

WINTER 12

# HOWARD

magazine

Quest  
for  
Global  
Solutions

# A New Vision for Research and Inquiry

The pursuit of new knowledge is at the heart of every academic institution, and central to that pursuit is academic research. The ivory tower is rife with faculty (and students) who collaborate to unearth knowledge that could lead to life-saving cures and groundbreaking solutions to global problems. Some of those results can even change the course of history. As scientist Carl Sagan once said, "Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known."


Had it not been for the research of Howard University pioneers, such as Charles Drew (blood plasma), Ernest Just (cell development), Roland Scott (sickle cell) or Clive Callendar (transplants), one can only wonder if and when breakthroughs would have ever been made in the areas of research they pursued.

The lights of research continue to glow brightly at the Hilltop. And today, a new generation of faculty is seeking global solutions to society's pressing issues. Interwoven in much of their work is an emphasis on supporting communities of color and eliminating the disparities that exist. Whether it's designing HIV/AIDS-fighting drugs, advocating for the rights of immigrants or helping to diversify financial markets, these faculty provide a fresh vision for research and inquiry.

In this issue of *Howard Magazine*, we feature several outstanding faculty members who are making a difference with their research. We will continue to highlight their research and the work of others in future issues of the magazine. Their work is truly inspiring. President Sidney A. Ribeau has said, and emphasizes in his column, that a "rigorous research agenda is part of what projects the Howard voice around the world." Their work is raising the volume of that collective voice.

In this issue, we also introduce a new social media and technology column, written by two School of Communications professors who are experts in the field. Veteran journalists Ingrid Sturgis and Yanick Rice Lamb will keep us on the pulse of social media's evolution and transformative nature and will explore how members of the Howard

community are using it to their advantage.

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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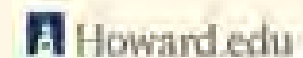
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Cover photo: Professor Rajni Goel, Ph.D. (pictured at the B&O Railroad Museum in Baltimore), is helping develop secure wireless communication systems for U.S. railways.

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Back cover photo: Justin D. Knight

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Design and Copyediting



Raven Padgett, Editor

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# The Global Reach of Research at Howard

By Sidney A. Ribeau, Ph.D.

Those who envisioned Howard University in 1867 likely had no idea what a 21st-century Howard University would be. But from the very beginning, students and faculty who came to the University expected to make a global difference. Today those expectations are still being fulfilled. Members of the Howard family have an impact on communities and neighborhoods, on individuals, on matters that have challenged scholars for decades and on issues for which questions have not yet been formulated. A rigorous research agenda is part of what projects the Howard voice around the world.


Howard is a nationally and internationally recognized comprehensive metropolitan University with a rich tradition and unique legacy. It is a doctoral-level research institution with diverse undergraduate, graduate and professional degree programs.

Essential to the way we see ourselves are the following: scholarly contributions; leadership and service of our faculty, students and staff; and the accomplishments of our alumni, who occupy leadership roles as research scholars, industry-leading professionals, ground-breaking engineers, visionary political leaders, medical pioneers and award-winning artists. In fact, much of the nation's post-Civil War history was shaped by the scholarly work done at Howard. The University helped mold the post-Civil War Reconstruction, provided the intellectual vanguard for the renaissance that redefined the African-American cultural identity, constructed the jurisprudence that provided the legal framework for the civil rights movement and educated the critical mass of the African-American community that forms its current professional class. This would not have been possible without a commitment to research rooted in our core values of truth, excellence and leadership.

World-class faculty and students in the 13 schools and colleges are conducting research that is cutting-edge, innovative and contemporary in the health sciences, social sciences, general sciences, arts, humanities, business, education and communications. Our faculty are involved in the three-legged stool that is the foundation of the academy—teaching, service and research—and are engaging students at every level in the work they do in multiple disciplines to benefit all of humanity in ways that are unique to communities in the African Diaspora.

In this issue of *Howard Magazine*, we meet some of those faculty members who are answering challenging questions about climate, air quality and environmental literacy or are studying immigration, new media or womanist theology. They are pushing cybersecurity boundaries and solving tough practical water problems in remote locations. They are examining the wonders of medical and biological nanotechnology or are searching for answers about common health disorders.

Currently, six libraries and a multitude of labs, classrooms and other physical spaces on four campuses are designated for research, while a new interdisciplinary facility emphasizing research in engineering, biomedical and computational sciences is planned for construction next year. Yet, the true heart of research at Howard lies not simply in the buildings, but within the scholars and students doing the work.

For Howard University, serving the underserved and leadership in research are compatible goals that support our mission. They are natural partners whose intersection offers untold possibilities reminding us of our potential as we head toward a future that is waiting. ■ 



# Mbye Cham

By Damien T. Frierson, M.S.W.

Mbye Cham, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of African Studies, has never believed in art existing for art's sake.

"Art is never innocent," Cham says. "It is never just for entertainment. There is always something behind it, whether we are conscious of it or not."

This understanding of moving beyond rigid boundaries has motivated not only his scholarship at Howard, but his leadership as department chair.

Cham postponed his family's move to his native Gambia in 1980 to take a one-year position in what was then the African Studies program at Howard. Thirty-one years later, he is clear on what convinced him to stay: the students' desire to learn. "From my initial experience and engagement with the students, I realized they were just like the students I would have taught if I returned home," he says. "Their passion fired me up and I've been here ever since."

Cham's teaching has focused on the cultural dimensions of language, art and literature throughout continental Africa and the Diaspora. His interest was fueled even more by the interactions between oral, written and visual productions and how they existed as forms of art. Still, Cham refuses to create false separations within his work, acknowledging that to only speak to the aesthetic value of art is insufficient. His scholarship has focused on the ways in which creative practices have been used not only to convey beauty, but to act as cultural, social and political interventions.

"In African and Black expressive traditions, we know that films, for example, are not just entertainment, but that they are also a means through which we educate ourselves, we pass on our cultures and sense of logic and our aspirations," Cham says. "They are representations of the way that we see and experience the world and life in general."

For this reason, his most recent projects have examined how filmmakers engage aspects of the African Diaspora, past and present, and how their perspectives and analysis have been used to confront challenges.

In addition to authoring numerous essays and book chapters on African and Caribbean literature and film, he serves as the editor of *EX-ILES: Essays on Caribbean Cinema* and co-editor of *Blackframes: Critical Perspectives on Black Independent Cinema* and *African Experiences of Cinema*. He has served on the official jury for the Africa International Film Festival and the Long Feature Films at the Pan-African Film Festival of Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso. From chairing sessions at the General Assembly of the Council for the Development of Social and Economic Research in Africa to serving as president of the West African

Research Association, which oversees the only American Overseas Research Center in sub-Saharan Africa, Cham has a very visible international presence in the understanding and betterment of Africa and the Diaspora.

Yet, he maintains a sense of humility that is rooted in his upbringing. Citing an adage from his homeland, he says, "Whatever you see shaking, the thing that is shaking it is more powerful than it itself."

It is this understanding of a greater force that allows him to view his work as a contribution to enhancing the international footprint of the University and its commitment to preserving Howard's unique position within African Studies.

"One thing we have always emphasized is that Howard has been a pioneer in inaugurating, institutionalizing and consistently supporting the study of Africa and people of African descent," Cham says. "Our program has always been at the forefront of internationalization, and we have consistently made the argument that internationalization at Howard should revolve around Africa, the Caribbean and the Diaspora, because those are niche areas for the University."

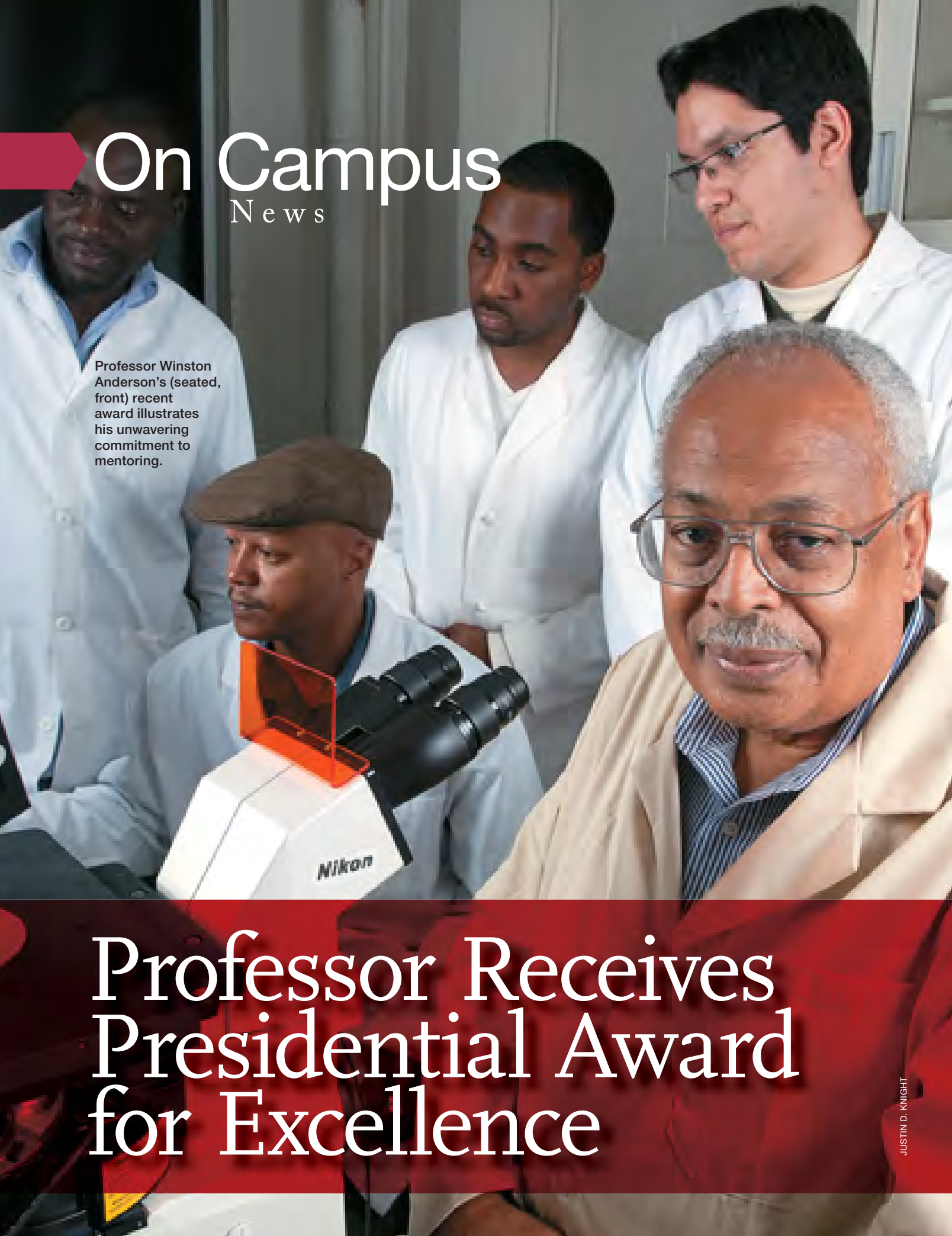
Since becoming the chair on an interim basis in 2006 and permanently the following year, Cham has focused on developing and maintaining the department's interdisciplinary approach while building additional partnerships across the University. "For so long we have been protective of traditional disciplinary boundaries, but now we must work across subjects for the betterment of Africa," he says.

Cham also views providing his students with the resources they need to be successful as integral to maintaining Howard's place in the study of Africa. "We have students who are passionate about continuing the legacy of Howard, and our challenge is to enable them to realize that passion," Cham says. ■

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







# On Campus

News

Professor Winston Anderson's (seated, front) recent award illustrates his unwavering commitment to mentoring.

## Professor Receives Presidential Award for Excellence

Winston Anderson, Ph.D., a professor of biology, received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring. He was one of nine individuals who received this honor, which the White House awards to individuals and organizations in recognition of the crucial role that mentoring plays in the development of students studying in these fields, especially those who belong to underrepresented groups.

Anderson (B.S. '62; M.S. '63) is a leading cell biologist who has devoted 44 years of his academic life—including 36 years on the Howard faculty—to the intellectual enhancement and training of K–12 to postdoctoral students. In 2007, he was named among the 20 best scientists in academia by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, a nonprofit medical research organization.

“Mentorship played an essential role in my success as a scientist,” Anderson said. “As a student at Howard, I received advice and encouragement in a nurturing environment from highly competent African-American scientists and educators. Going away to a majority institution, I discovered that my mentors did not have to look like me to be influential. At both institutions, my mentors showed their interest, first, by example; second, through inclusion in laboratories; and third, through exposure and opportunity.”

Candidates for the award are nominated by colleagues, administrators and students at their home institutions. In addition to being honored at the White House, recipients receive awards of \$25,000 from the National Science Foundation to advance their mentoring efforts.

Chinweike Okegbe, a 2011 Gilliam Fellow, was not surprised by the announcement. He has been mentored by Anderson since his freshman year in 2006 and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. from Columbia University.

“He pushed us to constantly challenge the *status quo* in whatever we did; we could never be too comfortable at any particular step,” said Okegbe. “He always wanted us, his students, to be ready to face the challenges our careers would bring us.”



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Sulayman Nyang, Ph.D., professor, Department of African Studies, received the Howard University Lifetime Achievement Award this fall. Nyang is one of the leading scholars on Islam in Africa and the U.S. “Dr. Nyang has made invaluable contributions to teaching, learning and scholarship here at Howard and in the academy, in general,” says Mbye Cham, Ph.D., chair, Department of African Studies. “His work in local, national and international communities is exemplary.”

## NIH Grants Aimed at Combating HIV/AIDS

The College of Pharmacy received two research grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to study ways to design HIV/AIDS-fighting drugs.

Emmanuel O. Akala, Ph.D., and Simon Wang, Ph.D., received verification of NIH funding for separate HIV supplemental grants in collaboration with the DC Developmental Center for AIDS Research, a consortium of Washington-area medical and educational institutions that support HIV/AIDS research activities, of which Howard is a member.

Akala, professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a \$600,000 grant for a study that will use a nanotechnology platform to deliver antiretroviral drugs at sites in the human body where the virus persists despite drug therapy. The research is funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, within NIH. Akala is the principal investigator on the study.

