



College of
Arts and Sciences

1867-2024



Chief Administrators

Principals and Deans of the College of Arts and Sciences

Commissioned by Dean Rubin Patterson
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PREFACE

Dean Rubin Patterson, Ph.D.

Howard University has enriched American society for over one hundred and fifty years, and the College of Arts and Sciences has been the heart and soul of that enrichment. Students at Howard receive a liberal arts education that illuminates and empowers the African diasporic experience in its continuous pursuit of social justice. Today, the College is the academic home to approximately one-third of the Howard student body and approximately one-third of its faculty. Historically, students, faculty, staff, and alumni of the College have fueled the University's prominent reputation.

Stakeholders of the College of Arts and Sciences want the world to understand and appreciate this College that transforms the lives of students who go on to help transform institutions and communities for a more inclusive and just society. The College can be explored through a number of different prisms, but in this project, we facilitate an exploration by presenting all of its 28 Deans, from 1867 to 2024. Exploring the College through its Deans historically is valuable since Deans, in their roles as chief academic and administrative leaders, influence the College's aspirations and accomplishments. Leading the flagship college of Howard University is difficult, and all 28 Deans have made varying levels of contributions to making the College what it is today.

The chronology of the Deans of the College of Arts and Sciences includes their names, lifespan, place of birth, educational credentials, highlights of their accomplishments, and their photos. I am so glad I had the wisdom to ask Dr. James Davis, an outstanding humanities scholar of languages and cultures, to lead this research project. Dr. Davis has been an admired citizen of the College for half a century, and he continues to be invested in its success. The product he has produced is an invaluable living historical document that throughout time will continue informing the Howard community about the evolution of the College of Arts and Sciences as a national treasure.





INTRODUCTION

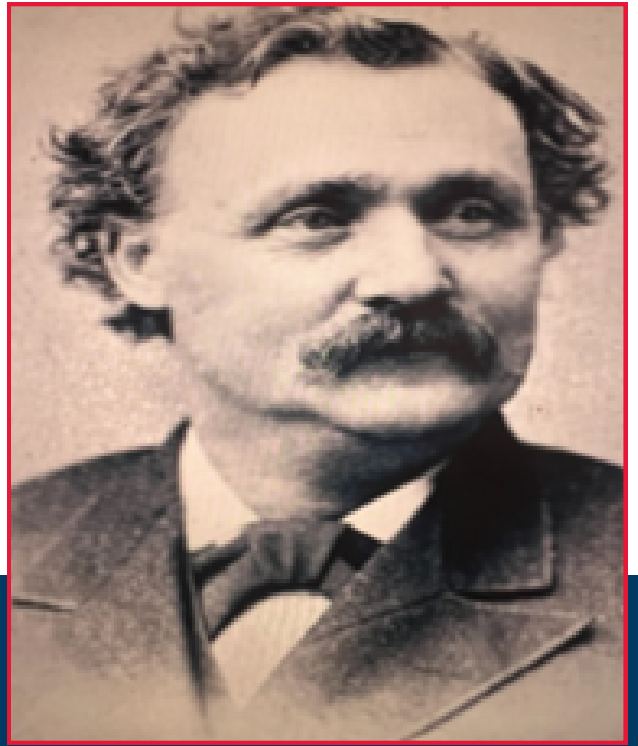
What would become the current College of Arts and Sciences was established when Howard University opened its doors for instruction in 1867 with the Normal and Preparatory Departments. The dual mission of those two departments was to prepare African American teachers for teaching in the Black schools and to prepare children of formerly enslaved humans for college-level instruction. With elements of the curriculum of the Normal and Preparatory Departments, the university's Board of Trustees, on September 21, 1868, formally opened the Collegiate Department which, according to Rayford Logan's *Howard University: The First Hundred Years 1867-1967*, offered a "course of study, largely classical, which consisted of four years not unlike that in the New England colleges." During the 1903-1904 academic year, the Collegiate Department was restructured and renamed the College of Arts and Sciences. In 1919, the Board made another significant change. It approved the merger of the departments of the College of Arts and the departments of the College of Sciences to become the College of Liberal Arts, the name that it would bear until 1992. In that year, the board approved returning to the name the College of Arts and Sciences. Note that the current Schools of Business and Education had their origins in the College of the Arts and Sciences. Also, the current College of Fine Arts was on two occasions a part of the College of Arts and Sciences.

See Appendix B for a chronology of the highlights and developments in the College of Arts and Sciences.

This document has been prepared to showcase the men and women who have served as chief academic officers of the College since 1867. During the first three years (1867-1870) of the university's existence, the chief academic officers of the college/department were appointed as principals. The first reference to dean was in 1870. During the early years of the College, the principals and deans were white men with a military or religious training background. Note that General Otis Howard, a white man, for whom the university was named often appointed his male associates to serve as administrators (including presidents) at the university. The first African American dean, James M. Gregory, was appointed in 1882, 15 years after the founding of the university. What is unanticipated about this is that Gregory was appointed Dean of the College 44 years before Howard University appointed its first African American president, Mordecai W. Johnson, in 1926. Martha Bailey Briggs, one of the pioneering African American women at Howard, is featured in Appendix A. She served as a principal (1883-1889) of the Howard University Normal Department, which played a significant role in the history of the current College of Arts and Sciences.

On the following pages, you will find a photograph and a biography of each person who served as principal or dean of what is now the College of Arts and Sciences. The biographies are deliberately short and focus primarily on academic training and careers. In the Bibliography and Appendices, readers will find references for further readings, where applicable, on each administrator and landmark moments in the history of the College of Arts and Sciences. The compiler consulted many sources to produce this document. In some instances, there was conflicting information on the exact years when events occurred and the names of the academic departments/units. Every effort was made to reconcile any discrepancies through cross-referencing. The history of the College of Arts and Sciences and Howard University is indeed intriguing and complex.

Edward F. Williams, A.M.



Life Span: 1832–1914

Place of Birth: Uxbridge, Massachusetts

Service as Dean: 1867–1868

Howard Academic Title: Teacher/Principal of the Normal and Preparatory Department

Education and Career:

An 1856 undergraduate graduate of Yale University, Williams earned a master's degree also from Yale in 1857. In 1861, he graduated from the Princeton Theological Seminary with a license to preach. Most of his professional career was dedicated to ministry. Williams was the first principal of the Normal and Preparatory Department, later the College of Arts and Sciences at Howard University. His tenure as principal lasted for one academic year only, 1867–1868. After his one-year service to Howard University, he worked primarily as a minister/pastor in various churches in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New York, and Illinois. Williams's last service was as pastor of the Congregational Church in Chicago from 1901 to 1911. He died in Chicago in 1914.

Amzi L. Barber, B.A., J.D.



