“As we target the right projects, seed those projects by wisely pursuing and investing precious research dollars, develop greater resources and collaborative partnerships and leverage those resources, we will reach our goal.”

Florence B. Bonner, Ph.D., Vice President of Research and Compliance at Howard University
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President Sidney A. Ribeau’s Vision for Research at Howard University: Challenge Equals Opportunity

In its position among HBCUs today, Howard University is unique in terms of research dollars received, number of academic divisions in the sciences, and caliber and scope of research conducted. The Howard University of tomorrow, however, is destined – and on track – to become one of the top 50 research universities in the nation. My vision is that “The Capstone” of the future will build upon “The Mecca” of the past, dedicated to high impact scientific and aesthetic research that rests solidly on the values of integrity, responsibility, trust, generosity, and creativity. With research as a priority, Howard University’s direction will be set, its leadership among academic institutions will be assured, and its possibilities will be endless.

The Office of the Vice President for Research and Compliance (OVPRC) plays a critical role in formulating and guiding Howard University’s overarching research agenda and ensuring that this agenda – our vision for research at The Capstone – becomes a self-perpetuating and sustainable reality for years to come. During academic year 2008-09, for example, the OVPRC administered nearly $65 million in total sponsored research and development grant and contract expenditures at Howard. All of this activity was supported by government, industry, and philanthropy.

The OVPRC has developed a systematic process that promotes and fosters research and maintains strict compliance with federal, state, local, and university regulations and standards. This streamlined approach empowers Howard’s dedicated research cadre of faculty, students, and outside collaborators to realize even greater efficiencies. The OVPRC also offers a variety of resources that provide Howard University researchers with the tools to locate funding opportunities, prepare proposals, and manage awards successfully.

My long-range goal is to increase Howard’s annual research expenditures to $100 million within 10 years, yielding annual indirect cost recovery of approximately $48 million. The OVPRC is a vital part of this vision – this quest to meet the research challenges of the future and move Howard University forward as a top-tier research institution.

Dr. Sidney A. Ribeau is president of Howard University.
Comprised of a growing research community of scholars and partners who daily confront the “big” issues facing the world today and in the future, Howard University strives to enhance and expand its role as a universal leader in domestic and global research. Research at The Capstone affects real people and real communities as well as the real problems they face. For example, world-class Howard University researchers presently are conducting a number of major studies addressing the top-five diseases that plague the African American community – namely cancer, hypertension, heart disease, diabetes, and obesity. They are making enormous strides in the fields of biometrics, computational research, and optical physics while investigating such relevant phenomena as climate change and post-traumatic stress disorder.

The Office of the Vice President for Research and Compliance is committed to raising the bar of scientific inquiry at Howard and increasing the number of well-trained and qualified doctoral recipients who graduate from its schools and colleges across disciplines. We are also charged with the multifaceted task of ensuring the University’s compliance with federal, state, local and industry guidelines and regulations; and with taking all appropriate actions as needed to safeguard Howard’s reputation and standing as a nationally ranked research institution. We have set an ambitious agenda for cutting-edge, basic-science research that is both international in scope and cross-disciplinary by design – translational research that goes from bench to bedside to community.

Working diligently and strategically with Howard University faculty and other personnel at all levels, with federal and local government as well as private-sector benefactors, and with our raison d’etre – our students – we believe that we are on track to achieve our goal of being ranked among the top 50 research universities in the world. As we target the right projects, seed those projects by wisely pursuing and investing precious research dollars, develop greater resources and collaborative partnerships and leverage those resources, we will reach our goal.

Florence B. Bonner, PhD., is Vice President of Research and Compliance at Howard University.
Corporate and Industry Partnerships

Howard University has forged a number of long-term, strategic relationships with companies and organizations that both support and inform the research that takes place on its campuses or elsewhere on its behalf. Through these corporate and industry partnerships, the Howard University Office of the Vice President for Research and Compliance is able to extend the University’s research “reach” and strengthen its research offerings. These alliances assist Howard University in attracting and retaining, as well as training and developing world-class researchers.

