In accordance with the mission of Howard University, the College of Arts and Sciences provides its students with an undergraduate education grounded in the quest for intellectual freedom, social justice, artistic expression and pursuit of knowledge. Ultimately, the programs of the College seek to encourage the development of critical and creative thinking in both the scholarly and artistic modes.

Solutions to human, scientific and social problems are achievable through the liberal, fine and performing arts, and the natural and social sciences. The rich variety of programs offered by the four divisions of the College reflects the diversity of society-at-large.

With diverse curricula and degree programs, emphasis on synthesis of knowledge/learning and a sense of responsibility to the global community, the College of Arts and Sciences provides a haven and source of nurture to culturally diverse students of all academic pursuits.
Welcome to the Flagship, the quarterly newsletter published by the College of Arts and Sciences, the oldest and largest academic unit at Howard University. During recent years many academic institutions across the nation have experienced the reality of budget constraints. The rising tide of limited resources has affected every aspect of higher learning in these economically complex times. The College of Arts and Sciences, the heartland of the University, has not escaped the looming specter of dwindling resources. Over the past few years, however, we have used strategic forecasting, responsible fiscal decisions, and technological innovations to continue to offer top level, intellectually stimulating programs to our students. Our faculty members are among the finest at the University and our students represent the best and brightest from across the country and around the world. Despite the challenges, we have remained committed to our goal of offering an excellent education to thousands of students we serve from the various schools and colleges of Howard University in addition to our own arts and sciences majors. Admittedly, our responsibility is great; however, the College takes great pride and joy in making this significant contribution to the University. We are pleased, therefore, to report that we have had a successful academic year. We continue to strengthen our programs and implement cutting-edge endeavors to make us more competitive for the future. We are proud of what we have achieved and would like to share our accomplishments, and, yes, challenges, with our College of Arts and Sciences family-faculty, staff, students, alumni, and supporters. We hope that each issue of the newsletter will bring us closer together as a community, allowing us to keep track of the interests and activities of all our members, especially our alumni who have gone into the larger world to make contributions. We hope that the Flagship will provide all of us a means to stay connected to alma mater and give those who have strayed away from us an opportunity to rekindle their relationship to the College.

This Spring 2007 Special Edition issue of the Flagship highlights departmental activities as well as the accomplishments of many of our stellar faculty, staff and students. Subsequent issues will feature news on special initiatives in the College, upcoming events, fundraising activities, student and faculty news, staff activities, and alumni news. Please enjoy this issue of the Flagship and accept our appreciation for your continued support.

Sincerely,
James A. Donaldson
Alfred Bennett Spellman Presents the English Department's 56th Annual Burch Lecture

Alfred Bennett Spellman, writer, culture critic, educator, arts visionary, and retired Deputy Director for Programs at the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), delivered the 56th Annual Burch Lecture sponsored by the Department of English on Thursday, April 26, 2007, at 2:00 p.m., in the Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel. Audiences were treated to a delectable afternoon sweetened by the speaker’s stunning knowledge of the inside world of jazz and culture, especially during the Harlem Renaissance. He divulged, for example, that one of the fashion trends among women in Paris during the 20’s and 30’s was the rubbing of walnut oil on the skin to darken it à la Josephine Baker. He also encouraged members of the audience to become more familiar with little known artists such as New Orleans born clarinet and saxophone virtuoso Sidney Bechet—a contemporary of the better known Louie Armstrong. Alfred Bennett Spellman, Jr. (better known as A.B. Spellman) was born in North Carolina in 1935 and graduated from Howard University as a Political Science major in 1956. Dr. Gregory Hampton, Assistant Professor in the Department of English, was chairman of this successful 56th Burch Lecture.

Classics Department Snowden Lecture

On Thursday, April 5, 2007, in Childers Hall, the Department of Classics hosted, and the College of Arts and Sciences co-sponsored, the fifth annual Snowden Lecture, a series initiated in 2003 to pay tribute to the notable life and illustrious achievements of Professor Frank M. Snowden, Jr., a mainstay at Howard University from 1940-1990 during which time he held a series of posts, including Chairman of the Department of Classics from 1942-1978. In addition to being an internationally renowned scholar on the subject of Blacks in antiquity, Professor Snowden also received many honors including the prestigious National Humanities medal bestowed upon him at a White House ceremony on November 21, 2003. He also served with distinction in the U.S. diplomatic corps.

Professor Snowden died on February 18th of this year and so it was especially poignant that the 2007 Snowden lecturer this year was his son, Frank M. Snowden, III, himself an accomplished scholar of modern Italian history and professor at Yale University. His presentation was entitled, “Growing Up with Zeus: Memories of Childhood, ‘Black Athena’ and Frank M. Snowden, Jr.” The introduction of Dr. Rudolph Hock, current Chairman of the Department of Classics, and the presentation by Professor Snowden, III are available for viewing via video-stream on the University website.
Katrina Revisited

Last spring, several COAS students led by the Howard University Chapter of Amnesty International, and supported financially by COAS faculty members, traveled to New Orleans for Spring Break to help the Katrina-devastated residents in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans, including gutting houses and staffing clinics.