Life Span: 1843–1909

Place of Birth: Saxtons River, Vermont

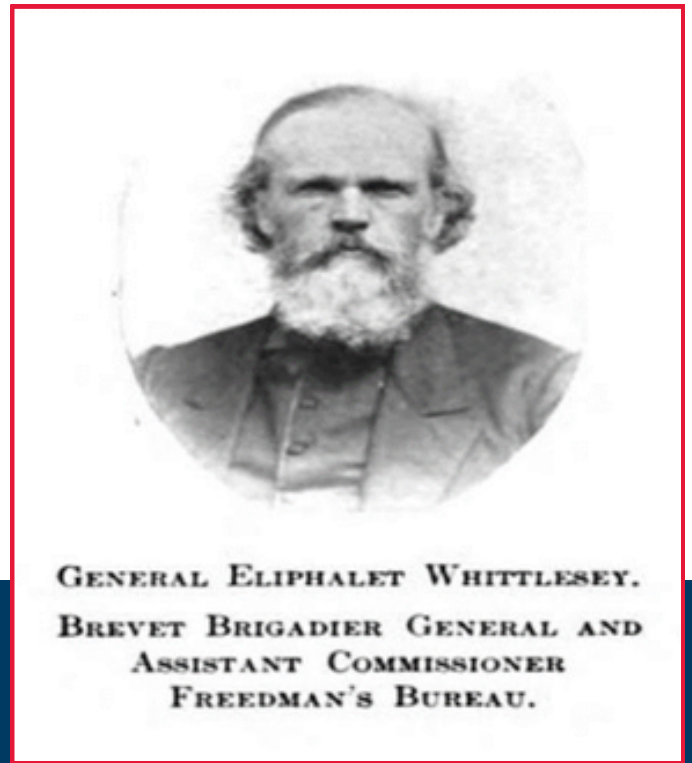
Service as Dean: 1868–1870

Howard Academic Title: Professor of Natural Philosophy and Mathematics

Education and Career:

Barber, a native of Saxtons River, Vermont, was an 1867 graduate of Oberlin College. After completing his degree, he considered a career in the ministry but chose to teach. He joined the faculty at Howard University in 1868 and served until 1873. After resigning from his position at Howard, he became a real estate developer and, alongside his brother-in-law, Andrew Langdon, played a pivotal role in the development of LeDroit Park near the Howard University campus. Barber named the neighborhood after his father-in-law, LeDroict Langdon, but he dropped the letter “c” to give it a French name meaning “the right or the law.” Barber would later earn a law degree from Columbian College (now George Washington University) in 1877. Upon his death in 1909, he was considered a multi-millionaire.

Eliphalet Whittlesey, A.M.



Life Span: 1821 -1909

Place of Birth: New Britain, Connecticut

Service as Dean: 1870-1871

Howard Academic Title: Professor of Natural Philosophy and Mathematics

Education and Career:

Whittlesey earned his undergraduate degree at Yale University in 1843. He later studied theology at Yale and Andover Seminary in Massachusetts. Much of his professional career was dedicated to the ministry and the military. Whittlesey was an Adjutant-General of the Freedman's Bureau and helped to establish Howard University where he joined the faculty in 1867 and served as third college administrator for a year. After seven years, he left the university and in 1874 he was appointed secretary of the Board of Indian Commissioners by President Ulysses S. Grant. He served in that role until 1900.

Howard University awarded him an honorary Doctorate of Divinity in 1882.

William F. Bascom, A.M.



Life Span: 1817-1903

Place of Birth: Orwell, Vermont

Service as Dean: 1871-1872

Howard Academic Title: Professor of Latin and Greek

Education and Career:

He earned an undergraduate degree at Middlebury College in 1838. Bascom began his professional career as a tutor at Middlebury where he served from 1839 to 1845. He was later principal at Yates Academy and Middlebury Female Seminary. Bascom was admitted to the bar in 1856 and practiced law in Middlebury from 1856 to 1863. He served on the faculty of Howard from 1868 to 1874. He was appointed Dean of the Collegiate Department (now Arts and Sciences) in 1871 but served only one year. Bascom left Howard in 1874 and returned to practicing law until his retirement. Bascom was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws at Howard University in 1898.

James Monroe Gregory, M.A.



*Yours truly,
J. M. Gregory*

Life Span: 1849–1915

Place of Birth: Lexington, Virginia

Service as Dean: 1878–1880; 1882–1883; 1885–1887

Howard Academic Title: Professor of Latin

Education and Career:

James Monroe Gregory was the first African American to serve as dean of the college. He studied at Oberlin College but later transferred to Howard University where he graduated with high honors in 1872. Gregory was one of the first three graduates in the collegiate department. Upon graduation, Gregory was appointed as tutor of Latin and mathematics. He was the only Black teacher in the department. In 1875, he was appointed Professor of Latin at Howard. He earned a master's degree at Harvard University in 1885. In addition to his teaching and leading the college as dean, Gregory was an ardent civil rights leader and advocate for equity in education for African American children. In 1881, he fought for the right to send his own children to the public schools in Washington, DC. In 1890, he founded the American Association of Educators of Colored Youth and served as its president until the association was dissolved. Gregory was also heavily engaged in politics and sought political appointments in which he believed that he could improve the opportunities for African Americans. Gregory was a close friend and confidante of Frederick Douglass. In 1893, two years before Douglass's death he published a biographical book on him. (See Bibliography)

Upon leaving Howard in 1897, Gregory was appointed principal of the Industrial Training School in Bordentown, New Jersey. He held that position for 17 years. He died one year after retiring as principal in 1915. Gregory's legacy at Howard University was carried on by several of his descendants. His son, Thomas Montgomery Gregory, was a professor of English and Drama at Howard from 1910–1924. He played a major role in the establishment of the famed Howard Players. At the time of this writing, his granddaughter, Sheila Gregory Thomas, daughter of Thomas Montgomery Gregory and a 1961 Howard graduate in Spanish, is alive and well. Ms. Thomas, after pursuing a career in teaching Spanish in DC Public and Private Schools, went on to become a television writer, writer and producer in the DC area. James Gregory's great-granddaughter, Robin Gregory, became Howard University's "first Afrocentric Homecoming Queen" in 1966. See the Bibliography for a reference to her intriguing story.

Thomas Robinson, M.A.

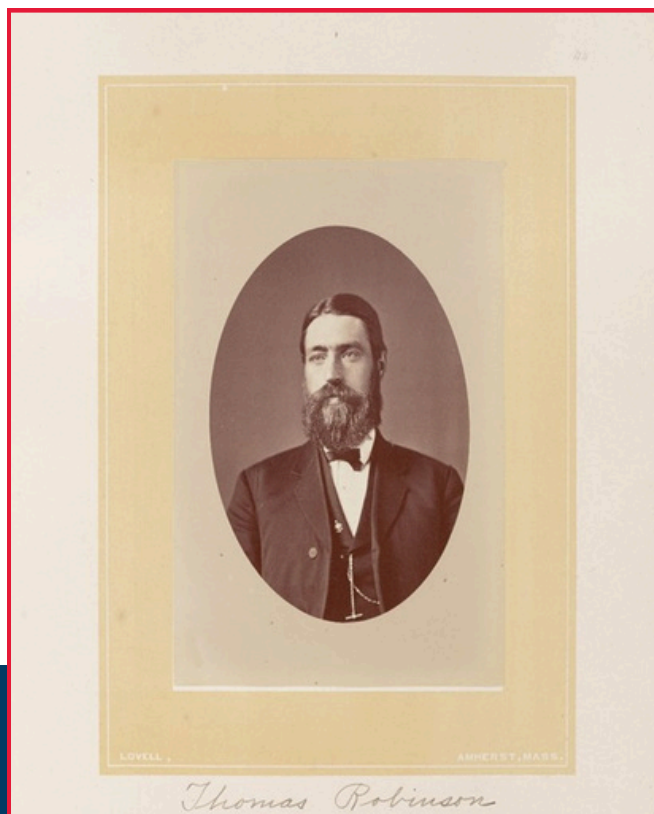


Photo Credit: 1872 Class Album, Class Albums Collection, Archives and Special Collections, Amherst College

