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**INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:**

- SOM** 2
- Commencement  
Send-Off**
- SOD** 4
- Commencement  
Send-Off**
- SOGSR** 6
- Commencement  
Send-Off**
- Match Day!** 8



May 2011

Congratulations, Class of 2011!

As a student at Meharry Medical College, you have been trained by some of the finest professors, researchers and clinicians in the nation. Now, that you are fully trained and have earned your degrees, you should know that I, along with your loved ones, are expecting great things from each of you.

As a Meharrarian, you will be expected to uphold our motto and allow our mission to "burn ever bright within your hearts". Together, both will guide you as you seek to conquer and eliminate the health disparities that plague this nation and the world.

Even though you matriculated during a time of great uncertainty -when viable attempts to resolve health inequities are being challenged each day -you are expected to find comfort in the fact that you already know what you must do -you've been doing it all along through community service. Many of you volunteered at various elementary schools with Project R.E.C.E.S.S. (Restoring Exercise, Cutting calories, Emphasizing hygiene and Stopping Substance abuse). You also were involved with Nashville Cares, Relay for Life, the Juvenile Justice Center, Habitat for Humanity, Dining Out for Life and the Breast Cancer Walk.

You are true Meharrarians. On behalf of the entire Meharry Medical College family, I congratulate and welcome you as our newest members as family, alumni and peers!

Yours for a Greater Meharry Medical College,

Wayne J. Riley, M.D., MPH, MBA, MACP  
President and Chief Executive Officer



# SOM Commencement Send-Off

**Dorothy Russ, President, School of Medicine Class of 2011**

As our medical school days come to a close, I encourage you to take a moment to think about everything we have gained: a sound medical education, lifelong friends and memories that will last forever. We've learned the art and science of medicine from esteemed professors. We've also found time to mentor children, feed the homeless, spend time with the elderly and raise thousands of dollars for worthwhile causes. The Class of 2011 has truly personified Meharry's motto: "Worship of God through Service to Mankind."

Over the years, we've worked hard and played even harder by participating in talent shows, karaoke, sports, balls and class trips. During the slide show at the Match Day program, I realized how much I have truly enjoyed my time here at Meharry. I have enjoyed being a part of this class more than I could have ever imagined. I hope my classmates feel the same.

As we venture off into our various residency programs, I know that you all will continue to touch the lives of others the way you have touched mine. I look forward to seeing the great contributions we will make to this nation and to the world. Thank you, Class of 2011, for allowing me to serve as your senior class president. May God continue to bless you until we meet again!!!

## SCHOOL OF MEDICINE Candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Medicine



Benyam Demeke Addissie  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Eminajulo Adekoya  
Odogbolu, Ogun State, Nigeria

Tolulope Abayomi Adeyemo  
Ibadan, Nigeria

Ariel Briana Aguillard  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Roneisha LaPearl Alexander  
Jeanerette, Louisiana

Kalilah Ingrid Allen-Harris  
Montgomery, Alabama

Abiola Ayobami Atanda  
Nashville, Tennessee

Aris Jeanette Austin  
Newport News, Virginia

Natalia Ballesteros  
Pembroke Pines, Florida

Akilah Masika Bates  
Flushing, New York

Erik Benitez  
Miami, Florida

Lynikka Keshania Bernard  
Compton, California

Ananta Bhatt  
White House, Tennessee

Orville Newton-Ray Bignall, II  
Nashville, Tennessee

Alesia Renee Billingslea  
Opelika, Alabama

Mary Ann Bissada  
Little Rock, Arkansas

Tiffany Nicole Black  
Biloxi, Mississippi

Ryan L. Bliss  
Dallas, Texas

Brandon Jamaal Blue  
Saint Petersburg, Florida

Nia Imani Bodrick  
Charlotte, North Carolina

Eric R. Bonner  
Tyner, North Carolina

Whitney Lee Boon  
Nashville, Tennessee

Brittany Joy Brown  
Decatur, Georgia

Christopher B. Brown  
Jackson, Mississippi

Takita Brown  
Coldwater, Mississippi

Renisha Christine Butler  
Garland, Texas

May Thet Cho  
Yangon, Myanmar (Burma)