Wang, assistant professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a grant of \$150,000 for a project that aims to develop novel drugs that can act on an important protein family in the human body known as chemokine receptors. The new drugs in Wang's study will target receptors to inhibit HIV fusion to human T-cells. The project is part of the new U.S.-China Program for Biomedical Research Cooperation, and the research will be conducted in collaboration with Howard's College of Pharmacy/DC Developmental Center for AIDS Research and the Peking University School of Pharmaceutical Sciences of China.

“Because we are the only college of pharmacy within the DC Developmental Center for AIDS Research, our expertise in drug development is critical to finding new strategies to attack the HIV virus,” said Anthony K. Wutoh, Ph.D., interim dean of the College of Pharmacy.

## On Campus



# More Than a Game

The game was meant to rekindle a football rivalry that dates back decades. But before the game was played this past fall, the Howard University and Morehouse College communities had an opportunity to come together and engage in discussions about the state of young Black men in education. A Black male achievement symposium featured President Sidney A. Ribeau, Ph.D.; Robert Franklin, Ph.D., president of Morehouse College; and Fitzgerald Hill, Ph.D., president of Arkansas Baptist College, while a student panel focused on the “Psychology of the Black Male Student.” Another panel tackled the topic “Redefining Black Male Masculinity in Athletics, the Arts and Academics.” Student debate teams from Howard and Morehouse demonstrated their extemporaneous skills during the Mordecai W. Johnson and Benjamin E. Mays Student Exhibition Debate.

Oh, and the game? Howard defeated Morehouse College 30-27 on Sept. 10 in the inaugural AT&T Nation’s Football Classic at RFK Stadium in front of a crowd of more than 18,000 people. Go, Bison!

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## Veteran Executive Named General Manager of WHUT-TV



Jefferi K. Lee was named general manager of WHUT-TV, bringing with him nearly 30 years of experience as a network executive.

“We are thrilled to have Mr. Lee join us as the new leader for WHUT-TV,” said President Sidney A. Ribeau, Ph.D. “Howard television has been a beacon for more than three decades. We envision a bright future for the station as a leader in public broadcasting, with a particular emphasis on issues affecting African Americans and people of color.”

For 17 years, Lee helped lead Black Entertainment Television as the executive vice president of network operations and programming, managing the day-

to-day operations and more than 300 employees. Over the past decade, he has managed his own communications consulting firm, Lee Productions. He also served as a senior executive for Bio-Defensive Research Group in Columbia, Md.

“I am honored to be a part of the Howard University family,” Lee said. “Howard has a rich cultural legacy and an extensive resource of talent throughout the campus. I look forward to working with the administration, faculty, staff and students as we continue to make a significant contribution in serving the Washington Metropolitan area.”

Founded in 1980, WHUT-TV reaches more than 2 million households in the greater Washington area. The Emmy Award-winning station airs more than 3,500 hours of public affairs, educational and original programming each year.



# Convocation 2011



Students, faculty and staff were treated to the powerful words of Michael L. Lomax, Ph.D., president and CEO of the United Negro College Fund (pictured above with President Sidney A. Ribeau, Ph.D.), during the 144th annual Opening Convocation on Sept. 23. Lomax delivered the keynote address on the importance and relevance of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, African-American males in colleges and the need for alumni to give back.

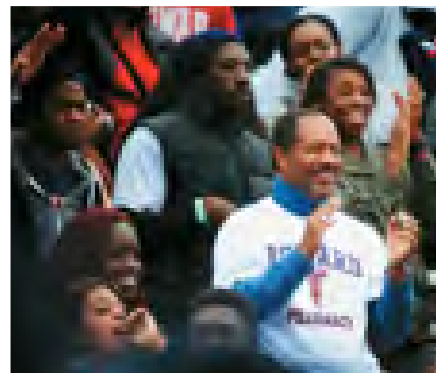
PHOTOS BY CEASAR  
AND JUSTIN D. KNIGHT





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Homecoming 2011—with the theme “Prestige: The Epitome of Distinction”—brought together thousands of members of the Howard community for a major family reunion. The gospel, comedy and fashion shows proved to be huge successes, as did the International Yardfest, featuring ’80s musical icons Big Daddy Kane and Whodini, and the R&B show, which paid tribute to ’90s music. Saturday’s parade featured actor Boris Kodjoe as Grand Marshal, and later that day the Bison defeated the North Carolina A&T Aggies, 35-28.



CEASAR



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# New Trustees Appointed to the Board

The University installed three new members of the Board of Trustees—Thomas Jones, Debbie Allen and Larkin Arnold Jr.—on Sept. 24, 2011.

**Jones** is the founder and principal of TWJ Capital LLC, a private-equity investment firm based in Stamford, Conn. He is former chair and CEO of



**Jones**

Jones held senior positions at TIAA-CREF, including vice chairman, chief operating officer and chief financial officer. Jones also held senior positions with John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company. He spent the previous 11 years in public accounting and management consulting, primarily with Arthur Young & Company. Jones is a director of Altria Group and trustee *emeritus* of Cornell University.

**Allen** (B.F.A. '71) is an internationally recognized director, choreographer and author. She served as director of the TV series *Fame*, *Family Ties* and *Bronx Zoo* before taking the reins in 1988 as director and producer of *A Different World*. Allen holds the distinction of having choreographed the Academy Awards 10 times, and has been Artist in Residence for the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., for more than 10



**Allen**

years. She also served as a member of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities under George W. Bush. In 2008, she made her Broadway debut as director of the Tennessee Williams classic *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. Allen previously served as a member of Howard's board from 1998 to 2004. She was also awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters in 1993 and a Distinguished Alumni award in 1983, both from Howard.

**Arnold** (J.D. '69) became one of the first African Americans to be hired as an



**Arnold**

attorney by a major record label when he joined Capitol Records in 1970. He was promoted to vice president in 1974. He worked at Arista Records before joining CBS/SonyMusic as senior vice president in 1980. There, he spearheaded the marketing and promotion of Michael Jackson's *Thriller* album and represented Teena Marie, Luther Vandross, Surface, Peabo Bryson and The Reflections. In 1988, he began Arnold & Associates, one of the few wholly integrated legal and management teams in the record industry. Arnold is a co-founder and chairman of the Black Entertainment and Sports Lawyers Association. He has received numerous awards, including the NAACP Executive of the Year Award and Outstanding Graduate Award of Howard University School of Law.

# History Project Charts WHUR's 40 Years

By Beverly Oliver

"We may not understand why we're all together and why we're here, but I think there's a higher power; there's a bigger force that brought us together. And I celebrate this moment."

John Blake, host of WHUR's *Caribbean Experience* for more than 39 years, voiced those words last September when he and 13 of the radio station's pioneer programmers gathered at WHUT-TV. They were there to begin the documentation of WHUR's four decades of broadcasting, and Blake set the tone for the storytelling and walks down memory lane that occurred during the discussions.

WHUR celebrated its 40th anniversary Dec. 10, 2011, and, as it prepares for 40 more, the station is working on the WHUR History Project.

"We're starting off with the root of this history project, which is gathering the oral history, and from there we will move onto further research, documentation and artifact collecting," said Patrick Ellis, WHUR's senior producer and the project's manager.

Ellis moderated the project's first oral history roundtable with former WHUR Community Affairs Director Niani Kilkenny (B.A. '72). "We are looking at a history that's dynamic, continuous and ongoing," said Kilkenny. "It's not something that happened and then it's over. We're still involved in writing this history, and Jim Watkins is leading on that, but we want to go back and grab the past."

WHUR pioneers who traveled short and long distances

to participate included Watkins, Blake, Kilkenny, Phil Watson (the station's first general manager), Tom Jones, Norman Reid (B.A. '77), Kojo Nnamdi, Ted Roberts, Andre Perry, Ellis (B.A. '77), Clint Walker (B.A. '71), Oggi (David) Ogburn (B.F.A. '68), Jesse Fax (B.A. '68) and Vincent Thomas. In WHUT's Studio D, they reminisced about WHUR's premiere slogan and format, "360 Degrees: The Black Experience in Sound." In its infancy, WHUR experimented with all types of Black music, blending genres as diverse as the personalities that played them, rooting the station's eclecticism in the "360 Degrees" slogan.

It was Reid, the former WHUR record librarian, who proposed the concept in a 30-page document that he submitted to Watson.

"I used it. It told a simple story of all of our experiences," recalled Watson, who was hired by former President James Cheek to build not only WHUR, but also Howard's School of Communications.

Watson's global and visionary persona helped create one of the most accomplished news and information programs in Washington, D.C. "When revolutions happened in Grenada, we had a correspondent there who was covering it," recalled Nnamdi, the former WHUR news editor.

WHUR also had correspondents in Nicaragua and South Africa at a time when very few stations were covering these international communities of color.

"The station was reporting on those things before it became common on White radio or television," added Jim Watkins, WHUR's current general manager and, in 1971, one of the station's first engineers.

From 1971 to approximately 1978, WHUR also broadcast a cornucopia of cultural programs, including *Word Soldiers*; *People's Platform*; *Dialogue*; *The Children's Hour*; *Lifeline*; and *The Interpreters*.

"In addition to hearing people and issues that were important to me and gleaning from that, I wanted to participate. I came here. I loved it, and it's one of my fondest memories," said Kilkenny.

WHUR will hold a second roundtable this year, which will include reflections on the station's evolution beyond the 1970s and into competitive, "commercial" radio.

*Oliver is a writer based in California and a former public affairs assistant with WHUR.*



The original WHUR staff.

# Vaulting Over the Digital Divide

By Yanick Rice Lamb and  
Ingrid Sturgis

Through Twitter, students at Howard University learned whether it was safe to return to their dormitories following an earthquake that started off the 2011 fall semester with a rumble. Tweets and Facebook updates also kept the Howard community abreast of developments during Snowmageddon in February 2010.

Social media is the next best thing to word of mouth when the University needs to reach out and touch its constituents—not only to send out alerts during severe weather and other emergencies, but also to communicate with potential donors, prospective students and alumni. It's also making the Bison bond even stronger all over the world.

On any social networking platform, Bison rule. They're friending on Facebook, joining circles on Google+, sharing locations on Foursquare, networking in nearly a dozen official and unofficial groups on LinkedIn, debating who's the "real HU" on blogs, corralling classes on Bison Roundup and tweeting up a storm on Twitter. Bison have raised thousands of dollars to send students to Haiti for Alternative Spring Break. They also tweeted their way into the heart of former Howard student Sean "Diddy" Combs. The music mogul granted senior Brandon Crump's wish to ring in 2011 at his New Year's Eve party in Las Vegas.

None of this is surprising given that African Americans are more socially

active online than other ethnic groups, according to the Pew Internet and American Life Project. Our affinity for social media and cell phones could help bridge the digital divide.

While African Americans overall have lower levels of broadband access in their homes, 50 percent of them use cell phones with access to the Internet compared with 39 percent of Whites, according to the Pew Research Center. Technology is changing so rapidly that it's also helping to equalize access globally. In Africa, cell phones are helping to offset infrastructure and wiring issues that previously limited Internet access. Now some 14 million Kenyans use inexpensive mobile phones to conduct financial transactions, bypassing laptops and desktop computers altogether.

At Howard, cell phones are driving traffic on social media with more than 30,000 "likes" on Facebook, 13,000 followers on Twitter and 54,000 video views on YouTube, according to Ashley Bayton, social media coordinator for the Office of University Communications. The number of Facebook followers has tripled since 2008 when Howard opened its account along with Twitter. The University added Tumblr last summer and will soon begin using Foursquare. Howard University Hospital also uses Facebook and YouTube, and the Colleges of Dentistry, Medicine and Nursing and Allied Health Sciences have a Facebook presence.

Howard ranks 44th among the Top 100 Social Media Colleges, based on an



Lamb



Sturgis

assessment of engagement methodology, tools and websites at 6,000 colleges and universities by Avenue 100 Media Solutions of Woburn, Mass., a Washington Post company. Other area colleges include Johns Hopkins in the No. 1 slot and Georgetown at No. 43.

While social media is one of the biggest technology stories here and elsewhere, it's not the only one. This new column will spotlight the role of faculty, staff, students and alumni as they navigate the explosive and transformative technological revolution. We would love to hear about your projects and ventures to let the Howard family know that Bison are vaulting over the digital divide.

*Yanick Rice Lamb (M.B.A. '05) is an associate professor and coordinator of the Print/Online Journalism Sequence, and Ingrid Sturgis is an assistant professor, New Media, in the School of Communications at Howard University.*

Send us your technology news: [ylamb@howard.edu](mailto:ylamb@howard.edu) and [isturgis@howard.edu](mailto:isturgis@howard.edu) and visit [www.facebook.com/howarduniversity](http://www.facebook.com/howarduniversity).



# A Quest for Global Solutions

By Otesa Middleton Miles (B.A. '94)

When researchers from Japan and Switzerland planned new nanotechnology laboratories in their countries, they visited Howard University for guidance.

The 7,000-square-foot National Science Foundation-funded lab in L.K. Downing Hall is one of 14 such research centers—including those at Cornell, Stanford and Harvard universities—available for use by outside researchers. For a small fee, these researchers can use the latest equipment, all while allowing Howard access to some of the world's top scientists.

"Other countries have replicated this model," says Gary Harris, Ph.D., director of the University's Nanoscale Science and Engineering Facility.

The work in the nanotechnology lab is also one of many examples of crucial research being conducted throughout the University.

Universitywide—in traditional areas including science, medicine, law, mathematics and engineering, and even in fields not typically associated with research—Howard faculty (and students) are immersed in research to improve society.

Involvement in research, particularly as undergraduates, may be among the best things that students can do to gain the necessary skills and professional flexibility to cope in such a climate.

This focus better prepares students for graduate programs and high-level employment, while solidifying Howard's place as a global leader in finding solutions to problems that plague humans worldwide.

## A Collaborative Approach

Because Howard has a global reach, it has global responsibilities. Thus, Howard has collaborations all over the world—in Africa, the Middle East, China, Australia, the Caribbean and South America.

Research at Howard is as varied as it is integral to solving national and international issues. For example, the School of Education's Ivory Toldson, Ph.D., is working with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation to examine academic success in African-American men; the School of Law's Professor Josephine Ross plans to work with Andridia Mapson, Ph.D., a professor in the School

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of Social Work, to research African-American youth behaviors when facing police detention and questioning; and Charles Kim, Ph.D., in the School of Engineering, developed a fault detector to diagnose intermittent electrical faults in complex wiring systems, which may be used in airline and defense industries.