Life Span: 1843–1910

Place of Birth: Salisbury, England

Service as Dean: 1880–1882; 1883–1885

Howard Academic Title: Professor of Natural Philosophy and Chemistry

Education and Career:

James Robinson was born in England, but he was educated primarily in the United States. He earned his undergraduate degree (B.S.) at Amherst College, MA in 1872. From 1872 to 1874, he was a special student of Theology at Andover Theological Seminary, MA. Robinson was awarded an honorary master's degree from Amherst in 1877 based, in part, on his service as a missionary. He served on the faculty at Howard for 13 years from 1874 to 1887. After leaving Howard, he worked for 22 years as a civil engineer in Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Maine, and Michigan. He died a year after retiring in Irving, Texas in 1910.

Carlos Alfred Kenaston, M.A.



Life Span: 1837–1905

Place of Birth: Sherbrook, Canada

Service as Dean: 1887–1888

Howard Academic Title: Professor of Greek Language and Literature

Education and Career:

Kenaston earned his bachelor's degree from Oberlin College in 1861. He also earned his master's degree at Oberlin in 1864. His first teaching job was as an instructor at the State Agricultural College (now Michigan State University) in Lansing, Michigan, for two years. He would later be appointed to teaching positions in several states: Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. He left academia for several years to serve as a civil engineer for the Canadian Pacific Railroad. From 1884 to 1885, he was a railroad engineer in Wisconsin. In 1885, he was appointed professor at Howard University and would serve until 1892, when he left the university to participate in projects for the US Departments of the Interior and Treasury. He ended his career as a professor at Salt Lake College in 1897. He died of a stroke in Oberlin, Ohio in 1905.



Robert Bowne Warder, M.A.

Life Span: 1848–1905

Place of Birth: Cincinnati, Ohio

Service as Dean: 1888–1891

Howard Academic Title: Professor of Chemistry

Education and Career:

Upon graduating from Earlham College in 1866, Robert Bowne Warder held several teaching and other jobs. During the academic year 1866–67, he taught high school in Mooresville, Indiana. He left teaching after that year and worked as an assistant in a chemistry lab at the Illinois Industrial University at Champaign (now University of Illinois) and as a geological surveyor until 1872. Warder returned to Earlham in 1873 and earned an M.A. Shortly afterward, he enrolled at Harvard and earned a second undergraduate degree in Chemistry. In 1887, Warder became a professor of Chemistry at Howard University and spent the rest of his career there. While at Howard, he published several articles in Chemistry.

*Frederick Wyatt Fairfield,
D.Div.*



Life Span: 1846–1914

Place of Birth: Oberlin, Ohio

Service as Dean: 1891–1907

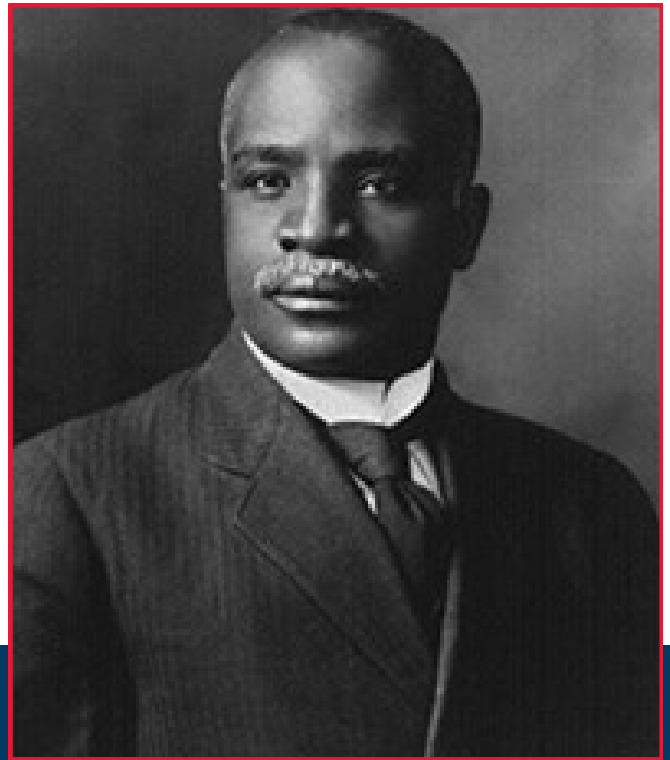
Howard Academic Title: Professor of Greek and Political Economy

Education and Career:

A native of Oberlin, Ohio, Fairfield graduated from Oberlin College in 1868 and from the Oberlin Theological Seminary in 1871. In that same year, he was ordained minister of the Congregational Church and served as pastor of the Home Missionary Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin for three years. He joined the faculty at Howard University in 1874 and served until 1882. Fairfield served as Acting President for two short terms between 1875 and 1877. He left Howard in 1882 for an appointment at Tabor College (Iowa) as a professor of Greek until 1891 when was awarded the degree of Doctor of Divinity at that institution. Fairfield was then reappointed in 1891 at Howard as professor and Chair of Greek and as Dean of the College.

He would serve a brief third term as Acting President from January 1906 to August 1906.

Kelly Miller, A.M., LL.D.



Life Span: 1863–1939

Place of Birth: Winnsboro, South Carolina

Service as Dean: 1907–1918

Howard Academic Title: Professor of Mathematics and Sociology

Education and Career:

Kelly Miller is cited as the first African American to receive graduate education in mathematics in the United States. He completed the three-year curriculum in Latin and Greek at Howard University. He later completed his studies in mathematics at Howard in the College Department in 1886. In 1887, he became the first African American to be admitted to Johns Hopkins University where he pursued doctoral studies in mathematics and physics. He did not complete the degree at Hopkins. In 1901, he earned his Master of Arts at Howard University. Additionally, Miller was awarded an honorary law degree (LL.D.) in 1903 from the Howard University Law School. Miller was appointed Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in 1907 and served 11 years until 1918.

Kelly Miller played a major role in the advancement of Howard University and African American studies in general over the years. He was an advocate, often controversial, in his quest for changes in the curriculum and the administration of Howard University. His first published book, *Race Adjustment* (1908) is a testimony of his basic concerns regarding various topics: race relations, education, religion, gender, and the educational opportunities and equity for African Americans. He was indeed one of the most important figures in the history of Howard University.

