Mission Statement

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.
The end of the year is an excellent time for reflection. It is also an appropriate time to thank those who contributed to making 2007 – 2008 successful. With modest resources we accomplished a great deal because of the dedication and hard work of our stellar faculty, staff, and students. We must also extend appreciation to the alumni, friends of the College, and the University administration for their continued support.

I am pleased to report that our students, under the mentorship of our distinguished faculty, continued to engage in promising cutting edge research projects. A select few have won prestigious awards. In May 2008, we graduated 559 students from the College who have gone on to take their places in the world, in graduate schools, professional schools, and notable corporations.

In 2007 – 2008, the College of Arts and Sciences realized many of its objectives, stemming from its mission to provide the very best and fullest educational experiences for its students: Under the auspices of a Mellon grant, students in the 2nd semester of their freshman year were introduced to undergraduate research through five pilot interdisciplinary courses offered during spring 2008. Students at all levels in the College engaged in independent research under the guidance of faculty mentors. In April 2008, approximately 100 undergraduates presented their findings during the College-sponsored 3rd Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium.

The College was also successful in sponsoring a number of initiatives related to strengthening and expanding our efforts to internationalize the curriculum. In March 2008, the Department of African Studies, assisted by a committee comprising faculty from the 4 divisions, organized an interdisciplinary conference focusing on the critical relationship between China and Africa. Participants included recognized scholars in the field as well as high level state department representatives. Also in attendance were ambassadors from the Sudan, Nigeria, Angola, and the People’s Republic of China.

While four COAS Fulbright students were actively teaching and researching in Russia, Ethiopia, Thailand, and Venezuela; others were planning study abroad travels to Ghana, Egypt, the Dominican Republic, and Tanzania for summer 2008.

During 2007 – 2008 our faculty continued to distinguish itself through ground-breaking publications, presentations, performances, exhibitions, grants, fellowships, national and international awards, and other types of honors. Our distinguished lecture series, conferences, and forums – particularly those on research and assessment – provided opportunities for dialogue, intellectual stimulation and professional growth.

Thanks to all of our supporters and contributors we had a successful academic year and look forward to 2008 – 2009 as an opportunity to improve and enhance our programs.

Sincerely,

James A. Donaldson
DEAN
Dr. Gwendolyn H. Everett has learned to never say “never.” As an undergraduate art major at Spelman College, Everett swore she would never teach. Too many people assumed that the only thing you could do as an Art major was teach, she said. “So I didn’t take any education classes in college. I swore I would never teach because that was what was expected, and particularly, being a female.”

Not only does she teach Art History, but Everett also recently became the new Chair of the Department of Art. “Being here as a student, I never dreamed I’d ever come back to actually work here, much less, be Chair of this department,” she said. “It’s almost an incredible, unheard of chance for me.”

After getting her master’s, Everett tried to dodge education by applying for a job as a research assistant for a Greek Art exhibit at the National Gallery of Art. As fate would have it, her application was forwarded to the gallery’s education department, and she was offered a temporary, six-month position. It wasn’t what Everett wanted, but she decided to give it a try.

“I was the first black staff lecturer in the department,” she said. “But it was wonderful. It was full of people who loved art, loved talking about art, and I realized that I loved talking about art, and being around people who like art and I enjoyed being there.”

Eight years later, Everett transferred to the education department at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. There, she served as Public Programs Coordinator, and organized symposia, lecture series and programs for teachers and students. Everett also wrote educational materials for teachers and gallery guides for students.

After four years there, she moved to Curatorial as the Collections Research Coordinator, a position created for her to bridge her education and curatorial roles. While at the Smithsonian, she also wrote an award-winning children’s book, *Li’l Sis and Uncle Willie*, a story based on the life and paintings of William H. Johnson.
Everett began teaching Art History at Howard and the Corcoran College of Art and Design, while working at the Smithsonian. That led to her being asked to chair the Art Department at Howard, a position she’s glad she accepted. “It’s been fun being here and my only wish is that we had the resources, both staff and financial, to do greater things... because we do great things.”

Despite the administrative paperwork piling up, meetings to attend and budgets to balance, she said the position has its rewards.

“Sometimes art students become disappointed and disillusioned when they feel they are unable to make a living solely from their work, and have to look outside their field, she said. Her advice to students, which is to “embrace the unexpected,” is taken from the pages of her own life journey. “I never thought that I would be in a classroom teaching and that I would enjoy it,” said Everett, who ended up getting a doctorate in Education as a way to bridge her background in Museum Education and Art History. “Sometimes life has a way of bringing things to you that you may not expect.”
When Fred Irby, III formed the Howard University Jazz Ensemble in 1975, he merely wanted to expose his students to recording before they graduated and entered the music world.

Under his direction, HUJE has produced 33 jazz recordings since 1976. A great deal has changed through the years, as they have gone from recording LPs to CDs, but one thing hasn’t changed – Irby’s dedication to music and education.

Irby recently received a 2008 Achievement Award in Jazz Education from Down Beat magazine. Each year, the magazine honors three outstanding educators. “These honors are picked by us, the editors at Down Beat, in recognizing those who are doing something special to advance the cause of jazz education,” said Jason Koransky, an editor with the premiere jazz magazine.

Irby received a plaque and was featured in the magazine’s June issue. “I felt quite honored,” he said. “I looked at some of the other educators over the years who have gotten one, and I’m the first person from Howard to get one,” said Irby who began teaching at Howard in 1974.

“I’ve been here for 34 years. All the students I’ve taught, and all the students I’ve touched, I’ve been proud of that. I’ve recorded all my bands except the first year. I tell everybody I had the best seat in the house.”

Each year, Irby has to develop new material to fit the skills level of the band. He commissions faculty and students to write original compositions and arrangements and has art students design all of the artwork for the recordings.

“We have a very talented student body, and we have a very dedicated faculty, and we get tremendous support from the administration,” Irby said.

The ensemble has performed in China, Romania, Haiti, Trinidad, Jamaica, Guatemala, Colombia and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Last year, it performed in Tokyo, and this year it hosted Japan’s Tateshina High School Jazz Club.

Irby said one of the highlights for HUJE has been performing at the Kennedy Center Honors, the most prestigious award show in the world for artists. The ensemble was invited to perform in 1992, 1996 and 2005, playing before Presidents Bill Clinton and George Bush and helping pay tribute to three legends, Lionel Hampton, Benny Carter and Tony Bennett.
Dr. Joseph Fortunak spent 21 years in the pharmaceutical industry helping healthcare companies develop new drugs for global markets. Now as an associate professor of Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Fortunak, who joined Howard University in 2004, is helping people in poor countries get needed medications.

In March, he organized and co-hosted with the National Institute of Pharmaceutical R&D of Nigeria (NIPRD) a workshop in Green Chemistry and the Production of Essential Medicines. The workshop, held in Abuja, Nigeria, drew about 85 participants from nine countries and five continents, and received support from the National Science Foundation, the Green Chemistry International Developing Nations Program and the College of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Fortunak said that because of the expense that global pharmaceutical companies incur in developing new drugs, they sell medicines primarily to “rich people” around the world. In mid-2005, the World Health Organization estimated that the richest 15 percent of the world’s population consumed 91 percent of all medications.

That means the poor are more likely to die from diseases, not because medicines are not available, but because the drugs are not affordable, Fortunak said. His goal is to help ensure that the poor people don’t die when medicines to treat them are available.