A key aspect of research at the University is that it's often interdisciplinary, bringing together teams from differ-

ent departments on campus and from around the globe.

One such example is the University's 108-acre Beltsville campus, which is tucked away in a wooded, remote area of Prince George's County, Md. In collaboration with NASA and other universities, researchers with the Beltsville Center for Climate System Observation (BCCSO) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Center for Atmospheric Sciences launch weather

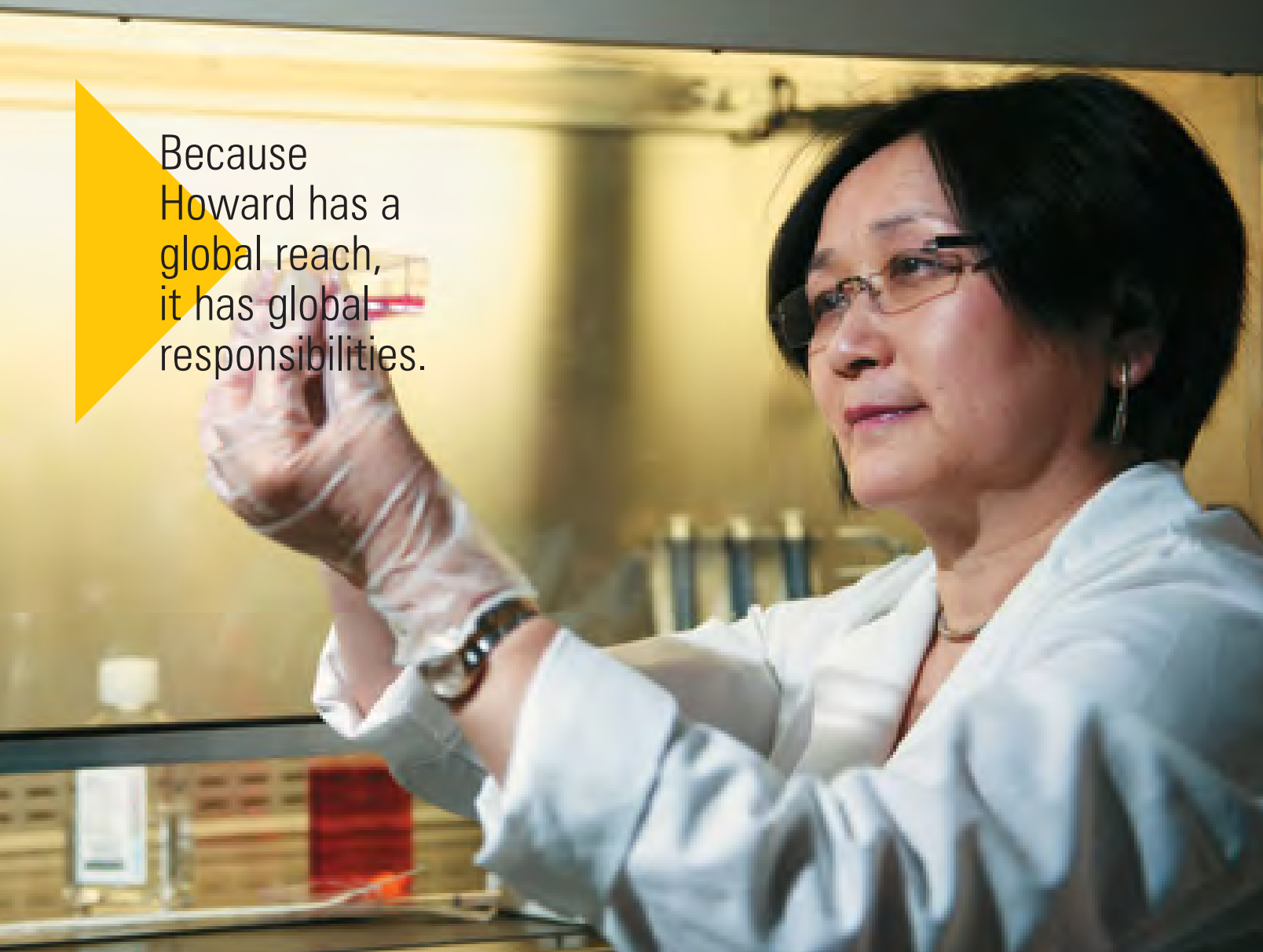
balloons, send up sophisticated lasers and measure air quality.

"The facilities here make the program unique," says Everette Joseph, Ph.D., director of BCCSO, and an associate professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy. "There are other programs like this, but they don't have the facilities."

The facilities are so impressive, the National Academy of Sciences recommends duplicating them in other areas

Xinbin Gu, M.D., Ph.D., College of Dentistry, is one of many professors focused on cutting-edge research at Howard. Gu's research focuses on early detection and better treatment of life-threatening diseases, such as oral cancer and Type-2 diabetes-associated dental diseases.

Because  
Howard has a  
global reach,  
it has global  
responsibilities.



in the U.S., and because of this, the Beltsville campus hosts researchers from the Department of Homeland Security, the Maryland Department of the Environment, the University of Colorado at Boulder and many other universities and government agencies.

"When the EPA [Environmental Protection Agency] rolls out new types of monitoring sensors, this is a test facility," says Joseph.

For example, if the Department of Homeland Security wants to know how poison will be dispersed if a biological weapon is unleashed in the U.S., they must conduct experiments. Scientists on the Beltsville campus conduct these dispersion models and use the atmospheric research done on campus to figure out how the weather will play a role.

Monique Walker, a doctoral candidate in physics, spends much of her time at the Beltsville campus. She designed a program that improves the accuracy of NASA equipment used to measure changes in the concentration of water vapor in the atmosphere. Walker plans to become a physics professor and says her experience at Howard gives her a clear advantage.

"Since I'm working with NASA scientists, it allows me to be a part of scientific papers and it brings together scientists from different organizations in one location," she says.

## Research in the Health Sciences

These types of collaborations are essential for medical research as well, says Wayne Frederick (B.S. '92; M.D. '94), deputy senior vice president for the Health Sciences division, interim director of the University's Cancer Center, and associate dean for clinical strategy and operations at the College of Medicine.

This is evidenced in part by the \$38.2 million Georgetown-Howard Universities Center for Clinical and Translational Science (GHUCCTS), which provides funding for a national consortium of 60 medical research institutions across the country to improve research. Howard and

Georgetown University are working with MedStar Health Research Institute, Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the Washington Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Thomas Mellman, M.D., professor and vice chair for research for the Department of Psychiatry and a principal investigator for GHUCCTS, calls the partnership "probably the most important national biomedical research consortium there is today."

"In the future, I see us continuing to develop greater collaborations," Frederick says. "In the future, we'll develop centers of excellence along the areas we've developed expertise in. This will continue to attract faculty, students and patients to Howard."

Frederick says much of the research focus will be on HIV, cancer, mood disorders, cardiovascular disease and sickle cell anemia.

"There is a lot of focus here on health disparities because many diseases disproportionately affect minorities," Frederick says. "We're trying to unearth new knowledge to explain why and try to figure out potential interventions to turn the disparities around."

Harris, the head of Howard's nanotechnology center, says faculty across the University target these disparities. "We've taken a particular interest in issues in our African-American communities," Harris says about work done in the nanoscience lab on microscopic implants, which can measure blood pressure from inside the body and minute drug delivery systems that attack individual cancer cells.

Like the other areas of research on campus, partnerships are at the facility's core. "We've torn down the artificial barriers of what is electrical engineering or mechanical engineering or physics or chemistry or mathematics," Harris says.

Recently, researchers there entered the legal field by training 60 judges in the area of nanotechnology, starting with the definition of nano—one billionth of a meter. "We're building things using the most fundamental building blocks: atoms and molecules," Harris says.

"There is a lot of focus here on health disparities because many diseases disproportionately affect minorities. We're trying to unearth new knowledge to explain why and try to figure out potential interventions to turn the disparities around."

Through the federal funding the center receives, it maintains a substantial outreach program that trains students and teachers in elementary, middle and high school in nanotechnology fields. The center also pays for undergraduate students from other universities to stay on campus for 10 weeks during the summer to conduct their own research projects. The University's \$15 million in equipment and almost 20-year history in this emerging field makes it appealing to a wide range of students.

"It gives our students an opportunity to be involved in cutting-edge technology and develop the products of the future," says Harris. ■HU

*Middleton Miles is a writer based in Virginia.*

# A New Vision for Research and Inquiry

*There is a wide spectrum of research at Howard, and it can take both a traditional and a nontraditional path. Faculty are engaged in innovative research as they seek cures for HIV/AIDS and Parkinson's disease; study the genetics of cancer; fight terrorism; diversify financial markets; and help unlock the doors to new knowledge to solve society's pressing issues.*

## Developing Secure Wireless Communication Systems

By Erin E. Evans (B.A. '08)

Rajni Goel, Ph.D., could talk about information systems and cybersecurity all day. Since becoming the chair of the Department of Information Systems and Decision Sciences in the School of Business in 2010, she has made it her mission to get her students excited, too.

"You'll see Howard on the map for cybersecurity soon," says Goel, who's been at Howard since 2003. "As chair, I

want to really create passion in the students to learn about technology and the careers in information systems."

That same enthusiasm has also garnered the department some national recognition. In April 2011, Howard was named a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education by the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security.

Goel worked with Wayne Patterson, Ph.D., a professor in the Department of Systems and Computer Sciences, to secure this honor, which will last until 2016.

With the designation comes the opportunity for students to apply for scholarships and grants through the Department of Defense Information Assurance Scholarship Program and the Federal Cyber Service: Scholarship for Service.



Professor Rajni Goel, Ph.D. (pictured at the B&O Railroad Museum in Baltimore), is helping develop secure wireless communication systems for U.S. railways.

Goel received more than \$1 million in grants from the Federal Railroad Administration to develop safe and secure wireless communication systems for railways in the United States. As the principal investigator for this project, she will collaborate with researchers from George Mason University (where she earned her Ph.D.) and Siemens Corporate Research.

And, in 2010, former provost James Wyche, Ph.D., and Goel's department started the Howard University Cybersecurity Research Center. Goel says the department also hopes to open a security lab, with 10 to 15 computers, where students can get hands-on training in protecting online systems against cyberthreats.

For Goel, the importance of cybersecurity goes beyond maintaining privacy online and ensuring that websites are always accessible. She sees the intersection of cyberterrorism and job creation as a place where Howard students can thrive.

"If we educate our students on how to recognize cyberthreats and how to protect against them, we are one step closer to protecting our country from terrorism," she says. "At Howard, we are training professionals who are going to be a step ahead of those threats." ■IU

*Evans is a writer based in New York.*

## Interdisciplinary Research in Linguistics

By Jo-Ann English

When the United States Army e-mailed Nkonko Kamwangamalu, Ph.D., professor of linguistics in the Department of English, in 2010, to say he was surprised would be an understatement.

"I was terrified. Why would the United States Army write me? I didn't want to open the e-mail," said Kamwangamalu.

After the initial shock had worn off, he opened the correspondence. In it was an invitation from the Army to him and a few other academic experts around the country, encouraging them to apply to take part in a groundbreaking research initiative. However, only one expert would be chosen.

Due to his expertise in African languages and social linguistics, Kamwangamalu was selected as the final candidate and lead investigator to spearhead

the project—"Extracting Social Meaning From Linguistic Structures in African Languages: Swahili, Zulu, Ciluba and Lingala."

The research project encompasses two key objectives. The first is to identify the social meaning of linguistic structures of African languages, with a focus on code-switching (the use of two or more languages in the same speech situation) and discourse markers. The second objective is to design a computer program that would make it possible for the Army to extract that social meaning from an electronic text.

Kamwangamalu was also tasked with assembling a team of experts to assist him, including fellow Howard professors Alla V. Tovares, Ph.D., associate professor, Department of English; Mohamed Chouikha, Ph.D., professor



Interdisciplinary collaborations are at the center of the research conducted by professors (L-R) Nkonko Kamwangamalu, Ph.D.; Alla V. Tovares, Ph.D.; Mugizi Robert Rwebangira, Ph.D.; and Mohamed Chouikha, Ph.D.



and chair, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering; Mugizi Robert Rwebangira, Ph.D., assistant professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering; and two computational linguists from Carnegie Mellon University, Lori Levin, Ph.D., and Carolyn Rose, Ph.D.

Tovares, a linguist who specializes in discourse analysis and language, and co-principal investigator on the project, was impressed with the level of multidisciplinary collaboration.

"It's fascinating to work with people in different fields," she says. "It is interesting to find common ground and resolve questions. It's a really enriching experience because we have the opportunity to work with people who are from different fields, from different theoretical conceptualizations."

Currently, the Army does not have Swahili, Zulu, Ciluba and Lingala in its database, and these languages are referred to as "low resource languages." This program will not only authenticate these languages and place them on the map; it will also enable the Army to add them to its data systems. In the future, anyone will be able to purchase this product from the Army to use for their benefit.

The five-year project, currently funded at \$2.8 million, could also significantly improve the Army's peace-keeping initiatives. Says Kamwangamalu: "When people interact, they may be speaking a language that you don't know. This program will make it possible for the Army to have access to that hidden social meaning."

Once Kamwangamalu and Tovares complete the linguistic part of the project, they will give their findings to the computational linguists at Carnegie Mellon University and the computer engineers at Howard so that they can develop the automation of the findings.

Chouikha, the principal investigator responsible for the overall project execution, will lead the team in designing the software used to decode the African languages.

"It will be software that takes in a text of a conversation in a given African language and gives out a text in English," he says. "It will, of course, be much more interesting and harder to have the input in the form of a real conversation (speech signal) and the output as the English translation (also a speech signal). We will be designing a natural language translator, which can identify code-switching when present in conversations."

Rwebangira (B.S.C.S.E '02) is excited about this new research venture because it has the ability to create many useful linguistic tools for African languages that, until recently, have only been devoted to Western and Asian languages.

"I expect that by the end of the project, we will have developed a better understanding of why African speakers switch between different languages and developed a software that can automatically detect the intention behind this kind of code-switching," he says. "In addition, I expect that several students and researchers will have developed skills in text mining, natural language processing and related areas that can find application in several different areas."

