



HOWARD

MAGAZINE

WINTER/
SPRING 2025

R1

HOWARD RECEIVES
HIGHEST RESEARCH
CLASSIFICATION

STUDENT
ARTISTS ON THE
INTERNATIONAL
STAGE

THE NEW
HOWARD
TORCHBEARERS

THE NUMBER ONE
HBCU BUSINESS
SCHOOL

THE BISON STORE

**A LEGACY-
MAKING YEAR**

HOWARD'S
HISTORIC
SOCCER
TEAMS

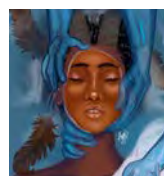


■ **A SHOWTIME STOMP.** The Howard University “Showtime” Marching Band joined the Alpha Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. during the 2024 Annual Homecoming Step Show. The theme for the performance was based on the movie *Drumline*.
Photo by Latrell Caton.

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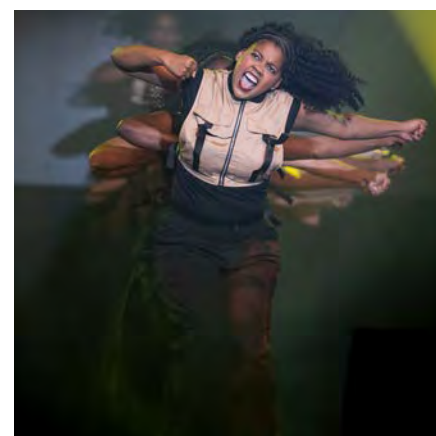
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Thousands flocked to "the Mecca" to participate in Howard's 100th Homecoming Anniversary.

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER



■ ARRIVING AT HOWARD ON FEBRUARY 12, 2024 WAS A remarkable day. It was my birthday, a celebrated day which also marked the next chapter of my work, my passion, and my commitment to lifting up legacy stories of the diasporic and African American experience. In this present era and chapter of my career, there is no better place to curate and amplify these stories than Howard University, the academic and cultural Mecca of Black history. Since its inception, the university has earned its share of national and international stories of academic and research excellence, cultural and social impact, civil rights and social justice leadership and global influence. The past few months culminated a year of chronicling, to the nation and the world, Howard's extraordinary impact at home and abroad — including new curricula and innovations, exceptional student achievements, groundbreaking faculty research, and tremendous alumni success. These stories stand as a testament to Howard's unique and significant position in the history, intellectualism, and culture of our local and global societies.

Page after page, this edition of *Howard Magazine* is filled with magnificent stories on our accomplished faculty, brilliant students and influential alumni, student leaders; special recognitions and national rankings, history making athletic achievements, profiles of new instruction and research, arts and culture, our strategic accomplishments and incredible impact on the DC and regional economy, and new goal setting. Of course, this issue is also replete with experiences on "The Yard!" We hope these collective narratives and images will provide you with an even greater understanding and appreciation of Howard's indispensable place in our world.

Please enjoy.

Lydia Sermons, VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

HOWARD MAGAZINE

VOLUME 34, NUMBER 1

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HOWARD MAGAZINE is published by the Office of University Communications. Please send letters and address changes to:

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■■■ Election night at Howard University, November 2024, as a crowd gathers in front of Frederick Douglass Hall.

PHOTO BY JAMES COLE

PHOTO BY HEAVEN BROWN

■■■
President Vinson
speaks at Opening
Convocation,
September 2024.

■ From the President

Dear Howard University Community,

THE EYES OF THE WORLD HAVE RECENTLY gazed upon Howard University and media from all over the globe have delved into our history. From our academic excellence and the vibrancy of our Homecoming traditions, to the many accomplishments of our extraordinary students, faculty, and alumni, our story has resonated worldwide. As we reflect on the past few months, it is clear that we stand at yet another seminal moment.

Our history has produced a lineage and legacy of leadership, from Charles Drew’s breakthroughs in medicine to Thurgood Marshall’s transformative legal advocacy, and Kamala Harris’ ascension to the vice presidency of the United States. Numerous luminaries across industries — governors, senators, diplomats, educators, scientists, lawyers, artists, activists, entrepreneurs, and innovators continue to demonstrate that Howard’s impact knows no boundaries.

The power of Howard’s history, and our ability to forge a better future, is drawing record numbers of new students to the beloved place we affectionately call “the Mecca.” Each year thousands of Bison are drawn here with purpose; they are united in spirit by our hallowed mission of truth and service. Whether their dreams are rooted in the arts, sciences, medicine, or social change, Howard nurtures their vision and empowers them to lead boldly with integrity. This spirit, imbued within our students, faculty members, staff, and alumni, fuels our legacy of global leadership.



This edition of Howard Magazine is filled with stories demonstrating our renewed urgency and commitment as a leader at the intersection of intellect, innovation, research, and culture. As is clear within the pages of this issue, we will continue to illuminate the path forward in excellence for generations to come.

Committed to truth and service,

Ben Vinson III, Ph.D.

PRESIDENT

■■■

DISCOVERY

A Renaissance in Research

HOWARD ACHIEVES

R1

RESEARCH ACTIVITY DESIGNATION

BY CEDRIC MOBLEY

In February 2025, Howard received a “Research One,” or “R1,” Carnegie Research Activity Classification from the American Council on Education (ACE) and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The classification refers to universities which engage in “very high research spending and doctorate production.” It is widely considered to be the highest research level among American institutions of higher learning, and Howard is the only historically Black college or university to ever earn the designation. In fact, of the roughly 4,000 degree-granting institutions in America, only 187 have the R1 distinction. This is the second time Howard has received the designation.

Howard’s newest research classification reflects its continuing commitment to promoting “truth and service” with intensity. Howard’s research covers a broad range of fields in science, medicine, industry, and the humanities and is structured to benefit humanity across the globe. In particular, the university has made great strides in advancing knowledge in quantum information science, artificial intelligence, data science, machine learning, atmospheric sciences and extreme weather, the humanities, cybersecurity, and health.

“Howard University’s achievement of R1 status demonstrates our research capacity and reaffirms our deep commitment to tackling society’s most pressing questions through cutting-edge scholarship and technological innovation,” said Howard University President Ben Vinson III, Ph.D. “As a leader in the evolution of next generation HBCUs, we are dedicated to ensuring that the benefits of discovery and progress reach all communities, including those historically overlooked and underrepresented. Through pioneering solutions and the strategic use of emerging technologies, we are shaping a future where knowledge drives inclusive prosperity and lasting impact.”

Among Howard’s major research activities, Howard leads the Research Institute for Tactical Autonomy (RITA). One of 15 U.S. Department of Defense-funded University Affiliated Research Centers (UARCs), RITA focuses on artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, and cyber defense. It is the first UARC ever funded by the U.S. Air Force. It is operated under a five-year contract with the Air Force with expenditures which may total up to \$90 million. RITA is working to develop technology systems which function with minimal human supervision and which are deployable on land, in the air, on the sea, in space, and online. The goal is to foster efficiency and effectiveness in the defense sector. RITA also serves as a consortium for research efforts involving other colleges and universities, including Jackson State University, Hampton University, Tuskegee University, Bowie State University, Delaware State University, Florida Memorial University, Norfolk State University, and Tougaloo College.



NO PROBLEM IS TOO BIG
Howard researchers are working on solutions to the world’s most complex challenges. *Photo by Cameron Hubbard.*

Howard’s designation as an R1 institution was not an accident, but rather the result of concentrated effort to focus the university’s research enterprise. This effort included the establishment of an official Office of Research, helmed by Senior Vice President Bruce Jones, Ph.D.

In the lead up to the announcement, Howard was confident that it had not only met but exceeded the threshold criteria to be considered an R1. R1 institutions must “spend at least \$50 million on research and development and produce at least 70 research doctorates,” according to ACE. In Fiscal Year 2023, the most recent evaluation year in the classification cycle, Howard recorded just under \$85 million in research expenditures and awarded 96 doctorates in an array of fields. In fact, according to the most recent data available through the U.S. Department of Education, Howard produces more Black Ph.D.s than any other college or university in America.

“Howard’s track-record of research prowess and success are evident in the numbers,” said Jones.

Just as Howard is leading in technology research, it is also leading in health research. In collaboration with Georgetown University, Howard researchers are actively working to help find new treatments and cures for diseases ranging from Alzheimer’s to HIV to tuberculosis. In particular, the Georgetown-Howard University Center for Clinical and Translational Science is working to ensure that a broad swath of the population is represented in clinical trials. This helps to ensure that as treatments are created, the medical community understands the impact of the treatment



■■■
CHARTING THE UNKNOWN

Research at Howard is grounded in the asking of tough questions and finding the hidden answers.

Photo by Cameron Hubbard.



WE’VE ALWAYS BEEN SEEKING TRUTH, AND RESEARCH IS ONE DIMENSION OF THAT, IN ORDER TO BE IN SERVICE OF THE WORLD AND OUR SOCIETY.

on people from all backgrounds and ancestry.

President Vinson was part of an ACE panel which discussed the critical importance of research at schools like Howard. He was joined by Swarthmore College President Valerie Smith and ACE president Ted Mitchell. He noted that Howard has worked hard to remove opaqueness from its research operations, further develop meaningful metrics, and focus its research efforts.

“Our faculty have a tradition of going after high-risk, high-impact grants that are sometimes at the corners or the margins of certain traditional areas of research because of the questions the researchers are posing,” Vinson told the ACE audience. “Howard, from the beginning, has been this place that is dedicated to ‘truth and service.’ We’ve always been seeking truth, and research is one dimension of that, in order to be in service of the world and our society.

“I’m impressed by a common conversation at the university that I have not seen elsewhere. It doesn’t matter

what field you are in, whether you are in medicine, or literature, or the arts, or social sciences,” he continued. “The questions around disparities, equity, and social justice which are fundamental to the institution and its quest for truth spill over into all domains. Our campus has this unique ability to be broad but focused. I think this new era of research, where we are turbocharging our researchers with tools, instruments and pathways for collaboration, deepens the work at a place like Howard.”

Vinson also spoke about the emergence of consequential research at HBCUs in general. He pointed out that while Howard is currently leading the pack, other HBCUs are also highly engaged in meaningful discovery. He highlighted Howard’s work to help other HBCUs, who are now at the R2 level and engaged in “high research activity,” reach R1 status. He called it a renaissance in research.

“HBCUs in this moment are experiencing a true renaissance,” he said. “Lots of researchers, students, and attention are starting to catalyze our institutions. I call this a transformation in research that is leading to a next generation of HBCUs that are reimagining solutions, reimagining innovation, and reimagining how we do research and what questions we explore. There is confluence right now of all of these factors, that are allowing HBCUs to provide additional out-of-the-box thinking in the higher education sector

■■■
CONVERSATIONS

Howard President Ben Vinson III discusses the importance of research in higher education on a panel at a conference sponsored by the American Council on Education. Participants were (l to r) Tim Knowles, president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, Swarthmore College President Valerie Smith, Vinson, and ACE president Ted Mitchell. *Photo by Cameron Hubbard.*



that is truly and deeply valuable to our society.”

On a truly global scale, Howard is modeling that next generation research, using its research to buttress communities against extreme weather. Working with partnering institutions, Howard researchers are modeling forecasting and preparation to help communities reduce the impact of potentially destructive weather, water, and climate events. They are engaged in discovery that advances analysis and prediction through novel environmental observations which close gaps in the metrics used for traditional forecasting.

The university has also been a leader in cybersecurity. Recent multi-year research projects have explored ways to protect information and reinforce data systems. For instance, researchers have examined the Internet of Things, through which everyday objects are connected to the internet and gather data about people. They have worked to determine opportunities for practical security and resilience in the cyber systems.

Not only does Howard serve as home to researchers and scholars who are innovators and change makers, it also serves as a hub for fellow researchers from across the world. Howard’s Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, for example, is the nation’s largest and most comprehensive repository of books, documents, visual images, and ephemera on the global Black experience. Among its over 700 collections and documents numbering in the hundreds of thousands, it contains official papers from luminaries including Kwame Nkrumah, Paul Robeson, Alain Locke, Mary Frances Berry, Dr. Benjamin Mays, Vernon Jordan, and Amiri Baraka. The center has also partnered with others to



I CALL THIS A TRANSFORMATION IN RESEARCH THAT IS LEADING TO A NEXT GENERATION OF HBCUS. THAT IS REIMAGINING SOLUTIONS, REIMAGINING INNOVATION, AND REIMAGINING HOW WE DO RESEARCH AND WHAT QUESTIONS WE EXPLORE.”

preserve a massive record of the Black experience. For example, it has partnered with the National Newspaper Publishers Association to support the preservation and digitization of the Black Press Archives. Black newspapers have been a critical source of information and truth in communities of color, particularly when their stories haven’t been told in mainstream media.

Though Howard has been respected for its groundbreaking research for decades, the R1 designation has the potential to give that research an even higher profile, attracting the world’s most ambitious scholars and problem solvers — along with the equally ambitious students who want to learn from them.

“While the outcomes of our groundbreaking research constitute the truest measure of our impact, our Carnegie Classification provides a highly visible, peer-endorsed affirmation of our scholarly prowess and productivity,” said President Vinson. “As we continue to grow our research enterprise, we look forward to enhanced partnerships, expanded collaborations, new investments, and designing scalable opportunities to make lasting global change while deepening our collective understanding of the human condition.”

SUSTAINING RESEARCH LEADERSHIP

Howard's Office of Research Provides Muscle to Actualize Howard's Research Potential.

by CEDRIC MOBLEY



KEY LEADERSHIP Helping to guide research at Howard are (l to r) Provost and Chief Academic Officer Anthony Wutoh, Ph.D., Associate Vice President for Research Operations Marchon Jackson, Senior Vice President of Research Bruce Jones, Ph.D., and Paul Zeleza, Ph.D., senior advisor for strategic initiatives. Photo by Cameron Hubbard.

Howard's research prowess has been leading edge for decades. However, the university realized it could better marshal resources and maximize impact by having an Office of Research as a coordinating entity. In 2018, it hired Bruce Jones, Ph.D., to lead the effort. He got to work creating systems to support research development and administration, intellectual property, and regulatory compliance. Since that time, the university has garnered record levels of research funding and is increasingly trusted to lead collaboration between educational institutions, grant funders, government agencies, non-profits, and industry partners. Jones is currently the senior vice president for research and a Howard University professor.

Jones' own research interest is in political science, and he knows the power of alliance building. Howard currently has partnerships with national research libraries across the country, such as the Brookhaven National Laboratory in New York, the Argonne National Laboratory in Chicago, and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Co.

Jones would be the first to note that his work

“

RESEARCH FLOWS THROUGH OUR VERY EXISTENCE AND UNIVERSITIES SERVE AS THE CENTRAL HUBS IN THE UNITED STATES WHERE RESEARCH IS BORN, DEVELOPED, AND DISPATCHED TO THE WORLD.”

builds on years of leading-edge research at Howard, where thought leaders, inventors, and scholars have deep expertise in sciences, medicine, STEM, social justice and equity, and public policy, among other areas. He believes research efforts at Howard, HBCUs, and other universities are indispensable components of human progress.

“Research flows through our very existence and universities serve as the central hubs in the United States where research is born, developed, and dispatched to the world,” Jones said. “Research serves as the foundation for the systematic examination of the challenges we face as a nation and the development of ultimate solutions to these challenges.”

Jones emphasized pivot points in history caused by research. The early steam engine has now given way to engines that can propel objects into space. The telegraph has evolved into smart phones. The abacus was the precursor to artificial intelligence and machine learning. Now, he said, research is the key to understanding the context in which humans will exist in the future.

“Throughout global history, research has led to powerful discoveries and inventions,” said Jones.

“Everything to include the invention of antibiotics, disease prevention vaccines, imaging technologies, organ transplant methods and lifesaving devices that are used in an array of surgical procedures. Everything to include deeper understandings of our world from an ecosystemic standpoint, rapid population growth, food related dilemma, clean water challenges, climate change, and alternative energy solutions. Research in the humanities and social sciences has led to greater



understandings of our human past – how we survived and thrived – creating deeper understandings of how humans will avoid extinction and endure into the future.”

Howard is the only top research university to also be an HBCU, but it is surely not the only HBCU that conducts large amounts of research. Other HBCUs, such as Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, and Hampton University, conduct research within their own niches and also collaborate with Howard to scale research efforts. The work done at these schools benefits every human on the planet, but the unique heritage and culture of these institutions often lends greater insight into how marginalized communities around the world are affected by research methodology and outcomes.

“HBCUs share a unique heritage and a unique legacy born out of a history of struggle against oppression and the brutality of enslavement, peonage, Jim Crow, and institutional racism, and discrimination,” said Jones. “Largely, because of this history in the United States, HBCUs are more likely to approach research opportunities, research problem solving, and the examination of sociopolitical and economic challenges we face in society through a social justice and equity lens.”

“Given the vital role of research in guiding and shaping public discourse and policy decision making, it is vitally important for HBCUs to be heavily engaged in the research arena,” Jones continued. “Public policy decision making at the local, state, federal, and

■ ■ ■

OVERSEEING CRITICAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE
Dr. Bruce Jones, senior vice president of research and professor.
Photo by Cameron Hubbard.

“

RESEARCH SERVES AS THE FOUNDATION FOR THE SYSTEMATIC EXAMINATION OF THE CHALLENGES WE FACE AS A NATION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF ULTIMATE SOLUTIONS TO THESE CHALLENGES.”

private sectors of our political economy hold a direct impact on all communities including communities of color. If HBCUs are absent from research, then they are most likely absent from shaping public policy discourse and public policy decision making.”

Now that Howard has achieved R1 status, the highest designation for university research productivity, Jones intends to make sure that it maintains and sustains it. He foresees growth in the institution's research enterprise and is working to foster emphasis in seven focus areas. Jones, his administrative team, and the university's researchers are continuing to strengthen the Office of Research, encourage the strategic hiring of faculty researchers, promote student research, obtain state-of-the-art systems and equipment, pursue large-scale contracts, increase partnership agreements, and grow the financial value of its research portfolio.

FIGHTING DISEASE

Research at Howard aims to stop millions of deaths due to infectious diseases.

by AMBER D. DODD



■■■
STOPPING INFECTIONS

Dr. Karl Thompson is working to save the lives of millions.

Photo by Justin D. Knight.

The research funded by this grant will explore how bacteria adapt to harsh environments by regulating their gene expression through unique RNA molecules.

“In order for bacteria to mount a successful infection, they must survive the immune system and exposure to antibiotics,” Thompson said. “We know that bacteria have robust and complex mechanisms at their disposal to mitigate environmental threats. But there is much more for us to uncover about the controlled deployment of these RNA molecules by bacteria. With this new funding, we will define the conditions, timing, and consequences of this deployment.”

The implications of Thompson’s research are profound as antibiotic resistance is a growing global health threat. According to the *Lancet*, a health and science publication, antibiotic-resistant bacterial infections could surpass cancer as a leading cause of mortality, with more than 39 million projected related deaths by 2050.