In Nigeria, he is working with the NIPRD to help them understand the chemistry of making high-quality medications that can be produced locally at the lowest cost possible.

The President of Nigeria has provided some funding to NIPRD to help design a pilot plant to produce medicines locally for malaria, TB, and HIV/AIDS. Nigerian health officials considered the workshop an important step in the war on malaria in West Africa.

Irby’s musical roots began in Mobile, Alabama. He lost both his parents when he was a teenager, and had to overcome poverty and segregation. Music was a bridge.

“I always wanted to be a musician. I started playing music in the fourth grade,” Irby said. His mentor, Ulysses Miller, a music teacher and band director, fostered his love of music. Irby received a bachelor’s in music education from Grambling State University and a master’s in performance from Southern Illinois University.

Professor Irby, who teaches trumpet at Howard, serves as Coordinator for Instrumental Music, and is also Principal Trumpet for the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra, said that he never dreamed he would become a university professor or a member of a major orchestra. He thought he would be just another band director who taught, retired and faded away. But it is clear that Irby is leaving an indelible imprint, and not just at Howard.

Recently he traveled to Los Angeles to perform in the orchestras for the Twentieth Century Fox movie Alvin and the Chipmunks and the ABC-TV hit show Dancing with the Stars. Both experiences were awesome, he said.
In high school, Major Lezlie L. Shackell had three language choices: French, German or Spanish. She picked Spanish, and is glad she did. “I think even in high school I thought it would be the most useful language, and now of course it’s even more useful,” she said.

Major Shackell recently won an award for best graduate student research paper in this year’s Middle Atlantic Council on Latin American Studies, which was held March 7-8 at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. She is a first-year master’s student in the Spanish Graduate Program in the Department of Modern Languages and Literature.

Major Shackell is also a full-time employee at Howard University, where she is the Executive and Operations Officer of the Howard University Army ROTC. She joined Howard two years ago, and began her graduate work in Fall 2007. Her paper, entitled “Afro-Ecuadorans: Current Situation, National and International Proposals for Remediation” explores racism in Ecuador and its impact on the country’s most marginalized ethnic group.

Shackell said her interest in the topic began while she was stationed in Ecuador for four years. During that time, she worked as a U.S. Embassy project coordinator and organized events for the Ecuadoran military. One of the events was the dedication of a school in Esmeraldas, where many Afro-Ecuadorans live. Shackell said she was taken aback by the extreme poverty in Esmeraldas compared to other areas of the country.

While there, she began research and learned that Afro-Ecuadorans, who are descendants of African slaves, are still discriminated against, are educationally disadvantaged and have little representation. Her findings were the basis of her award-winning paper.

Shackell, who was also stationed in Panama for four years, has 20 years of military service, both active duty and reserve, and will be eligible for military retirement in four and a half years. She has a bachelor’s in Spanish and a Teaching Certification from Northern Illinois University.

Major Shackell said she is appreciative of the excellent faculty at Howard, especially the support she has gotten from Dr. María Roof of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures.

After completing her master’s, Major Shackell, who lives in Baltimore with her husband and two children, plans to complete her military career, pursue her doctorate and teach at the college level – Spanish, of course.
Akili Ron Anderson’s dream of completing his art degree at Howard University got deferred for 36 years, but it never died.

On May 10, Anderson proudly walked across the stage not once, but twice to receive both a Bachelor’s of Fine Arts and a Master’s of Fine Arts in sculpture.

Anderson dropped out of Howard in 1969, shortly before receiving his bachelor’s in design. For decades, his mother, Frances Holmes, who passed away in 2004, encouraged him to complete his education. And in 2005, he kept the promise he’d made to her a year earlier.

Anderson, 62, said being back at Howard was culture shock at first. “Everybody is my junior, including my professors, my friends and associates.” But culture shock soon turned to acceptance and a true appreciation of learning.

Although he was a “party guy” his first time at Howard, Anderson said this time he was serious about his education. Learning became so much fun that he decided to pursue his master’s.

Anderson, a Washington native, said art has been a part of his life since childhood. After painting a mural in the sixth grade, his parents recognized his talent, and gave him toys that encouraged his artistic side and kept him out of trouble.

He was also a talented athlete, and in high school, Anderson had to choose between an art scholarship to a predominately white school and a track scholarship to a small black college in the South. He chose the Corcoran School of Art because the other college didn’t have much of an art program and because lynching and beatings were prevalent in the south. But he only stayed at Corcoran a year.

By 1964, the Civil Rights Movement and the Black Power Movement had brought about cultural awareness. Anderson said he didn’t feel culturally comfortable at a school where he was one of only four black students. In 1965, he enrolled at Howard. “I came there because of the black movement. I was anxious to connect, and very impassioned about what was happening.”
His passion was fueled at Howard, where it was not uncommon for black leaders to show up and recruit students for various organizations, both radical and otherwise. “It was kind of that environment where the classroom was outside of the classroom so to speak.” There were rallies, protests and the biggest technique was the takeover of buildings by students.

Anderson was among a group of students who marched from Douglass Hall to the Administration Building to protest the need for more cultural awareness and black history courses at Howard. The students held a sit-in that made national headlines in 1968. When their demands weren’t met, more sit-ins followed, including one in Childers Hall.

Anderson was not a leader in the sit-in, but was one of three students prosecuted for the takeover of the Fine Arts building. “They picked an art student, a music student and a drama student. We had to go to court, and we had to sign a paper saying we would not participate in building takeovers.” Anderson said even though he was close to graduation, he was disgruntled that the university went to that extent. “I felt betrayed, hurt, like I was singled out unfairly, and I left.”

He turned his attention to his art and his activism. Anderson co-founded several groups that promoted “Afrikan-centered” education, art and culture. Despite not finishing his own education, Anderson said he was allowed to enter through the back door and found work at prestigious schools, such as the Barry New School and the Duke Ellington School of the Arts. After a string of teaching and administrative positions, he started his own business, and made a name for himself as a visual artist specializing in stain glass, painting and sculpture.

Sculpture is Anderson’s first love, and being back at Howard allowed him to return to it and produce an impressive body of work. Some of the African-inspired sculptures range in height from eight to twelve feet. He wants to design and fabricate large-scale public art with a cultural message now that he’s completed his journey at Howard.

Anderson said that even though he had friends in high places at the university, he never asked for favors. He wanted to get his degrees the old fashion way, with hard work. “I want to earn this,” he said. “I wanted to hold my head up high when I crossed the stage.”

James R. McDowell wants to foster world peace and fight injustice and human rights violations. McDowell, who is majoring in Political Science with a concentration in International Relations, aspires to become a United Nations diplomat and an agent with Interpol, the world’s largest international police organization.

Recently, he was chosen as a 2008 Fellow by the United Negro College Fund Institute for International Public Policy Policy. The IIPP’s mission is to help increase the number of underrepresented minorities in international service careers and prepare them for careers in the field. The award, valued at $80,000 over four years, will provide opportunities for participation in summer institutes, a study abroad program, an internship, an intensive language program, and graduate school.

As part of the fellowship, McDowell, who is from Dallas, attended the Sophomore Summer Policy Institute held June 2 – July 18 at Spelman College in Atlanta. The 19-year-old, who has a 3.6 GPA, said the fellowship is a wonderful opportunity that will prepare him for his goals.

