

WINTER 20

HOWARD

m a g a z i n e

Service
Initiatives

Build
Community

Going beyond the campus to
deliver high-impact outreach
in the District of Columbia.

Service Above All




I am continually impressed by the depth of Howard's service initiatives. Spanning several states, countries and continents, it is work that is ever-expanding and evolving.

Most impressively, right here in D.C., the University has established and cultivated partnerships and projects that not only continue to move *Howard forward*, but allows the University to give and serve the city that it calls home.

Howard has the great advantage of being in close proximity to politics and Fortune 500 business headquarters, which creates a plethora of opportunities for the University; however, in a city where the poverty rate is 17.4 percent and some of the most disadvantaged Wards are predominantly Black, there is an ongoing call to action—a call that Howard continues to answer.

Throughout the pages of this issue, you'll read stories about new facilities east of the river that will give residents in Wards 7 and 8 better access to health care; learning initiatives that creates early access points to higher education for young learners; an alumni-owned organization in southeast D.C. that provides a safe space for victims of gun violence; and much more.

New in this issue, you will find at the end of each article an icon that represents the pillar of *Howard Forward 2024* it relates to, along with a new Howard Forward section that's dedicated to providing updates on the strategic plan. It is my goal for alumni to become as familiar with the strategic plan as our administration, students, faculty and staff.

Read these pages with Bison pride and continue to move *alma mater* forward through your own acts of service. 

Excellence in Truth
and Service,
Khesia Taylor



Enhance
Academic
Excellence



Inspire New
Knowledge



Serve Our
Community



Improve
Efficiency and
Effectiveness



Achieve
Financial
Sustainability



Alumni on the Move

We hear so many amazing stories about alumni making an impact in their careers and communities, but we just don't have the space to publish articles about all of them in *Howard Magazine*. If you have a unique or fascinating story about an alumna or alumnus, we want to know about it. Please email us at magazine@howard.edu.

PRESIDENT

Wayne A. I. Frederick, M.D., MBA

VICE PRESIDENT, COMMUNICATIONS

Crystal Brown

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Khesia Taylor

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Brelaun Douglas; Katti Gray; Tamara E. Holmes; Cassandra Spratling

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Justin D. Knight

DESIGN

MANIFEST

COPYEDITING

Linda Daily

Howard Magazine has a circulation of 85,000 and is published three times a year by the Office of University Communications. Please send letters and address changes to:

Howard Magazine
Office of University Communications
1851 9th Street NW
Suite 402
Washington, D.C. 20001
Phone: 202-238-8485
Email: magazine@howard.edu
magazine.howard.edu

Cover:

Howard University students assist with clean-up activities during the annual Howard University Day of Service.
Photo: Justin D. Knight

Back Cover:

Howard University Main Campus
Photo: Justin D. Knight

Stay up-to-date with events
and news at Howard:
newsroom.howard.edu

Like us on

Facebook—[Facebook.com/howarduniversity](https://www.facebook.com/howarduniversity)

Follow us on:

Twitter—[Twitter.com/HowardU](https://twitter.com/HowardU)

Instagram—[@Howard1867](https://www.instagram.com/Howard1867)

YouTube—[Youtube.com/HowardUniversity](https://www.youtube.com/HowardUniversity)

JUSTIN D. KNIGHT

HOWARD

WINTER 20

features

24 The Value of Service

by Brelaun Douglas

28 An Agent of Change

by Tamara E. Holmes

32 Shaping the Path to Higher Education

by Katti Gray

36 A Space to Heal

by Khesia Taylor

40 A Scholar Pipeline

by Tamara E. Holmes



BISON

04 Bison Philanthropy

A gift to the School of Dentistry creates new opportunities for students.

06 In Their Shoes

Current Howard students reflect on why they chose Howard and what makes it a relevant HBCU.

08 Bison Gallery

Memories from Accepted Student Day, Commencement and Freshmen Move-in

14 On Campus

Keep up with the latest news at HU.

20 Howard Forward

Updates on the University strategic plan.

LEGACY

44 Then and Now

A legacy family shares its story.

46 Alumni Profiles

Alex Aaron and Allison Green excel in business and entrepreneurship.

51 Milestones

Stay abreast of alumni achievements.

54 Bison Bookshelf

Latest alumni publications

56 In Memoriam

Remembering alumni



Upholding Long-standing Traditions

By Wayne A. I. Frederick (B.S. '92; M.D. '94; MBA '11)

Since its inception in 1867, the University has called the District of Columbia home. Its original founders believed that, with no bias toward race, gender, class, etc., everyone deserved to have access to the same quality educational opportunities that they experienced. As such, Howard played a significant role in educating former slaves, particularly from the District of Columbia.


One of the University's founding members, Sen. Henry Wilson (R-MA), who later became Vice President of the United States, authored legislation that abolished slavery in D.C. Howard University School of Law graduate Charlotte E. Ray was among the first women admitted to the D.C. bar. And, in response to the growing need for skilled African American teachers in the mid- to late-1800s, the University partnered with the Institution for the Education of Colored Youth in the District of Columbia.

Today, our beloved institution is a significant contributor to the Washington, D.C. economy, with more than 9,500 alumni living in the District. Howard also provides free legal services for residents; operates workforce development programs; offers health care services to D.C.'s most vulnerable populations; and our students, faculty, staff and alumni offer a helping hand via a plethora of service-learning initiatives. Howard University influences every facet of the District of Columbia. A few highlights of Howard's major contributions include:

- The Howard University Dual Enrollment Program aims to provide high-achieving District of Columbia Public School junior and senior students with an opportunity to take college-level courses, earn college credits and begin their college careers prior to enrolling at an institution of higher learning.
- Howard University's Small Business Development Center has helped secure more than \$12 million in loan money for small businesses.
- The University operates a workforce development program that trains 50 students for the technology workforce.
- The Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center is the flagship setting for the study and practice of civil rights law at Howard University and its mission is to expand civil rights, human rights, freedom, and equal justice under the law by integrating legal advocacy, grassroots organizing, and academic study.



- The Howard University Middle School for Mathematics and Science serves nearly 300 students who are residents of D.C.
- Howard University students, faculty, staff and alumni exemplify the University's motto: Truth and Service every day, often recognized for completing thousands of hours of service in Washington, D.C. each year.

Howard University touches every facet of the District of Columbia and has been a longtime partner in helping the District expand and improve services and economic opportunities for its residents. Howard will continue to embark on innovations that support social engagement and prepare public-minded leaders for the future. Thank you for your continued support as we work to move *Howard Forward*. 

Excellence in Truth and Service,

Wayne A. I. Frederick, M.D., MBA
President

Paying It Forward Through Giving

By Brelaun Douglas (B.A. '16)

Dr. Amarjit Singh Marwah (D.D.S. '58), the man responsible for the smiles of such Hollywood stars as Elizabeth Taylor, Sidney Poitier and Muhammad Ali, has made it his commitment to bring smiles to the D.C. community.

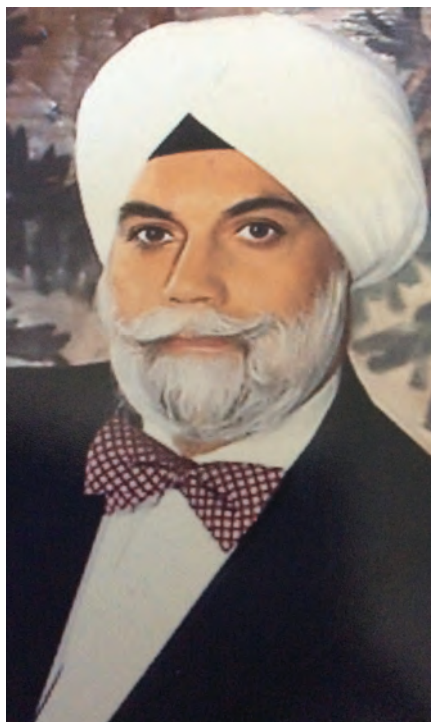
Over the last two years, Marwah has donated \$250,000 to Howard's School of Dentistry, with more to come. His goal is to provide funds for dental students' education and to help set up a special dental clinic. He does this not because he sees it as a favor, but because he sees it as his duty to give back to the school that provided for him.

After a month at sea in 1953, Marwah arrived in America as a Fulbright Scholar with the Guggenheim Foundation to continue his studies in periodontics. He went on to receive his M.S. in oral pathology at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry, but he still could not practice on his own.

"I could teach with my American and my Indian [qualifications]," he said, "but I could not practice dentistry. I had to have an American Doctor of Dental Surgery, and in those days there was hardly any possibility to do an American D.D.S. for a foreign graduate."

And that is when Howard's School of Dentistry accepted him as a student.

"Howard gave me the education," he said. "It gave me the privilege and the credentials I needed to go into medicine in this country; without the Doctor of



Dental Surgery from Howard, I couldn't do that."

During his time at Howard, Marwah was given a fellowship, where he taught in the afternoons as his schedule allowed and also did his clinical work. As part of his fellowship, he was required to complete his clinical work in four semesters; he finished in three, earning his Doctor of Dental Surgery in 1958.

"It's not a favor to any university that I give," he said. "It's a commitment. [Howard] gave me the education so I can stand on my own and make a living. And I did very well in this country."

Marwah has been in the United States for 66 years and practiced for close to 50, raising three daughters and teaching at the University of Illinois and the University of Southern California in the process. He served as a city commissioner in Los Angeles for 18 years and helped to establish the Hollywood Sikh temple in 1969—the first Sikh temple in Los Angeles; earlier this year, on his 93d birthday, he was recognized with a street naming at the location of the temple.

Despite all that he's given, Marwah has no plans on slowing down. Outside of Howard, he has given a quarter of a million dollars to the University of Illinois and created a fellowship for the institution. Through his Sharing, Caring and Services Foundation, he works to educate the poor in India and provide training at health facilities, villages and school systems there. And while he has already given the Howard School of Dentistry \$250,000, he has committed to donating an additional \$250,000 within the next several months. For Marwah, the true purpose of the donation is to serve students and the people of the community.

On the lasting impact of his donation, Marwah said: "My donation to Howard is going to help people—the underprivileged who can't afford [care]—so that they'll have health facilities to access. That's where my donation to Howard will go." 🙏



**HOWARD
UNIVERSITY**

FOUNDERS WALK ENGRAVED BRICK PAVER PROGRAM

**FAMILY LEGACY PAVER \$500 (LIMITED AVAILABILITY)
KEEPSAKE REPLICA \$40
PATHFINDER BRICK \$100
INNER CIRCLE BRICK \$250**

For more information, contact Cheryl Green in the
Division of Development and Alumni Relations at 202-238-2340

In Their Shoes

By Khesia Taylor

Why I Chose Howard

Every year, Howard admits students from all over the country and from around the world. Each student comes with different goals, visions, passions and dreams. While they are each different in terms of where they come from and their professional aspirations, what they all have in common is their commitment to scholarship, academics, and the overall mission of Howard University.

Howard's Presidential Scholars are selected based on their high academic achievements, having at least a 3.75 GPA, and at least a 1500 SAT or 34-36 ACT. For the 2019-20 academic year, Howard admitted 14 students under the program. *Howard Magazine* sat down with four of these academically gifted students who had the option to attend any college in the country. Read to find out why they chose Howard and their personal reflections on what the University means to them.



Ruth Davis

Freshman
Mechanical Engineering
Houston

I chose Howard University due to the unique opportunity to be around other Black students whose academic goals mirror my own. Howard University's status as a Tier I research school also provides me with a special opportunity to conduct research, which is what I plan to do in the future. My mom and dad both attended Howard and they speak very highly of their experiences and how it prepared them for their future endeavors. Their advice greatly influenced my decision to attend.

Howard University has produced generations of Black leaders and being able to attend such an illustrious institution will give me the opportunity to follow in their footsteps. In history, there hasn't been much support or many opportunities for Black students in STEM fields. Howard's ability to nurture and provide opportunities to Black students in science, technology, engineering and math is creating a pipeline that will help to increase the global presence of contributions from Black scholars in those fields.

1,400

The School of Education partners with the District of Columbia Public Schools to help more than 1,400 students receive computer science instruction.

Tristan Charles

Freshman
Biology
Trinidad and Tobago

As an international student, funding for college was hard to come by. Many universities said they didn't offer scholarships to international students, but Howard gave me the opportunity that others wouldn't. That's why Howard is important—it offers opportunities to those who deserve them but can't get them anywhere else. They provide a place for minorities to thrive and succeed.





Deante Taylor

Freshman
Computer Science
Trinidad and Tobago

I chose Howard University mainly because of the experience I knew it would give me. I didn't know much about Historically Black Colleges and Universities or Predominantly White Institutions, but after I did my research and learned more about these institutions, Howard resonated with me and it made my decision easy.

It is my belief that Howard University is a place where different cultures and people can intermingle and learn about their history and heritage. Howard also has a community for every cultural group, something that definitely does not apply to most schools. For me, being an international Caribbean student, joining in on their presence on campus has been amazing and not something I expected to happen. I am truly in love with my Howard experience and look forward to the future and what is to come!

25

The number of participants helped during each cycle of the technology training program for District youth ages 18–24, hosted by the Howard University Center for Urban Progress and the Opportunities Industrialization Center of D.C.

Andrew “Toba” Awoniyi

Freshman
Computer Engineering
Mansfield, Texas

As my high school career came to an end, the search for the right college became increasingly stressful. Various schools offered me money, superior education, and experiences that would last for a lifetime. Many offers seemed promising, but none of them seemed to truly encompass my ideal college experience. I decided to apply to Howard, when it offered me a Presidential Scholarship I knew I couldn't say no.

I chose Howard due its prevalent inclusivity and prestige. Howard University is a place that African Americans can come to cultivate their knowledge while being surrounded by people with similar origins and upbringings. I consider this, as well as similar values propagated at other HBCUs, necessary in order to uplift the Black community as a whole and grant us opportunities to make individual, positive impacts on the world.



Accepted Student Day

In April, more than 3,500 potential students and their families joined the Accepted Student Day program—an opportunity to explore the campus, ask questions, and get a taste of the campus culture before enrolling as a freshman in the fall.

The Howard University Accepted Student Day program featured actor and alumnus Anthony Anderson, from the hit ABC series “black-ish,” as the master of ceremonies. The crowd was entertained by performances from the “Showtime” Marching Band and Afro Blue vocal jazz ensemble, followed by an afternoon of visits to specific academic schools and colleges.