Among his many accomplishments and contributions were his proposals to introduce Spanish language and sociology studies at Howard. In fact, he taught the first course in sociology at Howard in 1895. Most biographical entries on Kelly Miller list him as a mathematician, sociologist, essayist/author, and newspaper columnist. The Kelly Miller Middle School in Washington, DC, was named in his honor in 1949 and still stands as a tribute to his noteworthy contribution to education.



Carter Godwin Woodson, Ph.D.

Life Span: 1875–1950

Place of Birth: New Canton, Virginia

Service as Dean: 1918–1920

Howard Academic Title: Professor of History

Education and Career:

After earning a B.A. from Berea College (1903) and a second B.A. and an M.A. from the University of Chicago (1908), Woodson became the second African American (W. E. B. Du Bois was the first) to earn a Ph.D. (1912) at Harvard University. He founded the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). In 1916, he founded *The Journal of Negro History*, which is currently published as *The Journal of African American History*. In February 1926, Woodson spearheaded the celebration of the first “Negro History Week,” which is now Black History Month. Often referred to as “the Father of Black History,” Woodson was the author of many pioneering publications on African American history, including *The Negro in Our History* (1922) and *the History of the Negro Church* (1927). Between 1915 and 1942, he authored, co-authored, and edited 20 books in addition to his numerous published articles, essays, and public speeches.

In his book, *Carter G. Woodson in Washington, DC: The Father of Black History*, Pero Gaglo Dagbovie wrote that: “No other individual has contributed as much as Woodson to the development of African American history as an academic field of study, a conduit for American educational study reform and a vehicle of black psychological and cultural liberation.” As one of the most celebrated African American men of all time, there are numerous places (schools, parks, libraries) named in his honor in 15 U.S. states and in Washington, DC. The Carter G. Woodson Home located at 1538 9th Street NW, DC, is a National Historic Site.

Woodson was awarded the honorary Doctor of Laws at Howard University in 1947.

Dudley W. Woodard, Ph.D.



Life Span: 1881–1965

Place of Birth: Galveston, Texas

Service as Dean: 1920–1929

Howard Academic Title: Professor of Mathematics

Education and Career:

Woodard received his B.A. at the Historically Black Wilberforce University in Ohio in 1903. He earned a second bachelor's degree in science in 1906 and a Master of Science in 1907 at the University of Chicago. He taught mathematics at Tuskegee Institute (now University) from 1907 to 1914. He then returned to his alma mater, Wilberforce, to teach mathematics from 1914 to 1920. Woodard joined the faculty at Howard University in 1920 and remained there for the remainder of his career. Shortly after his tenure at Howard began, Woodard began doctoral studies in Mathematics at Columbia University, but he transferred to the University of Pennsylvania, where he earned a Ph.D. in Mathematics in 1928. Woodard is recognized as the second African American to earn a Ph.D. in Mathematics at the University of Pennsylvania. The first was Dr. Elbert Cox in 1925. Cox would later join Woodard at Howard and assisted Woodard in establishing the master's program in Mathematics at Howard.

Woodard, a well-known and respected mathematician and student mentor, was first appointed dean of the College in 1920 and served for five years (1920–1925). After serving that term, he wanted to step down as dean and return to teaching full-time, but he was asked to serve as dean again. He accepted the task and served two additional years (1925–1927). In 1927, Woodard stepped down once again, but he was asked to serve after the unexpected resignation of his successor, Dean Edward Porter Davis, who served a one-year term (1927–28). Woodard stepped down permanently when Edward Porter Davis accepted the deanship again in 1929. Woodard would teach mathematics full-time from 1929 to his retirement in 1947.

Woodard is also recognized as the first African American to publish an article in an accredited mathematics journal.

Edward Porter Davis, Ph.D.



Life Span: 1879–1938

Place of Birth: Charleston, South Carolina

Service as Dean: 1929–1937

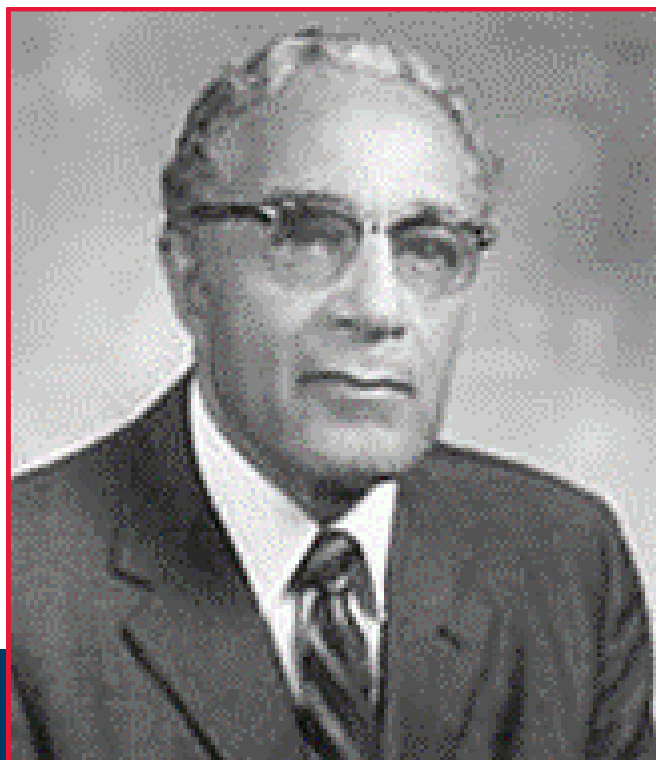
Howard Academic Title: Professor of German Language and Literature

Education and Career:

Davis earned a B.A. at Howard University in 1907. He received a master's degree in Latin at the University of Chicago in 1911. In 1923, he was awarded a Ph.D. in German at the University of Chicago. Davis began teaching at Howard in 1907 in the Howard University Academy (formerly the Preparatory Department). He was appointed Chair of the Department of German at Howard in 1920. While he was chair, Davis was nominated and selected for a prestigious fellowship in German at the University of Chicago and took a leave of absence for the academic year 1922–23. He would later serve for eight years as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Davis was a very popular dean. He was described in the following way in the 1931 Bison Yearbook: "No member of the faculty is more generally liked and admired. He is a stern disciplinarian, yet one who will always go to the limits within the law to satisfy the needs of the students. He is greatly concerned about the thorough liberal education of the younger generation of Negroes. The teaching profession needs more men like Dr. Davis: men who have not drifted into the academic life, but men who are interested primarily in the student and who feel a personal responsibility for the fullest development of the students' powers."

Davis stepped down as dean in June 1937 due to health reasons. He passed away less than a year after resigning.

Charles Harris Wesley, Ph.D.



Life Span: 1891–1987

Place of Birth: Louisville, Kentucky

Service as Dean: 1937–1938 (Acting)

Howard Academic Title: Professor of History

Education and Career:

Wesley earned his B. A. from Fisk University in 1911. He went on to complete the M.A. in History and Economics at Yale University in 1913, the year he joined the faculty at Howard University. During his tenure at Howard, he completed his Ph.D. at Harvard University in 1925. Some sources reveal that he was the third African American to earn a doctorate at Harvard; others indicate that he was the fourth. In addition to being an accomplished historian, he was an ordained minister in the African Methodist Church. A prolific researcher, he published more than 15 scholarly books on African American history and themes. While at Howard, he served for one year as Acting Dean of the College of Liberal Arts (1937–1938). He later would serve as the Dean of the Graduate School until 1942. In 1942, Wesley was recruited to become the president of Wilberforce University (Ohio) where he served until 1947. In that year, he founded Central State University, located literally about one-fourth mile from Wilberforce. He served as president of that institution until 1965. He then returned to Washington, DC, and was appointed Director of Research and Publications and Executive Director at the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History.