“This work will advance our understanding of bacterial genomes and RNA science, enabling us to better comprehend the intricacies of the infection process and to develop improved anti-bacterial therapeutics,” Thompson added.

Thompson was awarded the first installation of the \$2 million grant on August 2. The first aspects of the project include re-equipping and upgrading the his lab to advance the lab’s research and training capacity. Thompson will purchase a new multimode plate reader/cell imager, a fast protein liquid chromatographer (FPLC), and a gradient maker and fractionator. The grant will also support research on the isolation of molecules interacting with bacterial RNAs and training for students in biochemistry techniques to equip them to compete for biotech jobs or advanced academic research training positions after graduation.

■ **KARL THOMPSON** (B.S. ‘00, PH.D. ‘06), associate professor in the College of Medicine and graduate program director of the University’s Department of Microbiology, has been awarded the National Institutes of Health’s \$2 million Maximizing Investigators’ Research Award (MIRA) grant.

“This grant award will provide the fuel needed to propel the research forward and answer critical medical questions facing our communities. It will be a catalyst for more innovation and graduate student education in the College of Medicine and beyond,” said Andrea Hayes Dixon, M.D., dean of the College of Medicine.

Creating Scientific Citizens

For over a decade, the Thompson Research Lab has been equipping STEM students with the hands-on training needed to save lives at scale.

by AMBER D. DODD AND TIFFANI ALEXANDER

■ **Karl Thompson** has been working at Howard since 2011, when he was appointed as an assistant professor of microbiology in the College of Medicine. In 2012, Thompson started a lab with a vision to execute innovative research in microbial and molecular genetics and train the next generation of scientists. Thompson has mentored and trained dozens of undergraduate scholars from various disciplines and STEM development programs on campus, including the Karsh STEM Scholars, the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP), and the Undergraduate Research Training Initiative for Student Enhancement (URISE) STEM programs. Several undergraduate alumni, including those from the Karsh STEM scholars’ program have gone on to medical, graduate, or M.D./Ph.D. programs.

Sophomore biology major and chemistry minor Sophie Lee is a Karsh STEM scholar immersed in research she hopes will help affect change. The young scientist said she joined Thompson’s lab because it allows her to go beyond the prerequisites of her major and take a deep dive into other areas of research. Though students work collaboratively on a variety of basic science research, translational research, and applicational research, she’s most excited about learning everything she can about human genetics and sigma factors. Human genetics is the scientific study of inherited human variation.

Lee is studying how genetic traits are passed down, generation to generation, and how variations in genes can contribute to the development of certain traits or diseases in some people.

“Basically, what makes us, us?” asked Lee. “Why do we have brown skin? Why do we have curly hair or like what we like? Why do we have anxiety, or why are we more susceptible to certain diseases?”

Finding out the answers to these kinds of questions allows for better understanding of human development, and can lead to the development of medicines or treatments for diseases and other health-related issues. For Lee, it’s critical to understand how genetics affect Black

■■■
EXPONENTIAL GROWTH

Marietta, GA native Sophie Lee is learning genetics so she can cure disease.

Photo by Cameron Hubbard.



people in particular. The future physician scientist plans to address the inequities in the healthcare system, as well as the lack of personalized treatment options available, which often result from a lack of focus on the nuances within minority populations.

“I really want to change the healthcare system and how it affects Black and Brown people, and I think I can do that through human genetics, which will give us a pathway to personalized medicine,” said Lee. “I believe if you look at people in their genome and their genetics, at what scientifically makes them up instead of looking at statistics or the color of their skin and making inferences like, ‘this will probably work because they’re Black and most Black people get this,’ we can end misdiagnosis and racism in healthcare and in the healthcare system.”

Dr. Thompson has also exposed Lee and her lab associates to bacterial genetics. In the lab, she’s studied why a certain bacteria may be yellow or survive in a certain climate, as well as how another could affect the human immune system. She’s currently focused on staph aureus and E. coli bacteria and is exploring sigma factors. As the leader of a lab project, Lee is working with her fellow scientists to begin the work she intends to do as a physician scientist—personalizing medicine.

“Sigma factors is the process of making genes and proteins,” she explained. “We’re simulating reactions in a bacterium to try and understand every single part of that, so that we can then apply that — or someone else will then apply that — to the human body. We hope by understanding this certain sigma factor, we can understand how the immune system in humans works. How we can possibly create different characteristics that would help people not get infected

by certain diseases, for example.”

Discovering why some people are more susceptible to certain diseases, and subsequently how to personally treat them, would be quite the discovery. That said, Lee noted the importance of learning the fundamentals of research, in addition to the discoveries and the people behind them.

“How does this impact us?” she questioned. “How does this impact our community and giving back to the community? I feel like that’s really emphasized in every classroom that I go into.”

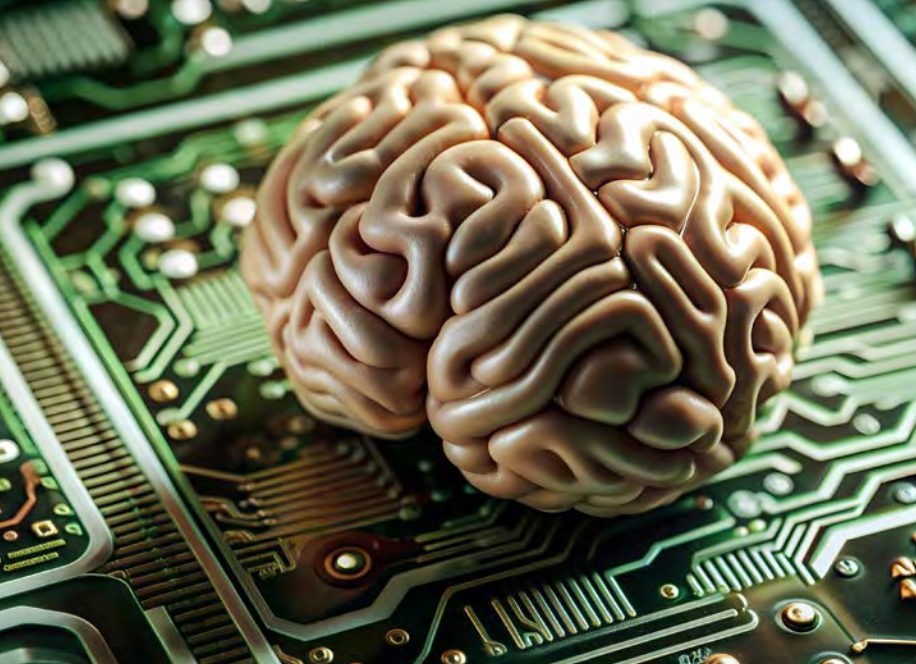
Those classrooms, and professors like Dr. Thompson, are preparing Lee for her future. She plans to pursue M.D. and Ph.D. degrees before embarking on a career that will allow her to change the way minorities are treated, figuratively and actually, within the U.S. healthcare system.

“The M.D./Ph.D. is where I can work with patients while doing my research,” she noted. “I hope my research will impact the people that I’m seeing and hopefully help to fix the healthcare system.”

Lee believes that Howard is preparing her well.

“I feel like I’ve grown exponentially since coming here,” she said. “From every person that I’ve interacted with at Howard, from the students to the faculty, I’ve just learned so much about myself and my identity, and how I should approach school in terms of learning.”

PHOTOS BY JOHN LEDBETTER



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE RESEARCH

Building the Future Through AI-Powered Cognitive Health Monitoring

Senior Amir Ince is working with his faculty mentors to bridge technology and healthcare.

BY SHOLNN FREEMAN, PH.D.

■ At just 22 years old, Amir Ince is already making waves in the world of artificial intelligence. A senior at Howard University majoring in computer sciences and mathematics, Ince is working with his professors to use futuristic technology to improve the lives of older adults now.

Ince has played an integral role in unique research that blends artificial intelligence (AI) and healthcare. Under the guidance of Dr. Saurav Aryal (B.S. '18) and Dr. Legand Burge, two leading professors in the field, Amir joined a project aimed at improving cognitive health monitoring for older adults, particularly those at risk of Alzheimer's disease.

As Ince explains, cognitive decline, particularly in older adults, often goes undetected until it's too late to intervene effectively. Typically, cognitive assessments are performed once a year, but in many cases, a lot can change in that year. The question Dr. Aryal and Dr. Burge posed was simple but profound.

"Why wait until it's too late to detect cognitive decline?"

The team set out to develop a technical solution that would allow for more frequent monitoring of cognitive health and alert healthcare providers to potential issues early on. The solution? A kiosk-like device equipped with AI capabilities to administer regular cognitive assessments, using a simple survey called the "Functional Activities Questionnaire" (FAQ). This standardized tool is used to measure a person's cognitive abilities based on their responses to questions about daily activities.

Amir's role in the project was to design the interface for this FAQ tool — a key component of the data-gathering process. The team also used advanced artificial intelligence (AI) models, such as ChatGPT and Meta's Gemini, to analyze the responses, allowing them to score and track changes in the users' cognitive abilities over time. Ultimately, the goal is to build a system that can assess the patient's cognitive state, recognize any decline, and notify their healthcare provider for a full evaluation.

The project, still in its early stages, focuses primarily on Alzheimer's disease, but

the potential applications for other cognitive conditions are vast. The ultimate vision is for these devices—akin to Alexa in function—to serve as regular check-ins for elderly patients, keeping track of their cognitive health with the same regularity as a blood pressure check.

To make it even more user-friendly, Amir and his team are building a system that allows patients to interact with the device using voice and face recognition, making the experience as close to an actual doctor's visit as possible.

Born in Guyana, Amir spent his first 10 years in the country's rural countryside. It was a quiet, developing place — far removed from the bustling streets of the more developed island of Barbados, where his family relocated after his father, a mechanical engineer, received a job offer. The transition was jarring. Beyond the geographical shift, there was the cultural shift: new people, new accents, and a whole new way of life. Amir recalls the challenge of understanding the local Bajun dialect, the language spoken in Barbados, a hurdle that made it harder to integrate at first.

Despite these obstacles, Amir adapted, finding a sense of belonging on the island. His experiences in both Guyana and Barbados shaped the way he approached challenges: with patience, determination, and an eagerness to learn.

After high school, Amir, like many students, was uncertain about what the future held — especially in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. His mentors at the Caribbean Science Foundation, through the Science Programs for Island Scholars (SPISE), suggested he apply to top universities in the United States. Amir followed their advice, applying to 11 schools across the country.

The journey wasn't easy. He faced rejection after rejection from many prestigious institutions, including Ivy League schools. Then, a fateful email arrived from one of those prestigious institutions, Howard University, informing him that he had been accepted — and awarded a merit-based scholarship. He could hardly believe it. This was a turning point that changed the trajectory of his life.

The impact of the AI project on Amir's career was immediate. By the time he completed his sophomore year, his skills in software engineering and AI had sharpened considerably. Thanks to the mentorship he received from Dr. Aryal and Dr. Burge, Amir was able to break down complex problems into smaller, more manageable components — a critical skill in computer science.

His work didn't go unnoticed. In the summer after his sophomore year, Amir landed his first

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BRAINPOWER
Amir Ince is working with his professors to enhance the quality of life for people around the world.

Photo courtesy Amir Ince.



“**TO CONTRIBUTE SOMETHING NEW, SOMETHING THAT COULD HAVE A REAL IMPACT ON THE WORLD — THAT'S THE ULTIMATE REWARD.**”

internship working on Google's Gemini product, the company's answer to ChatGPT. The experience allowed him to gain hands-on experience with Google's proprietary cutting-edge AI models, a privilege that few undergraduate students experience. The following summer, he joined Google again, this time working on the User Protection Team, using AI to classify content and detect violations of Google's policies.

The research project also opened the door for Amir to pursue even more advanced AI models, such as Meta's models, which his team used to fine-tune their assessments. Amir has passed the baton to two other students, Aayush Acharya, a senior computer science major, and Howard Prioleau, a graduate student, who are continuing the work he began.

Amir is adamant about the importance of research for undergraduate students.

"Research teaches you how to break down complex problems," he said. "It encourages a way of thinking that can be applied not only in your studies but in everyday life—whether it's making decisions, solving conflicts, or addressing personal challenges. Everything in life can be broken down into logical statements, and that's what software engineering teaches you."

For Amir, the rewards of research go beyond the intellectual satisfaction of solving problems. "Research also gives you the chance to make a difference," he says. "To contribute to something new, something that could have a real impact on the world—that's the ultimate reward."

STATE OF THE ART

NATIONAL RESEARCH HUB

Howard is activating partnerships to create spaces where global challenges will be solved.

Howard's multi-floor lease, signed this fall, will anchor the National Research Center for Health Disparities (NRCHD) — a new 200,000 square foot mission-driven lab and office building adjacent to campus. Unique in the country, the NRCHD will create a centralized hub for addressing disparities in healthcare incidence, accessibility, treatment, and outcomes.

The building will also include neighborhood-focused, ground-level retail space and outdoor plazas, providing venues for university and community gatherings. The NRCHD's first phase will offer advanced laboratory and flexible office space to meet the emerging needs of tenants with research incubators, collaboration areas to encourage idea exchange, and spaces for policy development.

One of the most impactful elements of the facility will be its structure designed to foster collaboration among multiple tenant research entities. Initial projects will involve issues that disproportionately affect marginalized communities, including heart health, diabetes, sickle cell anemia, gastric intestinal cancer in the Health Sciences.

Howard is developing the NRCHD in conjunction with Quadrangle Development and Capstone Development. The ownership group is being advised by the CBRE commercial real estate company.

← **SPACE TO COLLABORATE**
Rendering of the National Research Hub.





ENERGY RESEARCH

INNOVATION IN POWER SYSTEMS

DR. CHARLES KIM'S BROWNOUT DETECTOR IS TRANSFORMING FAULT DETECTION

by **BEILUL TESFAI**

Charles Kim, Ph.D., a professor in Howard University's Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, is leading the way in revolutionizing power system reliability with his invention of the Brownout Detector. This technology addresses a critical issue in power distribution and demonstrates Howard's commitment to innovation that makes a difference in people's lives around the world.

Recently, Howard made history by becoming the first and only HBCU to earn R1 status, a prestigious

■■■
OVERSEEING CRITICAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE
 Dr. Charles Kim, Howard University inventor and professor.

Photo by Beilul Tesfai.

designation that highlights the University's exceptional research capabilities and groundbreaking contributions to addressing real-world challenges.

THE BROWNOUT DETECTOR: A NEW APPROACH TO FAULT DETECTION

While the term "brownout" often refers to a temporary voltage drop, Dr. Kim's Brownout Detector focuses on detecting sub-cycle faults — brief but powerful spikes in currents that occur in electrical cables, both underground and overhead. These faults can be caused by damage to the cables, such as tiny cracks or moisture getting in, and last only a fraction of a second. Although they clear up quickly, these faults can eventually lead to more severe, permanent failures, causing power outages.

Traditional systems were unable to detect these quick faults, but Dr. Kim's innovation changes that. The Brownout Detector uses current and voltage data to pinpoint exactly where these faults are happening. This early detection allows utilities to repair the problem before it leads to a widespread outage, improving the reliability of power grids and preventing unnecessary disruptions.

ADDRESSING A LONGSTANDING ISSUE IN POWER SYSTEMS

Power companies have struggled with the issue of sub-cycle faults for years. Most traditional detection methods could not identify these quick faults, leaving power systems vulnerable to sudden failures. Dr. Kim's breakthrough was to use an inverse approach — measuring the current and voltage to calculate where the faults are occurring in the electrical system. This allows for targeted repairs, preventing outages before they happen.

Dr. Kim's technology has already been tested with real-world data, showing promising results. The Brownout Detector has been licensed to a data science company that has applied it to predict faults and direct inspections, and it is now being used by major power companies to enhance their systems' reliability.

A POSITIVE IMPACT ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND POWER RELIABILITY

The implications of this technology go far beyond technical innovation. By detecting faults early, the Brownout Detector helps utilities avoid unexpected outages, which can be costly and disruptive for businesses, healthcare facilities, and everyday life. For communities that depend on continuous power — such as those with vulnerable populations or critical services — this technology is crucial in preventing major disruptions.

STRENGTHENING HOWARD UNIVERSITY'S INNOVATION LEGACY

The development of the Brownout Detector is a prime example of how Howard University fosters groundbreaking research that serves the public good. Dr. Kim credits the strong support from Howard's faculty, administrators, and intellectual property office for helping bring his invention to life and to market.

"Howard's emphasis on intellectual property and innovation has been essential in turning my research into a real-world solution," Dr. Kim said.

The success of the Brownout Detector is a significant achievement for Howard's growing research portfolio. The technology's licensing to a leading company is already making an impact, and it showcases Howard's ability to produce practical, high-impact solutions to complex global challenges.



“**HOWARD'S EMPHASIS ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND INNOVATION HAS BEEN ESSENTIAL IN TURNING MY RESEARCH INTO A REAL-WORLD SOLUTION.**”

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE OF POWER SYSTEM SAFETY

While Dr. Kim continues to refine his fault detection technology, his research is also expanding into areas like protecting power systems from cyber threats. As more critical infrastructure becomes connected to the digital world, his work in safeguarding these systems from cyberattacks is poised to be just as impactful.

For now, the Brownout Detector stands as a groundbreaking solution to a critical problem in power distribution. It not only strengthens Howard University's reputation for innovation but also provides a tangible, life-changing impact for communities around the world. Through continued advancements in technology, Dr. Kim's work is helping to ensure that the power systems of the future are safer, more reliable, and better equipped to serve the public.



SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

ALIGNMENT OR REALIGNMENT?

FACULTY MEMBER KENESHIA GRANT'S RESEARCH EXPLORES WHERE AND WHY BLACKS VOTE.

by CEDRIC MOBLEY



FOLLOWING THE VOTES

Dr. Keneshia Grant engages her class at Howard.

For Keneshia Grant, Ph.D., an associate professor of political science at Howard, merely observing how certain groups of people engage in civic participation is not enough. She wants to know why. That's why she has spent years conducting nonpartisan research on the voting patterns of Black voters across the country, particularly how those patterns may change depending on where they live and the socio-economic environment that surrounds them. After decades of struggle and making the highest sacrifices to attain the right to vote, how — and where — has the Black community made their electoral voices heard?

Few have dug as deep as Grant in trying to understand how the realities of geography has affected the vote. Among the greatest shifts in American voting alignment during the twentieth century were the gradual transformation of many Southern states into reliable bastions of white Republican voters and the near simultaneous change from the support many Black Americans traditionally gave Republican candidates to support for Democratic candidates. This shift occurred during the “great migration,” as millions of Blacks migrated northward in search of employment in emerging industrial centers such as Detroit, Chicago, and New York City. Grant has worked to explain the relationship between these phenomena, as well as the associated repercussions. As many Blacks concentrated their voting power within the Democratic Party, their influence grew. Some scholars have argued that the shift created an inextricable codependency in which the benefits are obvious, but there may also be an element of toxicity in the relationship.