Several COAS students were so highly committed to this endeavor that they spent another two weeks of summer 2006 in New Orleans working with the Peoples Organizing Committee, a grassroots New Orleans group.

Katrina Pilot Course - Interdisciplinary Research for Freshmen

In January 2007, the College of Arts and Sciences enrolled freshman students into a new pilot course "Interdisciplinary Approaches to Research" (3 credits). This year’s topic on Katrina explored the physical, environmental, economic, and health effects of Hurricane Katrina through interdisciplinary approaches that allowed students to examine the process of conducting research, including collecting, designing, analyzing, and interpreting data related to the natural disaster. A major requirement of the course is that students be enrolled in a corollary English 003 "Writing for Research" course (the 2nd semester Freshman English course) that reinforces and extends the research process. Participating English 003 teachers were Patricia Noone, Marlena Bremseth and Dr. T. P. Mahadevan. The pilot course, developed and spearheaded by Dr. Gregory Jenkins (Physics) and George Middendorf (Biology), was developed through the auspices of a Mellon Grant obtained by the University.

COAS Disaster Relief Grant

The College of Arts and Sciences received a Disaster Relief Grant in the amount of $35,000 from Scholarship America to help students adversely affected by Hurricanes Dennis, Katrina, Rita, and Wilma.

COAS Honors Convocation - October 27, 2006

The College held its Honors Convocation on October 27, 2006, at 5:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of Ernest Just Hall. The keynote speaker was acclaimed art historian Gwendolyn Everett, who delivered a lecture on "Art in the Harlem Renaissance."
Partnership with Johns Hopkins for Research and Education in Materials Award

To enhance diversity in the materials research field, the National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced awards for six new Partnerships for Research and Education in Materials (PREM). The partnerships are designed to link minority-serving institutions with centers, groups or facilities already being funded by NSF’s Division of Materials Research. These formal long-term collaborations will bring together researchers with diverse expertise to address complex, interdisciplinary challenges in materials research and education. Howard University has partnered with the Johns Hopkins University MRSEC ($2.75 million). Dr. Joshua Halpern serves as director. This PREM joins Howard University, the Johns Hopkins University MRSEC, and Prince Georges Community College. The partnership’s research will focus on nanowire growth and phenomenology in three areas: (1) transport properties in bismuth nanowires; (2) transport properties in indium nitride nanowires; and (3) fabrication of dipolar nitride nanowires for nonlinear optical elements.

The partnership will produce new courses and laboratory modules, as well as materials-centered, guided-inquiry software suited to college and high-school general chemistry and general physics classes. Broad dissemination of the software will inform students about the impact materials have on their lives and attract them to materials related careers.

Agilent Technologies sets up a $600,000 Mass Spectrometry Demonstration Lab

Agilent Technologies sets up a $600,000 Mass Spectrometry Demonstration Lab. As part of a partnership between the departments of Biology and Chemistry at Howard University, Agilent Technologies installed a $600,000 liquid chromatograph electrospray ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometer (LC-ESI-TOFMS) facility housed in the Department of Chemistry. The system will enhance interdisciplinary research and training at the biology/chemistry interface. According to Dr. Folahan Ayorinde, Professor of Chemistry, the Agilent 6210 TOF LC/MS delivers exceptional analytical performance and sensitivity for proteomics, metabolite profiling, natural products, food additives and contaminants, synthetic intermediates and products, pharmaceuticals, and more.

NAACP President Bruce Gordon Speaks at Economics Forum

NAACP President Bruce Gordon addressed the critical topic of Poverty in America at the Economic Policy Forum on October 6, 2006, sponsored by the Department of Economics. The event took place in the auditorium of the Blackburn Center and was broadcast on C-Span.
Undergraduates Present at 2nd Annual COAS Research Symposium

On April 17th and 18th, one hundred (100) Howard University undergraduate researchers, including seniors from the COAS Honors Program, participated in the College of Arts and Sciences 2nd Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium in the Blackburn Center. After careful deliberation by volunteer faculty judges, winners were selected from the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences categories. Congratulations to all presenters and the following award winners:

HUMANITIES

1ST
Erin Scott (English)
The Debate: Whole Language versus Phonics
Faculty Mentor - Dr. Dana Williams

2ND
Kristen Bushnell (Classics)
Why Was Jesus Crucified?
Faculty Mentor - Dr. Molly Levine

3RD
Christian Murphy (Classics)
An Archetype for the Quest for Political Office: Lessons from Ancient Rome
Faculty Mentor - Dr. Rudolph Hock

NATURAL SCIENCES

1ST
Elizabeth K. Williams (Chemistry)
Nafion Nanocomposites for Fuel Cell Applications
Faculty Mentor - Dr. Dharmaraj Raghavan

2ND
William Lambert (Biology)
Prevalence of Bovine Tuberculosis in the Holeta Dairy Farm, Central Ethiopia
Faculty Mentor - Dr. Winston Anderson

3RD
Nyasha George (Physics)
An Algorithm for Single Molecule Sequencing of DNA
Faculty Mentor - Dr. James Lindesay