In 1982, Howard University President Dr. James Cheek stated that "Charles Harris Wesley was a legend in his own time at Howard. His deep concern that the pages of history should objectively reflect the contributions of black folk to American civilization was monumental in its importance." Wesley was awarded the honorary Doctor of Literature at Howard University in 1970.

Of special note, Dr. Wesley's second marriage was to Dorothy Porter Wesley, the legendary librarian, bibliographer, and curator who transformed Howard's Moorland-Spangarn Research Center into one of the most prominent research centers of Africana Studies. His daughter, Charlotte Wesley Holloman (1922–2015) was a 1941 Fine Arts graduate of Howard University who taught music at Howard and became a noted soprano on the national scene.

Charles Henry Thompson, Ph.D.



Life Span: 1895–1980

Place of Birth: Jackson, Mississippi

Service as Dean: 1938–1942

Howard Academic Title: Professor of Educational Psychology

Education and Career:

Thompson earned his Bachelor of Science degree with honors in 1917 at Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia. He spent two years in the military before enrolling at the University of Chicago in 1919 where he earned a master's degree in education in 1920. He began his teaching career at his alma mater, Virginia Union, where he taught for only one academic year, 1921–1922. The following year, he was recruited and served as the director of instruction at Alabama State Normal School until 1924. In 1925, he would spend one year as an instructor of Psychology and Social Science at Summer High School and Junior College in Kansas. In 1925, he became the first African American to earn a doctorate in Educational Psychology at the University of Chicago. The following year, 1926, Thompson joined the faculty of Howard University where he would remain for the rest of his academic career. He retired in 1966.

While at Howard, he held numerous positions including those of Professor and Chair of the Department of Education, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts (COAS), and Dean of the Graduate School. One of his most significant achievements at Howard was founding and serving as the first editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Negro Education* in 1932. In founding the journal, he intended to “fill the need for a scholarly journal that would identify and define the problems that characterized the education of Black people in the United States and elsewhere.” Thompson served as editor-in-chief until 1963. The current School of Education at Howard University has annually sponsored The Charles H. Thompson Lecture-Colloquium since November 1980 as a living memorial to Dr. Thompson.

Joseph St. Clair Price, Ed.D.



Life Span: 1888 – 1975

Place of Birth: Barbados, West Indies

Service as Dean: 1942–1957

Howard Academic Title: Professor of Education

Education and Career:

Dr. Price began his collegiate studies at Lincoln University, Pennsylvania, but he transferred to the University of Michigan where he earned a B.A. in Latin and Education in 1920. He later earned the M.A. (1927) and Doctor of Education (1940) at Harvard University. Prior to joining the faculty at Howard University in 1930, he taught in the Department of Education at West Virginia State College (now University). While at West Virginia, he published, in 1927, *The Classroom Work of the Negro Elementary School Teacher in West Virginia*. When he accepted the position of Dean of Liberal Arts, he was quoted in the December 15, 1943 edition of the *Hilltop* as saying that his ambition was “to keep accumulative records of students at Howard University and carry them through professional studies” and “to find out what factors make for success in school and then in life and see if there is any relationship between the two.”

*Frank Martin Snowden, Jr.,
Ph.D.*



Life Span: 1911–2007

Place of Birth: York County, Virginia

Service as Dean: 1957–1963; 1967–1969

Howard Academic Title: Professor of Classics

Education and Career:

Internationally renowned scholar of *Blacks in Antiquity*, Frank M. Snowden earned all his degrees in Classics at Harvard University: B.A. (1932), M.A. (1933) and Ph.D. (1944). He was awarded six honorary doctorate degrees, including one from Howard University in 1985.

Prior to joining the faculty at Howard in 1942 as an instructor in Latin, Dr. Snowden taught at Virginia State University (1933–36) and at Spelman College (1936–1940). He quickly rose to full professor in 1945 and served in multiple roles throughout his tenure at Howard. He was appointed Chair of the Department of Classics and served for a total of 35 years while serving in other appointments: Director of Evening School and Adult Education (1942–1954), Chair of the Humanities Program (1950–1951), Assistant Dean in the College of Liberal Arts, and two terms as Dean of the College. His service at Howard was often interrupted by U.S. government appointments and international lectureships/consultantships. Of special note, he served as cultural attaché at the American Embassy in Rome, Italy from 1954–56.

A prolific published scholar, his book, *Blacks in Antiquity: Ethiopians in the Greco-Roman Experience* (1970), became a standard text or supplemental reading in Classics courses at Howard and other institutions.

His daughter, Jane Snowden Lepsky, taught Italian and Spanish languages, in the now Department of World Languages at Howard during the 1970s.

Carroll L. Miller, Ed.D.



Life Span: 1909–1988

Place of Birth: Washington, DC

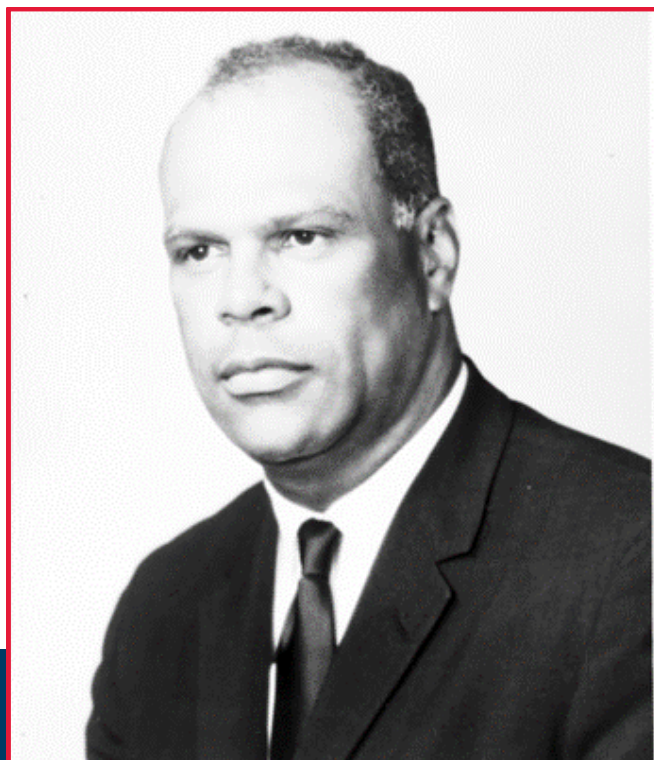
Service as Dean: 1963–1967 (Acting)

Howard Academic Title: Professor of Higher Education

Education and Career:

A 1929 B.A. graduate in Education at Howard University, Miller later earned an M.A. in Education at Howard as well. He was awarded the Doctor of Education at Columbia University in 1952. After serving on the faculty at Miles College in Alabama for one year, he joined the faculty in the School of Education at Howard and would dedicate the remainder of his academic career to this institution. He served for 57 years. During those years, he held multiple positions. Most notably, he served as Dean of the Graduate School for 12 years after serving as Assistant, Associate, and then Acting Dean in the College of Liberal Arts for 20 years, from 1947–1967. In 1982, he published a 322-page book entitled *Role Model Blacks: Known But Little Known Role Models of Successful Blacks*.