“In most instances throughout their history, the

record reflects a Black population that was highly attentive to politics and strategic about their participation,” said Grant. “In the Great Migration for example, they are highly motivated to participate in politics in ways that range from voter education to voting and holding elected offices. At that time and today, we have seen Black people exercise their greatest power in places where they have chosen to make a life. For the Great Migration era, that's places like Chicago and Detroit. These days, I think of places like Maryland and Atlanta.”

Her expertise is particularly relevant in this moment, as calls for many Black Americans to reexamine their civic sentiments— and allegiances— have gotten louder. As a distinct minority population, is it collectively politically healthy for the Black community to leverage the full weight of its political influence to gain power in one party, or should more Blacks engage multiple political parties, confident they can make their viewpoint heard without the larger, unified voice? Like any other community, the Black community is not monolithic and comes with widely varying economic, educational, geographic, gender, political, and religious backgrounds, just like any other community. Nevertheless, is the Black vote America's most predictable voting bloc, and is that good or bad for their collective interests and democracy in general?

“It makes sense for a group of voters to reliably support a party that responds to their policy demands and gives them spoils — this is, of course, if that preferred party is in power,” Grant explained. “The United States is in the midst of a realignment currently, in which the distribution of power is changing. In this type of scenario, it makes sense for Black Americans to have representatives of the race in every room where politicians are making decisions — rather than just being in the rooms of one

party. Having people present on both sides changes the nature of conversations on both sides.”

From the “3/5ths Compromise” in the U.S. Constitution through the Jim Crow era, the laws on the books in many states purposefully tried to limit the voting rights of Black Americans. Sometimes, laws such as the poll tax and citizenship tests were cleverly devised to ostensibly apply to all voters, in practice, they predominantly disenfranchised Blacks. In addition to voting phenomena in northern urban centers, Grant has explored impediments to voting in her home state of Florida, where up to one-fifth of Blacks have had their voting rights restricted due to felony convictions. Recently, the voters of the state largely removed that permanent restriction through constitutional amendment, restoring the right to those whose debts to society have been paid. However, through political and prosecutorial intimidation, many eligible voters have been prevented from exercising their rights.

“The situation in Florida is an example of what happens when there is a disconnect between the will of the voters and the aims of political leaders,” Grant said. “Voters in the state were very clear about their desire to see returning citizens have access to the vote in their support for Amendment 4 in 2018. Since that time, though, legislators have used a variety of methods to ensure that these citizens remain locked away from their rights to political participation.”

Grant's interest in political systems spiked in college, where she served as student government vice president at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU). She obtained a Master of Applied Social Sciences degree from FAMU, and then earned a Ph.D. in American politics and public administration from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University. After a stint at the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, she came to Howard to add her expertise and insight to the university's storied faculty.

The common theme throughout Grant's research is that there are reasons for voting patterns which often go beyond temporary personal interests. Structural elements which used to unify Black communities around common interests, are now changing dramatically. Black educational attainment is diverging between men and women, more Black people are moving to suburban areas, interracial relationships have been largely normalized, and the long term financial interests of some Blacks are wildly different from those of others, even within their own families. As gentrification has displaced some from urban centers, and others have returned to Southern cities like Atlanta, Grant continues to explore how the Black voting patterns are changing and how those changes will impact American democracy.



MICROTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH

BRINGING SILICON VALLEY TO GEORGIA AVENUE WITH A MICROCHIP POST-VALIDATION LAB

by AMBER D. DODD

■ Howard launched a \$1.3 million microchip post-validation lab in Louis K. Downing Hall last fall, funded through \$1.3 million in grants from Apple and other partners, including Microsoft, AutoDesk, and Cisco.

Through the lab and related programming, faculty and student teams will test, debug, and validate application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC) microchips. ASIC chips are used to power tech equipment in industry, intelligence agencies, and defense systems.

While the lab will initially be used to conduct standard research around the microchip, it will evolve into a multipurpose hub for College of Engineering and Architecture's classes and collaborations with future partners in the STEM industry.

“This laboratory brings Silicon Valley to Georgia Avenue, radically reframing the demographic opportunities and impact of this technological work,” said President Ben Vinson III, Ph.D.

As an initial project, students designed a microchip. After fabrication, the cohort then validated the microchip's sensors and components in a series of lab tests, assessing the quality and safety of the product. It was experiential learning that will have them ready for careers in the tech industry immediately.

“We wanted to bring the technology and training here so students can take a job right away,” said Ahmed Rubaai, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and the lab's lead researcher.

Rubaai said the lab is the brainchild of the late professor Michaela Amoo (B.S. '01, M.S. '05, Ph.D. '16) who started working on the grant for the lab in 2021.

DATA SCIENCE RESEARCH

DATA DRIVEN

HOWARD RESEARCHER TALITHA WASHINGTON, PH.D., IS ENSURING THAT THE FUTURE IS POWERED BY TALENT FROM ALL BACKGROUNDS

by CEDRIC MOBLEY



As data drives the future of innovation, Howard researcher Talitha Washington, Ph.D., is working to make sure that everyone has a voice in the evolving landscape. She has made a crusade of ushering talent from all communities into data science and artificial intelligence (AI), including students, faculty, and professionals from all communities. As part of the current leg of her already storied career journey, Washington leads Howard's Center for Applied Data Science and Analytics and is co-chair of the AI Advisory Council. In particular, she is actively supporting researchers at all levels to embrace interdisciplinary approaches to addressing economic challenges, health disparities, social issues, and environmental concerns using statistical methods, algorithms, and computing systems to glean insight from large amounts of data. She is also Howard's Sean McCleese Endowed Chair in Computer Science, Race, and Social Justice.

"Data science, analytics, and AI are revolutionizing how we understand and interact with the world," said Washington. "Together, they enable us to solve complex problems, innovate faster, and shape a future driven by informed decisions."

Washington's vision stems from her own research. She is a mathematician at heart. In fact, in one of her papers, she and her Howard colleague Oluwaseye Adekanye, (Ph.D. '17), compared the relationship between discretizations of a system based on the rate of change among

various factors, using values and characteristics of the equations in the system. Stated more formally, the paper "constructs two dynamically consistent nonstandard finite difference (NSFD) schemes using the Mickens methodology," a reference to noted mathematician R. E. Mickens, Ph.D.

Though it sounds theoretical, her work is indisputably practical. The Tacoma Narrows Bridge in Tacoma, Washington, collapsed just four months after it opened in 1940. According to eyewitnesses, the bridge was exhibiting movement vertically and then began twisting in other ways. The technology and knowledge did not exist at the time to properly take multiple factors into account, such as the wind, construction, and shape of the bridge, so models were developed that attempted to explain the collapse by making approximations to account for unknown factors, or "linearizing." As these approximations can lead to inaccurate conclusions, the results can be disastrous. Washington's research shows how to find better approximate solutions by creating two different numerical schemes. This work can help in understanding how to make structures safer and can help speed up computations.

"The power of mathematics lies in its ability to turn complex challenges into solvable equations," said Washington. "It helps us make sense of data, predict outcomes, and design solutions that benefit communities at scale."

While mathematics is her first research love, Washington is equally passionate about opening doors of

POWERED BY DATA

Dr. Talitha Washington is at the helm of Howard's Center for Applied Data Science and Analytics. Photo by Cameron Hubbard.

opportunity for others to enter into the world of data to solve a range of societal and industrial problems. Her research into educational methods for teaching data science informed the development of guidelines for an undergraduate curriculum designed for use in colleges around the world. She collaborated with researchers, educators, and thought leaders from across the country to develop these guidelines have an interdisciplinary approach that emphasizes development in analytical thinking, mathematics, model building, data curation, and knowledge transfer, along with a strong foundation in algorithms and software. The goal is to prepare students to thrive in highly dynamic, data-rich environments and effectively tackle complex challenges.

"To solve global challenges, we must foster new innovations in data science and AI research while reimagining how we educate and train future talent. By cultivating the next generation of data and AI leaders, we drive continuous advancement, ensuring they are prepared to shape a better world."

Washington could not be better suited for her research leadership role at Howard. She previously served as the director and lead principal investigator of the U.S. National Science Foundation National Data Science Alliance, where she spearheaded the development of an HBCU-wide network to advance innovations in data science research and expand curriculum offerings. Additionally, she was instrumental in launching the first Hispanic Serving Institutions program at the NSF. She also served as director of the Atlanta University Center Data Science Initiative, stewarding research and curriculum development across the campus of Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, Morehouse School of Medicine, and Spelman College. She is the immediate past president of the Association for Women in Mathematics and is a member of the Census Scientific Advisory Committee of the U.S. Census Bureau.



CANCER TREATMENT RESEARCH

TRUSTED TREATMENT

FINIE HUNTER-RICHARDSON'S RESEARCH IS SHOWING MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDERS HOW TO REACH CANCER PATIENTS.

by SHOLNN FREEMAN

FINDING BEST PRACTICES IN CANCER TREATMENT

Dr. Finie Hunter-Richardson presents her work. Photo courtesy Finie Hunter-Richardson.

Information about healthcare can come from many different sources, but which ones can you trust? That's the high-stakes question addressed by cancer researcher Finie Hunter-Richardson (BS '02, MPH '05, PhD '20).

Hunter-Richardson is an assistant professor and director of research in the Department of Community and Family Medicine at the Howard University College of Medicine. She was also one of the first awardees of the American Cancer Society's Diversity in Cancer Research Program — a groundbreaking research partnership with the Howard University Cancer Center.

Hunter-Richardson's research, still in its early stages, examines how different communities — particularly African Americans — identify credible information about cancer prevention, such as the latest guidelines on when to begin screenings.

"Misinformation can lead to delayed diagnoses and suboptimal treatment, especially among people of color," Hunter-Richardson said. "It is crucial that we relay credible, evidence-based information so patients can make informed health decisions."

The American Cancer Society's funding is a game-changer for Howard University and for the future of cancer care, said Carla Williams, Ph.D., interim director of the Howard University Cancer Center.

"Our research at the Cancer Center isn't just about keeping up with the

latest developments—it's about leading the way to real change," Williams said. "By backing our early-stage researchers, the American Cancer Society empowers us to drive our mission—reducing cancer disparities and reaching our communities."

Trusted information about screening and early detection is vital. Data continues to show that Black Americans experience higher rates of illness across various cancers — whether it's breast, colon, prostate, or cervical—and when diagnosed, these cancers tend to be identified at more aggressive stages that are harder to treat and cure.

Hunter-Richardson's research analyzes the influence of various sources — radio, the internet, family, and friends — and examines the role of traditionally trustworthy outlets such as healthcare providers and government websites. The findings so far indicate that for many African American communities, physicians are the most trusted source, though religious leaders also play a significant role. This has led Hunter-Richardson to promote community partnerships between doctors and churches so they can join forces to educate communities about cancer prevention.

Findings thus far have also shown how essential it is that providers stay current on screening guidelines and have related conversations with patients. Screening guidelines for major cancers have shifted significantly. For example, mammography now begins at age 40 instead of 50, and colon cancer

screening is recommended to start at 45.

Hunter-Richardson explains, "We are noticing that people are being diagnosed with many of these cancers at earlier ages. These trends are prompting changes in screening guidelines. It is critical that physicians are aware of the updates to make appropriate screening recommendations. Providers can discuss family history and other risk factors while addressing any patient questions and concerns. If physicians aren't making these screening recommendations, where are they getting their information from? How are they staying on top of the latest guidelines?"

Robust community engagement has always been a signature mission of the Howard University Cancer Center since its founding in 1972. As the only full-service cancer center on the campus of an HBCU, it provides comprehensive treatment services and trains the next generation of oncology professionals and cancer researchers.

The American Cancer Society's research support has already proven to be an invaluable resource for early-stage researchers like Hunter-Richardson. The program's funding, which extends through 2026, is designed to ensure that early-stage investigators can dedicate focused time to their work, and she is honored to be one of its awardees.

"Cancer disparities are a persistent reality," Hunter-Richardson said. "We must ensure that every individual, regardless of their background, has access to credible information that guides them toward early detection and effective treatment."



RESEARCH LEGACY

Undeniable World Change

How Research by Howard's Roland Scott Changed Global Approaches to Sickle Cell Disease Forever

by CEDRIC MOBLEY

TRANSFORMATIONAL
Dr. Roland Boyd Scott
Provided by U.S. National Library of Medicine.

■ RED BLOOD CELLS COMPRISE UP TO 40% of blood in the body, and carry the oxygen needed for human life to exist. Sickle cell disease is a genetic disorder that affects the shape of those red blood cells and how they function. Whereas normal red blood cells are round and are flexible as they travel through the tiny vessels in the body, the red blood cells present in people with sickle cell disease can be crescent or sickle shaped, which do not bend easily. This makes it harder for the cells to move around the body, which can lead to blood flow blockage and chronic pain. The cells only live about 15% as long as normal cells live, creating a shortage of oxygen in the body which can cause fatigue. The abnormality can lead to damaged organs including the lungs, infections, ulcers, strokes, hypertension, blindness, and bone and joint problems. Millions of people around the world have sickle cell disease, which occurs when children are born to parents who both carry the gene which causes cells to mutate. According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), 90% of people with the disease in the United States are of African ancestry, and one of every 365 Black babies are born with the disease.

Before the 1970s, federal interest in the disease was minimal at best. Alumnus Roland Boyd Scott, M.D. who was chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at Howard University for almost a quarter of a century, became increasingly concerned about the condition of children coming to the emergency room at Freedman's Hospital with related symptoms. The lack of research on the topic led Scott to start his own at Howard, garnering

funding by multiple means, including grassroots efforts such as radio appeals. In June 1948, Scott published "Incidence of Sicklemia in the Newborn Negro Infant," in conjunction with fellow Freedman's pediatricians Robert Crawford, M.D., also a Howard alumnus, and Melvin Jenkins, M.D. In the first known study which specified the timing of disease detection after birth, the trio studied more than 250 Black infants at Freedman's and detailed the importance of and methodology for early detection. Their study and paper led to the routine newborn screenings which continue today. Scott wrote more than 300 scientific articles on medical topics, including those which called attention to the importance of sickle cell treatments. He also showed that the disease affected others from a variety of races, dispelling notions that it was a "Blacks only" disease.

Scott and other doctors became fierce and vocal advocates for the federal funding of research in the area. In 1971, U.S. President Richard Nixon delivered his "Special Message to the Congress Proposing a National Health Strategy," which, among other topics, highlighted the need to address the disease and committed millions of federal dollars for research. The next year, Congress passed the National Sickle Cell Anemia Control Act, which identified the disease as a national priority and authorized tens of millions of dollars for research and treatment. NIH today acknowledges that Scott is widely considered to be a key catalyst for the passage of the law.

"It is a sad and shameful fact that the causes of this disease have been largely neglected throughout

"It is a sad and shameful fact that the causes of this disease have been largely neglected throughout our history. We cannot rewrite this record of neglect, but we can reverse it."

— Former U.S. President
Richard M. Nixon

our history, said Nixon. "We cannot rewrite this record of neglect, but we can reverse it."

Howard was one of the first federal grantees of funds appropriated as a result of the law, allowing him to launch the Center for Sickle Cell Disease, the first center in the nation solely devoted to addressing the disease. Part of Scott's work wasn't just medical; it was sociological. There was a stigma attached to the disease, which served as an impediment to treatment.

"Dr. Scott's work and advocacy changed the landscape for sickle cell disease," according to the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America. By 1995, *Ebony Magazine* called Dr. Scott the "preeminent authority" on sickle cell anemia. Beyond sickle cell disease, Scott also pioneered research on growth and development among healthy African American children, which helped set national medical standards. Today, he is known as the "father of Sickle Cell Disease." At Scott's 2002 funeral, Dr. Duane Bonds, then leader of the National Institutes of Health's Sickle Cell Disease Scientific Research Group, reflected on Scott's contributions to medical and scientific research.

"His first publication on sickle cell disease, a 1948 report on the incidence of red cell sickling in newborn infants, was not only the first of its kind, but it was prophetic of the haemoglobinopathy newborn screening programs which would be started over two decades later," Bonds said. Bonds was one of Scott's patients as a child before becoming a doctor herself.

Another very important doctor grew up coping with sickle cell disease. He enrolled in Howard University Medical School not only to become a doctor, but to also learn to manage his own condition through the Center for Sickle Cell Disease. He went on to become the president of Howard and then, in 2024, the interim chief executive officer of the American Cancer Society.



THE PAIN I ENDURED DURING THESE EPISODES WAS COMPLETELY DEBILITATING. I KNEW THAT IF I WERE TO BECOME A PHYSICIAN MYSELF, I WOULD NEED A SUPPORTIVE TEAM OF NURSES AND DOCTORS, AS WELL AS A GROUP OF PEERS, WHO UNDERSTOOD MY DISEASE AND COULD TEACH ME HOW TO MANAGE IT. THAT WAS PRECISELY WHAT I FOUND AT HOWARD'S CENTER FOR SICKLE CELL DISEASE."

"Growing up in Trinidad and Tobago, I would spend weeks in the hospital every year as a result of numerous sickle cell crises," former Howard University President Wayne A. I. Frederick (B.S. '94, M.B.A. '11, M.D. '94) wrote in a 2022 letter to the Howard Community. "The pain I endured during these episodes was completely debilitating. I knew that if I were to become a physician myself, I would need a supportive team of nurses and doctors, as well as a group of peers, who understood my disease and could teach me how to manage it. That was precisely what I found at Howard's Center for Sickle Cell Disease."

Roland Scott earned his medical degree from Howard University in 1934 after earning a Bachelor of Science degree, also from Howard.



WHEN YOU ARE RECOGNIZED NATIONALLY FOR BOTH THE TOP UNDERGRADUATE BUSINESS AND TRADITIONAL MBA PROGRAMS AMONG HBCUS, YOU MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO REST ON YOUR LAURELS. BUT **HOWARD'S SCHOOL OF BUSINESS** IS STEPPING ON THE GAS.

...

The Audacity of Excellence

by CEDRIC MOBLEY

Once you are at the top, there is only one thing left to do. Stay there.

That's exactly what Howard's School of Business has been doing. The school is aggressively engaged in developing cutting edge programs that are attracting the best students — both those straight out of high school and students who are established business professionals. It's laser focus on preparing leaders to navigate the second-by-second changes in the dynamic techno-global commercial landscape led *Fortune* to name Howard's traditional MBA program No. 44 on its 2025 Best M.B.A. Programs list, the only HBCU program included. *U.S. News and World Report* followed suit, recognizing Howard's undergraduate business program No. 1 among HBCUs and No. 77 overall in its 2025 Best Colleges rankings.