Accepted students and families heard presentations from student affairs, financial aid and top leaders of the University, including President Wayne A. I. Frederick. He pointed out to attendees that Howard ranks as the top producer of Black medical school applicants in the nation, as well as being the leading producer of applicants of the nation’s most prestigious MBA programs. Howard also produces 40 percent of Black dentists each year and the nation’s 200 Black dermatologists includes 82 graduates from Howard University. “The statistic that means most to me is you dropping your child off here,” President Frederick said. “We are trying to remove the barriers to their ambitions.”





Bison Gallery






Commencement 2019

Kasim Reed (B.A. '91, J.D. '95) addressed the Howard University graduating class during its 151st Commencement Convocation, where he called Howard a “dream factory for our people.” The former Atlanta mayor and trustee emeritus encouraged the new graduates to get busy making their dreams a reality without delay.

Reed, who served two terms as the 59th mayor of the city of Atlanta from 2010 to 2018, greeted more than 2,200 graduates. Their achievements included 309 master's degrees and 114 Ph.D.'s, with more than 400 students receiving professional degrees in law, medicine, pharmacy and dentistry.

During the ceremony, Reed told graduates to “Take full advantage of your physical capacity. I know that as you sit there

with your future ahead of you, you feel like you have all the time in the world. You don't. Excellence, greatness and passion are where the grind is. Do not squander your physical capacity to work all day and work all night when needed.”

Howard University President Wayne A. I. Frederick awarded honorary degrees to four distinguished leaders in the fields of finance, higher education and dentistry. Recipients included First Data Chairman and CEO Frank Bisignano; Xavier University of Louisiana President Emeritus Norman C. Francis, J.D.; President and CEO of the American Dental Education Association Jeanne C. Sinkford, D.D.S., Ph.D., and historian and former Howard University Provost Michael R. Winston. Reed was awarded the Presidential Medal of Achievement. 





Freshmen Move-In

Howard University faculty, staff, personnel and returning students welcomed freshman students as they began moving on campus in August.



JUSTIN D. KNIGHT



Universal Pictures and Monkeypaw Productions Present Screening of “Us”

This past spring, students had the chance to be among the first to view and discuss “Us,” the most recent terrifying thriller from visionary Oscar award-winning filmmaker Jordan Peele (“Get Out”). Universal Pictures and Peele’s Monkeypaw Productions presented an exclusive, theatrical-experience campus screening in Cramton Auditorium. The screening was followed by a Q&A with writer-director-producer Peele and the film’s stars: Oscar winner Lupita Nyong’o (“12 Years a Slave”) and “Black Panther” star Winston Duke.



Survey Reveals Howard’s Graduate School Outperforms in Key Areas

Howard University’s Graduate School outperforms its peer institutions in various key areas, according to the *2017 Survey of Earned Doctorates Report* (SED). Howard ranked highly in the areas of representation of women receiving Ph.D.’s; representation of research doctorates reporting interdisciplinary dissertation research; starting salaries of STEM doctorates; and diversity of Ph.D. recipients.

The 2017 Survey of Earned Doctorates was developed and sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and five other federal agencies: National Institutes of Health, Department of Education, National Endowment for the Humanities, Department of Agriculture, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The recently published SED is the latest census of U.S. graduate school profiles and trends in graduate education from data collection in 2017 by 428 institutions, including Howard. The annual profiles include statistics on demographic characteristics, field of study, history/trends/pathways, financial support and postdoctoral plans of Howard’s Ph.D. recipients. These results are compared to national data and peer-institution data in the same Carnegie classification.

25

In collaboration with the D.C. Office on Aging, the Multidisciplinary Gerontology Center has provided professional development for the aging network and allied professionals in the District of Columbia for more than 25 years.

Washington Business Journal Honors Trustee, Chief Operating Officer

The Washington Business Journal honored Howard University’s Board of Trustee member Leslie D. Hale and Howard’s Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Tashni-Ann Dubroy, Ph.D., with the 2019 Minority Business Leader Award.

An annual event hosted by the Washington Business Journal, the Minority Business Leader Awards recognize the top minority business owners and leaders in the community. The event honors the entrepreneurial drive, creativity and success of each of its honorees.

Hale is president and chief executive officer of RLJ Lodging Trust (RLJ), which is one of the largest publicly traded lodging real estate investment trusts in the U.S., with more than \$3 billion in assets and 150 hotels operating across the country.

Howard University Launches Pilot Research Program

Howard University and the National Institutes of Health have launched a pilot program called the NIH–Howard University Intramural Research Collaboration (NIH–HUIRC). The collaboration aims to successfully position Howard’s junior faculty on the path to becoming seasoned research investigators.

The first phase of the NIH–HUIRC will be a two-year pilot to engage junior faculty, graduate students and medical students to identify innovative ways to address routine and recurring issues that arise in scientific research collaborations.

Upon successful implementation of the pilot, the partnership’s subsequent phases will expand to include faculty and students from other academic programs in the University.

Howard University Graduate Gives \$1,500 in Student Scholarships

Jerron Hawkins, a 2019 graduate, made other students' lives more manageable through his Reach Foundation, a nonprofit scholarship fund. Hawkins launched the scholarship in September 2018 with his own money and awarded three \$500 scholarships to Howard University students before he graduated.

Reach Foundation's mission is to disrupt negative cycles and establish a productive and uplifting culture for collegiate minorities. The foundation will provide three types of scholarships, facilitate mentorship, and highlight the impact minority college students can have on their campuses and in their communities.



Two Howard University Students Named 2019 Boren Scholar and Fellow

The Institute of International Education (IIE), on behalf of the National Security Education Program (NSEP), awards David L. Boren Scholarships to undergraduate students and David L. Boren Fellowships to graduate students with the goal of adding important international and language components to their education through study abroad experiences in regions critical to U.S. interests. Two Howard University students, Diane Ijoma and Darryl L. Jones II, have been selected to receive the prestigious award.

Ijoma is a junior political science and economics major. She is an alumna of the Freshman Leadership Academy and is also involved in the International Affairs Society and the Petey Greene Program. She served as managing editor of *The Liberato*, Howard University's first publication dedicated to political discourse. As an intern for the U.S. Department of State, Ijoma worked closely with American diplomats serving in Juba, South Sudan. She spent last summer in Arusha, Tanzania, studying Swahili as a Critical Language Scholar. She was also named as a 2019 Competitiveness Scholar by the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Jones is a doctoral student in the Department of African Studies. His research focuses on the impact of desertification and drought on nomadic and pastoral societies, and traditional forms of slavery in the West African Sahel.



Cancer Center Recognizes National Men's Health Month

The Howard University Hospital Cancer Center recognized Men's Health Month with the annual Walk2Win 5K community walk (sponsored by Union Temple Baptist Church) and the inaugural Men's Health Conference, which featured the theme From One Brother to Another: A Conversation About Our Health. Both events were held in June during Men's Health Month to promote education about prostate cancer and encourage better health and wellness. Sponsored by Ameri group, Bayer and Myriad, the men's health conference featured a panel of experts who discussed health issues that men face and disease prevention efforts.

Graduate School Announces 2019–20 Just-Julian Scholars

The Office of the Provost and the Graduate School announced the recipients of the 2019–20 Just Julian Graduate Research Assistantship awards. The third cohort of Just Julian Scholars were selected based on each applicant's academic achievement, research interests and potential in conjunction with the mentor faculty member's research accomplishments and past mentoring success.

Twenty students have been awarded the research assistantship out of a pool of 31 applications representing 22 graduate programs. The recipients will receive support in the form of tuition remission and a one year \$20,000 stipend to conduct research under the direction of their research mentors.

Professor Appointed to Postsecondary Education Commission

Professor of Counseling Psychology Ivory Toldson, Ph.D., has been selected for the Commission on the Value of Postsecondary Education, a new panel created by leaders of The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Toldson is one of 30 higher education leaders, business representatives and foundation experts who will review the value of undergraduate certificates and degrees regarding where and what students are studying, how much their education costs and post-college earnings.

The commission's primary goal is to provide useful information to help colleges and universities take a critical look at their contribution to economic opportunities for the modern student, and to make changes in policy and practice to improve their contributions. As the only panel member representing an HBCU, Toldson's research and knowledge places him in a unique position to speak on the challenges students of color may face when earning degrees and realizing their economic benefits.

Communication, Culture and Media Studies Awarded \$20,000 Grant

The Howard University Department of Communication, Culture and Media Studies has been awarded a HumanitiesDC Vision Grant of \$20,000. The grant will support its research throughout D.C. neighborhoods for a project titled, "Communicating Across Cultures in a Changing City." The department's research faculty and doctoral students will facilitate a series of small group conversations with D.C. residents through May 2020 about the city's cultural history and explore how aggressive development and changes in emerging communication technologies impact racial divides among residents.

Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center Receives Major Awards

The Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center received the Collaboration Award from CIEE (the Council on International Educational Exchange) in addition to a \$5,000 grant from the 2019

NAFSA: Association of International Educators Annual Conference and Expo this past May. NAFSA is the largest nonprofit dedicated to international education and exchange; Howard University was a sponsoring partner at the conference.

Additionally, the Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center received the "Innovation in Diversity Award" from GoAbroad.com for their #StudyAbroadSoBlack movement on social media.



Moorland-Spingarn Research Center Awarded \$140,000 Grant

The Institute of Museums and Library Services (IMLS) of the Museum Grants for African American History and Culture recently awarded the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center a \$140,000 grant to support the digitization of the center's collections to support research and access to and preservation of archives. The centerpiece of the project will be the creation of the Archives of African American Architects Digital Collection—drawings and blueprints created by three African American architects.

55%

Women make up 55 percent of the 2019 entering freshmen class.

Howard Leads HBCU Awards With 12 Nominations

The 2019 HBCU Awards recognized Howard University with 12 nominations in a variety of categories, including Best Student Government Association, Female Student of the Year, Male President of the Year, HBCU of the Year, and Female Faculty of the year.

The awards are presented by HBCU Digest, and it is the first and only national awards ceremony honoring individual and institutional achievement at Historically Black Colleges and Universities throughout the United States.

Two Journalism Students Selected for Rhoden Fellowship

Journalism students, junior Arthur Cribbs and senior Nathaniel Easington have been selected to participate in the Rhoden Fellowship with ESPN's *The Undefeated*. The one-year sports journalism program will train them to become leading reporters on the sports industry.

The Undefeated is ESPN's multiplatform content initiative exploring the intersections of sports, race and culture. The digital hub, theundefeated.com, which launched in May 2016, combines innovative long- and short-form storytelling, investigation, original reporting and provocative commentary to enlighten and entertain African Americans, as well as sports fans seeking a deeper understanding of Black athletes, culture and related issues.



Arthur Cribbs (left) and Nate Easington.

Howard Law Hosts Annual Crump Law Camp

The National Bar Association hosted the 19th Annual Crump Law Camp for high school students at the Howard University School of Law over the summer.

Students traveled to Howard's campus from different parts of the country to attend the camp, including 22 students from New York, D.C., Maryland, Delaware, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Texas and New Jersey. Camp staff led a rigorous program that encouraged discipline inside and outside the classroom.

While the camp is demanding by design, each day included opportunities for students to build connections and take full advantage of their stay in the District of Columbia. Most days of instruction and mock-trial preparation were followed by a field trip. Students visited the National Museum of African American History and Culture and Kings Dominion amusement park. They also got a sense of the diverse professional opportunities available to them as aspiring lawyers during their visits to the offices of Microsoft and Groom Law Group.

Howard Senior Selected for Educational Testing Services Presidential Scholarship

Senior Carmen Crusoe was recently selected for the prestigious 2019 Educational Testing Services Presidential Scholarship. She is pursuing undergraduate degrees in Africana Studies and political science and has plans to seek a career as a professor of Africana Studies. Crusoe is also a 2018 Frederick Douglass Global Fellow to Cape Town, South Africa. In addition, she was recently named a member of the inaugural class of the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program at Howard University. Crusoe is one of only eight students nationwide honored with the scholarship this year.



\$650K

The School of Business provides free tax services to D.C. residents, helping them receive more than \$650,000 in refunds.

The Class of 1969 Returns to Howard With \$1 Million Gift

Each year, a group of Howard University alumni return to Howard's campus to celebrate its 50 year class reunion. Reunion events bring a special sense of joy and homecoming to Howard's campus, as former classmates and lifelong friends return to the place where so much of their life's path began. This past May, the Class of 1969 announced it had raised a total of \$1,129,945 in the 2018-19 fiscal year. Included in this gift was the Howard University Class of 1969 50th Anniversary Legacy Fund, an endowed fund meant to serve as a lasting contribution to their beloved *alma mater*. This is the largest class reunion gift in the University's 152 year history.

New Accolades for Howard

In its recently released college rankings, *U.S. News & World Report* awarded Howard the top spot in its first web exclusive social mobility category. In this category, Howard University is recognized as the top private institution for "how well schools graduated students who received federal Pell Grants (those typically coming from households whose family incomes are less than \$50,000 annually)." The University ranked No. 4 overall on *U.S. News'* social mobility ranking, behind three public institutions.

Howard was also ranked by *Bloomberg Businessweek* as the No. 1 Business School for alumni who founded a company after graduation. In a recent survey of graduates from 125 business schools, Howard graduates (25 of the 49 surveyed) had the highest number of alumni who started their own business. In the survey, graduates noted that Howard taught them how to take problems and make them solutions. Alumni who were surveyed have started businesses in such fields as medical supply, technology and transportation.

New Appointments

Andrea Jackson (B.S. '80, D.D.S. '82) was recently appointed as dean of the College of Dentistry where she had been serving as dean in an interim role since July 2018.

Through more than 30 years of service at Howard University, Dr. Jackson has served in positions of increasing responsibility at the college, including most recently as interim dean, associate dean of clinical affairs and professor and chair of the Department of Prosthodontics.

Dr. Jackson has served in various capacities with national dental organizations, including the Joint Commission on National Dental Board Examinations, the Commission on Dental Competency Assessments and the American Dental Education Association.



She is a diplomat on the American Board of Prosthodontics, a fellow in the American College of Prosthodontists and a fellow in the American College of Dentists.

She completed both her B.S. in zoology, and D.D.S. at Howard University. She then completed a certificate in general dentistry at Howard University Hospital, and certificate and M.S. degree in prosthodontics at Georgetown University School of Dentistry.

Rubin Patterson (Ph.D. '92) was recently appointed as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (COAS) at Howard University effective July 1, 2019. Dr. Pat-

terson has served as the Chairman of the Department of Sociology and Criminology at Howard University since 2014. He also serves as the Chairman of the University Middle States Accreditation Self-Study.

In his new role, reporting to Dr. Anthony Wutoh, Howard University provost and chief academic officer, Dr. Pat-



terson will oversee all aspects of academic and administrative affairs for COAS.

