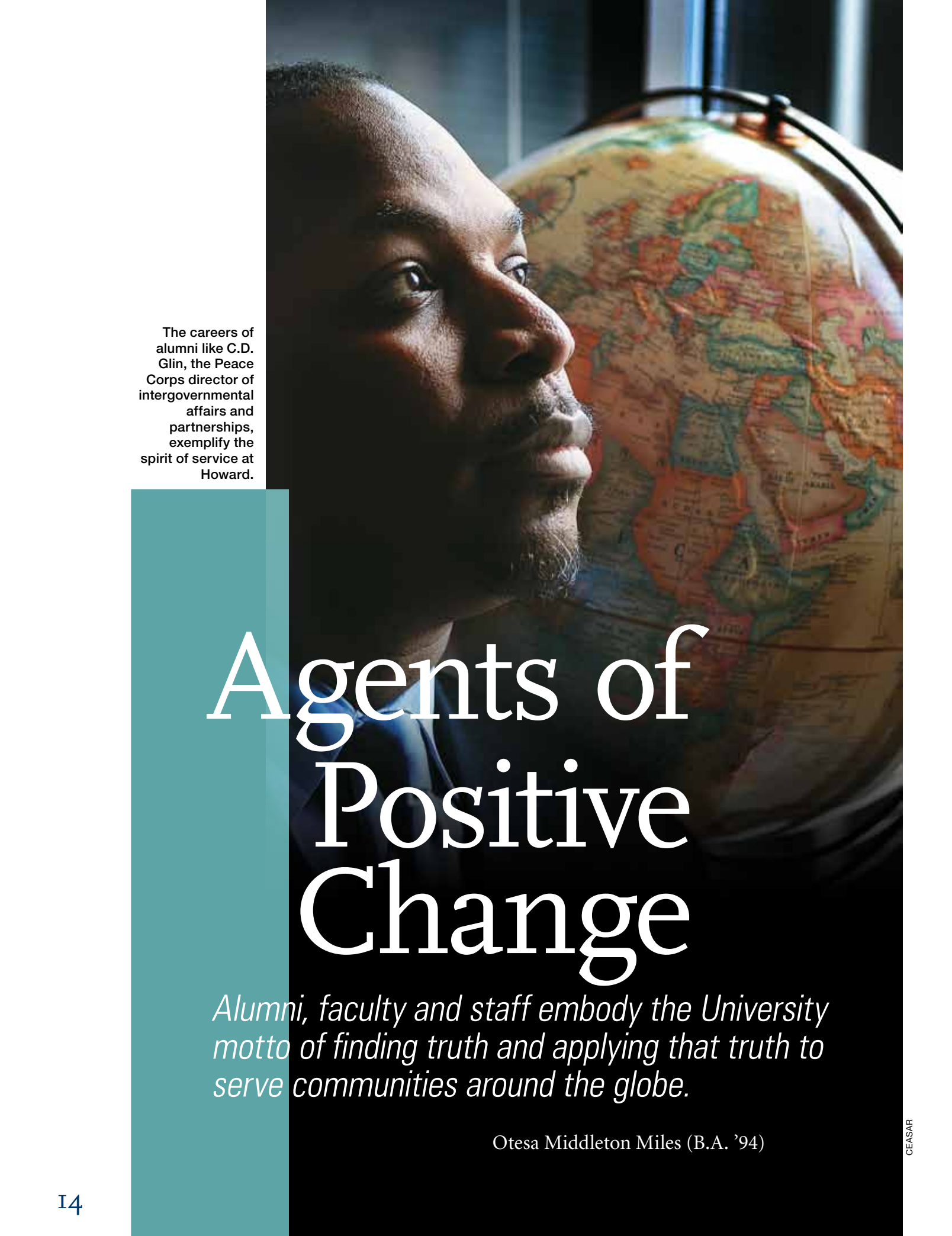
On a campus where the practice of architecture is prized over theory, by the 1970s Black faculty members, graduates and firms completed most of the work. The University's most recent additions are the law school library and the health sciences library, built concurrently in

## Scholarship Fund Honors Former Professor's Legacy

Alumni from the School of Architecture's class of 1977 have revived a scholarship fund for a beloved professor who influenced legions of

students. The Frank G. West Jr. Scholarship Fund supports architecture students in their third and fourth year of study with tuition, books and fees. The late West (B.Arch. '54; M.Arch. '69) was a former chair and professor at Howard for more than 25 years, and members of the 1977 class want to ensure that his legacy endures in helping more students realize their dreams. To contribute to this fund, contact El Hadji Djibril Diagne, Department of Alumni Relations, 202-806-5857, or mail a tax-deductible contribution to 2225 Georgia Ave., NW, Suite 931, Washington, DC 20059.



A close-up, profile view of a Black man with a short beard and mustache, looking upwards and to the right. He is positioned in front of a large, vintage-style globe that shows the Americas. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights on his face and the globe, and deep shadows elsewhere. The background is dark and out of focus.

The careers of alumni like C.D. Glin, the Peace Corps director of intergovernmental affairs and partnerships, exemplify the spirit of service at Howard.

# Agents of Positive Change

*Alumni, faculty and staff embody the University motto of finding truth and applying that truth to serve communities around the globe.*

Otesa Middleton Miles (B.A. '94)



During his undergraduate years at Howard, C.D. Glin yearned to live in Africa and broaden his knowledge while living the University's motto of truth and service.



“My first real interest was the Foreign Service,” Glin says. “Through the State Department, I spent three months in Ghana and met a number of Peace Corps volunteers who were having authentic African experiences and learning a new language. I wanted to give all of myself, and I got bitten by the Peace Corps bug.”

Soon after, Glin (B.S. '05) joined the first group of volunteers in South Africa. He is now the Peace Corps director of

intergovernmental affairs and partnerships, appointed by President Barack Obama.

Glin is one of many members of the Howard University family—including current students, alumni, faculty and staff—whose volunteer work and career choices embody the University motto. From the Peace Corps and the Foreign Service to Alternative Spring Break, AmeriCorps, Teach for America and ROTC, the Howard community is com-

mitted to being agents of positive change.

Harold Scott, Ph.D., interim director of the Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center, says the spirit of service “very much permeates the Howard University community.” Scott says campus groups such as Engineers Without Borders demonstrate the Howard family’s commitment to giving their most precious resource: themselves. “It is very much a part of the DNA of the campus,” he says.

Scott often nurtures freshmen and sophomores who might thrive by serving in the Peace Corps, which he says gives students a competitive edge in applying for national fellowships.

Serving gave Michael Smith (B.S. '63) that competitive edge. Smith is believed to be the first Howard graduate to enter the Peace Corps, volunteering in Morocco in a sports training/coaching program.

"By having global experience, IBM recruited me and I stayed there for 36 years," he says. "I was promoted to program manager for the Far East and had

responsibility for sales in 17 countries because I had that experience of living in a foreign country."

### **Applying Truth to Serve Others**

Discovering truth, and applying it to serve others, is also part of the motto. That's what Clarence M. Lee (Ph.D. '69) found himself doing after volunteering in Sierra Leone for the Peace Corps.

"I saw a woman dying from African sleeping sickness (a disease caused by parasites). This stimulated me to learn

"It is very much a part of the DNA of the campus."

about parasites; that was the beginning of my career," says Lee, who is now a professor of biology at Howard. "Her death triggered me to do something. Since then, I've trained 60 master's and Ph.D.-level students in parasites."

Maj. Tyra Sellers heads Howard's ROTC program, which is developing young leaders who are committed to serving their country.



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Howard has 12 Peace Corps volunteers currently serving in Africa, Asia and Latin America, says Aaron S. Williams, director of the Peace Corps, which held a panel discussion on volunteerism at Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel in March. In the past 50 years, he says, 185 Howard graduates have served in the Peace Corps. Most notably, alumnus Harris Wofford (J.D. '54) was one of the architects of the 50-year-old service organization.

## Leadership and Values

The Army ROTC on Howard's campus encourages students to begin thinking about service early, says Maj. Tyra Sellers, professor of military science and department chair at Howard. "We have an outreach program, and we're involved with area high schools through the Junior ROTC. We visit the community's armed forces members returning home, hear their stories and thank them for their service," she says. "We also work with elementary schools and act as mentors."

Involvement in the military, Sellers says, is a commitment to serving your country. "We are about leadership and values."

Kali Jones (B.A. '94) served as a health consultant with the Peace Corps in Madagascar and is now a Foreign Service officer working as the deputy political counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Haiti. To increase minority participation in the Foreign Service, Jones says the State Department works with the Bunche Center, as well as the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs graduate fellowship pro-

gram. Jones' time abroad has taught her to "push your comfort zone."

Amassing lessons from varied cultures, expanding horizons, learning a new language and exploring different regions are often cited as reasons for serving in foreign countries. Anita English, executive policy governance specialist in the Office of the Senior Vice President/University Secretary at Howard, taught English in Thailand as a Peace Corps volunteer in the mid-1970s.

"I learned that people are people wherever you go; I don't see class distinctions and I have an affinity for the underdog," English says. "People all have the same issues: concerns about health, their children, their parents."