SOCIAL SCIENCES

1ST
Marcus Bellamy (Spanish)
Autobiographies of Blood: The Afro-Colombian Genocide
Faculty Mentor - Mr. Kevin Bryant

2ND
Dominique Winters (Political Science)
Rehnquist versus Stevens: Two Conservatives in Opposition
Faculty Mentor - Dr. Abdul K. Bangura

3RD
Leigh Anderson (Sociology and Anthropology)
Dilemma in the Midst of a Crisis: Case Study of the New Orleans Police Department During the Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina
Faculty Mentor - Dr. Terri Adams-Fuller

POSTERS

1ST
Alexandra Sutton (Biology)
The Effect of Salinity on Filtration of the West African Mangrove Oyster, Crassostrea tulipa
Faculty Mentors - Drs. Kobina Yankson and Dr. George Middendorf

3RD
Leia Foster (Biology)
Effectivity and Tolerance of Methylphenidate Drugs versus Amphetamine Drugs in Children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
Faculty Mentor - Dr. William Eckberg

Production of Polyhydroxalkanoate by A. Latus, P. Oleovaorans, E. Coli and R. Eutropha
Faculty Mentor - Dr. Broderick Enibo

Chiagozie O. Ononiwu (Biology)
Jatropha Curcas Oil as a Substrate for the
African Studies presents Symposium with British Embassy

On December 7, 2006, The Howard University Department of African Studies / Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center in partnership with the British Embassy, Washington, D.C., presented a symposium: Africa Looking Back and Ahead: Addressing the Gleneagles Summit Promise for a Better World, Wednesday, February 15, 2006, 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. in Howard University’s Armour J. Blackburn University Center, East Ballroom. His Excellency Sir David Manning, British Ambassador to the United States, and His Excellency Professor George Obiozor, Nigerian Ambassador to the United States, were in attendance. The symposium examined the challenges of poverty, disease, economic decline and environmental degradation reflective in current African trade and ecological policies.

Round Table Discussion of August Wilson's Joe Turner's Come and Gone

The Department of Theatre Arts sponsored a round table discussion, entitled "Understanding August Wilson - Joe Turner's Come and Gone" on Friday, November 17, 2006, in the Ira Aldridge Theatre featuring faculty from the College-English, Theatre Arts, Art, Philosophy, and Afro-American Studies. The production of "Joe Turner" was directed by Professor Denise Hart of the Theatre Department. Many of the panelists were part of a larger group (including off campus members) organized by August Wilson scholar and Professor of English Dr. Sandra Shannon to establish an August Wilson Society on the Howard University campus.

Composer Billy Taylor Visits the Division of Fine Arts

Dr. Billy Taylor, award-winning composer, pianist, scholar, and educator, lectured on his life and career to a broad audience on October 5, 2006, in the Division of Fine Arts. Dr. Taylor, a consummate musician and teacher, also conducted a master class for advanced music students.

Health Fair hosted by Sociology/Psychology/HHPLS - 2006

Dr. Ivor Livingston of the Department of Sociology with participating faculty from the Department of Psychology and Health, Human Performance, and Leisure Studies organized a Health Fair in the Blackburn Center on September 19, 2006. The event promoted greater awareness among the broad Howard University community of the valuable benefits of preventive measures.
Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Independent Ghana - March 2007

The College of Arts and Sciences celebrated the 50th anniversary of Ghanaian independence in a 2-day conference held on March 6th and 7th. In the West Ballroom of the Blackburn Center President Patrick Swygert officially opened the celebration by welcoming participants and sharing fond memories of his time spent in Ghana. For two days conference attendees were treated to scholarly panels, lively discussions (especially that organized by COAS undergraduates recently returned from Ghana), art, music, and feasting. A high point of the event was the keynote address delivered by African scholar, Dr. Ali A. Mazrui, Director of the Institute of Global Cultural Studies at Binghamton University, SUNY, and lauded for his acclaimed PBS television series *The Africans: A Triple Heritage*. On Wednesday, Ambassador Horace Dawson, Director of the Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center, introduced the luncheon speaker, the Honorable H.E. Dr. Kwame Bawuah-Edusei, Ambassador of the Republic of Ghana and an alumnus of Howard University. The celebration ended with a screening of Shirikiana Aina-Gerima’s riveting film, *Through The Door of No Return*. The conference was planned and organized by a special committee led by Dr. Mbye Cham, Chairman of the Department of African Studies.

Biology Student Receives National Recognition

May 2006 alumnus Gerald Bright (Biology major), after graduating from the NSF sponsored Environmental Biology Scholars Program in the Department of Biology last spring and winning the Best Student Research Award at the Atlantic Estuarine Research Society meeting, is currently pursuing a graduate degree in Environmental Science at Yale University. His accomplishments were cited in the August 20, 2006, edition of the *Philadelphia Tribune*. His Howard University mentors were Dr. Mary McKenna and Dr. George Middendorf of the Department of Biology.