McDowell wants to work on conflict resolution and compromise to improve relations between regions like the European and African Unions. “I feel that the way things are set up now, it doesn’t really work towards peace. It works toward an environment where the ones in power benefit,” he said. “I think that everyone ought to have an equal opportunity to reap the same benefits.”
Mekbib Gebertsadik, an international student from Ethiopia in the Master of Fine Arts Program, is the winner of a mural contest sponsored by the DC Chamber of Commerce Visitor Information Center.

The contest, held earlier this year, was limited to students in art programs from the University of the District of Columbia and Howard University. Nine students submitted sketches for the competition.

Gebertsadik, the only student to enter from Howard, based his design on aspects of the nation’s capital that featured the Pentagon, National Cathedral, and the U.S. Capitol building as a backdrop to show the district’s multicultural population.

The mural, which will consist of three large panels, will be painted in the Visitor Center in the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center at 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Students in the Public Art course, under the direction of Assistant Professor James Phillips, will help Gebertsadik complete the project.

Kristen Bushnell is not sure when her love affair with the Greek language began, but one thing is for certain, it is true love.

Bushnell, a senior, started as a Classical Civilization major at Howard University, but while taking a literature course taught by Dr. Molly Levine, Professor in the Department of Classics, she was exposed to Greek plays.

“I just really enjoyed it more than the regular civilization classes,” said Bushnell, who soon changed her major to Greek. “I really didn’t know anything about the Classics before I got to college.”

With the guidance of mentors, like Dr. Levine, her introduction to the Classics soon became a passion. “The more classes you take, the more you get acquainted with the subject, and the more you do it, the more interested you become.”

She admits that it is not an easy subject because it can take a week to read and translate a few pages of Greek.

Bushnell, 21, who has a 4.0 GPA, wants to major in Classics in graduate school, and become a professor. “I really just like to explain things to people in a way they can understand,” she said. “I think anyone can learn anything as long as you present it to them in the right way.” Bushnell works as a teaching assistant in the Department of Classics, where she also takes classes in Latin and Ancient Religions. When she is not reading, she enjoys yoga.

For her Honors Thesis, Bushnell plans to do a comparative study of the Septuagint, which is the Greek version of the Hebrew Old Testament. She will do the Greek translation, and Dr. Levine will do the Latin translation.

Bushnell, the oldest of three girls, grew up in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Her mother is a judge and her father is a petroleum supervisor. She took honors courses at St. Louis Catholic School, and graduated with a 4.3 GPA.

Bushnell, who received a full scholarship to Howard, also got a partial scholarship at Tulane University. She chose Howard after a lengthy internal debate. “It was about whether to stay in Louisiana or leave,” she said. “I just decided that I wanted a new experience, a new city, a new group of people. I’m really happy I did choose Howard. It’s like the best thing I ever could have done.” This summer, Kristen studied intensive Greek in Howard University’s summer program. The course was taught by Dr. Norman Sandridge of the Department of Classics.
Daniel B. Gilmer is the third of six children. So when his parents, who work for a national ministry, told him he needed to get a full scholarship to fund his education, he understood.

Being ministers with six children, “There wasn’t a lot to work with,” he said. Gilmer, who attended a magnet high school in Maitland, Florida, made his parents, Charles and Rebecca, proud by getting full scholarships to Howard University and the University of Florida. He also got a partial scholarship to Xavier University, which was his first choice. To fully fund his education at Xavier, Gilmer had to run track, but a football injury in high school ended his chances of going.

“I went to Howard, and absolutely loved it the whole way through,” said Gilmer, who graduated in May with a bachelor’s in biology and a 3.9 GPA. “Howard was exactly where I needed to be. It was a wonderful place to study.”

His decision to go to Howard paid off in more ways than one. Gilmer is one of five recipients nationwide to receive a 2008 Gilliam Fellowship for Advanced Studies from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. He is the first student from Howard to receive the prestigious honor.

The competitive fellowship, valued at $220,000, is offered to outstanding students from underrepresented groups in the sciences or who come from disadvantaged backgrounds. It provides full support for up to five years of study toward a Ph.D. in the sciences. The fellowship is named after the late James H. Gilliam Jr., a charter Trustee of HHMI, who spent his life fostering excellence and diversity in education and science.

Gilmer was president of the Howard Hughes Medical Research Scholars Program at Howard and did research under Dr. Winston Anderson, who nominated him for the HHMI Exceptional Research Opportunities Program. That program led to Gilmer’s doing research at MIT, and also qualified him for the HHMI Fellowship.

Anderson noted that Gilmer was accepted to several of the top biochemistry graduate programs, including MIT, University of Chicago, Duke University and Cornell University.

Gilmer, 21, will begin his graduate work at Rockefeller University next summer. He decided to defer his fellowship for a year to marry his fiancée, Chanel Cooper, a Nutritional Science major at Howard, who graduates in December. They were wed in July. Although jubilant about their nuptials, Gilmer is staying focused. He is participating in a yearlong molecular biology research program at the National Institutes of Health.

Gilmer said he wants to become a research scientist because he enjoys drug discovery and biology research, and feels he can make a greater difference on a larger scale. Gilmer is happy about the fellowship that will allow him to follow his dreams, and so are his parents. “They’re very excited and very proud of me,” he added.
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Donates $100K to College of Arts and Sciences

The College of Arts and Sciences and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, joined in a celebration of the 100th year anniversary of the organization’s founding at a welcome reception at the Renaissance Washington Hotel on Saturday, January 12, 2008. The gala event, sponsored by the College, presented an opportunity for COAS to reach out to AKA members. In honor of the COAS student founders of Alpha Kappa Alpha, the College created a Centennial Scholarship Fund, which immediately received a generous $100,000 donation from Alpha Kappa Alpha on January 15, 2008. Activities marking the 100 years of Alpha Kappa Alpha will be taking place throughout the year with the College launching an energetic campaign to raise money toward achieving its target amount of $250,000 for the newly inaugurated scholarship fund.

On January 15, 1908, Alpha Kappa Alpha, the first African American Sorority, was founded by 16 women, inspired by Ethel Hedgeman, who saw the need for an organization that would provide sisterhood among its members, service to the community, and academic advancement for all. The 16 founding members of Alpha Kappa Alpha were Ethel Hedgeman Lyle, Anna Easter Brown, Beulah Burke, Lillie Burke, Marjorie Hill, Margaret Flagg Holmes, Lavinia Norman, Lucy Diggs Slowe, Marie Woolfolk Taylor, Norma Boyd, Ethel Jones Mowbray, Alice Murray, Sarah Meriweather Nutter, Joanna Berry Shields, Carrie Snowden, and Harriet Terry.
About 90 students presented their research findings at the 3rd Annual COAS Undergraduate Research Symposium, held April 14th and 15th at the Blackburn Center.

Students from each of the College of Arts and Sciences' four divisions - Fine Arts, Humanities, Natural Sciences and Social Sciences - submitted posters or made oral presentations on their research.

In addition to plaques, winners received $1,000 for first place, $500 for second and $250 for third. Faculty mentors assisted students in refining their research topics, and also served as judges.

