THE WOMEN
How they’re changing the University—and the paths for students.

DEANS

Dean Andrea Hayes Dixon was appointed dean of the College of Medicine after this photo was made.
BACK AT THE MECCA  DJ Jae Murphy (BA '12) pumps up the crowd as Yardfest returns to Homecoming 2022 in full force after a pandemic hiatus. Photo by Rin-rin Yu
The Black Women Leaders of Howard

In mid-August, during the whirlwind of greeting new students and parents to campus and the start of classes, I was (miraculously) able to gather nine women deans of Howard University together, in one room, for a photo shoot. (We caught up with Dean Andrea Hayes Dixon later in October, after she was named dean of the medical school.)

Each chose clothing that reflected their personalities and professionalism. Portrait photographer and Howard alumna Rhonisha Franklin (BBA ’04, MBA ’10) played tunes, chatted, and portrayed them as they saw themselves: as leaders, proud women, educators, nurturers. By the time the group shot occurred in the afternoon, they were comfortable around the camera, with Dean Phylicia Rashad leading them in a dance number from "Dreamgirls."

While each dean sat in the makeup chair, I asked them: How was gender presented to you as a child? When did you first realize it would be a factor in your career? Who are your role models? They shared their stories. All of them said gender expectations weren’t set in their childhoods. None of them thought they’d become a university dean. All of them recognized the importance of their positions, both as a Black leader and as a Black woman. This was important, they acknowledged, to have students—male and female—see this as something very normal and achievable.

It’s important for more than just Howard to see it—the world has to see it, too. Because it’s completely mind-boggling that, even today, in the year 2022, we’re still experiencing such “firsts” when it comes to women, especially minority women. Imagine how much further along we’d be as a society if all women were in leadership decades (centuries!) ago. However, as these deans can attest, they’re very busy catching up to generations to follow, to become the norm. I hope you enjoy what these women—and all the others featured in this issue—have to share with their fellow Bison and beyond. As always, my phone, email, and door are always open, so please reach out with those exciting Bison stories.

Happy Autumn,

Rin-rin Yu, Editor-in-Chief
From the President

Dear Howard University Community,

In 2013, out of Howard’s 13 schools and colleges, we had only one female dean. To allow for such underrepresentation among our decanal leadership, as our University’s student body became more predominantly female, and especially as Howard was known as a champion of representation and inclusivity, was a wrong that we desperately needed to set right.

When we recognized this transgression, we did not impugn the 12 male deans and the work they had done for the University or the executives who installed them in positions of leadership. We can highlight the virtues of a hiring process that enabled Howard to identify such capable men for these deanships while also casting a spotlight on the imperfections that caused equally highly qualified women to be overlooked.

When we fail to admit our mistakes, it becomes more likely that they will be repeated. Rather than rooting out the prejudices that contributed to the underrepresentation of women, we would have run the risk of entrenching those unconscious biases into how we conducted business.

Reverence of the past requires a delicate balancing act. We should extol our history, our traditions and our culture—but not to so great an extent that we blind ourselves to their shortcomings. Indeed, to truly respect our past, we must be willing to critique it. History should never be so heavy a force that we are prevented from moving forward or dragged backward. Rather, our past should serve as guideposts to steer us toward a more prosperous future.

Nothing about our University is beyond reproach or grounds for change. Even our most iconic buildings and campus fixtures are liable to be replaced if they no longer suit the needs of the University or in some manner are thwarting our forward trajectory.

In these important leadership positions, we are not only more reflective of our student body, we are not only practicing the lessons in representation and inclusion that we preach, but we have identified immensely talented, visionary, and qualified leaders who are taking their schools and colleges to unprecedented heights. This success, like so many personal and institutional achievements, began with a past failure and our willingness to talk about it and take measures to correct it.

Excellence in Truth and Service,

Wayne A. I. Frederick, MD, MBA
Charles R. Drew Professor of Surgery
President

There are more Black women leading our University than at any other institution of higher education in the country.

Dr. Frederick with Dean Danielle Holley, Dean Gina Spivey-Brown and Dean Sandra Crewe
On June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court announced its decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization. More than seven weeks earlier, however, Justice Samuel J. Alito’s opinion for the six-justice majority that overturned both Roe v. Wade (1973) and Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey (1992), laying waste to 50 years of precedent, was leaked. In the days that followed, I porched over the draft, eager to see years of precedent. The leak was v. Casey (1992), laying waste to 50 6 7 Law and Howard University. Howard well as what’s needed in its aftermath where 71% of the student body is made up of people who were assigned female at birth. But what about the faculty? Dobbs should matter to colleagues in the School of Social Work because their students will have to deal with reproductive justice including, reproductive healthcare puts fragile families further at risk of state surveil- lance, intervention, and destruction. Dobbs should matter to colleagues in the School of Social Work because their students will have to deal with how criminalizing pregnancy and reproductive healthcare puts fragile families further at risk of state surveil- lance, intervention, and destruction. Dobbs should matter to colleagues in the School of Divinity as their stu- dents grapple with the ways in which reproductive justice means the bodily integrity and autonomy of all within the beloved community are protected. Reproductive justice including, but not limited to the rights Dobbs rejected, must be an essential part of our work both inside and outside the classroom. Dobbs presents us with an opportunity to determine how to live both parts of our motto, “Truth and Service,” in a post-Dobbs world. The issue of reproductive rights, I think, is key, as is the issue of pay equity for women.”

TONIA HOPE
Director of the Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center

Abortion. Seeing as Roe v. Wade was just overturned and it impacts a lot of people, especially in Southern states where there are conservative administrations and such.”

MAYAH GAINES
Senior psychology major

The issue of reproductive rights, I think, is key, as is the issue of pay equity for women.”

WOMEN’S RIGHTS

When We Can’t Choose

by LISA A. CROOMS-ROBINSON

makes healthcare professionals operate in a legal environment that requires them to ignore data about high rates of maternal mortality and morbidity among the people of African descent we are institutionally bound to serve. Dobbs should matter to colleagues in the College of Pharmacy who might prioritize guaranteed access to safe and affordable self-man- aged abortion medication. Dobbs should matter to colleagues in the School of Business because they train students who not only will run corporations in states where abortion is now illegal, but also can choose to include travel assistance and leave for employees forced to travel to states where comprehensive reproductive healthcare remains accessible. Dobbs should matter to colleagues in the College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences because federal and state efforts to substitute political judgments for decisions that should be made by healthcare providers and their patients are unethical and dangerous. Dobbs makes healthcare professionals operate in a legal environment that requires them to ignore data about high rates of maternal mortality and morbidity among the people of African descent we are institutionally bound to serve. Dobbs should matter to colleagues in the College of Pharmacy who might prioritize guaranteed access to safe and affordable self-man- aged abortion medication. Dobbs should matter to colleagues in the School of Business because they train students who not only will run corporations in states where abortion is now illegal, but also can choose to include travel assistance and leave for employees forced to travel to states where comprehensive reproductive healthcare remains accessible. Dobbs should matter to colleagues in the College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences because federal and state efforts to substitute political judgments for decisions that should be made by healthcare providers and their patients are unethical and dangerous.
Dental Legacy and Change

by Jeanne Craig Sinkford, DDS, PhD, DSc

An estimated 64 million adults and children live in the DPHSA. However, dentistry, as in other health professions, has experienced a significant change in the enrollment and leadership of women. We hope this shift will increase the number of Black dentists and reduce DPHSA. Howard today has 63% women in the dental class of 2025. Women dental students at Howard now mentor each other. They formed the sorority, Delta Phi Sigma, in 1993, which includes women from both medicine and dentistry.

The profession has also seen this gender shift in leadership: 25% of dental deans (interim and permanent) are women, 46% of students in dental specialty programs are women; 25% of practicing dentists are women, and 36.3% of dental faculty are women. The dental deans at both Howard and Meharry are women – I served as Howard’s first female dean in 1975. In 2021, 20% of first-time enrollees in U.S. dental schools are historically underrepresented racially/ethnically diverse students.

In a recent book I published with dental leaders Sheila Price and Marilyn Woolfolk entitled "Undaunted Trailblazers: Minority Women Leaders for Oral Health,” 31 contemporary minority women leaders share their journeys in oral domination promotion and advance oral health for the wellbeing of generations. The fascination of "undaunted trailblazers" comes from "aha moments" in personal stories that contributed to their decisions, professional accomplishments, and leadership trajectories. For example, Malenia G. Mayberry, DDS, remembers when a patient said: "You know, there was a time when I would not have let someone like you treat me that "someone like" her included women – specifically, minority women.

Oral health is no longer a neglected issue on the global health agenda. In our book, we highlight women experts who are striving "to educate and empower families about good oral health" and "(understand) the role of viral infection as it relates to oral infection and chronic disease." A resolution adopted by the World Health Organization in 2021 called for developing a framework that aligns oral health with noncommunicable disease and universal health coverage. The pandemic also presented new challenges and opportunities for transformative changes as we build more integrated and resilient health systems at home and abroad.

I look to the future to see more leadership development and opportunities in oral health, especially with minority women and younger male professional colleagues. Women and minorities must be both changed advocates and change agents in the future. We must learn from each other as we engage in partnerships that contribute to human survival at home and abroad.

Jeanne Craig Sinkford is professor and dean emerita of the Howard University College of Dentistry and senior scholar emerita of the American Dental Education Association.

Role Models

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I have been involved with lacrosse for most of my life as a player, a coach, and mentor. Without the enactment of Title IX 50 years ago – a law that prohibits sex-based discrimination in any school or any other education program that receives funding from the federal government – those avenues would have remained closed to me, a Black woman in sports. Title IX is not exclusive to sports, but it is in this arena that I have most felt its impact. When I was a high school freshman over 25 years ago, I watched my parents and coaches battle on behalf of the girls’ teams for equal funding, comparable facilities, equipment, and overall support in a system that prioritized boys’ sports. There has been vast improvement since then, but the struggles continue, even at the college and professional levels. The salaries of the women on the USA national soccer team and the spending disparities between the men’s and women’s NCAA basketball championships, for example, are still being fought today.

Karen Healy-Silcott is the head coach for the women’s lacrosse team at Howard.

In addition to those challenges, athletes of color face additional obstacles that the majority of college athletes (i.e., white athletes) do not. This includes being coached by those who look like us and convincing other athletes that we belong here, too. In my first game as head coach at Howard last year, I had to navigate my team through a racist and misogynistic experience that followed us through the season. I was grateful our team of minorities had each other, rather than face it alone.