Dr. Patterson is the recipient of a B.S. degree in Interdisciplinary Physics and Electrical Engineering from Florida State University, an M.S. in engineering management from George Washington University and a Ph.D. in sociology from Howard University. His areas of expertise include: environmental inequality and sustainable development; diversification of environmental leadership; and clean technology, social change and environmentally sustainable socioeconomic development in southern Africa.

Dr. Patterson has also authored or coauthored over 30 journal publications, book chapters and reviews. He is the recipient of externally funded projects supported by various agencies, including the National Science Foundation, the National Park Service and Brill Academic Press.

John M. M. Anderson was appointed as interim dean of the College of Engineering and Architecture (CEA).

Anderson currently serves as a professor in CEA's Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, with a specialty focus in the areas of signal and image processing and medical imaging. Prior to joining Howard University, Anderson was a faculty member at the



University of Florida and a visiting professor at the University of Maryland. In addition to his experiences in academia, Anderson served as a health science administrator

for the National Institute for Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering at the National Institutes of Health, and an associate editor for the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers Signal Processing Letters. He received a B.S. in electrical engineering from Brown University, an M.S. in electrical engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology, and a Ph.D. in electrical engineering from the University of Virginia.

John K. Tolmie was recently appointed as interim chief executive officer for Howard University Hospital. He has taken over the day-to-day management operations for the hospital while a full executive search for a permanent hire is conducted. He brings more than 35 years of experience in demonstrated leadership, governance and community relations to the hospital.

Tolmie most recently served as president and CEO of Source in Baltimore,



Maryland, a national health care consulting firm providing solutions to hospitals, health systems, physician enterprises and healthcare technology companies.

He holds a B.B.A from Virginia Tech University in Blacksburg, and dual master's degrees in business administration and health administration from Georgia State University in Atlanta. He has served on a multitude of governing boards and has also been an active member of the American College of Healthcare Executives, American Hospital Association and several statewide hospital associations.

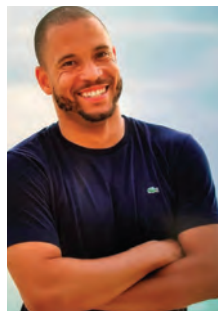
Bonnie D. Murphy was recently appointed as associate vice president of Auxiliary Enterprises at Howard University. In her new role, Ms. Murphy will be responsible for the leadership, strategic direction and financial oversight for the integration of the University's Auxiliary Services, including Howard University Barnes & Noble Bookstore, parking and shuttle services, food and catering services, vending, trademark licensing, laundry services, graphics and printing, mail operations and other services.

Ms. Murphy joins Howard University after serving as the associate vice president of auxiliaries at the University of Toledo in Ohio, where she provided leadership, accountability and action required to ensure that compliance of contractual obligations and performance

expectations were met with the university's parking, transportation, residence halls, retail operations and other service providers. She was also responsible for the property management oversight for retail and residential lofts.

Ms. Murphy earned her bachelor's degree in business and commerce from Oglethorpe University in Atlanta and obtained her MBA in marketing from Mercer University.

Ravi K. Perry was recently appointed as professor and chair of the Department of Political Science in the College of Arts and Sciences. Perry joins the department with an expertise in Black politics, minority representation, urban politics, American public policy and LGBT public service candidates of color.



He is currently finishing his fourth book, which will introduce readers to the lives and campaigns of Black and openly lesbian and gay elected officials in the United States. He refers to his new appointment as the job of a lifetime, being the child and brother of an HBCU graduate, and the child of one of the first scholars in Black and Ethnic Studies.

He holds a B.A. degree from the University of Michigan, and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Brown University, each in political science. Perry is immediate past president of the Association for Ethnic Studies, and a member of the Executive

Council for the Urban Politics Organized section of the American Political Science Association.

Sean Plater (B.A. '07) was recently appointed as general manager of WHUR-FM 96.3 and the Howard University Radio Network. Since September 2018,



Plater has served as interim general manager at WHUR. During this period, he diversified revenue streams, reduced expenses, increased digital content and

expanded the sales footprint of the network. He also worked to enhance Howard student engagement across the six radio stations in the Howard radio portfolio.

Plater has a deep background at WHUR and in the radio industry. Plater served as deputy general manager of WHUR from 2013-2018. He has worked in various capacities for other broadcast companies, including SiriusXM and Radio One, Inc. In addition, Plater worked in the academic technologies division of the George Washington University and served as the principal consultant for Plater Audio Solutions.

Plater earned a bachelor's degree from the Howard University School of Communications. He holds an MBA from the University of Maryland University College. *Radio Ink* magazine named Plater to its "African American Leaders in Radio" list in both 2018 and 2019.

Taking the Lead in Health Care

By Cassandra Spratling

In recent months, Howard University has undertaken two major initiatives to improve the healthcare and health outcomes of people living in Wards 7 and 8—two of D.C.’s most economically distressed communities. Both initiatives demonstrate examples of the ways in which Howard University is moving forward. As the University endeavors to fulfill the objectives set forth in the strategic plan, these efforts are a testament to Howard’s commitment to “serve our diverse community with high-impact outreach and collaborative partnerships across divisions and beyond campus borders, while cultivating an atmosphere of inclusivity, wellness and civility.”

Wellness and Much More

Howard University Hospital, Unity Health Care and the community agency “So Others Might Eat” have joined forces to offer comprehensive services at a health center located east of the river. The 90,000-square-foot facility will offer everything from housing to job training to healthcare.

Offering care in four specialties—orthopedics, ophthalmology, high-risk obstetrics and gynecology and cancer—imaging, mammography, ultrasound and basic radiology are among the services that will be available.



These services will improve diagnosis and care for residents living in areas that suffer from the city’s highest rates of chronic diseases, including diabetes, hypertension and infant mortality.

“It’s a tremendous opportunity for all three partners to provide comprehensive care to populations that have historically been underserved,” said Michael R. Crawford, associate dean for strategy, outreach and innovation at Howard University College of Medicine.

Expected to be fully operational before the end of the year, an estimated

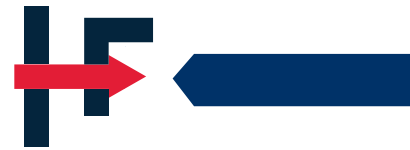
10,000 patients annually will be seen at the facility, and up to 46,000 could potentially benefit from sub-specialty care, Crawford said.

The center will be a model for the nation because it offers a one-stop-shop for services from housing to healthcare. Additionally, residents who need specialty care will be able to receive that care in the same location, often on the same day—eliminating the need to traverse all over the city to seek various services.

“This facility aligns with the mission, vision and values of Howard Univer-



(Left to Right) Michael Crawford, associate dean for strategy, outreach and innovation, College of Medicine; Dr. Hugh Mighty, dean, College of Medicine; and Father John Adams, president and CEO, So Others Might Eat, during the opening of the new health center in Ward 8.



Howard University Hospital's Women, Infants and Children center at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling.

sity—to serve underserved communities,” Crawford said.

Women, Infants and Children

Understanding the needs of military families, Howard University Hospital opened a new Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Family Center in Ward 8 in June. It's located at the military installation, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in southeast Washington, D.C., and is believed to be the only WIC center operated by an HBCU on a military base.

The center is the brainchild of Davene M. White, director of Howard University Hospital's Comprehensive Area Resources, Entitlements and Services

support on-base WIC centers.

“Many military families are not earning a lot of money,” she said. “They can't afford many things that other working-class families can take advantage of.”

Participation in WIC allows low-income families to receive monthly vouchers for food, including farm-fresh produce, formula and baby food. They also receive nutritional education.

Since the program started in June, approximately 350 families a month have received vouchers and that number is expected to grow, she said.

“It really makes my heart feel happy to see these families get the help they need and deserve,” White said. “It's convenient

and beneficial to families and children because they can spend the vouchers right there on base.”

White said the WIC program advances the Howard Forward mission to serve the community. “Howard University has a responsibility to meet the social needs of our community here and across the nation,” she said. “This is an activity that targets military families and supports this population in a very purposeful, meaningful way. It gives hope and support to military families.”

The new center is the third WIC center operated by Howard University Hospital. In total, the centers serve more than 2,000 families a month.

“The Howard University Hospital WIC programs serve as safeguards for the health of pregnant, post-partum and breast-feeding women, and infants and children,” White said. “It prevents nutritional risks by making sure families have access to food, nutrition education and breastfeeding support in pleasant and supportive environments.” ❤️

The Gift of GOLF: Bigger Than the Game

By Cassandra Spratling

A major donation from NBA star Stephen Curry to establish the first Division I golf program at Howard University is already proving to be a winner far beyond the golf course. Word of Curry's six-year gift ignited interest in Howard University among businesses, corporations and individuals. Several interested parties have already stepped up to help ensure the success of the men's and women's golf teams that will begin competing in the 2020–21 academic season.

The Eat. Learn. Play. Foundation co-founder became interested in establishing the program after a chance meeting with student Otis Ferguson IV. Curry was on campus earlier this year to screen the documentary "Emanuel" when the two met. Ferguson told Curry of his love for golf and that he'd passed up a golf scholarship so he could attend Howard. The student and superstar connected because of their appreciation of golf.

"Golf is a sport that has changed my life in ways that are less tangible, but just as impactful," Curry said during the press event. "It's a discipline that challenges your mental wherewithal from patience to focus, and is impossible to truly master, so when you hear about these passionate student athletes

who have the talent but don't have a fair shot at the game, it's tough. I feel really honored to play a small role in the rich history of Howard University, and look forward to building the first men's and women's golf teams with [the University]."

The gift not only boosts awareness of Howard University, it enables the University to expand its portfolio of already unique sports offerings, said Director of Athletics Kery Davis. He pointed out that Howard is the only HBCU with a swimming and diving team and one of only two HBCUs that offers lacrosse.

The amount of the gift is undisclosed, but Davis said it is one of the single largest gifts Howard has received. In addition, Curry has agreed to partner with the University to participate in fundraisers that will help make the program self-sustaining.

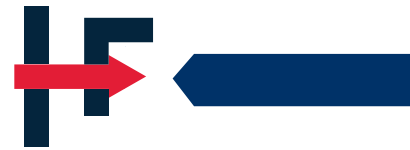
"Howard University is honored to partner with NBA Champion Stephen Curry to launch what is sure to become one of the best golf programs in the country," said President Wayne A. I. Frederick, M.D., MBA. "This program will expose the campus to a game with numerous benefits. Golf is unique because it can be played through various ages of life. Grandfathers can play



with granddaughters. Expanding the competitive opportunities for student athletes, especially in arenas where they are underrepresented, is consistent with the University's strategic plan."

Davis said the benefits of golf run wide and deep. It not only helps develop better players; it helps build better people.

"Golf is the only sport in which you call a penalty on yourself," said Davis.



(Left to Right) Howard University Athletic Director Kery Davis; student Otis Ferguson IV; Stephen Curry; Callaway Golf Co. President and CEO Chip Brewer; and Howard University President Wayne A. I. Frederick during the press event to announce Stephen Curry's gift to the University to start a golf program.

"We appreciate the discipline it takes to perfect a sport like golf. We treasure the opportunity for young people to take part in a sport where they're underrepresented in our community."

Davis said he's especially pleased that the gift broadens Howard's ability to attract students of color who are already proving themselves in sports in which people of color are underrepresented.

"There are young people of color who play those sports," he said. "We don't want their only option to be a predominantly white institution. We want them to have the opportunity to follow their passion and do it at an HBCU."

Officials are in the process of establishing a strong program, including recruiting staff and students and securing a golf course that can be used both for practice and to host events.

Curry's fame and favor is helping with that process as well, Davis said. "We've gotten a lot of inquiries from people in the golf world and the business world who want to work with us," Davis said.

A couple of examples: Callaway Golf Co. is donating all equipment, including bags, clubs and balls and Under Armour is donating uniforms.

"To be able to give young people this opportunity is phenomenal," Davis said. "We are really excited about this opportunity. It fits well with the strategies, goals and mission of Howard University." 🍌



The Value of SERVICE

BY BRELAUN DOUGLAS (B.A. '16)



JUSTIN D. KNIGHT

50

The University operates a workforce development program that trains 50 students for technology jobs.

“In Truth and Service”—or *Veritas et Utilitas*—is a motto that the Howard community constantly strives to live up to and exemplify. The annual Howard University Day of Service (HUDOS) hosted by the Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel is an example of that effort put into action.

“When Howard shows up, it’s significant,” said Glen D. Vinson Jr., former associate dean for Religious and Civic Engagement at the chapel. “It means that we’re aware of the issues and the things that are going on and we’re willing to get our hands dirty to do something about it. I think that’s one of the biggest things that is amazing about Howard students: They are willing to get their hands dirty to ensure that we have a better and greater community for everyone.”

Howard University Day of Service focuses on six learning initiatives: educational disparities, environmental injustices, health disparities, homelessness, poverty and violence. The program partners with organizations in D.C. to work on these initiatives and carry out strategic priority No. 3 of *Howard Forward 2024*, which states: “We will serve our diverse community with high-impact outreach and collaborative partnerships across divisions and beyond campus borders, while cultivating an atmosphere of inclusivity, wellness and civility.”

Students Make a Push to Give

HUDOS began in 2013 when a group of students expressed their concerns about student involvement in the community.

“Myself, along with the dean of the chapel, Rev. Bernard Richardson, sat at a table with a group of concerned students, which is what we love about Howard,” Vinson said. “[They] were concerned about new students and how they’d embrace the University’s motto. We started to brainstorm and held what the chapel calls ‘learning labs.’ In these labs, we’d invite students to come and help

find solutions to real-life problems. Out of this came the idea for a day of service for incoming students. I was then challenged to develop a program with the student committee, and from that, the Howard University Day of Service was born.”

A Helping Hand

One of the organizations HUDOS works with is Hustlaz 2 Harvesters, a community organization led by citizens who were formerly incarcerated. Their organization created a green space in an area that normally has limited access to affordable and nutritious food. These returning citizens are committed to affecting change in their communities through urban farming and nutrition and building trade and employment initiatives. They have been active for about five years and have partnered with HUDOS for the last four years.

One of the co-founders is Muhsin “Uncle Boe” Umar and he works with the Howard community not only for HUDOS but throughout the year. He sees the partnership as an opportunity to bring together different people and show what the community is supposed to be.

“It has a great impact on Hustlaz 2 Harvesters because it gets the youth connected with seniors and returning citizens,” Umar said. “It sheds light on how youth and returning citizens work together. It also shows peace and unity in the community.”