**FINE ARTS & HUMANITIES**

1st (Tie)
Brittney Allen (Music Education)
The Drinking Gourd: Music and the Message of Freedom
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jeanne Toungara

1st (Tie)
Khadijah Abdus-Salaam (English)
Toussaint L'Ouverture: The Man Who Started It All
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jeanne Toungara

**SOCIAL SCIENCES**

1st
Milanika Turner (Sociology and Anthropology)
Effects of Debriefing on Police Stress after a Crisis
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Terri Adams-Fuller

2nd
Shirilyn Clark and Sarah Williams
Restoring Ownership: The Significant Past and Future of Science and Technology in the African World
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Alem Hailu

**NATURAL SCIENCES**

1st
Iman Sylvain (Biology)
A Comparison of Seedling Fitness in the Hyperaccumulator, Alyssum murale in Soils With and Without Nickel
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mary McKenna

2nd
Keneisha Thompson (Biology/ HUCM-Pharmacology)
Nicotine and the Expression of Dopamine Transporters (DAT)
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Martha I. Davila-Garcia

3rd
Nicole Dominique Mahdi (Biology)
Comparison of MS and HAM/TSP Patients
Faculty Mentors:
Dr. Franklin Ampy (On-Campus)
Dr. Grace Levy-Clarke (Off-Campus)
## ORAL PRESENTATIONS

### FINE ARTS

**1st**
**Saidiya Chiphe** (Dance)
*Rites of Passage: Exploring the Sacred Dances of Enslaved West Africans and Their Transition into the Secular Arena*
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Sherrill Berryman-Johnson

**2nd**
**Rée-An Augustin** (Art/Graphic Design)
*The Secret of Successful (Re)Branding: Revealed*
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Starmanda Bullock

**3rd**
**Travara Farmer** (Acting)
*The Media: The Influence and Perpetuation of African-American Stereotypes*
Faculty Mentor: Professor Kim Bey

### HUMANITIES

**1st**
**Carlos Trotman** (Modern Languages and Literatures)
*The Inception of a Linguistic Apocalypse: The Causes of Language Endangerment*
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mercedes V. Tibbets

**2nd** (Tie)
**Amber Moody** (English)
*Limitations of Black Female Archetypes in Hip-Hop/Urban Culture*
Faculty Mentor: Dr. James Keil

**2nd** (Tie)
**Lucky Adike** (Computer Engineering)
*Anicka Haley: A Corrupt Hero*
Faculty Mentor: Professor Kevin Bryant

**3rd**
**Lizeth C. Lewis** (Sociology)
*Ancient Egyptian Morals: an Examination of Maat*
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Charles Verharen

### NATURAL SCIENCES

**1st**
**Daniel B. Gilmer** (Biology)
*Intracellular metallic interactions in prokaryotic and eukaryotic cell types*
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Winston Anderson

**2nd**
**Lia Rohlehr** (Psychology)
*The Effect of Peer Influence on Adolescent Coping with Exposure to Violence*
Faculty Mentors: Dr. Mark Aber
Dr. Alfonso Campbell

**3rd**
**Shelby Burks** (Biology)
*An Investigation of the Impact of Landscape Morphology on Leaf Litter Decomposition*
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mary McKenna

### SOCIAL SCIENCES

**1st**
**Leigh Anderson** (Sociology/Anthropology)
*Heroines of the Genocide: Their Extraordinary Burdens yet Unprecedented Opportunities*
Faculty Mentors: Dr. Ralph Gomes
Dr. Terri Adams-Fuller

**2nd** (Tie)
**Michael Varner** (Political Science)
*The Strategic Importance of Africa Command*
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michael Frazier

**2nd** (Tie)
**Kara Akins** (Political Science)
*The Failures of the U.N. in Border Conflicts in Africa*
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Lorenzo Morris

**3rd**
**Taneeka Hanna** (English)
*Violence against Women and Children: Understanding the Roots and Consequences of an Underestimated Social Problem*
Faculty Mentors: Dr. Alem Hailu
Dr. John Davis
The growing relationship between Africa and China is being observed and studied by world leaders, political analysts, and scholars, including those at Howard University. In recent years, China – the most populated country in the world with about 1.3 billion people - has been pouring investments and aid into Africa. Some feel China’s involvement is an effort to secure natural resources from Africa needed to help China’s growing demand for energy.

The relationship between the two partners has global implications, said Dr. Alem Hailu of the Department of African Studies, who – along with an interdisciplinary planning committee composed of College of Arts and Sciences faculty, staff, students, and members of the Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center – helped organize a recent conference on the policies between the two countries. “When you look at the Chinese-African Policy, the relationship between China and Africa, it has profound implications for the world, economically, socially, politically and environmentally,” Hailu said. “It’s not about China and Africa only; it’s about the present and the future of the whole world.”

The two-day interdisciplinary conference on the China-Africa policy, which was sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences and led by the Department of African Studies, was held March 31 and April 1 in the Armour J. Blackburn University Ballroom. The conference drew about 600 attendees, including high-level representatives from the State Department, embassies, leading scholars in the field and students. This was the university’s first attempt at an extended conference on the topic. There was an outpouring of College of Arts and Sciences energy and spirit with nearly every department playing a part in the program, including morning greetings in a multitude of international languages by students from the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures and an afternoon concert of Chinese, African, and African-American music provided by the Flutes of Howard University, under the direction of Dr. Sais Kamaliidiin.

The keynote speaker was His Excellency Zhou Wenzhong, Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China, introduced by Ambassador Horace G. Dawson, Director of the Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center. Ambassadors from Angola, Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Sudan also spoke, with Ambassador Aurelia Brazeal, U.S. State Department Senior Advisor at the Bunche Center, serving as moderator.

The idea for the China – Africa Conference came from philosophy senior Michael Henderson, who received the immediate encouragement and support from the Office of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Department of African Studies, chaired by Dr. Mbye Cham, and various other units of the COAS as well as the Bunche Center.

There are varying opinions, negative and positive, on the impact of the relationship, Hailu said. Some leaders and researchers see China’s growing involvement in Africa as a form of New Colonialism, in which Africa will be again exploited for its resources and its people displaced. Others say that China’s involvement has stimulated the African economy with investments and aid, and is helping the continent develop.

An important goal of the College, says Dean James Donaldson, is to promote global awareness among our students through programs that highlight critical international issues. The China – Africa Conference presented a tremendous educational opportunity for our student body and at the same time helped to develop greater understanding of this important topic.
Theatre Arts Production

“Gum”

a Controversial Hit

Theatre Arts Professor Kim J. Bey expected “Gum” to be controversial, and it was. The story told of two sheltered sisters growing up in a fundamentalist, religious home, who discover their sexuality. When one becomes promiscuous and has premarital sex with a young man, she is forced to have a circumcision to tame her sexual desires and dies.

The play, written by Karen Hartman, was presented by the Howard University Department of Theatre Arts in November. The cast featured Lace Williams as Rahmi, Zurin Villanueva as Lina, Amber Moorer as Auntie, Kyle Jones as Inayat, and William Little III as Young Man.

“Gum” drew criticism from Muslim women, who feared it would be degrading to Islam. Professor Bey said she felt a responsibility to protect the integrity of the playwright’s work. But, she addressed their concerns by making a documentary, which was shown before the play, explaining that circumcision is not just a part of Muslim culture, but a ritual also practiced by African and Indian cultures.

The play was based on accounts about young Egyptian women who were drugged by chewing gum tainted with a sex hormone that encouraged their promiscuity.