The NCAA took an in-depth look at participation gains, ongoing deficiencies, and inequalities faced by females of color at all levels of college athletics. Its data shows that while overall participation and racial diversity have increased, the larger percentage of participants favor basketball and indoor/outdoor track, sports that athletes of color have long been accepted. At Howard, those sports had tremendous success this year and gained national recognition. Sports like lacrosse are historically less accessible to minorities. The lacrosse community has been pushing to diversify the sport. I believe that Howard can capitalize on the changing landscape and become a leading force in attracting top student-athletes and set a pathway for Black and underrepresented girls to enter the sport. Although Howard has had a women’s lacrosse team for 20 years, it has yet to see success on the lacrosse field similar to that of the basketball program.

In this Title IX anniversary year, it is important that we acknowledge and applaud our progress. But we should also reflect on how those successes were achieved and to commit to continuing the upward trajectory. Increased access to sports is wonderful. Having more coaches of color and administrative staff is wonderful. But successful programs also require the full support of the administration, alumni, and community, in all sports. My hope is that we can continue to enhance our facilities, update our processes, and hire more staff, so we can effect change on college lacrosse on a national level.

People of color in America need more than a top-notch education to thrive and excel. They also need tenacity, grit, discipline, and resilience – the very qualities that are developed on a playing field. The bonds cemented among and between players last a lifetime. For Black people, these relationships become a critical asset in ensuring career success. We should harness the power of sports to add depth to our commitment to produce strong, well-educated Black women who are fully equipped to excel in all endeavors.

Karen Healy-Silcott is the head coach for the women’s lacrosse team at Howard.

Expressions

Dentistry has come a long way since 1881, when Howard University College of Dentistry (HUCD) was founded in a country with only 26 licensed Black dentists out of a total of 15,000 nationwide. Segregation at large has contributed to our communities. However, there continues to be a shortage of Black dentists today throughout the United States. Only 2.8% of U.S. dentists are Black to serve a US population that is 12.4% Black, according to the Journal of the American Dental Association.

In addition to the absence of Black dentists, there are 6,803 Black dentists throughout the country that is 12.4% Black, according to the Journal of the American Dental Association. In addition to those challenges, athletes of color face additional obstacles that the majority of college athletes (i.e., white athletes) do not. This includes being coached by those who look like us and convincing other athletes that we belong here, too. In my first game as head coach at Howard last year, I had to navigate my team through a racist and misogynistic experience that followed us through the season. I was grateful our team of minorities had each other, rather than face it alone.

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After three years of cautious tip-toeing around large events due to the pandemic, Howard University swung its gates wide open to alumni and the greater community for the 2022 Homecoming.

For three-quarters of the student body, this was their first in-person Howard Homecoming experience. The seniors were the only ones who were present for the last full Homecoming, held in 2019.

Howard kicked off Homecoming week on October 17 with Bison Madness in Burr Gymnasium, where students cheered on the Bison women’s and men’s basketball teams, officially marking the beginning of basketball season. At the Greek Step Show, Delta Sigma Theta and Alpha Phi Alpha took first place, each winning checks worth $2,500. Students from the College of Fine Arts showcased their latest designs at the annual fashion show, including two whose varsity and flight jackets and pants are available for sale in the Howard bookstore through a partnership with FISLL. Each school and college held various receptions and open houses to welcome back their alumni.
Yardfest, Howard’s cherished tradition, was finally held in the Yard with a live stage in front of Founders’ Library. It featured a diverse range of artists and entertainment including DJ Jae Murphy (’14), rapper Flo Milli, rapper GloRilla, R&B singer Jacquees, and R&B duo Chloe X Halle. On Saturday, the Showtime Band and student organizations kicked off game day with a community parade, followed by the time-honored tradition of tailgating in the Howard Center parking lot.

To cap off Homecoming week, Howard cheered its football team to victory against Delaware State 35-17, as Vice President Kamala Harris (BA ’86) boosted the team with a message broadcasted on the field. The next morning, she stopped by Rankin Chapel to address the audience gathered for Sunday service. Alumni filled the Shaw neighborhood for farewell parades, followed by the time-honored tradition of tailgating in the Howard Center parking lot.

Howard and Jordan Brand Sign 20-Year Partnership

Howard University and Nike’s Jordan Brand recently formed a historic 20-year partnership, aimed to elevate Howard’s athletic department, create recruitment opportunities, and increase influence of HBCUs on collegiate sports and global culture. The football team’s uniforms were unveiled on August 27.

In 2020, the Jordan Brand, along with basketball legend Michael Jordan, made a commitment to donate $100 million over 10 years to organizations dedicated to ensuring racial equality, social justice, and greater access to education.

Howard Law Students Visit Ghana to Examine New African Trade Agreement

Howard Law professor John Woods recently led a team of law students to Accra, Ghana as part of a capstone project. This initiative, created by Woods, examines the legal and economic integration of Africa through the new African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement and AfCFTA’s potential impact on Africa’s development efforts. During its visit to Ghana, the team held high level meetings with dignitaries, including recently appointed U.S. ambassador to Ghana Virginia Palm. Woods views this trade agreement as a social justice initiative. “Raw materials from the continent are relied upon to produce almost all goods and products globally. Yet, Africa accounts for only 2% - 3% of world trade,” Woods said. “By effectively transitioning the general African economy from a heavy reliance on supplying natural resources to the world to that of one, producing goods; and two, enhancing trade among African countries, can transform the economic condition of the Continent. As such, by strengthening the African economy, the AfCFTA can fuel development and anti-poverty efforts throughout Africa.” The students who served on Woods’ team were Charliera Ervin, Relya-Axelkia Anthony, Ylsha Ford, Olusoyin Rebecca Doherty, Sydney Hawkins, Renesha Cook, Sage Stewart, and Amir Muhammad.

To gain practical legal experience, the students interned for small and midsize African enterprises (SMEs) in legal, health care, cosmetics, real estate, and non-governmental organizations. Through field placement opportunities, they also provided legal assistance to SMEs, primarily women-owned businesses, that African officials have identified as an essential demographic regarding the future and sustained success of the AfCFTA.

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In the past two years, the Howard University Showtime Marching Band has gone through a subtle transformation in the gender makeup of the group. Reflective of the demographics of the University, the band now is 75% female, making it perhaps the only one in the country where women dominate and are transitioning it into something new and different. Kathryn Boxill has been a part of the band program since 1984. She has served as alumni band coordinator since 2001 and has noticed the shift, especially during the recent MEAC/SWAC Challenge in Atlanta and the HBCU/New York City Classic. “You would not know whether it is female or a male unless they take off their hats. It’s all about showmanship, style, and marching,” Boxill says. Georghette Conaway is one of the many freshmen in the band. “I grew up in the South and have always loved marching,” professes Conaway, a political science major from Fairfield, Alabama who plays saxophone. “As a freshman, I don’t necessarily look at [gender makeup] as being a factor. It is like a family, and we are all striving to take advantage of the uniqueness,” she says.

Kelvin Washington is in his third year as director of bands and 15 years overall with the band. “We have to recruit students who not only meet the academic requirements, but at the same time they are musically inclined and love being in the band,” he says. “We pride ourselves on being in the band means being in the band,” he says. “We have to recruit students who not only meet the academic requirements, but at the same time they are musically inclined and love being in the band,” he says. “We pride ourselves on being in the band means being in the band,” he says. “We have to recruit students who not only meet the academic requirements, but at the same time they are musically inclined and love being in the band,” he says. “We pride ourselves on being in the band means being in the band,” he says. “We have to recruit students who not only meet the academic requirements, but at the same time they are musically inclined and love being in the band,” he says. “We pride ourselves on being in the band means being in the band,” he says. “We have to recruit students who not only meet the academic requirements, but at the same time they are musically inclined and love being in the band,” he says. “We pride ourselves on being in the band means being in the band,” he says. “We have to recruit students who not only meet the academic requirements, but at the same time they are musically inclined and love being in the band,” he says. “We pride ourselves on being in the band means being in the band,” he says. “We have to recruit students who not only meet the academic requirements, but at the same time they are musically inclined and love being in the band,” he says. “We pride ourselves on being in the band means being in the band,” he says. “We have to recruit students who not only meet the academic requirements, but at the same time they are musically inclined and love being in the band,” he says. “We pride ourselves on being in the band means being in the band,” he says. “We have to recruit students who not only meet the academic requirements, but at the same time they are musically inclined and love being in the band,” he says. “We pride ourselves on being in the band means being in the band,” he says. “We have to recruit students who not only meet the academic requirements, but at the same time they are musically inclined and love being in the band,” he says. “We pride ourselves on being in the band means being in the band,” he says. “We have to recruit students who not only meet the academic requirements, but at the same time they are musically inclined and love being in the band,” he says. “We pride ourselves on being in the band means being in the band,” he says. “We have to recruit students who not only meet the academic requirements, but at the same time they are musically inclined and love being in the band,” he says. “We pride ourselves on being in the band means being in the band,” he says. “We have to recruit students who not only meet the academic requirements, but at the same time they are musically inclined and love being in the band,” he says. “We pride ourselves on being in the band means being in the band,” he says. “We have to recruit students who not only meet the academic requirements, but at the same time they are musically inclined and love being in the band,” he says. “We pride ourselves on being in the band means being in the band,” he says. “We have to recruit students who not only meet the academic requirements, but at the same time they are musically inclined and love being in the band,” he says. “We pride ourselves on being in the band means being in the band,” he says.
Howard.edu — Fall 2022

HOUSTON CONTINUES TO RECEIVE RECORD-BREAKING GIFTS FROM ALUMNI and organizations worldwide to help create scholarships, programs, experiential learning opportunities, and more for Howard students. Alumni continue to pay it forward, hoping that their contributions can support current and future students in the same way they were supported during their Hilltop days. As expressed by alumna Kirstyn Martin Fields (BBA ’02), “There are not enough words or anecdotes to express the ongoing value that the Howard experience has provided for me, the foundation that it laid for my life and the way it has equipped me to navigate any environment.” These are just a small select few of the many gifts Howard received this past fiscal year.

$10 MIL
THE WILLIAM AND FLORA HEWLETT FOUNDATION
For the Equitable Economic & Sustainable Society Center

$5.4 MIL
Netflix, Inc.
For the Chadwick A. Boseman Memorial Scholarship Fund

$5 MIL
Thurgood Marshall College Fund
For the Google Capacity Fund

$4.18 MIL
Paul L. Brown, Jr.
Trust BS ’59
For the Howard University Annual Fund

$1.25 MIL
Ford Foundation
For the Center for Journalism and Democracy

$1.02 MIL
Delta Dental Community Care Foundation
For the Delta Dental Scholarship for Opportunity

$1 MIL
The Walt Disney Company
For the Center for Arts and Communications

Dewey D. White, Jr., BME ’71
HU ANNUAL FUND
“Howard U. was my springboard to adulthood and gave me the wonderful perspective of attending a HBCU in a major city during the later civil rights era.”