Not all service is conducted overseas. Damien T. Frierson, M.S.W., a doctoral student in the School of Social Work, served as a program officer for AmeriCorps State and National at the Corporation for National and Community Service, where he oversaw funding allocations and outcomes for 10 states and 40 programs.

"From seeing youth with developmental disabilities in Albuquerque, New Mexico, use art as communication tools to members rebuilding communities in the Gulf Coast states, you understood that you are a part of a national service movement," says Frierson. "People are working across the United States, addressing problems that are bringing community members and AmeriCorps members together to develop unique solutions. As a program officer there was no better feeling than seeing that work happen."

Jerome K. Joseph (B.S. '10) returned to Houston, his hometown, to teach 8th-grade science through Teach for America. "Being at ground zero—on the battlefield—I see the systemic problems in education," Joseph says.

He maintains his plan to attend medical school, but his Teach for America experience makes him want to pursue a career in politics.

"This has inspired me to run for public office in order to make the changes I really want to see."

Joseph credits Howard with honing his skills to make him a grassroots contributor. "It's on the university seal: 'Veritas et Utilitas.' I knew I wanted to do something major," says Joseph, who served as vice president of the Howard University Student Association. "Howard gave me the mechanism. I had the drive, but not the know-how. I received the know-how at Howard." ■HU

*Middleton Miles is a writer based in Virginia.*

The original seal and motto ("Equal Rights and Knowledge for All") supported the University's early mission of educating men and women of different ethnicities. The motto was changed in the early 1900s. The following is a description of the current motto, which was unveiled on Sept. 30, 1910, in the student paper, the *Howard University Journal*:

"The motto of the University, *Veritas et Utilitas*, is indicative of the spirit of the institution, namely, truth and usefulness; truth gained through science and literature in order that it may be translated into forms of useful service for God and the people of this republic. We trust that the spirit, thought and ideals presented by this seal will be embodied in the lives of the multitudes of students who now and through the coming years seek the advantages of this great national institution."





Karine Sewell's mentoring of Danian Short illustrates how members of the Howard community "reach back" to help guide a new generation.

"Mentoring is part of the Howard University fabric."

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# Faculty and Staff Take Truth and Service to Heart

*Mentoring a new  
generation of young  
people.*

By Ron Harris

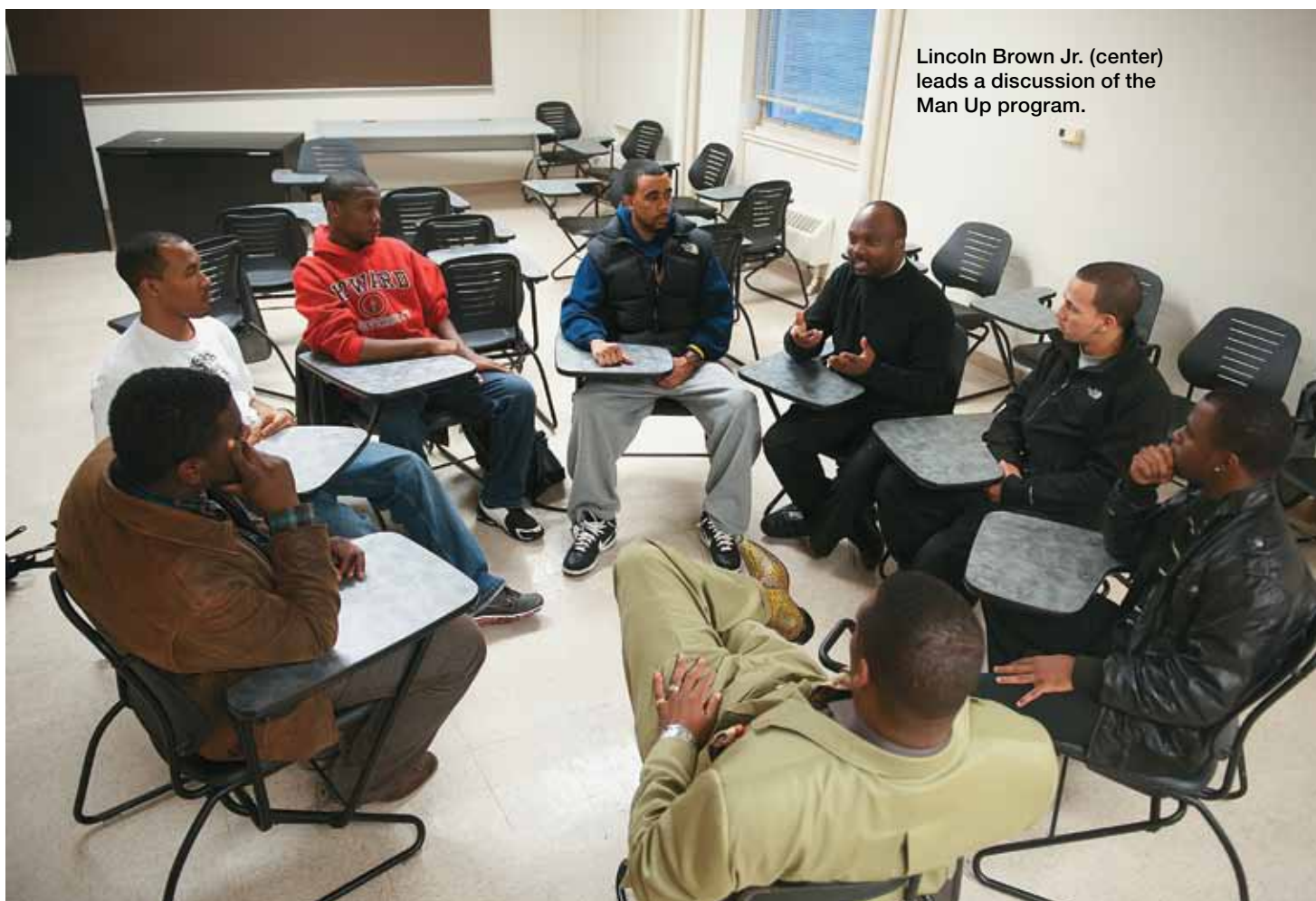
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hen Karine Sewell (B.S. '89), interim senior director, Development and Alumni Relations at Howard, contemplated whether to take in the friend of her eldest daughter three years ago, she weighed a story that sounded similar to a chapter in her own life.

Danian Short's mother had relocated to North Carolina and left him in the care of his stepfather, who could no longer provide housing for the two of them. So, for Short,

who had graduated from high school the previous year, each night was an adventure. One night he would sleep on a friend's sofa, another on a relative's couch and another in someone's extra bedroom.

Sewell, also director of development for the College of Medicine, had been there. Her single mother died when she was 6. And for the next three years, she and her older sister were shuffled from family to family around Louisiana before they



Lincoln Brown Jr. (center) leads a discussion of the Man Up program.

finally found a permanent home with her 23-year-old newlywed aunt in Houston.

"There's nothing worse than not knowing where you're going to sleep at night," Sewell says. "The only thing close is sleeping somewhere that you know you're unwanted or uninvited. Nothing goes right if all day long you're worried whether you're going to have somewhere to sleep or if your clothes will be packed when you come back home so you can go somewhere else."

So, Sewell took the young man in and became his mentor, a rich tradition among

Howard University faculty and staff. "I don't think an 18-year-old is able to face the world without a stable role model," she says. "Fortunately, he was receptive."

### Part of the Fabric

Sewell and Short's story represents the informal and formal mentoring that occurs at Howard. Faculty and staff frequently seek ways to mentor the next generation, whether it's on or off campus.

"Mentoring is part of the Howard University fabric," says Melbourne Cummings,

Ph.D., professor in the Department of Communications and Culture in the School of Communications.

Cummings, who has been working with young people for more than 30 years, co-founded the Rites of Passage program at her church through the National Council of Negro Women more than 20 years ago with Judi Moore Latta, Ph.D., executive director of the Office of University Communications and Marketing.

"It makes a difference in young people's lives," Cummings says. "They look at us and decide they want to be like us or decide they don't want to be like us."

Molly Levine, Ph.D., a professor in the Department of Classics since 1984, has taken mentoring very personally, often inviting students to stay free of charge in her home over the summer while they pursue educational opportunities.

"Because a lot of these internships don't pay, you need a trust fund to be able to afford to complete them," Levine says.

JUSTIN D. KNIGHT

**"My kids are great to start with. It's not like they were in trouble and I had to save them. I showed them opportunities they might not have heard about on their own."**



"As long as they have a good project, they can stay at my house."

The very first student to do so was Marianna Ofosu (B.A. '03), who wanted to work one summer at the Embassy of Rwanda. Ofosu was later named a Rhodes Scholar in 2003. Other students Levine has mentored have gone on to become lawyers, medical students, ministers and Ph.D.s. One is currently teaching in China.

"Let's be clear. My kids are great to start with," she says. "It's not like they were in trouble and I had to save them. I showed them opportunities they might not have heard about on their own. They just needed help to get them to the next level."