Bey said she looks for productions that will take students on a journey and make them think about world issues that they would not otherwise be exposed to. The students, who gave powerful performances, did intense research that included attending forums to talk with women who had undergone circumcisions.

“Art should be edgy and provoke people to think, act and make changes in the world around them,” Bey added. “Otherwise it’s Disney, and I’m not interested in doing that.”
Sigma Delta Pi, Theta Xi Chapter, a National Hispanic Honorary Society in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, presented its second annual Student Research Conference on November 8, 2007, at the Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center, Howard University.

The Conference initiated a joint collegiate project between Benedict College and Howard University this year, highlighting research by Afro-Latin students (from Colombia, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic) at Benedict College, North Carolina, and Spanish majors and minors at Howard University. This year’s key note address, “Afro-Colombians: Law 70 and the Pathway for the Development of Afroamericans”, was presented by Dr. Norma Jackson, Director, Office of Latin American Programs, Benedict College.

The Research conference is unique in that it allows foreign language students the opportunity to hone their research and linguistic skills by featuring undergraduate and graduate student research essays written in Spanish. Attendees may listen to English translations provided simultaneously by students in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures’ Simultaneous Interpretation Class, a course developed by Dr. Marie-Line Sephocle with Dr. Carol Beane and Dr. Antonio Rodriguez. The invited lecturer for the 2006 Student Research Conference was Jamila Thomson, Legislative Assistant, Office of Congresswoman Barbara Lee. Her topic was “Breaking Down Barriers and Building a Movement in the Americas: Congressional Efforts to Connect Afro-descendants in the Hemisphere.”

The Student Research conference was organized by the Sigma Delta Pi organization led by faculty advisor, Dr. Annette Ivory Dunzo. Dr. Dunzo was presented an Exemplary Service Award in 2006 from Sigma Delta Pi, Theta Xi Chapter for 10 years service as its faculty advisor. Members of the Sigma Delta Pi Conference Organizing committee are Dr. Carol Beane, Dr. Matilde Raquel Holte, and Dr. Edith Jackson. A reception was sponsored by the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Dr. James Davis, Chair.

Sigma Delta Pi was established in 1919 at the University of California (Berkeley) to honor excellence in the study of the Spanish language, literature and culture of the Spanish-speaking peoples.

The next Conference is scheduled for November 6, 2008, 11:15am -3:00pm, Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center.
Heart’s Day 2008 celebrated a love for African-American literature by honoring the works of two beloved authors, Richard Wright and Edward P. Jones. The 14th annual fundraising event, sponsored by the Department of English, was held Feb. 15, and featured a daylong conference highlighting the works of Wright and Jones. The conference included an interview with Jones, panel discussions of both authors’ contributions to literature and a keynote address by Eleanor W. Traylor, Chair of the Department of English.

Jones, a Washington Native, is a New York Times bestselling author, and has won numerous awards. His second novel, *The Known World*, won a Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 2004 and a 2005 International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. The novel, which is set in Virginia during the Civil War, tells the story of slave ownership by free blacks and by whites. Jones also received a MacArthur Fellowship in 2005. His first novel, *Lost in the City*, published in 1992, was set in Washington and won the PEN/Hemingway Award.

The works of Wright were celebrated in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of his birth. Wright, the grandson of a slave, was born Sept. 4, 1908, on a plantation near Natchez, Mississippi. Wright encountered racial prejudices firsthand while growing up in the Jim Crow south, and many of his novels deal with racial themes. From his experiences came great works of literature, such as *Black Boy*, the autobiography of Wright’s life from age four to 19, and his most critically acclaimed novel, *Native Son*, which made him the first black writer to receive such recognition and to achieve commercial success. Wright wrote more than a dozen works of fiction and nonfiction before his death in 1960, and left a lasting impact on the literary world.

Heart’s Day also pays tribute to the late Sterling Allen Brown, an author, critic, professor and Poet Laureate for Washington. Brown joined the Howard faculty in 1929, and remained associated with the university for almost 60 years. Proceeds from the event support the department’s effort to fund the Sterling A. Brown Endowed Chair.

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The conference was followed by a star-studded gala at the Blackburn Center. The gala recognized the achievements of two other “strong men and native sons,” H. Patrick Swygert, Howard’s outgoing President and Freeman A. Hrabowski, III, President of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

The gala was also a cultural celebration that included the African Heritage Dancers and Drummers, Performing Artists Under the Lord (P.A.U.L.) and a concert by the Howard University Jazz Ensemble.
The Division of the Humanities in the College of Arts and Sciences is starting a new pilot program this fall to encourage reading campus wide. The Common Text Project, funded with a $6,500 grant from Howard University’s Funding for Academic Excellence, will be used to purchase a work of literature that will encourage the entire university to read, discuss, and participate in events focused on one book. “The idea is not to make the reading mandatory,” suggested Dr. Norman Sandridge, Assistant Professor of Classics, “but to encourage a culture of reading for fun.”

The first book chosen for the project is Ernest Gaines’s *A Lesson Before Dying*, the story of two African-American men struggling to maintain their manhood amid prejudice in a Louisiana town. One of the men, barely literate, is sentenced to die for a crime he didn’t commit. The other, a cynical, embittered teacher, is asked to help the doomed man die with dignity.

Throughout the novel, Gaines addresses many topics such as race, justice, literacy and politics. Events, such as lectures, forums and film screenings will be centered around the book.

The grant will be used to purchase a few hundred copies of the book for distribution to students. Sandridge said more funding is needed so that enough copies can be purchased and distributed to the entire student body, faculty and staff. The idea is to get everyone reading and discussing the same text, he said.
Dr. Joseph Fortunak of Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Sciences (joint) organized and co-hosted with the National Institute of Pharmaceutical R&D of Nigeria (NIPRD)

Dr. Joseph Fortunak of Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Sciences (joint) organized and co-hosted with the National Institute of Pharmaceutical R&D of Nigeria (NIPRD) a Workshop in Green Chemistry and Production of Essential Medicines the week of March 16th in Abuja, Nigeria. Approximately 85 people from 9 countries and five continents attended this event. Support for the Workshop was provided by the National Science Foundation, the Green Chemistry International Developing Nations Program and the College of Arts and Sciences.

The meeting was opened by the Minister of State for Health, who declared that the Workshop was an important step in the war on malaria in West Africa. The Minister further set a goal for the elimination of malaria as a significant health problem in Nigeria by 2020, when Nigeria is scheduled to become a “highly developed country” by the definitions of the World Trade Organization. The Meeting culminated with the publication of the “Abuja Declaration.”

College of Arts and Sciences Students and Faculty Investigate Health Disparities Problems in Africa

COAS students, supported by a grant from the NIH Minority Health International Disparities program, conduct biomedical research on major infectious diseases that are responsible for most deaths in Sub-Sahara African countries. Student researchers and sponsoring faculty from departments of biology, chemistry, physics and mathematics have investigated sickle cell disease among children with malaria in rural villages in Mali, tuberculosis in cattle and humans in Ethiopia, prevalence of microbes in foods in Ethiopia and of antibiotic resistant bacteria in the intestines of HIV/AIDS patients in Nigeria.