Another yearly partnership is with the Elsie Whitlow Stokes Public Charter School, which has worked with HUDOS since 2014.

“Our staff looks forward to working and partnering with Howard students every year,” said Bobby Caballero, campus director. “At the beginning of every school year before our students arrive, Howard students help prep the school for their arrival. They paint, label folders, put up bulletin boards, clean classrooms and do a lot of behind-the-scenes work that takes place to get the school ready for a new year.”

“

We have principals and school administrators tell us that they couldn’t have done it without Howard. The support that our students give those teachers to prepare for the school year is immeasurable.”

**Glen D. Vinson Jr.,
former associate dean
for Religious and Civic
Engagement**

Students help organize and clean up a Tubman Elementary School classroom in preparation for the start of the academic year.



Howard students prepare fresh fruit and vegetables during Homecoming Day of Service project.

Aside from providing cosmetic changes, Caballero has also been impressed by the care and initiative that he’s seen the Howard students show toward the students and the school.

One very fond memory that Caballero has is of the freshman who was determined to find a home for the books that were discarded in the school’s recycling bin. “This is wrong; I came from a school that didn’t have books,” Caballero remembers the student saying. “I asked

her to turn her grief into action. I told her that if she found a local organization that could use the books we would take them there. Within two hours, she found a community-based, after-school program that wanted the books. We delivered them the same day. She is the perfect example of what a student leader looks like.”

Vinson has seen how the day is invaluable for service locations. “We have principals and school administrators tell us that they couldn’t have done it without



Howard,” he said. “The support that our students give those teachers to prepare for the school year is immeasurable.”

For Tubman Elementary School, the yearly help that Day of Service provides is exactly that.

“Students come and give so much effort to make sure our school is ready,” said principal Amanda Delabar. “They move furniture, paint walls and murals, help in our garden, set up classrooms and bulletin boards, put furniture together—really anything and everything we ask of them and it makes a world of difference.”

Tubman Elementary has partnered with HUDOS for at least seven years. For Delabar, what sticks in her mind the most, is seeing the hard work that everyone puts in to make the community stronger and better. She hopes to continue the partnership in the future “because this support makes such a positive impact for our students, families and teachers. Our school looks better, is more organized and is welcoming because of the work of Howard students.”

Heartfelt Service

Howard students are equally grateful to

have an opportunity to serve and help in whatever way they can.

“Putting my heart and soul into something I really care about is important to me,” said Clara Ekezie, a senior biology major from Dallas. Ekezie has participated in HUDOS since her freshman year and served as the director of operations this past Day of Service. “HUDOS has taught me a lot about myself and the things I love. I enjoy serving people and HUDOS allows me to continue to do that.”

Ekezie describes the day as hectic, but said, “The experience has been great. The schools that I’ve worked in have been very appreciative and grateful for our help. There’s a lot that goes into getting prepared for the first day and teachers don’t have a lot of time to get things done.”

Vinson echoed this appreciation that both the students and service locations feel about the program: “I think they love it,” he said. “It shows empathy and that we care. It shows that we’re not the big institution on the hill, but that we are concerned about the community for which we live in or reside in for four to five years.” ❤️

Making an Impact

Born out of students’ concerns on giving back to the community, the Howard University Day of Service (HUDOS) has grown over several years to provide service learning opportunities as a part of incoming student orientation. The program not only gives freshmen the opportunity to understand what “In Truth and Service” means, but also shows the surrounding community that Howard is here to help. *Since 2013, HUDOS has produced:*



1,000
participants



7,500+
hours of service



30 partner
organizations



45 service
locations



AN AGENT of CHANGE

Howard's School of Social Work forges
community connections that make a difference.

BY TAMARA E. HOLMES (B.A. '94)

Pillar No. 3 of *Howard Forward 2024*, the University's strategic plan, is to serve the community in meaningful ways through impactful and collaborative partnerships that transcend the campus's borders.

To see that aim in action, one need look no further than the School of Social Work. With the mission of preparing graduates to solve human problems and become leaders in their communities, the School of Social Work is an agent of change. One way the school is fulfilling this mission is through its work with grandfamilies.

More than 2.6 million children come from grandfamilies—homes where a

grandchildren, which found that those who serve as the primary caregiver for a grandchild often experience unique challenges. Some may be on a fixed income and have little room in the budget for the expenses that come with raising a child. Others may be dealing with health problems. And some may feel a lack of support as their peers have likely finished raising children.

After the study was completed, the School of Social Work continued to work with the local community to help grandparents advocate for a bill that would eventually provide those raising grandchildren with a subsidy to help them with childrearing expenses. But there was more work to be done.

"After I completed the focus groups, the grandparents started calling me with questions and concerns," said Sandra Edmonds Crewe, M.S.W., Ph.D., ACSW, dean of the School of Social Work. "I said, 'Oh, this is not a one-and-done research project.' That's when we started the grandparents support group [Grandfamilies Program]."

Answering the Call

For local grandparents who found themselves tasked with being the primary caregiver for another child, the support group was a safe space to vent, share and learn new ways to approach difficult challenges.

Some of the circumstances that led grandparents to be responsible for their grandchildren are profound, some are tragic, but they're all part of life, said Robert L. Cosby Jr., M.S.W., M.Phil.,

Ph.D., director of the School of Social Work's Multidisciplinary Gerontology Center. In some cases, the parents are incarcerated. In others, the parents have died or are simply not in the picture. "They all have their own stories and they all present in different ways," said Cosby. "What Howard University School of Social Work has done during this process is give them a sounding board and an opportunity to speak among themselves in group settings, and talk about those issues that are important to them."


Olivia Chase is one of the grandmothers who has benefited from the gatherings. Having already raised three sons as a single mother, Chase thought she was finished raising children, but life had other plans.

Chase's son had served in the military and when he returned from Iraq, "he had the wounds that you couldn't see," she said. Her son's life spiraled out of control and he and his wife ended up incarcerated. "I was left with this little three-month-old baby," Chase said.

Today, the 63-year-old Chase says her life revolves around her 10-year-old grandson Richard, and many of her peers simply can't relate. "I've had many people say to me, 'Oh no, there's no way I'd be raising another child,'" she said. "What I say to that, is, 'You don't know what you would do until you are faced with the situation, because before I was faced with the situation, I felt the same way.'"

A Pillar of Community Support

Chase credits the support group led by the School of Social Work with helping her to deal with the unique challenges that come with parenting her grandson. "From the very beginning, grandparents really came together and were able to express our concerns about life and support one another," Chase said. But Howard also gains something from working with the grandparents. "They make us better social workers," said Crewe.



grandparent is the primary caregiver—according to the latest U.S. Census data. Of those children, 1 million have no parent living in the home. Statistics also show that more than 2.5 million grandparents are raising their grandchildren. Nearly a quarter—24.2 percent of them—are African American. In the District of Columbia, 88 percent of grandparents raising their grandchildren are Black.

In the early 2000s, the School of Social Work completed a study for AARP about grandparents raising

Grandparents during their bi-monthly grandparents support group meeting, where they share their stories, offer each other support and receive counseling from Robert Cosby, Ph.D., director of the School of Social Work's Multidisciplinary Gerontology Center.

The AARP study also reported that grandparents often have difficulty locating affordable housing that suits their needs. For example, a grandparent living in senior housing typically can't move a grandchild in with him or her. In September 2018, Plaza West, a 223-unit affordable housing community for seniors and residents of Ward 6, opened with 50 units designated for grandparents in the District who are raising their grandchildren.

In addition to leading the support group, the School of Social Work has provided mentoring and tutoring to the kids and even fulfilled holiday wish lists for the grandparents. School of Social Work faculty and students also volunteered at a back-to-school event for the children from the Grandfamilies Program at which they received school supplies. The School of Social Work is also partnering with Plaza West to come up with metrics that can help to gauge the success of the program.

Crewe sees the University even expanding the help given to the grandfamilies. "If we see that there are dietary needs, for example, we can talk to our School of Nursing and Allied Health to get them in to work with grandparents. If we feel that there are some legal matters, we can talk to our law school and have them do a workshop. We're not seeing this just as an opportunity for social work to make a difference, we're seeing it as an opportunity for Howard to make a difference."



What Howard University School of Social Work has done during this process is give them a sounding board and an opportunity to speak among themselves in group settings, and talk about those issues that are important to them."

**Robert L. Cosby Jr., M.S.W., M.Phil., Ph.D.,
director of the School of Social Work's
Multidisciplinary Gerontology Center**

Wide-Ranging Contributions

While the Grandfamilies Program is one of the School of Social Work's signature contributions to the community, it's not the only one.

In addition to classroom time, each student volunteers in the District in areas related to their interests and concentrations.

Howard partners with various local field agencies to place students so they have the opportunity to strengthen their skills and the community has the benefit of their time and expertise. Some of the agencies Howard students have worked with in the past include Boystown Washington D.C., Brinton Woods Health & Rehabilitation Center, Child and Family Services Agency and Coalition for the Hopeless—Park Road Transitional House.

Members of the Howard community focus their work in different areas. For example, some might choose to work in criminal justice, others may choose to work with families and still others may choose to work in school settings.

The School of Social Work's efforts have not gone unnoticed. In 2019, it was ranked No. 25 on *U.S. News and World Report's* 2020 list of "Best Graduate Schools," up five positions from the year before. But perhaps the biggest testament to the School of Social Work's success is the impact it is having on the lives of D.C. residents like Olivia Chase.

"As we talk about the School of Social Work, we are talking about ways in which people make a difference in the world," Cosby said. ❤️



Put your money where your **heart** is!

**For more information or to
visit us, please call,
202.806.7102**

We are always looking for
guest speakers, school groups
to partner on community
service activities, and
professionals to "show and
tell" us about their careers!

**Howard University Early Learning
Program (HUELP)** is located in the
heart of Howard's campus. This
world-class educational facility
provides an enriching learning
environment for children ages two
years nine months through six. HUELP
gives our youngest Bison a unique
foundation of strong academic values,
cultural acknowledgement and a
sense of love and acceptance.

**Please donate to
HUELP and help this
legacy of academic
excellence continue!**

Your donation goes towards:

- ♥ Updated learning tools
- ♥ School supplies
- ♥ Playground beautification & maintenance
- ♥ Professional development for educators

To donate directly, visit:
giving.howard.edu/howard-university-early-learning-program

 is a proud supporter of HUELP and the young mind.



SHAPING THE PATH TO **HIGHER EDUCATION**

University programs enhance academic
excellence for young learners.

BY KATTI GRAY



As a founder of two public charter schools back in her native Brooklyn, New York, Malene Lawrence knows firsthand that some students best learn from lessons tailored to suit their particular circumstances, not from a one-size-fits-all approach to instruction.

That understanding was utmost in her mind when she and her husband moved their family to Washington, D.C., in 2016. The youngest of her two boys—a whiz kid so smart he’d already been skipped a grade, but who previously had a speech-and-language impediment—especially needed the right setting. His parents wanted to ensure he stayed extra strong academically.

“It was imperative that he get what he needed in terms of instruction but also culturally and socially,” said Lawrence, president of the PTA at Howard University Public Charter Middle School of Mathematics and Science [(MS²)]. “We knew his academic needs would be met ... Howard University’s middle school

was perfect for him. It seems a little-known secret in D.C. public schools.”

Purposefully, Howard is putting middle schoolers in proximity to the grown folks—students and professional alike—who comprise the Howard community. Likewise, a separate, cost-free project enrolls some top high school seniors from District of Columbia Public Schools into Howard University courses where they sit and engage—earning an actual grade and college credits—alongside college students. Both programs represent Howard’s multipronged effort to give tweens and teens early exposure to Howard and put the University on the roster of colleges to which they might eventually seek admission.

“Obviously, we would love for these students to come to Howard. But it’s less about them coming to Howard than them being prepared for college, whatever college that is,” said Chelsea Jones, a program coordinator in the Office of the Registrar, who oversees that dual enrollment program for high schoolers. “Of course, I’m going to praise Howard—getting them into Howard would be the icing on the cake. Mainly, we just want to see them be successful.”

Access and Success

Since its 2015–16 launch—initially partnering with D.C.’s Banneker and McKinley Technology High Schools—the dual-enrollment project’s tally of students managing a rigorous load of high school and college courses has risen from nine to 25, with eight public schools now joining as partners. To qualify to take up to two fall or spring semester courses and one summer course at Howard, applicants must have at least a 3.4 GPA and submit their SAT or ACT scores, high school transcript, letters of recommendation and a personal essay.

Some students go above and beyond to specify their goals. “One girl, in particular, stands out for me. She wrote, ‘Here are the things I want to do and this is how the dual enrollment program will propel me.’ She had a timeline. You don’t really get

that from a 16-year-old. You'd think she was already a college student," Jones said.

"Then, there are other essays where students say, 'I thought of college, but I never thought of Howard University, but I'm realizing it's in my backyard and I want to take advantage. There is no way on God's green earth I'm going to miss this opportunity.' Every one of these students wants to be successful, even if the success looks different for each of them."

The middle school—it also serves as a laboratory for Howard collegians researching the lives and education of young people—has its own way of educating a variety of kids whose aspirations and learning styles differ.

What 2019 middle school graduate Corey Lawrence, the PTA president's son and an advanced learner, found most appealing was being in a student body that's roughly 94 percent Black. Also, he loved being allowed to schedule his classroom work during blocks of time he felt worked best.

"What I really liked was being surrounded by African Americans ... [and] to be around Black excellence," said Corey, who'd been part of a small minority of Black students back in San Antonio, where the Lawrences lived before returning to the East Coast.

"It's a digital school, mostly, where you get an iPad and you get personalized learning, which means you can go at your own pace. You don't have to wait for the teachers," he added. "But if you don't know something, you also can get extra help from the teachers. I was really good in algebra and history, but I needed help with quadratic stuff and content assess-

ment. And the teachers really helped me understand that."

The middle school instructors helped prepare him to attend George Washington University's School Without Walls High School, where he's now a freshman.

The Right Mix

Principal Kathryn Procope began helming (MS²)—the 14-year-old middle school—in fall 2014.

"I really was not looking for another job," said Procope, who was lured to Howard's middle school from the prestigious Friendship Collegiate Academy. "But I learned that our school's founders created this entity so that it would be a pipeline. Beginning in middle school, students are making up their minds about college, and they generally stay with the decision they make at that point. For the University to have that level of forethought? I knew I wanted to be a part of this."

The school's academic successes are largely driven by that online program, which allows students from all income and ability levels to work at their own pace. Another hallmark of the school's programming is its African American studies, aligning with Howard's foundational focus on the education and uplift of Black communities.