“THE HOWARD SCHOOL OF BUSINESS FOCUSES ON developing not just business acumen but also leadership skills,” said Anthony D. Wilbon, Ph.D., (M.B.A. '90) dean of Howard University School of Business.

“Programs emphasize critical thinking, ethical decision-making, and social responsibility within a business education framework that addresses complex challenges in corporate, non-profit, and government arenas.”

Perhaps most unique about Howard’s Business School is its approach to business education through the prism of “truth and service.” The school promotes the development of cutting-edge research that tackles business problems from diverse perspectives. Discussions on business innovation and entrepreneurship routinely intersect those concerning social equity. Additional curricular offerings interweave global perspectives and trends and direct international engagement through study abroad programs and partnerships with international business institutions to help students understand borderless commercial interconnectedness.

“Howard is competitive among leading business schools like Wharton and Kellogg due to its strong academic programs and unique emphasis on global leadership that provides experiential

opportunities for students to apply theory to practice,” said Wilbon. “It offers rigorous undergraduate, graduate, and executive programs known for fostering diversity in business and providing a platform for underrepresented groups to excel in corporate settings.”

The school has numerous specialized centers which work to expand the school’s positioning, network, instruction and residential expertise in areas representing the future of business, including the HPS Center for Finance Excellence, Warner/Blavatnick Center for Music Business, the Center for Excellence in Supply Chain Management, and the Center for Digital Business. Among the school’s most important core elements is its commitment to entrepreneurship, as reflected in entities like the Howard University/PNC National Center for Entrepreneurship, which provides capacity-building resources and support for faculty and students interested in launching startups across the HBCU ecosystem.

Each center’s programs test leadership skills through experiential learning opportunities such as internships and consulting projects and through co-curricular partnerships with leading global corporations. Across the curriculum, students are taught how to decipher complex information to make informed decisions.

STRAIGHT TALK
Students start the year off with a frank discussion about expectations in the business world with Assistant Dean Kanika Jones. *Photo by Cedric Mobley.*



“

The students that can come out and go into the workforce independently, function creatively and strategically, and adapt quickly are the ones that are going to succeed.”

“Literally, every single recruiter that comes is asking about students’ ability to think analytically and strategically,” said Karthik Balasubramanian, D.B.A., who teaches operations management classes for both undergraduates and M.B.A. candidates. “There is so much data, so we teach students how to distill it down to what actually matters.”

Balasubramanian, who earned a doctorate in business administration from Harvard Business School, works to help students connect the dots between their math skills and decision making. He wants them to learn to focus on the areas where the greatest impact is possible, both within a company, and in their own lives. This, he said, is important to students, both personally and professionally. He wants them to work smarter if not harder, including having a robust understanding of how to use emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence.

“The students that can come out and go into the workforce independently, function creatively and strategically, and adapt quickly are the ones that are going to succeed,” he said.

The School of Business routinely attracts standout students, so it follows that its graduates stand out as well. Notable School of Business alumni include Mark Mason (B.B.A. '91), Citi chief financial officer, Carla Hall (B.B.A. '86), owner of the Alchemy catering company and co-host of *The Chew*, Donald B. Christian (B.B.A. '90), lead client partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers, and Leslie D. Hale (B.B.A. '94), president and chief executive officer of RLJ Lodging Trust



DEAN ANTHONY WILBON works everyday to engineer comprehensive, future-focused, multidimensional business programs.

Photo by Justin D. Knight.

and vice chair of Howard’s Board of Trustees.

Students aren’t waiting to graduate before they demonstrate their business prowess on the global stage. Over the past two years, Howard students won first place in the Amazon Next Design Case Competition, the Women of Color Incubator Pitch Competition, and the Warburg Pincus Private Equity Case Competition. They were first runner up in the Mosaic Entrepreneurship Pitch Competition and the National Black MBA Association Undergraduate Case Competition.

That type of professional development attracted students like Nana Crenstil, who is a candidate for both an M.B.A. and a doctorate in pharmacy. She wants to use her business training to learn how to move a drug from the clinical trials phase along the process to the marketplace. She has participated in business case competitions, engaged directly with pharmaceutical companies, and garnered an appreciation for the many different facets of business operations. For Crenstil, the connections she is making with professionals who can provide insight into the inner mechanics of the workplace are among the most valuable aspects of the program.

“Howard University’s M.B.A. Program allows students access to corporate mentors to help guide us to become better business leaders and survive in different business cultures,” Crenstil said. The most recent available data from the U.S. Department of Education showed that Howard produces more bachelor’s degree graduates in marketing and in finance than any other HBCU. They come to study with instructors like Veneesha Dutra, Ph.D., M.B.A., who teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in investment analysis, investment banking, financial

REAL WORLD EXPERTISE
Students frequently hear from corporate CEOs and other executives who speak in the Executive Lecture Series. *Photo by Cameron Hubbard.*



institutions and markets, real estate finance, and commercial banking.

“We graduate the most in finance because we are highly connected with industry, we graduate our students on time, and our graduates command amongst the highest salaries across the university,” said Dutra. “It is imperative that we explain the value proposition and make sure that the ROI on this investment is positive. Our students graduate with the skills that industry needs and demands.”

Dutra uses her corporate, research, and academic background to relate to students through a holistic educational process. She is aggressive in helping students understand wealth and wealth-building, whether through entrepreneurship or investment, arguing that it is essential to fulfilling Howard’s mission. She weaves it into every aspect of her teaching.

“Wealth creates another opportunity for you to be free,” Dutra insisted. “And that’s the legacy of Howard — the legacy of freedom. “I don’t teach our students about wealth so they can collect more things. I teach them to have a producer mindset as opposed



■■■ **WEALTH MAGNET** Dr. Vaneesha Dutra takes a holistic approach to teaching finance. Photo by Cameron Hubbard.



Wealth creates another opportunity for you to be free. And that’s the legacy of Howard — the legacy of freedom.”

to a consumer mindset. I want our students to have the freedom and the ability to step into situations that serve them, and more importantly, to step out of situations that don’t. There’s nothing more powerful than having the leverage to engage predominately in environments that serve you, and we know that



■■■ **SHOW OF FORCE** Business majors sit together at Opening Convocation. Photo by Heaven Brown.

our students face more microaggressions, stress, and discrimination in the workplace than our other counterparts.”

Though she sets high academic expectations for her students, she understands that Howard students juggle a myriad of pressures that weren’t present in previous generations. She says that there isn’t an alternative to a holistic approach to education, because helping students learn how to manage personal issues is central to their success, now and in a future workplace.

“Industry is requiring technical skills along with social and emotional skills to deal with people on teams effectively and to deal with client issues,” she said. Our students are talking to us about their personal lives as well as their academic pursuits. You can’t separate the two. We have to help them develop the emotional intelligence needed to be a leader in a corporate environment.”

That type of support and dedication is important to many of Howard’s students, who chose the university out of opportunities at several highly regarded institutions. Some, like Raina Ford, a sophomore international business major, were attracted to the internships and employment prospects made available through the School of Business. She appreciates the resources devoted to each student to help them excel. According to Ford, the boldness of the student body is a primary differentiator and is derived from the success of those who have come before them.

“We may be the only ones in a space, but we are confident in our name, knowing that we come from a long lineage of power and brilliance,” said Ford. “The audacity we walk around with in any space is special and sets us apart and is attributable



The audacity we walk around with in any space is special, sets us apart, and is attributable to the success that we have had in all the fields that we pursue.”

to the success that we have had in all the fields that we pursue.”

Academic and professional growth is important to Ford, but so is her personal growth. She came to Howard in part because of the freedom to be her authentic self. The relationships she has developed with students, both within the School of Business and also across campus, have been just as important as those she has developed with faculty members.

“Finding my voice and stepping into my identity unapologetically was probably the biggest hurdle for me before I came here, but the people

that I have been surrounded by have pushed me to feel comfortable with my authentic self, explore that identity, and allow it to change, flourish, and go through many phases so I can graduate truly knowing who I am and stand firmly in that place,” said Ford. “I have friends from all walks of life and different majors. Although it’s a competitive environment, which you need so you are constantly being pushed and excelling, people are still willing to help each other because we are all trying to grow into young professionals who will be impactful in the world.”



■■■ **STANDING ON BUSINESS** Students head to a special session for women in corporate America. Photo by Cedric Mobley.



Small businesses are the lifeblood of the American economy. According to the Small Business Administration, they represent 99.9 percent of U.S. business firms and employ about half of all private sector employees. Opening a small business, however, is no small undertaking. It takes a high degree of risk tolerance, as well as an ability to balance the passion a business owner has in providing a product or service with the realities of commerce—marketing, logistics, supply chain management, payroll, financing, budgeting, taxes, customer service, legal arrangements, and more. Those who persevere, however, are part of the foundation of global capitalism. Here's a look at just a few Bison who are open for business with products ready for sale.

This article does not represent an endorsement of businesses or products by Howard University. Content presented is for descriptive purposes only and relies heavily on information purported by the company.



**Ivey + Allen
Lifestyle Luxe Candles**
iveyandallen.com

Founded by a candle-loving Bison couple in 2020, Ivey + Allen candles embrace their motto of “social, self-care and vibes” through a series of scents such as Deuces (mango + coconut milk), Inkwell (sunflower + sandalwood), and About Last Night (sheer vanilla + orchid). Candle themes are designed to be fun and to transport you to a unique experience in your private space. They work with the best vendors who stand by their high-quality ingredients and products. From ethically sourced wood for wicks, to eco-friendly and sustainable coconut soy wax blend and fragrance oils, Ivey+Allen strives to create a quality product, curated to bring a unique experience to your senses. The Dallas-based brand offers an exclusive 10% Howard discount when using the code “HU1867.”



Black Five/Fifths
blackfivefifths.com

The Black Five/Fifths brand features products that blend fashion, Black culture, and social justice. Items for sale include t-shirts, hats, mugs,

pillows, bags and other merchandise emblazoned with thematic phrases like, “Black, Brown, and Anybody Down,” “My Only Opp is White Supremacy,” and “Stokely and All of Us.” The company’s name repudiates the original Constitutional declaration that Blacks in America were only three-fifths of a human being.



Stoonic
stoonic.com

Stoonic is a luxury active wear brand that merges health and fashion to inspire women with a moving lifestyle to connect with who they are in order to push their limits. Stoonic means to be active and in style through comfort and motivation, and the company’s collections for you are meant to project your style, edge, and energy in the gym or on the street. Founder Jasmine Knight (A.S. ’16) blends “two driving forces of women in the world: health and fashion.”

“I’ve cultivated each collection with love, care, and of course a commitment to quality. When I created Stoonic, I wanted to bring women together through style and movement,” Knight wrote on Stoonic’s blog.

Their latest additions form-fitting flare leggings, boxy long sleeve bras, and flow sport cropped jackets and leggings come in soft colors such as lavender, nude brown, and baby pink. Bison shoppers can use the “HU20” code at checkout to receive a 20% discount on their order.



So Organic, So Suave (SOSS)
sossd.co

Co-founded by Vernon G. Yancy (B.S. ’16), SOSS specializes in grooming products for Black men. The company’s comprehensive product suite of top-quality, all-natural beard care, hair care, and skincare essentials make grooming an enjoyable experience. SOSS’s ingredients are organic, natural, raw, and sourced locally. Products are designed to affirm each customer in the expression of their authentic self. Like many, Yancy battled with self-acceptance at one time, leading him to start a business centered in self-commitment through grooming and hygienic products based on ingredients he used when he couldn’t find the right product to care for his full, textured beard. He and co-founder Jeremiah Regis look to become community leaders for young Black boys to learn about hygiene early through their books like *I Am King!* Bison customers can receive 15% off of their purchase using the code “HUBISON.”



Shadae Renee Beauty
shadaerenee.com

How do you energize your inner “it girl?” That is the sole mission of Shadae Renee Beauty, a brand that offers wigs for both beauty and hair loss needs. “We believe that versatility is key, and our wigs are designed to be easily styled and customized to suit each person’s desired look,” the company says. It also offers a medical wig that emphasizes the “cranial prosthesis” for those dealing with hair loss-related conditions such as alopecia, chemotherapy, and trichotillomania. The vision began in the Harriet Tubman Quadrangle when founder Shadae Renee Green

(B.B.A. ’13) began doing her dorm and classmates’ hair. Howard online shoppers can use the code “FAITH” to receive 10% off any online orders.



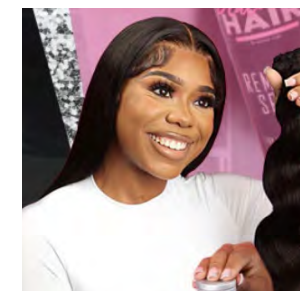
High Roller Club
highrollerclubhrc.shop

High Roller Club stands as a vanguard of style and inspiration, driven by an unwavering commitment to the never ending elevation of the determined youth. Their mission is to inspire and empower the next generation to fully express their creativity and individuality with no regards for other’s opinions. Co-founded by Howard architecture student Mory Diakite and his partner Timothy Amankwah, the company specializes in trendy streetwear including t-shirts, sweatpants, and shorts.



Notorious Lifestyle
notorious-lifestyle.com

“Be you until you can’t” is the tagline of the Notorious Lifestyle brand. The collection of body suits, zip up shirts, and distressed pants and hoodies is inspired by the themes of prosperity, originality, and faith. The company is run by CEO Jawuan Freeman, a business student at Howard, who believes that everyone can find their purpose through being themselves.



Platinum Hair
platinumhairextensions.shop

Started by Blessing Lockwood, a health sciences major, Platinum Hair offers a variety of beauty care products. The company specializes in extensions and hair care products, including bundles, closures, frontals, lace wigs, hair mousse, edge control, lashes, heat protectant spray, crimps, hot combs, lace glue, wax sticks, and flat irons.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Make-Up Assignment

The 86th Miss Howard and other Howard student entrepreneurs are redefining the “Howard hustle.”

by CEDRIC MOBLEY

■ BEFORE SHE WAS MISS HOWARD, AND EVEN BEFORE she was a Howard student at all, Damaris Grace Moore caught the entrepreneurial bug. During prom season in high school, she realized she had a knack for makeup, and was soon helping her classmates achieve the look they desired. She and other student entrepreneurs are embracing the “gig economy” and helping to redefine what is meant by the “Howard hustle.”

“A lot of students here have businesses,” she said. “You’ll hear it called the Howard hustle, which is how you are making money that’s not a job while you’re in school.”

Once she got to Howard, the advertising major decided to up her game. She joined Howard’s Elite Models and soon became their makeup artist. She also became the campus representative for Nyx, a cosmetics company, and taught makeup classes. Her reputation grew through word-of-mouth, networking, and social media, and soon she was being called upon by other students and customers off campus. She had a suitcase full of tools which she would cart around to makeup appointments between classes. Since her high school senior year, Moore estimates that she has made up more than 350 faces. A thriving business, however, can be a lot to handle for a student who is also studying and active in the campus community. One of the most valuable lessons she has learned is to value her time and to have a work-school-life balance.

“My dad told me that you can do whatever you want, but you can’t do everything you want, and so you have to prioritize,” she said. “Organization and prioritization are the biggest difficulties when you are an entrepreneur and a student.”

Moore has integrated her business interests and her coursework. In addition to marketing classes, she’s taken a class on business startups, through which she learned how to write a business plan, create a pitch deck, and to plan for business expenses. The skills she is learning outside of the classroom are equally important.

“You’re not just here to receive education, but to gain knowledge holistically as a person,” she said. “You have to handle your classes, but you also have to learn how to meet people and talk to people, and sometimes that’s more valuable. It’s all a balance when it comes to the success of a Howard student.”

■ ■ ■ HER EXCELLENCY THE BUSINESS OWNER

Miss Howard Damaris Moore. Photo by James Cole.

Art



Cultural Leadership at Art Basel

■ ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP OFTEN TAKES MORE courage than other forms of leadership. Artists not only lay out their bare thoughts, perspectives, and emotions for others to see, but they also put both their raw and refined talents on display for others to subjectively critique. Howard student artists showcased their artistic leadership through exhibition at the December 2024 Art Basel in Miami Beach, Fl., one of the largest fairs of art by an international group of artists in the world.

■ ■ ■

EXHIBITED AT ART BASEL

I’M FINE by JASMYN MARSH

Mixed Media on Board, 40" x 60"

Artist’s statement: Dedicated to a phrase used to conceal and hide negative emotions. The different uses of paper and materials form an abstraction of a body and dress, representing the layers of a Black woman trying to beat the stereotype of ‘The Angry Black Woman.’ The face is emotionless, tired, lifeless, and strict. The folds of the paper and line work in the piece are sharp and jagged, representing the piercing emotions that we may feel as people when containing the pain that we are masking inside of ourselves to stay afloat and persevere through our day. It amplifies a situation that everyone experiences. It shows a Black woman as a person, with the humanity and real feelings and emotions that we all experience and relate to as people, but are forced to contain in order to be viewed as palatable to society’s standards in order to survive. This piece isn’t supposed to be viewed as just a ‘beautiful piece,’ but a raw piece that you can find the beauty within.



EXHIBITED AT ART BASEL
(ABOVE) QUIESCENCE
 by **JASMYN MARSH**
 Digital Illustration, 60" x 40"

Artist's statement: This piece is dedicated to me putting to rest the comparison of my past self that I held myself to as my highest standard and peak performance. The title meaning the "state of quietness or inactivity," is represented through the posture of the robotic body positioned in a resting state. There was a certain phase in college between my sophomore and junior year, where I went through physical, mental, and artistic changes that did not compliment the lifestyle that I was used to living where I would push myself past my limits or accomplish high quality art in extremely fast rates without harm. I then grew to learn and appreciate these new changes. I should not compare and degrade myself for what I use to be able but grow and thrive in the new phases that I am in currently.

EXHIBITED AT ART BASEL
(LEFT) WHERE I'M LEFT AT
 by **ROBERT HUDSON**
 Painting, 56" x 70"

Artist's statement: In the current state from which I am creating work, intention, representation and liberation are always present. I am merely using myself as a vessel to help translate the stories of those around me. In humanity we connect through one's experiences and how we relate to one another; there is a sensibility that's mixed into every piece that's created. While applying the technique that I have grown into as an artist and utilizing the emotional ammunition, I allow myself to take it there and let myself go through the piece in order to stay in tact in the physical and spiritual.



EXHIBITED AT ART BASEL
SWAMP FLOWER
 by **TAYLOR DUNN**
 Digital Illustration, 24" x 30"

Artist's statement: Swamp Flower is a digital illustration. It is one of the first artworks made as part of the development of my current art style. With this piece, I further explored rendering a painterly appearance in a digital medium as well as the addition of line work to emphasize the form.