Other students completed projects on sleeping sickness in domestic animals in Mali, provided mathematical models for malaria in Mali and used global positioning satellite images to map the breeding sites and larval pools of malaria carrying mosquitoes. Still other students have investigated cerebrospinal fluids and serum biomarkers of cerebral malaria mortality in Ghanaian children, and developed a rapid malaria test using saliva. There is evidence of the seriousness of these diseases in developing countries of the tropics due to factors such as uncontrolled HIV/AIDS infection, intense population movements, and the risk of worldwide spread of these diseases.

The Conference Organizers and Keynote Speakers from left to right: 
1. Dr. Echeazu Ogu, consultant
2. Professor Stephen Byrn, Purdue University
3. Dr. Uford S. Inyang, Director-General and CEO, NIPRD
4. Dr. Joseph Fortunak, Howard University
5. Architect Mr. Gabriel Aduku (then) Minister of State for Health
6. Professor Joseph Okagan, NIPRD

College of Arts and Sciences undergraduate students at Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital in Accra, Ghana
Dr. Peter D. Lax, 2005 Abel Prize winner, visited students in the Department of Mathematics in February. Lax, a mathematician at the Courant Institute of Mathematics at NYU, gave an informative talk on “The Speed of Sound and Huygens Principle.” Afterwards, he met with students and faculty and answered questions, ranging from advice on specific mathematical research to how to be a successful mathematician.

Professor Lax also reminded Howard of its role as a national leader in producing the largest number of African-American mathematicians. Dr. Abdul-Aziz Yakubu, Chairman of the Mathematics Department, said Dr. Lax’s visit is part of a continuing effort to conduct cutting-edge research in the department.

The Abel Prize, awarded by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, is the equivalent of the prestigious Nobel Prize. Dr. Lax was honored for his groundbreaking contributions to the theory and application of partial differential equations and to the computation of their solutions.
Howard University Launches Center for Race and Wealth

African Americans continue to lag behind their white counterparts in income and wealth, making it difficult to break the cycle of racial wealth disparities. The gaps are far bigger for wealth than income, said Dr. William E. Spriggs, Chairman of Howard’s Department of Economics. Spriggs estimates that blacks make about 75 percent of what whites do in terms of income, and in terms of wealth the figure is more like 15 percent.

Part of the issue is that racial wealth disparity is a 300-year-old problem, in which blacks have been historically behind the curve, making it hard to catch up, he said. The Center for Race and Wealth at Howard was created to look for solutions to the problem, by increasing the number of scholars who are researching ways to close the gap.

The center, which was established with a $250,000 grant from the Ford Foundation in 2006-2007, holds a Summer Institute for Research on Race and Wealth aimed at graduates and undergraduates who have done their own research on the topic. Another $250,000 was awarded this year to help the center expand its research and continue the institute, which also brings together scholars, researchers and policy makers to look for policy solutions to the problem.

This year’s institute, held July 1-16, is being coordinated by Dr. Charles Betsey, Professor of Economics at Howard. Dr. Ngina Chiteji, Associate Professor of Economics at Skidmore College, is master instructor for the institute.

Ten students from across the country are participating in the summer program. In order to be considered for the institute, students must have done research and written a paper on ways to close the racial wealth gap. During the institute, students work on refining their research papers, Spriggs said.

Dr. William Spriggs,
Chair, Department of Economics

Center for Urban Progress and American Humanics Student Association Receive $100,000 Check from State Farm

The State Farm Youth Advisory Board presented a $100,000 check to the American Humanics Student Association and the Center for Urban Progress on April 9th at a special congratulatory ceremony in the Howard University Research Building 1 (HURB-1). The purpose of the award, the 2nd installment of a $200,000 grant, is to help strengthen the academic skills of high school students in the district, increasing their chances for completing high school and attending an institution of higher learning.

Two key programs of the project are the Senior Scholars Program and the After School Scholars Program, both administered and coordinated by the Howard University chapter of the American Humanics Student Association, under the advisement of Dr. Janet Griffin-Graves, program director for the Center for Urban Progress and Linda G. Jones, Special Assistant for Student Affairs in the College of Arts and Sciences and campus director for American Humanics. Dr. Rodney Green, Professor of Economics, is Executive Director of the Center for Urban Progress.
SUMMER STUDY ABROAD
2007
College of Arts & Sciences
study abroad
Turning Another Page
Mrs. Jean M. Bryan
DIRECTOR,
EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY CENTER

Mrs. Jean M. Bryan came to the United States from Jamaica to begin her education at Howard University in 1966. She completed her bachelor’s degree in the Department of Sociology in 1969 and earned her master’s degree in Student Personnel Administration in 1970.

After she completed her educational program, she accepted a position as counselor in the Educational Advisory Center where she mentored many Howard University students. In 2001, because of her stellar performance, she became Director of the Educational Advisory Center. During her 37 years, she was consistently cited as an individual keenly interested in rendering outstanding service to students, many of whom were from cultures all over the world.

Although she held everyone to a high standard and expected students to take responsibility for their actions, she was always compassionate and willing to go “that extra mile” to bring a smile upon the face of a student who thought that all was lost. Recently, Mrs. Jean Bryan and her husband, Dr. Basil K. Bryan (Howard University alumnus), have relocated to the warm climate of Florida where they will continue to contribute to the organizations and causes dear to their hearts.

As Jamaica’s Consul General to New York appointed in 1998, Dr. Bryan, recently retired, will continue to be a powerful spokesman for Jamaica’s interest in the United States and around the world; and as former Director of the Educational Advisory Center, Mrs. Bryan will continue her interest in issues related to higher education. Congratulations to the Bryans on a fulfilled and productive career.
Dr. Alphonso A. Frost, Jr., was appointed as instructor in German in 1971. He served in that capacity until 1977. From 1977 - 1989, he was a lecturer in German in the former Department of German and Russian. After receiving the doctorate in German language and literature at the University of Maryland in 1986, he was promoted to Associate Professor in 1989. During his 37-year tenure, Dr. Frost contributed exceptionally to the growth and promotion of language, cultural, and literary studies. He served as Interim Chair of the former Department of German and Russian and the current Department of Modern Languages and Literatures. Among his many service activities is that of Chair of the Division of the Humanities. In that role, he co-authored with Dr. Eleanor W. Traylor and Dr. Leota S. Lawrence a text entitled Broad Sympathy (Simon and Schuster, 1997).

On several occasions, he served as Coordinator of the German and Russian Program and assisted and supported vigorously his colleagues who served in that position. In 2000, he co-produced, with Dr. Yvonne Poser, I Will be German, a documentary video based on a trip with Howard University students to Berlin to meet with Afro-Germans. Dr. Frost's work on the advancement of Afro-German studies was cited in Diversity Across the Curriculum: A Guide for Faculty in Higher Education (Anker Publishing, 2007). Dr. Frost's nearly four decades of outstanding service to Howard University earns him the title of "true servant-leader."
Dr. Sung Y. Kwack

PROFESSOR,
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Dr. Sung Y. Kwack joined the faculty of the Department of Economics as a lecturer during the 1981-1982 academic year, and as an Associate Professor in August 1982. In 1985, the Department’s Appointments, Promotions and Tenure Committee and the Department’s Chairman recommended the promotion of Dr. Kwack to Professor. Dr. Kwack earned his bachelor’s in economics in 1959 from Seoul National University and earned his doctorate in 1968 from the University of California-Berkeley. While at Berkeley, Dr. Kwack received various fellowships, including the Flood Fellowship in Economics, and the Newton-Booth Traveling Fellowship in Economics. He received a National Science Foundation fellowship to complete work on his dissertation in 1966. After leaving Berkeley, Dr. Kwack worked at the Brookings Institution, and then served in key positions at the U.S. Department of Treasury and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