Tiffany Latrice Clay  
Atlanta, Georgia

Charlene Dionne Cole-Suttlar  
Boligee, Alabama

Tiana Nicole Crawford  
San Diego, California

Angie Latreice Curtis  
Houston, Texas

Tyler Robert Dirda  
Denver, Colorado



School of Medicine Class of 2011 in their first year



School of Medicine Class of 2011

Tonya L. Dixon  
Sylmar, California or Grants  
Pass, Oregon

Marlene Perez Dominguez  
San Pablo, California

Ada Obiageli Egbuji  
Nashville, Tennessee

Diane Tanya Eisenstein  
Long Beach, California

Lakeshia Antoinette Entzminger  
Greensboro, North Carolina

Karen Tamar Francois  
Queens, New York

Christian Shant Ghattas  
Westminster, California

Susan Patrice Goggans  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Tiffany Patrice Hailstorks  
Glenn Dale, Maryland

LaVonne Shate' Hairston  
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Jennifer Lula Haynie  
Reedville, Virginia

Doris Zoe Hoskins  
Charlotte, North Carolina

Presclia Nwabiani Isedeh  
Union, New Jersey

Kaya I. Jackson  
Athens, Georgia

Justin Paul Jamison  
Naperville, Illinois

Kyle Lendl Jones  
Conyers, Georgia

Tiffany LaTrice Jones  
Torrance, California

Terata Ann Kanu  
Douglasville, Georgia

Anjali Khurana  
Nashville, Tennessee

Damien Michael Larkins  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Jamal Lattimore  
Flint, Michigan

Stephanie Nicole Lewis  
Wetumpka, Alabama

Mandy Katrice Lucas  
Valdosta, Georgia

Ricardo Miguel Lugo  
Maitland, Florida



School of Medicine Class of 2011

Maila Rene Martin  
Union City, California

Paul David Mathieu  
Miami, Florida

Aleea Saffiyah Maye  
Norfolk, Virginia

Kerry-Ann Daucia Miller  
Miami, Florida

Michael Deleon Moffitt  
Atlanta, Georgia

Milton Rahmon Moore  
Houston, Texas

Akinkunmi Oyewole Oladiran  
Ogbomoso, Oye State, Nigeria

Jebhar Ronald Patterson  
Tampa, Florida



School of Medicine Class of 2011

Stephanie Naomi Pearson  
Laurel, Maryland

Sarah Jean Price  
St. Louis, Missouri

Sheena Pullman  
College Park, Georgia

Darian Eugene Reddick  
San Jose, California

Tiffany Megan Richburg  
Greenville, South Carolina

Star Lanette Rogers  
Camden, Arkansas

Dorothy Marquita Yolanda Russ  
Jacksonville, Florida

Katherine Anne Scott  
Indianapolis, Indiana

Sasha Louise Smith  
Columbia, Tennessee

Calvin Alphonso Spellmon, Jr.  
Houston, Texas

Micheca St. Hilaire  
West Palm Beach, Florida

Anza Maisha Stanley  
Monroe, Louisiana

Lauren Kristin Sullivan-Larke  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dominic Ho-Ping Tang  
Union City, California

Carmelita Marie Taylor  
Nashville, Tennessee

Diane Renee Thomas  
San Francisco, California

Grace Toledo  
Miami, Florida

Stephanie Shevon Turner  
Birmingham, Alabama

Mary Lashanda Vanlier  
Nashville, Tennessee

Jessica Washington  
Covington, Tennessee

Daniel Adrian Whitelocke  
St. Ann's Bay, Jamaica

Rochelle Terri Lynette Wilson  
Chandler, Arizona

Brandi Pauline Wright  
Pine Bluff, Arkansas

Christina Hope Yi  
Houston, Texas

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School of Medicine Class of 2011

# SOD Commencement Send-Off

## Russell Demetrius “Dre” Taylor, President, School of Dentistry Class of 2011

The moment we came here for is finally here – we’re doctors!!! We’ve experienced and seen a lot in the four years we’ve pursued our dreams to be Meharry dentists. 2007 marked the beginning of our journey through dental school. Remember the Nashville fuel shortage in 2008 that had half the cars in the city parked for a week? In 2009, we took part in, and celebrated the inauguration of Barack Obama, the first elected African-American President of the United States. Last year, we all survived the worst flood in Nashville’s history and mourned with our classmates who had friends and family affected by the great earthquake in Haiti. And, if all of this was not enough excitement, five of our classmates brought new additions to the class and we welcomed Caleigh, Michael, Ryenne, Paityn and Tre to the Meharry family!

Amidst these life changing events, God allowed each of us to negotiate a grueling curriculum that included countless late nights, weekends of lab work and studying for both internal and National Board Exams. Now we’re here, fam! Before we all part from each other, going to our respective parts of the country, my one prayer for each of you is that you reflect and recognize how blessed we all are. It wasn’t by mistake that we were put together to make up the School of Dentistry, Class of 2011, it was God’s divine blessing and plan. God found favor in us, and our steps were ordered by Him. I suspect many of you may not realize how special the experiences we shared were, until sometime after we’ve all left Meharry. I can tell you how I feel now: blessed to share this journey with each of you. There’s truly no other class of which I’d want to be a part. I love you all, and will cherish our memories for the rest of my life. Take care, and see ya around . . . Ex Plures Discipili, Unus Prosapia – Out of Many Students, One Family.”

## SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY Candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery

Tia Elizabeth Anderson  
Natchez, Mississippi

Adnan Anwar  
Elk Grove, California

Candice Brittany April  
Canton, Mississippi

Sandrika Treneice Barnes  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Antwan D. Bates  
Clarksville, Tennessee

Gary Allen Bethea  
Bennettsville, South Carolina

Kimberly Smith Bibbins  
Opelousas, Louisiana

Michele Nicole Blackledge  
Ventura, California

Kelvin Bostick  
Savannah, Georgia

Krystal Braddy  
Florence, Mississippi

Brittany Lauren Broomfield  
New Orleans, Louisiana



Aliya Carter  
Boston, Massachusetts

Jerry Chery  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Kristen Renee Crawford  
Fort Smith, Arkansas

Ryan Joseph Cumby  
Sacramento, California

Shannika Tricia Dao  
Miami, Florida

Gerald Eugene Davis, II  
Dallas, Texas

Lindsay Marie Davis  
Atlanta, Georgia

Yves Betty Delince  
Boston, Massachusetts

Gavin-Rae O'Neil Donaldson  
Kingston, Jamaica

Eleanor Bright Fleming  
Franklin, Tennessee

Tara Nicole Gainey  
Houston, Texas



School of Dentistry Class of 2011 at their White Coat Ceremony

Ashley Renee' Brown  
Hyattsville, Maryland

Herman Lee Butler, Jr.  
Nashville, Tennessee

Jacqueline J. Brown  
Emporia, Virginia

Karine Calixte  
Nashville, Tennessee

Phillip N. Greer  
Mobile, Alabama

Kenneth D. Shumate  
Washington, D.C.

Jameika Jovaughin Harvey  
North Caicos, Turks & Caicos  
Islands, B.W.I.

Quinton D. Slaughter  
Memphis, Tennessee

Akeele Ayanna Johnson  
New Iberia, Louisiana

Darius B. Smith  
Chicago, Illinois

Andre William Jordan  
Houston, Texas

Harvey Lee Spencer, Jr.  
Raleigh, North Carolina

Kevin Tyrone King, II  
Apex, North Carolina

Zenobia Adi Tamboli  
Waterbury, Connecticut

Christopher Austin Laing  
West Palm Beach, Florida

Russell Demetrius Taylor, III  
Fayetteville, North Carolina

Reginald Brian Ligon  
St. Petersburg, Florida

Marc C. Thevenin, Jr.  
Queens, New York

Titania Lee Martin  
Greensboro, North Carolina

Shani Oni Thompson  
Miami, Florida

Alicia Jessica Moore  
Tampa, Florida

Simeon Onu Udunka  
Atlanta, Georgia

Sylvester Edison Parker, III  
Stone Mountain, Georgia

Rashidah Tynetta Wiley  
Sacramento, California

Shemika Latoya Sample  
Greenwood, Mississippi

Jared Edward Williams  
Houston, Texas

Monica Lynn Sangster  
New Orleans, Louisiana

LaShica Miracle Ann Young  
Portsmouth, Virginia

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Dr. Maxwell with 2011 dental students



School of Dentistry Class of 2011



School of Dentistry Class of 2011



School of Dentistry Class of 2011

# SOGSR Commencement Send-Off

**Jane Ama Mantey, President, Graduate Student Association 2010–2011**

Congratulations School of Graduate Studies, Class of 2011 – You've made it! You came to Meharry Medical College to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary in your chosen career. You are, however, more than just a future success. You are the hope and dreams of little girls and boys of all races, colors and creeds who aspire to be someone. You are a wealth of knowledge who can lead our communities toward health equality. You are the key to finding treatments to illnesses plaguing people of color and eradicating health disparities. As the saying goes, "To whom much is given, much is expected." So, soon-to-be alumni of Meharry Medical College, you have made it to the finish line and now the real journey begins. Good luck!

## SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH Degree Candidates



### Doctor of Philosophy

Tunde Osogbemi Akinyeke, Jr.  
Washington, D.C.