Margaret A. Major, BS ’81
HU ANNUAL FUND
“I am a Howard Alum.”

Craig O. Chapman, BA ’68
HU ANNUAL FUND
“I love my alma mater for all it represents!”

Nicole D. Pichon, BBA ’93
HU ANNUAL FUND
“My time at HU was the most powerful, validating, and enlightening experience of my young single life. I want future generations of students to be blessed with a similar experience.”

Jason L. Brown, BA ’95, JD ’98
HU ANNUAL FUND
“Howard University helped transform me into the person I am today.”

Sendy M. Brown, BFA ’96
CHADWICK A. BOSEMAN COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS AND THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & ARCHITECTURE
“I want to do my part to ensure that Howard continues to be a space where our people can continue to develop their minds and their hearts.”

Kirstyn Martin Fields, BBA ’02
HUA ATLANTIC CLUB ENDED SCHOLARSHIP FUND
“I love my HU!”

William M. North, IV, BBA ’00
HU ANNUAL FUND
“I want to do my part to ensure that Howard continues to be a space where our people can continue to develop their minds and their hearts.”

In Fall 2021, the minor for women, gender, and sexualities studies (WGSS) was offered for the very first time at Howard University, housed within the Interdisciplinary Studies Department in the College of Arts and Sciences. By Spring 2022, more than 30 students officially declared the WGSS minor with many more having expressed interest in doing so. The minor introduces students to new concepts, theories, and knowledge systems as well as critical thinking from a gender, feminist, and sexualities perspective. It will also help students identify organizations, they can intern with to gain empirical experience. According to J. Jarpa Dawuni, EdS, PhD, the founding director of the Howard University Center for Women, Gender, and Global Leadership and a co-creator of the minor in women, gender, and sexualities studies, most universities have a women, gender, and sexualities program. Given the history and contributions of Black women to the history of the United States and globally, the absence of a WGSS program at Howard has left a big gap in the efforts of the Black community to address gender issues. “With the growing number of Black feminist scholars, this minor offers our students the opportunity to connect with and learn the history and lived experiences of Black women from theoretical and empirical contexts to prepare them to be gender aware and globally connected to transnational women’s struggles,” Dawuni says. “As a leading HBCU, one that has produced some of the best Black leaders nationally and internationally, we must prepare our students to be leaders with an expansive understanding of the role of gender as a social construct not only in Black communities domestically, but also globally.”

Dawuni also mentions how diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts are becoming more popular across our society. But, she stresses, they cannot be effective if one does not have a foundational understanding of women, gender, and sexualities. “Gender is central to everything in society,” Dawuni says. “However, it must be understood within the cultural and historical context.”

Gender is central to everything in society. However, it must be understood within the cultural and historical context.

Fall 2022 — Howard.edu
CREATIVE WRITING

Immersive Storytelling

Creative writing concentration heads into the countryside with the Zora Neale Hurston Summer Writing Workshop

by AALIYAH BUTLER

“The sun breaks over the horizon as Selam Guta grabs her bow and arrow. It was one of the activities provided to inspire students who might need a different perspective or idea, by trying something new. With a staggered stance and a deep breath, she envisions the story of an Ethiopian American teen who returns to Ethiopia following unforeseen circumstances. This creative narrative is one that Guta has been working on for quite some time but was able to thoroughly nurture during her time at the Zora Neale Hurston Summer Writing Workshop. What better way to craft the best creative writing masterpiece than to tap into your very own ‘Hunger Games’ Katniss Everdeen?”

“Writing this piece became a sort of thought experiment into ‘what would happen if we were afraid of identity and loss came true together?’,” says Guta, a junior majoring in English and minoring in African studies. “Having the opportunity to work in community with such amazing writers and authors that I admire and a group of peers that inspire me was an absolute privilege. We really built a writing group of peers that inspire me was an absolute privilege. We really built a writing group of peers that inspire me.”

“Before beginning a labor-intensive summer experience, students were taught two separate classes every day for three hours each. The coursework incorporated various methods of analyzing creative writing, including peer reviewing, examining the work of award-winning authors, and exploring various genres. Students received academic credit for their participation and a new support group for their creative minds. Howard is only one of a few HBCUs that offers an undergraduate creative writing program. Students focus on writing fiction, poetry, or non-fiction. The retreat is one of several ways to engage students interested in creative writing. Students also produce the campus literary journal The Amistad. Creative writing is a crucial way of affirming one’s culture, says Dana Williams, PhD, dean of the Graduate School. ‘No nationality or ethnic group with a robust body of literature can be denied,’ says Woodberry. ‘Just being here at MD Anderson, attending webinars, and meeting with different people has been extremely beneficial to me.’

The students participated in important cancer research studies while building skills that will enhance their doctoral projects at Howard—and their future career ambitions. Ogundipe worked in a wet lab studying the synergism between three drugs for the effective treatment of bladder cancer. Her Summer research poster won the prize for the graduate student category in the 2022 MD Anderson Partnership for Careers in Cancer Science and Medicine poster competition. ‘It’s been quite interesting. This is my first time doing biological characterization,’ says Ogundipe. ‘She carried out in vivo drug assays using bladder cancer cell lines to assess synergism between a currently approved targeted therapy and two other candidate drugs. Additionally, she carried out in vivo studies characterizing the evaluation of drug resistance in a colorectal cancer cell line. ‘I feel more confident doing similar experiments now!’ The research she participated in at MD Anderson was particularly relevant for her doctoral studies at Howard, ‘The thinking I developed in at MD Anderson was at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. ‘There [are] so many people working on so many different types of cancers,’ says Woodberry. ‘[The MD Anderson team] uses at least two drug combinations to reduce the chance of resistance in cancer treatment. I’m working on this as well because I’m targeting two particular indicators in ovarian cancer. Ogundipe says, ‘That was why I was really interested in working with [the MD Anderson team] because it’s using combination to overcome chemoresistance, a major challenge with cancer treatment.’ Ogundipe says research like this has the potential to reduce the rate of chemoresistance, minimize treatment-induced toxicity, and improve cancer survival rates. Graham-Hyatt says that, by the end of the program, she was running experiments on her own with limited supervision from the researchers she was supporting. Her experiments at MD Anderson focused on the DEAR1 gene, which is found in breast cancer. ‘This will definitely help in developing laboratory techniques as well as my research at Howard, which is to find out if exercise or non-exercise lifestyle has an impact on early onset of Alzheimer’s,’ says Graham-Hyatt. ‘Woodberry used a coding program called RStudio to analyze large data sets created by her research team, which was studying prostate samples obtained through the Harvard University Health Professionals Follow-Up Study. The purpose of the study was to assess the relationship between race/ethnic maternal education alterations (mOADs) and cancer outcomes. Ultimately, the pilot informs a larger study with 1,000 patients with advanced prostate cancer and 1,000 patients without advanced cancer. Woodberry has done research with the Howard University Cancer Center about the role of patient navigation in reducing breast, colorectal, and prostate cancer disparities. Woodberry wants to apply her research skills to look at the environmental and biological factors that could enhance cancer outcomes, particularly for minority patients. ‘I was a little nervous at first,’ says. ‘But I’m coming away from the experience definitely feeling more comfortable, and I’m hoping that I can use RStudio for my future research.’

There [are] so many people working on so many different types of cancers.”

by SETH SHAPIRO

THE JOB OF ART IS TO SEE THE WORLD CLEARLY – TO SEE BEYOND NUMBERS AND SEE THE HUMANITY IN PEOPLE”

CREATIVE WRITING

Discovery

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The Great Re prioritization

The Small Business Development Center at Howard has seen record numbers of people move into entrepreneurship

by KIMBERLY IVerson-Holmes

Carl Brown (BA ’83) wants to help you quit your day job. He says too many people have told him they’re fed up.

“Whether it’s COVID, diabetes, stroke, whatever, folks are saying ‘nah, I’m going to call it a day and move on with my life,’” Brown says.

Brown runs the District of Columbia Small Business Development Center (SBDC). He says a record number of people are leaving their traditional jobs and moving into the entrepreneurial space.

As executive director, Brown saw demand for his office’s services recently skyrocket. In 2019, his staff provided 2,073 hours of counseling; in 2020, they provided 4,600 hours of counseling.

“We’ve seen growth in the number of Black women coming in,” Brown says. “They are the number one client in the District of Columbia. Sisters call me and are ready and prepared.”

Located in the Howard School of Business, the SBDC launched on the campus of Howard University in 1979; the same year Brown enrolled at Howard.

The self-proclaimed “one-stop shop for small business success,” SBDC provides research, resources, webinars, and one-on-one counseling to anyone looking to start or enhance a small business. The center was established as part of a congressional pilot program and managed by the Small Business Administration (SBA). The centers are located primarily on university and college campuses throughout every state and territory.

The Howard School of Business also offers help with patents and trademarking. Clients do not have to be a Howard student, faculty, or staff. All services are offered free of charge.

“That is your tax dollars at work,” Brown points out.

Many of Brown’s clients say they’ve benefited from his advice. “I took my mother to the doctor one day, and a former client walked in with his wife,” recounts Brown. “He’s like, ‘Oh, my God. It’s Carl Brown!’ He then told his wife, ‘Honey, this is the man responsible for the house you live in. They live in a mansion.’”

A big house built by a big idea that was nurtured on the campus of Howard University.

“I’m trying to bring Black intellectual excellence to the table,” Brown says.


discovery

Folks are saying ‘nah, I’m going to call it a day and move on with my life.’”

are also highly-educated professionals with extensive entrepreneurial expertise.

The New York native is passionate about entrepreneurship. He also hosts a weekly radio show on SiriusXM Channel 141, "The Small Business Report" showcases interviews with leaders, entrepreneurs, and business experts such as Black Ambition CEO Felicia Hatcher and Midwest regional director for Goldman Sachs’ 10,000 Small Businesses Voices, Janetta King. Brown has also been interviewed by national media outlets including History Channel, “Food that Built America,” and the Wall Street Journal.

He recommends making an appointment to talk to his staff early in your startup process.

"Don’t be afraid to discuss your idea – in fact, I would prefer that you come see me when you just got an idea and not start all these bad practices that we got to help you change," Brown says. Another million-dollar idea? Buying a boomer’s business.

"A lot of these baby boomers have never even thought about selling their businesses," Brown says. "They say, ‘who wants Carl Brown Tax Service?’ But at the core, it’s a tax service. ‘Tammy’ can take over. Tammy offers $50,000 over the next five years. Now that retiring owner gets $50,000 extra every year while laying on the beach. Who’s benefiting? Both of us.”

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How Do You Want to Be Remembered?

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
Raul Ferrera-Balanquet and Kathryn E. Coney-Ali have plans to bring the gallery of art to new heights.