Along with the \$2.8 million fellowship, the Army has provided an additional \$25,000 for student internship opportunities to support the investigators, and also employs four students, covering their tuition and providing them with a stipend and other financial assistance. The four students "will create lineages and connections that will benefit growth and mutual collaborations," says Tovares.

"This is the first project of its kind that tries to automate code-switching," says Kamwangamalu. "So this is the first project ever that brings together social linguists and computer engineers to develop a program that can automate the extraction of the social meaning of code-switching." ■HU

*English is the communications associate in the Office of University Communications.*

## Studying the Genetics of Cancer

By Damien T. Frierson, M.S.W.

Growing up, Luisel J. Ricks-Santi, Ph.D., often heard relatives speak of the "cancer gene" that ran in the family.

"Those discussions opened my eyes to how genetics could predispose family members to cancer," says Ricks-Santi, an assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics and Child Health, College of Medicine, and in the Department of Genetics and Human Genetics, Graduate School.


In addition to motivating her to focus her career on cancer research, those early family discussions have also challenged her to make her research more accessible to the communities Howard serves.

After receiving her Ph.D. in tumor biology from Georgetown University in 2007, Ricks-Santi came to Howard, where she completed a postdoctoral fellowship in cancer genomics, focusing on health disparities and prostate cancer. While her previous research had focused on breast cancer, a link between both areas would take her back to her own family's discussions around cancer and genetics.

"When I started getting back into breast cancer research, I discovered that there were families where if there was a history of breast cancer, there was a history of prostate cancer, and if there was prostate cancer, there was breast cancer," says Ricks-Santi.

Most striking to Ricks-Santi was the lack of research on genetic predispositions to breast and prostate cancer among African-American, Latino and immigrant communities. She hopes to reverse this trend through her research at Howard's National Human Genome Center.

"Here at the center, we have several funded studies where we have collected



Luisel Ricks-Santi, Ph.D., is researching how genetics can predispose family members to certain types of cancer.

“When I go out into the community and educate people about prevention, I know that I may have made a difference in their lives.”

information from families predisposed to prostate and breast cancer,” she says.

Anecdotal evidence from these databases has already pointed to a connection between men with prostate cancer and female relatives reporting higher rates of breast cancer.

Still, Ricks-Santi finds her role as an educator to be the most rewarding aspect of her research. While she admits she was drawn to a lifelong career as a researcher, she finds that the greatest rewards come from making her work accessible to current oncologists, medi-

cal students and minority communities.

“I like to say that I am the translator of the work that goes on in the lab,” she says. “When I go out into the community and educate people about prevention, I know that I may have made a difference in their lives.” ■IU

CEASAR

# A Womanist Perspective of the Bible

By Erin E. Evans (B.A. '08)

Since Nyasha Junior, Ph.D., started teaching Old Testament I and II courses in 2009, she has given a standard pep talk to her first-year students: "I'm not here to destroy your faith. I'm just here to help," she says.

Her students, many of whom are active leaders in their churches, often enter her class with a healthy dose of anxiety. But the School of Divinity professor says she isn't trying to change anyone's faith or beliefs. She just wants to expand the interpretations of the Old Testament. Within her curriculum, she takes biblical stories and uses a "womanist approach" to analyze and think critically about them, in two courses that span a full academic year. A look at the Bible through author Alice Walker's lens, if you will.

Womanism, which Walker wrote about in her book *In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens: Womanist Prose*, is often referred to as "Black feminism," but Junior says she uses a womanist approach to expand the categories of difference when understanding the Bible.

"A feminist approach looks at gender issues only," she says. "A womanist approach tries to be more inclusive to look at gender and how it interacts with other factors like race, ethnicity and class."

Junior received a 2011 Howard University Summer Faculty Research Fellowship to expand her work on biblical interpretation. The grant is allowing her an opportunity to write her first book, tentatively titled *Womanist Biblical Interpretation: An Introduction*. This spring she is teaching Feminist and Womanist Biblical Interpretation for the first time, where she'll be able to receive feedback from her students on her research.

And as she continues to pursue that research, she reflects on the road that brought her to Howard. After earning her degree in public affairs from Princeton University, Junior prepared for a long career in public policy. But something pulled at her, and after enrolling in a master's program at Pacific School of Religion, she was so enthralled by the courses she told one of her professors, "I want your job." Now that she's in the same field, she's helping her students apply critical analyses of the Bible.

"Once they get over their initial hesitation about critical

approaches, then I really have an opportunity to reintroduce them to texts that they thought they knew," she says. "I see tremendous growth in a lot of my students by the end of the year. It's really very rewarding." ■HU

Nyasha Junior, Ph.D., is focusing her research on gender and biblical interpretation. (Junior is pictured at the historic Nineteenth Street Baptist Church in Washington, D.C.)



"A womanist approach tries to be more inclusive to look at gender and how it interacts with other factors like race, ethnicity and class."

# Changing the Landscape through Social Media

By Jo-Ann English

When Ingrid Sturgis, assistant professor in the School of Communications, arrived at Howard in the fall of 2008, her students were still navigating the novelty of social media.

“I could count on one hand the number of students on Twitter. In fact, some of them told me they didn’t ‘get it,’” she says. “By spring of 2009, students were writing articles about it, and then it seemed to explode on campus so that students were using it all the time.”

As a new media expert, Sturgis possesses extensive knowledge of Web tech-

nologies and social media tools, which consumers can use to improve their lives. According to Sturgis, such tools have the potential to transform the social fabric of the entire world and have already democratized the creation and dissemination of news, information and entertainment. This transformation, she explains, can be seen in journalism where social media—blogs, Twitter, Facebook, RSS feeds, mobile technology—have changed who is considered a journalist.

“No longer are reporters and editors the gatekeepers of news. Social media

has made it inexpensive to gather, write and widely distribute news and information,” says Sturgis. “In some newsrooms, instead of listening to a police scanner, reporters are following sources using their Twitter feed, which gives them real-time, direct access to news events.”

Of all the social media technologies, Mobile Money is the one closest to Sturgis’ heart. Around the world, impoverished communities are using their cell phones to complete financial transactions. Using this service, consumers can pay bills, buy goods and send money to family members—all



JUSTIN D. KNIGHT

from their mobile phones. Sturgis envisions this same technology being adopted in the United States.

"Mobile banking will likely change the course of banking, entrepreneurship and even journalism. It has yet to spread to the United States in a meaningful way. It's an area of research that is very interesting, an area with enormous potential for social change."

Because of her research, Sturgis has received several fellowships in new media, including a 2010 Fulbright-Hays Award; a 2009–2010 Multimedia Training at Western Kentucky University, Dow Jones News Fund; and a 2010 Fellow: Knight Digital Media Center, News Entrepreneur Boot Camp.

Her most recent research interest involves the launch of the website [www.fully-connected.com](http://www.fully-connected.com), which is a new vision in digital media that connects people from around the world through interactive journalism and social networking. This site is geared toward African Americans in the Diaspora, whose extraordinary life experiences have yet to be told.

Additionally, she is involved in an initiative called AP Style Quiz, a game that students can use to become better copy editors.

"It will involve an interdisciplinary collaboration with faculty and students in the Electronic Studio Art, computer science and journalism departments."

Sturgis continues to research the progression of social media, and believes that we have yet to witness its full potential.

"Researching the use of social media is very important to me because it has critical applications in just about every area of life. Consider that with social media every interaction can be traced and tracked," she says. "This has implications on the job, where an employer can measure productivity; in advertising, where advertisers can measure the audience; on the Web, where a user's every keystroke can be tracked; in social protest, where groups like Occupy Wall Street are using it to conduct demonstrations. In other countries, it is even being used as a tool in the overthrow of governments." ■IU

## Creating a World-Class College of Pharmacy

By Hope E. Ferguson (B.A. '80)

Now that the College of Pharmacy has reclaimed its roots and become a free-standing part of the University (and the 13th college), its new leader, Anthony K. Wutoh, Ph.D., is determined to take it to the next level. Wutoh, formerly associate dean of the School of Pharmacy, was named interim dean of the college. He

retains his position as co-director of the Center of Excellence.

"It was a very important step for me personally, and also for faculty, students, staff and alumni," he says of the restored independence. "President Ribeau knew it was very important to faculty and students, and perhaps most important for



Anthony Wutoh, Ph.D., pictured in the new Center for Drug Research and Development, is leading the College of Pharmacy in its research efforts, which include the fight against HIV/AIDS.

"We need to try to remove the stigma of 'This is a really hard subject where you have to do a lot of calculations and formulas,' and instead connect science to things kids encounter in their lives every day."



alumni and their sense of history.”

The change also allows the program to build on its strengths and to attract more academic funding from the federal government and investment from private industry.

Wutoh plans nothing less than leading “one of the best colleges of pharmacy in the country” with a laserlike focus on research. In a giant step in that direction, the College of Pharmacy unveiled its new Center for Drug Research and Development, a state-of-the-art facility that will provide a place to train students and postdoctoral fellows and develop and test drugs. The college also recently received \$750,000 in grant funding from the National Institutes of Health to study ways to design HIV/AIDS-fighting drugs.

At 46, Wutoh has published prodigiously and done groundbreaking HIV/AIDS research, initially in CMV retinitis, an opportunistic eye infection that quickly leads to blindness if patients aren’t diagnosed and treated effectively. More recently, his research has focused on the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of HIV in older African Americans.

Wutoh, whose parents are from Ghana, credits his father, a genetics professor at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, for igniting his interest in science.

“My concept of what a professor should be was shaped by my father,” he says. “My father tried to do things to make science interesting.”

In line with President Obama’s “Educate to Innovate” campaign, a nationwide effort to move American students to the top in science and math achievement over the next decade, Wutoh believes science can and should be demystified.

“We need to try to remove the stigma of ‘This is a really hard subject where you have to do a lot of calculations and formulas,’ and instead connect science to things kids encounter in their lives every day,” he says. “Wouldn’t it be great if a young person discovered a cure for cancer or AIDS?” ■HU

*Ferguson is a writer based in New York.*

## Advocating for the Rights of Immigrants

By Hope E. Ferguson (B.A. ’80)

As a youth, her Mexican-American father labored as a migrant farm worker, then later became a teacher and school administrator, as did her mother.

With her parents as models of determination and hard work, Mariela Olivares, J.D., assistant professor in the Howard University School of Law, knew early on while growing up in Texas that she wanted to become an attorney.

“One of my motivations to go to law school initially was to work in the Latino community, and more specifically with women,” explains Olivares, who specializes in immigration, domestic violence and family law.

The bilingual daughter of a family whose American roots date back generations, Olivares nonetheless was particularly moved by the plight of recent immigrants, undocumented or not, who struggled with cultural or linguistic obstacles when accessing the legal system.

“As an attorney litigator, I saw how immigrant status affects people in our country,” she says.

Her interest deepened through her work as managing attorney at Ayuda, a provider of services for low-income immigrant victims of domestic violence, where she counseled and represented victims of vio-

lence and developed outreach initiatives through Spanish-language media.

Olivares recently received a 2012 Howard University Summer Faculty Research Fellowship to write about immigration law, policy and history and commentary on the passage of the DREAM Act. She plans to focus more research on the role of “compromise” in the complex relation-



Mariela Olivares, J.D., is fighting for the rights of immigrants and researching laws and policies that impact the immigrant community.

“It’s critical that you learn how to affect real change, whatever you choose to do.”

ship between the government in its role as purveyor and enforcer of immigration law and policy and immigrants living in the U.S. She will explore this relationship through a historical and critical Latino/race theory lens and comment on how immigrants and their advocates must demand the passage of the DREAM Act.

Although a strong advocate for immigrant rights, Olivares understands why immigration is such a contested issue. “I think part of the controversy stems from the troubling economic times in which we live. People struggling financially are trying to pinpoint the sources of their troubles,” she says. “Everyone has an opinion, and what fuels some of those opinions is the perception or reality of law-breaking. Yet, issues of race, culture and nativism

also play a role in the biases people exhibit toward immigrants.”

With Latinos now composing the largest group apart from non-Hispanic Caucasians in the U.S., and with the country poised to “tip” into a predominantly Black and Brown nation by the middle of the century, Olivares believes in the necessity of humanitarian and comprehensive immigration reform that recognizes the importance of the immigrant community in our country, while also helping people navigate the many ways they can legally stabilize their immigration status.

Her own experience has helped her realize “the power and privilege of being a lawyer. It’s critical that you learn how to affect real change, whatever you choose to do,” she says. ■IU

## Diversifying Global Financial Markets

By Jo-Ann English

Cheryl Nichols, J.D., has made it her mission to lessen the economic disparities for minorities in the United States. Growing up, she witnessed the struggles of many family members, and their determination to overcome obstacles is what fuels Nichols today.

As an associate professor in the Howard University School of Law, Nichols is helping to shape a future generation of lawyers and using her research to help diversify global financial markets. In addition to teaching two business law courses, she created a new class called Diversity and Global Capital Markets that she taught last fall. The course examines Section 342 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and provides students with an in-depth understanding of the law and its operation. (Dodd-Frank 342 requires each of the federal agencies that regulate the financial services industry to establish an Office of Minority and Women Inclusion, responsible for all matters of the agency relating to diversity in management, employment and business activities.)

Nichols hopes to one day enhance the curriculum in the area of financial services and security regulations at Howard. She is working with senior staff to establish a course on derivatives because, according to Nichols, there are very few minorities in those areas.

“I seek to give students more exposure to available opportunities and give the financial service agencies more exposure to minorities,” says Nichols. “Pretty soon we are going to be a majority in the United States, but we don’t want to be a majority and be excluded from the senior levels of finance, in terms of money and power.”



PHOTO BY CEASAR; MURAL: "MY CULTURE, MI GENTE" © 2009; LEAD ARTIST: JOEL BERGNER (COMMISSIONED AND ORIGINAL OWNED BY THE D.C. COMMISSION ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES; DC CREATES PUBLIC ART PROGRAM.)

“The response to the financial crisis might have been different, and perhaps more effective, if diverse perspectives were included at the senior levels.”

Nichols spearheaded the development of externships in the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), allowing law students to work alongside seasoned lawyers in such areas as investment management, corporation finance, enforcement and the Office of International Affairs, which interfaces with global financial markets.