The New Torchbearers

HOWARD'S STUDENT LEADERS
HAVE NO INTENTION OF WAITING FOR
PERMISSION TO CREATE CHANGE.

by CEDRIC MOBLEY, ANDREYA DAVIS (B.A. '14, M.A. '23),
AND BRITTANY BAILER

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CAMERON HUBBARD

■ PREDESTINATION IS THE THEME OF THE BIBLICAL BOOK OF ESTHER, WHICH IS OFTEN quoted by undergraduate and graduate student leaders at Howard. Esther, who rose from the king's harem to become queen, was alerted to a conspiracy to harm her race of people, of which she was secretly descendant. Though Esther was reluctant to press the case with the king, her cousin, Mordecai, encouraged her to use her proximity to and influence with the king to save her people, asserting that Esther was not in her position by accident. Instead, Mordecai said, God engineered her royal ascension so that she would be in place to make a difference at "a time such as this." Although she could have been killed for approaching the king without his prior request, she convinced him not only to spare her people, but to give them additional power and privilege.

Fast forward a few thousand years, and another Mordecai, Howard's longest-serving president, Mordecai Johnson, helped establish a culture which inculcates in each Howard student a feeling of empowerment, if not obligation, to use their skills and talent to make a difference in the world. Today's student leaders have embraced those values thoroughly. Although they still have long-term career goals, they have leaned into their unique abilities and responsibilities to aggressively solve contemporary problems on campus, in the community, and in the nation.

For them, "a time such as this" is right now.

*** CARRYING FORTH THE LIGHT OF TRUTH AND SERVICE

Howard student leaders include (l to r) Howard University Student Association (HUSA) Vice President Tariah Highland, Graduate Student Assembly Chair Lauren Taylor, HUSA Executive President Jay Jones, Undergraduate Student Assembly Chair Maia Patterson, and Student Senate President Marlee Williams.



During her concession speech at Howard, United States Vice President Kamala Harris pushed those listening, including Howard students, to carry forward the light of truth and service. These young leaders have no problem carrying that torch. They came to Howard already having experience leading their peers and affecting public policy and have only intensified their engagement in public service since arriving on campus. They are using their discipline, desire, dexterity, and determination to create innovative solutions to challenges.

**Jay Jones, Howard University
Student Association Executive President**

Jay Jones, a senior political science major from Greensboro, NC, never envisioned becoming the 64th executive president of the Howard University Student Association (HUSA). Nevertheless, she is committed to being an empathetic leader who never forgot about the people she represents. That commitment stems from a leadership journey that began in middle school. Jones won her first student government campaign in the eighth grade. She was inspired by the leadership of Congresswoman Shirley Chisolm, the expressions of author James Baldwin, and the advocacy of activist Kwame Ture (B.A., '64). Even at that early age, she was committed to being an empathetic leader who never forgot about the people she represented. She recognized that individuals dedicated to social activism and service had a more meaningful impact than those motivated by money or titles.

In May 2024, Jones became the first transgender person to be elected president of HUSA and the only person of trans (woman) experience to lead a student government association at an HBCU. Jones can often be caught answering multiple calls at once, solving student issues walking to and from class, or engaged in political debates all while navigating The Yard in high heels. She describes Howard as the place that has seen her through all stages of her life: emotional transitions, identity transitions, and gender transitions. At Howard, Jones learned to stand up for what she believes in and to walk in her purpose. She has looked to her peers for inspiration, and, in turn, she inspires them by her actions.

Jones' election was met with plenty of congratulations, but there was some disparagement. Any negativity, however, made her more determined to ensure her presidency showed that there remains a "beacon of hope" in this world. Jones is extremely proud of her administration's accomplishments, including expanding the HUSA cabinet to meet the needs of the evolving student body, helping to improve campus



PIONEER HUSA President Jay Jones



**YOU CAN DO EXACTLY WHAT
EVERYONE ELSE DEEMED
IMPOSSIBLE.”**

transportation, and leading a voter education campaign that significantly increased student voter turnout for the 2024 presidential election. Today, she uses her rare off days to focus on succession planning and encouraging future student leaders to step into the leadership circle, saying, “the world is your oyster, and the sky is your limit.”

“Win, lose or draw, I am doing this to bet on myself and to stop counting myself out,” she said.

Jones has garnered national attention not just for her leadership, but by the courage with which she has presented her authentic self. The Human Rights Campaign, for example, has featured Jones in numerous publications and invited her to speak and serve as a subject matter expert. She also introduced First Lady Jill Biden at an Equality in Action event sponsored by the organization. In 2024, Jones was presented with the Rustin-Murray Advocates for Justice Award by the National Black Justice Collective, which considers itself America's leading national civil rights organization dedicated to using coalition building, federal policy, research, and education to empower Black LGBTQ and same gender loving people. The Rustin-Murray Advocate for Justice Award celebrates the contributions of Black leaders working to challenge stereotypes.

“You can do exactly what everyone else deemed impossible,” she said.

**Tariah Hyland, Howard University
Student Association Vice President**

Howard University Student Association Vice President Tariah Hyland is a senior political science major from Wilmington, Delaware. She has a passion to serve and is serious about making an impact. She has been a leader in promoting student civic engagement since her freshman year and previously served as president of the Howard Chapter of Black Girls Vote, vice president of the College of Arts and Sciences Student Council, a student ambassador, and on the executive board of the Howard's chapter of College Democrats.

In her role as vice president, she has been active in amplifying student issues, including affordability, instructional technology, and communication with the university administration. She is proud of the work HUSA has done this academic year to build a student



■■■ EMPOWERER HUSA Vice President Tariah Hyland

leadership infrastructure to address government affairs, nontraditional experiences, and public safety. She is working to make Howard's culture even more inclusive and make it clear that there is room for a range of student journeys at the university that deviate from the perceived standard. She also wants to ensure that the contributions of Black women are universally valued.

"I would love to see a world where Black women are respected and are truly empowered, not only by other Black women but by society as a whole — our leadership, our voices, and in relation to our experiences," Hyland said.

Hyland has been a student leader since middle school. In high school she was salutatorian of her graduating class and served as class president. She started a district-wide diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) task force and led the creation of DEI spaces in schools. She was a leader in a successful legislative effort to integrate Black studies into Delaware's K-12 curriculum, speaking at committee hearings and the bill's signing into law by the governor. In college, she has interned in the White House's Office of the Vice President and for Delaware Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester.

After graduation, she plans to pursue her own career in public service. That career, she knows, will demand courage.

"All eyes are always on you," she said. "It takes a

lot of courage to put your name on the line, your face on the line, and your time on the line," she said. "It takes a lot of courage to raise your hand and do it, especially the things that no one else wants to do."



FOR HOWARD TO THRIVE, WE ALL HAVE TO BE ON THE SAME PAGE."

Marlee Williams, Howard University Student Senate Chair

Marlee Williams, chairwoman of the Howard University Student Association Senate, is a junior political science and sociology double major from Lakeville, Minnesota. Though she had originally planned to attend college in the Midwest, she said she enrolled at Howard to push past her comfort zone. At Howard, however, she said that she immediately felt at home.



■■■ COLLABORATOR
HUSA Student Senate President Marlee Williams

"It is this unique culture of ambition, Blackness, and being proud to be Black in all different shades and ways which has made me feel even more comfortable entering the world and being a Black woman within the world, whatever place I end up in," she said.

HUSA's Senate is its legislative body, made up of elected representatives from each of the university's schools and colleges. It allocates funds of as much as a quarter of a million dollars from a budget of student fees to organizations on campus to allow them to execute programming and award scholarships. It also engages directly in work to address student and social issues, such as food insecurity.

Williams enjoys the collaborative effort to bridge the gap between students and the HUSA and university administrations, which she said causes misconceptions and frustrations. She recently authored legislation that would foster service both to students and the community through clothing collection and distribution. She is also part of the working group creating the university's next strategic plan and wants to use her various roles to help unite Howard through conversation.

"For Howard to thrive, we all have to be on the same page," she said.

While a Howard student, Williams interned in the office of the U.S. senator from Minnesota, Amy Klobuchar. Post graduation, she plans to pursue a career in public policy. As part of her efforts, she wants to address access to resources in underserved and minority communities, particular those relied on by children. Specifically, she is looking to examine underfunding for minority communities with regards to education, including access to books, technology, proper teachers, AP classes, counseling resources, food, and accessible childcare. If the youth continue to be forgotten, she said, then there is no way our future can be better. Williams already knows, however, that leadership is tough.

"If you truly want to lead with integrity and you lead with the goal to positively impact other people, it takes courage to trust that no matter what other people say and no matter how people try to challenge you and tear you down, that you know what your purpose is, you know what your passion is, you know why you do it," she said. "And if you know you do it with good intentions and for others, then nothing should be able to stop you."

Maia Patterson, Undergraduate Student Assembly President

Attending Howard University was a lifelong dream for Undergraduate Student Assembly President (UGSA) Maia Patterson, a senior legal communications major with a community development minor from Hampton, Va. As president of the Undergraduate Student Assembly, she aids in the curation and management of all undergraduate campus events.



■■■ CONNECTOR
Undergraduate Student Assembly President Maia Patterson



IT BRINGS PEOPLE WHO MAY BE SHY OUT AND ALLOWS THEM TO MAKE CONNECTIONS WITH THE PEOPLE WHO THEY WILL BE CLOSE TO FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES."

"UGSA creates the experiences where you meet your best friends at Howard. It brings people who may be shy out and allows them to make connections with the people who they will be close to for the rest of their lives. Those are the types of experiences that I enjoy cultivating for the campus community," said Patterson.

Introduced to the university by her aunt, a Howard alumna and former member and coach of the Ooh La La Dance team, she had visited the university often during her childhood. Growing up in a mixed Black and Korean low-income, single-parent household, she didn't think she would ever make it here. With the help of a local Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. chapter and the Morgan Stanley HBCU Scholarship, she secured a full-ride scholarship and valuable mentorship opportunities that have allowed her the freedom to focus on her academics, career, and campus leadership.

As a sophomore, Patterson planned her first and favorite event, “Wild ’N Bison.” The event gave Howard University comedians a platform to showcase their talents. It sold out Cramton Auditorium and created an experience that was not only monumental for her as a student leader but left a lasting impression on fellow students who still talk about it today. The relationships, events, and opportunities that UGSA and Howard University provide are the reason she holds the university so close to her heart.

Patterson is a member of Alpha Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and volunteers for local nonprofit organizations including The House DC and The Movement Street. Her volunteer work focuses on advancing educational, creative, and other opportunities for people in poverty. Her long-term goal is to establish a chain nonprofit preschools in low-income communities.

Lauren Taylor, Graduate Student Assembly President

Lauren Taylor, a fifth-year doctoral student from Detroit, Michigan and the president of Howard University’s Graduate Student Assembly (GSA), is honoring the legacies of the administration that came before her with her commitment to the students she serves. Taylor has been involved in student government on Howard’s campus since her first year and is serving for a second year in her current role. With an eye on making sure that graduate students feel connected to each other and the campus community, she is constantly looking for new opportunities to hear and respond to the needs and desires of her academic community.

“I do this work to help bridge the gap between graduate and professional students, undergraduate students, and the university administration,” said Taylor.

A particularly impactful moment for Taylor came when she worked with her administration to revive the annual graduate student ski trip. The weekend long event gives graduate students the opportunity to participate in an activity many have never experienced before and build long-lasting relationships with each other — an opportunity that is not as easily accessible for graduate students who are often mired in coursework and research. At GSA’s annual Homecoming mixer this academic year, many alums remembered the ski trip as one of their best Howard experiences and were grateful that it hasn’t been lost to history.

“We are not just here to get a degree,” said Taylor. “We are humans who desire connection.”

Taylor has also collaborated with the Graduate School Student Council to co-create a new Graduate Resource Library within Founder’s Library. She has worked with President Ben Vinson, III, Ph.D., and Provost Anthony Wutoh, Ph.D., to secure funding for graduate student professional development.

Taylor is also an adjunct professor at Bowie State University, where she teaches sociology and social inequality courses. Her doctoral research is focused on the impact of natural disasters on communities of color and improving efforts to recover and increase resilience. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Delta Honor Society and Edward Bouchet Graduate Honor Society and the only HBCU student to be named a 2024 RAND Graduate Summer Associate.



WE ARE NOT JUST HERE TO GET A DEGREE. WE ARE HUMANS WHO DESIRE CONNECTION.”



■■■ **BRIDGE BUILDER**
Graduate Student Assembly President Marlee Williams



■■■ **ON DECK**
Sophomore Chanda Singh-Richardson is ready to take on the law. *Photo courtesy of Chanda Singh-Richardson.*

LINEAGE

Footsteps Worth Following
Sophomore Chanda Singh-Richardson Is uniquely connected to the Howard legacy.

by **TIFFANI ALEXANDER**

■ **LIKE VICE PRESIDENT HARRIS** before her, sophomore Chanda Singh-Richardson plans to pursue a career in law after graduating from Howard University. Like Harris, she is of Jamaican and Indian descent and credits her mother for encouraging her to try different things, explore possibilities, and follow her passion. She reveres Harris and the other Howard pioneers in the legal field who have cleared a path for her, but she is nevertheless planning to chart her own course, particularly in the field of sports law.

“When you look at the history of the people who came from our school, it motivates you to want to be that type of leader; to want to make that type of change because you’re following in their footsteps,” Singh-Richardson said. “It almost forces you to be the best you can be, because why would I want to let them down when I’m following in their legacy?”

The legal communications major knew she wanted to be an attorney

by the time she reached middle school. She also knew she wanted to attend an HBCU from an early age. Growing up in an area in Miami that did not include many people who looked like her, Singh-Richardson was set on attending a university where she could be fully accepted for who she is. A family friend first introduced her to Howard, but the students she met on her campus tour sealed the deal.

“You can hear from alumni all day, but hearing from the perspective of a student can make or break your decision,” she reasoned. “That’s really what it was for me — seeing how the students interact with each other and the level of support that you’re given, is really the main reason why I knew I wanted to go here. When you tour schools, you kind of know where you’re going to go, because you can just feel that it feels like home. That’s what Howard felt like for me.”

It incenses Singh-Richardson that, as a woman of color, Harris often must defend her heritage. Harris has also had to endure baseless allegations of not being qualified — and not being Black.

“When those conversations were coming up, it was super offensive to me,” began Singh-Richardson, who sees her mother, and all Black women, in Harris. “What she experienced is the epitome of what Black women experience in this country every day. I found it extremely disrespectful for them to try to use her racial identity as a weapon. At the end of the day, she is who she is.”

Sing-Richardson’s own leadership style has been impacted by the vice president’s ability to handle challenges with grace. She has also been impacted by attending a school with a history of producing leaders while she is surrounded by future leaders each day. “Just like the people who have come before me, like Thurgood Marshall, VP Harris, and all the other great alum that have a legacy and a history of being advocates for our people, I think that is where I fit into the puzzle. I am making sure that I am doing my best to advocate in spaces where we are needed.”



2024 IN REVIEW

A HISTORY-MAKING YEAR

ALL AT ONCE, IT SEEMED THAT THE WORLD SHOWED UP ON HOWARD'S CAMPUS.

There is no doubt that Howard has earned its share of visibility over the past 158 years, but even by Howard standards, 2024 was breathtaking. The university rode wave after wave of history, from the 100th anniversary of Homecoming to the 50th anniversary of Howard's men's soccer team's precedent-shattering NCAA championship. Howard was recognized by numerous publications with high rankings, and along the way, opened new instructional, research, and living facilities, celebrated the outcomes of core strategies, and noted the university's extraordinary impact on the economy of the nation's capital.

All of that happened on top of the ceiling-shattering nomination of an alumna for U.S. president and the selection of Howard as the backdrop for her election night activities. Thousands of journalists and influencers descended on the university to try to understand why this institution is so special to many who have climbed to the peaks of achievement and to engage in the Howard experience for themselves.

Beyond the headlines were special moments shared between Bison, when the university's distinct traditions were as important as ever, and when the unity of the Howard family was paramount. On The Yard during Homecoming, at the ribbon cutting for the microchip lab, or as the vice president of the United States came home to face the world, Howard's uniqueness and its singular and indispensable place in our global society was affirmed again and again.

LEGACY

KAMALA HARRIS

ELEVATING THE LIGHT OF TRUTH AND SERVICE

by CEDRIC MOBLEY AND AMBER D. DODD



■ YOU DON'T NEED TO BE A MEMBER OF ANY particular political party to objectively recognize the extraordinary competence and character of Kamala Harris (B.A. '86). Thrust into a role as her party's nominee in the fourth quarter of the 2024 election cycle, one of the nation's most competitive election cycles ever, she managed to run a remarkable campaign with little time to prepare or organize an infrastructure. Her ability to meet the moment— while demonstrating grace, compassion, intelligence, adaptability, and, yes, joy— showed the world how HBCUs like Howard University prepare its students to succeed in a society that has yet to fulfill the promise of equality and justice for all.

In 2017, a little more than three decades after Kamala Harris graduated from Howard University with a degree in political science, the Californian marked her return to the nation's capital as she was sworn in as the state's junior United States senator. For many, becoming one of 100 members of what has been called "the world's most exclusive club" would be the culmination of a remarkable career. But for Harris, it was just the start of her trailblazing journey as a leader in the federal government. Over the next seven years, she would make history again and again. She was elected the first woman vice president in 2020, shattering that glass ceiling into 81,283,501 pieces, one piece for each vote she and Joe Biden received from coast to coast. Four years later, in a roller coaster electoral environment, she became the consensus Democratic candidate for president— the first woman of color and the first HBCU graduate to become the nominee of a major party in American history.

Courage is something Harris has in excess. As California's attorney general, she put drug dealers and sex traffickers in jail and took on the country's largest banks and most powerful corporate executives. As a U.S. senator, she held Supreme Court nominees and other officials accountable. As vice president, she presided over the passage of landmark legislation in the U.S. Senate that saved lives and steadied the economy during the COVID-19 pandemic, set the nation on a positive course to combat climate change, and made investments in energy and infrastructure that span generations. She sat next to the president in the Situation Room as decisions were made regarding American action in the world's most tension-filled military hotspots. From her days on Howard's Liberal Arts Student Council to her role as the country's most powerful woman, Harris has personified courage in leadership.

◆◆◆ HOMECOMING

The Vice President of the United States returns home to Howard to share one of the most consequential moments of her life, the peaceful transition of power. *Photo by James Cole.*



■■■
HISTORY UPON HISTORY
 The Harris campaign's election event setting was a homage to the Howard lineage of leaders. Harris, a contemporary daughter of the institution, delivered her speech to the world in front of Frederick Douglass Hall, named for one of Howard's first trustees.
Photo by Justin D. Knight.

Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff, tweeted of her watching the Democratic nomination process from a sofa—wearing a Howard sweatshirt. Decades earlier, only Kamala Harris knows what was on her mind as she hitchhiked to her Commencement ceremony to mark her graduation from Howard, as she famously recounted with Jimmy Fallon on the Tonight Show in 2019. Chances are, she wasn't thinking that one day she would return to the campus she was preparing to leave, not just as an alumna, but as the 49th vice president of the United States and the highest-ranking American woman in the history of the world's oldest democracy. But on Election Night 2024, her campaign rented space on The Yard for her watch party. Much of the world was fixated on the same Frederick Douglass Hall doorway she walked out of many times as a student studying political science, with many hoping she would walk out of it as the president-elect of the United States of America. It was the ultimate full-circle moment.

Global, national, and local media outlets stationed themselves inside and outside of the Armour J. Blackburn Center. National correspondents from CBS News Reporter and Bison Michelle Miller (B.A. '89) to CNN reporter Abby Phillips, among others, flocked to the Yard for this unprecedented moment. On the Blackburn balcony, perched right above The Yard's festivities, Charlamagne Tha God and DJ Envy hosted a special edition of their famed "Breakfast Club" radio show. Special guests also spotted on The Yard included Golden Globe-winner Don Cheadle, former Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, filmmaker Spike Lee, television, and activist Rev. Al Sharpton. Veteran White House correspondent April Ryan was on hand for Harris' watch party. Taking in the essence of the Mecca, Ryan said the event is a testament to Howard's role in culture. "This is not just [Harris], this is for those who fought and laid the groundwork for her to get here," Ryan said. "Nancy Pelosi said, 'It's not a glass ceiling, it's a marble ceiling,' and I agree with her," Ryan continued. "You can shatter glass easy but with marble, you must chip away. Win, lose, or draw to get to this point in 90 days, we are shocking America with this. She's honoring herself and all who've come before her."

As guests waited for polls to close nationwide, The Yard's grassy terrain transformed into a dance

floor. DJ Noble and DJ Chubb E. Swagg spun generational classics like Frankie Beverly's "Before I Let Go" and Cameo's "Candy" as the crowd entertained themselves with line dances. "When we fight, we win" and "Kamala" chants filled in the remaining noise as a live crane camera showed guests dancing and celebrating from a bird's eye view.

"Even before she announced she was going to come and celebrate here, I always planned to come to The Yard," said alumnus Tedi Calloway (B.A. '83, MBA '93), who was on hand for the event. "She's made history and that experience of a Bison, a Black woman—it doesn't get better than that. Just seeing one of our own, a sister of Howard, doesn't get any better than this. Howard is magic. We make presidents and senators. We're one-of-a-kind."

As the votes were counted late into the night, it became apparent that a Bison would not occupy the Oval Office just yet. But her run for the highest office in the land, and the poise, dexterity, acumen, and savvy she displayed, have inspired countless people across the planet. It is practically unfathomable to believe that someone ambitious enough to run for president would enjoy losing. So, it was undoubtedly a bitter pill for Harris to swallow when she did eventually emerge from Douglass Hall some 13 hours after the last polls closed, not to declare victory, but to concede the election with dignity and grace to former President Donald Trump.

Yet the bitterness of that moment did come with a sweet side. When she walked down the long runway which had been erected to allow her to dramatically walk to the vice-presidential podium on election night, she didn't look out on a sea of strangers. She looked

out at family. She wasn't looking at the walls of a random hotel ballroom, the venue of choice for most election night events. She saw Childers Hall, the Blackburn Center, and Founders Hall. She could see Alpha Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., there to support her, and hear the boisterous encouragement from the thousands of Howard students who knew she had not won the race but wanted to show her love just the same.

She was home.

As she took the deep breath anyone would need before giving a tough speech, she inhaled the same crisp November air that she breathed as a student preparing for another tough challenge—fall semester final exams. She could take comfort in the fact that right there, in the same place where she had undoubtedly succeeded and failed, fallen and gotten back up, laughed and cried, right there, she was embraced by not just by volunteers and staffers, Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff and the children who call her "momala," donors, and well-wishers. There was a collective embrace by a whole "herd" of those who shared with her the singular experience of walking the grounds of Howard University fully expecting to one day change the world for the better.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (L.L.D. '57), said that "the ultimate measure of a person is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." As Harris looked out over the assembled masses and addressed millions more who would see her speech on television and

A presidential candidate's highly visible affiliation with a college isn't new. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton famously gave the Commencement address as a student at Wellesley College and President Gerald Ford had an often-mentioned football career as an MVP linebacker at the University of Michigan. President Bill Clinton made much of his education at Georgetown. Harvard, Yale, and Princeton have more than their fair share of alumni who have sought and reached the highest office. It is hard to remember, however, a candidate who used their platform to uplift their alma mater as effectively as Kamala Harris did for Howard.

From the moment she returned to Washington as a U.S. senator, Harris has demonstrated her deep affection for and appreciation of the community that educated, nurtured and launched her on her path. She made a point of using Howard as a backdrop for some of her most important moments. She took CNN on a televised tour of campus. She delivered Howard's 2017 Commencement address. After she declared her initial candidacy for the Democratic nomination in 2019, she held her first press conference in rented space at Howard. As vice president, she came to Howard to discuss economic empowerment and women's rights. She tossed the coin at the 2023 Celebration Bowl featuring the Bison football team. And of course, she procured space to prepare for debates and speeches, and her presidential election night event, knowing that the eyes of the world would follow her to the Yard through the hundreds of reporters who covered her.

It is equally apparent that Harris draws strength and inspiration from her Howard affinity and views the institution as a source of comfort and confidence, evidenced by the photo her husband,



■■■ **A MOMENT THAT MATTERS**
 Howard students and alumni were among the thousands that turned out to witness a moment in history. *Photo by Cameron Hubbard.*



DON'T YOU EVER LISTEN WHEN ANYONE TELLS YOU SOMETHING IS IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE IT HAS NEVER BEEN DONE BEFORE.”

streaming media, she radiated the strength and spirit of a true Bison, as one of the most recent contentious election cycles came to a close. Rather than emote about her own feelings and grievances, she stood alone on the stage and consoled those who believed in the cause for which she fought. She encouraged the nation to accept the results of the election. She asked her supporters to participate in a peaceful transition of power, to show neighbors kindness and respect, and above all, to treat every person with the dignity they deserve as human beings.

But perhaps most striking was the care she took to counsel the young people who she knew were looking to her for inspiration. While acknowledging their disappointment, she pushed them to never give up. Explaining that the fight for freedom is hard work, she implored them to never stop trying to make the world a better place.

“You have power,” Harris told them. “And don’t you

ever listen when anyone tells you something is impossible because it has never been done before. You have the capacity to do extraordinarily good in the world.”

Chances are that much of the world missed the symbolism of Harris’s concluding remarks. She stood in front of the building where she honed the values that would drive her career of public service as she studied in an academic department founded by the first Black American to earn a doctorate in political science. Inside this historic edifice, Howard students will now study her. And through her final words, subtly but powerfully, she imparted upon millions the core tenant that defines Howard.

“There’s an adage a historian once called a law of history, true of every society across the ages,” she said in closing. “The adage is, only when it is dark enough can you see the stars. I know many people feel like we are entering a dark time, but for the benefit of us all, I hope that is not the case. But here’s the thing, America, if it is, let us fill the sky with the light of a brilliant, brilliant billion stars. The



■■■ **SETTING THE EXAMPLE**
After the 2024 election, Vice President Harris came to the Yard to deliver a powerful address highlighting patriotism and activism.
Photo by Cameron Hubbard.



■■■ **JOY**
Vice President Harris shares a laugh during the taping of a BET special at Howard. *Photo by Justin D. Knight.*

■■■ **HISTORY**
At the exact moment she made history as the first HBCU graduate and woman of color to receive a major party presidential nomination, she was watching the Democratic National Convention nominating roll call on the sofa wearing a Howard hoodie, as Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff tweeted in real time.



light, the light of optimism, of faith, of truth and service.”
“Of truth and service,” she said. Howard’s motto.
It was intended to be a penetrating, culminating close punctuated with an indirect allusion to the Howard mission. But subtlety is a difficult art inside a close family, as the Bison showed. Harris’ tacit tribute to the Howard legacy was not lost on the students who were there to show her their love, and they let her know. In the midst of what was otherwise a stolidly serious, even poignant moment, applause and cheers cascaded across the crowd. As she tried to end her speech with stately poise, she couldn’t help but to break into a smile and acknowledge with a laugh the unspoken bond between her and the students. It may have been opaque to most of the world, but it was obvious to the Howard family. In that moment, instead of following the eloquent, prepared script that had been crafted as a climax for the historical moment, she deviated and used a phrase heard on the Yard many times before.

LET US FILL THE SKY WITH THE LIGHT OF A BILLION BRILLIANT STARS. THE LIGHT OF OPTIMISM, OF FAITH, OF TRUTH AND SERVICE.”

As millions of viewers hung onto her final words, she paused and looked out at The Yard and used a very familiar refrain. “H.U.!” she shouted. The resounding response from the crowd was, “You know!”

There’s no place like home.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Owning Our Own Story

Howard students added their voices to international election coverage.

by CEDRIC MOBLEY

■ HUNDREDS OF REPORTERS descended on Howard’s campus during election season, peaking on Election Night and during the vice president’s concession speech the next evening. Scores of news outlets broadcast live from the Yard, while still more journalists filed real-time reports in the Blackburn Center’s ballroom.

While the biggest names in news and broadcast were spotted on campus — including CNN’s Abby Phillips, NBC’s Yamiche Alcindor, CBS’s Michelle Miller (B.A. ’89), Don Lemon, and the Breakfast Club’s Charlamagne Tha God— Howard University’s student journalists were determined to chronicle the news from their own vantage point. Through the expansive Bison Election Zone, a multiplatform newsroom, some 200 communications and journalism majors partnered with national media outlets to provide their unique perspectives. For Stacey Patton, Ph.D., the lead faculty coordinator for the newsroom, it was important that Howard voices be heard.

“It was historic,” said Patton, who teaches visual journalism, interactive editing, multimedia storytelling, and digital media literacy. “Regardless of the outcome, I didn’t want people to look at what happened and wonder ‘what stories did Howard tell?’”

This was not the first year Howard students covered an election as an experiential learning experience. Each cycle, students fan out over Washington, D.C. and other nearby areas for election reporting. The scale



■■■ COVERING ALL ANGLES
Hundreds of student journalists manned news desks representing multiple platforms. *Photo by Lydia Sermons.*

of coverage mushroomed during the 2024 presidential election, however, as students provided content using social media, live video streams, audio feeds, and the Howard University News Service, a free wire service through which students provide stories to hundreds of Black weekly publications. The Cathy Hughes School of Communications partnered with TV One and News One, which featured online student broadcasts so they could gain hands-on experience working in production environments and hosting segments. “I was aware that we would have national and international outlets here, and I wanted our students to be in the mix, rubbing shoulders with them,” said Patton. “They knew this campus better than outside media. This is their home. I wanted them to have a sense of ownership over our stories.” Patton wanted the students to truly understand the intensity that breaking news coverage can demand. Some students, she said, arrived at the newsroom by 5:30 a.m. on Election

Day and left around 7:00 a.m. on the day after. The faculty wanted to make sure that journalistic training went beyond classwork and included immersion in the sometimes chaotic environment that true reporters often encounter. Many students had to pivot from their areas of specialty and work in another medium. Overall, many students expressed a sense of fulfillment from ensuring that the full story was told.

“The headlines on the day after emphasized sadness and disappointment at Howard,” said Patton. “Yes, that was the story, but it wasn’t the complete story. On the outskirts of the Yard, on Georgia Avenue, and other places across this campus, there was a counter narrative. There was something else happening. There was community. There was care. There was love. There was togetherness. There were young people who were taking ownership over our story and creating an archive that would breathe beyond this moment.”

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Building Toward Maximum Impact

New strategic planning for Howard's future is taking form.

by OFFICE OF STRATEGY STAFF

■ UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF President Ben Vinson III, PhD, Howard is absorbing the lessons learned through implementation of the highly successful Howard Forward Strategic Plan through a university-wide retrospective assessment which will lay the groundwork for a transformational strategic engagement approach as we work to build the next strategic plan and move the university to maximum strength.

The Office of Strategy, led by Rashad Young, senior vice president for administration and chief administration officer, launched the current strategic planning process with a comprehensive Bison community collaboration in partnership with the Education Advisory Board (EAB) to explore current trends in higher education. The framework was established by integrating Vinson’s overarching goals with insights from the retrospective assessment, focus group meetings, and feedback from campus groups. It will focus on a number of important thematic areas including biotechnology and STEM, the student experience, artificial intelligence and machine learning, the humanities, equity and social justice, physical plant and capital renewal, and public service, among others.

Howard’s students have already identified key issues for them, demonstrating an eagerness to examine housing availability and ways to expand the university’s reach throughout the city. Likewise, Howard’s faculty and staff are ensuring the curriculum is not just rigorous, but timely and relevant as the university adapts to the evolving changes in numerous industries and in higher education.

With the priorities of stakeholders in mind, the university is developing a transformational approach that marries efficiency with innovation to build a road map toward progress with active steps that lead to success. This approach will take careful prioritizing, close management of our University’s resources, and the full effort of all Bison. The opportunities for Howard at maximum strength are numerous: new initiatives, stronger collaborations within and beyond our community, and propelling Howard University to be one of the top institutions nationally and internationally. The next strategic plan is expected to be released in Fall 2025.

To support the effort, President Vinson assembled the Bison Vision Council and Hilltop Architects as advisory groups. These decision-oriented and cross-representational groups will continue to gather feedback and input to guide the year-long engagement process.

This past September, the Bison community celebrated the notable success and sunset of the Howard Forward Strategic Plan. The university’s five-year strategic plan, implemented between 2019-2024, has cemented Howard’s positioning as a premiere institution developing the leaders of tomorrow.

Initiated by President Emeritus Dr. Wayne A. I. Frederick (B.S. ’92, M.D. ’94, M.B.A. ’11), Howard Forward was built on shared goals to grow Howard into an even stronger and intentional institution of excellence. The Howard

community worked collectively to increase research capacity, putting the university on the road to reclaiming R1 status, a designation determined by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, signifying “Very High Research Activity.” The university also enhanced resources and opportunities for students and faculty, surpassed enrollment goals years in advance of targeted dates, broke down internal silos that impacted efficiency and operations, and increased our endowment to nearly \$1 billion. In addition, Howard has developed a pipeline of over \$1.3 billion in commercial mixed-use projects that will add more than 200 units of affordable housing to our city while creating over 13,000 jobs.

The Office of Strategy promises that the strategic planning process will not just be another page in our university’s workbook. In Spring 2025, the office is rolling out another semester of “Bison Real Talks,” which are information gathering sessions, along with related programming. It promises to engage all members of the Howard community to ensure that the new strategic plan fills the needs of every Bison and helps build a stronger community.

Visit strategicplan.howard.edu for the latest information on Howard’s strategic engagement, and for a wrap-up report of the Howard Forward Strategic Plan.



■■■ FORWARD
Senior Vice President Rashad Young speaks at Howard Forward recognition event.

Photo by Latrell Caton.

LEGACY

Bravery in the C-Suite

Citi Chief Financial Officer Mark Mason encourages students to be bold and lean into the relationships they are forming at Howard.

BY AMBER D. DODD AND CEDRIC MOBLEY

Photography by Heaven Brown.



BE BOLD
Board of Trustees Co-Vice Chairman Mark Mason

■ ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL executives in the financial sector, Howard University Board of Trustees Co-Vice Chairman Mark Mason (B.B.A.'91), returned to campus to share the importance of “Answering the Call to Excellence,” from The Yard to the c-suite. For him, the call to answer in excellence, and truth and service, can sometimes be complicated, such as the day George Floyd was murdered. In this moment, he could have chosen to answer the call of justice with silence. Instead, he was influenced to take action by several individuals whose lives he has influenced the most, his children. They inspired him to publish a blog, entitled *I Can't Breathe*, which inspired others to use their agency to speak the

truth. While his actions undoubtedly came with some controversy, they convinced many to speak out, even if they have a lot to lose. His words became highly visible, trending across the internet and sounding a clarion call for meaningful, systematic change.

“We must continue to speak up and speak out whenever we witness hatred, racism, or injustice,” Mason wrote in his post.

A recount of that story were part of the vice-chairman’s remarks as the featured speaker during this fall’s Opening Convocation. Mason took the audience on his journey through Howard to Citi, where he oversees financial management for a company with more than 100 million customers and \$5 trillion in financial flows daily, the equivalent of Germany’s gross domestic product.

Adorned in full regalia, Howard’s Board of Trustees, faculty and cabinet members led the pomp and circumstance of the Opening Convocation to welcome the incoming, with remarks from Howard University President Ben Vinson III, Ph.D., Board of Trustees Chairman Larry Morse (BA '73), and Trustee Mason.

Mason gave the audience four ways to have fulfilling work and personal lives. First, he recommended using your voice to propose different ideas and inspire change. He noted that those who have access to information and perspective have a responsibility to share it.

“As the educated, we must be the educators,” Mason said.

He also advised that you allow yourself space to grow and engage in self-discovery, recognize the value of all your relationships, and recognize the power of education.



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

IMPACT WORTH MORE THAN A BILLION

Howard partnered with the Greater Washington Partnership to demonstrate its major economic impact on the region

■ Many people already strongly believe that Howard is an extraordinary asset to the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, but a recently released report underscored it. Economic impact findings presented during the “HBCUs as Catalysts for Regional Inclusive Economic Growth,” event, hosted by the university and the Greater Washington Partnership (GWP) in September, highlighted Howard’s billion and a half dollar effect and the impact of historically Black colleges and universities overall.

The findings, which tell the story of Howard’s 157-year commitment to strategic investment and service to its community, show that Howard’s economic impact in the District totaled \$1.154 billion in 2019. That year, the university’s student body population, comprised of nearly 13,500 students, spent over \$25 million on retail consumer services, entertainment, dining, and other convenience goods. The university made payments totaling over \$500 million to more than 2,300 vendors in fiscal year 2024, including more than \$235 million paid to local vendors. In addition, the university and Howard University Hospital current workforce was comprised of nearly five thousand employees, with a payroll of \$395 million. That information was added to other economic data and analysis to project an overall impact today of \$1.575 billion.

“In addition to thought and cultural leadership, Howard University has long been an engine of economic equity in the District of Columbia and the surrounding Washington metropolitan area,” said Howard University President Ben Vinson III, Ph.D.

Other findings include Howard’s goals and successes through its Real Estate Strategy, which is creating nearly 250 units of affordable housing; developing nine off-campus commercial mixed-use projects, four of which have been completed or are near completion; and investing over \$1.3 billion in commercial mixed-use projects. Projections also detail that Howard’s direct and indirect spending will generate a total impact of \$2.5 billion on the D.C. economy and \$3.4 billion in total benefits to the Washington Metropolitan area.

RECOGNITION

Top of the Rankings

Forbes names Howard the #1 HBCU.

■ HOWARD UNIVERSITY’S NATIONAL standing among higher education institutions continues to soar. This includes a ranking as the number one historically Black college or university (HBCU) in *Forbes’* 2024-2025 America’s Top Colleges list.

