Meharry, Vanderbilt med students meet their match

Match Day reveals where seniors will serve residencies

By Alex Beecher
The Tennessean

Like many children, Britteny Pryor loved playing with dolls.

Unlike many dolls, however, Pryor’s often mysteriously fell ill, leaving her with no choice but to treat them for their assorted maladies.

Pryor came to her concerns honestly as a child, as she was routinely in and out of the hospital with medically addressed weight problems, a grueling and painful experience that moved her to pursue medical school at Vanderbilt University.

Now, she can shift her attention to treating living beings and she finally knows where she will begin her medical career: in child neurology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas.

On Friday, Pryor and some 200 of Nashville’s senior medical students at Meharry Medical College and Vanderbilt School of Medicine saw four years of labor pay off during the annual Match Day.

In front of an audience of family, friends and peers, the students opened sealed envelopes revealing which medical institutions had selected them to begin their residencies after graduation and which specialties they will be studying for the next three to seven years.

“There’s a concept of delayed gratification, and now that it’s here, it’s very exciting,” said Meharry student Ghino Francois, who will be a medical pediatrics resident at Baystate Medical Center at Tufts University in Springfield, Mass.

As students came to the stage to retrieve their envelopes at each school, they placed $1 or more into a “money pot,” which became a hefty cash prize for the last student called as a reward for patience throughout the ceremony.

“We are just so happy for them,” said Scott Rodger, associate dean for medical student affairs at Vanderbilt. “You just root for them to do well and succeed.”

Alex Beecher is with Seigenthaler News Service-MTSU. Reach her at doniomaria992@gmail.com.

Deon Tolliver celebrates after announcing he will do his residency at Meharry Metro Hospital during Meharry Medical College National Resident Match Day on Friday.

Sahbina Edda starts to cry as her mother, Freda Edda, grabs her arm after learning she will do her residency at Yale-New Haven Hospital. Match Day is an emotional day when students learn which teaching hospital they will go to for specialized medical training. PHOTOS BY MARK ZALESKI / THE TENNESSEAN