**Vision**

**LOOKS AHEAD**

**UNIVERSITY’S GALLERY OF ART**

By Fall 2022, Art has amassed one of the world’s finest collections of portraits, abstract cultural studies from Duke University in Latin American and Caribbean background in international exhibitions. Ferrera-Balanquet earned a doctorate in aligned with the Chadwick Boseman College of Fine Arts call for a more intense focus on the themes related to the African diaspora under the leadership of Dean Phylicia Rashad.

“We want to bring out the African connection with an interest in the art of the African diaspora,” says Coney-Ali. “We are inviting people to engage in these conversations.”

Ferrera-Balanquet adds: “The concept of global Africa or diaspora is so alive in contemporary culture. We would like to invigorate what the gallery has always done with international and global connections. We are not reinventing the wheel but reinvigorating what has already been established.”

In one of their first projects, the pair hosted a mini-symposium on Afro-Mexican artistry in early October. The symposium highlighted the artistic work and life of renowned expatriate sculptor and activist Elizabeth Catlett. A much-celebrated Howard alumna, Catlett exemplified global connectivity. After graduation from Howard in 1935, Catlett embraced art with powerful and translatory political implications. In the 1950s, Catlett found herself targeted by the House Un-American Activities Committee and victimized by the intolerant McCarthy-era. She was forced to leave the United States for Mexico. Her works drew subjects from African American and Mexican life and made a deep impression on Mexican art. Ferrera-Balanquet says Howard University ranks among a select group of institutions that can boast of a distinguished roster of graduates who have made an impact on the international art world. “You cannot imagine the prestige this place has in the global art world,” he says.

Both Ferrera-Balanquet and Coney-Ali vow that the Gallery of Art’s purpose won’t stray from its original mission. The Howard University Gallery of Art was officially established in 1928 by action of the Board of Trustees, “to make revolving artistic knowledge in the larger community and the world outside the University. Coney-Ali expresses the continuance of the Gallery’s legacy of being a collecting institution and maintaining a high-quality collections management operation with a more prominent focus on collection stewardship.”

Two years ago, Howard University announced that it had received the costed African American Art collection of Ronald W. and Patricia Turner Walters. Mrs. Walters donated the collection to the Gallery of Art in honor of the legacy of her late husband, Dr. Ronald W. Walters, who was a civil rights activist and expert in Black politics. Walters taught at Howard University in the Department of Political Science for 25 years, serving as the chair for nearly a decade. The gift includes 121 artworks which contains some the earliest works by African Americans in this country.

Coney-Ali believes the collection is a cosmopolitan representation of the art world which is what sets it apart from other HBCUs. She notes that the collection provides a unique survey of art spanning five continents and varying periods, including Italian Renaissance, German expressionism, African and Oceanic art in the Alain L. Locke Collection, and modern and contemporary African art; placing Howard at the forefront among HBCUs.

"The discourse on art history which documents experiences and culture of people—our people—is what needs to be preserved," Coney-Ali explains. "It is with this mission and understanding of the collection, we will continue the legacy of [past] Howard art historians and gallery directors...[who] have paved the way forward committing to Black excellence at Howard."

The two co-executive directors have vowed to stay committed to furthering the fine arts education of Howard students, serving as a creative space for African American artists, and promoting artistic knowledge in the larger community and the world outside the University. Coney-Ali expresses the continuance of the Gallery’s legacy of being a collecting institution and maintaining a high-quality collections management operation with a more prominent focus on collection stewardship.”
Black women continue to advance in a range of professions, despite systemic barriers

Changing the Career Game

Story by Otesa Middleton Miles (BA '94)
Illustrations by Erick Ramos
enise streeter, PhD, CPA (bsa ’84) assistant professor of finance and international business in the School of Business, recalls being excited to go to her internship at a major New York City bank in the summer of 1982.

That excitement dampened when she arrived. She wore her hair straightened with bangs. She pulled the rest of her hair back into a single French braid down the middle of her head.

“I was told my hair was too ethnic,” Streeter says.

Her manager and internship coordinator gave her two options: go home for the day to change her hair or they would give her money to have her hair curled during her lunch break. She chose to find a salon during lunch. “She told me to come back and see her before I returned to my desk.”


Streeter, now a tenured professor, who had served as a chief financial officer, says she experienced many incidents driven by racism and sexism. Stories like Streeter’s underscore the situations Black women often face as both employees and entrepreneurs. Despite the challenges, Streeter remains optimistic, as Black women continue to make never-seen-before strides. “We see a Black woman, a Howard graduate, as vice president of the U.S. We’re closer to the White House than we’ve ever been,” says Streeter, who is interim accounting department chair. “We’re making lots of progress.”

The Uphill Battle

Even with advanced degrees, black women earn 70 cents for every dollar earned by a white man with an advanced degree, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. That pay difference adds up to a loss of almost $1 million over a career. The median yearly pay for Black women was $43,209 in 2020, compared to $50,525 for Black men, $67,629 for white men, $53,731 for white women, $83,173 for Asian men and $68,442 for Asian women.

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Landing jobs is another obstacle. Public sector hiring, often considered more open to hiring and promoting Black women, have also been cited for disparities. Black women are 58% less likely to be hired than white men, according to a 2021 report by Lean In.

Another time, she sat at the secretary’s desk looking for something. A white man who reported to her stopped by, “I’m out with my boss and my team.” The friend looked at the other white men to see which one was the boss. The employee said, “no, she’s my boss.” The friend seemed shocked when he said “You work for her?” The employee quit weeks later. “I had to believe it was because of peer pressure from his friend,” Streeter says.

One of her team members told a friend who stopped by, “I’m out with my boss and my team.” The friend looked at the other white men to see which one was the boss. The employee said, “no, she’s my boss.” The friend seemed shocked when he said “You work for her?” The employee quit weeks later. “I had to believe it was because of peer pressure from his friend,” Streeter says.

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Barriers, Road Blocks, and Obstacles

Doubting Black women and questioning their work adds to the stress they experience on the job. This can further impede their career progress, experts say.

“We can’t be afraid to stand up for ourselves. Be bold, not bashful,” says Streeter, who teaches her students how to succeed in corporate environments. She adds, “One has to know that you are good at what you do and you belong there to do it. We are not seeking permission to be in corporate spaces. Don’t look around for the barriers. Just focus on achieving your goals and helping others to do the same. At an HBCU, we not only teach you the content, we teach you how to navigate and how to express that you understand the content,” Streeter says.

Cynthia Miller, who attended Howard in 2003, first truly understood the disparities Black women face when she worked in California as a recruiter for universities. Miller earned very little at the time, $9 per hour and sold plasma when she needed extra money. She found herself surrounded by Black women in similar circumstances – not quite making it.

The realization was underscored when Miller says she interviewed a well-qualified Black woman for a position that paid $12,000.

Miller, who was raised in Compton, California by her grandmother while in foster care, says she planned to offer the job to another candidate, who did not have a master’s degree, because their resume looked better, Miller says.

With the Black applicant’s permission, Miller revamped her resume, landing the woman the job. That experience reinforced for Miller that even when Black women have better qualifications, they still face a multitude of roadblocks.

This incident made Miller grow more frustrated with lower salaries offered to Black women, comments...
Black women circumvent the discrimination. This Black women wear their hair. Miller began sharing woman to earn an MBA at Harvard University, cred-
 Forgery Of Her Own Path
Lillian Lincoln Lambert (BA ’66), the First Black woman to earn an MBA at Harvard University, credits her Howard education with helping her over-
come obstacles. “I got a great foundation at Howard — just as good as I received at Harvard,” she says.
In 1962, Lambert didn’t come to Howard directly out of high school because she had other plans. She moved from her family’s farm in Virginia to New York with hope of being a secretary.”I was an 18-year-old know-it-all,” says Lambert, author of the book, “The Road to Someplace Better: From the Segregated South to Harvard Business School and Beyond.”
“I thought getting a secretary job would be easy,” Lambert recalls, who instead worked as a typist at Macy’s in the comparison shopping department and cleaned houses.
Despite the challenges in the work world, or per-
haps because of them, Black women like Lambert are more likely to start a business. Last year, 17%
or Black men earn.

<table>
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<th>Black women earn 90 cents for every dollar Black men earn.</th>
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<td>BLACK WOMEN OWN 36% of Black-owned businesses – for healthcare and social assistance businesses, Black women own more than half: 53%.</td>
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<td>Of degrees earned by Black people, Black women earn 64% of bachelor’s degrees and 56% of doctoral, medical, and dental degrees.</td>
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<td>24% of Black women hold a bachelor’s degree or higher.</td>
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Lambert sometimes found that being a Black woman worked in her favor. She connected better with her employees. In her industry, most of the workers were women, while the vast majority of owners were men. Finding the right balance left Lambert often feeling like she was “walking a tight rope.” “You don’t want to be considered an angry Black woman or a pushover,” she says.

The Inequality in “Black Girl Magic” Lambert urges Black women to find creative solutions, use their networks and ask for support, which is how Lambert gained additional funding for her business.

“Getting a bank to loan you money was basically unheard of for a Black woman-owned business,” says Lambert. Her method? She invited a banker she knew to lunch, told him about her business, and asked for a line of credit. It worked.

Businesses run by Black women receive the least amount of venture capital investments, as well as nonprofits run by Black women, says J. Jarpa Dawuni, PhD, associate professor of political sci-
ence at Howard University and director of the Howard University Center for Women, Gender and Global Leadership. It’s not just businesses, either.

“Nonprofits led by Black women receive less than 1 percent of philanthropic funding in the U.S.,” Dawuni says.

Dawuni’s solution: “People must stop expecting Black women to do ‘Black Girl magic.’ People are used to us achieving and making impact with the little we are given,” she says.

This leads to high expectations while Black wom-
en continue to receive lower pay. “Working in service industries, Black women are underpaid and over-
worked with less benefits and limited opportunities for upward mobility,” says Dawuni, whose center will create more programs to build connections between current students and alumni to close some of the gaps.

In response to uprisings sparked by police kil-
lings and racial injustice in recent years, more com-
panies emphasized diversity, equity, and inclusion programs. However, these initiatives fall short if Black women still earn significantly less than their counterparts, she points out.

“These programs should not be yet another effort at window dressing,” Dawuni says. “Create sustain-
able opportunities and safe spaces that allow Black women to thrive. Organizations should be intention-
al and committed to creating institutional mecha-
nisms that don’t cause us to do magic with nothing.”
In 2014, when Howard chose a new president, there was one woman dean. Today, there are 10. Here’s how they’re changing the University — and the paths for Howard students.