He worked in the private sector for Wharton Econometrics Forecasting Associates and for SRI International. He is the author of numerous academic articles on finance, development, international trade, gender inequality, and important work on the economic history of modern Korea. At Howard, Dr. Kwack supervised a number of dissertations and served on several key departmental committees. He also served as Chair of the Advisory Committee on Computer Literacy for the University. Dr. Kwack taught a range of classes to both undergraduate and graduate students in his over 25 years of service to the University. He leaves behind an outstanding record of scholarship and dedicated service to his students.
Dr. Cora Sadosky received her Licenciada en Ciencias Matemáticas (summa cum laude) from Universidad de Buenos Aires in 1960 and the Ph.D. from University of Chicago in 1965. She came to Howard University in 1980 as Associate Professor in the Mathematics Department and was promoted to full professor with tenure in 1985. During her tenure at Howard University, Dr. Sadosky held Visiting Professor positions at University of California at Berkeley, University of California at Santa Cruz, The Institute of Advanced Study at Princeton, Universidad de Buenos Aires in Argentina, and Institut d’Hautes Etudes Scientifiques at Bures-sur-Yvette in France. Dr. Sadosky’s research interests are in harmonic analysis and operator theory with applications to engineering systems and control. She has published 67 research papers and received $1,285,000.00 in grants and contracts from the National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Energy and Binational Science Foundation U.S.-Israel.

Dr. Sadosky has taught, mentored, advised and supported several Howard University students on her grants and contracts. Two of her graduate students, Abdulkadir Issa and Sandra Farrier, graduated with the doctoral degree in 1995 and 2005, respectively. While at Howard University, Professor Sadosky served on several professional organizations. She was President of the Association for Women in Mathematics from 1990-1995, and in 1996 she was Chair of the nominating committee of the association. Also, Dr. Sadosky served on several committees of the American Mathematical Society, American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Mathematical Research Institute. Congratulations, Professor Cora Sadosky. The Mathematics Department of Howard University will miss you.
Professor Louis W. Shapiro received his B.A. from Harvard College in 1963 and the Ph.D. from University of Maryland at College Park in 1967. He came to Howard University in 1967 as Assistant Professor in the Mathematics Department. Dr. Shapiro was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 1975 and to Full Professor in 1982. During his tenure at Howard University, he held visiting professorships at Dartmouth, George Washington and Tian Jin (China) universities. Dr. Shapiro’s research interests are in Generating Functions and Random Walks, Enumerative Combinatorics and Finite Group Theory. He has published 55 research papers. At Howard University, Dr. Shapiro served as Ph.D. dissertation advisor to five graduate students and supervised seven master’s theses. Known for his lively understandable lectures, he emphasized meaningful homework as a pathway to understanding. Professor Louis W. Shapiro served as Interim Chair of the Mathematics Department from 2003 to 2005.

Under his leadership, the Mathematics and Biology Departments received a one million dollar RISE grant from the National Science Foundation; the mathematics graduate program was enlarged; and the mathematics student lounge was completed. His other interests in life include his lovely wife Nancy, 3 sons (Eric, Michael, and James), music and running. He is the age group champion at both the Pike’s Peek 10K and the Chevy Blossom 10 mile race. Congratulations, Professor Louis W. Shapiro. The Mathematics Department of Howard University will miss you.
Born in Kingston, Jamaica, Dr. Norma P. Williams entered Howard University as a freshman in 1962. After obtaining a B.S. degree in Zoology in 1966 and an M.S. in Botany in 1968, majoring in Plant Physiology, Dr. Marie Taylor invited her to join the faculty as an instructor where she taught biological science to non-science majors. At the same time she pursued a doctoral degree and earned her Ph.D. in the Department of Zoology, concentrating in biochemical genetics under her mentor, the late Dr. Sarah Pipkin. In 1974, she joined the Biology Department at the California Institute of Technology as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the laboratory of the late Dr. Norman H. Horowitz (2005), a molecular geneticist. She returned to Howard as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Botany and returned to Caltech for three (3) summers, as a Visiting Research Associate, to continue her research in genetics.

In 1987, she joined the Hinnebusch Group at NIH, NICHD as an adjunct scientist, which started as a one (1) year sabbatical leave that lasted ten years. The research concentrated on “Translational Control of Genes that Regulate Amino Acid Biosynthesis.” Dr. Williams published several scientific papers with her mentor (Dr. Pipkin), the Caltech group, and with her colleagues at NIH. She has been affiliated with various scientific societies including the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Genetics Society of America, and Sigma Xi. Dr. Williams has served as an “ambassador” for the Biology Department, greeting visitors and communicating information about programs, major requirements, and campus life at Howard. She enjoys volunteering with the Literacy Council of Montgomery County where she has taught Chinese adults to speak, read and write English.

In recent years, she has spent many hours reviewing applications on the Admissions Committee of the College of Arts and Sciences and enjoys advising the many biology majors. Dr. Williams has been a valuable member of the Howard University Family. She will be greatly missed.
Dr. A. Toy Caldwell-Colbert served the Department of Psychology and Howard University for six years as a Professor in the Departments of Psychology and Psychiatry and as Provost and Chief Academic Officer (2 years). She was a board-certified clinical psychologist throughout her professional career, conducting research, authoring scholarly articles, developing training exercises for mental health professionals and educators, and teaching in the fields of race and ethnic relations, mood disorders, and multicultural competency.

Born in Salina, Kansas, on September 21, 1951, Dr. A. Toy Caldwell-Colbert was a product of Salina public schools, later earning a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Spelman College and a master’s degree and doctorate degree in psychology from the University of Georgia. With a career spanning more than 27 years in higher education, Dr. A. Toy Caldwell-Colbert brought to Howard University in 2001 a commendable background of accomplishments including national recognition in the field of clinical psychology and administrative appointments such as Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Illinois from 1994 to 2001.

In 2001, Dr. A. Toy Caldwell-Colbert became Howard University’s Provost and Chief Academic Officer, serving between 2001 and 2003. During her tenure, she initiated major new programs in the areas of student development, undergraduate and graduate research, faculty development, academic program review, and enrollment management.

She was professionally active in the American Psychological Association (APA), serving as Past-President of APA Division 45 (the Society for the Psychological Study of Ethnic Minority Issues); as a member of the Board of Educational Affairs, the Board of Professional Affairs, the President’s Commission for the Education and Training for Licensure in Psychology, and as the chair of the President’s Implementation Plan for Ethnic Minority Recruitment, Retention, and Training of Psychologists. For her professional accomplishments, Dr. Caldwell-Colbert received numerous accolades and awards such as the American Psychological Association’s Stanley Sue Award of Achievement for her work on the clinical psychology of ethnic minorities (2004).

After her departure from Howard University, Dr. Caldwell-Colbert continued to serve the higher education community, for example as Trustee and the Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees at Spelman College and in 2007 as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Central State University, where she was held in high esteem.