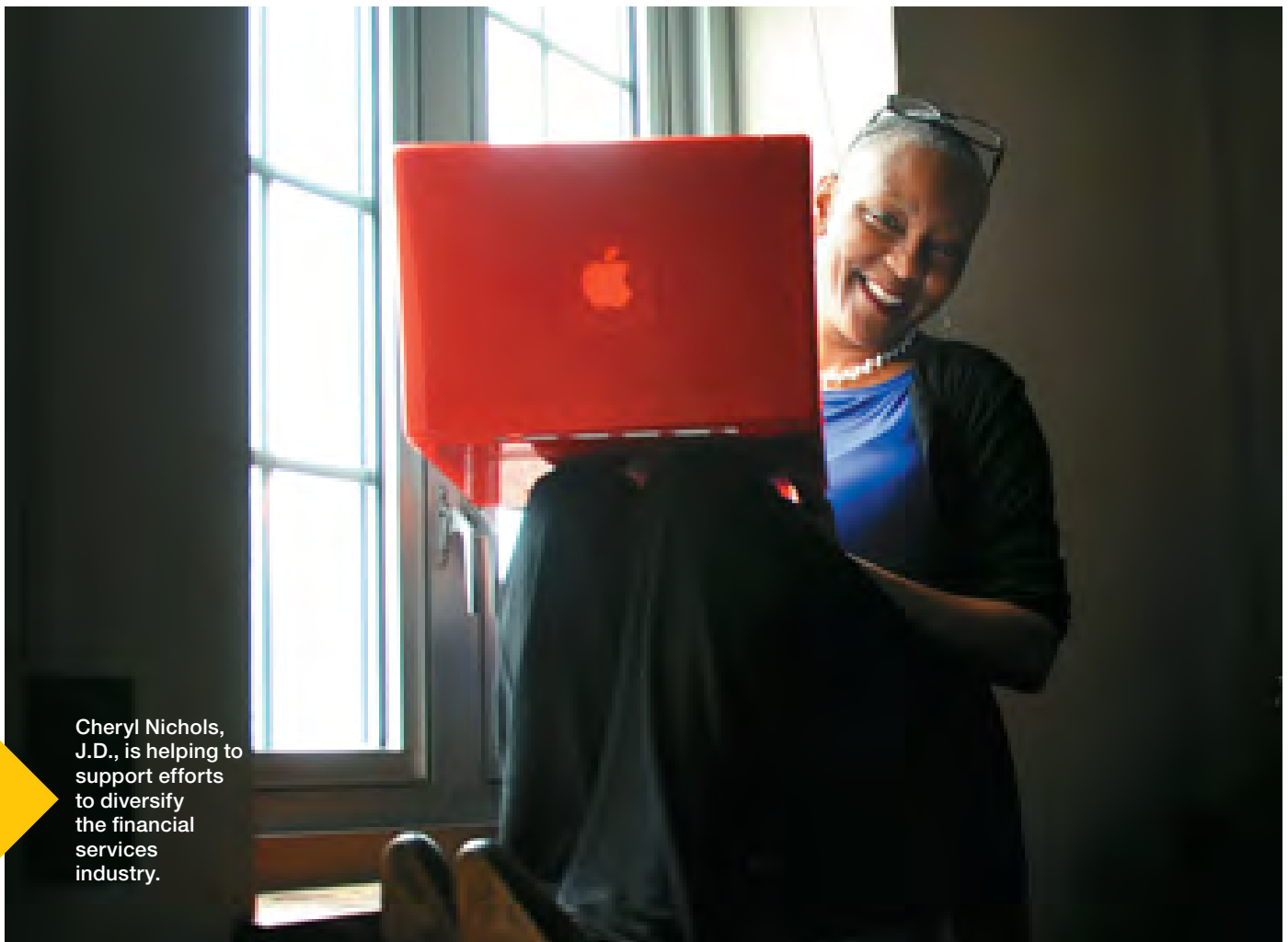
Through the SEC program, Nichols is responsible for mentoring budding lawyers and providing them with the founda-

tion that they need to be successful at the SEC and in their professional careers. She teaches an associated seminar, in which students keep daily journals and submit reflective pieces at the end of the semester.

Nichols also established and directed a securities clinic at the University of Buffalo (UB), which she drew upon to assist in forming a similar clinic at Howard. (The UB clinic was one of four participants in the SEC’s Securities Arbitration Pilot Program.) The Howard clinic

provides legal assistance to investors in resolving disputes with investment professionals and investor education to the local community.

“I would like to see more minority lawyers in the financial services industry, especially in senior-level positions at the federal financial services regulators,” says Nichols. “The response to the financial crisis might have been different, and perhaps more effective, if diverse perspectives were included at the senior levels of the decision-making process—not just those of former employees of Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley and J.P. Morgan.” ■BU



Cheryl Nichols, J.D., is helping to support efforts to diversify the financial services industry.

CEASAR

# Seeking a Cure for Parkinson's Disease

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

To many, Eric Walters (M.Div. '03), Ph.D., is known as the chair of the Faculty Senate, a thoughtful and deliberate professor determined to make sure the voices of the faculty are heard on matters impacting the University. Others know him as an ordained minister who believes passionately in the search for authentic Christian thought and practice. Fewer know Walters the scientist, who spends many hours a day in his lab in the Adams Building studying a six-generation colony of mice to understand patterns in their behavior that are comparable to adults suffering from Parkinson's disease. According to the Parkinson's Disease Foundation, every year approximately 60,000 Americans are diagnosed with this neurological disorder, which is characterized by motor dysfunction and caused by the degeneration of brain cells.

"Nerve cells use a brain chemical called dopamine to help control muscle movement," explains Walters, who holds a Ph.D. in cell and molecular biology from the University of Missouri. "Parkinson's disease occurs when the nerve cells in the brain that make dopamine are slowly destroyed."

Without dopamine, he says, the nerve cells in that part of the brain cannot properly send messages, resulting in the loss of muscle function. The damage is progressive, but it is not known exactly why these brain cells waste away. While symptoms are controllable to some degree, there is no cure for the disease.

Walters hopes his study, which began more than two years ago, will play a significant role in addressing this dearth of information. The strain of mice he uses has abnormal levels of thyroid hormone, he explains. While using the strain about 10 years ago to explore the impact of thyroid hormone on neuron survival and regeneration, he stumbled



Eric Walters, Ph.D., works with assistant Andrea Allen-Johnson to examine behaviors in mice that might help find a cure for Parkinson's disease.

upon an obscure research article describing spontaneous circling behavior in the mice that correlated with the loss of dopamine-expressing neurons in the brain. (The term "circling" refers to the behavior of some mice to move compulsively in circles seemingly all the time.) Since then, he has focused his research toward explaining the factors related to the cause, treatment and genetics of Parkinson's.

The initial study focuses on breeding strategies aimed to understand genetic factors that contribute to Parkinson-like symptoms in these mice. Andrea Allen-Johnson, a doctoral candidate in genetics and Walters' assistant, has been instrumental in identifying patterns in circling behavior, he says.

Primarily, their research aims to determine if, first, the spontaneous circling behavior evident in subsections of their

mice colony is correlated with the loss of dopamine and if it follows a certain inheritance pattern; and second, whether genes implicated in Parkinson's disease are altered within the brains of circling mice.

Walters is optimistic that his research will be useful in establishing a model to study the brain cell degeneration. His goal is to use a combination of genetics, cells, biochemistry and behavioral studies to map the cause.

An increased understanding could lead to better intervention and treatment models, at the very least, he says. Further, identifying the family of genes associated with it could answer questions on whether it is reversible or if it is possible to regrow neurons destroyed by the disease, among other useful information for understanding the disease pathology and treatment. ■HU

*Virtue is a writer based in Maryland.*

# Fulbright Research Comes Alive in the Classroom

By Kenneth J. Cooper

**I**t turns out earthworms are good for much more than catching fish and helping your garden grow, as John Tharakan, Ph.D., professor and former chair of the Department of Chemical Engineering, discovered while conducting research in India as a senior Fulbright scholar.

“The little red wigglers,” as Tharakan calls them, are star performers in “biological waste treatment,” the focus of his work as a senior research Fulbright scholar at The New College in Chennai in southern India.

Earthworms can take soil so toxic it can kill people and convert it into harmless landfill. Tharakan studied one project in the U.S. that uses worms to remove cancer-causing polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, from industrially contaminated dirt.

“They’re able to actually clean the soil,” he says. “They essentially concentrate the

PCBs into their bodies by the process that is known as bioaccumulation.”

Since returning to campus five years ago, Tharakan has taught that case study and others drawn from his Fulbright research, as well as a broader lesson about India’s alternative approach to handling toxic waste.

Other professors who have done research abroad as Fulbright scholars have likewise blended what they learned into their courses, or plan to, including Kamilah M. Woodson, Ph.D., an assistant professor of counseling psychology in the School of Education, who has created exercises that mimic the rigid social structure in Brazil; and Marilyn Lashley, Ph.D., associate professor of political science, who plans to teach a case study on the politics of an indigenous tribe she researched in Canada.

“It enriches the content of our courses,”

says Jeanne Maddox Toungara, Ph.D., assistant provost for international programs and campus administrator of the Fulbright program. “Teaching just from text is one thing, but when you have been a witness yourself on the ground for a lot of what you are talking about, it just makes it much more exciting for the students and much more exciting to teach.”

For the past decade, two faculty members each year have been selected as Fulbright scholars through the international exchange program, which is administered mainly by the State Department. The winners of the prestigious scholarship have been hosted at colleges and universities in Africa, Asia, Europe and North America.

Most of those Fulbrighters, as they are called, have done lecturing and research on diverse subjects, from molecular biology and macroeconomics to human rights law and African literature in French.



Professor John Tharakan, Ph.D., works with doctoral student Moses Ukaoma to study the effects that earthworms have on toxic soil.



Tharakan and Lashley have received Fulbright scholarships to do only research, the awards that are the most competitive and hardest to secure because there are fewer of them.

"From the perspective of the administration, our international footprint and entire globalization effort involves supporting research internationally, particularly in the STEM [science, technology, engineering and mathematics] fields," says Toungara.

That's where earthworms come in. They're just one of the biological "technologies" for treating hazardous waste that Tharakan studied in India, his birthplace.

"The project was looking at the various biological waste management technologies that were being used in South India," Tharakan explains. "What that means is using some kind of biological agent, whether it's a microbe or an earthworm or algae or a plant, even, to take contaminated waste and transform it into something that is harmless and can be discharged into the environment."

Tharakan calls it "a more holistic approach" to protecting the environment than the conventional one of containing hazardous waste somewhere safe. The alternative approach, he says, is a product of both Indian tradition and innovation.

Undergraduate and graduate students in his Bioprocess Engineering and Fundamentals of Environmental Engineering courses have been learning about his Fulbright research.

"Summarizing the impact in terms of my research and teaching, I think it was pretty high and pretty substantive," Tharakan concludes.

## Lessons Learned

Last summer, Woodson spent a month traveling around Brazil as a Fulbright-Hays scholar. That particular program, administered by the U.S. Education Department, is designed to aid curriculum development and enhance teaching.

Woodson immersed herself in every aspect of Brazilian culture, from religion and food to music and education. But it is Brazil's social structure, built around class, rather than race, that has influenced her teaching.

"Race isn't the most salient issue; it's more power and privilege," she says.

"If you are born in the lower class, that is your place in life. Education is not an option because of where you were born."

Last fall, in her course on Cultural Diversity and Psychotherapy for doctoral candidates, Woodson says she "decided to create a kind of power and privilege and oppression situation based on wherever you happened to sit on the first day of class. That decided whether you were part of the 'oppressed' group or whether you were part of the 'privileged' group."

The oppressed students would have to write a 20-page paper, but the privileged ones would not. "The people who didn't have to do it felt like, 'Well, too bad,'" she says. "They turned the other way as if it didn't matter."

Woodson bluntly told the oppressed students that what she was doing was unfair, and they could talk to the department chair and the dean. (Both had been informed about the experiment.) She challenged the students to do something to fight for equality.

"They did nothing. They were paralyzed," Woodson recalls.

They complained to each other. Some grew apathetic about their situation or rationalized it away. By mid-semester, they had become disgruntled and disinterested. So Woodson announced no one would have to do the paper after all. Then she told the oppressed group, "If you all would have just told on me, you could have changed this by week three, but you didn't." They just felt disempowered and thought they couldn't.

Her students appreciated the lesson. "They were really excited about having had the experience of being able to truly understand how it is just unfair for some people, and then realizing there are opportunities to rise above the oppression if they just join together."

Next year, Woodson will teach a new graduate course on the Psychology of Oppression: Understanding Blacks Throughout the Diaspora, using in part her Fulbright-Hays immersion in Brazil.

## Societal Changes Impact the Research Landscape

In 2006, Lashley was already at McMaster University in Canada as Fulbright Research Chair in Globalization and Culture Studies when big news happened nearby and prompted her to narrow her research on treaty rights and sovereignty in a globalized era.

Lashley, a specialist on indigenous peoples, shifted her focus to the communal land ownership of one Canadian tribe, the Six Nations. Without approval from the tribal government, the Canadian government transferred part of the reservation to a developer to build housing.

Six Nations women protested that breach of tribal sovereignty and Canadian law.

"The women went in and took up occupation. They literally sat there and camped out and marched and everything else, with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police removing them," Lashley recalls. "The men were going to just accept it. It was only after the women were manhandled by the police that the men got behind the women."

The protest, which lasted three years, eventually blocked the housing development. But the legal dispute between the tribe and the developer continues.

Next year, Lashley plans to add a case study on the protest to her graduate elective on Indigenous Politics. It's a comparative course on the Pacific region and North America.

During International Education Week last November, Toungara organized a roundtable of Fulbright scholars to present their international research on campus.

"What we're trying to do is stimulate that kind of research, even among those scholars that work on domestic issues, so they have opportunities also to go abroad and have these experiences and bring that knowledge and interest back to our campus," says Toungara, who has been a Fulbright scholar in the Ivory Coast in West Africa. ■IU

*Cooper is a Pulitzer Prize-winning writer based in Boston. He is also a former Fulbright scholar.*

# Notable

## Alumni

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

### Antoine Bethea

*Alumnus tackles success in the NFL, while finding ways to give back to the community.*

He earned a Super Bowl ring his rookie year. He's responsible for more than 500 tackles in his career, which has helped lead the Indianapolis Colts through five winning seasons. Since being drafted in 2006, he's started in each game he's played and has consistently been a solid defender throughout his professional career. Yet, Antoine Bethea (B.A. '11) says he gave no thought as a child to playing in the National Football League.

