Alumni Ambassadors Tell Why They Support Meharry

NASHVILLE, TN — Through their own contributions, and by encouraging other alumni to give back, Meharry Alumni Ambassadors volunteer their time and energy to raise support for Meharry Medical College. Alumni Ambassadors are advocates, continuing to promote the College by increasing awareness of its mission, achievements, challenges and goals, demonstrating the positive impact that the College continues to have in sustaining and improving the nation’s health care system.

The criteria for becoming an Alumni Ambassador is two-fold: a minimum annual contribution of $1,000 to the College and the commitment to encourage contributions from at least five other alumni or friends.

In April, the first gathering of the Meharry Alumni Ambassadors assembled on campus. At the inaugural session, members told why they were dedicated to the program and discussed plans for a successful nationwide launch of the program.

“My personal reason for serving and giving to Meharry is that when attempting to apply to medical school, Meharry was the first school to respond back in writing of my acceptance when others wouldn’t even give me an interview.”
— James McCain, M.D., ’83, Birmingham, Alabama

Gratitude for the opportunities afforded by Meharry Medical College is central to Ambassador efforts, seasoned with a sense of obligation to extend the same favor to new Meharrians and mentoring them in their responsibility to pay their own good fortune forward.

“I am a neurologist as a direct result of Meharry’s gift of accepting me to my school. This gift is extended to my patients every day. How could I not give back?”
— Gretchen H. Campbell, M.D., ’99, Franklin, Tennessee

Alumni Ambassadors recognize that Meharry has given them the opportunity to serve others — a gift they wish to repay. For the Ambassadors, the College’s motto of “Worship of God Through Service to Mankind” is not just a motto but an ongoing declaration of principle, cemented by their own commitment to lead others in giving back to the College.

“Meharry gave me the foundation to continue in my medical training while Meharry continues to provide strong health care to our community and throughout the nation, building the foundation for the next generation of health care providers and establishing change and improvement at the College.”
— Jonathan A. Johnson, M.D., ’06, Baltimore, Maryland

Meharry Alumni Ambassadors have realized the far-reaching effect and influence the College has on their communities and even the world. They have witnessed it first hand. And, they desire to pass on the legacy through interaction with others to encourage them to become to be passionate with the same vision.

“Meharry is a national treasure for all: an institution of history that inspires and encourages people to participate in health care.”
— Collis Johnson, D.D.S., ’73, Centennial, Colorado

Meharry’s place in history is secured and illuminated by the contributions and deeds of its alumni. The College is indeed a national treasure dedicated to serving all-especially those most in need of care. And, since 1876, it has helped shape American health care through education, research and patient care.

“I am, and you are, because Meharry is! Meharry did just that for me. Now, it is time for someone to be because I am. Giving must be an integral part. To whom much is given, much is expected.”
— Arikana Chihombori, M.D., ’86, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

It is the obligation of those who have received much from Meharry Medical College to not only render service to their communities as health care professionals, but provide aid to their alma mater in the way of financial support. It is the freely-accepted role of the Alumni Ambassadors to help remind their alumni peers, and to lead others who are interested in Meharry’s cause in promoting and helping secure the institution’s prosperity.

Ultimately, the goal of all Meharrians and friends can be simply put: “To make Meharry better for those who come after us!”

Those interested in becoming an Ambassador, should contact the Meharry Alumni Ambassadors’ Liaison, Ms. Gloria D. Sanders, 615-327-6512 or gSanders@mmc.edu