Although her tenure at Howard University was brief, Dr. A. Toy Caldwell-Colbert, an elegant woman of extraordinary grace and style, made outstanding and lasting contributions to the institution. Her stellar performance as a scholar, teacher, colleague, and servant-leader will be forever remembered.
Dr. Josephine Woll

Dr. Josephine Woll served the Departments of German and Russian (1977-1993), Modern Languages and Literatures (1993-2008), and Howard University for thirty-one years as a dedicated and stellar Professor. She taught courses in Russian Literature, Soviet Film, Women in Literature, and other Humanities courses that helped to expand students’ awareness of and familiarity with world cultures and international perspectives. Active on a number of university, college, and departmental committees, Dr. Woll authored and co-authored numerous scholarly articles, film reviews, and five books that contributed significantly to knowledge in the areas of Russian and Soviet Studies.

Dr. Josephine Woll earned an international reputation as a literary critic for her in-depth and comprehensive analyses of Soviet Film and Literature; and, was considered a pioneering scholar as a result of her recent book contribution which examined the similarities of Soviet and French African cinemas. On April 5, 2008, Dr. Josephine Woll was honored posthumously at a symposium at Harvard University’s Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Injustice on Aleksandr Pushkin, considered the Black-heritaged father of modern Russian literature.

The College of Arts and Sciences will forever honor the legacy of Dr. Josephine Woll, a talented scholar, exceptional teacher, and wonderful colleague. She will be missed by many.

Dr. Alinda J. Sumers

The Department of English, the College of Arts and Sciences, and Howard University bid farewell to Dr. Alinda J. Sumers, Associate Professor in the Department of English. Dr. Sumers, a specialist in 17th-century literature, taught in the Department of English for nearly twenty-three years, beginning as an assistant professor in Fall 1985. During her tenure, Dr. Sumers contributed to her field through scholarly presentations and cutting-edge articles such as “Milton’s Mat(t)erology: Paradise Lost and the Seventeenth-Century Querelle des Femmes,” published in *Milton Quarterly*, Vol. 38, No. 4 (December 2004) and “The Black Man and the Dark Lady: The Imaginary African in Early Modern and Modern British Writers,” published in a special issue of *Sea Change: Black British Writing*, edited by Laura Ramey and guest edited by R. Victoria Arana (Spring 2001).

Dr. Sumers, who possessed a spectacular sense of humor and a sharp perceptive wit, was recognized as an innovative teacher who frequently transported her students back to the 17th century where they were spectators at the famous Globe Theatre in London, or where they became the actors in a Shakespearean play. When the margins of the classroom became too confined, she would take them downtown to theatres like the Folger on East Capitol Street (SE) or the Shakespeare on 7th.

Her courses were always oversubscribed and packed to the rim with students from every major across campus because she touched their hearts and minds. Teaching was much more to her than books, papers, and lectures: She knew that real education involved creativity, imagination, and love. These – she possessed in great abundance! Dr. Alinda Sumers, Hail! Farewell and adieu!
Dr. Lettie J. Austin Fenderson

R. Lettie Jane Austin Fenderson, known professionally as Dr. Lettie Jane Austin, served the Department of English for sixty-one years. A brilliant scholar and high achiever, she possessed a dazzling record of intellectual growth and impressive accomplishments. Dr. Austin, a young woman when she began at Howard University, was a member of the legendary generation of distinguished Howard University faculty whose names are inexplicably linked to the “golden age” of this institution. She walked with the likes of Alain Locke, Carter G. Woodson, E. Franklin Frazier, Kelly Miller, Sterling Brown, Ivan Earl Taylor, Charlotte Watkins, Ralph Bunche, and John Lovell. She was married to Dr. Lewis H. Fenderson, Jr., a Professor of English at Howard.

Born in Joplin, Missouri, on March 21, 1925, Dr. Lettie Austin earned a B.A. from Lincoln University in 1946. In 1947 she became one of the first African Americans to earn an M.A. from Kansas State University. After studying English at Sarah Lawrence College and education at New York University, Dr. Austin went on to Stanford University as an Alice J. Rosenberg Fellow. She was the first African American recipient of this award. Dr. Austin received an Ed.D. from Stanford in 1952. In 1954, she traveled abroad as a Fulbright Scholar and earned an M.A. in Elizabethan Literature from the University of Nottingham, England (1954). While in the United Kingdom, during the summer, she studied Irish Literature at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. A powerful drive and relentless thirst for knowledge motivated Dr. Lettie Austin to pursue advanced degrees in psychology. She earned an M.S. in the field in 1964 and a Ph.D. in 1988 (Howard University). Recently, she completed a paralegal program at the Department of Agriculture. She earned a place at the top of her class.

Dr. Lettie J. Austin amassed an impressive record of scholarship during her career, publishing numerous articles in refereed journals and presenting scholarly papers at regional, national, and international conferences. Most noteworthy are her publications, College Reading Skills, collaboration with Alice Grant, Toni Morrison, Joan Murrell, and Eleanor Traylor in 1966; and The Black Man and the Promise of America, with Lewis Fenderson and Sophia Nelson (1970). Because of her impeccable record in her field, Dr. Lettie Austin was in great demand as a consultant. She worked with the Educational Testing Service (Princeton, New Jersey), serving as an Associate Examiner—Division of Higher Education and Career Programs; a Test Developer, Item Reviewer, Table Leader and Essay Reader for the College Board Examinations and the National Merit Scholarship Test.

She was a consultant for both the International Curriculum Development Program at the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in North Dakota and the Navaho Nation Community College, Tsaile, Arizona; a consultant for the Caribbean Exchange Program, College of Virgin Islands, St. Thomas; and a Peace Corps Consultant teaching English as a Second Language in Togo and in Senegal, West Africa. Her work as a consultant with the Phelps Stokes Foundation took her to the Ivory Coast, Ghana, and Liberia. Her expertise also took her to Japan, the Republic of China, Hong Kong, Canada, and Mexico. She also worked as a consultant with Bowie State, Norfolk State and Texas-Southern University.

Dr. Austin had affiliations with a number of professional organizations such as the Modern Language Association (MLA); the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE); the College Conference on Composition and Communications (CCCC); the College Language Association (CLA); the American Psychological Association (APA); the American Association of University Professors (AAUP); and the Fulbright Association. She was an active member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. to which she remained loyal and supportive.

Throughout her tenure at Howard University, Dr. Lettie J. Austin rendered outstanding service to her department, college and university. She was Director of the College of Liberal Arts Reading Program; Acting Chair of the Department of English; Chair of the Graduate School Program in International Affairs; and Director of the Graduate Program in English. She was a member of the College of Arts and Sciences Honors Council and one of the reviewers and evaluators of students applying for Rhodes Scholarships. Three Howard University students have become Rhodes Scholars. Dr. Austin was a mentor to many people around the University who have assumed leadership positions. They were guided by her sharp critical acumen, wisdom, and discretion. “She would always speak the truth and was the soul of discretion.”

Above the impressive achievements, the prestigious awards, and sterling accomplishments were her students. Dr. Lettie J. Austin was a teacher’s teacher. She was quite simply the best. She gave greatness to her students and expected the same in return. She was a “master teacher” who inspired her students to reach for excellence in everything they pursued — “to never settle for second best.”

A woman of extraordinary talents — classical pianist, connoisseur of art and music, scholar, intellectual, legal specialist, professional consultant, teacher — Dr. Lettie J. Austin lived life with exceptional passion and style. She will be enormously missed by her colleagues, students, and friends.
The flagship newsletter of the College of Arts and Sciences.