### Academic Guidance

In the School of Social Work, Professor Tricia Bent-Goodley, Ph.D., provides her own brand of mentoring through The

grant writing process. "We provide a place where they can share ideas about research topics or have questions about career advancement," she explains. "The Writing Circle gives students a chance to interact with faculty outside of the classroom in a structured way."

She adds: "The goal is to help students really recognize their own greatness and then step aside at the appropriate moment to let them show what they can do. We have to be there for them."

### Finding Solutions to High Male Dropout Rates

"Being there for them" is the unspoken theme of Man Up, a mentoring program in the School of Communications that provides confidential counseling to male students seeking help with a broad array of personal issues. Communications staff

provide networking access for the young men. What gets discussed in Man Up, stays in Man Up.

"We create an environment where students can come together and talk with someone about whatever is on their mind," says Brown, who is also an ordained minister. "They can talk freely without anxiety or any sense of retribution or being judged."

The sessions can be pretty intense, with discussions centered on topics like depression, money, sexual orientation, balancing school with an active social life or just showing affection. Brown says the school has seen an increase in the number of returning male students. He urges male faculty, staff and alumni to get involved.

"It makes a huge difference," he says. "We're saving lives, literally."

Cummings says the school also has a monthly mentoring program called Sister Stars, where female students discuss an array of personal issues. She believes the need for Howard faculty, staff and alumni to serve as mentors is more important than ever.

"They don't have the same kind of mentors we had when we were growing up," she says. "It's incumbent upon us as those who have done well to give back. It is our responsibility to help young people as we were helped when we were growing up."

For Sewell, the mentoring of Short in his journey through life continues. "I told him he had to establish himself in a career, but he didn't like anything other than working on cars," she says. "So, I told him to do something with that skill."

Short followed her advice and, in May 2010, received a certificate of completion from Lincoln College of Technology. Now 22, he works full time with the Maryland State Highway Administration while completing an internship in auto repair to become a full-fledged automotive service technician.

And, this summer, he will be moving into his own apartment, his first. ■IU

*Harris is the director of communications for the Office of University Communications.*

"It's incumbent upon us as those who have done well to give back. It is our responsibility to help young people as we were helped when we were growing up."

Writing Circle, a monthly gathering that supports knowledge development and scholarship among doctoral and master's students seeking help in learning how to publish, present and advance scholarly work.

Approximately eight to 12 students meet at the school, with the support of faculty, to discuss writing for potential publication as well as for grant and fellowship applications. They talk about dissertation proposal topics and practice oral presentations for conferences and dissertation defenses, while getting feedback from colleagues.

Bent-Goodley started the informal group three years ago as a way to address questions about the publication and

and faculty started the program in 2004 to stem the flow of male students who weren't returning to school.

"There were a lot of reasons they weren't coming back," says Lincoln Brown Jr. (B.A. '01; M.A. '05), an academic counselor at the school and director of the program. "Sometimes, it's financial issues, sometimes it's academic or it's family obligations. Sometimes the family needed them to come back home to help out financially."

Each month, about 20 male students, mostly freshmen and sophomores, meet in the School of Communications with male faculty and staff to confidentially discuss their problems. Administrators, alumni and friends of Howard also



Hope Hills Elementary School in Atlanta uses classrooms named after universities to motivate students to aspire to higher education.

# Alternative Spring Break 2011

*Gaining a Deeper Understanding of Service*

By Tyeasha Williams

Volunteers for this year's Alternative Spring Break program participated in community initiatives that helped them gain a greater understanding of the true meaning of service. This year, more than 300 students volunteered in Atlanta, Chicago, Detroit, Washington, D.C., New Orleans and Haiti for the annual ASB program. Howard students and staff—led by ASB Executive Director Paula Whetsel-Ribeau, Ph.D.—tutored

ERIC SLYE



"It's important for our students to actually see college students, work with them and build relationships with them because they get a chance to see that their dreams are possible and obtainable."

students, lobbied for the enforcement of stricter gun laws, held a book drive, advocated for improved literacy and helped rebuild in a region stricken by a natural disaster. Volunteers returned from their one-week experience equipped with a renewed vision of how they can serve their own communities. And in one school in Atlanta, they have made a lasting impact.

### Hope and a Place to Dream

Aleah Wilson, a third-grader at Hope Hills Elementary School in Atlanta, quickly bonded with her ASB volunteer, Zakiya Cobb, a sophomore legal communications major.

"I can remember her standing wide-eyed in her class line searching for me through the crowd of my peers as we filled the third-grade hallway to greet our kids," said Cobb. "I had only met Aleah two days earlier but she warmed up to me as if we'd known each other for years. I was glad she quickly assessed that I was someone she could trust."

Hope Hills Principal Cassandra Ashley, Ph.D., welcomed the Howard volunteers to her school for the second year in a row. "It's important for our students to actually see college students, work with them and build relationships with them because they get a chance to see that their dreams are possible and obtainable."

That's why when Ebony Gamble, the



school's partnership and volunteer coordinator, proposed the idea a few years ago to enlist and employ college students, working professionals and other influential people to mentor their students, Ashley quickly agreed.

"We've reached out to local businesses and churches, colleges and support pro-

grams to work with our students, one on one," said Gamble. "Our goal is to provide every one of our 270 students with a mentor of their own."

"I know what some of my students' backgrounds are like and this is my sole reason for instilling in them that going to college will be their way of coming out



Student volunteers in Haiti helped build an exterior wall for the Ecolè Bon Samaritan Orphanage and School, which is located one hour west of Port-au-Prince.



of the environment that they are in,” said Ashley.

Ashley and her team of faculty and staff have created an environment centered on pursuing a college career. The walls are adorned with paintings of notable people like President Jimmy Carter and social activists Martin Luther King Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi. Inspirational quotes are vividly scripted in the library, cafeteria, bathroom and hallways and

each hallway is a gateway to places like ‘College Street’ and ‘University Lane.’

Paraphernalia from different universities, including Howard, can also be found in these hallways that are intended to be cognitive road maps that Ashley hopes will inspire her students.

“There is a lot of negativity for some of my students so for the seven hours that they’re here, we want to take them away from some of things that they may be

experiencing and give them something else, something like hope and a place to dream.”

Adds Ashley: “Hope Elementary is appreciative that Howard would select us for a second year to serve our kids. We really hope that this can be a lasting partnership.” ■IU

*Williams, an intern in the Office of University Communications, volunteered in Atlanta during this year’s ASB program.*

JUSTIN D. KNIGHT





In Haitian Creole, “Son moman nan vi’n ke nou pap jam’m bliye, chak fwa’n sonje’l dlo koule nan zieu’n...” translates to “It’s a moment in our lives which we will never forget, and every time we remember it, tears roll down from our eyes.” These opening lyrics of the song “David” by the Kompa band D.P. Express describe the emotions felt by Haitians living abroad when they heard about a category 5 hurricane of the same name that was approaching Haiti in 1979. I was 9 years old at the time, and my mother played the album religiously. Every once in a while, the tears would well up in her eyes and she would cry, much like the song predicted. Her voice would get really loud as she echoed the refrain, “Take me home, take me home, I don’t want to die in this foreign land, take me home.”

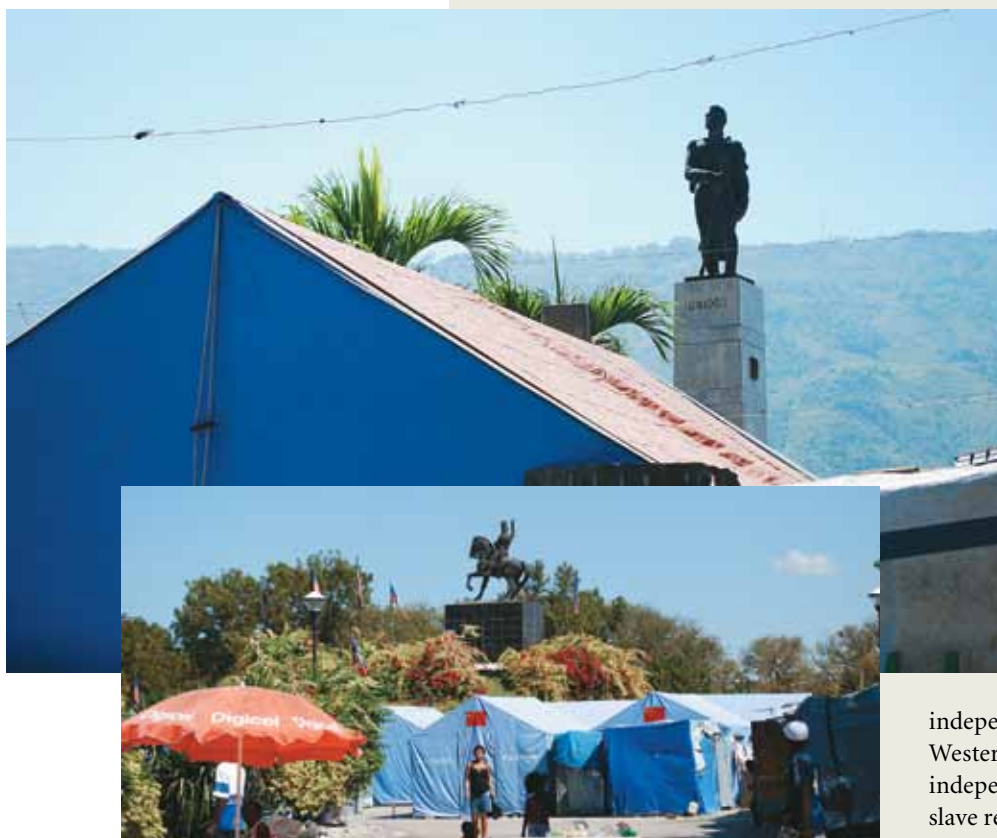
I never really understood what she felt then, but on Jan. 12, 2010, the song’s true meaning became clear to me. When the earthquake hit Port-au-Prince at 4:53 p.m., entire cohorts of nurses, doctors and students died. Sadly, this loss of talent was a representation of what has existed in Haiti for decades, because most graduates and professionals leave the country for a better way of life elsewhere. The quake left more than 200,000 dead, hundreds of thousands gravely injured and millions homeless. In Bowie, Md., far away from the epicenter of the quake, I was shaken to my core—and the true meaning of a song I had heard for 30 years immediately became clear to me. I needed to go home!