Four Students Win Fulbright Grants for 2007 - 2008

Three (3) students in the College of Arts and Sciences have won coveted Fulbright awards to teach and explore research topics in Ethiopia, Russia, Thailand, and Venezuela. Nicole L. Cuellar (Spanish major and Russian minor) will be teaching and researching in Russia. Angela Bacon, an English major with a passion for literature and writing, will be going to Thailand; and Arizona native, Marcus Bellamy, a Spanish major and Afro-American Studies minor, will be teaching in Venezuela. The fourth scholar, Steffan A. Spencer, a graduate student in the Department of History, will assist in the translation of a rare ancient manuscript in Ethiopia.
HU Freshman Entrepreneurs Win Prizes

Freshman students Alibia Henry (Political Science), Jacqulyn Bell (undecided), Shavon Comfort (Psychology), and Kirstan Crawley (Communications) were part of a Howard University 4-member team presenting a winning business plan at the 2nd Ford HBCU Business Classic, a national business plan competition held in Washington, D.C., on March 16, 2007. Students were judged by a panel composed of influential entrepreneurs from the African American business community. The Howard University team presented B.E.N.A.B. (Because Everybody Needs a Book), Inc., a book rental business aimed at reducing the cost of book purchasing for students. Competing against upperclassmen and MBA students from schools across the nation, the HU team received $20,000. The students reported being inspired by the orientation program provided to incoming freshmen by the University’s Institute for Entrepreneurship, Leadership, and Innovation (ELI).

Students Win Prestigious Thomas Pickering Award

African Studies senior Brittanie Anderson shares the honor with English Department alumnus Hakim Hassan (2005) on being named 2007 Thomas Pickering Graduate Fellows. This highly competitive national award sponsored by the U.S. State Department provides Fellows with 2 years of graduate study at universities of their choice leading to a master’s degree in international affairs or related fields. Upon completion, they enter the State Department as diplomats in the U.S. Foreign Service. George Washington University is the only other institution with 2 winners among the 20 selected from universities such as Cornell, Yale, University of Massachusetts, Fisk, Stanford, and Tulane. Both winners have an impressive background of international experiences.

African Studies Graduate is Deputy Chief of Staff of Liberian President

African Studies major and alumna of Howard University, Robtel Pailey was 1 of 5 finalists selected in April 2007 for a year-long fellowship with the Liberian government. After a video conference interview, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf chose Robtel to work alongside her as her Deputy Chief of Staff. She will begin her new duties in July following the departure of President Sirleaf’s current Deputy Chief of Staff who will begin pursuing graduate studies at Harvard University.
Howard University ROTC Cadet Commissioned at the White House

LuRonnda Lane, chemistry major and May graduating senior, was commissioned as an officer at the White House on May 17, 2007, during a special ceremony hosted by the President. “Howard’s ROTC program taught me about leadership, discipline, and finding the essential balance between the program, academic work, and other campus activities,” stated the young officer. The May 17th ceremony was the first time in the nation’s history that the President played a personal role in a joint commissioning event involving participants from the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines.

Sophomore Wins Coveted Luard Scholarship

Political Science major Sean E. Mickens (sophomore) has won the prestigious 2007 Luard Scholarship that will sponsor a year-long study (2007-08) at the university of his choice in the United Kingdom. The merit-based Luard Scholarship is open to sophomore students attending United Negro College Fund institutions. Mickens maintains a GPA of 3.8 and is active in several campus organizations such as the Howard University Student Association and the Honors Council of the College of Arts and Sciences Honors Association. He is also campus campaign manager of Teach for America and the vice president of Operations for the Howard University Mock Trial Team.
FEATURED FACULTY & STAFF

2006 - 2007 COAS Faculty Fulbright Fellowships

Five (5) COAS faculty spent 2006 and 2007 undertaking projects funded by a Fulbright Scholar Award. Dr. Jon Woodson, Professor in the Department of English, lectured at universities in Pecs, Hungary, and Budapest. Dr. Alan L. McPherson, Associate Professor in the Department of History, researched and lectured on "U.S.-Latin American Relations: The Dominican Response to U.S. Occupation, 1916-1924" in the Dominican Republic. A research project on "Treaty Rights and Sovereignty in the Wake of Globalization: The Well-Being of Canada's Aboriginal Peoples" took Political Science associate professor Dr. Marilyn Lashley to McMaster University in Hamilton, Canada, while fellow Political Science colleague, Dr. Michael Frazier (Professor), served his tenure as Senior Specialist in Public Administration at The Jiangxi University of Finance and Economics in China. Currently in Senegal is Dr. Francoise Pfaff, Professor in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, lecturing and researching on the topic "Francophone Culture Through Literature and Film; Senegal: Film and Culture" at Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar. Congratulations to all of them!

Honor Students Pick Teachers of the Year!

Three COAS teachers share the coveted title of Teacher of the Year following a close election by the College of Arts & Sciences Honors Association. Dr. Gregory Carr of the Department of Afro-American Studies; Dr. Mary McKenna of Biology; and Dr. Dana Williams of the Department of English were recognized by students of the Honors Program as exemplary scholars and mentors. The announcement was made at a gala dinner in the Blackburn Center on April 26, 2007, sponsored by CASHA (The College of Arts and Sciences Honors Association). Dr. Daniel Williams, Director of the COAS Honors Program, and Ms. Karen Murdock, Administrative Secretary, received awards and accolades for their sterling services to the students.