The magazine recognized schools for producing “successful, high-earning and influential graduates from all economic backgrounds, with less student debt.” The colleges were ranked based on return on investment, average student debt, and outcomes for graduates. The publication also considered freshman-to-sophomore retention rates, on-time graduation, and alumni salaries. In addition to its ranking as the top HBCU, Howard was also ranked among the top 100 colleges in the northeast (No. 95).

Howard University leaped 29 spaces into the group of the top 100 universities in the nation on the *U.S. News and World Report* 2025 Best Colleges list. Among national universities, *U.S. News* also ranked Howard as the No. 12 university for social mobility, the highest ranking for a D.C.-based college or university in that category. Howard also tied Georgetown University and Northwestern University as the No. 21 university for undergraduate teaching. The publication also ranked Howard as the number one HBCU undergraduate program in business, computer science, economics, engineering, and psychology. The university’s business, engineering, and psychology programs are all in the top 100 among all national colleges and universities, with respective rankings of No. 77, No. 90, and No. 68.

LINEAGE

A TALENT STAMPEDE

The largest incoming class in university history bucks national trends.

■ FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE Fall 2023 incoming class, neighboring George Washington University had just over 27,000 applications. For fall 2024, Georgetown University received just over 26,000 applications. By contrast, for fall 2024, Howard received 36,393 applications, a historic record, up 79 percent since Fall 2022.

The 12 percent year-over-year increase in applications led to new student enrollment this fall of approximately 2,796, up 23 percent over last year. Overall, at a time when national colleges and universities as a whole have experienced

declining enrollment this decade, many HBCUs are seeing robust growth.

Like many Howard students, Miss Freshman Renee Larbi came to Howard to build connections among the diversity of students from all over the world who have come to “the Mecca.” Larbi is from London, England by way of Seattle.

“The experience of looking at somebody else and knowing that we’ve shared the same experiences in life is a great connection factor and it helps me feel more comfortable to just be myself and not hinder my personality just to fit in with somebody else,” Larbi said.



WELCOME HOME

Members of the newest incoming class participate in the Annual Pinning Ceremony.



HERITAGE

A ONCE IN A CENTURY HOMECOMING ANNIVERSARY

by CEDRIC MOBLEY AND AMBER D. DODD

■ **HOMECOMING AT HOWARD HAPPENS EVERY** year, but this 2024 event was a once in a century celebration. The grandeur of Howard Homecoming’s 100th anniversary, accented by pride in Kamala Harris’ ascendancy, attracted worldwide media attention and brought throngs of alumni back to the Mecca. As much of the globe got its first taste of Howard culture, Howard alumni simply enjoyed the familiar — familiar faces, traditional events, and the sights and sounds that always welcome Bison back home.

The 2024 theme, “Yard of Fame,” was suggested by students because the Howard campus has historically been traversed by students and faculty who would go on to gain notoriety. Throughout the week, events paid homage to the past, present, and future— showcasing the myriad ways Howard has influenced intellectualism, thought, and culture over the past hundred years and how it is poised to do so over the next century. Here’s a look at 10 of the many moments that defined an epic event worth a 100-year wait.

■■■
The Alpha Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha performed a step-based tribute to the movie *Bring It On* during the Annual Greek Step Show. The AKAs won the sorority category, while the Beta Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha won the fraternity category with their version of the movie *Bad Boys*. *Photo by Latrell Caton.*

1. DIVINE STEPS

The sold-out Greek Step Show paid tribute to Black Hollywood as members of the Divine Nine blended militarily precise steps, dance, acrobatics, and chants during sets which channeled iconic movies starring Black actors— complete with surprise appearances from Howard’s “Showtime” Marching Band and alumnus Anthony Anderson (B.F.A. ’22) via video.



2. HOWARD'S HIGHNESSES

(Above) In a regal ceremony that paid homage to a royal lineage linked not by blood but by spirit, their Highnesses Mister and Miss Howard, Gregory Allen Jr. and Damaris Grace Moore, were coronated, along with attendants from each of the 14 schools and colleges. The event featured a royal waltz, jaw dropping vocal and dance performances, and special tributes from friends and family, culminating as the Royal Court took oaths to represent the best values and traditions of their alma mater. *Photo by James Cole.*

3. MADNESS

(Left) Fans kicked off basketball season early with a jam-packed Bison Madness spirit rally which spotlighted the men's and women's teams and included performances by Howard's "Showtime" Marching Band, Bisonettes, Flashy Flags, and the Oh La La dancers, along with a set by Skilla Baby. *Photos by James Cole.*



■■■ MAD SKILLS Skilla Baby performs at Bison Madness 2024.

PARTY OVER HERE
Big Freedia made a special appearance during the Lavender Reception.
Photo by Jonathan Spinks.

4. LAVENDER PRIDE

(Top right) After IKEA refurbished the university's LGBTQ+ and Intercultural Resource Center, "Pose" actor Ryan Jamaal Swain (B.F.A. '16) and New Orleans bounce rapper Big Freedia helped celebrate the power of inclusivity at the Annual Lavender Reception, where scholarships were awarded to students who are champions of equity. Lavender combines the pink triangle gay men were forced to wear in concentration camps and the black triangle worn by lesbians viewed as political prisoners. It is a visible reminder of LGBTQIA+ community solidarity and pride.



■■■
"WE OUTSIDE"
D.J. D-Nice was anything but quarantined as he turned up the volume on the Yard.
Photo by James Cole.

5. YARD PARTY

(Middle right) Quarantined no more, DJ D-Nice commandeered the Yard before the Homecoming game to spin a web of music tracks spanning generations, joined by DJ Quiksilver, DJ SNS, and chart-toppers Ruff Endz, Sunshine Anderson, Letoya Luckett, and Carl Thomas.



■■■
SHOWSTOPPERS
The "Showtime" Marching Band and Grand Marshall Doug E. Fresh delighted parade goers.
Photo by Simone Boyd.

6. IN THESE STREETS

(Bottom right) Along with high school marching bands, dance groups, classy cars, and student luminaries, Howard's "Showtime" Marching Band headlined the Homecoming Parade.





7. NEVER QUIT

The Bison fought valiantly in their bout against the Tennessee State University Tigers. Howard led the game in rushing yards. The Bison sacked Tennessee State's quarterbacks twice and stopped runners for a loss eight times. However, the Tigers' passing game proved decisive as they outlasted Howard by one touchdown, leading to a 27-14 loss for the home team. Nevertheless, the Howard faithful were there to show their support, as an overflow crowd of more than 10,000 created a standing-room-only experience. *Photo by Rodney Pierce.*



*** RICH PERFORMANCE Boston Richie gets the crowd hyped at Yardfest. *Photo by Latrell Caton.*

8. THE YARD IS UNDEFEATED

Thousands packed the Yard for Yardfest to reunite with new and old friends, as well as to catch much anticipated performances by the hottest stars, including Coco Jones, Ty Dolla Sign, Leon Thomas, Boston Richie, 310 Baby, and Jordan Ward. Among the surprises, actor Derrick Milano proposed to Angela White (a.k.a. Blac Chyna). *Photo by James Cole.*

9. LIGHT AND DARK

Based on the theme "The Centennial," the Howard Student Fashion Show designers fused cultural heritage, avant-garde concepts, and motifs of light and dark. Each segment of the show explored the Utopian and dystopian sides of Afrofuturism, a movement that blends African culture with futuristic technology and fantasy and highlighted how the institution, its students, its alumni, and the communities they serve continue to thrive in a world that's constantly evolving. The Light segment featured luminous fabrics and sleek designs, while the Dark segment showcased bold, experimental looks, underscoring Howard University's influence on the future. *Photo by James Cole.*



10. THE SHOW

Inside the packed Greene stadium, hip hop icon Doug E. Fresh put an exclamation on halftime during a performance with Howard's "Showtime" Marching Band. *Photo by James Cole.*



SPORTS

FIFTY YEARS AFTER MAKING NCAA HISTORY, HOWARD'S SOCCER PROGRAM SHINES AGAIN

by MONICA LEWIS (B.A. '96)



Howard's Women's Soccer Team took the NEC by storm in 2024.

WHEN LINCOLN PHILLIPS CAME TO THE District of Columbia in 1968, he was tasked with taking Howard University's soccer program to the next level. And while he did just

that — coaching the team to national prominence — he also helped set the foundation on which decades of success would be built, exposing people in communities throughout the city and across the country to a sport that was not traditionally popular with Black Americans.

The University's team became one of the nation's top programs in the 1970s — becoming the first HBCU to win a national title in 1971. That championship was stripped by the NCAA as part of controversial sanctions around recruiting violations, but the resilient coach guided the team back to the national stage

in 1974, going 19-0 en route to winning another championship. That team remains the only collegiate team to have a perfect season.

"Back then, soccer was really a minor sport in the U.S.," said Phillips, who coached the Bison for a decade before retiring in 1980. "What we were doing back then was really setting the groundwork for the game to become what it is for our people."

Because of the team's on-field success as well as commitment to community engagement, which included the planning and execution of soccer clinics throughout the District that truly taught the game to children,



DOMINANT Howard's 1974 NCAA Championship soccer team.



VICTORS The women's soccer team hoists their trophy.

Phillips believes Howard University did for soccer what it has done for so many fields and disciplines — create opportunities for others to engage in the sport while demonstrating excellence through competitive execution.

"What we did then and even what (the University is) doing now has made the awareness of and support for the game amongst Black people grow," Phillips said. "So many people would tell me back then that they appreciate the game because of the success we had in the 1970s."

For generations, soccer has been an immensely popular sport in countries around the world and there is no denying that one of the greatest and most beloved players in the sport's history is Edson Arantes do Nascimento, a Brazilian soccer star better known by one name — Pelé. But, in the United States, it is no stretch to say that Black Americans have been more present in American football or basketball. However, soccer's popularity has grown in the nation just as the program has emerged on campus.

In 1996, the same year that Howard University started its women's soccer team, the country's first professional soccer league — Major League Soccer - started. And over the last decade, the women's program has achieved remarkable success. In 2014, its first season in the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC), the women's team began an impressive run of three SWAC regular season championships, three SWAC Tournament championships and two NCAA appearances over a six-year span. And this past fall, the team, which joined the Northeast Conference (NEC) in 2021, won its first-ever NEC title, earning an automatic bid to the NCAA Division I Soccer Tournament, where they fell to perennial powerhouse and No. 1-seeded Duke University in November in the first round.

"Soccer isn't necessarily a sport that comes to mind when you think of HBCU athletics," said women's captain Melea Earley, whose sister, Moriah excelled at the

sport while a student at the University of Southern California. "Howard may not be viewed by some as a top soccer program, but because of what we're doing here, we are putting Howard on the map when it comes to women's soccer and I know we're showing girls who look like me and are interested in soccer that you can compete at a high level at an HBCU."

Trevor Leiba (B.A. '78, M.A. '82, Ph.D. '01), who was the freshman starting goalkeeper for the 1974 team and a longtime faculty member at the University, agreed with Earley, adding that both the women's and men's programs can be proud of their respective legacies.

"All these years later, I enjoy meeting people who say they were introduced to soccer because of the 1974 team. I knew it was something big back then, but looking back, I'm not sure I quite realized just how major of an accomplishment that was," said Leiba, who was in the net for the December 7, 1974, match against St. Louis University, a 3-2 game won by Howard in four overtimes.

Leiba, whose son Brent has served as Howard's women's soccer head coach since 2014 and was named the 2024 NEC Coach of the Year, believes that both Howard's women's and men's soccer teams will have a lasting impact for years to come.

"Legacy is synonymous with Howard in so many things and, when it comes to our soccer programs, there is so much that has been done to firmly establish Howard as a leader in the game and an inspiration for so many," Leiba said. "I'm grateful to be a part of this rich history and, as someone who has loved the game my entire life, I'm extremely proud to know others will grow to love the game because of the successes we've seen here in the past and what continues to happen with our talented and accomplished student-athletes."

WHAT'S YOUR HOWARD LEGACY?

Join the
Howard University
Legacy Giving Society
Today.

The **Howard University Legacy Giving Society** is an impact-driven group of alumni and friends who have shared their intention to include Howard University in their estate plans as a beneficiary in their will, trust, retirement plan, and/or life insurance policy and provide documentation.

Legacy gifts have a significant impact on Howard University students, faculty and staff. They secure the university's future and support initiatives that are most important to individuals. They include and are not limited to scholarships, the endowment, and research.

For information on how you can become a member of the Legacy Giving Society, please contact Quina De Laine, Planned Giving Officer, at (202) 238-2518 or quina.delaine@Howard.edu.

plannedgiving.howard.edu



HOWARD
UNIVERSITY

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, D.C. 20059, Federal Tax ID #53-0204707, for Howard University's general use and purpose.

SPORTS

BISON ATHLETES EARN TOP HONORS

■ **HOWARD'S SCHOLAR ATHLETES** have demonstrated Bison excellence, grit, determination, and competitiveness on the field, in the arena, and on the court. A special group of athletes and coaches received honors from the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) and Northeast Conference (NEC) in Fall 2024.

Men's Cross Country

WILLIAM SHEPHERD - All-MEAC Team

Women's Cross Country

JOSLYN CROSBY - MEAC Most Outstanding Performer, All-MEAC Team

CAMILLE EGBULA - All-MEAC Team

MIRA MARTIN - All-MEAC Team

CHLOE POINDEXTER - All-MEAC Team

Football

TIM ARTIS JR. - All-MEAC Second Team

DARIUS FOX - All-MEAC First Team

KENNY GALLOP JR. - All-MEAC First Team

TERRANCE HOLLON - All-MEAC Second Team

JARETT HUNTER - All-MEAC Second Team

ROBERT JONES III - All-MEAC Second Team

NOAH MILES - All-MEAC First Team

ANTHONY REAGAN JR. - All-MEAC Second Team

JAMEL STEWART - All-MEAC Second Team

Men's Soccer

BRYSON BAKER - All-NEC Second Team

DANIIL KABAN - NEC All-Rookie Team

Women's Soccer

MELEA EARLEY - All-NEC Second Team

GABRIELLA GARCIA-TERRELL - NEC Rookie of the Year; All-NEC First Team; NEC All-Rookie Team

BRENT LEIBA - NEC Coach of the Year

SAMANTHA JAMES - NEC Midfielder of the Year; All-NEC First Team

TRINITY KNOX - NEC Goalkeeper of the Year; All-NEC First Team

ZOE MOORE - All-NEC Second Team

RACHEL SUTTLE - NEC Defensive Player of the Year; All-NEC First Team

Volleyball

DAMI AWOJOBI - All-MEAC Second Team

SHAUN KUPFERBERG - MEAC Coach of the Year

RYA MCKINNON - MEAC Player of the Year; All-MEAC First Team

LEAH REEVES - MEAC Setter of the Year; All-MEAC First Team

CLAIRE SIMPSON - All-MEAC Second Team

CIMONE WOODARD - All-MEAC First Team

WE'RE HEADED TO GREENER PASTURES.



AT HOWARD UNIVERSITY, TRUTH AND SERVICE ARE ACTION WORDS.

As a Howard supporter, you know how seriously we take our responsibility to the planet. The *truth* is that printing *Howard Magazine* destroys a large number of trees, and that is bad for the environment. It also costs dollars that could be used for research or to support students. We can *serve* you better with a forward-looking, interactive new *Howard Magazine*, optimized for the digital world.

We are reducing the number of copies of *Howard Magazine* that we distribute and invite you to experience the digital version in the coming months. Same great content, but customized for the 21st century.

Follow us online at howard.edu for more details.

LEGACY

Health Care Alumni Honored in Ceramic

It's a good thing for Augusta, GA that there is a Howard University.

by AMBER D. DODD

■ **IF YOU WERE BLACK** and had been hospitalized in Augusta, GA at the turn of the twentieth century, chances are you knew Dr. George Nelson Stoney. That's because he was perhaps one of the city's most prominent physicians and was the only Black doctor allowed to treat patients at the city's University Hospital when it opened in 1914. Despite his prominence, however, he is remembered for his kindness and empathy, often treating patients whether they could afford to pay or not.

Stoney's impact, along with the impact of two other Howard healthcare professionals, has been immortalized through the work of Augusta's Lucy Laney Craft Museum, which unveiled a statue in late 2024 honoring Stoney, Scipio S. Johnson (M.D. 1904) and James E. Carter Jr. (D.D.S. '30). Inspired by Leslie J. Pollard's novel *Segregated Doctoring*, the four-sided piece lies in Augusta's Twiggs Street Roundabout, with the medical professionals holding hands to "represent unity," as ceramic sculptor Ashley Gray said of her work.

A medic mostly serving patients in poor conditions, while also delivering babies, Johnson was nicknamed a "medical missionary" for not charging patients for services. His personal motto, "to know something, to do something, to be somebody," was reflected in his pursuit of providing health options for Black Americans.

Carter's work as an Augusta dentist spans over five decades. He was the first Black

Georgian to become a fellow in the American College of Dentistry and the Academy of General Dentistry. He was also president of the National Dental Association and the Georgia Dental Society.

"It is so vitally important that we as cultural institutions, whether it be Howard or the Laney Museum, that we tell these stories," said Toni Dean (B.B.A. '92), program manager at Augusta's Lucy Laney Craft Museum. "If you listen to the history that's coming out of these many school systems, especially

in the Deep South, you will know that it's important for us to shout from the rafters how important our history is, that it still exists, and how our history is a motivational tool for future generations."

Carter's son, James III, knows that his father carried Howard's values in his heart.

"All of his years of service, all of his life, is the epitome of Howard's motto: veritas et utilitas, truth and service," said James III. "All he did was serve his community, his God, and his profession. That was the theme of his life."



■ ■ ■ **HEROES** Augusta, GA honors three Howard graduates who were doctors and trailblazing nurse with a ceramic statue.



LEADERSHIP

HOWARD'S AUXILIARY SERVICES ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE AUXILIARY SERVICES

LaNiece Tyree, MPA, CASP, Assistant Vice President for Auxiliary Enterprises at Howard University, was elected president of the National Association of College Auxiliary Services (NACAS) this past November. She is the first woman of color and the first HBCU employee to hold the position.

NACAS is the leading professional trade association that supports the non-academic segment of higher education responsible for a diverse array of campus services such as food services, bookstores, housing, and transportation.

The NACAS president is the association's highest leadership role and is part of a 12-member board which provides strategic oversight and direction for key initiatives. The NACAS President holds the association's highest leadership role, guiding the organization in its mission to support higher education.

Recently Tyree was honored with the NACAS Dr. Wright L. Lassiter Jr. Legacy Award for exceptional service to profession and the East Regional Mentor Award.



LEADERSHIP

A Legacy of Service

Trustee Marie C. Johns leaves the Board of Trustees after 20 Years.