The international community responded quickly with love, support and money. Determined to be a part of

# Take Me Home

## *Reflections on Rebuilding Haiti*

By Haki Halisi (B.S. ’95)



“Far away from the epicenter of the quake, I was shaken to my core—and the true meaning of a song I had heard for 30 years immediately became clear to me. I needed to go home!”

this coalition of humanitarians, I placed my name on several volunteer lists, but one month later I was still waiting to be called. Undeterred, I boarded a flight to the Dominican Republic on Feb. 15, and during a six-hour bus ride to Port-au-Prince exchanged stories with others. In the days leading up to our journey, we had searched Walmart, Target and Outdoor World to find tents for friends and family who were now homeless. Our luggage was filled with food, hand sanitizer and medicine. Although I had been to Haiti two years earlier, many others admitted this was their first time back home in 10, 20, even 30 years. Still, there was a common belief that this earthquake was a blessing in disguise, and that Haiti was destined to rise from the rubble better and stronger than ever before.

More than a year later, the microscope that once loomed over the skies of Haiti has disappeared. Of the more than \$400 million raised by the International Red Cross for relief efforts, only 50 percent has been spent in Haiti to date. By February 2011, only 10 percent of the rubble from the earthquake had been cleared; the rest remained, quite possibly, the tombs of the unrecovered bodies of those

that perished on that tragic day. Media headlines now focus on the cholera epidemic and the new president-elect, musician Michel Martelly. Haiti is slowly returning to what it was before the quake. Not the first

independent, Black-led country in the Western world; the only nation whose independence came from a successful slave rebellion and the second independent nation in the Americas. That legacy seems lost, and we are once again being tagged with the moniker “the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere.”

Heeding the words from “David,” I’ve returned to Haiti four times since the earthquake. I’ve stood in front of a once-beautiful national palace, now in ruins, and begun to cry. Yet, what’s still missing are the approximately 400,000 Haitians living in New York, the 200,000 living in Miami and the thousands of others in cities throughout the world.

In the closing lyrics of “David,” the band’s lead singer, Ti Manno, offers these words: “anfen santi nous delivre, leu napran’n fanmi nous yo te epagne... nou mande pou nou retounen,” which means “In the end we felt we were delivered, when we learned that our families had been spared ... And so we asked to return!” In order for January 2012 to find Haiti in a better state of affairs, more Haitians must return home and immerse themselves in the development of this great nation. ■IU

*Halisi is the director of development for Howard University’s College of Dentistry, Development and Alumni Relations.*



# A Global Approach to Health Care

By Grace I. Virtue (M.A. '97; Ph.D. '01)

Last year, the College of Medicine ranked third among America's 141 medical schools in producing doctors who best meet the nation's new health care needs. Howard's excellent rating in the George Washington University study is not accidental. Since its inception, the College of Medicine has made serving the underserved in the U.S. and abroad its primary mission.

One of the earliest representatives is Lena Frances Edwards, a 1924 graduate of the College of Medicine, who treated mostly poor immigrant factory workers and their families in the Lafayette section of New Jersey. By the time she left New Jersey in 1954, she had delivered more than 5,000 babies while raising six children of her own.

Edwards was one of the first African-American women to be board-certified as an obstetrician-gynecologist as well as to gain admission to the International College of Surgeons. At age 60, and with a heart condition, Edwards moved to Hereford, Texas, to work among migrant Mexican farmers and establish a 200-bed maternity hospital. In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her humanitarian work, capping a lifetime of service and struggle for those in need.

Edwards' spirit resounds today in physicians like Babafemi Adenuga, M.D., and numerous others who continue to traverse the world, donating their time and expertise to ease the suffering of the poor and marginalized. Currently an assistant professor and interim chair of the Department of Community and Family Medicine, and program director in the Family Medicine residency program at Howard University Hospital, Adenuga has been leading medical missions to Nigeria since 2003.

A team that includes urologists, plastic surgeons, general surgeons, orthopedic surgeons, obstetricians and gynecologists, cardiologists, ophthalmologists/optometrists and podiatrists usually accompanies him.

The program was born, Adenuga says, when the Imo State of Nigeria, through its trade mission office in Washington, D.C., approached the Office of International Medicine at Howard University Hospital (HUH) in search of partnerships that would benefit Nigerians back home. Four doctors—Adenuga; Chiledum Ahaghotu, M.D., chief of urology at HUH;



**Babafemi Adenuga, M.D.,** interim chair of the Department of Community and Family Medicine, has led medical missions to Nigeria since 2003.

Chukwuemeka Onyewu, M.D., a plastic and general surgeon; and Alexander Nnabue, M.D., an optometrist—traveled to Nigeria for an initial needs assessment.

Since then, scores of physicians return every year to provide free services to Nigerians, including other HUH physicians and health care professionals, such as Aham Onyike, M.D., assistant professor of orthopedics; Mark Awantang, M.D., assistant professor of orthopedics; Fernando Daniels, M.D., emergency medicine; Kerry Lewis, M.D., interim chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology; Andrea Bonnick, M.D., chair, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery; Kevin Smith, M.D., assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology and chief of minimally invasive laparoscopic procedures; and Terry Thompson, M.D., chair of the Department of Orthopedics.

They provide services that include acute medical care, chronic disease assessment, health screenings, health promotional activities, eye care and a variety of surgical procedures. Adenuga says that during a typical 10-day visit, physicians see 60 to 100 patients daily. The trips, he says, have been successful in terms of the delivery of care and the quality of the partnership established with the state government of Nigeria. Adenuga says he is motivated primarily by compassion, continuity and comprehensive and coordinated care. And, just last year, he and the three original physicians established Sustainable International Medical Mission, a nonprofit organization dedicated to taking medical care to the neediest citizens around the world. ■IU

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

# Giving Back

*HUAA serves the University by providing need-based student scholarships*

**E**arly last year,

Howard senior Mercedes A.

Woodson encountered a challenge that could have derailed her plans to become a neurosurgeon. “I was going through a difficult money situation,” the biology major recalls.

As a result, she anticipated having to sit out the semester. Luckily, she discovered a scholarship offered through the Howard University Alumni Association (HUAA). “I would have been unable to register for classes without it,” she says.

While financial challenges have always existed for college students, the recent economic crisis has, perhaps, made them more far-reaching than in years past. HUAA has responded to the growing need by making scholarships available to even more students. More than \$26,000 in scholarship money was awarded to students in the fall semester of 2010 and the spring semester of 2011, says El Hadji Djibril Diagne (B.A. '06), senior program associate for the Department of Alumni Relations.

For students, a scholarship can offset the price of books, assist with housing costs or pay for a required course. In some cases, a scholarship is the much-needed miracle that allows a student to continue his or her studies.

## **A Financial Lifeline**

HUAA awards two types of scholarships each year—the Brenda Lawson Brown

Scholarship and emergency scholarships. The association raises money for them through contributions and fundraising events, such as its annual Golf Invitational and Silent Auction and the Bison on the Vineyard.

The Brenda Lawson Brown Scholarship—named after a former director of Howard’s Department of Alumni Affairs—provides funds for students who exhibit financial need, while excelling in other areas, such as academics and community involvement. “In the past, one full scholarship was awarded to one student, but the Alumni Scholarship Committee realized it was better to spread it around, so now they divide it and distribute the funds to many students,” Diagne says.

When the committee meets in the spring, they select one student who scores the highest on the application’s criteria to receive the largest scholarship of \$3,000. Any additional funds in the scholarship account are then divided among runners-up, says Stacey Lowery (B.S. '87), chair of the scholarship committee.

Launched two years ago, emergency scholarships are awarded monthly, between January and April. The total amount distributed each month is \$2,000, which is divided among all of the recipients. As a

By Tamara E. Holmes (B.A. '94)

result, the amount a student receives varies based on the number of students who apply that particular month. Financial need is the main criteria. Students can apply for—and receive—the scholarship multiple times if their hardship is ongoing.