Of her students, Procope said, "Many of them are traveling two buses and a train to get here. We were at a point where more than 60 percent [of them] were considered at-risk: below at least one grade level in reading, in the free lunch program, and our homeless population is about 12 percent. I won't say we don't have any well-to-do kids. We do ... One



Corey Lawrence, 2019 graduate of Howard University Public Charter Middle School of Mathematics and Science

kid was coming to us and his mom was part of the diplomatic corps and they had been in the Democratic Republic of the Congo ... Dr. Aprille Ericsson was the first Black woman to get [Howard University and National Aeronautics and Space Administration] doctorates in engineering, and her daughter is here ... We have such a mix. And they are all in this together."

Making an Impact

As much as a middle schooler can, Procope added, her young charges recognize that learning on such a campus as Howard is an extraordinary opportunity. Former students are steadily dropping in on their middle school *alma mater*, a testament to its impression and imprint, she said.

Impacts also are made on the dual-enrollment students.

"First," program coordinator Jones said, "not a lot of colleges and universities—across the country—have this kind of opportunity. Second, this opportunity is free."

"We tell them, 'By doing this program, you're saving time and thousands of dollars in college costs. When you get to college—with four or five of these classes completed at Howard—you could be declared a sophomore ... You are really ahead of the game, not just financially, but also by your immersion in the college life already, in the ups and downs of a college student' ... In so many ways, they already are steps ahead of most of their peers." ♥



JUSTIN D. KNIGHT

A SPACE TO



School of Divinity alumna creates safe spaces for victims of gun violence. **BY KHESIA TAYLOR**

For most of her life, Ryane B. Nickens (M.Div. '17), founder and president of D.C.-based The TraRon Center—a place for gun violence survivors to receive therapy and learn safe coping mechanisms—has been plagued by gun violence. First in 1989, she lost her uncle in a case of mistaken identity. Only three years later, her pregnant sister was shot and killed during an altercation with their next-door neighbor; the neighbor then shot her mother, brother, and another sister. Her mother then jumped in front of the shooter, they wrestled for the gun, and once she got the gun away from him she shot and killed him. Two years later, during her senior year of high school, she lost another brother to gun violence.



(Left to Right) Ryane B. Nickens, founder and president of The TraRon Center with her student Aiyden Wiggins.

University's School of Divinity," said Nickens. She says there was always going to be a TraRon Center, but it was at Howard where the vision and mission came into focus.

A Vision Comes to Life

Nickens birthed the idea of The TraRon Center, named in homage to her sister Tracey and brother Ronnie, during her undergraduate studies. Originally, the center was supposed to help young girls go to college. However, her studies at the School of Divinity awakened her activist spirit. One of the courses that challenged her thinking was Christian Ethics with Cheryl Sanders, Th.D. In the course, Dr. Sanders hammered home the biblical scripture Micah 6:8 "loving mercy, seeking justice and walking humbly with God"—with this scripture looking her in the face, she was forced to ask herself what were her long-term goals. Realizing the issue of gun violence was always on her mind, she shifted her focus, turning The TraRon Center into a space that would treat adults with their trauma related to gun violence.

Six months after receiving her Master of Divinity, she opened The TraRon Center. "Even though gun violence was a sore spot for me, I knew I had a calling on my life. There are thousands of families, including members of my own family, who needed safe and sacred spaces to heal," Nickens said.

Serving adult residents of Ward 8 in southeast D.C., Nickens soon noticed that elementary and middle school students also needed a space to cope with their trauma. "Our young people are seeing their uncles, brothers, fathers and cousins murdered ... who is taking care of them? Where is their safe and sacred space?" She notes that "in the Black community kids are often told to be seen and not heard ... they are not stressed because they don't pay bills ... but they are stressed out and they are scared." The center now offers services to adults and children.



Growing up, she had dreams of attending Howard University; however, after the murder of her brother, her only goal was to move as far away from the city as possible. She decided on North Carolina Central University and graduated with a degree in broadcast journalism and aspirations of becoming a sports journalist. Life had other plans. As a woman of faith,

God led her back to D.C. to attend Howard University's School of Divinity and it was here that the vision and mission of The TraRon Center began to take shape. "I sold myself this grand Cinderella story that I'd work my way up in sports reporting in a way similar to Oprah Winfrey, but God was leading me in another direction and that direction led me to Howard



The Gift of Hope

With no dedicated space in the city for kids impacted by gun violence to talk about their trauma, The TraRon Center became their safe and sacred space.

The center, which holds space in the community centers where her students live, operates in one of the city's most impoverished and disadvantaged wards that also has a high rate of gun violence. A poll done by *The Washington Post* in 2019 found that 46 percent of residents in Wards 7 and 8 say they experienced or know someone who experienced gun violence, compared to 34 percent for D.C. residents overall. The goal is to give victims easy access to therapy services.

Students who attend the program are from four to 13 years old, and when tested upon entering the center in 2018, many scored at the highest level of trauma. "What we try to do with our children [at The TraRon Center] is teach them conflict resolution, anger management and provide them with individual and group therapy," Nickens said. But the center is so much more than dealing with trauma—it's also a place that inspires and breeds hope.

Nickens uses her time with the students to expose them to Black culture through books and cultural experiences. She even welcomes volunteers from



If we can teach our kids that they have something to live for then we can change the course for another generation."

**Ryane B. Nickens (M.Div. '17),
founder and president, The
TraRon Center**

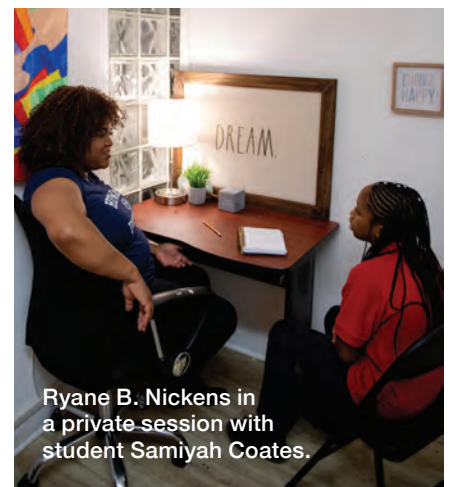
Howard University on an almost daily basis. There's a student in her program who wants to be a doctor; when one of the medical students from Howard University visits the center to volunteer, it gives her young student a sense of hope—it makes her see her dream as a possibility. "If we can teach our kids that they have something to live for then we can change the course for another generation," said Nickens. She also incorporates creative arts into her sessions—everything from painting to dance therapy—in an effort for them to learn healthy ways to share their feelings. Creative arts also serve another purpose. When students depict things like suicide through their art, it helps to facilitate conversations and get them the help they need.

Nickens knows that it's important to be the source of hope for her students in much the same way many people were for her growing up. She used to subscribe to the thinking that anyone can pull themselves up by their boot straps, but God intervened and showed her that she was fortunate to have her parents,

mentors, teachers and family. "I had people who got me the boots, helped me put them on and at each stage of my life helped me lace them up. I want to be what Wilhelmina Rolark [former Ward 8 council member] and so many others were to me to the children I get to spend time with. [I want to] help them put on their boots and help them lace them up; help them become the doctors and paramedics they want to be."

Signs of Impact

With financial support from churches and other local organizations, The TraRon Center is making an impact. By August 2019, the students who showed high signs of trauma in 2018 were now showing only moderate levels, some saw as much as a nine-point drop; other students had one-point and three-point drops. Adults in the survivor to survivor program—the center's counseling sessions for adults—are also seeing results: two are pursuing their GED, one is going to nursing school and another is taking classes online to get her associate's degree. One woman who entered a drug treatment program is now in remission and has steady employment. These people had renewed hope through The TraRon Center. "This is why I live east of the river and work with these children and families. You can change the trajectory of a family when there's a positive investment made," Nickens said. ❤️



Ryane B. Nickens in a private session with student Samiyah Coates.

Seeking leaders who want to change the world.

David Moody, Howard '81, ALI '15




The Harvard Advanced Leadership Initiative aims to deploy a new force of experienced leaders tackling the world's most challenging social and environmental problems.

Learn more at advancedleadership.harvard.edu or 617-496-5479.



HARVARD
Advanced Leadership Initiative



A SCHOLAR PIPELINE

Howard's Office of Honors and Scholar Development creates a stream of global leaders.

BY TAMARA E. HOLMES (B.A. '94)

When Dontae Bell (B.S. '18) arrived at Howard in 2014, he was familiar with premier awards and fellowships, such as the Harry S. Truman Scholarship and the Rhodes Scholarship, but he didn't see himself applying for one. "When I thought about prestigious awards, I didn't think about people who looked like me," he said. However, a new department in the Office of Undergraduate Studies helped to change his perception. Launched in 2014, Howard's Office of Honors and Scholar Development (OHSD) identifies national and international prestigious opportuni-

ties for Howard students, provides training and assistance for students applying for these awards and encourages academic success through experiential learning and leadership development. "OHSD made me realize that as a Howard student, not only was I competitive, but I have a unique perspective that no one else has," Bell said.

It turns out OHSD was right. In 2017, Bell became the 10th Howard student since 1989 to win a Truman Scholarship, the premier graduate scholarship for aspiring leaders in public service. In making this achievement, Bell was one of

JUSTIN D. KNIGHT



62 students selected out of 768 candidates from 315 colleges and universities.

Bell isn't the only Bison to compete at the highest levels of global academic excellence. When it comes to top national fellowships, Howard has produced four Rhodes Scholars, three Marshall Scholars, one Schwartzman Scholar, 11 Truman Scholars and one Goldwater Scholar since it opened its doors in 1867. However, 30 percent of those awards were won since OHSD was launched. In addition, Howard has produced 20 Rangel Fellows, 25

Pickering Fellows and more than 70 Fulbright Awardees.

In the 2018–19 academic year alone, OHSD was instrumental in the development of more than \$530,000 in student awards through fellowships, scholarships and grants.

Identifying a Need

The Office of Honors and Scholar Development is a special initiative of Howard University President Wayne A. I. Frederick, M.D., MBA. "When I was an undergraduate at Howard, nobody talked

about the different types of prestigious awards you could apply for," said Frederick. In fact, he didn't become aware of some opportunities until after he graduated from Howard. Had he known about them during his time at Howard it could have changed his trajectory. It was important to President Frederick that Howard students not only learn early on that these awards exist, but that they also be given the support and preparation to help them compete for them and, in some cases, win.

First- and second-year students learn about awards they might apply for through workshops and information sessions. Once a student decides to apply for a particular award or fellowship, OHSD provides more one-on-one interaction where students learn more about the application process. OHSD typically works with between 140 and 160 award applicants per year.

Faculty members and staff work with students to not only encourage them, but to also challenge them to stretch themselves to achieve more than they often think they can accomplish.

While producing finalists and winners of prestigious awards is an accomplishment to be proud of, it's not the primary goal of OHSD. Students are asked to consider a larger calling for their lives. "We want them to develop a bigger purpose

and be able to clearly state what that purpose is,” said Kari Miller, Ph.D., director of Honors and Scholar Development. For example, a medical student might see her purpose as working to decrease health disparities in cancer treatment. The Office of Honors and Scholar Development would help her to flesh out that expanded view of herself and articulate it.

“We want to prioritize the purpose before the prize and look at the prize in the background and not as the goal,” Miller said. As a result, students are urged to look at their own strengths and unique abilities that they bring to the table and express them through the application process. Students also benefit from close connections with faculty who provide a mentorship role.

One tradition that has developed over the last three years is a two-day,

off-site retreat at Gallaudet University, where alumni award winners and finalists come back to share their knowledge and experiences with students who are potential applicants. “We take a full day to unpack and understand what goes into a strong application and we do a lot of soul-searching in terms of looking at their career plans and the bigger picture,” Miller said.

A Model of Academic Success

The work OHSD does is a perfect example of how the University is demonstrating the goals of the *Howard Forward 2024* strategic plan. Pillar one seeks to enhance academic excellence through the support of faculty, research and student development.

“What we do in the Office of Undergraduate Studies is all about student success,” said Melanie Carter, Ph.D., associate provost for Undergraduate Studies at Howard. “Our work is deeply embedded in academic excellence and we try to make sure that we keep that in the forefront of our minds as we’re working with students.”

For students who win awards that allow them to do meaningful research, OHSD also promotes pillar two of the strategic framework, which rewards, among other things, innovation in instruction and research.

One such student is chemistry major Jaquesta Adams, (B.S. '20) who in 2019 became the first student in Howard's history to be named a Goldwater Scholar. Established by Congress in 1986 to honor the work of Sen. Barry Goldwater, Goldwater Scholarships are awarded to sophomores and juniors who are pursuing careers in research in the areas of mathematics, engineering and the natural sciences. Adams was one of fewer than 500 students chosen from more than 5,000 applicants.

Adams credits OHSD for empowering her to move through a challenging application process. “There was that pressure—the weight that no one from Howard had previously won it,” she recalled. “I worried that my research was not substantial enough and I kept looking at every little thing that could possibly be bad about my application.”





Howard University alumni award winners and current finalists discuss application strategy and career plans.

However, OHSD encouraged her and helped her to see her strengths. “They helped me push through those feelings of imposter syndrome that I was experiencing,” she said.

Through the process, Adams realized that working with OHSD wasn’t just about winning an award. “It’s about helping you to express what your goals are in life in a way that makes you a really good applicant for these awards, so even if you don’t receive one, you’re still better off in the end.”

The work of OHSD is also important for recruitment. “Many of these great students we’re recruiting know about these awards and opportunities and they want to make sure their school is prepared to support them in their pursuit,” Carter said.

The awards also serve as physical evidence of what goes on at Howard, Carter pointed out. “When we have a list of students who are competing with students from all over the world, it is evident of what we’ve known all along about Howard and its ability to produce strong leaders.”

In helping students discover their true potential, Bell believes OHSD’s impact expands beyond the borders of Howard’s campus. “Every person I’ve talked to who is connected to Howard has had the mission of serving something greater than themselves,” Bell said. “I think OHSD embodies all of those principles.”

It also helps Howard to continue to live up to its expectations of academic excellence. “Though we know our students are excellent when they arrive, we want to make sure that when they depart, they’ve exceeded their own expectations,” Carter said. 💡 ⭐

“

When we have a list of students who are competing with students from all over the world, it is evident of what we’ve known all along about Howard and its ability to produce strong leaders.”