The WOMEN DEANS of HOWARD UNIVERSITY

*Dean Andrea Hayes Dixon was named dean of the College of Medicine after this photo was made. Read her story on page 35.

by Rin-rin Yu and Misha Cornelius
PHOTOS BY RHONISHA FRANKLIN (BBA ’04, MBA ’10)
When Dean Sandra Crewe (PhD ’97), speaks, it’s always very thoughtfully and with zeal. “Leadership isn’t the loudest person,” she says. “It is probably the person in the room who has the most passion.” And passion in the profession of social work is something that Crewe emanates. While social work leans female-dominated, its leadership is more evenly split, she says. And, as a leader, she says battling misconceptions about social work – that it’s negative work, designed to dismantle families – is one of her bigger tasks at hand. “We have the role of protecting children and vulnerable families,” she says. “And really it should be looked at as one of the highest skill sets we have.”

As a dean, she hopes students look upon her as “an advocate for social justice, in all its forms, and that they will see that I am reliable, dedicated, knowledgeable, and a little feisty when necessary.” She emphasizes that being a leader requires commitment and dedication; as a woman leader, “you lean in when necessary on issues, and use your lived and practice experiences to weigh in on important matters impacting quality of life.”

Dean Danielle Holley, JD, grew up in an environment that empowered girls: her mother was an accounting professor, her grandmother was one of the first Black women to attend college in Texas, and her law professor father would take her to his classes at the ripe age of 5. However, she understood the societal structure of the time: that men were default leaders and women had to work twice as hard to prove their abilities. Holley is the third woman dean of Howard’s School of Law, which she notes is almost 70% women students. Outside of Howard’s campus, she and her students are a rarity – only about 5% of lawyers are Black (3% are Black women). Having women deans at Howard sets an example, she says. “We are strongly representing what is possible for Black women to do. When we establish that in this setting, we establish it for Black women … in every other sector of industry and nonprofits and universities in the country.”

In the iconic Founder’s Library, nine Howard University women are gathered. Morning sunlight peaks through the ornate windows of one of the campus’s most historic buildings, casting a glow on the bookcases that line the room. Though their journeys may differ, each of the women arrived at Founders with a shared purpose. These are the women deans of Howard University.

“When I became president in 2014, there was only one fully-appointed woman dean,” says President Dr. Wayne A. I. Frederick, MD, MBA. “I was determined to change that.”

Howard gave Black women a chance to lead as deans at a time when other universities did not. Lucy Diggs Slowe was Howard’s very first, named Dean of Women in 1922. There have been approximately 35 women deans at Howard (31 academic). Each has and continues to overcome challenges. Still, all of them have achieved great success. “In a world where women, and Black women specifically, are underrepresented in higher education leadership, it is critical that Howard be a leader in changing that tide,” Dr. Frederick says. “It’s even more important that we start right here on our campus.”

On these next pages, we introduce the 10 deans whose leadership, determination, education, experience, knowledge and more are opening up opportunities for future generations of Howard students.
From Clair Huxtable on “The Cosby Show” to Lena Younger in “A Raisin in the Sun,” Dean Phylicia Rashad (BFA ’70, H ’09) has portrayed strong, lead- ing women on stage and on screen throughout her acting career. However, she says offering her best work – not her gender – is what earned her roles as an actor, director, educator, and now as dean. “I think it has to do with the work I do … and the manner in which I’ve accomplished it,” she says. She wants her students to recognize that giving their best work is necessary to forge ahead in the creative world.

However, when it comes to gender bias, partic- ularly in a male-dominated industry, she says it’s about balance. “If a theater company announces we have all these plays [by] all female writers, I’ll say, well, wait a minute … did the men stop writing plays? If you swing the pendulum that far to the left, it’s going to swing that far back to the right.”

She thinks that Howard has struck that balance with its 10 women deans, all of whom she said were clearly chosen for their abilities. “Howard is a very progressive environment. It shouldn’t be a shock and surprise to anyone that this University is recognizing excellence in women.”

Andrea Jackson

Though the field of dentistry was long dominated by white men, Dean Andrea Jackson (BS ’80, DDS ’82) was undaunted: the combination of her own posi- tive dental experiences plus being unencumbered by gender differences grew up encouraged her to remain at Howard to pursue her DDS, after finishing her undergraduate studies in zoology there.

Today, women only make up 35% of all dentists nationwide, and 3.8% of dentists are Black. But at Howard, women are nearly 60% of the dental class, and more than half are Black. Through her years of practice and teaching, Jackson is not surprised, es- pecially as she isn’t even the first Black female dean of the college – giving her a completely different perspective than most of her colleagues. “First of all, women are capable, and as long as you are knowl- edgeable about your passion, willing to listen and be a lifelong learner, [there] is nothing [students] can’t accomplish,” she says. “There are no shortcuts.”

Andrea Hayes Dixon

Dean Andrea Hayes Dixon, MD, FACS, FAAP, is familiar with the concept of being first, even though she grew up in a family of educators and women leaders. But it wasn’t until someone in medical school pointed out that she was tall and could look other male surgeons in the eye that she realized that her being a woman, and a Black woman, was exceedingly rare in the field.

When she applied for fellowships in pediatric surgery in 1998, there wasn’t a single Black female pediatric surgeon in the United States. There wasn’t even a single female surgeon of any kind in her medical school. Just to become a surgeon was “an uphill bat- tle, because none of the white male surgeons wanted me in the club,” she recalls.

Today, she knows her firsts are important. She is the first Black woman nationwide to become a board-certified pediatric surgeon and the first woman chair of the Department of Surgery at Howard University. In September, she was named the first Black woman to serve as dean of Howard University’s College of Medicine. She wants more minority women to join her in the club of surgeons. As dean, she wants students to realize how much they’re needed. “I’m just super, super excited to lead this next generation of Black and brown doctors. It’s so important for us to have doctors in their communities that look like us.”
Yolanda Pierce

“No one ever put limits on what I could be or who I could become,” Dean Yolanda Pierce, PhD, says about her childhood. And it stuck with her up to present day. Pierce was the first in her family to attend college. She became the first female dean of Howard’s School of Divinity. Between college and becoming dean, she was aware that being a woman, and a Black woman, defied certain stereotypes in the field of religious studies, but the idea of being a scholar excited her and she stayed the course with her eye could become,” Dean Yolanda Pierce, PhD, says about her goal as dean is to make sure administration, students, faculty, and staff work together smoothly as one. “For me, what is important is... tearing down the silos that exist between different groups, whether between academic fields or administrators and faculty. I love teaching and I look forward to returning back to the faculty and to the classroom one day.”

Gina Spivey-Brown

Being a woman was not the barrier that Dean Gina Spivey-Brown, PhD, MSA, RN, faced. It was being Black, she says. A patient who refused Brown’s treatment because she was African American, and the times people didn’t think she was the nurse in charge. But she was in charge; and coupled with her degrees in health services administration and nursing administration, she knew she was well-positioned to change things. “I could make a difference, as a Black leader, as a female,... in nursing, where the minority of nurses are Black,” she says. Black nurses make up only 6.7% of all nurses nationwide. “I knew that I had the ability, the brilliance, knowledge and the aptitude to make a significant difference in someone’s life.”

In a field dominated by white females, she has the reverse position of helping male students adjust comfortably to the profession (12.6% nationwide are men, of which 7% are Black). She emphasizes the difference between equity and equality. Her leadership approach, both as a nurse and as a dean: treat everybody as you would want to be treated. “Don’t look down on people who may not have reached your status in life,” she says. “There is no difference between me and that person, except that I’ve chosen to do some things in life that were different, by God’s grace.”

Dawn Williams

In the family of Dean Dawn Williams, PhD, it took one generation to go from an unfinished education to dean of Howard’s School of Education. Her father is a product of the segregated South, where schools refused to desegregate and instead closed for five years—preventing him from completing his education. Since then, she’s dedicated much of her own education and life’s work to challenging inequitable practices and increasing access to educational opportunities—he doctoral dissertation, for instance, is dedicated to him. “I look at all that he has done and all that he has accomplished... in spite of the opportunities that were really stolen from him.”

Williams said she was always been called to leadership roles—whether at school track team captain, sorority president, and later as dean, with students telling her it is motivating to see a person who looked like them in a leadership role. Williams grew up in the New York City public school system and taught elementary and high school, all of which she says was integral to her focused study of urban education and in her role as dean. “[I] have a perspective...of having been a product...of the system, having also had the opportunity to teach and lead in schools, and being empathetic to the needs, but then also realistic to the challenges.”

Dana Williams

Dean Dana A. Williams (MA ’95, PhD ’98), a literature scholar, sees her role as more than administrative. “I am always trying to model what it means to be a scholar, even as an administrator,” she says. At Howard, she is the first permanent woman dean of the Graduate School, and one of the few who has had a humanities background—a rarity in graduate schools nationwide, which Williams says are typically very STEM-based. “Graduate deans are often seen as research deans, and the fight to consider the humanities as critical research continues. So a research dean who is a humanist is still too rare,” Williams added. As a woman leader, when all things are equal, Williams believes talent makes room for itself. As a former basketball player, she likens being tapped for administrative work to being a successful rebounder: “To be good at it, you have to be attentive enough to the game to know where the ball is likely to land. That’s mostly a talent and skill. But there’s also a bit of luck.”

Among the Howard deans, male and female, there’s no microaggression that might occur at another university, she says. “That gives us a freedom to do the real work. We can be as serious and thoughtful about innovation and research as anybody anywhere, while also enjoying ourselves.”
A HEALTHY MIND

More Black women are starting to take charge of their mental health. Here’s why.

ON A MORNING IN MAY 2020, GISHAWN MANCE, PhD, returned from a walk and checked her mailbox. Inside was a card from a close friend, Latisha, who had died unexpectedly just days earlier. “She was having headaches and went to sleep and never woke up,” recalls Mance, an associate professor of psychology at Howard University.

Soon, video would surface of George Floyd’s murder by police in Minneapolis, which sparked global protests for racial justice. Nearly eight months pregnant at the time, she was also readying for the birth of her child in a pandemic. She welcomed a daughter; then, her father’s cancer returned.

The weight of it all—navigating grief, inconsistent daycare, work responsibilities, doctor’s appointments, and racial stressors—led her to seek professional mental health therapy. “My anxiety had heightened because of everything that was going on with me,” shares Mance, who purposefully chose a therapist that worked with Black mothers. “I needed to talk to somebody.”

Black women have a storied and complicated relationship when it comes to their mental health. Despite being uniquely affected by conditions like depression, anxiety, and traumatic stress, they are less likely to get treatment. Comprehensive data is scarce. Still, when compared to their white counterparts, Black women are more than two times less likely to ask for help managing their mental health, according to a 2015 national survey by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Understanding the reluctance surrounding Black women prioritizing their mental health means peeling back the layers of their lives—and the personal and racial traumas to which they are exposed.

by Arnesa A. Howell (BA ’96)
A Mental Health Crisis Defined

For some, the reasons for seeking therapy — or not — may rest in a question not so easily answered.