“It must be a situation where if they don’t pay the money, they can’t pursue their studies,” Diagne says.

Financial assistance is also funneled through the various alumni clubs across the country. Some clubs hold events, such as the Alumni Club of Greater Los Angeles’ 5K Run/Walk, to raise funds, while they also contribute to their respective endowment funds at the University.

“Other clubs have their own scholarship committees, and they choose stu-

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dents to award scholarships from their region of the country,” Diagne adds.

For students like Woodson, these scholarships help provide a financial lifeline in these tough economic times. Through it all, HUAA continues to engage alumni to contribute so that they can impact as many students as possible, and as the contributions come in, “hopefully, we can get more students to apply,” Lowery says. ■HU

*Holmes is a writer based in Maryland.*

For further information about these scholarships, contact El Hadji Djibril Diagne at 202-806-5857.



Members of HUAC Greater Los Angeles, including club president Bradford Benham IV (B.F.A. '06), participate in a 5K run/walk.

An alumni scholarship allowed Mercedes A. Woodson to inch one step closer to realizing her dream of becoming a neurosurgeon.



One of HUAA's major fundraising events is Bison on the Vineyard, and includes participation from alumni like Lydia Padilla (B.A. '73) (standing, far right) and Margo Bouchet (B.A. '69; J.D. '72) (sitting, far right).



# Notable

## Alumni

By Melanie R. Holmes (B.A. '06)

### Ernest Dickerson

*Acclaimed cinematographer and director continues to put his visual stamp on movies and television series.*

Ernest Dickerson (B.Arch. '77) has enough films and television episodes tagged with his byline to keep viewers of any generation and cinematic fan base entertained for weeks. Films like *Juice* and TV episodes of *The Wire* and *Dexter* have his director's stamp on them, while his cinematography on the Spike Lee "joints" *School Daze*, *Do the Right Thing*, *Jungle Fever* and *Malcolm X* is legendary.

Although he studied architecture at Howard, Dickerson says his transition to film was natural. "One of the things architecture taught me is pre-visualization," he says. "When you have a problem, you have to figure out a way to visualize the solution in your head. I find myself doing the same thing with filmmaking. [I] see the end result in [my] head and [I] work out the steps to achieve that end result."

The very moment he exhaled those words, Dickerson was mentally maneuvering around a setback while shooting







an episode of the HBO series *Treme* in New Orleans. Because the coffee shop he wanted to film in was scheduled for use by another director, he had to visualize a different way to create a scene reflecting a New York City street corner while taping in the Big Easy.

of Film, filmed *Malcolm X* for \$35 million, although movies typically cost hundreds of millions of dollars.

"We had to create an epic for a low budget," he says. "Usually, as a Black director, you have to face the fact that nine times out of 10, you're going to be

"I'm always trying to find a visual solution to things. I think every director has a style—a personal way of applying a problem and a way of solving it. I just have my own way of doing it."

"This is the second time I was unable to use this exact corner," he says. "I guess it wasn't meant to be."

### Finding Inspiration

Telling the story visually is the artistic challenge Dickerson is tasked with as a director. Short on words when it comes to describing his personal directing style, he says his technique is about problem-solving to achieve a desired mood.

"I'm always trying to find a visual solution to things," he says. "I think every director has a style—a personal way of applying a problem and a way of solving it. I just have my own way of doing it."

He does so by pulling ideas from a variety of places. For example, *Juice* was inspired by seeing teenagers make risky decisions. Other ideas come from snapshots of the news or Internet clips that he filed away years ago to save for the right moment.

"Every now and then you dredge up those ideas and they just come up," he says. "You let ideas marinate in the back of your mind and then they finally come up."

But once the ideas are formed, the true challenges arise. In an industry that is not always supportive of Black filmmakers, funding for projects is sometimes scarce. He and Spike Lee, whom he met at New York University's Graduate School

working with less than everybody else. You have to learn how to make your art with fewer resources because that's what you're given."

### Access to the World

Dickerson advises newcomers to get involved by writing a film they can make and enter into a film festival.

"Get a chance to show the world how good you are by writing something you can actually do," he says. "You've got to watch films. You've got to know film history, and the best thing to do is figure out how to make a movie."

Dickerson says Howard University is an excellent point of entry for students entering the profession. Because of its large population of international students, he says young filmmakers have access to the entire world through a diverse student body.

"One of the things I received at Howard was exposure to other cultures and what's going on in the world," he says. "As Black people, we can't allow ourselves to be sequestered off. When I was at Howard in the '70s, I had people in my class from all over the world. If you want to be an artist, you can't close yourself off, because you limit yourself." ■IU

*Holmes is a writer based in Maryland.*

# Profiles

## in Leadership

In an interview with Damien T. Frier-son, M.S.W., for *Howard Magazine*, Welburn offers insights on how the mentorship he received at Howard prepared him for his current leadership position and what the next generation of automotive designers will need to become successful.

### Q&A

with Edward T. Welburn Jr.,  
General Motors,  
vice president,  
Global Design

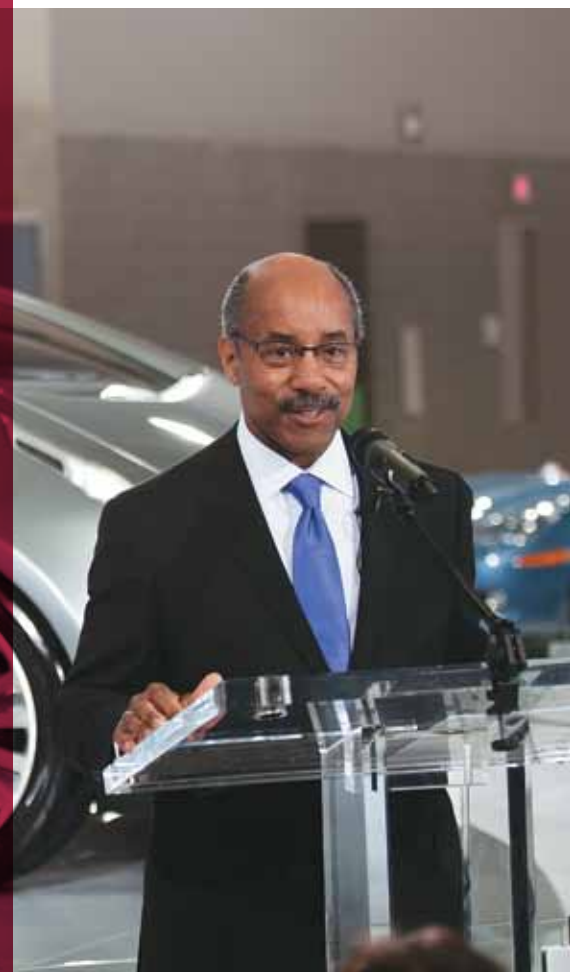
When Edward T. Welburn Jr. (B.F.A. '72) reflects on his career as a leading figure within the automotive design industry, one word seems to stand out—passion. It was his early passion for automotive design that motivated him to take a position at General Motors as an associate designer shortly after graduating from Howard. The Philadelphia native quickly ascended to several leadership positions within GM, overseeing the development of new and innovative vehicles for all of the company's brands.

Now, as vice president of Global Design, Welburn leads 10 design centers in the United States, Germany, England, Korea, China, Australia, Brazil and India. GM designs under his leadership, including the Cadillac Aera Concept and the Chevrolet Camaro, have received numerous awards.

Earlier this year, the GM Foundation and the Partners for the Advancement of Collaborative Engineering Education awarded Howard a grant for \$88,700. Welburn presented the check during the Washington Auto Show and spoke with Howard students about careers in the industry.

**Howard Magazine:** What do you consider to be important aspects of strong leadership, and how did Howard prepare you to be a leader in your field?

**Ed Welburn:** I feel that the foundation of strong leadership begins from within, by having what I would call "pride in self." It is then built upon with some very basic people skills. First and foremost, strong leadership is about respecting others, honesty and understanding people. You also need to have a solid understanding of the subject you're managing in order to establish a clearly defined vision of where you want to take the organization.





Howard helped me tremendously in developing both my personal and professional skills. Specifically, I developed a much better understanding of design, sculpture and painting. Plus it helped me become much more confident in myself and my abilities as a designer.

**HM:** Was there anyone in particular who mentored you in the early stages of your career? How important is mentoring in developing the next generation of designers in the auto industry?

**Welburn:** I learned from some very significant instructors at Howard, including Lois Jones, Ed Love, Star Bullock (B.F.A. '65; M.A. '67; Ph.D. '86) and many others. I have also been fortunate in that I've received incredible guidance and support from my parents and family. Mentoring is very important to developing the next generation of designers in the auto industry. Because of that, the

entire GM Design organization is actively involved in mentoring efforts, with current employees who are just starting their careers as designers and with students through our outreach efforts at both the college and high school levels.

**HM:** Your automobile designs have received numerous accolades. What goes into your creative process, and how do you pass your vision on to your team?

