

# THE PULSE™

"The Heartbeat of Meharry Medical College"

**SPECIAL COMMENCEMENT EDITION**

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May 2010

Greetings to the Class of 2010!

You are the future of health care.

Since your arrival at Meharry Medical College, a few short years ago, the entire spectrum of health care has changed and will continue to do so. As health care providers, you will be intent on finding or providing cures for illness and disease while helping those you encounter to understand the importance of maintaining wellness through prevention.



With the March 30, 2010 signing of the new health care reform bill by President Barack Obama, you will find yourselves cast in many roles - whether you are a physician, a dentist, a biomedical scientist, a public health expert or a clinical investigator, it will be up to you to remember that the patient and our communities are the ultimate beneficiaries of your efforts. Your experience at Meharry has prepared you well for the exciting journey ahead of you.

This year has presented remarkable events that have provided great opportunities for Meharrrians to lead. For instance, following the horrific January 12, 2010 earthquake in Haiti, the students of Meharry Medical College helped steer reconstructive efforts by making a donation of more than \$10,000 to the Haiti School of Medicine. The School of Dentistry hosted a Free Dental Screening Day to raise awareness of the importance of good oral health. The School of Graduate Studies and Research presented an unprecedented "Research Day" and Meharry Medical College researchers, overall, were named "Tennesseans of the Year" by the Tennessean editorial board and its readers.

These are just a few examples of your efforts to put service above self. Class of 2010, know I am very proud of you. Never forget that, as you are committed to excellence. As Meharrrians, you must always exceed expectations. On this, the occasion of your commencement, and on behalf of the entire Meharry Medical College community, I welcome you to our family as alumni and as peers.

Congratulations on this landmark achievement on your life's path, worthy of all the grandeur planned for you. Meharry will always be your home. Be assured, we want you to come back, and yes, give back . . . as often as you can!

Yours for a Greater Meharry Medical College,

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

# SOM Commencement Send-Off

**Johnathan Laymance, SOM IV**

It's hard to believe that our childhood dreams of becoming physicians are soon to be realized. It seems as though just yesterday we stepped into the halls of West Basic Sciences where Dr. Atta energized us with his smile and, Dr. Jackson instilled the fear of God in us as he taught the intricacies of human anatomy. Along the way, so many more great minds have contributed to the foundation of our medical education and we are truly appreciative of their contributions. As we prepare to depart, I have no doubt that we have been equipped with the knowledge base and skills necessary to become some of the best diagnosticians and physicians in this country.

Reflecting on the journey, we realize that the paths that led each of us to Meharry are as diverse as the roads that lie ahead. Some will specialize while many will enter the field of primary care to carry out the institutional mission of serving the underserved. Our paths have intersected here at Meharry for a reason. We have learned from each other's weaknesses, carried each other with our strengths and together, we now cross the finish line, arm in arm as physicians.

As the road of life forks once again, and we go our separate ways, may we forever remember the motto of our alma mater, "Worship of God through service to mankind." May God bless each of you and may God continue to bless this place called Meharry.

## SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

### Candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Medicine



Lukumán O. Afuwape  
Chicago, Illinois

Antony Denard, Jr.  
Les Cayes, Haiti

Laveil M. Allen  
Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Jennifer Elicia Evans  
Macon, Georgia

Ashley Andrea-Jean Artis  
Chicago, Illinois

NailaRashida Larena Frye  
Southern Pines, North Carolina

Brenda Uche Azebeokhai  
Atlanta, Georgia

Jeanene Hillary Gabriel  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Louise Nicole Bacon  
Nashville, Tennessee

LaKisha Garduño  
Richmond, California

Gala Markia Barden  
Houston, Texas

Cassandra Kim Bradly  
New Kent, Virginia

Noelle Bianca Cobbs  
Freeport, New York

Angelica Thyais Garrett  
Pitts Grove, New Jersey

Bridget Sheila Battles  
Lilburn, Georgia

Mashanda T. Campbell  
Warner Robins, Georgia

David Alexander Coffey  
Oneida, Tennessee

Omar Gowayed  
Germantown, Maryland

Mauree NaShea Beard  
Peoria, Illinois

Earl Alden Canson, III  
Bakersfield, California

Chauncey Denise Davis  
Albany, Georgia

Jeffeea Nicole Gullett  
Mobile, Alabama

Amina Bilal  
Akron, Ohio

Kelli Giale Chan  
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Eric D. Davis  
College Park, Georgia