“If I seek help, what does that mean about me and my ability to handle all things?” posed Mance. Understandably, it can be a lot to unpack.

Within Black families and communities, the woman is often viewed as the backbone, capable of juggling motherhood, career, and countless other responsibilities. She is labeled a “strong Black woman,” even if it means sacrificing her emotional well-being.

The strong Black woman feels that she cannot show pain or ask for help. She reflexively puts the needs of others first,” explains author and literary activist Marita Golden. In her recent book, “The Strong Black Woman: How a Myth Endangers the Physical and Mental Health of Black Women,” she states that this persona “requires that Black women perpetually present an image of control and strength.” Being a woman who is also Black means there are multiple identities that people target, notes Afiee Breland-Noble (BA ’91), MA, PhD, MHSc., founder and president of AAkoMA, a nonprofit dedicated to empowering Black, indigenous, people of color (AIPOC) and their families about mental health. So the anti-Blackness is real, she says, as is the anti-woman misogyny and gender discrimination. “We get that all rolled up into one.”

On top of that is the intergenerational impact from a legacy of slavery, in which it was literally pun-ishable to stand up for yourself, Breland-Noble notes. “That’s in our DNA,” she says, and these factors can make it difficult for Black women to either actively reach out for help or feel comfortable doing so.

Studies show manifestations of chronic stress and depression include hypertension, or high blood pressure, a risk factor for cardiovascular disease. Black women suffer at disproportionately higher rates — 60% — compared to white women, according to statistics from the Health and Human Services’ Office of Minority Health. “We know that African American women are living in the midst of a health emergency,” Golden continues. “We have extremely high rates of diabetes, stroke, and heart attack, much greater than the percentage of our population would seem to dictate.”

Stress Shows Up Differently
Stress, anxiety, and depression manifest in some very unique ways for Black women, says Danielle Hairston (MS ’18), assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Howard University.

“Black people are less likely to come out and say, ‘Hello, I’m feeling depressed. I’m feeling down,’” explains Hairston. Instead, body complaints and physical symptoms are more commonplace. Signs include exhaustion, lack of concentration or motivation, not caring about one’s job, or loss of interest in what’s happening in life.

“They’re less likely to describe their feelings in these psychological terms that you hear with white people,” Hairston points out.

Some people withdraw. Still others “go hard,” so to speak. Overworking, showing up for everyone, and staying busy is not unusual for Black women, adds Mance. “You’re not allowing yourself to slow down and to be and feel because if you do, then there’s the sadness or numbness,” she says, noting sometimes the person who’s the life of the party socially when alone settles into darkness and low-key isolation.

There may be other, unexpected behavioral changes as well. While most associate depression with loss of appetite, actually the opposite is sometimes true. Or anxiety and depression can surface as anger.

For Leslie Tarleton, those emotions stemmed from childhood. Her dad committed suicide when she was nine. Within six months, she received a Type 1 diabetes diagnosis. Tarleton remembers wondering why everything bad was happening to her. These experiences left her sad, angry, and overwhelmed, feelings that followed her into adulthood. “I was really angry at life. I would lash out,” she shares. At 24, she decided to seek professional help because, “I did have suicidal thoughts. But I knew I couldn’t do what he did.”

Finding Culturally Appropriate Care
Cultural beliefs, social stigma, and cost are all barriers to accessing mental health treatment. And so is the lack of mental health professionals with diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds; it has been reported that the American Psychiatric Association cites 2% of psychiatrists and about 4% of psychologists are Black.

An older white man was Tarleton’s first psychiatrist. He said she was bipolar. For a second opinion, she turned to a Black woman therapist and recalls receiving much more compassion throughout the process. “Honey, you have anxiety and depression,” she recounts being told.

Now 32, Tarleton still has weekly therapy sessions with her. “I was talking to a Black woman that looked like me, and understood my pain and my trauma,” she says. Prayer, walks, meditation, and meal prep for healthy eating habits (she takes insulin four times a day) are now part of her practice of self-love, self-care, and mental health awareness, which she shares through her online community, Brown Girls Embrace.

Training Ground for Service
Hairston, also the psychiatry residency training director at Howard University Hospital and College of Medicine, says she purposefully recruits residents, or doctors-in-training, who care about the University’s mission and diverse patient population, and understand the struggles of the Black community. For the first time since being appointed to the position in 2019, she has all Black residents—and predominantly women. Training opportunities include an AI (artificial intelligence) virtual reality-based project called The Visibility Project, funded by a Microsoft grant. Hoping to encourage empathy, the project immerses doctors in the day of a misdiagnosed patient experiencing racism and biases.

Both agree there are ways to overcome the short-age and infuse the pipeline with much-needed Black mental health professionals. Hairston advises networking and mentorship, so emerging psychiatrists can see others like themselves in leadership roles. “This is about influencing a large number of people who are really interested in improving the mental health of Black people and other marginalized groups in this country,” says Hairston, herself the youngest Black person in the U.S. at the time to step into that role.

Campus and Community Outreach
With the dual traumas of a pandemic and Black women’s mental health, some might ask: “What’s the role of the faith community?” There may not be a definitive answer but it’s an important part of the discussion that shouldn’t be overlooked. “The faith community needs to be intentional about the importance of mental health and its relationship to spiritual health,” says Bernard Richardson, dean of Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel at Howard University. “Sometimes the church itself has to do some soul searching as it relates to their role in either supporting or even hindering mental health.”

Mance, for one, emphasizes that faith has been a part of her personal journey. “My faith, family support, and therapy helped,” she shares. “My faith in God was also important in coping with everything.”

“I WAS TALKING TO A BLACK WOMAN THAT LOOKED LIKE ME, AND UNDERSTOOD MY PAIN AND MY TRAUMA.”
The AAKOMA Project

PSYCHOLOGIST ALFIEE BRELAND-NOBLE (BA ’91), MA, PhD, MPHSc., known as Dr. Alfiee, recalls her days at Howard being an empowering and political time, from the 1989 student takeover of the Administration Building to the saluting cry of Public Enemy’s “Fight the Power” against racism. Together, these experiences ignited a spirit of activism and inspired her to pursue psychology — and eventually create the The AAKOMA Project.

The nonprofit helps all young people of color know they, too, are valued and supported in their mental health, says Breland-Noble. "AAKOMA is about raising consciousness, empowering people, and changing the system of mental health," she says, with a focus on Black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) youth and their families.

AAKOMA has a network of partners to provide suicide prevention resources, mental health information, and free virtual therapy sessions addressing conditions like depression, anxiety, and traumatic stress. It also has convened candid conversations with students on racial trauma, built relationships with BIPOC teens that serve as youth advisers across the U.S. and internationally, and collaborated with Lady Gaga’s Born This Way Foundation, among other organizations, to specifically reach teens and young adults. Whether discussing types of depression with actress Jada Pinkett-Smith on “Red Table Talk” or leading dialogues about suicide in the Black community, Breland-Noble emphasizes this: “I’m gonna be unapologetic about being for Black young people.”

There are readily available resources for mental health support available to students, faculty, and staff, and the community. One that has grown during the pandemic is the HU Wellness program, a University-wide initiative led by Richardson and faculty and staff to emotionally support students.

The chapel also coordinates a series of faith-oriented discussions on mental health issues. It has convened candid conversations with students on racial trauma, built relationships with BIPOC teens that serve as youth advisers, and convened candid conversations about suicide and other mental health issues.

For a list of resources including podcasts, visit Magazine. Howard.edu

Hidden Figures, Made Visible

In the United States, about 3% of physics doctorates are earned by women of color. But that’s changing—and Howard is working to be that change.

BY UMARAH MUGHNEE (BA ’16)

I’m worrying about something, or there’s a heaviness,” Obama said, revealing that there were also periods where she just “felt too low.”

Henson has been equally outspoken, telling SELF in a 2019 interview that mood swings and feeling apprehensive — almost agoraphobic — about going out in public signaled it was time to get help. To break the stigma around mental health and offer support to the Black community, she founded the Boris Lawrence Henson Foundation, named after her father, who also grappled with mental health issues.

The foundation offers scholarships and other resources.

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You can focus on the physics and not whether you belong.

Finding Support
GROWING UP IN NIGERIA, FARINRE OLASUNBO (PHD ’22), can similarly attest to seeing women in the field of science not being supported by their community because of societal expectations put on them. Olasunbo grew up seeing women constantly being told they were not smart enough to pursue science. Luckily, her family was different; her father encouraged her to be the best that she could be. She remembers being the best overall graduating chemistry student in high school because her family provided the resources she needed to grow. Today, she is a planar process engineer at Intel, having studied computation physics and condensed matter physics during her doctoral work at Howard.

It’s clear that community support helps foster better students. In Olasunbo’s case, she makes the connection that the field of physics, uniquely, has the lowest representation of women compared to other sciences, which is largely a result of racial and gender discrimination.

She continues, “Women in Africa are trained to be good wives to their husbands, homemakers, mothers from childhood and not be too career inclined because society believes these are your primary responsibilities. Therefore, this discourages them from pursuing careers in male-dominated fields like physics.”

Kenisha Ford (’91–’92) points to her story as an example of how the physics industry is not as inviting for women, especially women of color. Ford began her journey in science and engineering as a child because she wanted to be like her mother, who was an engineer. During her senior year of high school, Ford had her very first “aha!” moment when she built a Goldberg apparatus in physics class. A Goldberg apparatus is a set of tasks that work in succession and trigger one event after another until the desired outcome. A lightbulb went off in Ford’s head because she realized that, whether it’s a bridge, mousetrap, car, or a Goldberg apparatus, physics can be applied to everything.

Mentorship for Olasunbo started with her mother and sister. Science and Math Innovators Inc. focuses on children in grades K–9 from underrepresented groups to dispel the “myth” of how a woman looks. Joshi and Olasunbo say they also chose Howard because of the mentorship the professors provided and the community it fostered. Olasunbo doubles down on the idea of providing mentorship to women of color in physics. She clarifies, “I believe if more scholarship opportunities are available for women, especially women of color, they would be encouraged to pursue a degree in physics. We also need more support groups on campuses to help encourage these women and provide all the support and resources they need to thrive and succeed.”

The solution Joshi provides focuses on mentorship. Joshi is a strong believer that women and girls need to see someone who looks like them in the physics space. The discrimination that women in physics face is not going to stop, and she sees this gap as an opportunity to encourage up-and-coming physicists to persevere just like Howard encouraged her to navigate her cultural differences.