Professor of Mathematics Wins Coveted Prize

In December 2006 Professor Toka Diagana of the Department of Mathematics of Howard University received the PRIX CHINGUITTY (Chinguitty Prize) from the Republic of Mauritania for 2006. The "Chinguitty Prize in Sciences" is a national prize awarded yearly to either a citizen of Mauritania or of another country for major research achievements in sciences. The prize is accompanied by a sum of approximately $15,000 and a diploma from the Ministry of National Education of Mauritania. Awarded at an official ceremony before the President of Mauritania and the Diplomatic Corps in Nouakchott, Republic of Mauritania, Professor Diagana is the first black African to receive the Chinguitty Prize since it was established in 1999.
Associate Professor Named "Top Young Historian" by History News Network

Dr. Alan L. McPherson, associate professor in the Department of History, has recently been named by the History News Network as "Top Young Historian." Dr. McPherson is most noted for his book, *Yankee No!: Anti-Americanism in U.S.-Latin American Relations* (Harvard University Press, 2003), which won the A.B. Thomas Award for Book of the Year from the Southeastern Council on Latin American Studies and named Outstanding Academic Title for 2004 by Choice Magazine.


A native of Canada, Dr. McPherson is the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships.

Economics Professor Wins the Cheikh Anta Diop International Conference Award

The Cheikh Anta Diop International Conference Award Committee presented to Professor Kofi Kissi Dompere (Economics Department) the ANKH Award for the best book published in the tradition of Cheikh Anta Diop during the last year. Dr. Dompere's outstanding book, *Polyrhythmicity: Foundations of African Philosophy* will have a singular impact on the way we study African agency in human thought. In this dynamic scholarly work, Dr. Dompere proves that he is a theorist and practitioner dedicated to nurturing a community of African thinkers.

Board Appointment for Sociology Chair

Dr. Florence B. Bonner (Sociology chair) was appointed to serve on The Editorial Board of the *Race & Social Policy*, a new Journal launched by the Association of Black Sociologists.
Chairman of English Department Inducted Into the Hall of Fame

At a Gala dinner and awards ceremony on April 23, 2006, at the Grand Hyatt, the Washington DC Hall of Fame Society recognized Dr. Eleanor W. Taylor, Chair of the Department of English, for her achievements in Cultural Arts, presenting her with a Legacy Award alongside honorees such as Harry G. Robinson, III (James E. Silcott Professor of Architecture and Dean Emeritus at Howard University) and former Secretary of the Army, Togo D. West, Jr., now president and chief executive officer of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies.

The DC Hall of Fame Legacy Award program was established in 1998 to recognize District of Columbia residents who have made a tremendous impact on the growth and development of the city.

Biology Professor Receives $1 Million for Research

Dr. Winston Anderson, Professor of Biology, was named among the 20 best scientists in academia by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI). In an effort to promote research in the classroom, HHMI awards $1 Million to top scientists such as Dr. Anderson to help them transform their creativity and innovative ideas into action.

The HHMI recipients represent researchers from diverse fields, including genetics, biochemistry, plant pathology, bioengineering, neuroscience, biophysics, and computational biology. HHMI, a nonprofit medical research organization, was established in 1953 by industrialist Howard Hughes. It is one of the largest philanthropic organizations in the world with an endowment of $14.8 billion.

New Addition to the Department of Classics

After 8 years as a student loans specialist and student accounts analyst at Howard, Ms. April Jenkins joined the Department of Classics in March 2007 as a new Administrative Assistant. So far, she has given her new home high grades for the way it treats students. According to Ms. Jenkins, "The Classics Department believes in putting students first." As the mother of two current and one former bison, she shares their philosophy.

Budget Assistant Returns for a 2nd Tour of Duty

After spending an 18-month tour of duty in Iraq, Mr. Myron Creek, budget assistant in the Dean's Office, has been ordered by the Army Reserve to resume his duty as a member of the 2290th U.S. Army Hospital, U.S. Army Reserve. At the present time, Staff Sergeant Creek is using his expertise as a budget specialist to assist in the effort to improve conditions at Walter Reed Army Hospital. The College looks forward to his speedy return.
Dynamic Counselor Joins the Educational Advisory Center

A native of Newark, New Jersey, Hakisha LaShea Thomas is the latest addition to the Educational Advisory Center in the Office of the Dean. Before coming to Howard, Ms. Thomas was an academic advisor at the University of Cincinnati. She holds a B.A. degree in sociology from Rutgers-Newark (1997) and a Master's in communication from Seton Hall University, in South Orange, New Jersey (2004). For Hakisha Thomas coming to Howard University is the fulfillment of "a life-long dream." The New Jersey native resides in Prince George’s County, Maryland.