Vincent J. Browne, Ph.D.



Life Span: 1917–1997

Place of Birth: Washington, DC

Service as Dean: 1969–1971

Howard Academic Title: Professor of Political Science/Government

Education and Career:

Browne earned his B.A., Summa Cum Laude, in Social Sciences at Howard University in 1938. He earned his M.A. (1941) and Ph.D. (1946) at Harvard University. While a graduate student, he was a research assistant for Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, one of his mentors, and who urged him to complete his graduate work at Harvard. While completing his graduate studies, he served (1942–1946) on active duty in the U.S. Army emerging as a Captain the same year he was awarded the doctorate.

Browne had an illustrious career in academia, military, and government services. He was appointed as Assistant Professor of Government at Howard in 1946. He would serve in multiple positions during his tenure at Howard. He served from 1953 to 1964 as an administrative assistant/consultant to two Howard University presidents: Mordecai Johnson and James Nabrit. He would serve as Department Chair and Dean of the College from 1969–1971. Among his professional service and appointments were his service on the Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, Foreign Operations Administration, and the President's Commission on Veterans Benefits. At Howard, he was director for five years of the Foreign Affairs Scholars, funded by the Ford Foundation and administered by Howard on behalf of the Department of State and U.S. Information Agency.

Robert L. Owens, III, Ph.D.



Life Span: 1923–2021

Place of Birth: Arcadia, Florida

Service as Dean: 1971–1986

Howard Academic Title: Professor of Educational Psychology

Education and Career:

Robert Leon Owens, III, was born in Arcadia, Florida. He earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics and secondary education from Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University) in 1949. He later earned a master's and doctorate in Educational Psychology from the State University of Iowa (now the University of Iowa) in 1950 and 1953, respectively. Dr. Owens took his first teaching job as an Assistant Professor of Psychology and Education at Southern University in Baton Rouge. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1956 and to Full Professor in 1957, the same year he was appointed Dean of the Graduate School at Southern. He served for four years in that position and was named Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences also at Southern. From 1967 to 1971, Dr. Owens served as president of Knoxville College in Tennessee. In 1971, he left the presidency and was appointed Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Howard University. He served as dean for 15 years until he retired from the university in 1986.

Among the many honors and awards that he received were the Doctorate of Humane Letters (1968) from the University of Illinois, Southeastern "Man of the Year" Award (1967) in Baton Rouge, LA, and Outstanding Tuskegee Alumnus (1969).

Lafayette Frederick, Ph.D.



Life Span: 1923- 2018

Place of Birth: Dog Bog, Mississippi

Service as Dean: 1986-1987

Howard Academic Title: Professor of Zoology

Education and Career:

Frederick earned his bachelor's degree at Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University) in 1943. He earned his M.S. in botany from the University of Rhode Island in 1950. Frederick went on to graduate from Washington State University with his Ph.D. in Plant Pathology and Botany. Upon completion of his postdoctoral studies at Cornell University, University of Illinois, and University of Michigan, Frederick was hired as an Assistant Professor at Southern University in the Biology Department. There, he developed a botany concentration during his ten years at the school. He also developed a botany concentration at Atlanta University, where he chaired the Biology Department during his fourteen-year tenure. In 1958, Frederick was responsible for integrating the Association of Southeastern Biologists meeting, which had not allowed its African American members to attend. He also served as director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) Academic Year Institute for Science Teachers. Frederick worked on several projects that involved studies on antifungal substances of a strain of bacterium. In 1976, Frederick was hired by Howard University where he went on to serve as a Professor and Chairman in the Department of Botany, Acting Dean for the College of Liberal Arts, and Emeritus Professor of Biology.

Among Frederick's honors are an Honorary Doctor of Science in Botany and a Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Rhode Island, the Botanical Society of America Merit Award, the NSF Education and Human Resources Directorate Lifetime Achievement Award, the American Association for the Advancement of Science Lifetime Mentor Award, and a Tuskegee Institute Distinguished Alumni Merit Award. Additionally, a species of Hawaiian shrub, *Cyrtandra Frederickii*, was named in his honor by Harold St. John, former chairman of the University of Hawaii Department of Botany.

Wendy Glasgow Winters, Ph.D.



Life Span: 1930 –

Place of Birth: Norwalk, Connecticut

Service as Dean: 1987–1991

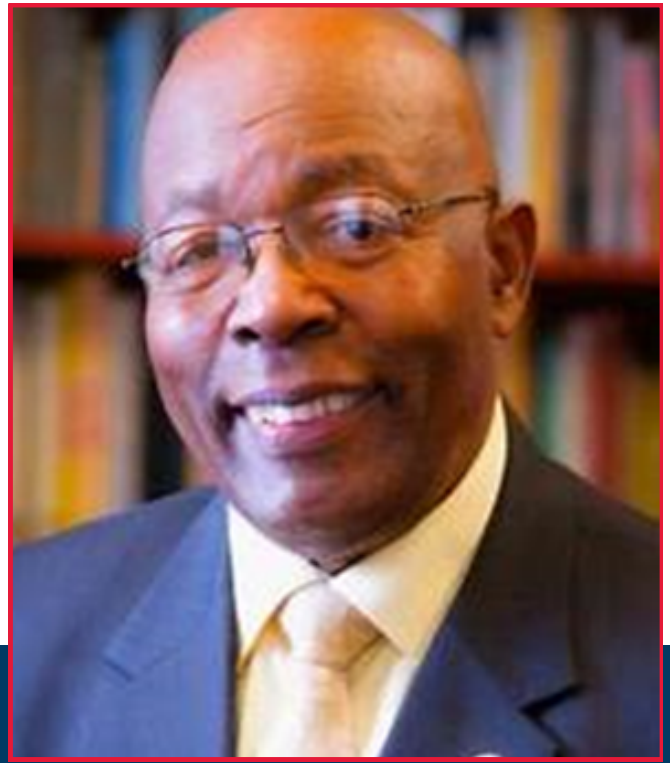
Howard Academic Title: Professor of Sociology

Education and Career:

Wendy Glasgow Winters earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education at Central Connecticut State College in 1952. She earned a Master of Science at Columbia in 1954. Her Ph.D. in Sociology was awarded at Yale University in 1975. Winters came to Howard University in 1987 from Smith College, where she was Professor of Social Work since 1979. At Smith, she served as Dean of the College from 1979 to 1984. From 1968 to 1975, Winters was the chief social worker at the Baldwin-King Schools Program at the Yale University Child Study Center. Prior to joining the faculty at Smith, Dr. Winters held teaching positions at the University of Connecticut and Yale University. She was a member of the Regional Council of the Connecticut Department of Children and Youth Services from 1975–1978. From 1976 to 1978, she was an advisory member of the Connecticut Commission on Higher Education.