Melanie Carter, Ph.D.,
associate provost for
Undergraduate
Studies



Legacy

Then

In 1993, communications majors Lesley Edwards (B.A. '96) and Julian Gaither (B.A. '95) met in a chance encounter in the School of Communications' Student Council Office. After dating for four years, they wed in 1997. "For us, Howard Homecoming was, and still is, a special time. We enjoyed Yardfest and tailgate in the rain, sleet, warm and cold weather. Homecoming concerts in the late 1990s were especially memorable, with artists like Shai, Mary J. Blige and Diddy. We also attended Gospel Extravaganza concerts and Apollo Nights at Cramton Auditorium and the Step Show at the DC Armory. In the late 1990s, events were publicized with flyers, word of mouth or in the Hilltop. The campus would be blanketed with flyers and every dorm had someone standing outside to hand you one or 10," said Edwards-Gaither.



Lesley Edwards and then boyfriend Julian Gaither at the Howard University Black and Gold Ball, 1995.



The Edwards during a recent family photoshoot.



Julian pinning Jonathan at the pinning ceremony during the Legacy Reception.



Jonathan with his parents during Freshmen Move-In Weekend

Now

Today, the couple has been married for almost 22 years and are the proud parents of three boys, one of whom entered Howard this fall. Lesley and Julian had the pleasure of officially welcoming their son Jonathan to the Bison family during Freshmen Move-In Weekend. As a Bison STEM Scholar, he is studying biology in the Bison STEM Scholars program and has committed to completing an M.D./Ph.D. Lesley and Julian are also back in school, working on a Ph.D. in Communication Sciences and Disorders at Howard and a second master's at the National Defense University, respectively. They hope this is the beginning of generations of HU legacies for their family.

THE EDWARDS FAMILY

Howard University
All Classes Reunion
May 7, 2020 to May 10, 2020



Return • Renew • Recommit

Save the Date



HOWARD
UNIVERSITY

Howard University cordially invites you to the 2020 All Classes Reunion Weekend.
This year we celebrate the class years: 1945, 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965 and 1970.

Our host hotel for this year's All Classes Reunion Weekend is the luxurious
Marriott Marquis located at 901 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20001.
We also have a room block at Courtyard Washington Downtown Convention
Center, 901 L St. NW Washington D.C. 20001.

Please visit our official Reunion Weekend website at:
<https://alum.howard.edu/activities/reunions>

We look forward to seeing you in May at your *alma mater*.



Alex Aaron

Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Blank Slate Development LLC

By Cassandra Spratling

Howard University not only shaped who Alex Aaron (B.B.A. '11) was as a child, it molded the man he has become: a widely-respected real estate developer who's transforming the landscape of Baltimore by restoring vacant and blighted homes while maintaining their historical craftsmanship. In the process, he's bringing neighborhoods back to life and helping to build generational wealth, especially for African Americans.

Aaron officially founded Blank Slate Development LLC in 2017, but even before then, he'd started reviving abandoned Baltimore homes. As his company's name implies, he sees vacant houses as a blank slate awaiting creativity. "We salvage existing historical elements and put a modern charm on it," he said.

By restoring homes in blighted neighborhoods, he's improving the health and wealth of people who live there. Property values increase, crime goes down, and studies show that when people's environments improve, their physical and mental health improves as well. Moreover, in many cases, future homeowners gain significant savings because of a 10-year-cap

on property taxes for homes in historic districts or with historic architecture.

The company's biggest endeavor, the North Bethel Street Project in East Baltimore, involved the purchase of 14 row houses that are now being transformed into eight homes. The company broke ground in 2019 and expects to be ready for occupancy by summer 2020.

"I want to promote generational wealth creation through home ownership with a particular focus on the minority community, to make sure people are buying property, holding on to it and building equity that they can pass down to their children and families," Aaron said.

Howard University laid the foundation for Aaron's professional and personal life. It was in his blood even before he was born. An uncle, Dr. Michael Mbanaso, was a professor of social work at Howard for 20 years; several cousins attended the University as well. Aaron grew up going to graduations and other events on and around campus. He applied to and was accepted to several universities, but he was thrilled to be admitted to his first choice: Howard.

"It was the best decision I ever made," said Aaron who graduated in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in finance.

He has multiple reasons for his love for Howard. First, being in the School of Business led to one internship after another and eventually a full-time position upon graduation—offered his junior year—at Morgan Stanley in New York City. "If not for Howard, I wouldn't have ended up on Wall Street," he said.

Second, he was on campus when Barack Obama became the first African



American president of the United States. He recalls the thrill of watching the election results come in with other students. When Obama won, he joined thousands of Howard students who descended on the White House.

“It was a monumental moment in the nation and in D.C., and I wouldn’t have had that experience if I wasn’t at Howard,” he says.

And, perhaps most importantly, he met Irene Harley, a young lady who lived in the same dorm—Lucy Diggs Slowe

Hall—during their sophomore year. Like him, Harley graduated in May 2011 and earned a degree in speech language pathology. Six years later, they married.

Aaron thanks Howard for opportunities to meet a wide variety of people from all over the world. “Howard is truly a global institution,” he said. “It is a network of phenomenal people from different countries and different states. It is the mecca, and it is a family.”

The traditions of community service that Howard instilled in him have con-

tinued into his professional life. In addition to mentoring students, he’s a board member for Global United Diaspora, a nonprofit organization that helps people throughout the African diaspora, something especially important to him as the child of a Nigerian father.

“Howard University helped me accomplish things that I couldn’t fathom,” Aaron says. “I’ve had experiences that most people only dream of. Most of all, I am forever grateful for the life skills and lifelong friendships that I have gained.” ■

Allison Green

Senior Vice President, Chief Diversity Officer and Head of Employee Engagement, Lincoln Financial

By Katti Gray

As Allison Green (M.A. '95) was winding down her graduate studies in psychology and preparing for what she thought would be a career as a psychotherapist, a brochure on display at Howard University's School of Business caught her eye: "It had an African American woman on it. She had this hard hat on, and a bunch of men were walking behind her. And I thought, 'I might want to do that.'"

Green said she could see herself being in charge of one thing or another in a corporate sphere long dominated by men. She could see herself breaking barriers.

"The woman with the hard hat became my mentor," she added. "She was the general manager of the [Hay Group's] Philadelphia office. She'd sent their recruiters to Howard back then. She'd said, 'I want more people who look like me working here.'"

Green did get hired at Hay, initially, to do psychological assessments for companies that contracted Hay, a global management consultancy. From that point on, Green has stayed on her singular fast track, gaining experience in marketing,

human resources and other business sectors. She's worked for pharmaceutical giant Wyeth and for investment leader Vanguard; the latter was the first company to tap her to help its workforce better mirror the world's rainbow of people.

"They said, 'You know the company, you know our culture, you know who we are as leaders. We want to get better at this diversity work and we trust that you can lead us in the right direction,'" Green said. "I was very flattered by that. What that taught me, from a career standpoint, is that sometimes others see things in you that you do not see in yourself."

The experience at Vanguard helped pave the way for Green, in 2009, to be sought out by Lincoln Financial. Today, she is senior vice president, chief diversity officer and head of employee engagement, overseeing diversity initiatives and shaping the corporate culture at the 9,000-worker insurance and financial services firm. Lincoln is No. 187 on Fortune's list of the top 500 firms in the United States. And Forbes has twice named the Philadelphia-based

company among the best places for women to work.

"I treat diversity as a business opportunity," said Green, who made Black Enterprise's 2019 list of the Most Powerful Women in Corporate Diversity. "It's become a passion. It's brought me full circle. Growing up in Birmingham, Alabama, under [staunch segregationist] George Wallace's governance, you definitely know the value, the necessity of civil, equal and human rights."

That history, indeed, is a reference point for Green, especially as the United States grapples anew with people's differences and commonalities and societal divisions that sometimes show up on the job.

"When big things do happen—such as the shootings in [El Paso]—a note from our CEO goes out, reaffirming our commitment to diversity. I weigh in with my opinions, and I'm never short of those," Green said. "My advocacy becomes stronger. But the way I advocate may have to look different. There are situations where we challenge each other; and



situations that may require influence and persuasion. Sometimes you may have to write to lay out the moral imperative. Sometimes, you have to lay out the dollars-and-cents need for diversity.”

Part of her approach involves conducting listening sessions with Lincoln’s personnel. “Given the external environment, what do you need when you come

inside to work?” That’s one of the questions she’s asked workers to answer.

“Howard taught me how to administer psychological assessments,” said Green, who earned a bachelor’s degree from Spelman College. “Howard taught me about tenacity. I bring that to the work every day. What I appreciate about both of my HBCU experiences

is that they eliminated barriers—the racial barriers that we face. Having the opportunity to learn, grow and flourish without that barrier, I know what that’s like. So, I keep that feeling. I don’t immediately think about barriers. I think of who I’m supposed to be and what I’m supposed to be. I let that be the leading force.” ■



Howard University Charter Day Dinner

March 7, 2020

Washington Hilton Hotel

1919 Connecticut Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20009

*For more information and to purchase tickets,
please visit the Charter Day website
at www.howard.edu/charterday*

'60s

General Lester Lyles (Ret.) (B.S. '68) was appointed to the Virginia Humanities Board of Directors. The state humanities council seeks to tell the stories of all Virginians—or, better yet, find ways for people to tell their own stories. Lyles will serve a three-year term, which can be renewed once.



Ruby King (Nursing Diploma, '69) and Harold King celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 4, 2017. They met at Howard when Harold played football for the Bisons. Their first date was at the football stadium for one of Harold's football games. Their favorite song is "Since I Lost My Baby" by the Temptations—the song that was playing when Harold asked Ruby to be his girl. One of their notable memories is their first anniversary, April 4, 1968, the day Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. Their advice for a successful marriage: "through the bliss and storms, love always prevails."

'70s

Calvin D. Hawkins (J.D. '70) was conferred with an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws at Calumet College of St. Joseph during its 2019 commencement exercises. He currently serves as the presiding judge at the Lorenzo Arredondo Justice Center in East Chicago, Indiana.



John E. Fleming (M.A. '72, Ph.D. '74) was elected chairman of the American Association for State and Local History. AASLH is the largest organization dedicated to the study and preservation of state and local history. Fleming is the first African American to head the organization's board. Fleming is former president of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History and the Association of African American Museums.

Iris E. Holliday (B.A. '75) was appointed to the Virginia Humanities Board of Directors by Governor Ralph Northam. The state humanities council seeks to tell the stories of all Virginians—or, better yet, find ways for people to tell their own stories. Holliday will serve a three-year term, which can be renewed once. Her career in public relations spans more than 35 years and includes government and media relations, philanthropy and community relations and strategy and representation.



Bonita C. Stewart (B.B.A. '79) was appointed to the Pluralsight Inc. Board of Directors. Stewart currently serves as vice president of global partnerships at Google, responsible for its U.S. strategic partnerships team representing news and publishing, broadcast, media and entertainment, mobile apps, search, telecommunications and commerce. In her role as a board member, Stewart will advise and guide Pluralsight as the company continues on its growth trajectory.

'80s



Reuben F. Young (B.A. '80), was recently appointed as a judge to the North Carolina Court of Appeals by Governor Roy Cooper. Judge Young previously served as a Special Superior Court Judge and Secretary of the former Department of Crime Control and Public Safety. He served in 2012 as the first Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety. Judge Young's legal career includes his appointment as Chief Legal Counsel to the Governor of North Carolina.

25

For FY19, there was a 25.2 percent increase in the number of undergraduate alumni donors.

Milestones

Alumni



Tracey Simmons Fisher (B.A. '81) was elected to the Gwinnett County Democratic Party Committee in Georgia and subsequently appointed by the GCDP chair to the position of communications director. Fisher and her team engage and inspire new and seasoned voters across ages, cultures and demographics. They believe that every American has the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.



Sharon Poitier (B.A. '82) was recently appointed as Deputy Director of Education in the Bahamas. In this role she will be responsible for curriculum reform. Poitier is committed to providing all children in the Bahamas a quality education.

Iris Drayton-Spann (B.A. '84) was recently appointed to the Board of Trustees for Kidsave, an organization that advocates for the adoption of older children growing up in orphanages and foster care.

She currently serves as vice president of human resources and organizational development for WETA-TV in Arlington, Virginia.



Shauna L. Dunnings (J.D. '89) was recently elected to the Ingham County, Michigan Probate Court Bench and is the first woman and African American to serve on this court. Prior to being elected, Dunnings clerked for the U.S. District Court, served in private practice and was a county court administrator. Shauna's investiture was held earlier this year.

'90s

Richard A. Ryles (J.D. '90) was elected as the District 3 City Commissioner of West Palm Beach, Florida.



Terrill North (B.A. '97) was recently appointed by the Board of Directors for the Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families as the organization's executive director. He is the fifth Executive Director and the first African American to lead the Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families. The council works to address the needs of Montgomery County, Maryland's children under the age of 18, and their families.



Faizah Nicole Toler (B.S.E.E. '98) was recently honored by the Los Angeles Council of Black Professional Engineers and the City of Los Angeles. She was named as one of 50 Phenomenal Black Women Engineers, an award that recognizes trailblazers in their technical professions who support moving the council forward.

Tonya D. Byrd (B.S.M.E. '98) was named a 2018 Dominion Energy Dr. Benjamin J. Lambert III Volunteer of the Year. Byrd was recognized in the category Community Vitality. The award included a \$5,000 grant to any organization of choice; she donated the funds to Howard University and to the Alpha Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority Inc., where she was an initiate.

'00s



Elizabeth Jones (B.F.A. '03) recently starred in the Bay Area Musical's production of the international smash hit "Hair-spray." She played Motormouth Maybelle during the five-week production. Some of her theatre credits include Charlene in "Dreamgirls" (Berkeley Playhouse), Lady O in "The Right Note" (Spare Stage) and Ronnette in "Little Shop of Horrors" (Contra Costa Musical Theatre).

33,000

Howard University
Hospital handles more than
33,000 cases for patients who
travel across the district from
Wards 7 and 8.

Shauna-Lee Ruglass (B.A. '04)

was recently promoted to chief of staff at YouthBuild USA. She will provide project management, strategic planning and implementation support for key organizational initiatives, as well as continuing to support the chief executive officer. YouthBuild programs across the U.S. help unemployed and out-of-school young people ages 16 to 24 attain their high school diploma or equivalency. During that time, they also learn career skills by building affordable housing and other community assets in their neighborhoods while engaging in community service and leadership training.

Venus Phillips (B.B.A. '05) recently joined The Kresge Foundation's Investment Office as an investment director. Kresge's Investment Office supports the foundation's mission to expand opportunities in America's cities by managing a nearly \$4 billion portfolio of long-term investment assets.