"Growing up, basketball was my first love," says the free safety, number 41. "No one could tell me I wasn't going into the NBA."

Bethea played basketball and football at his high school in Newport News, Va.

"My coach was saying, 'You should try to make it [in football],' " he says. "I earned a partial scholarship to Howard. From then on, I just loved the game."

Bethea joined the Bison football team at the start of his freshman year in 2002, but still did not seriously consider playing professional football. He even received

basketball scholarship offers to other colleges during his sophomore and junior years at Howard.

"At the time, I wasn't saying, 'I'm going to make it in the NFL,'" says the administration of justice major. "I just wanted to achieve my education and let football pave the way for me."

But with encouragement from his coach, Bethea decided to commit to football. As a three-year starter for the Bison, Bethea earned All Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference honors for three consecutive years and first-team All-American honors from the NFL Draft Report. He shined with 309 tackles, seven forced fumbles and 18 pass deflections in 37 games, 31 of which he started in. He was the 207th pick in the sixth round of the 2006 NFL draft. Ranked among the top free safeties in the NFL, Bethea said getting respect in the league was difficult coming from the MEAC.

"Because you're at an HBCU or at a small college, you have to crawl a little bit further and jump a little bit higher," he says. "You just have to work that much harder to prove that you can be successful."

With 90 tackles in 14 games during his rookie year, Bethea's strong defense helped the Colts claim victory over the Chicago Bears in Super Bowl XLI and has discouraged further scrutiny from critics.

"I never thought or imagined I'd be playing in the Super Bowl," he says. "Then to win it, that was just a blessing. I was doing it for a lot of people. I came from a small school, a Black school and made it to this point. And, with the tough season we just had, I'm realizing how special that was."

Indianapolis took a detour from its usual success this past season while MVP quarterback Peyton Manning recovered from a neck injury, but Bethea refers to the team's losing season as "the flip side of the business."

"It's a special feeling when you can go talk to the kids. I'm in a position to help people, so why not do it?"

'11



"At the end of the day, it's a part of the game," he says.

While playing at Howard, he also experienced his share of defeats. But Bethea is confident that it won't be long until the Bison return to their glory days.

"Our record wasn't the best," he says, "but we had some solid teams; we had a lot of good players. I just [enjoyed] going out there on Saturdays and having fun."

In appreciation of the encouragement he received from Howard's athletic department, Bethea donated money to build a new training room in the gym. He also sponsors the Antoine Bethea D.C. Youth Football Camp for boys entering grades 9 through 12. Proceeds from the camp benefit the Howard University Football Program and Bethea's Safe Coverage Foundation. Additionally, Bethea hosts an annual college tour in the spring.

"I'm really trying to give more to the community in D.C. and Virginia," he says. "I'm just trying to do more for inner-city youth. I try to get them out of the city and on campus and continue to encourage them. It's a special feeling when you can go talk to the kids. I'm in a position to help people, so why not do it?"

Bethea hopes for at least another four strong years in the NFL, aiming to leave the league without too many aches and pains in order to pursue other passions. He also co-owns a record label on which he would like to spend more of his time.

"Hopefully, I can just dive into that 100 percent," he says. "We have one artist now. She went to Howard, too."

But he's in no rush to retire.

"I have no problem getting up in the morning and going to work," he says. "It's something that I love to do." ■IU

*Holmes is a writer based in Maryland.*

# Profiles

## in Leadership

### Q&A

Perhaps nowhere is good leadership more valued than in the ranks of government, where one good or bad decision can impact millions of Americans. Howard alumni are no strangers to public service, and the U.S. Department of Labor boasts a particularly strong Howard presence.

In 2009, William Spriggs, Ph.D., chair of Howard's Department of Economics, was appointed assistant secretary for policy for the Department of Labor by President

Barack Obama. Joining him there is Howard School of Law Professor e. christi cunningham, J.D., who was appointed associate assistant secretary for regulatory affairs, and alumni Kathleen E. Franks (M.A. '83; Ph.D. '88), director of Workforce Development and Security Division in the Office of Regulatory and Programmatic Policy; Pamela Henderson Peters (J.D. '88), a program analyst; and Leslie Cooper (B.S. '98) and Corman Franklin

Pictured L-R: Franklin, cunningham, Peters, Cooper and Spriggs (not pictured: Franks)



(M.A. '85), both policy analysts.

While they come from different segments of the Howard community, they have a unified mission: ensuring that American workers have the legal rights and protections they are entitled to. In a roundtable discussion with Tamara E. Holmes (B.A. '94) for *Howard Magazine*, they discuss how the University prepared them for their leadership roles in government and what it takes to excel in a career in public service.

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

**A. Cooper:** Leaders have to be innovative, and I think Howard really provides you with a platform to explore your own creativity. I think it also instills in you a particular sense of pride, because as a student, you are told a lot about the legacy of the University and what it means not only to African-American education, but to education as a whole. You graduate understanding that to some degree you reflect the institution, and because you've been educated on this image, you know you are furthering that image in the workplace. Acting with integrity, always trying to find a way to make a positive contribution and finding a way to really make a mark on the world are all things Howard instills in you.

**A. Franks:** Strong leadership requires the ability to motivate people and the ability to challenge and stretch the team you lead. It's also the ability to let them take chances and possibly make mistakes. On top of that, a strong leader has to take responsibility for the mistakes made by the team. Howard was a very nurturing and supportive environment. I think that helped me relax and feel comfortable that people were rooting for me, and that's the kind of environment I try to create for my team.

**A. Peters:** I attended the law school, and the experience was fantastic. I wouldn't trade it for the world. It prepared me for everything because they tell you from day one: Look at the person to your right; look at the person to your left. You may be the only one standing at graduation. And that

is true; the person to my left was not there at the end. But the faculty was very committed, very dedicated to the students and the study of law. The history of Howard and the law was ingrained in us, and you take that with you, especially if you're pursuing a public service career.

**Q. There are several of you from the Howard community in high-level positions in the Department of Labor. What does that say about Howard's ability to produce leaders?**

**A. Spriggs:** A lot of people ask, "What makes Howard different?" because they know we have graduated thousands of African Americans, so the question is, "Why does Howard succeed at that and other places don't?" Invariably, people always want to say it's high expectations of the students, but that really isn't it. Every university has high expectations of its students. It's that Howard has high expectations of Howard, and the faculty understands that. The fact that you would have a high-level briefing in this building and have so many African Americans at the table is unbelievable. And then when you realize they're all from Howard, it is special.

**A. Cooper:** Howard prepares you to enter the real world. You learn to identify your own skills and abilities and gifts, and I think that becomes important in whatever workplace you enter. Because Howard gives you an opportunity to be exposed to diverse things and diverse people, you figure out who you are and you figure out how you can make a difference.

**Q. Dr. Spriggs and Professor Cunningham, what does it mean for you to have been appointed by the first African-American president? How does this experience compare with other career accomplishments you've had?**

**"You have to have a heart for serving other people. You have to make a commitment to using what you have for the greater good."**

**A. Spriggs:** I think a lot of people forget about the history and the legacy of Howard faculty and their contributions. You can start with Ralph Bunche [former chair of the Department of Political Science, who held positions in the U.S. Department of State and the United Nations] and Patricia Roberts Harris [Howard alumna and former dean of the Howard School of Law, who was appointed secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and secretary of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare—now Health and Human Services]. Faculty have always played a role as key appointees in different administrations. I think there's a lot of pride in sticking to that legacy of Howard faculty being part of what helps to shape policies.

**A. Cunningham:** I totally agree with everything Dr. Spriggs said, but I'd like to add a personal touch to it. I was actually praying for an opportunity to expand my reach at the time that this particular opportunity came forth, so I felt this was going to be a chance to really make a difference. I had worked on the Obama campaign while I was on sabbatical in Texas. I was very excited—I still am very excited about the president and about what he is doing for the country and the hope that he's giving to people. So, this was literally an answer to a prayer and just an incredible opportunity.

**Q. What advice would you give someone who wants to excel in a career in public service?**

**A. Franks:** You have to be willing to move around in government agencies to be able to find a nurturing environment. People need to be flexible and willing to move laterally several times. You don't always move up; you move around and





get a breadth of experience, and you become more valuable to the agency or other agencies and employers.

**A. Cooper:** You have to have a heart for serving other people. You have to make a commitment to using what you have for the greater good. Also, be open to taking paths that are not as obvious. Coming from the School of Communications, I probably took one of the most indirect routes of all of the people sitting here. I think if you're open to using every experience as a learning opportunity, you'd be surprised where you could end up.

**Q. Would you say strong leadership in public service is the ability to work toward an administration's goals without being impacted by politics?**

**A. Franklin:** Regardless of the administration, there are going to be things that come through that you're not going to agree with. I think it would be the same if you worked in private industry. You get a new CEO, he has a different vision of the way he wants the company to run, and if you're really that philosophically opposed to it, it's probably best you find something else to do.

**Q. What are some of the most rewarding aspects of a public service career?**

**A. cunningham:** When you think about what we're doing—in the Department of Labor, we're protecting the health and safety of workers, the wages of workers and the security of workers. We're taking into account the needs of all the workers in the country, as well as the needs of all the businesses, both large and small, and

other regulated entities in the country. In some countries, one person may have absolute power and may or may not care about the interests of various constituents. But here, the public gets to participate in the regulation making. That's really amazing when you think about what we're trying to do as part of the government. We're protecting the people, giving the input of the people and the voice of the people.

**A. Franklin:** For me, the biggest thing is knowing that what you're doing is allowing someone to earn a decent wage and go home to his or her family at the end of the day. The most important thing to me is my son's soccer schedule, his music schedule and helping him with his homework, and I want to be able to go home and do those things. We're giving people an opportunity to do those things and do them safely. They don't have to worry about if a mine is going to cave in or if the workers' comp check is going to come in. We're facilitating that, and we can really appreciate it as workers because we're going through the same things.

**A. Peters:** For me, you're working with people who really are committed to workers and their families, and so I find that amazing even if you disagree with their position on something. Some people have worked in the same agency for 40 years, but they're committed to that. It's more than a job for them.

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

**A. Cooper:** I really want, at the end of the day, for someone to be able to say, "She took her God-given talents and she did something with them to help somebody else."

**A. Franks:** I want to be a good representative of what Howard graduates are. I want to help continue to make a name for Howard.

**A. cunningham:** It would have been great to be in an administration in a time in history that was smooth sailing. But in all honesty, we've had some hills to climb in this particular moment in history. Not hills that we created, but hills that we came to. And I think that it is part of the legacy of Howard and the strength of African Americans that we're perfectly placed. I'm not saying that we will overcome every single obstacle, but I am saying that I think we're doing good work during challenging times.

**A. Spriggs:** There are just a lot of things that will be a legacy in terms of making the rules fairer and safer for American workers, so I think there's a lot we can be proud of in terms of what our contributions will have been. There are things, hopefully, that will make a difference. You come in with this real nice agenda and you leave, and then someone else comes in and says, "Let's undo this." So we'll see how much we can make stick. ■

*Holmes is a writer based in Maryland.*



# Milestones

Alumni

## '40s



**Frankie Muse Freeman, LL.B. 1947**, was

honored with the Spingarn Medal, the NAACP's highest honor.

She was the 96th recipient of the award. Freeman has been a practicing attorney in state and federal courts for more than 60 years.

## '50s

**Norma L. Totah, B.A. 1953**, was recognized by Cambridge Who's Who for her dedication, leadership and excellence in social work. She is a licensed clinical social worker in Connecticut.

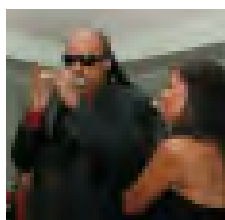
## '60s

**Marva Jones Brooks, B.A. 1961**, retired as a corporate partner at Arnall Golden Gregory LLP in Atlanta after a trailblazing career of more than 40 years. Brooks was one of the first African-American female graduates of Harvard Law School. As Atlanta's city attorney, she became the first female lawyer to serve as chief legal officer of a major American city in 1980, as well as Atlanta's first Black city attorney. Her many civic and professional activities include serving on the board of Bennett College and Atlanta's Saint Joseph's Hospital, and becoming chair of both the Georgia Board of Bar Examiners and the National Conference of Bar Examiners.

**Dorothy Edwards, B.A. 1962**, and **Paul Edwards, B.S.E.E. 1962**, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 19, 2011. The pair met in the lunch line while at Howard.

**Marsha A. Francis, B.A. 1966**, retired from the Senior Intelligence Service of the Central Intelligence Agency at the end of 2010. She was awarded the Career Intelligence Medal for her 40 years of exceptional service to the agency.

**Sherry Winston, Mus.B. 1968**,



performed with Stevie Wonder during a celebration for radio personality Hal Jackson's 97th birthday and his 72 years in broadcasting. Winston and Wonder performed his song "Pastime Paradise," which is also on Winston's sixth CD, *For Your Love*.

**Marie Randolph Wright, Dip.N. 1969**, retired from Howard University Hospital on Aug. 15, 2011. Wright joined the staff of the Hospital (formerly called Freedmen's Hospital) in 1969. Through the years, she worked as a staff nurse, assistant head nurse and head nurse in various departments. She was working in the Outpatient department when she retired.



### We Want to Know!

Share the milestones in your life with old friends and classmates. Please send the information to [ouc@howard.edu](mailto:ouc@howard.edu) or mail to *Howard Magazine*, 2225 Georgia Ave., NW Suite 603 Washington, DC 20059

## '70s

**Nathaniel C. Nichols, B.A. 1970**, was elected

to the Court of Common Pleas of Delaware County, Pa. His term expires in 2022. In

1974, Nichols began serving at the Delaware County Legal Assistance Association. He then went into private practice founding the firm Early, Nichols and Givens. In 1986, he joined the faculty of Widener Law School and has also served as dean of students and the director of clinical programs.