One of her major publications is *African American Mothers and Urban Schools: The Power of Participation* (1993).

Clarence M. Lee, Ph.D.



Life Span: 1944 -

Place of Birth: Fairfield, Alabama

Service as Dean: 1991-1999; 2015

Howard Academic Title: Professor of Biology

Education and Career:

Clarence Matthews Lee received his Bachelor of Science in Biology from Tuskegee University in 1962. From 1962 to 1964, he served in the Peace Corps in Sierra Leone, West Africa. In 1965, he earned a Master of Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in Parasitology (Epidemiology), and in 1969, he received his Ph.D. in Zoology (Parasitology) from Howard University. Dr. Lee is the Executive Director of the Washington Baltimore Hampton Road-Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (WBHR-LSAMP) Program. His current research involves the immuno-modulation in animals due to protozoan and helminthic infections, examination of mechanisms of protective immunity to flagellated protozoan, the role of nutrients and trace elements in the immune process and identifying and validating drug targets in trypanosomes.

James A. Donaldson, Ph.D.



Life Span: 1941–2019

Place of Birth: Madison County, Florida

Service as Dean: 2000–2012

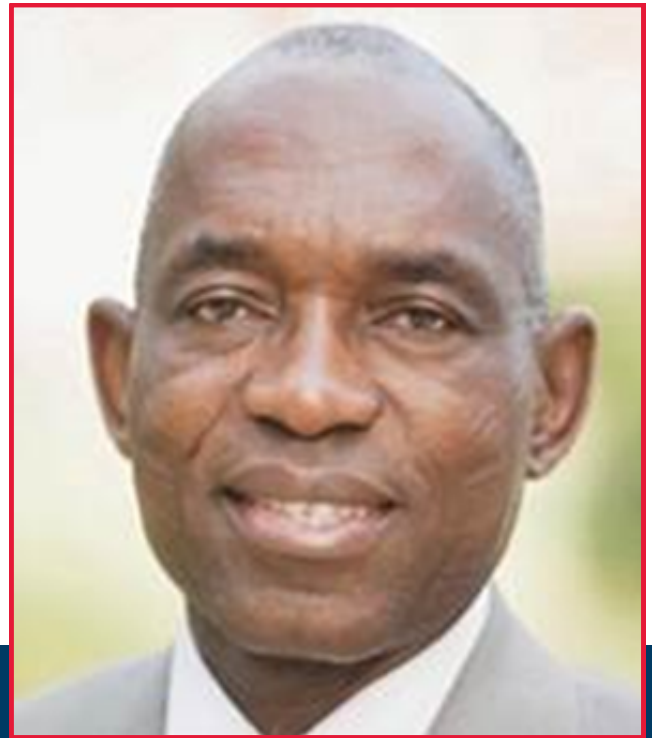
Howard Academic Title: Professor of Mathematics

Education and Career:

James A. Donaldson earned a B.A. in Mathematics at Lincoln University (Pennsylvania) in 1957. Donaldson continued his studies at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where he received his M.S. in Mathematics in 1963, and his Ph.D. in Mathematics in 1965. After receiving his Ph.D., from 1965 to 1971, he held professorships at Southern University, Howard University, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and the University of New Mexico. Additionally, Dr. Donaldson was appointed as a Visiting Professor at the Courant Institute of Mathematical Science at the University of Victoria in Canada, the University of Ferrara in Italy, and Duke University in North Carolina. Dr. Donaldson returned to Howard as Professor of Mathematics in 1971. A year later, he was named Chairman of the Department of Mathematics and served for 18 years. During his tenure there, Donaldson oversaw the development and inauguration of the first Ph.D. degree-granting Mathematics program at a Historically Black College and University. In 1999, Dr. Donaldson was appointed as Dean of the College and served for 12 years.

From 1998–1999, Donaldson served as Acting President of his undergraduate alma mater, Lincoln University. In 2018, Lincoln awarded him an honorary doctorate. A world traveler, Donaldson became a strong supporter of the Humanities. Donaldson had an intense interest in foreign language learning and intercultural studies. He continued to study several world languages throughout his professional career.

Segun Gbadegesin, Ph.D.



Life Span: 1945–

Place of Birth: Okeho, Oyo State, Nigeria

Service as Dean: 2012–2014

Howard Academic Title: Professor of Philosophy

Education and Career:

Dr. Gbadegesin earned a Bachelor of Science at the University of Ife, Ile-Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University) in 1974. He received a Ph.D. in Philosophy at the University of Wisconsin–Madison in 1980. He has taught at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria, where he served as Head of Department and Vice Dean of the Faculty of Arts. He later held professorships at the University of Wisconsin–Madison (1989–1990) and at Colgate University in Hamilton, New York (1990–1992).

Gbadegesin joined Howard University in July 1992 as Professor and Chairman of the Department of Philosophy, a position he held until June 30, 2001. He later served as Associate Dean for the Division of Humanities in the College of Arts and Sciences starting in July 2010 and as Interim Dean of the College from July 2012 to December 2014. Gbadegesin's research interests include ethics, cross-cultural bioethics, social and political philosophy, and Africana philosophy. His publications include *African Philosophy: Traditional Yoruba Philosophy and Contemporary African Realities* (Lang, 1991), and *Ethics, Higher Education, and Social Responsibility* (co-edited with Joyce Ladner, Howard University Press, 1996). He also authored many articles in professional journals, such as *Bioethics*, and serves as a reviewer for many journals including *Developing World Bioethics* and *American Journal of Bioethics*. Dr. Gbadegesin is a member of the American Philosophical Association.

Bernard A. Mair, Ph.D.



Life Span: 1953–

Place of Birth: Kingston, Jamaica

Service as Dean: 2015–2018

Howard Academic Title: Professor of Mathematics

Education and Career:

Dr. Mair earned his Bachelor's (1973) and Master of Science (1978) in Mathematics at the University of the West Indies. His Ph.D. in Mathematics was earned at McGill University (Canada) in 1983. Professor of Mathematics, Mair spent nearly two decades (1996–2015) in administrative roles at the University of Florida, including his last six years there as Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs. His other leadership roles there included Associate Chair and Graduate Coordinator for the Department of Mathematics, Director of the Ronald E. McNair Program, and Associate Dean for the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. In addition, he has held professorships at Pennsylvania State University, Texas Tech University, Dartmouth College, Emory University, and North Carolina State University (where he was Chair of the Mathematics Department). Dr. Mair is a recipient of the University of Florida Teaching Award and the University of Florida Presidential Award for Exemplary Service as Associate Provost.

In 2019, Dr. Mair was appointed the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer at the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities. He also served as Acting Vice President for HBCU Affairs. A renowned mathematician with expertise in harmonic analysis and potential theory, Dr. Mair did joint work with other researchers in the medical field, bringing his mathematical analysis to bear on improving medical imaging. His work resulted in the publication of over 70 refereed articles.