Love Story: Aliyah and Omar Powell

Aliyah Powell (B.B.A. '17)

Pursuing an M.B.A. in Strategic Business Management at Hofstra University

Omar Powell (B.B.A. '17)

Middle Market Underwriter, Global Risk Solutions, Sampo International

The Meeting: We met in the 21st Century Advantage Program's Team Leader Training. We were both business majors in the School of Business.

The First Date: Our first date was at Asian Spice in Chinatown, Washington, D.C.

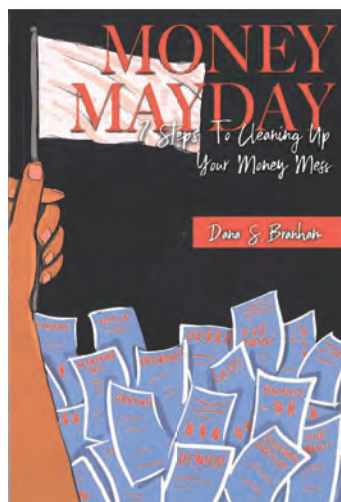
The Why: When we started as co-team leaders for the Team Leader Training program, we sat down in Starbucks on Georgia Avenue and went over the terms of this newly formed partnership. We made a commitment to support each other, be a united front, always be honest and when the job got hard, remember why we were doing it. Our friendship turned into romance and romance turned into a long-term commitment. On our wedding day, we made similar commitments but this time, to our lifelong partnership.

Other Info: Aliyah is a former Miss School of Business, Miss Residence Life and Miss Annex. Omar is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. 🏆

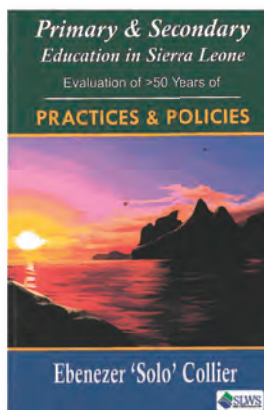
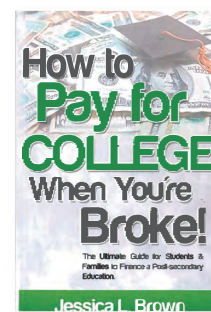


Bison Bookshelf

Money Mayday: 7 Steps to Cleaning Up Your Money Mess (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform), by **Dana S. Branham (B.B.A. '95)**, shares lessons that Branham learned through her career as a financial adviser, as well as her personal struggles with finances. Calling on faith and basic principles from the Holy Bible, it will inspire you to clean up the mess that you have created with your money.



How to Pay for College When You're Broke! The Ultimate Guide for Students and Families to Finance a Post-secondary Education (College Gurl), by **Jessica L. Brown (B.A. '12)**, reveals a variety of choices for postsecondary education and provides students and families detailed information on the best financial aid options to fund it: financial planning, FAFSA scholarships, federal and private student loans, financial aid awards, as well as repayment options and much more. It provides ways to avoid costly mistakes and scams, and delivers strategies for post-college financial success.

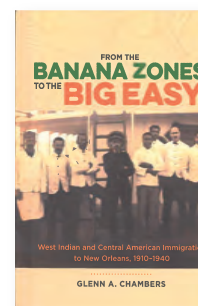


Primary & Secondary Education in Sierra Leone: Evaluation of >50 Years of Practices and Policies (Sierra Leonean Writers Series), by **Ebenezer "Solo" Collier (Ed.D. '08)**, gives details of policies, programs and statistical outcomes of Sierra Leone's educational system. It is important, particularly for policymakers, as it may serve as input to the debate on future education policy development and has the potential for contributing to research literature on implementation of educational policies.

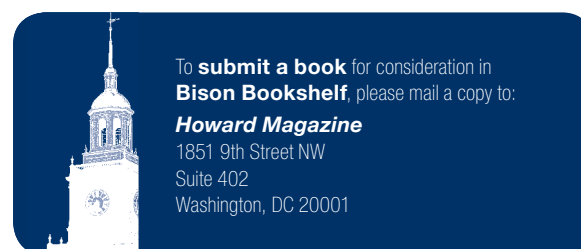
Grandma Julia (Telemachus Press LLC), by **Ann Y. Tyler (B.F.A. '61, M.A. '76)**, recounts the life of Grandma Julia. A woman who raised 10 children, Julia Mae Jones Eastman was fervently determined to preserve the stories of her family ancestry. She meticulously filled the old black-and-white composition Sterling notebooks in a beautifully flowing longhand using pencil to write down her rich childhood memories. Within these writings she began with her great-great-grandmother, Edyth, who arrived in Virginia shackled as an African slave. The author has transcribed and edited, then added more family information, to this fascinating volume, from the 1900s into 2000 and beyond.

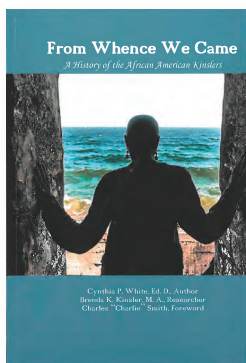


Introducing the Fitness DAWGS (FitnessDAWGS LLC), by **Kim Evans (B.A. '78) and Addie Briggs (B.A. '92)**, aims to reduce childhood obesity through educating children about the ways that diet and working out can lead to great success.



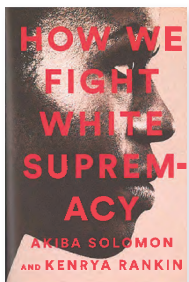
From the Banana Zones to the Big Easy: West Indian and Central American Immigration to New Orleans, 1910-1940 (LSU Press) by **Glenn A. Chambers (M.A. '02, Ph.D. '06)**, focuses on the immigration of West Indians and Central Americans particularly those of British West Indian descent from the Caribbean coastal areas to New Orleans from the turn of the 20th century to the start of World War II.





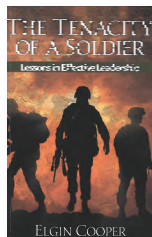
From Whence We Came: A History of the African American Kinslers (independently published), researched by **Brenda K. Kinsler (B.A. '76)** and authored by Cynthia P. White, Ed.D., gives voice to the ancestors of the Kinsler family and fills in the missing branches of their extensive family tree.

Our Own Way in This Part of the World: Biography of an African American Community, Culture and Nation (Duke University Press Books), by **Kwasi Konadu (Ph.D. '04)**. This book centers on Kofi Donko, who, according to Duke University Press, “was a blacksmith and farmer, as well as an important healer, intellectual, spiritual leader, settler of disputes, and custodian of shared values for his Ghanaian community.” Donko’s life story and experiences from the late nineteenth century through the end of the twentieth were shaped by historical forces from colonial Ghana’s cocoa boom to decolonization and political and religious parochialism. The story of his community offers a non-national, decolonized example of social organization structured around spiritual forces that serves as a powerful reminder of the importance for scholars to take their cues from the lived experiences and ideas of the people they study.

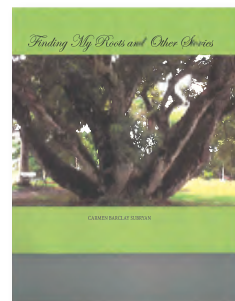


How We Fight White Supremacy (Bold Type Books), by **Akiba Solomon (B.A. '97)** and **Kenrya Rankin (B.A. '03)**, features leading organizers, artists, journalists, comedians and filmmakers who offer wisdom on how they fight white supremacy. It’s a must-read for anyone new to resistance work, and for the next generation of leaders building a better future.

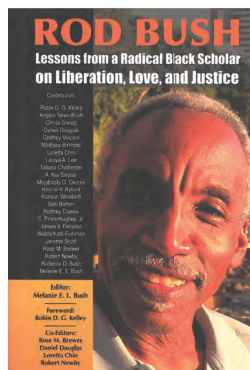
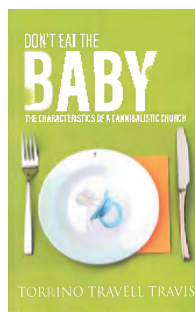
The Tenacity of a Soldier: Lessons in Effective Leadership (LaBoo Publishing Enterprise LLC), by **Elgin Cooper (B.A. '86)**, examines the tenets of effective leadership. From business to politics, leaders determine the direction of an organization or institution. Whether you are a millennial or Generation X supervisor, the characteristics of leadership are the same: self-confidence, effective communication, management skills and creative thinking. In times of crisis, leaders are tested and their values are exhibited.



Finding My Roots and Other Stories (Demerara Press), by **Carmen Barclay Subryan (M.A. '83)**, is a coffee-table book with 10 stories and more than 50 pictures. A DNA test that the author took provided the impetus for these 10 short stories set mainly in the Linden area of Guyana, South America. The first story, “Finding My Roots,” not only focuses on the author’s European roots but also on the fact that her African roots, the majority of her DNA, will never be unearthed or explored. The backdrop of most of the stories is the scenic Demerara River on the east bank where the author lived for 12 years.



Don’t Eat the Baby: Characteristics of a Cannibalistic Church (Godchild Publications), by **Torrino T. Travis (J.D. '03)**, dissects and provides solutions for recruitment, assimilation and retention of church members. Also discussed in this book are strategies for attracting men, millennials and new converts, and improving attendance and maintaining unity. It provides both Biblical and practical solutions.



ROD BUSH: Lessons from a Radical Black Scholar on Liberation, Love and Justice (Ahead Publishing House), edited by **Melanie Bush**, is an anthology that provides deep reflections on the question of how one can live radical principles in contemporary times. What does it mean to be human? How does one embed love and justice in one’s worldview and daily practice? At a historical moment when the political landscape is fraught with volatility,

the life of **Roderick D. Bush (B.S. '67)** serves as an example, providing many lessons that we can draw from and practice ourselves. The book will be useful in classes that explore social movements, pedagogy, race, class and gender, as well as community settings where the question of how to “be” the change is being explored.

Silent Terrorism: A Look at American Racism and Hypocrisy (Page Publishing Inc.), by **George Foster (B.S.S.E. '98)**, explores the injustices of African Americans and hopes to open a dialogue and stimulate conversation about race in America.



'40s

Dr. Frances C. Young, B.S. '49, D.D.S. '58, died on April 13, 2018. Following her graduation, she served as a dental officer with the District of Columbia government and was appointed by Mayor Marion Barry to the Northeastern Regional Board of Dental Examiners. Dr. Young also served as chief of dental hygienist services at D.C. General Hospital. She returned to Howard University as an assistant professor in the Department of Community Dentistry. She was an active member of the National Dental Association, the American Dental Association, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. and The Links Inc.

'50s

Marjorie Gilliam Chew, B.A. '50, died on Aug. 12, 2019. Following her graduation, she was committed to social and community-based groups. She was a member of the Philadelphia chapter of Jack and Jill of America Inc. and Club Jade. She was a member of St. Luke's for most of her adult life and served on the Altar Guild Flower Committee for more than 30 years. The arrangements she created could be seen on the high altar the third Sunday of every month. She was also a proud and dedicated member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.

Vassal Marcus, B.A. '51, died on June 12, 2018. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He then went on to serve as an educator, public servant and scholar. He loved golf, tennis, cooking, designing and creating. He was a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc.

Helen Rutherford, B.A. '54, died on July 9, 2019. Following graduation, she spent her career in public service, aiding seniors, families and youth in a range of areas from job training to juvenile probation services. She was a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. for nearly 75 years. She was active in the sorority's family service committee and volunteered in several community social service organizations in Philadelphia and Delaware County.

Dr. Leslie M. Gray, B.A. '51, M.D. '55, died on Sept. 13, 2018. Following graduation, he was a family physician for 20 years, then a radiologist for 17 years. After he retired, he traveled the world with his wife Helen and played golf until he was 88 years old.

Dr. Julia Bluitt Foster, B.A. '58, D.D.S. '62, died on April 17, 2019. She spent much of her career in Chicago and became the first female president of the Chicago Dental Society and a past chair-

Theological Leader

The Reverend Cain Hope Felder, Ph.D., established scholar, author, biblical commentator, professor, editor and preacher, has submitted his final earthly assignment. He passed in October at the age of 76.

Rev. Felder graduated from Howard in 1966 with a degree in philosophy, Greek and Latin. Felder also held Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Philosophy degrees in biblical languages and literature from Columbia University in New York; a Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York; and a Diploma of Theology from Mansfield College at the University of Oxford in England.

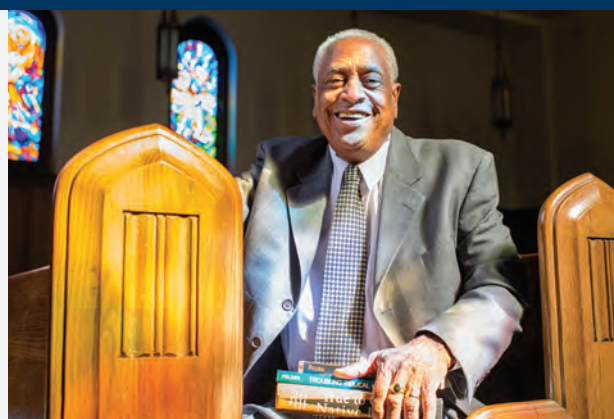
Prior to his return to alma mater, he

taught within the Department of Biblical Studies (1978–81) at Princeton Theological Seminary. It wasn't until he began teaching at Princeton that he realized the uniqueness he possessed as a knowledgeable African American within his profession. From 1969 to 1972, Felder worked as the first executive director of Black Methodists for Church Renewal, the Black caucus of the United Methodist Church, which was headquartered in Atlanta.

In 1990, he founded the Biblical Institute of Social Change (BISC), headquartered in Washington, D.C. From 1998 to 2001, Felder served as chair of the imple-

mentation panel for the National Center for African American Heritage and Culture at Howard University.

The Reverend Dr. Cain Hope Felder laid a path of enlightenment, through his scholarship and preaching, that has made the steps of those who follow him lighter and fuller. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends during this time.



'60s

woman of dental hygiene and assistant dean at Northwestern University's dental school. At Northwestern, she taught courses in introductory dentistry and dental ethics. She also served as the dean for admissions and student affairs. She was elected president of the American College of Dentists in 1993 and served one year. For 28 years, until retiring in 2008, she served on the board of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois.

Alvin E. Echols, J.D. '57, died on Aug. 5, 2019. He was committed to civil rights and was once arrested for championing the rights of blacks to ride the front of buses in Richmond, Virginia. He served as a member of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission for 26 years and helped formulate statewide policy on a variety of issues impacting African Americans and other minorities. He advocated against racial segregation in public schools in Philadelphia and across Pennsylvania. He was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.

Carolyn O. Williams, B.A. '63, M. A. '72, died in July 2019. While at Howard, she was a senior mentor and a member of the Homecoming Steering Committee, history club and Kappa Sigma Debate Society.