Sumayah Hargette  
Durham, North Carolina

Mary Blair-Giscombe  
Asheville, North Carolina

Chayla Muriel Chasten  
Anchorage, Alaska

Jared Michael Davis  
Jackson, Mississippi

Angel L. Harper  
Albany, Georgia

Malcolm David Blanchard  
Stone Mountain, Georgia

David C.A. Chunn  
Raleigh, North Carolina

Raven G. Davis  
Shreveport, Louisiana

Ervin A. Hunt  
Indianapolis, Indiana

Alisha Dione Bogus  
Plano, Texas

Charles Edward Clark  
Chicago, Illinois

Tramaine Angela Davis  
Washington, District of  
Columbia

Ikponmwoa Iyamu  
Houston, Texas





School of Medicine Class of 2010 in their first year

Erica Nicole Johnson  
Birmingham, Alabama

Gabrielle Johnson  
Smithfield, Virginia

Marc Edward Johnson  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Ashley LeeAnn Jones  
Covington, Tennessee

Kea Michelle Jones  
Saint Martinville, Louisiana

Alisha DeMil King  
Conway, Arkansas

Michelle R. Latham  
Richmond, Virginia

Jonathan Ben Laymance  
Wartburg, Tennessee

Rosanne Léger  
Les Cayes, Haïti

Natasha Ann Lowe  
Augusta, Georgia

Ronald Salazar Manalo  
Columbus, Georgia

Francinia S. McCartney  
Nassau, Bahamas

Allison Beth McDaniel  
Pensacola, Florida

Raynia Letitia McGee  
Munford, Alabama

Camille P. McLean  
Spanish Town, Jamaica

Donald Warren Monroe, III  
Huntsville, Alabama

Brooke Louisa Morrell  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Don Michael Morring, Jr.  
Elizabeth City, North Carolina

Shannon Lynelle Murphy  
LaPlace, Louisiana

Princess Thomas Nelson  
Columbus, Georgia

HaiThuy N. Nguyen  
San Bernardino, California

Luis Horacio Ocampo, Jr.  
Tampa, Florida

Janai Marbury Okorodudu  
O'Fallon, Illinois

Adedoyin O. Okusanya  
Tampa, Florida

Dana J. Parker  
Prairieville, Louisiana

Analeta N. Peterson  
Alachua, Florida

Benjamin Martin Petty  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Tiffany Jones Petty  
Memphis, Tennessee

Dara Nkenge Pumphrey  
Chicago, Illinois

Timothy Amin Raissian  
Nashville, Tennessee

Maria Theresa dela Cruz  
Ramonos  
San Diego, California

Amarnadha Paturu Reddy  
Atlanta, Georgia

Ashley K. Reed  
Peoria, Illinois

Alexis Luz Rodriguez  
Cornwall, New York

Stefani Margaret Samples  
Nashville, Tennessee

Dorie Angela Saxon  
Atlanta, Georgia

DuMetz Rashad Scott  
Columbia, South Carolina

Naim Sharifi  
Nashville, Tennessee

Stephen Spencer  
Richmond, Virginia

Christopher D. Stewart  
Lithonia, Georgia

Kelly Ariel Stewart  
Nashville, Tennessee

Krystal Lynette Thompson  
Queens, New York

Hong Ngoc Tran  
Nashville, Tennessee

Julius Montrell Turner  
Vidalia, Louisiana

Velair Kelvina Walton  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Alisha Valtrisse Williams  
Gainesville, Florida

Shamita Morgan Williams  
Miami, Florida

Shannon Teresa Willis  
Columbus, Georgia

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School of Medicine Class of 2010