Edna Greene Medford, Ph.D.



Life Span: 1951–

Place of Birth: Charles City, Virginia

Service as Dean: 2018–2019

Howard Academic Title: Professor of History

Education and Career:

Medford earned her B.S. in Teacher Education with a minor in History at Hampton Institute (now University). She also earned her M.A. at the University of Illinois (Urbana) in 1976 and a Ph.D. in U.S. History, with a specialty in nineteenth-century African American history, from the University of Maryland (College Park) in 1987. Prior to joining the faculty at Howard in 1987, Dr. Medford taught Afro-American Studies at the University of Maryland. At Howard, in addition to her professorship, Professor Medford held various administrative positions in the Department of History, including Director of the Graduate and Undergraduate Programs and Department Chair. In 2018, she was appointed Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. After serving as Interim Dean, she was appointed Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs, the position from which she retired in 2021.

A prolific scholar, Dr. Medford is the author of *Lincoln and Emancipation* (Southern Illinois University Press, 2015). She has published numerous articles and book chapters on African Americans, particularly during the Civil War era. Her publications include the co-authored *The Emancipation Proclamation: Three Views*. She compiled and wrote the introductions to the edited two-volume work, *The Price of Freedom: Slavery and the Civil War – Volume I*, and *The Price of Freedom: Slavery and the Civil War – Volume II*.

Dr. Medford is a 2009 special bicentennial recipient of the Order of Lincoln, an award given by the state of Illinois, for her scholarship on President Lincoln. She is frequently consulted because of her expertise on Lincoln and has participated in numerous media presentations and interviews on Lincoln and other African American history topics.

Rubin Patterson, Ph.D.



Life Span: 1959-

Place of Birth: Tallahassee, Florida

Service as Dean: 2019 -

Howard Academic Title: Professor of Sociology and Environmental Studies

Education and Career:

Rubin Patterson earned his B.S. in Interdisciplinary Physics and Electrical Engineering at Florida State University and a Master of Science in Engineering Management from George Washington University. He completed his Ph.D. in Sociology at Howard University. Prior to being appointed Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Howard University in 2019, he served for five years as Chair of the Department of Sociology and Criminology. Previously, Patterson held various roles at the University of Toledo, including Chair of Sociology and Anthropology, Director of Africana Studies, Director of the Institute for the Study and Economic Engagement of Southern Africa, and Professor of Sociology. He has also served as a visiting fellow at Morehouse College and the University of Maryland.

Patterson, a former manufacturing engineer who left the big tech sector, has distinguished himself as a social science scholar, researcher, and educator. He is also a dedicated advocate for environmental justice in underserved communities. His extensive body of work includes authoring, editing, and coediting multiple books, as well as securing external funding from prestigious organizations like the National Science Foundation and the National Park Service. Patterson's expertise spans a range of topics, including Just energy transition in Southern Africa, environmental justice, and contemporary anti-authoritarian struggles. Notably, he has extensive international experience, having served as a Research Associate at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa and as a Visiting Professor at the University of Ghana.

Patterson is dedicated to increasing study abroad participation among Howard University students in the College of Arts and Sciences, aiming to raise the current rate of approximately one in ten students to one in three. His priorities include study abroad programs, experiential learning, data science, AI, and environmental justice.

Dean Patterson served as the Chair of the highly successful Howard University Institutional Self-Study for Reaccreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education from 2018 to 2020. Upon returning to Howard in 2014, he immediately became a catalyst, along with other colleagues in the establishment of Environmental Studies at the University, leading to the creation of the new Department of Earth, Environment, and Equity in 2023.

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Life Span: 1838–1889

Place of Birth: Bedford, Massachusetts

Service as Dean: 1883–1889

Howard Academic Title: Teacher of Mathematics and Education/Principal of the Normal School

Education and Career:

Briggs was educated in the public and private schools of Bedford, Massachusetts. Due to her exceptional performance at the elementary level, she could enter high school in 1850 at the age of 12, a year earlier than the required age of 13. She excelled in high school and graduated with honors as the first Black graduate. Immediately after graduating, Briggs began teaching privately and went on to establish a private school for formerly enslaved Black people. Although there is no documentation of her earning a formal undergraduate college degree, she participated in teacher education programs at several institutions in Massachusetts. Briggs briefly attended Boston Medical College to train as a nurse but left the program after realizing that she was destined to teach.

Prior to relocating to teach on the elementary and college levels in Washington, DC, Briggs had achieved notoriety as an excellent and effective educator in private and public schools for Black youth in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Maryland. In 1869, she was appointed as a teacher and principal at the Anthony Bowen Elementary School in Washington, DC, a position she held until 1873 when she joined the faculty at Howard University. At Howard, she taught mathematics and teacher education until 1879. From 1879 until 1883, she served as principal of the Myrtilla Miner Normal School, which later became a part of the University of the District of Columbia. Briggs returned to Howard in 1883 and served as the Principal of the Normal Department (the current School of Education) until her premature death in 1889 at the age of 50. In his 1941 work, *Howard University: The Capstone of Negro Education*, Walter Dyson suggested that her appointment should have been equated to a current day associate dean. Among the numerous tangible memorials upon her death were two elementary schools named in her honor by the District of Columbia Board of Education and a tablet placed on the wall of the Andrew Rankin Chapel at Howard University.

APPENDIX B: Chronology of Historical Developments in the College of Arts and Sciences

- 1868 Establishment of the Collegiate Department
- 1872 College's first graduating class: The Collegiate Department graduated three African American men, among them is James Monroe Gregory
- 1882 First African American appointed as Dean, James M. Gregory
- 1903 College Formally Named Arts and Sciences
- 1925 The College was named College of Liberal Arts
- 1968 Appointment of first female Associate Dean, Dr. Annette H. Eaton (Classics)
- 1970 Proposal to establish a College of Arts and Sciences and a College of General Studies (Not Passed)
- 1987 First female Dean appointed, Dr. Wendy G. Winters (Sociology)
- 1991 Appointment of first Howard University Ph.D., graduate as Dean, Clarence M. Lee
- 1992 College was renamed the College of Arts and Sciences
- 2019 Appointment of second Howard University Ph.D., graduate as Dean, Rubin Patterson

APPENDIX C: Departments in the College of Liberal Arts in 1960

Air Science
Art
Botany
Chemistry
Classics
Drama
Economics
Education
English
Geology and Geography
German
Government
History
Home Economics
Mathematics & Astronomy
Military Science & Tactics
Philosophy
Physical Education for Men
Physical Education for Women
Physics
Psychology
Romance Languages
Social Sciences
Sociology & Anthropology
Zoology
(Source: Howard University, College of Liberal Arts, Annual Report, 1959-60)

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Dr. Benjamin Talton, Director of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center
Ms. Sonja Woods, University Archivist
Ms. Christina Vortia, Head Librarian
Dr. Hannah Regis, Professor of English
Ms. Alliyah Moore, Sociology Graduate Student
Ms. Sheila Gregory Thomas (Personal Correspondence)
Dr. Michael Winston (Personal Correspondence)
Dr. Patrick Swygert (Personal Correspondence)

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