“I have a responsibility to contribute to the community, to young women or to anybody who would benefit from my skills,” Joshi says. “At Howard, everyone has different backgrounds and stories—you get to discuss their stories and struggles.”

Ford’s emphasis on the fact that there is still progress, no matter how slow, should be noted. A research report from the American Institute of Physics shows that since 1980, women who have earned a PhD in physics have gone up close to 15%. The industry is changing, but it still has a long way to go.

Ford provides a solution to this obstacle to see with the lack of women in the physics profession. She explains, “HBCUs are an easy place to increase recruitment. If you want to increase the number of Black women in programs (and Black students in general), start with the spaces where more Black people are graduating from.” Ford also pays it forward to upcoming Black physicists through her nonprofit started with her mother and sister. Science and Math Innovators Inc. focuses on children in grades K–9 from underrepresented groups to dispel the “myth” of how a woman looks. Joshi and Olasunbo say they also chose Howard because of the mentorship the professors provided and the community it fostered.
EIGHTY YEARS AGO the entire world was immersed in World War II. The campus prepared for air raids. Meanwhile, Howard University celebrated its 75th anniversary and the women of Howard enjoyed time on the National Mall (pictured).

ARCHIVES

The Class of 1942

During her Howard new student orientation, Sahar Kassem (PharmD ’16) was asked what branch of pharmacy she wanted to pursue. She raised her hand high, as she knew without a doubt that one day she would own and manage an independent pharmacy. But little did she know that only six years later she would be the successor of the 110-year-old Morgan’s Pharmacy in Georgetown, the second oldest pharmacy in the nation’s capital.

Kassem’s career began when she was the caretaker of her ill grandmother. “I was exposed to the pharmaceutical world early in my life; my grandmother didn’t understand why she was taking some of her medications, so I Googled them and reached out to her doctor to ask questions. We didn’t know about drug interactions, so the pharmacist helped us with that. My grandmother was so happy I could help her with her medications that it sparked an immediate interest in me for the pharmaceutical field,” recalls Kassem.

From her early experiences with her grandmother, Kassem knew that she was meant to pursue pharmacy. “This is my purpose. I never had a backup plan. I only applied to Howard. Howard made me love pharmacy even more, introduced me to the world of medicine, and taught me how to positively impact people’s day-to-day lives,” asserts Kassem. With a clear vision of her future, she only made decisions that would lead to her dream of one day owning a pharmacy and delivering exceptional care to her patients.

In her first years as a pharmacist, Kassem worked at large and small chain pharmacies and noticed there was an opportunity for pharmacists to give patients more quality and attentive service. She knew that she could deliver such service if she owned her own pharmacy. Shortly after, she began working at the independently owned Grubb’s Pharmacy in Southeast D.C., under the leadership of Michael Kim, PharmD, RPh, former owner of Morgan’s Pharmacy. Kim shared that he was selling Morgan’s Pharmacy. After encouragement and support from her husband, Kassem decided to pursue ownership of Morgan’s, affirming that this was one of the best decisions that she has made.

Kassem now owns and operates the historic neighborhood pharmacy in D.C. Photos of Morgan’s circa 1922 line its walls, and Kassem plans to maintain its historic aesthetic. In the near future, she plans to expand its impact to other parts of D.C. through its delivery service. “It’s a dream and a huge responsibility. Some of our patients have been loyal to Morgan’s for over 50 years and for generations. Knowing how greatly cared for Morgan’s patients have been throughout the years, I have a goal to take care of them twofold. I know how lucky I am,” she says.

Through her exceptional leadership and dedication to service, Kassem is creating a name of her own. “I want to be remembered as the pharmacist that did everything to help others to achieve better health and to inspire other women pharmacists,” remarks Kassem. “I want women who are thinking of owning a pharmacy to know that it is doable. One day, I want my future daughters to know that they can achieve something like this and better. Anything is possible.”

CAREER

Pharmacist Sahar Kassem purchases historic pharmacy in D.C.

by TAMMARA SUTTON

THIS IS MY PURPOSE. I NEVER HAD A BACK-UP PLAN. I ONLY APPLIED TO HOWARD.”

Fall 2022 —— Howard.edu
Jeff Donaldson (dean of the school), with lecturers such as Al Smith Jr., sharpened her natural art talents at Howard’s College of Fine Arts, where she was awarded a Gordon Parks Foundation Fellowship and went to Switzerland to name a few of many. In 2022, Butler, who teaches at the Jeffrey Deitch Gallery in New York City, produced a large woven portrait of Harriet Tubman at the Smithsonian American Art Museum of Fine Arts Boston, and the album is on the table. So what does she see? "You're at somebody's house, and your work like a Black photo album," Butler says. "I want our people to feel like they're seen and respected. And I want them to feel that I understand them. And I get it. Like, I want us to feel good. And I want us to feel powerful." Like, that's part of it," Butler explains.

Bisa Butler (BF a '95) wants the art she produces to invoke feelings from her audience. She wants everyone, but especially the Black community, to feel powerful and strong. The goal is for her art to reflect the positive parts of who people are and who they want to be. "I want our people to feel like they’ve been seen and respected. And I want them to feel that I understand them. And I get it. Like, I want us to feel good. And I want us to feel powerful. Like, that’s part of it," Butler explains.

Her art has been described as “quilted,” in which different fabric textures, patterns, and colors are layered together to create bright, colorful, eye-catching portraits of African Americans — young and old, past and present. Her works have been shown in the National Museum of African American History and Culture (her quilted portrait of Harriet Tubman resides there), the Bennington Gallery (her largest piece to date, of the Harlem quilted portrait of Harriet Tubman), and the Smithsonian American History and Culture (her work was recently exhibited during Art Basel in Miami). Growing up, Butler did not feel that her Blackness was something to be ashamed of, as it was constantly embraced by her family and reinforced by the people around her. She and her four siblings were born and raised in South Orange, New Jersey with their Louisiana-born Moroccan-raised mother and Ghanaian-born and-raised father. Butler wants others to feel the same as she did, that their Blackness is natural and to be celebrated, not minimized.

"I tell people sometimes think about my work like a Black photo album," she says. "You’re at somebody’s house, and the album is on the table. So what images do we want to collect and see? And that’s what my artwork looks like." Her next exhibits will be at the Gordon Parks Foundation this winter, at the Jeffrey Deitch Gallery in New York City in May 2023, and at the Smithsonian American Art Museum in 2024. To keep up with Butler, visit her website at www.bisabutler.com.

LEADERSHIP

The Lifesaver

Yvonne Chase becomes the new president of the National Association of Social Workers

by KIMBERLY HOLMES-IVESON

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"I think it would be hard to understand everything it had never been out in the field myself," says Chase, PhD, LCSW, ACSW, MSW. "It’s a journey the Michigan native began as a young college graduate who was simply looking for a job but found a calling. “One of the things that [my first supervisor] stressed was the importance of paying attention to what each child needed,” Chase says. That stuck with her. That – plus the resiliency of the children in her care. “Friday seemed to be the time when there was always an emergency to find a home,” Chase says. “This little boy was coming out of a juvenile facility. I said, ‘Well, let’s pick up your things,’ and he picked up two bags and said, ‘Okay lady, let’s go.’ I’m trying to treat him like a nine-year-old; he’s acting like a 20-year-old.” Today, Chase conducts adoption studies in her spare time. Her passion and expertise are greatly needed. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projects that social work will grow by 12% between 2020 and 2030, meaning an average of more than 78,000 job openings each year as workers retire or change careers. New practices are needed to fight issues such as burnout.

"I think that social work is probably needed now more than ever," she says. "Technology has made a difference in how we conduct ourselves, but I think it’s had some drawbacks.” Chase cites licensure across states as one issue of concern. With the increase in telehealth services, more social workers are licensed in one state but finding themselves having to medically help others with client needs across states. But above all else, Chase warns veterans and those newly entering the field to find ways to protect their peace.

"Many say, ‘leave work at work and go home,’ but you worry about a child in protection,” says Chase. “So I’d say to the person looking to enter the field to look at your strengths and then look at what is the area of social work that you think you would be best suited for.” As for herself? She admits she’s still working on finding that work-life balance. “My husband tells me I should stand in front of the mirror and learn how to say no,” Chase chuckles. “I don’t put email on my phone. I know that may sound a little old-fashioned, but I have five email addresses. Someone can wait an hour!”
I really love seeing how things come together, whether it was getting your first [gold] chain or getting the first hairstyle that you actually wanted from your mom. Whatever it may be, you remember those firsts, and I think that’s what made so many people fall in love with ‘Glitter,’ she says.

The 30-year-old Atlana native credits her undergraduate study at Howard University with nurturing those attributes and building camaraderie with like-minded peers.

After graduation, she moved to New York City, coordinating audiences for “The View” and “Good Morning America” and working with the American Black Film Festival (ABFF), a launchpad for influential Black creatives like Will Packer and Issa Rae, founded by Howard alum Jeff Friday (BBA ’85). Another early career highlight was working on Spike Lee’s “She’s Gonna Have It” series for Netflix — a gig Miller landed by showing up at Lee’s 50 Acres and a Mule “Brooklyn production office and asking to speak to the assistant director. “What I learned from Spike is to keep your aces up while you keep the people that you have shown time and time again that they admire, enjoy, and support you. It makes you want to pour right back into them,” she says.

In 2019, Miller moved to New Orleans and manifested her desire to hone her creative voice. During the pandemic, she directed an experimental short film called “Home,” which is about Black women and self-care. “For her next chapter of her career, Miller will participate in the pilot cohort of the Global Challenge Fellowship through the U.S.-U.K. Fulbright Commission and American Council on Education. He is a professor of journalism at the University of Alabama.

Feeling Like Team Spirit

Howard alum Paulette Brown thrives on building creative community and producing stories rooted in excellence, consideration, and accountability.

by TRACY E. HOPKINS (BA ’92)

Being a supportive and take-charge team player comes naturally to Maia Miller (BA ’14), and the collaborative process is what attracted her to becoming a film producer.

“You’re in the trenches for a short amount of time, and you are working for one common goal,” Miller explains. “I really love seeing how things come together, witnessing what’s happening on set, and acknowledging that this is the grounds for life-changing experiences, life-changing moments, and relationships to be built.”

Miller recently produced “Glitter Ain’t Gold,” an award-winning short film written and directed by Howard classmate Christian Nolan Jones. Rapper Common was executive producer, and the film co-stars “Stranger Things” actress Priah Ferguson. The story centers around a sixth-grade boy trying desperately to impress his crush, and he visits the flea market with his best friend (played by Ferguson) to buy his first fake gold chain.