**Welburn:** You need to establish a clear vision from the very beginning of a project in order to achieve a great automotive design. The mission's objectives then need to be clearly understood across the organization so the entire team is working in harmony toward a common goal. This takes great teamwork and collaboration, especially between

design and engineering. Underlying the entire design process is having a solid understanding of our customers, specifically their needs and desires.

**HM:** You manage a team of 1,700 men and women in sites around the world. What is your leadership philosophy, and how would you say you were prepared to take on your current role?

**Welburn:** I have a passion for both automobile design and for the global market, so I believe this has definitely prepared me for my current role. Most important, I think that a leader of a global team has to treat each person as an individual and respect diverse cultures. I have always felt that I can learn from everyone, no matter where they come from. This includes both what "to do" and what "not to do." You definitely need patience when working in a global organization, and you need to take the time to understand cultural differences around the world. That's because what might be acceptable in one region of the world might be taken as offensive in another. You need to take the time to listen and to respect the opinions of others.

**HM:** What would you say are the "keys to success" for someone who wants to enter the field?

**Welburn:** You need to have passion for what you want to do in life. For me, that has been relatively easy. I knew at a young age that I wanted to be an automotive designer and that I wanted to work at GM. So, knowing what you are passionate about is important. Also, don't be afraid to take bold steps toward achieving your dream. You will also need to study and train hard. Quite honestly, success in life can only be achieved by hard work. There are no shortcuts. Achieving success in design is no different than an athlete training for the Olympic games or a soldier training for the hurdles he or she will face. It's all about hard work and commitment.

**HM:** Describe your work with the Partners for the Advancement of Collaborative Engineering Education (PACE).

**What do you believe are the benefits of a partnership such as this one?**

**Welburn:** The automotive industry has evolved constantly over the past 100 years, but the pace of change over the past 10 years has completely surpassed the change that occurred during the previous 90 years combined. Because of that, there is a critical need for developing world-class engineering, manufacturing, design and business talent, especially as the automotive industry retools to meet the demands of more technologically advanced vehicles. Our support to Howard University through both our PACE and GM Foundation grants are designed to help young people gain the knowledge and tools to compete and to successfully meet these challenges.

**HM:** What do you envision will be your next venture in the auto industry?

**Welburn:** My passion has always been design. My goal is to continue to raise the bar of creativity within our global design organization, enrich the culture of our team and focus on the development of the next generation of designers, automotive sculptors and digital sculptors. I really feel that my job at GM Design is far from finished.

**HM:** Howard alumni continue to make remarkable strides in their fields, both nationally and internationally. What do you hope your legacy will be?

**Welburn:** That I created a dynamic and lasting global design force for GM. In looking back, I hope that I will have established design as being an influential force for GM. I hope that I will have developed GM Design as being a "workplace of choice" and an inspiration for young people. I want to be remembered as being honest, caring and collaborative, and that I held very high standards for the designs that we created. In the end, I want to be remembered for creating designs that made our customers' lives much more pleasant and rewarding. ■ HU

*Frierson is a graduate assistant in the Office of University Communications.*



JUSTIN D. KNIGHT

# Milestones

Alumni

## '50s

**Jimmie Phillips Poindexter, M.S.W. 1957**, published *Campus Children*, a novel depicting the lives of children that lived on campus at Prairie View College, now Prairie View A&M University.

## '60s

**Eddie C. Brown, B.S.E.E. 1961**, received the "Marylander of Year Award" for his philanthropy. He and his wife, Sylvia, have donated more than \$22 million to Maryland causes, with gifts primarily focused on helping African Americans in the areas of health care, education and the arts.

**Dr. Ernest R. Myers, B.A. 1962; M.S.W. 1964**, received a certificate of appreciation from the University of the District of Columbia's Department of Psychology and Counseling for outstanding service and commitment to the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs' accreditation for the school counseling program.

**Roy Gill, B.S. 1965; M.D. 1969**, received the Laureate Award at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the New York chapter of the American College of Physicians. The award honors members who have an abiding commitment to excellence in medical care, education or research, and in service to their community.



**Dr. Marilyn Benoit, B.S. 1966**, was named senior vice president of clinical and professional affairs and chief clinical officer at Devereux,

a nonprofit behavioral health care organization. She has served as past president of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and as a professor of psychiatry at Howard University Hospital.

**Charles E. Donegan, J.D. 1967**, served as a moot court judge for the American Bar Association Regional Law Student Labor Law Advocacy Competition and the American Bar Association Regional Arbitration Advocacy Competition in 2010. Donegan, who became the first minority law professor at the SUNY Law School in 1970, has been a labor arbitrator since 1971.

## '70s

**Hon. James DeLeon, B.A. 1970**, of the Philadelphia Municipal Court, was awarded the American Red Cross' Certificate of Extraordinary Personal Action. DeLeon saved the life of a colleague by administering CPR and other life-saving techniques taught by the Red Cross. He was also featured on the cover of the *Philadelphia Daily Record*.

**John Braxton, J.D. 1971**, was sworn in as a member of the GAO Personnel Appeals Board, an independent entity established by the GAO Personnel Act of 1980 to adjudicate personnel disputes involving agency employees or applicants.



**John Morton, M.S. 1971**, who works at NASA Glenn Research Center, was selected as one of America's top professionals

by *U.S. Black Engineer and Technology* magazine. He received the 2011 Emerald Honors Award for Professional Achievement in February at the Black Engineer of the Year Awards' annual conference in Washington, D.C.

**Lynne Rogers, B.A. 1973**, was nominated to lead the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services. She is South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley's first minority choice to lead a cabinet agency. Rogers is president of the South Carolina Black Lawyers Association. She has been deputy director and attorney for the state's Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation since 2003.

**Dr. Reed Tuckson, B.S. 1973**, was named to the Howard University Board of Trustees. Tuckson is the executive vice president and chief of medical affairs at UnitedHealth Group.

**Bert W. Holmes Jr., M.D. 1974**, serves as the executive director of the Hampton University Proton Therapy Institute. After

a 30-year distinguished career in the military, he retired as a brigadier general in the Virginia Army National Guard, decorated with numerous commendations and awards. Holmes became the first African-American state surgeon in the National Guard, where he also served as a senior flight surgeon and was the first African-American assistant adjutant general.





**Michael Creppy, J.D. 1978**, was appointed to the Board of Immigration Appeals, the highest administrative body for interpreting and applying federal immigration laws. The board is responsible for hearing appeals of decisions rendered by immigration judges in removal cases brought by the Department of Homeland Security.

**Brian K. Flowers, B.A. 1979**, was appointed general counsel to D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray. Flowers previously served as general counsel, deputy general counsel, legislative counsel and ethics counselor to the D.C. City Council. He has more than 30 years of public service, including work with the steering committee of the D.C. Affairs Section of the D.C. Bar, Advisory Neighborhood Commissions and the D.C. Uniform Law Commission.

## '80s

**Kathy Eason, B.B.A. 1982**, was appointed the chief financial officer for Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors. Eason, who was most recently comptroller for the Natural Resources Defense Council, brings to her new position knowledge of the financial requirements of mission-driven organizations that have programs, operations and varied constituents.

**Iris Drayton-Spann, B.A. 1984**, was promoted to director of human resources at Goodwill Industries International Inc., Member Services Center, in Rockville, Md. She is a member of the Society of Human Resources Management.

**Beverly L. Wilmore, B.A. 1984**, wrote the book, *Motivating Greatness: Motivating Tips for DAILY Greatness*. She has also been involved over the past five years in the NAB Media Sales Institute program on Howard's campus.

**Franklyn Scott, D.D.S. 1979**, admits that tennis was not his first love. He preferred the basketball hard courts to the concrete, grass and clay courts of tennis. In fact, he didn't even start playing tennis until he was 40 years old. But when he did, he was instantly hooked.

Now, as president of the American Tennis Association (ATA), Scott is working to strengthen the junior development program and boost membership for the oldest African-American sports organization in the U.S.

"I immediately became passionate about the sport," he says. "I also saw how it provided discipline and guidance to young people. The rewards of this sport are so great."

The ATA was founded at a time when the United States Lawn Tennis Association (now known as the United States Tennis Association) barred African Americans from playing in its league, until Althea Gibson broke the color barrier in the 1950s. While champions like Gibson, Arthur Ashe and, more recently, Serena and Venus Williams have excelled, the sport is still overwhelmingly white.

Scott, the former president of the National Dental Association, hopes to encourage more young minorities to consider tennis as a professional sport. He wants to improve the partnership the ATA has with the USTA, even proposing a joint membership between the two organizations and developing an ATA "Tennis on Campus" program for HBCUs. He is also seeking corporate donations to help fund a new junior development facility.

"We have a good nucleus," he says. "We just need to build on it."

Building on it means launching a new Web site, which debuted earlier this year: [americantennisassociation.org](http://americantennisassociation.org). Scott hopes a fresh vision will encourage others to get involved as he leads the organization in a new direction. He credits his education at Howard with developing his leadership skills. After earning his bachelor's degree in chemistry at Claflin College in South Carolina, he says, he was looking for a new career path and found it with support and encouragement at Howard.