Research partners dedicated to projects highlighted in this edition include:

- The Harris Company
- NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration)
- NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)
- NGEN (Information Technology)
- Georgetown University
- George Washington University
- Boeing Corporation
A simple shift in weather and climate in one city can be an indication of environmental change in another. For example, the urbanization and sub-urbanization of rural areas, such as Northern Virginia, could impact local climate by triggering change in rainfall patterns. Pollution along with changes in land surface may influence the atmospheric precursors to cloud formation and rainfall. Studying and monitoring the variables that stimulate weather changes is a challenge to the best scientific minds. Yet, Howard University’s Program in Atmospheric Sciences, with ambitious faculty like Dr. Everette Joseph, is performing cutting-edge research in this area.

Along with Dr. Joseph and his colleagues, graduate students investigate key physical processes in the surface-atmosphere system that could help improve the accuracy of current methods and tools used to predict climate and weather. Understanding the importance of preparing and equipping scientists in the pipeline, Dr. Joseph teaches and trains graduate students in atmospheric radiative transfer, remote sensing, and physical meteorology. Over the past six years he has helped to secure over $30 million in external grants and contracts as principal investigator (PI) or Co-PI and contributed to numerous reference publications and conference papers.

Research Highlights
Examples of research being conducted by graduate students in Dr. Joseph’s group include the following:

• Improving the understanding of the atmospheric radiative effects of clouds and aerosols, along with energy, mass, and momentum exchanges between the surface and atmosphere for application in numerical climate and weather models.

• Developing an innovative, Internet-based, distributed research and forecast system that is dynamically adaptive to both weather and computational resources and that “democratizes” meteorological research with open access to easy-to-use advance-forecasting tools.

• Developing a major atmospheric field observation program at the Howard University Beltsville Research Campus in Beltsville, Maryland. This program is designed to observe important processes that influence regional air quality and precipitation as well as the effects on local climate of land-use changes. Agencies such as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Department of Education (DOE), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Maryland Department of the Environment, along with several private-sector companies are major collaborators on this program. The atmospheric measurements taken at the facility will improve representation of important processes in weather and climate models, help improve the accuracy of sensors on weather satellites, and contribute to national and global climate monitoring. The program also addresses a decreasing emphasis on instrumentation and “hands-on” training in graduate education.

Everette Joseph, PhD., is an Associate Professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, Howard University Program in Atmospheric Sciences.
Urban Progress . . . Designing Hope

Rodney D. Green, PhD.
The Howard University Center for Urban Progress (CUP), under the directorship of Dr. Rodney D. Green, carries out applied urban research along with curricular and service missions, raising the profile of the University in the broader community while providing exciting experiential learning and research opportunities for students.

To support these activities, CUP has raised over $25 million in externally-funded projects since its founding in 1995. CUP has emerged as a leading research and evaluation agency in the District of Columbia. It serves as the official evaluation team for the D.C. Housing Authority (DCHA) for all five of its current HOPE VI projects (in which public housing is demolished and replaced with mixed income developments) and two of the District’s similar New Communities initiatives at Park Morton and Lincoln Heights public housing developments. Intensive interviewing of original residents and service providers have provided findings that have helped streamline and improve the ability of DCHA to serve public housing residents.

Rodney D. Green, PhD., is the Executive Director of The Center for Urban Progress and a Professor in the Howard University Department of Economics.
The Village Re-Defined
Confronting the Drug War
The Work of CDAR and NAADPC

Ura Jean Oyemade Bailey, PhD.
A societal plague affecting everyone, substance abuse is a major public health crisis.

Certain risk factors place children as early as elementary school age at risk for early introduction to substance abuse. Reportedly, half of all crimes that are committed each year in the United States involve some aspect of illegal drugs. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) reports that some youth are seriously abusing drugs by age 12. A societal plague affecting everyone, substance abuse is a major public health crisis.