# SOD Commencement Send-Off

## Justin Washington, SOD IV

Commencement is the culmination of our lifelong dreams. It is hard to believe that this phase of our journey has almost come to a close. Those days of struggling through gross anatomy with Dr. Jackson, or the many days spent memorizing and drawing characteristics of teeth with Dr. Tyus, are all but a faint memory. The laughs, tears, victories and struggles of the last four years will forever be ingrained on my heart. It also is the realization that the ceremony doesn't signify the end, but rather the beginning of our training. God has given us the incredible opportunity of being servants to those in need and living up to the motto of our fine institution. My advice is that you do not let money be the only motivation that gets you where you are going. Let the innocent passions, that sparked the motivation for your wanting to pursue this noble profession, burn brightly in your hearts. You are more than conquerors, and I pray you enjoy every moment of your newly found success. Be an example to the many young people who will look up to you and want to pursue dentistry simply because you let your light shine. Last but not least, remember your alma mater. Meharry has given us this incredible opportunity and it is our responsibility to give back so that future generations can benefit from a historic institution like this one. I wish you all continued success in your future endeavors. God Bless.

## SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

### Candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery



Teneshia Earline Acklin  
Toomsba, Mississippi

Tolulope O. Adefarati  
Lagos, Nigeria

Ehidanmegbe Okunwa  
Akharume  
Jackson, Mississippi

Asfaw Ambaye  
Denver, Colorado

Ann Lauren Armstrong  
Hickory, North Carolina

Sunny C. Bant  
Nashville, Tennessee

Carla S. Belgarde-Duru  
Los Angeles, California

Carla Marie Bonaparte  
Aguadilla, Puerto Rico

Kimberly Lynn Boyett  
Dade City, Florida

Samuel G. Brick  
Peoria, Arizona

Brandon Kahlil Callaway  
Kennesaw, Georgia

Sabrina Harper Dailey  
Athens, Georgia



Alexa Allison Dyer  
Carthage, Tennessee

Regine Dyer  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Pamela Chinwe Ejiolor  
Las Vegas, Nevada

JiMiesh DeNeldre' Green  
Macon, Georgia

Chavala Melita Harris  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Robin T. Hobbs  
Houston, Texas

Jason Lafayette Jolivet  
Houston, Texas

Ebony Revè Jordan  
Indianapolis, Indiana

Eric G. Lawton, Jr.  
Jonesboro, Georgia

Andrew David Lyons, III  
Raleigh, North Carolina

Crystal Dawn Manners  
Clarksville, Tennessee

Christopher Martinez  
McAllen, Texas

Michelle Davila  
Nogales, Arizona

Cheryl Maria Davis  
Atlanta, Georgia



Class of 2010 dental students, amongst others, participating in "Grandparent's Day"

Raynald Michel  
Miami, Florida

Renicke Reshaud Moss  
Dallas, Texas

Tram Ngoc Nguyen  
Garden Grove, California

Diahann Shola Renee Onadeko  
Miami, Florida

Sonal Yogesh Patel  
Alpharetta, Georgia

Chauntell L. Pullman  
Atlanta, Georgia

Quiana J. Reid  
Charlotte, North Carolina

Tenia De'Nai Rhodes  
Houston, Texas

Chastity Lynn Rucker  
Nashville, Tennessee

Kastan Keith Sims  
Memphis, Tennessee

James Slaughter, III  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Danielle Ellise Smart  
Fort Washington, Maryland

Jinaki Kianga Stallworth  
Nashville, Tennessee

Vinh Tran  
Atlanta, Georgia  
An N. Trinh  
Sacramento, California

Maribell Vega  
Newark, New Jersey

Alex W. Ramos Vera  
San Sebastián, Puerto Rico

Marquita Diane Wallace  
Charlotte, North Carolina

Justin Howard Washington  
Queens, New York

Manise Washington  
Fond Des Blancs, Haiti

Brandon Joseph Webb  
Modesto, California

Jessica Rose White  
Clarksville, Tennessee

Joya LaShan White  
Detroit, Michigan

Tiffany Rochelle White  
Raleigh, North Carolina

Rossi Miguel Williams  
Dayton, Ohio

Tiffany Elise Wilson  
Country Club Hills, Illinois

Elias D. Woldeabezgie  
Dallas, Texas

Judson Ryan Wood  
Nashville, Tennessee

Aisha Vernita Woods  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

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(L-R): Senior dental students An Tran, JiMiech Green, Manise Washington and Tiffany White