**Denise Spriggs, B.A. 1972**, was named interim dean of the Charlotte School of Law. Spriggs joined the law school faculty in fall 2006 and has served as the associate dean of students, an associate professor and most recently as associate dean for academics.

**Denise Ray, B.S. 1974**, married John Shields on Sept. 9, 2011. Ray is a deputy chief of the Juvenile Branch of Philadelphia Family Court, and Shields is a retired juvenile probation officer and director of the Sonny Hill Community Involvement Basketball League.

## '80s

**Keith Norris, M.D. 1980**, executive vice president for Research and Health Affairs at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science,



# Milestones

Alumni

## Alumnus Flies High With Tuskegee Airmen's *Red Tails*

—By Fern Gillespie (B.A. '79)

Classic action-packed dramas such as *The Rockford Files*, *Magnum P.I.*, *Quantum Leap*, *JAG* and *NCIS* all have a powerful Howard University connection. **Chas (Charles) Floyd Johnson (B.A. '62; J.D. '65)** is the Emmy Award-winning executive producer of these popular television thrillers that have captivated audiences through the decades.

This January, Johnson entered a new stage in his career. Together with legendary filmmaker George Lucas, he has brought the action epic Tuskegee Airmen tale *Red Tails* to the big screen with stars Cuba Gooding Jr. and Terrence Howard. The film about the legendary African-American combat pilots who flew during World War II was 20 years in the making, and Johnson serves as executive producer.

"George Lucas, through his Lucasfilm company, always saw the importance of these men and felt strongly that they deserved to have their story told to the widest audience possible," says Johnson. "The Tuskegee Airmen's achievements undoubtedly impacted the beginnings of our civil rights movement."

Like his small-screen heroes, Johnson's career has been entwined with military affairs, detective investigations and legal cases. During the 1960s, he handled more than 350 court-martial cases as an army defense counselor, worked for the U.S. Copyright Office as an attorney-advisor and lived in Paris as a U.S. representative to UNESCO.

He admits these early experiences prepared him for Hollywood. A former Howard Player, Johnson was fascinated by the entertainment business. In the early '70s, he left the government for an entry-level job at Universal Studios.

"I was the most educated guy in the mailroom," he laughs.

After earning a business affairs spot working on *The Rockford Files*, he later became the first Black executive producer of a prime-time network drama and founded the Oscar Micheaux Awards, named after the first major African-American feature filmmaker.

Johnson says through it all, he cherishes the impact that Howard had on his life. E. Franklin Frazier and Patricia Harris were two of his professors. Stokely Carmichael (Kwame Ture) was a classmate.

"There were so many incredible minds there," he recalls. "I had the thrill of my lifetime at Howard."

*Gillespie is a writer based in New Jersey.*



received the Meritorious Achievement Award from the National Medical Association for his life's dedication to improving the health of millions of Americans. From 2009 to 2011, Norris ranked among the top 25 most highly funded NIH investigators in the nation, with more than \$20 million per year for 2009–2011, and was among the three most-cited scientists in the world in chronic kidney disease and health disparities.

**George W. Draper III, J.D. 1981**, was appointed to the Missouri Supreme Court by Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon. Draper was chief judge of the court from 2005 to 2006. Prior to his appointment to the appellate court, he served as an associate circuit judge from 1994 to 1998 and then as a circuit judge from 1998 to 2000 in St. Louis County, where his docket included significant criminal and civil cases. Draper has also served on the Judicial Conference Task Force on Drug Courts and oversaw cases including child abuse and neglect.

**Lani Hall, B.A. 1983; M.B.A. 1992**, graduated with the 10th Anniversary Class of the Diversity Leadership Academy, a program of the American Institute for Managing Diversity. Hall is diversity manager for GE Energy.

**Jimmie Walton Paschall, B.A. 1983**, was named executive vice president for enterprise diversity and inclusion at Wells Fargo. As EVP, Paschall's responsibilities will include consulting with and providing guidance to the company's various lines of business, and leading the company's Enterprise Diversity Council and Team Member Network programs.

**Faye Outlaw, M.P.A. 1985**, was named 2011 County Leader of the Year by *American City & County* magazine. The magazine cited her role in bringing county leaders together to address economic challenges and reduce unemployment during the recession, as well as position her county for a solid future. Outlaw is the administrator of St. Lucie County, Fla.

**Millicent Gorham, M.B.A. 1986**, received an honorary doctorate in nursing from Simmons College. She was the keynote speaker for the pinning ceremony for the School of Nursing and Health Sciences. She was also inducted as an honorary fellow into the American Academy of Nursing on Oct. 15, 2011.

**Jewel C. Love, M.A. 1987**, published the book *Daily Jewels: Inspirational Readings for Every Moment*, which features a collection of inspirational writings.



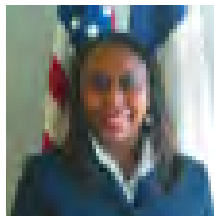
**Florence Avognon, B.A. 1988**, was named one of the 2012 California State Teachers of the Year. Her state award is in addition to her earning Teacher of the Year honors at the local agency level (L.A. County Office of Education), the county level (L.A. County) and the state (California). Prior to joining LACOE, she was an English/speech/history teacher at the Los Angeles Unified School District's Crenshaw Senior High School.

**Rosie Allen Herring, B.A. 1988**, Fannie Mae's national director of corporate giving, was featured in a July/August issue of *Diversity Journal*, which focuses on corporate philanthropy.

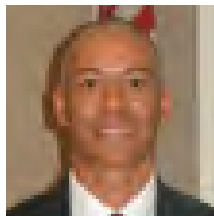
**Damian Rouson, B.S.M.E. 1989**, published the textbook *Scientific Software Design: The Object-Oriented Way* (Cambridge University Press, 2011). The book introduces object-oriented programming in modern Fortran, architectural design patterns in Fortran, and C++ and scalable design of multiphysics models.

## '90s

**Rosalind A. Jeffers, B.A. 1990**, was appointed assistant dean for student affairs and director of the Equal Justice Program at Texas Wesleyan School of Law. Jeffers comes to the law school from the Dallas city attorney's office, where she served as executive assistant city attorney and chief community prosecutor.



**Vincent Ewing, J.D. 1991**, was appointed general counsel for AC Transit by the agency's board of directors. Ewing was the former deputy city attorney for Los Angeles, assistant city attorney for Santa Rosa, city attorney for East Palo Alto and a prosecutor of violent crimes for the City of Los Angeles.



**Adam Cloud, B.A. 1992; J.D. 1996**, was elected to a four-year term as city treasurer for Hartford, Conn., and is the first African-American male to hold the position. The treasurer is the sole custodian of the city's assets, the fiduciary of the city's nearly \$1 billion pension fund and the co-issuer of all of the city's debt, along with the mayor.

**Kasim Reed, B.A. 1992; J.D. 1995**, made the top 10 list of "Root 100" notable African Americans. Reed is cited as the 10th most influential



personality of the 100 honorees. Reed currently serves as the 56th mayor of Atlanta and is on Howard's Board of Trustees.

**Dejuan Ross, B.B.A. 1994**, was named assistant general manager of Toyota Motor Sales, Inc., Chicago sales region. Ross has been with the company for nearly 16 years and held numerous positions

within a variety of Toyota and Lexus offices throughout the U.S. Prior to his promotion in Chicago, Ross held the titles of Lexus Customer Services Operations Manager and Lexus Vehicle Operations Manager in the Lexus southern area in Atlanta.

**Michelle D. Robertson, B.S.C.E. 1995**, received the Washington Black Engineer of the Year award and the Civilian Engineer of the Year award by Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC). Robertson is a project manager at NAVFAC.



**Rhadi Ferguson, B.S.M.E. 1997; M.A.T. 2002**, was appointed to the editorial board of the peer-reviewed *Journal of Asian Martial Arts* as an associate editor. He was appointed due to his work and achievements in the field of combat sports. Ferguson is a 2004 USA Judo Olympian and former pro Mixed Martial Arts fighter.



Help future Bison alumni reach their milestones in life by giving back to the **Student Need Fund**. Every dollar goes to support needy students to help them stay in college and become successful. Go to [www.howard.edu](http://www.howard.edu) and click "Give to Howard" now!



**Amelia J. Cobb, B.S. 1999**, was named a White House "Champion of Change" for domestic violence awareness. Cobb is the founder and president of The Wright Group. In this capacity, she leads the develop-



ment of public health demonstration projects and business philanthropy to address social problems within underserved communities.

**Reginald Simmons, B.A. 1999**, was promoted to senior product manager of infectious disease at MedImmune. His responsibilities include HCP, consumer and managed markets strategy and the development of customer-facing tactics.

**Valyncia Simmons, B.A. 1999**, was added to the partnership of Baker Williams Matthiesen LLP, a boutique law firm. Simmons' practice focuses on trademark enforcement and litigation for famous as well as developing brands. She also handles matters relating to unfair competition, copyrighted material, false advertising and misappropriation of name and likeness.

'OOS

**Dennis Freeman, B.A. 2000**, was one of four journalists selected for the Associated Press Sports Editors' new nine-month program to train mid-career journalists of color for sports department leadership positions. Freeman writes for the *Beverly Hills* (Calif.) *Times*.



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You can also download a copy of the media kit at **www.howard.edu/newsroom/publications.htm**.

**Justin Hansford, B.A. 2003**, was selected as one of the "Nation's Best Advocates: 40 Lawyers Under 40." Hansford is an assistant professor at Saint Louis University School of Law.



**Clover McFadden, B.S. 2003**, launched the accessories company Circa 1837, which lets women display their school spirit through a collection of officially licensed collegiate and sorority merchandise.

**Kirin G. Smith, B.S.C.E. 2004**, was named director of development for the Howard University Alumni Club of Baltimore. As director, she will spearhead fundraising efforts and special events. Smith is a project manager with the City of Baltimore Department of Transportation, Engineering and Construction Division, owner of Sivoy Signature Events and lead organizer for the West Baltimore Strategic Alliance.

**Nathan Tagg, J.D. 2004**, was appointed to the Michigan Board of Auctioneers, a nine-member board that regulates the practice and licensing of auctioneers in Michigan. Tagg is a partner at Tripp and Tagg, Attorneys at Law.

**Lindsay N. Jordan, B.A. 2006**, married Carlton Hicks on July 30, 2011, in Washington, D.C., at the Dumbarton Chapel on the Howard Law campus. The pair met in the Howard



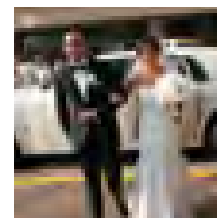
Gospel Choir during their freshman year. Jordan is a technical assistance officer with the Washington Area Community Investment Fund and Hicks is a musician and producer. The couple resides in Washington, D.C.

**Tiffani Bell, B.S.S.C.S. 2008**, was noted by CNN News as one of eight entrepreneurs diversifying the technical scene.

Bell launched the website Pencil You, where customers can book salon appointments online, as well as help salons expand their social media presence on sites like Twitter and Facebook.



**Jack N.E. Pitts Jr., J.D. 2008**, and **Raina Marie Johnson, J.D. 2008**, were married on Sept. 4, 2011, in Atlantic City, N.J. Pitts is a corporate attorney with the international law firm of Debevoise & Plimpton LLP. Johnson is an employment and civil rights defense attorney with the New Jersey/New York law firm of Methfessel and Werbel. They reside in northern New Jersey.



**James Shields, B.B.A. 2008**, recently held an art exhibit for the launch of his new book, *The Hip Hop Coloring Book*. The book was created to educate and promote creativity through the medium of hip-hop culture and covers four main points of hip-hop: rapping, deejaying, break dancing and graffiti.

**Crystal Cranmore, B.A. 2010**, a CBSPhilly.com producer, was awarded a 2012 Knight Digital Media Center Fellowship and will study for a week at University of California's Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism. Cranmore is one of 20 fellows selected for the digital storytelling workshop, where she will learn all aspects of multimedia news production from basic storyboarding to hands-on instruction with hardware and software for production of multimedia stories.

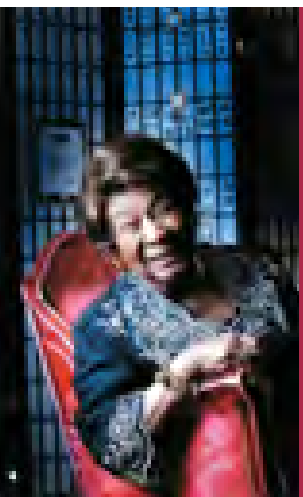
**Nichole Bestman, B.B.A. 2011**, started the Gbomai Bestman Foundation, an organization that strives to prevent women from death due to pregnancy-related causes in post-war Liberia. Bestman started the organization with her mother, Gbomai, at the end of her sophomore year as an international business major at Howard.



# In Memoriam

Alumni

## '30s



**Thelma L. Groomes, B.A. 1932**, died Aug. 30. Groomes was an educator, teaching English, reading and social studies at Hine Junior High School from 1959 until 1972, and adult education classes in government

and sociology at Roosevelt High School in Washington, D.C. At Howard, Groomes was a past president of the Women's Club and a founding member of the Friends of the Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel. She belonged to the NAACP, the National Council of Negro Women and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. Her biography was included on the History Makers website, an archive of African-American life histories. She was 100 years old.

**Muriel Petioni, B.S. 1934, M.D. 1937**, a prominent Harlem physician and community activist, died Dec. 6, 2011. She was the only woman in her medical school graduating class at Howard, and soon after became a trailblazer in the medical field. During a career of more than half a century, she worked as a school physician for the city's health department, maintained her private practice and was a founder or leader of many community organizations promot-

ing health care, housing development and education in Harlem. She mentored dozens of Black medical students and founded the Friends of Harlem Hospital. She was 97 years old.

## '40s

**Romelee Howard, M.D. 1940**, died Nov. 16, 2011. Howard worked for the U.S. Public Health Service in Tennessee, Alabama, Florida and the Bahamas. He served as director of the U.S. Public Health Service Mission in Monrovia, Liberia, from 1948 to 1952, where he conducted research on the use of chloroquine in the treatment of malaria. He opened a private medical practice in the Bronx, New York, which he maintained until 1980. He was an active participant, and an office holder, in the National Medical Association. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. He was 100 years old.