COAS Webmaster Lands Assistant Professorship in Dubai

The College of Arts and Sciences first "official" Webmaster, Ms. Miriam Ahmed, is leaving this August 2007 to accept a position as Assistant Professor of Graphic Design at the American University in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Since her brief tenure, the dynamic web and graphic designer specialist has transformed the COAS central website into state-of-the-art quality. Ms. Ahmed began as a graduate assistant with former technology specialist Stephanie Payne-Roberts in 2004. After receiving her Master's degree in Graphic Design in May 2006, from Howard University, she was hired as Webmaster of the COAS and Lecturer in the Department of Art. Her perceptive eye, knowledge of typography, and extraordinary artistic talents have been behind many successful endeavors in the College such as the elegant CD jacket covers for the HU Jazz Ensemble, the Flagship newsletter, Study Abroad Booklet, and many other COAS initiatives. Her departure is a loss for the College, but she promises to return.
The JACKS Summer Language Institute, held in the Modern Languages Department, from June 19 - July 31, 2006, marked the completion of the first major project of the Howard University Center for Foreign Languages Study organized through the auspices of a $1 million grant with the Department of Defense. JACKS is an acronym for the languages taught during the intensive 150-hour, six-week program—Japanese, Arabic, Chinese, Korean, and Swahili. The JACKS institute targeted high school juniors and seniors, ROTC cadets, and university freshmen and sophomores for an experiment in the application of best practices in proficiency-based language instruction in less commonly taught languages. A total of 69 students participated. The JACKS program received wide “positive” press coverage. Kudos to the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, especially to Chairman Dr. James Davis, and the institute’s director, Dr. Marion E. Hines and Ms. Aissatou Diop, Assistant Director.

The Department of English Honors Nikki Giovanni, Lucille Clifton, and Mari Evans

Three legends of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries were celebrated at the Thirteenth Annual Heart's Day event sponsored by the Department of English on February 16, 2007. In a day-long tribute entitled, “Three Faces of Poetry,” the Howard University community gave homage to poets Nikki Giovanni, Lucille Clifton, and Mari Evans. The day opened with a national conference (free and open to the public) featuring scholarly panels on the achievements of the award-winning writers. In the evening a “star-studded” gala (with luminaries in attendance) was staged in the Blackburn Center. Among the high points of the evening were student recitations based on the poetry of the honorees, brilliantly staged by assistant professor Dr. Tony Medina. Dr. Eleanor Traylor, Chair of the Department, Dr. Dana Williams, Chair of the Heart’s Day Conference, and the faculty of the English Department must be congratulated for this continued commemoration of our literary and cultural ancestors. Proceeds from Heart’s Day are earmarked to support the Department’s effort to complete funding for the Sterling A. Brown Endowed Chair.
The Department of Economics

On February 10, 2006, the Department of Economics, its undergraduate student club, its graduate student association, and its alumni association inaugurated the "Howard Economic Policy Forum," with an address by Hugh Price, Senior Fellow of the Brookings Institution. Other speakers in the forum in February and March were Donald B. Marron, Acting Director of the Congressional Budget Office; Roger Ferguson, Jr., Vice Chair of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors; Tom Shapiro, author of "Black Wealth/White Wealth"; and Stephanie Tubbs-Jones, Member of Congress from Ohio.

The Department of Afro-American Studies

On Thursday, February 16, 2006, the Department of Afro-American Studies organized a symposium on "The State of the Discipline: Past, Present and Future Challenges." During the symposium a special tribute was given to Dr. Russell Adams, Professor Emeritus and former chair of the department, for his service and leadership at Howard University.

The Department of Political Science

The Political Science Department and COAS Honors Program sponsored a special symposium on Criminal Justice and Racial Justice on Capitol Hill (Rayburn HOB 2154) on Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2006. The program was part of Black History Month activities. The symposium included Congressional representatives Danny Davis, Bobby Scott, Stephanie Tubbs-Jones and Maxine Waters.

Dr. Russell Adams

Students in front of Locke Hall

Ms. Jenna Toussaint is inducted into the Omicron Delta Epsilon (ODE) International Honor Society in Economics
The Department of Health, Human Performance, and Leisure Studies

Dr. Denyce S. Calloway of the Department of Health, Human Performance, and Leisure Studies received funding in the amount of $850,000 (to be distributed over a 5-year period) from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau for her project to explore the issue of persistent racial and ethnic disparities in the delivery of health services—especially as it relates to the maternal and infant mortality of African Americans.

Physics Professors Lead Five Students on International Field Experiment

Professors Gregory Jenkins and Everette Joseph, both of the Department of Physics, left the United States on July 23, 2006, for a six-week international field experiment to study hurricanes in the Eastern Atlantic. Their research should provide a better understanding of hurricanes as well as some perspective on their growing numbers and strength each successive season. This data may prove useful in predicting dangerous hurricanes that can negatively impact citizens of the Caribbean and the United States such as hurricanes Ivan, Katrina, and Rita.

The Division of Fine Arts and Homecoming 2006

The College of Arts and Sciences Homecoming Cocktail Reception, in conjunction with the showing of August Wilson’s Joe Turner’s Come and Gone, proved to be a huge success, providing a rich opportunity for welcoming alumni and updating them on new initiatives and programs being launched in the College. Fine Arts alumni from all over the nation and the world came together to meet and greet and to support the current faculty and students of the College. Wilson’s Joe Turner’s Come and Gone directed by Professor Denise Hart served as a valuable centerpiece for the creative spirit and energy experienced by everyone in attendance.