"Studying at Howard gave me an empowerment that I never had before," he says. "The influences there changed my whole outlook on life, changed my views on the possibilities in my life."

—Raven Padgett



**Darryl J. Lesesne, B.B.A. 1985**, is the chief auditor for the D.C. Courts, where he is responsible for the D.C. Courts internal auditing activities and policies, as well as overseeing external auditors contracted to evaluate the D.C. Courts operations programs. He heads a new internal auditing team that will assist the courts in meeting high standards of performance.

**Nicole Bernard, B.A. 1987**, was promoted to the newly created role of senior vice president, Audience Strategy at Fox, in Los Angeles. She previously held the position of executive vice president for broadcast standards and practices at Fox. Prior to joining Fox in 2005, Bernard was senior vice president of new business development for New York's Apollo Theater Foundation.

# Milestones

Alumni



**Orlan Johnson, J.D. 1987**, the chairman of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation and a partner at Saul Ewing, received

the Trailblazer Award from the African-American Council of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

**Otesa Middleton Miles, B.A. 1994**, welcomed her son Just Kevin, who was born on Nov. 24, 2010.



**Douglas S. Hayes, B.B.A. 1996**, was promoted to

associate publisher of *The Gazette* newspapers in Prince George's County, Md. Hayes joined *The Gazette* in 2009 and was named director of advertising for the Prince George's newspapers in early 2010.



**Chris Elcock, B.Arch. 1997**, who joined GWWO Architects in 1997, was promoted to senior associate at the firm. His

career has a focus on cultural and educational projects, and he currently serves as the project manager for the construction of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park in Dorchester County, Md.

**Venita Jamerson, B.B.A. 1997**, is the senior accountant for the Arts and Science Council. In her new post, she will be responsible for the performance of various accounting processes, the creation of monthly and quarterly financial statements and information technology.



**Denalerie Johnson-Faniel, B.A. 1998**, was elected president and CEO of the Urban League of Morris County, New Jersey. She is the former executive vice president of Workforce Development

**Carla Peterman, B.A. 1999**, Howard's first American Rhodes Scholar, was tapped by

Gov. Jerry Brown to serve on the California Energy Commission, the state's primary energy policy and planning agency.

As an undergraduate, Peterman co-founded the Howard University Environmental Society. After graduating from Howard with a history degree, she earned a master's degree in environmental change and management and an M.B.A. from Oxford. She is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of California, Berkeley.

Peterman has co-authored a series of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory publications on cost and deployment trends in the United States. She also serves on the board of directors for the Utility Reform Network.



## '90s

**Zena McClain, B.A. 1991**, is head of the Gamma Sigma Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, where she manages the operations of the graduate chapter and oversees the supervision of two undergraduate chapters. She is the manager and owner of the McClain Law Firm.

**Chris Washington, B.A. 1992**, vice president of the Howard University Alumni Association, received the 2011 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Alumni Award from Howard for his outstanding service and dedication to the alumni community.

**Ida Jones, B.A. 1993; M.A. 1995; Ph.D. 2001**, was elected

national director for the Association of Black Women Historians. She was also awarded the inaugural Fannie Jackson Coppin Distinguished Scholars Recognition Award 2011, for her commitment to scholarship and community activism.



and Strategic Programs for Dress for Success Worldwide. She is also an author, entrepreneur and consultant. She was recognized as one of the *Network Journals* Top 40 Under 40 African-American Business Professionals of 2010.





**Meshea L. Poore, B.A. 1998**, was elected to the W.Va. House of Delegates. Her election in November 2010 makes her the first African American to represent West Virginia's capital city, Charleston. She has also been selected by the American Council of Young Political Leaders and will travel to Pakistan and India to promote understanding and cultivate lasting political, economic and cultural relationships among young political leaders and policymakers worldwide.

**Clifford Bush III, J.D. 1999**, of the Bush Law Center in Beaufort, S.C., was honored at the annual meeting of the Beaufort County Black Chamber of Commerce in January 2011.



**Julian K. Petty, B.B.A. 1999**, married **Genelle Brooks, B.B.A. 1999**, on Oct. 23, 2010, at St. Peter Claver Catholic Church in New

Orleans. They reside in Los Angeles. Julian is an entertainment attorney and Genelle is a celebrity stylist and interior designer.

**Reginald Simmons, B.A. 1999**, was promoted to product manager at Med-Immune, a subsidiary of AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals. He is responsible for health care provider brand strategy for the United States and manages the global operating budget for the billion-dollar brand.

**Bradford Young, B.A. 1999**, won the 2011 Sundance Film Festival's Excellence in Cinematography Award for his film *Pariah*.

## 'OOS

**Chad W. Hamilton, B.A. 2000**, married Loren P. Clifford on Sept. 17, 2010, at St. Luke's Church of Germantown in Philadelphia. Chad is currently a pro tennis instructor as well as a music producer.

**Tosin Otitoju, B.S. 2001**, published *Comrade*, a collection of poems about struggle. Her upcoming novel, *Yalla*, Arabic for "let's go," will be published in the spring.

**Waltrina N. Middleton, B.A. 2002**, was selected to serve as the national minister for Youth Advocacy and Leadership Formation with the United Church of Christ (UCC) denomination based in Cleveland, Ohio. She will be working with UCC youth ministries across the country addressing platforms that impact the spiritual formation, social justice and leadership development of youth.

**Darius M. Smith, Mus.B. 2003**, presented a stage reading of the musical *U.G.L.Y.*, which he also wrote. *U.G.L.Y.* was performed on the Millennium Stage North at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts as part of the ninth annual Page-to-Stage Festival.

**Erin Johnson, J.D. 2007**, was selected as a legislative assistant to Washington, D.C. Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton. Johnson has also served as president of the Howard University School of Law Alumni Club of the D.C. metro area.

**Faith L. Walls, M.Ed. 2007**, was awarded the Malmberg Scholarship for study in Sweden by the American Swedish Institute. She will spend one year studying how immigration affects education, looking particularly at the social interactions of Middle Eastern immigrant students and native Swedish students in schools. She is currently the dean of students at Maria High School in Chicago.

**Dawn Hill, B.A. 2008**, is a local producer and a fledgling voice-over artist for commercials on the radio stations WBLS and WLIR. Her primary responsibilities are "The Yolanda Adams Morning Show" on WLIR and "Middays With Egypt" on WBLS.

## 'IOs

**Chinweike Okegbe, B.S. 2010**, was awarded a 2011 Gilliam Fellowship from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. He was one of nine fellows selected from the institute's Exceptional Research Opportunities Program, which is aimed at increasing the diversity of college and university faculty. Okegbe is the second Howard graduate to win the fellowship.



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e-mail **ouc@howard.edu**.

# In Memoriam

Alumni

## '30s

**James H.M. Henderson, B.S. 1939**, died Dec. 3, 2009. He retired from Tuskegee University in 2001 after 54 years of service. He was a member of numerous professional and civic organizations and published one book and more than 50 articles and abstracts for professional journals.

## '40s

**William P. Lightfoot, M.D. 1946**, died Dec. 22, 2010. Between 1953 and 1955, he served as a medical corps captain in the U.S. Army while stationed in Germany. During his career, he served on the faculty of Temple University's School of Medicine, wrote several peer review publications and received numerous awards. He was 90 years old.

**William V. Jones, B.S. 1947; M.D. 1954**, died Dec. 26, 2010. He served as a medical officer in the Navy. He also founded Howard University's Pentecostal Student Union and cultivated a network of ecumenical Pentecostal colleagues and scholars. He was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

**David M. French, M.D. 1948**, died March 31, 2011. A former Howard professor, French played a significant role in coordinating first-aid efforts at major civil rights protests during the 1960s and later spearheaded an effort to strengthen public health systems in 20 African countries. He was a founding member and a national chairman of the Medical Committee for Human Rights, a civil rights organization that worked to end the

segregation of health care facilities. After completing a year's training in pediatric cardiovascular surgery in Chicago, he returned to establish that specialty at Howard, Freedmen's Hospital and D.C. General.

**Arthur M. West, M.D. 1948**, died March 8, 2011. He was a physician who treated Washingtonians through his general practice and long affiliation with Washington Hospital Center and Freedmen's Hospital. He opened his practice in 1955 and retired in 2004. In 1961, he was among the first African-American doctors to serve as an attending physician and later as a senior attending physician at Washington Hospital Center. He was 87 years old.

**Sylvester E. Williams, B.S. 1949**, died April 14, 2011. He was an educator in the Chicago Public Schools for 34 years, working as a teacher, counselor and principal. He was also an avid golfer and a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. He was 82 years old.

## '50s

**Bettina A. Nicholas, B.A. 1950**, died Dec. 13, 2010. She worked as a guidance counselor in the Philadelphia public school system, spending many years at Chester Arthur School, from which she retired in 1993. She was 84 years old.

**Benjamin F. Willis, B.S. 1950**, died March 5, 2011. When he retired, he was chief of the product assurance and test-engineering branch at the Harry Diamond Laboratories in Maryland. He was a member of the Society of the Holy Name, Veterans of Foreign Wars and St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church

in Washington, D.C., where he taught math to adults working toward their high school equivalency diplomas.