The Center for Drug Abuse Research (CDAR)

To confront the issue, Howard University established the Center for Drug Abuse Research (CDAR) within the College of Medicine in 1994. A premier center for drug abuse research, CDAR serves as a repository and resource for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) on African Americans and drug abuse. CDAR’s top priority is to address the cause and prevention of drug abuse among African Americans from the prenatal period through adulthood.

The National African American Drug Policy Coalition (NAADPC)

The National African American Drug Policy Coalition (NAADPC) was formed in 2004 to advocate for drug policies and laws that take into account the public health nature of drug abuse and to address the problem of drug abuse in the African American community. Today, the NAADPC is comprised of 25 organizations that together form a “village” initiative to address the problem of drug abuse in the Black community. These organizations and their affiliate members are a mosaic of expertise whose collaborative contributions may go a long way toward eradicating the destructive societal effects of drug abuse.

The NAADPC distinguishes itself from other organizations in its interdisciplinary approach by providing a “scientifically grounded perspective” and a voice from the African American community, which previously was absent from the debate on public health versus punitive approaches to drug policy. The Coalition implements and evaluates pretrial diversion and therapeutic sentencing pilot projects based in seven locales including Chicago, Baltimore, Cleveland, Detroit, and Los Angeles as well as the U.S. Virgin Islands. Students from Howard University’s School of Law often partner with NAADPC staff members in case preparation and advocate research.

Ura Jean Oyemade Bailey, PhD., is Director of the Center for Drug Abuse Research (CDAR) at Howard University and a Graduate Professor in the Department of Human Development and Psychoeducational Studies of the Howard University School of Education.
Vitiligo: More Than Skin Deep

Rebat M. Halder, MD
Chesahna Kindred, MD, MBA
We wash it, oil it, tan it, tattoo it, pamper it and count on it to cover us. Everyday our skin takes a beating from environmental exposure and stresses and most of us never give it a second thought. The skin is the largest organ of the body. It protects the body by covering the internal organs, nerves, ligaments, bones and muscles. This amazing organ system, consisting primarily of the skin (but also including hair and nails), serves various functions. In addition to providing us with a protective barrier from infection, the skin regulates body temperature, excretes waste and houses receptors for pain, pressure and sensation. Many people suffering from vitiligo turn to Howard University’s Ethnic Skin Research Institute and the Department of Dermatology’s Vitiligo Center for answers.

Vitiligo is a chronic skin disease characterized by loss of pigment, resulting in irregular depigmented patches of the skin that can be observed in 0.1% to 8.8% in different ethnic or racial groups. The disease may manifest in one or two small white spots or more severely spread over a larger portion of the body. It is a complex disease involving multiple genetic, autoimmune and environmental factors. Vitiligo is associated with other diseases such as Addison’s disease, Type 1 diabetes, thyroid disorders, and pernicious anemia among others.

Despite much research, the origin of vitiligo and the causes of melanocyte death (the death of cells that make pigment) are not clear. Although some evidence suggests that three main pathogenic mechanisms contribute to the disease (immunological, neural, and biochemical), none completely explain the etiology of vitiligo.

Located in the heart of the Nation’s Capitol, the Howard University Vitiligo Center serves one of the largest vitiligo patient populations in the country. “With such a large sample size, we are better positioned to identify polymorphisms associated with vitiligo,” says Dr. Rebat M. Halder, Chair of the Department of Dermatology within Howard University’s College of Medicine.

The Department of Dermatology’s Ethnic Skin Research Institute is the leading institution for treating ethnic skin, but it serves all ethnic groups. Physicians graduating from the department’s residency program are well trained and prepared, having been exposed to the most challenging and severe cases, including those most resistant to treatment. One of the vitiligo studies currently underway at the Ethnic Skin Research Institute is “Using an Immunogenetic Strategy to Interrogate the Autoimmune Biology of Vitiligo.” This investigative study examines how the immune system influences the development of the disease. A key component of the study will compare certain genes of patients with vitiligo with the same genes of participants without the disease.