View of Ira Aldridge Theatre
Students in Classics Experience Odyssey to Greece

Before graduation chairs were removed from the quad this May 2007, nine Howard University students were already on a flight to Greece to spend two weeks cruising the wine-dark Aegean and traipsing across the famous battlefields of Marathon and Thermopylae thanks to the efforts of Assistant Professor Dr. Norman Sandridge of the Department of Classics. "The trip is designed to educate, enlighten, and inspire students with different interests and backgrounds," remarks Dr. Rudolph Hock, Department Chair. Sophomore honors student and Classics major Kristen Bushnell anticipates that the trip will expand and deepen her understanding of ancient religion, which includes a visit to the Temple of Apollo in Delphi, the site where the Greeks supposedly received oracles from their gods.

Junior honors student and Classics and English double-major, Jimisha Relerford, hopes for poetic inspiration: "I’m excited to go to Greece and see firsthand evidence of a culture that existed thousands of years ago!" The Classics Department’s next summer trip - destination: Italy - is already being finalized.
English Major Promoted to Brigadier General

Michael T. Harrison, Sr., a 1980 graduate from the Department of English, was promoted to Brigadier General on December 21, 2006. General Harrison holds a Master of Science Degree in General Administration from Central Michigan University, and a Master of Science in Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. His military awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Ranger Tab, the Expert Infantryman's Badge, the Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge, the Army Staff Badge, and the Air Assault and Airborne badges. He is also a recipient of the Order of Bahrain Award (Class III), the National Guard’s Minute Man Award and the Order of Saint Maurice, Primicerius Award. General Harrison is a native of Surry, Virginia.

Homecoming Luncheon for Economics Alumni - 2006

At its successful Homecoming luncheon, Department Chairman, Dr. William Spriggs, and faculty were pleased to welcome a large number of department graduates visiting during Homecoming weekend. They traveled from various parts of the country to participate in a discussion of strategies for maintaining and enhancing a world-class department. The Department of Economics is supported by a strong, dedicated alumni organization.
Farewell to 2007 Retirees

At a special ceremony held on May 7, 2007, in the Armour J. Blackburn University Center, the College of Arts and Sciences invited family, friends, and members of the Howard University community to a gathering to pay tribute to stellar faculty members retiring after many years of service to the College and to the University. Farewell and congratulations to the following:

Dr. Mahamed A. Ali, Professor, Department of Chemistry

Professor Lorraine Faxio, Assistant Professor, Department of Music

Dr. Jesse Nicholson, Professor, Department of Chemistry

Dr. Vincent Peloso, Professor, Department of History

Dr. Raymond Petersen, Professor, Department of Biology

Dr. Priscilla Ramsey, Associate Professor, Department of Afro-American Studies

Dr. Alberto Rey, Associate Professor, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

Dr. Antonio Rodriguez, Master Instructor, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

Colonel Clarence Taylor, Jr., II, Chair, Professor and Commander, Department of Aerospace Studies
Dr. Robert J. Cummings

Dr. Robert J. Cummings, professor of African Studies at Howard University for 31 years and former Director of the Center for African Studies and chair of the Department of African Studies, died on April 7, 2007, at Providence Hospital in Washington, D.C. His major life’s work focused on African economic development and the African Diaspora. He was the first African American scholar to serve as president of the 30,000 member African Studies Association (ASA). Born in Perry, Florida, on December 22, 1940, Dr. Cummings was a child of the segregated South.

After earning a Bachelor of Science degree in European History with a minor in Religion and Philosophy from Florida A&M University, he went on to get his Master of Arts degree (1965) in American History from North Carolina College at Durham (currently North Carolina Central University).

After receiving his Ph.D. in African Economic History from the University of California at Los Angeles, a certificate in KiSwahili and African Culture from UCLA and the University of Nairobi, Kenya, and experience in Nairobi, Kenya, as a lecturer and research associate in history, Dr. Cummings came to Howard University in 1976 and distinguished himself as a professor and leader.

A distinguished African Studies scholar, Dr. Cummings has been recognized for his expertise in telecommunications, transportation networks, economic history, religion, complex emergencies in Africa, and U.S public policy towards Africa. In addition to his tenure at Howard, Dr. Cummings was a consultant to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva, on racism and xenophobia. In 1994, he led a delegation from Howard University to South Africa to observe that country’s first democratically held national elections.

He was a highly regarded orator and researcher, Senior Africa Research Fellow for the Congressional Black Caucus, Senior American scholar for the South African Education Program-Institute for International Education and Howard University Republic of South Africa Scholar-in-Residence (Cape Town, South Africa).

He also served as Senior Academic Scholar for Africa, Comprand, Inc. and The Peoples Programme, German Foundation. He has held numerous national and international appointments related to African Affairs and has lectured throughout the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, and South America.