In 2024, Marie C. Johns (D.H.L. '13) stepped down as a member of the Howard Board of Trustees, a role she occupied for two decades. During her tenure on the board, she was active in a number of extremely consequential initiatives, including the founding of the Howard University Middle School in 2005. She also served as the school's founding advisory board chair.

"Trustee Johns was dedicated to ensuring that the middle school had everything necessary to provide our young people with the best possible education," said Kathryn Procope, Ed.D., Howard University Middle School's executive director. "She leveraged her connections and influence to secure exceptional resources for our students."

Johns also chaired the School of Divinity Board of Visitors and served as interim chair of the College of Dentistry Board

of Visitors. She is a 2013 recipient of an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Howard.

"Howard is deeply woven into my identity, and I will always cherish this institution and strive to support it in any way I can," said Johns. "My objective was to give it my all and to always keep myself focused on what is good for the institution."

A business leader and former civil servant, Johns was nominated by President Barack Obama and unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve as the deputy administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration from 2010 to 2013.

Johns has held senior positions in the telecommunications industry and retired as president of Verizon-Washington.



LEADERSHIP

Dean Andrea A. Hayes Dixon, M.D., Appointed Chair of the Scientific Management Review Board

■ Howard College of Medicine Dean Andrea A. Hayes Dixon, M.D., has been appointed chair of the Scientific Management Review Board at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service.

The board plays a critical role in supervising and reviewing the management and operations of scientific research programs within the department. This

appointment will extend through June 2026.

Hayes Dixon became the first African American woman in the nation to achieve board certification in pediatric surgery in 2004. In 2006, she became the first surgeon in the world to perform a high-risk life-saving procedure in teens with rare forms of abdominal

cancer. She became the first woman to serve as dean of the Howard University College of Medicine in 2022.

Dean Andrea Hayes-Dixon of the Howard University College of Medicine was recently named to *Modern Healthcare* magazine's 2024 class of the 100 most influential people in healthcare.



■ ■ ■ NATIONAL STAGE Stephen A. Smith (l) and Shannon Sharpe (r) interview Howard football coach Larry Scott. Photo by Latrell Caton.

THE FIRST TAKE FOR A WILD SEMESTER ON THE YARD

■ **LITTLE DID WE KNOW HOW** foreshadowing it was when a live broadcast of ESPN's First Take became the first major activity on the Yard during the fall 2024 semester. That national visibility was only a dress rehearsal for the events to come.

For Howard's campus community and alumni, the moment was electric. It was an opportunity to amplify the Bison spirit on the eve of the annual Truth and Service Classic game against Hampton University. It was also the first of numerous high visibility events that elevated Howard on the world stage.

With Founders Hall as their backdrop, hosts Molly Qerim, Stephen A. Smith, and Shannon Sharpe opined on the sports news of the day. An enormous crowd of Bison fans was on prominent display, along with Howard's Greek-lettered organizations, student athletes, and student journalists.

Howard junior Harmony Bailey, an aspiring sports reporter, was among the students who got a chance to interview Steven A. Smith on the show. It was a moment of nostalgia. She first interviewed him when she was five years old.

"I felt that there was no better opportunity for him to speak to the future of HBCUs and journalism at one place and one time," she said.

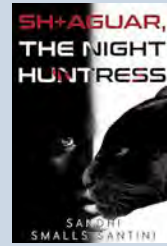
BISON BOOKSHELF

Publications by Past and Present Howard University Alumni, Students, and Faculty

BY AMBER D. DODD



The Message
by TA-NEHISI COATES
In a three-part story that takes place in Senegal, South Carolina, and Palestine, Coates discusses the importance of a storyteller's undying, healthy relationship to the truth.



Sh+aguar, The Night Huntress
by SANDHI SMALLS SANTINI (B.A. '79)
In a race to save humanity, Kitt Kougar, a woman who becomes infused with the DNA of a "melanistic jaguar," takes on life saving responsibilities.



The Adventures of Lailabeen: A Journey of Discovery
by JAMIA FURBUSH (M.S.W. '10 AND LAILA SMITH)
Little Lailabeen journeys through North America to discover how the diverse offerings can shape her into an adventurous, bright young girl ready to take on the world.



I See U
by RAINA FORD (STUDENT)
A book for children with siblings who have an illness or disability. Join Leah on her journey at camp I See U where she meets new friends, learns ways to cope with her feelings, and discovers the talents which make her special.



Cherry Blossom Blues
by MARLA-TIYE VIEIRA (B.A. '91)
The love story of two men in 1920s Washington D.C. during the Harlem Renaissance as the Spanish Flu rages and American Prohibition, World War I, and the rising threats of future fascism loom large.



Between the Night and Its Music
by A.B. SPELLMAN (B.A. '56)
Jazz critic and poet A.B. Spellman's latest collection of poems are sensual selections that explore the relationship between Black collective conscious, music, and dance.



The Journey: An African American Woman's Road Map to Independence
by TROY A. YOUNG, C.F.P. (B.B.A. '88)
Philosophies on Black women's financial development including employee benefits, insurance, and retirement plans.



One Shot Away
by GUY THOMPSON (B.A. '80)
The story of the Howard's men's basketball teams in 1966-67, who reset the program's trajectory in the classroom and the hardwood after a 14-year losing season streak.



When the Red Ball Express Came Home
by REV. CLEVEN L. JONES, SR. (B. DIV. '76)
A fictional account of the hardships, friendships, and lessons of Black soldiers who fought tyranny and racism during World War II.



Her Truth and Service: Lucy Diggs Slowe in Her Own Words
by AMY YEBOAH QUARKUME
Through her letters, this book frames the significant contributions of Slowe as a renaissance woman that built a pathway for millions.



Voices in the Twilight
by LOUIS ALEXANDER HEMANS (L.A. '68, B.A. '80)
Hemans blends personal and professional insights on coming-of-age experiences including politics, romance, and philosophy in Jamaica.

ALUMNI

We Are One

BISON FAMILY

ARCHIVES

1985

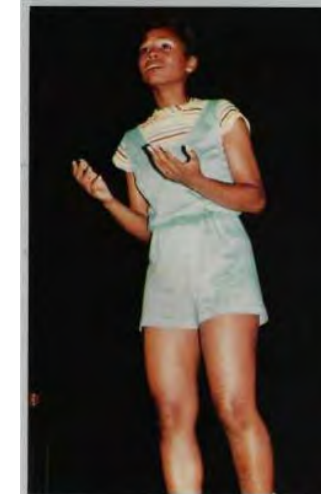
DURING HOMECOMING
IN 1985, the student body chose Karen Malina White (B.F.A. '86) to be Miss Howard. Competing against seven other finalists, White performed a monologue portraying a confused young woman. The contestants also modeled evening gowns and articulated awareness of current events. A few years after graduating with a bachelor's degree in fine arts, White landed her breakout role in the movie *Lean on Me*, playing the smart, young central character Keneesha Carter, who was mentored by Morgan Freeman's Principal Joe Clark. Later, she would star as recurring character Charmaine Brown in *the Cosby Show*, who then became a main character in *A Different World*. Among many other roles in films and shows ranging from the *Fresh Prince of Bel Air* to *Young Sheldon*, she is also known as the voice of Dijonay Jones on *The Proud Family*.



DEBUT. Karen White made her first appearance as the new Miss Howard at the Blue and White Ball.



OFFICIAL RECOGNITION. During the Homecoming game half-time, Miss Howard, Karen White, was officially recognized by President Cheek.



DRAMATIZATION. Karen portrayed a confused young woman in her monologue.



DISTINGUISHED COMPANY. At the game, Karen White and her mother were formally introduced to President Cheek and Geraldine Pittman-Woods, chairman of the Board of Directors.

Pagaentry and Class

In Memoriam

■ **Roberta Cleopatra Flack** (B.M.E. '58, D.MUS. '75)



Over the course of an incredible career, Roberta Flack inspired countless performers through her talent, showmanship, professionalism, and sheer charisma. She passed away on February 24, 2025. Born in Black Mountain, North Carolina, she was raised in Richmond and later Arlington, Va. A classically trained pianist, Flack earned a music scholarship at age 15 to attend Howard University, studying voice and piano. While at Howard, she was a member of the School of Music's Student Council and became a member of Alpha Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Sorority, Inc., serving as the sorority's business manager. Even as a student, she was already garnering acclaim by performing on campus, singing in student talent shows, and directing opera. In 1954, *The Hilltop* wrote about her "easy flowing vocals" as she sang songs like, "Polka Dots and Moonbeams." She graduated with a bachelor's degree in music education in 1958 and received an honorary doctorate in 1975.

Flack was the first artist ever to win the Grammy Award for Record of the Year during two consecutive years, a feat that was not replicated for almost three decades. Her first win, for "The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face," came in 1973 after the song spent six weeks atop the Billboard Top 100 charts, making it Billboard's top song of year. It was also the major track on the soundtrack for Clint Eastwood's directorial debut, "Play Misty for Me," which followed the obsessed fan of a disc jockey. She followed up with another seminal classic, "Killing Me Softly with His Song," in 1974. Like the year before, Flack spent more weeks at number one on the Billboard charts in 1974 than any other artist, topping the charts for five weeks. The Fugees featuring Lauren Hill released a version in the 1990s which also became a hit, but Flack's version is included on both Rolling Stone's and Billboard's listings of the greatest songs of all time. In all, she was awarded five Grammys. In addition to Record of the Year, she won for Best Pop Vocal Performance by a Duo, Group, or Chorus in 1973 and Best Pop Vocal Performance, Female, in 1974. The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences presented her with a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 2020.

At Howard, Flack began collaborating with another prolific singer and Howard student, Donny Hathaway, a Cook Hall resident. Her first album included a song written by Hathaway, called, "Our Ages or Our Hearts." Together, they recorded, "Where is the Love," and the "The Closer I Get to You," songs that continue to find their place across

media today. In the 1980s, Flack continued to punctuate the Billboard charts. The 1983 hit, "Tonight, I Celebrate My Love," a duet with Peabo Bryson, peaked at #16 in the Top 100. She continued to record throughout her life, including the song "Running," which she recorded in 2018 at age 80. As late as 2021, her version of Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On" was released.

Dr. Clarence Knight (B.M.E. '59, M.M.E. '69) was Flack's classmate at Howard, where he majored in flute and music education. He remembers her fondly, including her role in helping him academically.

"She was very bright, very smart, and very talented," said Knight. "She had a beautiful voice." "We did a lot of studying together, especially in the theater area because that was one of my weak suits and one of her strong suits. We spent a lot of time together, talking about theater."

Even before she met Flack, Howard alumna Valerie "Kehembe" Eichelberger (B.Mus. '71, M.M. '97) was inspired by Flack's ability to express the mood and sentiment of the times. Flack and Eichelberger got to know each other while both were private students of famous voice coach Frederick "Wilkie" Wilkerson.

"She wasn't a part of the current generation, but still they hear her music," Eichelberger said. "And that is even more important because it means that it crossed over the timeline. It doesn't have an endpoint."

In Memoriam



■ **James Coleman Jr. (J.D. '59), AUGUST 2, 2024, NJ.** The first African American appointed to the New Jersey Supreme Court, serving from 1994 to 2003. His groundbreaking career included more than 2,000 written opinions, including decisions that tackled jury exclusion and cross-racial eyewitness identification.



■ **Dolores Duke (B.S. '49), JULY 29, 2024, WASHINGTON D.C.** had a distinguished career as a pharmacist, serving as director of pharmacy at the Hospital for Sick Children and the Psychiatric Institute of Washington D.C. She was involved in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., the Links Inc., and other civic organizations.



■ **Hugh Norton Duhany (D.D.S '62), OCTOBER 24, 2024, WASHINGTON, D.C.** Professor and clinical coordinator at Howard University College of Dentistry, contributing to public dental health initiatives and textbook development in addition to his private practice.

Lawrence Oliver (M.S. '60), April 20, 2024, Baltimore, Md.

Carolyn E. Hunt (B.S. '61), April 18, 2023, Hamilton, NJ.

Dr. James A. Fluharty (D.D.S. '62), April 6, 2024, Bridgewater, Va.

■ **Elton Price (B.S. '54), MARCH 24, 2024, GLENARDEN, MD.** In 1964, Price accepted the position of assistant chemistry professor at the Howard University faculty. In 1971, he was promoted to professor of chemistry and remained there until his retirement in 2001. For the love of his alma mater, Elton established a scholarship fund, "Dr. Elton and Erma Price Chemistry Scholarship," to care for his legacy in the Chemistry Department at Howard University.

■ **James E. Soler (M.D. '73), FEBRUARY 23, 2024, SAN ANTONIO, TX.** A graduate of Howard University College of Medicine and U.S. Air Force veteran, he dedicated nearly 40 years to serving patients at the San Antonio State Hospital.



■ **Harold Wesley Hardy Jr. (B.A. '50), APRIL 23, 2024, BRENTWOOD, MD.** Decorated diplomat with a 41-year career with the U.S. Information Agency and Department of State. He held positions in Algeria, France and Laos, before retiring as a consultant at Howard University's Ralph J. Bunch International Affairs Center.



■ **James Bertron Withers, Jr. (B.S. '63), SEPTEMBER 26, 2024, WASHINGTON D.C.** Served as a U.S. Army Captain in Germany. He earned advanced degrees from George Washington University and spent 34 years at the FCC. After retiring, he volunteered at WPFW-FM and supported veterans with legal aid.



■ **Col. Lowell Blagmon (B.S. '70, M.S. '74), SEPTEMBER 5, 2022, GLENN DALE, MD.** Received numerous army commendations and medals. After a distinguished 30-year career, Blagmon retired in 2000 as a colonel and commander of the 2071st Army Reserve Unit in Fort Meade, Md.

■ **Raymond Mullins (B.A. '66), SEPTEMBER 4, 2023, TAYLOR, MI.** A lawyer and former NAACP chapter president in Ypsilanti, Michigan, who was a lifelong advocate for racial justice, education, equality, and the abolition of the school-to-prison pipeline. A Howard University graduate and Air Force veteran, he was well-known for his community leadership.

■ **Efremfon Frank Ekpo (B.S.E.E., M.S., (PH.D. '86), JUNE 27, 2023, DAYTONA BEACH, FL.** A graduate of the University of Lagos and Howard University who later founded the physics department at Bethune-Cookman University. He was beloved by students throughout his three-decade academic career.

Expressions

Narrative, Legacy, and Restitution

The Role of HBCUs in the Reparations Dialogue

by MELANIE CARTER, PH.D.

■ IN DECEMBER 2023, PAMELA “SAFISHA Nzinga” Hill published an op-ed entitled “Should the U.S. Provide Reparations? Start with HBCUs.” Nzinga makes a compelling argument suggesting that reparations may be a beginning remedy to correct intentional and legally sanctioned policies and practices that diverted funds (i.e., taxpayer dollars) that should have been allocated to HBCUs. Actions which have spanned decades are documented in Adam Harris’ 2021 book, *The State Must Provide: Why America’s Colleges Have Always Been Unequal — and How To Set Them Right*; John Silvanus Wilson’s recent book, *Hope & Healing: Black Colleges and the Future of American Democracy* (2023); and most recently, in letters from the United States Secretaries of Education and Agriculture to 16 state governors identifying 12.6 billion dollars that should have been allocated to Black land grant universities, from just 1987 to 2020, but were not. Land grant HBCUs were established as a result of the Second Morrill Act of 1890, and most have been in existence for nearly 125 years. So, the evidence of funds denied for 33 years is a small percentage of the funds yet due.

A state’s control, interpretation, and execution of federal policies intended to address inequity is vulnerable to political worldviews and agendas. These state actions not only impact the individual

institutions but the communities they serve: the students who attend, the communities in which they are located, and the professions where their graduates are employed. While this is not a new realization, the availability of empirical data that illuminates discriminatory policy execution and its generational impact must be central to HBCUs demand for redress. Researchers use this data to scientifically determine and quantify how these decisions have affected HBCUs and those touched by them. How many more students could have attended, how many more faculty could have been employed, how many more lives could have been impacted by HBCU graduate teachers, physicians, engineers, and lawyers, if the federally allocated funds were disbursed?

HBCUs have sought redress for these inequities through the Court. Several states including Mississippi and Maryland have settled lawsuits in favor of HBCUs awarding funds to compensate for past discriminatory practices. While these settlements have garnered national attention, the discriminatory practices harmful to HBCUs are not restricted to individual states. The federal government must also scrutinize its policies and practices that have historically disadvantaged HBCUs from accessing funds that would extend their reach and impact.

While most associate reparations with the United States’ enslavement of Black people, the movement also encompasses post-slavery federally sanctioned and protected practices, such as segregation, disenfranchisement, and the criminalization of Black bodies for profit, that have challenged the humanity of Black people writ large. I argue that the refusal to fairly disseminate taxpayer funds allocated to HBCUs is another example of an intentional discriminatory practice that continues to have a deleterious effect on



PHOTO BY JUSTIN KNIGHT

these institutions so critical to the nation. We must speak boldly about reparations and the nation’s responsibility to accept responsibility and be accountable for past and current practices that limit individuals’, and institutions’ possibilities. Research that explores these questions should be encouraged in the academy and embraced as a pathway to a more democratic and just society. The reparations dialogue should not be viewed as an exclusive conversation but an expansive one. The language put forth by reparations advocates, including the National African-American Reparations Commission and the Reparations Narrative Lab, provides terms that facilitate awareness, discourse, and action that is generative and provides a safe space to engage and build our community’s capacity to advance this movement. The Reparations Narrative Lab’s support of “organizers, researchers, and artists to build narrative power and increase public support for reparations” explicitly and unapologetically centers our experiences by deconstructing dominant frameworks that render us storyless. Narratives matter. Narratives speak our humanity to the world. HBCUs and their progeny permeate every aspect of this nation and are therefore central to the reparations dialogue and uniquely positioned to advocate for reparations as a mechanism for systemic change. Capturing and conveying HBCU narratives that affirm our humanity through research is not just a strategy but an essential acknowledgment to ourselves and the world.



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2025 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Aug. 30 – vs. Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
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Sept. 6 – at Temple University (Philadelphia, Pa.)

Sept. 13 – vs. Morehouse College
HBCU New York Classic (East Rutherford, N.J.)

Sept. 20 – vs. Hampton University
Truth & Service Classic (Washington, D.C.)

Sept. 27 – at University of Richmond (Richmond, Va.)

Oct. 4 – Bye

Oct. 11 – at Sacred Heart University (Fairfield, Conn.)

Oct. 18 – at Tennessee State University (Nashville, Tenn.)

Oct. 25 – vs. Morgan State University
Homecoming (Greene Stadium)

Nov. 1 – vs. North Carolina Central University (Greene Stadium)

Nov. 8 – at South Carolina State University (Orangeburg, S.C.)

Nov. 15 – at Delaware State University (Dover, Del.)

Nov. 22 – vs. Norfolk State University (Greene Stadium)