Effective treatments for vitiligo are available at the Vitiligo Center including include Narrow Band UVB and Psoralen UVA (PUVA), and the Center is also the only place in the District of Columbia that offers excimer laser treatment, a new way to treat vitiligo. The Center’s care does not stop at treatment, however. Its medical staff is hard at work investigating the cause of this disease. The answer may be years away, but the team is hopeful that new information will lead to a cure or a method for predicting those at risk for developing vitiligo.
Sleep Disturbance and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
Enemies of Body and Mind

Dr. Thomas A. Mellman, MD
Increasingly, medical practitioners are beginning to investigate the benefits of a good night’s sleep. Many acknowledge the link between good sleeping habits and general good health and well being. Not so surprisingly, good sleep has been found to have recuperative benefits such as mental alertness, energy, alleviation of stress, and cellular and other physical repair. Some reports indicate that sleep may even help prevent disease.

Conversely, poor sleeping habits and sleep disturbance can lead to a number of negative outcomes that affect and obstruct good health. The consequences of sleep deprivation can range, for example, from a mild case of irritability to extreme cases of mental distress. Therefore, many in the medical profession recommend obtaining 7 to 9 hours of sleep each night.

For many, that is easier said than done. Not everyone is able to engage in or maintain good sleeping habits. Among the culprits seemingly responsible for the lack of good sleep in many individuals are trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). War veterans have commonly manifested PTSD symptoms and reported sleep disturbance. In the wake of traumatic events such as the 9/11 terrorist attacks and Hurricane Katrina, however, many more people have been diagnosed with PTSD and sleep disturbance.

Currently, a team of Howard University researchers are undertaking a study of the relationship between sleep disturbance and PTSD. Led by Dr. Thomas A. Mellman, Director of the Howard University Clinical Research Center, this team is researching the effects of post-traumatic stress with physical health outcomes that contribute to health disparities. Dr. Mellman also is in the ninth year of a National Institute of Mental Health career award project focusing on patient-oriented research; and he recently was awarded an RO-1 grant from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute to investigate the relationship between PTSD and nocturnal blood pressure. The implications of this important work could lead to the detection of early risk factors and improve screening for and understanding of the role of genetics in PTSD.

Thomas A. Mellman, MD is a Professor of Psychiatry at Howard University. He is a Principal Investigator for a Clinical Translational Science Award application that is a collaboration between Howard and Georgetown universities. That project received a priority score in the outstanding range in its recent review.
Make no mistake, Dr. Goulda Downer is the first to acknowledge that she and her colleagues are in a race against time where lone rangers are seldom successful. Seventy percent of all new HIV infections in the United States are among African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Native Americans, Asians and Pacific Islanders and Hawaiian Natives. The fervor with which she describes the challenges and the work of the National Minority AIDS Education and Training Center (NMAETC) makes her a natural advocate in the fight against this deadly enemy.

Core Expertise

“Our primary work is with clinicians and HIV care providers. We strengthen their capacity to provide quality care and reduce health disparity. NMAETC clinicians are able to understand congruent behaviors of various ethnic groups.” Dr. Downer says, “We have gone beyond cultural competency to cultural fluency. That is, we are able to apply key cultural constructs into individualized care as we diagnose, treat, care and support patients with this disease.” The work has resulted in getting more patients into care and, equally important, keeping them there.

NMAETC develops strategies to increase the cultural competency of HIV care providers in response to concerns that patient outcomes can be influenced significantly by their relationships with providers who are themselves frequently influenced by cultural perspectives. Through Capacity Building Interventions (CBIs), NMAETC assists organizations and care providers nationwide in facilitating sustainable changes to improve patient outcomes. These interventions focus on clinical delivery improvements and organizational support systems including financial management, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) security, and clinical information systems.