He was a master in the classroom, deeply respected by students and colleagues for his expertise, broad experience, and charismatic style. He was a man of elegance and grace. He will be missed.
Ms. Constance H. Ray

Ms. Constance H. Ray entered Howard University as a student in the College of Liberal Arts in 1965 and graduated with a degree in Sociology in 1969. In 1971 she earned her Master’s degree and became a counselor in the Educational Advisory Center, where she remained for 34 years. Because of her dedication, genuine compassion, and commitment to advocacy on behalf of her students, she was loved and admired by the many undergraduates she served.

Ms. Ray was not only loved by those she guided and counseled; she was loved, admired, and respected by her colleagues and all those who knew her because of her exemplary work ethic, “can-do” spirit, and determination to follow her dreams, reaching highlights and accomplishments despite the physical challenges life placed in her path.

In 1991, Constance Ray was elected to the Board of Directors of the Kennedy Institute, an organization that provides developmental and therapeutic services for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Her strength and resilience were reflected in a paper entitled, “The Disabled Black Woman: An Antithetical Observation,” delivered in 1999 at a conference for Black Women in the Academy II: Service and Leadership Conference.

Ms. Ray was an avid reader and a passionate devotee of words, leading her to create poetry for herself and others. Precious to her were the moments spent sharing a book or poem with her granddaughter. Everyone who knew Ms. Constance Ray felt joy in her presence; her laughter, her kindness, and her bountiful spirit will never be forgotten.
Dr. Frank M. Snowden, Jr.

Dr. Frank M. Snowden, Jr., distinguished professor of history emeritus at Howard University, was a member of the Howard University faculty from 1940 until 1990. At Howard, he served as Chairman of the Department of Classics (1942 - 1978) and Dean of the College of Liberal Arts from 1956-1968. He was recipient of the Distinguished Scholar and Outstanding teacher Awards. He was also a former United States cultural attaché at the American Embassy in Rome and was the first African-American to hold this post there. In addition, he served as a member of the U.S. Delegation to UNESCO in Paris (1958; 1960).

After his retirement, from Howard University, he was Adjunct Professor of Classics at Georgetown University (1990-1991) and Visiting Distinguished Professor at Vassar College (1992). Dr. Snowden had an international reputation as the leading authority on the lives of Black people in the ancient world. Throughout his life Dr. Frank M. Snowden received numerous honorary degrees from such places as Bard College, Union College, Howard University, the University of Maryland, and Georgetown University.

In recognition of his outstanding educational and cultural contributions during his tenure he received Italy’s Medaglia D’Oro (1958). He was also a recipient of the Fulbright Scholar Award in Italy (1949-1950); Fellow of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (1977); Fellow of the American Council of Learned Societies (1962-1963); and Fellow of the National Endowment of the Humanities (1970).

His book Blacks in Antiquity: Ethiopians in the Greco-Roman Experience (Harvard University Press, 1970) received the Charles J. Goodwin Award of Merit from the American Philological Association (1973).

His other seminal work in the field was entitled Before Color Prejudice: The Ancient View of Blacks (Harvard University Press, 1983). He also co-authored The Image of the Black in Western Art, Volume 1: From the Pharaohs to the Fall of the Roman Empire (Harvard University Press, 1976).

Frank M. Snowden was born in rural York County, Virginia, on July 17, 1911. After the family moved to Boston, young Frank attended the Boston Latin School, where he fell in love with the Classics, culminating in his earning his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Harvard, and in 1944 earning his Ph.D. from the same institution.
Professor Alvan D. “Mike” Malone

Professor Alvan D. “Mike” Malone of the Department of Theatre Arts was the co-founder, Artistic Director, and faculty member of the highly acclaimed Duke Ellington High School For The Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.; he developed several outstanding programs designed to motivate and cultivate brilliance in our youth, including Workshop For Careers In The Arts, DC. Black Repertory Dance Company and Everyman Street Theatre. Professor “Mike” Malone was universally regarded as an extremely accomplished artist, specializing in stage direction and choreography, touching each of his productions with his own indelible mark of creativity and excellence.

He possessed a special passion and unique ability to interpret works from the African-American canon, and will long be revered for his staging of such memorable productions as Tambourines To Glory, Timbuktu, God's Trombones, Jelly's Last Jam, Lady Day At Emerson's Bar And Grill, Eyes, and his signature treatment of Black Nativity. There were many others.

A consummate mentor who excelled in his ability to inspire his students to seek excellence in their careers and personal lives, Professor Malone represented a life-changing force in the lives of many of his former students. He was a true son of Howard, earning a Master’s degree from the University in French Literature in 1967, and serving as a member of the faculty in Theatre Arts for more than 20 years. He held the position of Area Coordinator for the Musical Theatre program for the past decade with distinction.

Professor Mike Malone was an award winning administrator, Artistic Director, and pioneer in African-American Theatre, recognized for building performing arts programs at venues such as The Karamu House, The DC Black Rep, and The Lincoln Theatre.

We will continue to honor the legacy of Alvan "Mike" Malone’s commitment to the art form, and his devotion to inspiring young performing artists to seek excellence in the development of their craft and in their personal lives.
congratulations
class of 2007!

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