(L-R): Senior dental students Alex Ramos, Regine Dyer, Tenia Rhodes, Sunny Bant, Tran Nguyen and Vinh Tran



School of Dentistry Class of 2010

# SOGSR Commencement Send-Off

**Malachy Nkem, SOGSR**

Congratulations to the School of Graduate Studies and Research Class of 2010! My friends and colleagues, it has been a great pleasure sharing a few glimpses of my life's journey with you. We have all come such a long way to be where we are now. As doctors and health professionals, we shall never forget who granted us the opportunity to reach this aptitude of our educational endeavors. Whatever brought us this far shall surely take us farther than we can ever imagine. From time to time, I get flashbacks to the days of walking miles to school every morning in Nigeria, being out of school for half the terms because my parents could not afford my school fees, and prolonged public school strikes. I am truly humbled by the fact that I have made it this far. I thank my family for their support, and my classmates who, at times, are the source of my motivation. In the words of Nelson Mandela, "After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb." To some of us this is that great hill, we have reached the edge of the plateau, and it is time to chart a course for new horizons.

## SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH Degree Candidates

### Doctor of Philosophy

Tynette Fletcher  
Chicago, Illinois

Deacquita Laquade Harris  
Farmington, New Mexico

Kera Patrice Lawson  
Savannah, Georgia

Patrice Ebony Moss  
Landover, Maryland

Rhonda LoLita Nelson  
Houston, Texas

Nykolaus Pitts Reed  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Candice A. Shaifer  
Clinton, Maryland

### Master of Science in Public Health

Sarwat Ajmal  
Brentwood, Tennessee

LaToya Jade-Nichole Blanks  
Saginaw, Michigan

Claudine Leslie-Ann Brown  
Mandeville, Jamaica

Kewann Dave Carter  
New Orleans, Louisiana



Edward Mitchell Davis, Jr.  
San Diego, California

Shenika D. Handfield  
Grand Turk, Turks & Caicos  
Islands

Tineciaá Twaneitte Harris  
Fayette, Mississippi

Nicole A. Johnson  
Malvern, Arkansas

Courtney Johnson Kihlberg  
Nashville, Tennessee

Sametria Rochelle McCammon  
Damascus, Maryland

Malachy Tochi Nkem  
Nashville, Tennessee

Heather Marie O'Hara  
St. Louis, Missouri

Kimberly Necola' Seals  
Mobile, Alabama

Veronyca Caye Washington  
Memphis, Tennessee

Wen Xie  
Rockville, Maryland



Graduate Students Association with Dr. Floyd

**Master of Science in Clinical Investigation**

Antoinne C. Able  
Memphis, Tennessee

Richmond A. Akatue  
Accra, Ghana

Richard O. White, III  
Nashville, Tennessee

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**MSPH graduate students**



**MSPH graduate students with Mayor Karl Dean**



**MSPH graduate students in the Ross Fitness Center**



**Graduate students enjoying the Commencement ceremony**



"The Heartbeat of Meharry Medical College"

# The Road Less Traveled

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveler, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth

Then took the other as just as fair  
And having perhaps the better claim  
Because it was grassy and wanted wear  
Though as for that, the passing there  
Had worn them really about the same

And both that morning equally lay  
In leaves no step had trodden black  
Oh, I kept the first for another day!  
Yet, knowing how way leads onto way  
I doubted if I should ever come back

I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence  
Two roads diverged in a wood  
And I took the one less traveled by  
And that has made all the difference

- Robert Frost



To the Class of 2010,

*May your character and brilliance shine brightly as you show the world of health professions the passion and drive of Meharry Medical College graduates. Congratulations on this extraordinary achievement!*

Best Wishes,  
The Pulse Staff  
2009-2010



*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.*