Dr. Melvin Lon Spann, B.S. '64, died on May 7, 2019. Following his graduation from Howard, he earned a master's and Ph.D. at American University, where he went on to serve as an adjunct professor. He later joined the National Institutes of Health's National Library of Medicine, where he eventually was appointed the first African American associate director.

His passion for environmental justice led him to create the Toxicology Outreach Panel to strengthen the capacity of HBCUs to train health professionals in the use of various scientific resources. In his personal life, he was a husband, father and grandfather, as well as a sports enthusiast, avid fisherman and budding gardener.

Allen W. Counts, B.A. '66, J.D. '70, died on Oct. 28, 2018. Following graduation, he worked at Citibank in New York, and then he transferred to Hong Kong, where he worked for seven years. He also found Pryor, Counts & Co., which was once the largest African American owned-and-controlled investment banking firms in the United States. He was committed to service and served on the Muskogee Development Corp., was a board member at the Muskogee Public Library and legal adviser to the Muskogee Chapter NAACP Executive Committee. He was a lifetime member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.

Gerald D. Smith, B.S. '67, died on Sept. 9, 2018. He was 73 years old. Following graduation, Gerald worked as a research chemist in the department of endocrinology at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Smith was a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. In 1978, he left his position as research chemist to become the first national executive director of his fraternity.

Former Howard University Surgeon, Educator and Civic Leader

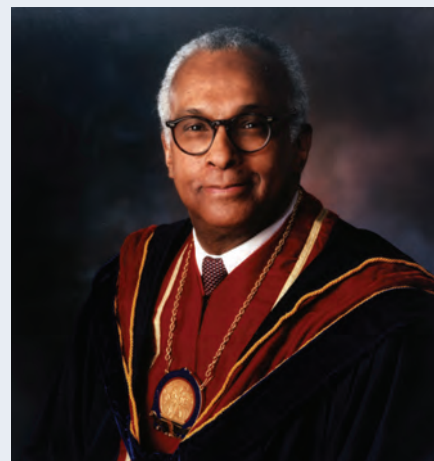
Dr. LaSalle D. Leffall Jr., M.D. '52, who was an icon of Howard University and the medical community, died in May 2019. He was a surgeon par excellence, oncologist, medical educator, civic leader and mentor.

In 1962, Dr. Leffall began his tenure at Howard University as assistant professor, and only eight years later, became the chairman of the Department of Surgery—a position he held for 25 years.

Throughout his career, he was a trailblazing leader, becoming the first African American to serve in a leadership position at several organizations in the medical field. He was the first African American to serve as president of the American Cancer Society, the Society of

Surgical Oncology, the Society of Surgical Chairmen, and the American College of Surgeons. He lectured at more than 200 medical institutions across the country, taught more than 6,000 medical students and trained more than 300 surgical residents.

Dr. Leffall's teaching honors at Howard are unmatched as he received the prestigious honored faculty award from the College of Medicine more than 30 times. His academic contributions include articles in more than 150 publications and three books, and he held more 200 visiting professorships internationally. He held 14 honorary degrees from American universities and honorary fellowships from six international colleges of surgeons.



Florene Kelly Jones, M.Ed. '68, died on Dec. 9, 2018.

Leonard N. Henderson, J.D. '68, died on July 20, 2019. While at Howard, Lenny was a star baseball player and a member of the varsity club, business club and Phi Alpha Delta. After graduation, he joined Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. before becoming an insurance executive and a chartered life underwriter.

Charles E. Booth, B.A. '69, died on March 23, 2019. He was the senior pastor at Mount Olivet Baptist Church, where he preached for more than 40 years. In 1993, he founded the Mount Olivet Christian Academy, later renamed the Gloria S. Friend Christian Academy. In 2014, he was awarded the 2014 Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award for his commitment to the issues of unemployment, education and health.

Dr. Herman E. Branson, M.D. '69, died earlier this year. Following his graduation from the College of Medicine, Dr. Branson interned at the University of Washington USPHS Hospital, followed by a four-year residency in pathology/laboratory medicine at the UW affiliated hospitals program. He was 76 years old.

Dr. Douglas Aaron Rucker, D.D.S. '66, "Doc" or "Uncle Doug," as he was affectionately known, was born on Oct. 31, 1939 to Aaron Riley Rucker and Ruth Wright Rucker. In high school he played multiple instruments in the marching band and was a member of the football team. After high school, he attended Morehouse College and remained a dedicated alumnus upon his graduation in 1961.

After Morehouse, Dr. Rucker was particularly proud of being the first Black accepted to the now defunct Emory University School of Dentistry; however, he chose to attend Howard University College of Dentistry and graduated in 1966.

He went on to work for Carolina Community Action as a dentist for one year before opening Rucker Dentistry in 1967.

Dr. Rucker's exemplary professional career yielded numerous accolades including Omega Man of the Year, Rotary Man of the Year, South Carolina Governor's Award, Palmetto Medical Dental and Pharmaceutical Doctor of the Year, Howard University College of Dentistry Alumni of the Year, and he was the first recipient of the Dr. Noble P. Cooper Legacy Award.

A man of unwavering faith, Dr. Rucker was a devoted member of Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church for 78 years. He was a lifetime member of his illustrious fraternity, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. and was a founding member of Kappa Pi Chapter in Lancaster.

Dr. Rucker was an excellent dentist and a pillar of the community, but his greatest achievement was his family. Doug married the love of his life, Ruby King on Aug. 27, 1966, and was married for 53 years. He died on Aug. 30, 2019.

Distinguished Alumna Toni Morrison

Alumna Toni Morrison passed away on Aug. 5, 2019. She was 88 years old.

Born Chloe Anthony Wofford, Toni Morrison, was a student at Howard from 1949 to 1953, during which time she assumed the nickname "Toni." In addition to her academic pursuits in the departments of English and classics, she was a member of the Modern Dance Club, Alpha Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. and the Howard Players.

Ms. Morrison earned a bachelor's degree from Howard University in 1953 and a master's degree from Cornell University in 1955. In 1958, Morrison returned to *alma mater* to teach in the Department of English. She made a monumental impact on students as a young, Black female faculty member—a significant undertaking. It was while she was a lecturer at Howard, in fact, that she joined a writers' group and shared with that group a short story, which later became her first novel *The*

Bluest Eye (1970).

In 1979, she received a Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award, and on Charter Day Convocation in 1995, Morrison honored her symbiotic relationship with the University as the orator and an honorary degree recipient.

She was the author of nearly one dozen novels, several volumes of critical essays, children's books, plays, a song cycle and an opera—rooted in the Black experience.

She was the first African American woman to earn the Nobel Prize in literature, a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom—the country's high-



est honor—and many other prestigious awards, recognitions and honorary degrees. We honor the life of our mother, sister and friend in *belles-lettres*, Toni Morrison. She was a daughter of Howard and a gift to the world.

'70s

Harold B. Robinson, J.D. '70, died on July 28, 2019. Following graduation, he went into private law and then went on to serve as an attorney in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Prior to his career in law, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, where he served as a special forces paratrooper. Robinson was chosen to serve as an honor guard at President Kennedy's funeral as he lay in state at the Capitol rotunda.

Kenneth C. Duvall, B.S. '74, died on July 6, 2019. Following graduation from Howard, he went on to earn a master's degree in nuclear physics and launched a career in science, working as a nuclear scientist at the U.S. Department of Commerce. He then worked at the Department of Energy as a radiological scientist. He

published articles in various scientific and technical journals and held memberships in the Health Physics and American Nuclear societies. In recent years, he was a radiological design engineer and a radiation protection program manager at prominent research laboratories in Ontario Canada, and Los Alamos, New Mexico. He was a member of Iota Phi Theta Fraternity Inc.

Dr. Sushila Peterson, B.A. '74, D.D.S. '79, died on Nov. 12, 2018.

Sheila Devon Marshall, B.A. '75, died on Jan. 19, 2019. Marshall served her community as a volunteer at the local Armed Forces Retirement Home and she was a member of several social organizations, including The Epicureans Inc., The Red Hat Society Inc., Sisters Who Swing Golf Association and The Drifters. She enjoyed, travel, golf, dancing and playing cards.

'00s

Lacey Asia Williams, B. F. A. '08, died on Aug. 19, 2019. She was 33 years old.

Sharron R. Muhammad, M.A. '07, died on Sept. 12, 2018. In addition to her undergraduate and graduate degrees, she was a doctoral student and completed three years of medical school. She was a world traveler, a Peace Corps volunteer, mentor to countless youth, contributor to scholarly publications and a published author of an Afro futuristic novel: *Choosing Deceit: The Shun-Ur Book I*, under her pen name S. R. Sarai.

Esteemed Public Servant

The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, a powerhouse voice for the unheard, and servant leader died in October 2019.

He was a class of 1973 graduate of alma mater. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a degree in political science. Congressman Cummings then graduated from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1976 and was admitted to the Maryland Bar in December 1976. He practiced law for nineteen years before entering Congress.

Congressman Cummings was educated by world-class political science faculty experts—each among the earliest of all Blacks to earn Ph.Ds. in political science. The Howard political science faculty were the progenitors of what is now known as Black politics in the field of political science. The study of Black people and politics was birthed here. Congressman Cummings' student experience in this environment propelled his lifetime of honorable public service.

Without a doubt, he blazed his own trails by beginning his career of public service in the Maryland House of Del-

egates, where he served for more than a decade. While there, he became the youngest elected chairman of the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus, and the first African American in Maryland history to be named Speaker Pro-Tem, the second-highest position in the House of Delegates. Congressman Cummings proudly represented Maryland's 7th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Congressman Cummings always honored the responsibility of a Howard graduate. He received an Alumni Achievement Award in 2000 (the same year as Jessye Norman). He also received the honorary degree, LL.D., in 2003 as the Charter Day Orator and a Special Citation of Achievement in 2006 as the Commencement Orator.

A masterful coalition builder, from 2003-04, he was president of the Congressional Black Caucus. He accomplished a productive agenda with the help of other progressive caucuses to: preserve affirmative action; block the nomination of narrow-minded federal judges; stop



the implementation of limited media ownership rules; improve health disparities, veterans' benefits, and national security measures; increase funding for K-12 and for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs); and, create new jobs and a climate for new businesses.

Of greatest significance, amidst it all, Congressman Cummings was present and there for his family, the less fortunate, the persecuted, the victimized, the city of Baltimore, America and Howard University. We must perpetuate his legacy by taking up his clarion call and fighting for equality and justice.

Legal Pioneer

Federal Judge Damon J. Keith, Howard University School of Law alumnus, passed away in April 2019 at 96 years old. He graduated from HUSL in 1949 and went on to become a pioneer in the legal profession. Judge Keith became one of the first African American's on the federal bench, serving as a judge for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan (1967–77) and for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit (1977–2019). He was a longtime advocate for social justice and the fight for civil rights.

Judge Keith was not only a proponent of civil rights and justice, but he was also a mentor to some of the country's most prominent legal minds, including former Michigan Attorney General and Gov. Jennifer Granholm, Harvard Law School

Professor Lani Guinier and Judge Eric Clay of the U.S. Court of Appeals of the Sixth Circuit. He was also co-founder of the Detroit NAACP's annual Fight for Freedom Fund Dinner and recipient of the organization's highest honor, the Springarn Medal, which has been bestowed upon African American luminaries such as Paul Robeson, Jackie Robinson and Medgar Evers.

Throughout his career, Judge Keith received more than 40 honorary degrees, including a Doctor of Laws in 1974 from Howard University, and some of the highest honors from civic, academic and civil right groups across the country. One of his notable accolades occurred in 2011, when Wayne State University opened the Damon Keith Center for Civil Rights in the University's law school. He



also received the Edward J. Devitt Distinguished Service to Justice Award, the highest award that can be bestowed on a member of the federal judiciary.

Renowned International Music Star



Howard alumna Jessye Norman died in late September at 74 years old. She was a renowned international opera star and Grammy-winning soprano.

She entered Howard University on full-tuition scholarship at 16 years old and graduated cum laude in 1967 from the College of Fine Arts. She continued her studies at the Peabody Conservatory and the University of Michigan, earning an M.A. degree in 1968. On the occasion of the 1982 Commencement Convocation, Howard University conferred upon Ms. Norman the honorary Doctor of Music degree. A distinguished leader and caretaker of alma mater's legacy, she served on the Howard University Board of Trustees from 2002–14.

Her accolades include numerous Grammy Awards; the Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill Medal; the Kennedy Center Honors; and more than 40 honorary doctorate degrees from colleges, universities and conservatories around the world. Former United Nations Secretary-General Xavier Perez de Cuelar made her an Honorary Ambassador

to the United Nations in 1990. In 2000, Howard honored Ms. Norman with the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award. In 2006, she received the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award and served as the guest vocalist at our Charter Day Dinner. In 2009, she was honored with the National Medal of the Arts—the highest award given to artists and arts patrons by the United States government.

The Jessye Norman School for the Arts in her hometown of Augusta, Georgia, is a tuition-free arts education program for talented middle-school students otherwise unable to experience private arts tutoring. The school is Ms. Norman's response to the understanding that given the opportunity to explore the arts, students introduced to this positive means of self-expression perform better in their other studies and become more involved citizens.



HOWARD
UNIVERSITY

THE HOWARD LEGACY SOCIETY

*Your gift.
Your Legacy.*

Your legacy is important.

That's why you take time to plan and provide for the people and causes that mean the most to you. If you have included Howard as a beneficiary in your will or trust, IRA, life insurance, or retirement plan, please let us know. We want to honor you with membership in the Howard Legacy Society. And more importantly, we want to make sure you're thanked today, and your legacy is honored tomorrow.

The Howard Legacy Society was created to pay tribute to those who include the University in their estate plans. Even if you choose to remain anonymous, your gift will set a wonderful example for others to follow.

If you have already included Howard in your estate plans or if you would like information on how to do so, please contact Quina De Laine, Planned Giving Officer at 202-238-2518 or quina.delaine@howard.edu.

SAMPLE BEQUEST LANGUAGE

I hereby give, devise and bequeath _____ (insert dollar amount, property to be donated, or proportion of residuary estate) to Howard University, a nonprofit organization with main offices at 2400 Sixth Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20059, for the University's general purposes (or for the support of a specific fund or program). Federal Tax ID #53-0204707.

VISIT OUR PLANNED GIVING WEBSITE AT PLANNEDGIVING.HOWARD.EDU.

HOWARD

Howard University
Office of University Communications
1851 9th Street NW
Suite 402
Washington, D.C. 20001

Nonprofit
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit No. 6115
Washington, DC