Deacquita Laquade Harris  
Diggs  
Farmington, New Mexico

Anitra Leanette Farrow  
Hopkinsville, Kentucky

Marcus Cecil Ferguson  
Irmo, South Carolina

Jessica Gadsden Gray  
Nashville, Tennessee

Bobby Guillory  
Eunice, Louisiana

Mack Hall, III  
Norfolk, Virginia

Kera P. Lawson  
Savannah, Georgia

Patrice Ebony Moss  
Landover, Maryland



Khalil Harbi  
Casablanca, Morocco

Rasheeda S. Lawson  
Kankakee, Illinois

Hunane Muhammad  
Sudan, Africa

Rachael M. Ruffin  
Memphis, Tennessee

Georgia L. Sawyer  
Camden, North Carolina

Dyron Jetrell Stephens  
Stone Mountain, Georgia

Lenford Charles Sutton, II  
Sanford, Florida

Asher Abebe Turney  
Toney, Alabama

Mirabel Weriwoh  
Cameroon, Central Africa

Xing Yang  
Smyrna, Tennessee



Senior graduate students (PhD) from left to right: Patrice Moss, Jessica Gadsden-Gray, Tunde Akinyeke, and Deacquita L. Diggs. (Dr.Shockley holding flask)

### Master of Science in Public Health

Amirah B. Abdullah  
Moreno Valley, California

Naa Ayele Yaa Amponsah  
Cleveland, Ohio

Malcolm Bevel  
Waterloo, Iowa

Veronica G. Brown  
Memphis, Tennessee

Dwyllette R. Brownlee  
Batesville, Mississippi

Kenisha Roase Cantrell  
Atlanta, Georgia

Asia Curry  
Columbus, Georgia

Sasha Lashelle Curry  
Fort Benning, Georgia

Shawneaqua N. Edwards  
Chattanooga, Tennessee

Joelle Goggans  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Piia Hanson  
Beaumont, Texas

### Master of Science in Clinical Investigation

Teresa T. Byrd  
Los Angeles, California





Graduate students with Surgeon General  
Regina M. Benjamin M.D., M.B.A.



Ph.D. students raising HIV/AIDS awareness



Graduate students at the Family and Friends Annual Greek Step Show



MSPH students enjoying a night on the town



"The Heartbeat of Meharry Medical College"

## Match Day!

**Calvin Spellmon Jr., SOM IV**

Countless years of school all led up to March 17, 2011, during the fourth year of medical school. All of the studying, hard work, tears, exams, loans, late nights, stress, and again, loans, for this one special day. As my classmate Tiffany Jones explained, "Match Day meant the culmination of 20 plus years of hard work and determination."

For some, becoming a doctor was just a dream that once seemed unattainable. For me, Match Day was more than just opening an envelope and seeing where my residency would be. With a mother institutionalized most of your life suffering from schizophrenia, a father with alcohol abuse, no place to live, no running water, no lights or a definite meal, you tend to focus more on day to day survival and not becoming a doctor in the future. That envelope opened up doors for my siblings, nephews, and niece to have a better future. It symbolized the love from my grandmother, the trials and tribulations of my parents and my personal determination not to let anyone or anything deter me from my goals. These sentiments were echoed by many of my classmates on this day. Tolu Adeyemo, MS-IV, stated, "It was fulfilling God's purpose, God's destiny for me and I was grateful."

For some, however, opening that long awaited letter was a bittersweet experience. While they were grateful for future employment, they may have been nervous about where the envelope sent them. Nonetheless, most adopted the attitude that wherever they end up is exactly where they are supposed to be. According to Ryan Bliss, MS-IV, "Match was one of the most anxiety stricken moments in my life. I had an array of feelings about the location and program I might spend the next five years. It was certainly a day, a moment and a wait that I won't forget."

To many, Match Day is more important than graduation; it is more intimate and you are able to share a special moment with your loved ones. You have the opportunity to say a few words and to express what the moment means to you. Fellow MS-IV student, Sheena Pullman, explains, "Match Day is like another milestone such as white coat and graduation, a time to look forward to new things in the future, as well as a time of reflection." It is an event that marks the culmination of hard work and a great accomplishment for students across the country. Match Day takes place year after year, but each class has their own story. Diane Thomas, MS-IV, summed up the story of the class of 2011: "Years of tears, some good and some bad. Overcoming mountains, some tall and some small. Always striving for greatness, when at times you want to quit. Giving God all the glory for what He has done and will continue to do. Still in awe."



**Tyler Dirda wins the Match Day cash pot as his proud mother looks on**



**Ricardo Lugo and his wife opening his Match Day envelope**

*The Pulse is a publication written by students of Meharry Medical College and intended solely as an informative source for Meharry Medical College students, faculty and alumni.*

The Pulse • 1005 Dr. D.B. Todd Jr. Blvd • Nashville, TN • 37208  
 thepulse@mmc.edu