**Warthell Browne-Iles, D.I.P.N. 1952**, died Nov. 9, 2010. She was active in the community and was a member of the American Association of Medical Assistants and the American Public Health Association.

**Col. (Ret.) John B. Carter, B.S. 1952**, died Jan. 14, 2011. A military officer for almost 30 years, he served at all levels of command from infantry platoon leader to the Pentagon, U.S. Department of the Army. His duty tours included assignments to Germany, Spain, Korea, Japan and Vietnam. He was a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, American

**Alexander Taylor Jr., B.Arch. 1952**,

architect and professional planner, died June 9, 2010. After graduating from

high school, Taylor served in the U.S. Army and was stationed in the Philippine Islands. After his enlistment, he graduated with honors from Howard University. In addition to having his own architectural business for a number of years, he worked for N.J. State. In 1996, he retired from the U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service. During his 20-year tenure with the federal government, he worked on many projects, including exterior renovations and construction at The White House.





Legion, Disabled Veterans Association, Military Officers Association and the Howard University Alumni Association, Philadelphia chapter.

**Wesley Nathaniel Shelton, B.S.P. 1955**, died on July 26, 2010. He was president and CEO of Hilton Court Pharmacies Inc. in Baltimore before retiring in 1998. He was a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and served three terms as president of the Delta Lambda Chapter. A mentor and philanthropist, he was designated a legend by his church, Enon Baptist.

**Dr. John J. Francis, B.S.P. 1957**, died Jan. 16, 2011. He served in the armed services during World War II. He retired in 1999 from the federal government, where he had served as head of the Department of Occupational Therapy for the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y. He was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. He was 91 years old.

## '60s

**Rev. Dr. Dennis E. Norris, B.A. 1962**, died Nov. 5, 2010. He served in the U.S. Air Force in the capacity of hospital administration. In 2005, the Second Baptist Church named one of its buildings the Rev. Dr. Dennis E. Norris Christian Education Annex, in recognition of his leadership in the planning and construction of that building as pastor.

**Hortense Simmons, B.A. 1963; Ph.D. 1970**, died Nov. 26, 2010. A long-term member of the Omicron chapter of the Phi Beta Delta Honor Society at California State University, Sacramento, she was a vibrant force at

Phi Beta Delta conferences, at which she often read papers. She was also honored as a multiple Fulbright Scholar and was given the key to the city of Mykolayiv, Ukraine, where she taught.

**Wisdom Franchot Coleman Jr., B.S. 1965; D.D.S. 1969**, died on July 29, 2010. He practiced family dentistry for 30 years. In 1997, he became associate dean of Admissions at the University of Tennessee's College of Dentistry. He received numerous awards, including from the National Dental Association and the Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Society. He was 66 years old.

**Sondra Elise Banfield Dailey, B.S. 1966; M.A.T. 1970**, died Feb. 27, 2011. She was 66. Dailey was a book publisher and also taught Sunday school at the Baltimore Ethical Society.

**William A. Blakey, J.D. 1968**, died Oct. 13, 2010. He played a key role in conducting background research that led to the conceptualization, creation and enactment of key legislative programs that have benefited the nation's Black colleges and universities, specifically, and minority-serving institutions.

## '70s

**Mavis B. Marks, B.S. 1970; M.D. 1974**, died March 4, 2011. She ran a private dermatology and general medicine practice in Washington, D.C., from 1981 until 1996. She volunteered at the Zacchaeus Soup Kitchen in D.C. during the 1980s and, for many years, traveled to Guyana to volunteer at dermatology and leprosy clinics.

**William Hall, B.S. 1971**, died Feb. 3, 2011. An ophthalmologist, he co-founded and led the D.C. chapter of Kiwanis International. He was also a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. He formed a group, Company of Friends, which held an annual homecoming event, with proceeds donated to a Howard scholarship fund.

## '90s

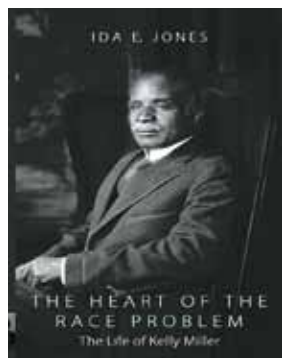
**LaToya C. Mosely, B.S. 1996**, died Feb. 8, 2011. She was active with the Missionary Society and Zion Pilgrim Baptist Church, where she was a Sunday school teacher. She worked as a medical technologist for Providence Hospital. She was also a plus-sized model for Charming Shoppes.

**Lamont D. Carter, B.B.A. 1999**, died Jan. 26, 2011. He worked as a client services manager at Future Sports Management and later became a registered agent and started his own company, Carter Management, LLC. He worked with several NBA athletes and partnered with two close friends to start a trucking company called Haul It All.

## '00s

**Jennifer René Young Tait, Ph.D. 2004**, died March 19, 2011. She joined the English department at Hope College in 2002 and was tenured and promoted to associate professor in 2009. She taught African-American literature, women's studies and creative writing courses.

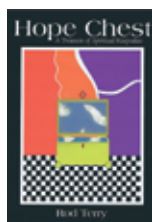
# Bison Bookshelf



***The Heart of the Race Problem: The Life of Kelly Miller*** (Tapestry Press), by **Ida Jones** (B.A. '93; M.A. '95; Ph.D. '01), is the first published biography on Kelly Miller, a stellar figure in the history of race relations, Howard and the Black press. This book examines the life of this

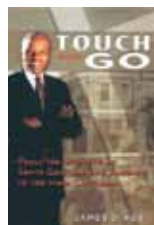
20th-century intellectual, who employed education and harmony into his formula for societal advancement and racial unity.

***Hope Chest: A Treasure of Spiritual Keepsakes*** (Enaas Publishing), by **Rod Terry** (J.D. '89), draws on the old tradition of the "hope chest" to remind and inspire us. In it, Terry



shares his experiences to inspire readers to search for inner peace and lasting happiness. His observations demonstrate how we can transform our lives and become our own source of power and strength.

***Touch and Go*** (Eloquent Books), by **James D. Key** (M.Div. '92; D.M.I. '96), explores the presence of God throughout life's difficulties, as well as in times of human triumph and victory. It is Key's testimony of how, despite his many failures, God refused to let him drown in a "sea of ignorance and stupidity."



***Remembrance of Things Past*** (Author House), by **Robert H. Brown** (M.A.T. '73), is set in a modern, mythical country in West Africa. In this sequel to *To Seek a Newer World*, characters face trials and

tribulations during a civil war that devastates their homeland. It also addresses many social issues, including sectionalism, ethnic cleansing and wanton killing.



***Start It Up*** (Zest Books), by **Kenrya Rankin** (B.A. '03), provides extensive foundational information for teenagers who are interested in becoming entrepreneurs. The book includes guidance on creating a business plan, hiring and management, and financial protection and future planning.

To **submit a book** for consideration in **Bison Bookshelf**, please mail a copy to: **Howard Magazine**, 2225 Georgia Ave., NW, Suite 605, Washington, DC 20059

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# 2011 Howard University Alumni Trustee Election

## TWO WAYS TO MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT

### VOTE BY MAIL

Beginning in 2012, paper ballots will no longer be mailed. After this year, you MUST register with the Alumni Online Community to participate in the election. A paper ballot should have already been received at your residence. If you have not received your ballot, please contact:

Mr. Spencer Chenier

(202) 238-2635 or  
schenier@howard.edu

The paper ballot is coded with your unique ID number and is provided as an alternative to online voting.

### YOUR VOTE COUNTS



Howard University wants to stay connected to you. It is important that you update your information not only for voting, but also to stay engaged with the University.

<http://www.howard.edu/alumni>

### HOW TO VOTE ONLINE

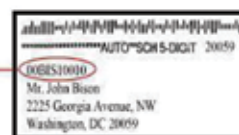
Follow these simple steps to register to vote...

1. Visit [www.howard.edu](http://www.howard.edu) and click on ALUMNI & FRIENDS in the upper left menu. Once you are directed to the Department of Alumni Relations page, please click on the ONLINE COMMUNITY link (located in the upper right STAY CONNECTED menu).



2. You will be taken to the Online Community page, and asked to [Register Now](#) (for first time visitors) or [Sign-in](#).

- You will need to provide your unique [HU Alumni Identification](#), which can be found on the mailing label of this copy of *Howard Magazine*.



- Please [Sign-in](#) if you are already a registered user of the Online Community to ensure your account is active and that your contact information is correct.

3. Once you are an Online Community registered user with a valid e-mail and your HU Alumni ID, you are registered to vote.

4. Prior to the election opening, you will be contacted via the e-mail address you provided when registering through the Online Community. In this e-mail you will be provided a link to the secured voting website and your HU Alumni ID.

**Alumni are permitted to vote only once. Duplicate online and paper voting will void your ballot.**

**If you vote online, please destroy your mail-in ballot.**

**Voting begins June 15th. Voting ends August 15th.**

Please call the Department of Alumni Relations at (202)-238-2340 if you have any questions.



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Office of University Communications  
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