**Richard L. Francis, B.S. 1941; M.D. 1944**, died Oct. 1, 2011. Francis was a veteran of the Korean War, serving as a captain with the Army Medical Corps. In 1968, New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller appointed Francis as the first African-American director of a New York state facility for the developmentally disabled. He later went on to become chief of medical services, retiring in 1988.

**James E. Bowman, B.S. 1943; M.D. 1946**, died Sept. 28, 2011. An expert in inherited blood diseases and population genetics, he was the first tenured African-American professor in the University of Chicago's Biological Sciences Division. In the 1950s, he helped establish Nemazee Hospital in Shiraz, Iran, then served as the hospital's chairman of pathology before moving to Chicago. From 1973 to 1984,

he also directed the Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center of the University of Chicago. He was 88 years old.

**John David Johnson, LL.B. 1943**, died July 19, 2011. Johnson was a civil rights leader who became Miami-Dade County's second Black judge in 1955. He won cases that led to racial integration in the Orange Bowl Stadium and the Miami Springs Golf Club. He also helped develop the Miami-Dade Food Stamp Program, the Family Health Clinic and the Model Cities Legal Services Program. He was 97 years old.

**Jonathan C. Gibbs, B.S. 1946; M.D. 1950**, died May 23, 2011. After completing medical school, Gibbs began training in general surgery at Jersey City Medical Center, overcoming segregation and racial discrimination to become the first African-American surgical chief resident. In 1975, he established the Catharine Allen Gibbs Memorial Health Center, which, for the next 36 years, became a place for thousands to receive quality health care. He was 87 years old.

**William Astor Kirk Sr., B.A. 1946; M.A. 1947**, died Aug. 12, 2011. After becoming active in civic life in Austin, Texas, Kirk organized peaceful protests that led to the desegregation of the Austin Public Library and other public facilities. In 1958, he became the first African American to receive a doctorate in political science from the University of Texas. His distinguished career as a federal government executive and management consultant began in 1968, when he was personally recruited by President Lyndon Johnson to be deputy regional director (Southwest Region) of the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity. He continued government service under Presidents Nixon, Ford, Carter and Reagan before his retirement. He was 88 years old.

**D. Victoria Ellis, B.A. 1948**, died May 27, 2011. After she received a Ph.D. from Northwestern University in 1953, she married Robert A. Ellis Jr. in 1954. She taught at

# In Memoriam

## Alumni

Tennessee State University before moving to Princeton, N.J., with her husband. She worked at the Educational Testing Service and taught German and English in the Princeton Regional Schools from 1956 until her retirement in 1993. She was 82 years old.

**Imogene G. Johnson, M.D. 1949**, died Aug. 18, 2011. She was the first African-American physician to complete a residency program in pathology at Buffalo General Hospital. Over the years, she held various staff positions as a pathologist at Buffalo Mercy Hospital, Erie County Medical Center and the former Buffalo Columbus Hospital. She was also an associate professor in pathology at the State University of New York at Buffalo, School of Medicine. She was 90 years old.



**Raymond L. Johnson Sr., J.D. 1950**, an original Tuskegee Airman, Judge Pro Tem, civil rights attorney, college professor and community activist, died Dec. 31, 2011. Johnson, who practiced law for nearly 50 years, was a leader of the Los Angeles chapter of the NAACP in the 1960s and 1970s. He served the Los Angeles community during battles against overt segregation and discrimination through his leadership in the NAACP, including his work to expose hiring discrimination against Blacks by major Los Angeles hospitals. He was also involved in the creation of Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science and Martin Luther King Jr. Hospital in South Los Angeles. Johnson was one of 300 Tuskegee Airmen to be awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the nation's highest civilian honor. He was 89 years old.

## '50s

**Arcenta Orton, LL.B. 1952**, died July 17, 2011. Orton was a professor of law and psychology at St. Mary's College in Moraga, Calif., for more than 40 years. He also served for many years as a psychotherapist at the California Medical Facility in Vacaville, Calif. In 2006, he was one of approximately 30 professors worldwide selected to be presenters at Oxford University for The Oxford Roundtable.

**Joseph B. Harris, D.D.S. 1953**, died June 25, 2011. A retired dentist, he was a strong community activist and volunteer in Detroit, having established the Belleview Detroit Public School Adopt-A-School program. He also served on several boards, including the American Heart Association of Michigan, the Visiting Nurses Association of Southeastern Michigan and the Michigan Board of Dentistry. He was inducted into the Omicron Kappa Upsilon Honorary Dental Society.

**Carson Carl Johnson Jr., M.S. 1954**, died Sept. 22, 2010. Johnson was a professor of psychology at Emmanuel College, Boston, where he taught for 35 years, during 14 of which he chaired the Department of Psychology. He retired as professor *emeritus* from the college in 1998, and a scholarship in his name was established. He was 80 years old.

**Yolanda Inez Jones Mapp, M.D. 1957**, died Sept. 5, 2011. Mapp was a board-certified internist and a fellow of the American College of Physicians. She worked for more than 35 years at Temple University, practicing internal medicine, hematology and oncology. She also served as the acting director of student health for more than 10 years. She retired in 2000. She was 81 years old.

**Landrum Shields Sr., B.D. 1958**, died June 27, 2011. Shields was the first African-American president of the Indianapolis Public School System Board. He was a member of the Howard University Alumni Club of Indianapolis and worked passionately to support the club by serving as its parliamentarian and working on the Black Male Initiative program.

## '60s

**Virginia Jones Clarke-McDuffie, Dip.N. 1961**, died Feb. 26, 2011. Clarke-McDuffie was a graduate of Dunbar High School in Washington, D.C., and went on to graduate from Freedmen's Hospital School of Nursing. She worked as a psychiatric nurse at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Long Beach, Calif., for more than 20 years.

**Rebecca Clarkson, Dip.N. 1961**, died Aug. 20, 2011. Clarkson graduated from Freedmen's Hospital School of Nursing.

**Vernon Trevor Jones Sr., B.S. 1962**, died Oct. 21, 2011. Jones served at Howard as a research analyst for the vice president for academic affairs from 1976 to 1990. Before then, he served as assistant director and as an alumni representative for Alumni Relations.

**Kenneth E. Armston, B.F.A. 1965**, died March 8, 2010. Armston was a member of the U.S. Air Force. He also was in the Peace Corps, working in Monrovia, Liberia, and Dakar, Senegal. He was 75 years old.

Correction: Fall 2011: In the article, "Breaking Through the STEM Ceiling," Aprille J. Ericsson, Ph.D., is credited with managing a current budget of \$250 billion. The correct number should have been \$250 million. We regret this error.

**Howard Bell Jr., B.S.P. 1966**, died July 22, 2011. Bell was a former president of the Howard University Alumni Club of Indianapolis.

**Gwendolyn Simpson, B.Arch. 1969**, died Sept. 22, 2011. A member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., she was an avid traveler who visited places such as Africa and Haiti.

## '70s

**Ascharj L. Dua, M.A. 1971**, died Dec. 18, 2011. Dua was stationed in Indonesia while in the Indian Foreign Service. In the 1960s, he migrated to the U.S. from Punjab, India. He worked with the Department of Commerce, and was also an entrepreneur. He was 79 years old.

**William Elliott Jr., D.D.S. 1971**, died Oct. 19, 2011. Elliott received his undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland, College Park, and after earning his degree from Howard completed an internship at the Milwaukee Veterans Hospital in Wisconsin. He was a graduate of the L.D. Pankey Institute in Key Biscayne, Fla., and received a mastership of General Dentistry from the Academy of General Dentistry. He practiced dentistry in Cambridge and Salisbury, Md., for 39 years. He was 66 years old.

**William E. Latimer Jr., J.D. 1971**, died Sept. 30, 2011. After graduating from Howard, Latimer moved to New Jersey, where he began his career working for Legal Aid. He then became one of the few minority attorneys for the Essex County Prosecutor's Office. Latimer also worked for the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office for several years before serving as a public defender for the Essex County Public Defenders Office. He retired in 2007 after a 36-year legal career.

**Ben Teplitz, Ph.D. 1973**, died Aug. 4, 2011. He was a journalist for more than 30 years, covering the metals and asphalt industries. He also taught social sciences at Coppin State College in Baltimore. He was 78 years old.

**Debra Holloway, B.A. 1977**, a silver medalist in taekwondo at the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, Korea, died Dec. 1, 2011. Holloway was a six-time national champion, winning the title in four different weight classes from 1976–1987. She also won the 5th Pan Am Taekwondo Championships held in Guayaquil, Ecuador, in 1986, took bronze at the 6th Pan Am Taekwondo Championships in Lima, Peru, in 1988, won a silver medal at the 1985 World Tournament in Seoul, and participated in the 1987 World Championships in Barcelona, Spain.

## '80s

**Dawn Della DeVaux, B.A. 1985**, died July 24, 2011. DeVaux was the university ombudsman for students at Fort Valley State University in Georgia. She joined the faculty there in 2005 as an assistant professor of fine arts. She also served as interim director for enrollment management and interim director of financial aid. She was 49 years old.

## '00s

**Cathy White, B.S. 2004**, died Sept. 1, 2011. She worked as an industry publicist and health and fitness expert.

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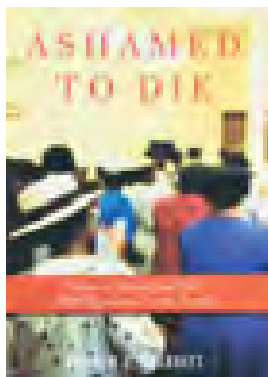
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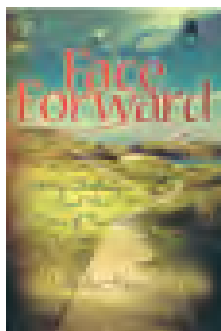
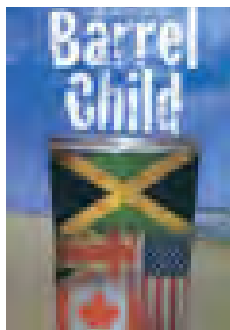
# Bison Bookshelf



**Ashamed to Die** (Lawrence Hill Books), by **Andrew J. Skerrett** (B.A. '90), examines how HIV/AIDS impacts a small town in South Carolina. The book reveals not only

the conservatism of the South and its oppression of Blacks, but also the tragedy associated with the epidemic.

**Barrel Child** (Pen and Pad Publishing LLC), by **Pamela K. Marshall** (M.S.W. '06), is a fictional account of the struggles a Jamaican family must overcome when circumstance forces proof of a mother's love to be sent via mail, and the ripple effects of material things taking the place of a mother's presence.



**Face Forward** (Morgan James Publishing), by **Michele Howe Clark** (M.B.A. '97), takes you on a journey from the author's devastating cancer diagnosis through her transformational recovery. A self-

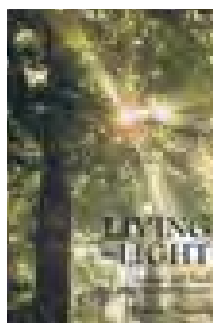
described cancer "thrivor," the author offers inspiration and hope.



**Zulu Chest Cutter: From the Slums of Soweto to Success in America** (Acanthus Publishing), by **Arthur N.S. Mcunu Jr.** (M.D. '93), is a gripping autobiography that recounts Mcunu's rise

from poverty in South Africa to studying at Howard and becoming a successful heart surgeon. Mcunu is the director of cardiothoracic surgery at Howard University Hospital and an assistant professor of surgery in the College of Medicine.

**Living in the Light** (iUniverse Inc.), by **Susan Duncan** (B.A. '70), is a series of essays that explore spiritual and practical approaches for overcoming obstacles and achieving goals.

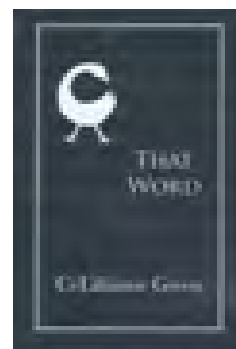
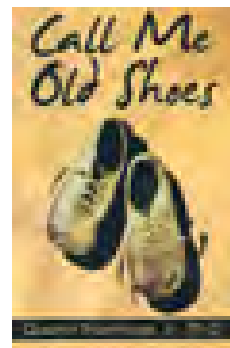


It also uncovers different methods of trusting one's intuition, meditating and encouraging others.



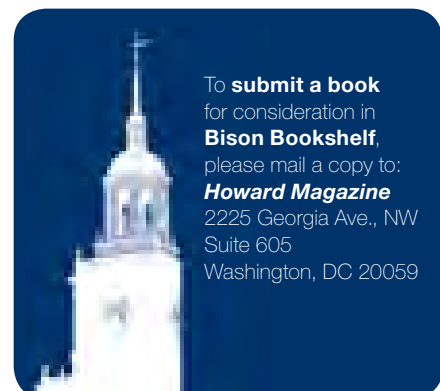
**Genesis and Life** (Xulon Press), by **Cleven L. Jones Sr.** (M.Div. '76), offers inspirational and devotional thoughts with real-life applications on fatherhood, faith and finding forgiveness.

**Call Me Old Shoes** (Publish America Baltimore), by **Quentin Newhouse Jr.** (M.S. '74; Ph.D. '80), is a compilation of 50 poems intended to uplift and support old habits and techniques to maintain personal and spiritual well-being.



**That Word** (C. Green Press), by **CeLillianne Green** (J.D. '84), is an epic poem about African-American history, legacy and love. It transports the reader through mystical experiences of

the past, present and future.



To submit a book for consideration in **Bison Bookshelf**, please mail a copy to:  
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# Upcoming · Events



## 88th Charter Day Dinner

Saturday, March 10, 2012, at six o'clock  
Hilton Washington and Towers Hotel  
1919 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20008

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

## ✓ Alumni Trustee Voting

Alumni Trustee Elections are coming and the only way you can make your vote count is to go online and register. **You will only be able to vote online this year**, so it is important for you to sign up now. Your vote helps select your representative who will work to guide and direct the future of this university. Please visit the Alumni Trustee Voting page at <http://www.howard.edu/alumni/trustee> for more information.



## Commencement and Reunions

Please join Howard University and our extended family for this year's Class Reunion Weekend and Commencement ceremony. In 2012, Howard University will celebrate the commencement **class of 1962** and all class years ending in **2 and 7**. Come relive our historic past while embracing the future! Please visit the official Class Reunion Weekend page at <http://www.howard.edu/alumni/reunions> for more details.



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