“It felt like we were creating a world that we used to play in. By the end of a production, she directed an experimental short film called “Home,” which is about Black women and self-care. “For her next chapter of her career, Miller will participate in the pilot cohort of the Global Challenge Fellowship through the U.S.-U.K. Fulbright Commission and American Council on Education. He is a professor of journalism at the University of Alabama.

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continues a tradition laid by his father and grandfather, who not only were legal scholars, but also judges on the Los Angeles County Superior Court.

Maya Gilliam (BA ’06) runs Ma'ati Spa, a full-service luxury spa in Accra, Ghana and in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Storm Ugbong, Peter’s granddaughter, is the Howard director of international student services.

Christopher N. Aguwa (JD ’16) was recently named one of Crain’s Notable Legal Scholars, but also dental care services inclusive of primary, behavioral, and social care for low income and underserved communities based in New York with subsidiaries across the U.S.

Ronya Foy Connor (MWS ’19, PhD ’21) was recently featured in UN Women for her work around gender equality, which was published throughout the Caribbean and Latin America. She is the national gender development coordinator in the Ministry of Social Development and Education in the Government of Anguilla.

Brittany Luse (BA ’19) is the new host of NPR’s “It’s Been a Minute.” Most recently, Luse co-hosted the podcast “For Colored Nerds.”

Saraya Wintersmith (BA ’19), a reporter for WGBH in Boston, was honored with a Gracie Award for her piece, “Like Other Arab Americans I’m black but also Arab.” The Gracie Awards recognize individual achievement and exemplary programming created by, for, and about women in all facets of media and entertainment.

Toni Benn (BA ’72) was named a fellow in the Foreign Affairs IT (FAIT) Fellowship. As a part of the fellowship, she is attending New York University to obtain her master’s in cybersecurity management and upon completion will join the foreign service as an information management specialist.

Tiffany Thames Copeland (PhD ’19) received a Fulbright to Ghana for the 2022-2023 academic year, where she will teach at a university while conducting research on Africans of the diaspora who have relocated to Ghana via the country’s “Year of Return.”

My Dentist’s ABCs by Corliss Jean Furbert (DDS ’85) and Amanda Jean Furbert. Now your kids can learn what “halitosis” and other dental terminology means in this illustrated alphabet book.

Greater Love by Devyn Bakewell (BA ’21) is the sequel to her first novel, “Greater Love,” which follows two HBCU students and couple, Ryan and Devyn, as their relationship is put to the test with family, career opportunities, and a summer apart.

Saffron and Nova: Beyond Myths and Stars by David Washington (MA ’73) is a 100+ sonnet sequence verse drama, a semi-autobiographical allegory of the marriage between the right and left hemispheres of the brain.

Alphabet Gumbo by Ashley Pugh (BS ’07). Egrets, etouffee, alligators, trumpets? Beignets and king cake galore! School of Education graduate Pugh helps early readers explore Louisiana’s unique culture with fun vocabulary.
ABDUL-AZIZ YAKUBU, PHD

Yakubu has always been a kind friend and a sage colleague. I have always admired the gentleness of his spirit and how he exemplifies the essence of our University: to amplify the humanity of others.

—Dr. Wayne A. I. Frederick

Marion Mann, PhD (MD ’54), physician and pathologist, served as dean of the Howard University College of Medicine from 1970-1979. He was deputy coroner of Washington, D.C., and rose to the ranks of brigadier general as a reservist in the Army Medical Corps. In 1961, he returned to Howard as assistant professor of pathology.

As dean, he led the medical school to a decade of growth and advancement. Most significantly, he increased the size of incoming classes to 128 students, creating more opportunities for aspiring medical students and generating greater diversity in the medical profession by graduating more students and surgeons today.

The Honorable Johnny J. Butler (BA ’58, JD ’71) served as secretary of Pennsylvania’s Department of Labor and Industry under former Governor Tom Ridge in 2005 and as judge of the Commonwealth Court from 2008-2011. He also taught at Howard University and Temple University as an adjunct professor. He spent more than 20 years as legal counsel for the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunities Commission.

...lory Wilson, MD, was an innovator, trailblazer, advocate, and a servant-leader. She was a talented cancer surgeon, the first woman to hold the surgical oncology division chief position at Howard University Hospital and the first woman to be promoted to full professor in surgery at Howard University College of Medicine.

The mammography program at Benning Road in Southeast D.C. will be renamed in her honor. Thanks to Dr. Wilson’s willingness to mentor and teach and advise, numerous medical students and surgeons today are capable of carrying forward her work.

—Dr. Wayne A. I. Frederick

In Memoriam

ABDUL-AZIZ YAKUBU, PHD

Abdul-Aziz Yakubu, PhD, served as chair of the mathematics department at Howard from 2004-2014 and as faculty for more than 20 years. In many facets of his professional career and his personal life, Yakubu lived by Howard University’s foundational principles. His research in mathematical biology focused on the control and prevention of infectious diseases. As interested as he was in mathematics, he was more interested in the world outside the classroom and passionate about applying his knowledge to improve the lives of people across the globe.

Originally from Ghana, where he studied mathematics and computer science at the University of Ghana, he moved to the United States to obtain a master’s from the University of Toledo and a PhD from North Carolina State University. Yakubu was a devoted mentor, particularly to people of color as he championed greater diversity and inclusion in the field of mathematics.

Yakubu has always been a kind friend and a sage colleague. I have always admired the gentleness of his spirit and how he exemplifies the essence of our University: to amplify the humanity of others.

—Dr. Wayne A. I. Frederick

Earl Melvin Lloyd (BA ’48), May 26, 2022

Rodney Coleman (BArch ’63)

Irvin Heath (JD ’75), July 7, 2022

James Leonard Powell Jr. (BA ’96), Aug. 1, 2022

John J. Kennedy (JD ’96), July 21, 2022

Clarissa Brielle Gaddis (MSA ’21), May 29, 2022

Trudy Haynes (BA ’47) made history when she became Philadelphia’s first Black television reporter, at CBS3, where she spent nearly 34 years. After graduating from Howard and some other stints, she became the first Black weather reporter in Detroit. In her career, she served as an entertainment reporter and hosted several public affairs shows. She won several awards for her work and was inducted into the Broadcast Pioneers of Philadelphia’s Hall of Fame in 1999.

Shaunelle Perry Ryder (BA ’50) was an award-winning actress and playwright who was also one of the first Black women to direct plays off-Broadway. From 1971-2006, she directed 17 plays at the New Federal Theater in New York City, a place that served to inspire and showcase Black actors and directors. She wrote several plays as well, including “Things of the Heart: Marian Anderson’s Story” and later taught theater at Lehman College in the Bronx.

The Honorable Johnny J. Butler (BA ’58, JD ’71) served as secretary of Pennsylvania’s Department of Labor and Industry under former Governor Tom Ridge in 2005 and as judge of the Commonwealth Court from 2008-2011. He also taught at Howard University and Temple University as an adjunct professor. He spent more than 20 years as legal counsel for the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunities Commission.

Lori Wilson, MD

Lori Wilson, MD, was an innovator, trailblazer, advocate, and a servant-leader. She was a talented cancer surgeon, the first woman to hold the surgical oncology division chief position at Howard University Hospital and the first woman to be promoted to full professor in surgery at Howard University College of Medicine.

As a two-time Georgetown University graduate who was born and raised in Germany on a military base and called the Newport News area home, she was very intelligent about a wide variety of topics and extremely contemporary. Through her involvement with the Howard University Cancer Center, Dr. Wilson participated in hundreds of community conversations. She would travel to church basements, senior centers, and local health fairs to talk to women about the risks of breast cancer and the critical importance of cancer screenings. Through her kindness and her knowledge, she was able to help countless women access preventive care and take the measures necessary to ensure their health and well-being.

Due to her efforts, Howard is able to provide tremendous resources to patients in our community to prevent and treat breast cancer. The mammography program at Benning Road in Southeast D.C. will be renamed in her honor. Thanks to Dr. Wilson’s willingness to mentor and teach and advise, numerous medical students and surgeons today are capable of carrying forward her work.

—Dr. Wayne A. I. Frederick

Lori Wilson, MD

In Memoriam
IN TRUTH AND SERVICE, ALWAYS

by Andreya J. Davis (BA ’76)

Morning wake-up calls began at 6:00 A.M. Participants were required to start the day with a positive attitude and ready to work after spending a night on the floor of a local church. We volunteered in the early mornings into the late evenings—in public schools, soup kitchens, and literacy centers. It was March, 2013. I was leading 50+ of my peers to complete a week-long service project in my hometown of Detroit as a site coordinator for Howard University Alternative Spring Break (HUASB). My fellow site coordinators and I were guided by Dean Bernard L. Richardson, PhD, of the Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel; our advisor Glen Vinson; and our fearless executive student director, Miss Greta Foster. Our team became family in less than one week. During that time, participants formed new bonds, became deeply tuned into their true selves, and redefined selflessness. I’d never experienced such warmth and vulnerability from my peers—who just weeks prior were strangers. Our team became family in less than one week. Of course, I’d heard the words “truth,” “service,” and “student leader” many times over. But, this was different. In that week, the words were inscribed on my heart. Because of the Howard University Alternative Spring Break program, the lens through which I viewed life was stroked and forever altered. During HUASB I learned that Howard’s motto: truth and service was more than words on paper; it was then and always will be my call to action. Howard University Alternative Spring Break 2013 is when I fell in love with Howard.

Support Howard with a Gift of Retirement Assets

Designating Howard as a beneficiary of your retirement assets like an IRA, 401(k), 403(b), or other qualified plan is an effortless way to make a future gift to the University to support schools or colleges, scholarships, programs, or areas of greatest need.

Why a Charitable Gift of Retirement Assets?

- It is easy to set up. Fill out a beneficiary designation form provided by the plan administrator. Include Howard’s legal name and address: Howard University, 2400 6th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20059 and Tax ID#: 53-0204707.
- If your financial circumstances change, you can adjust the amount.
- You can continue to make withdrawals during your lifetime.
- Howard is a nonprofit institution and will receive the full amount designated. If given to family members or other loved ones, the assets will be taxed upon distribution.

Please let us know if you named Howard as a beneficiary of your IRA or other retirement plan. We want to thank and recognize you and include you as a member of our Legacy Giving Society.

For more information, contact Quina De Laine, Planned Giving Officer at quina.delaine@howard.edu or 202-238-2518. You can also visit PlannedGiving.Howard.edu.

Sample Bequest Language

I hereby give, devise and bequeath ________ and No/$100 dollars ($DOLLARS) to Howard University, a nonprofit organization located at 2400 Sixth Street NW, Washington, DC 20059, Federal Tax ID #53-0204707, for Howard University’s general use and purpose.

Visit plannedgiving.Howard.edu

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LEADING THE WAY The women deans of Howard University (story on page 30)