NMAETC has trained over 33,241 health care providers including physicians, physician’s assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, and other allied health professionals. Gap-analysis research in HIV epidemiological trends strongly suggest that clinicians serving minority populations must be expert in the management of HIV and co-morbidities such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease and renal insufficiency. Consequently, the NMAETC has conducted state-level assessments of HIV co-morbidity indications linked to various racial and ethnic groups served by NMAETC.

Ongoing Correlating Activities

NMAETC staff and consultants regularly conduct a series of interrelated activities that include:

• educating clinicians to optimize patient care;
• providing infrastructure training and technical assistance for organizations;
• collaborating with community providers and organizations in diverse communities and training centers to support innovation and culturally-based practice;
• establishing collaborative learning and web-based training strategies to address these priority areas and,
• identifying and leveraging influence and potential resources focused on elimination of HIV/AIDS.

Goulda Downer, PhD., is the Principal Investigator and Project Director of the National Minority AIDS Education and Training Center. She also is an Assistant Professor in the Howard University College of Medicine.
“Howard University research is known for its exploratory enterprise of imagination, ideas, and innovation.”
Seed
Expanding Research
Leaders in Academic Training
Harness the Future with Nanotechnology

James W. Mitchell, PhD.
One billionth of a meter is small – very small. So small that it can’t be seen with the naked eye or a regular microscope. It’s called a nanometer, and it is so small that cells and bacteria are giant-sized in comparison. Nanoscale science focuses on the molecular and atomic level. Its offshoot, nanotechnology, is one of the fastest-growing areas of science today, with mammoth implications for every facet of human existence and function. Nanotechnology allows scientists to investigate, build, and rearrange the structure and composition of matter on a scale of 100 nanometers or less in order to control physical and chemical properties. It is the field where science and pure creativity collide to produce marvelous creations of the unlimited kind.

For example, scientists are able to identify the exact properties of a particular bulk material, and manipulate its properties and functions at the nanoscale. This new science gives new meaning to the word, “imagine”. Imagine if you could identify the exact biophysical, and biochemical properties of intracellular assemblies to determine what molecular entities repair heat damaged tissues at the nanoscale. With external productions of these molecular level catalytic nanoscale materials, subsequent injections into a burn victim could greatly accelerate the repair of burns in the body! Or what if you could take a molecular sized structure and program it to travel into the bloodstream to obliterate cancer cells or plaque in the arteries? Nanoscience and nanotechnology have implications across all scientific disciplines. They leave no scientific stone unturned.

Howard University is on the cutting edge of nanotechnology. For example, Howard researcher Dr. James W. Mitchell's work focuses on the characterization, synthesis, and processing of ultrapure nanomaterials. His research team explores the use of microwaves, high-energy electrons, and electrochemistry as clean energy sources for the synthesis of nanomaterials in pristine biocompatible media. Characterization research for the broadly based analysis and processing of nanomaterials and device structures is the group’s major objective.

What sets this work apart? Believe it or not, Dr. Mitchell and his team of scientists, with funding estimated at about $1.9 million per year from external sources, are able to alter the physical properties of nanomaterial, transform it, and produce it in different forms and phases. For instance, they can take a powdered material and transform it into nanowires, which are used in aerospace and air travel. Nanowires are totally different in form and substance from their source materials and vastly greater in conductivity and strength.

With the ability to control and manipulate nanowires, the team’s work has amazing implications. To maximize their impact and expand nanotechnology research and education activities on Howard’s campus, the University is currently integrating and centralizing all of its nanoscience programs under one roof.

James W. Mitchell, PhD., a National Academy of Engineering member and Bell Labs Research Fellow, is the David and Lucille Packard Professor of Materials Science at Howard University. He is also the Director of the CREST Nanomaterials Characterization Science and Processing Technology Center.
Climate: The Science of Measuring and Monitoring Change

Demetrius D. Venable, PhD.
Greenhouse effect. Butterfly effect. Global warming. No matter your views on these subjects, one thing is clear – massive and rapid changes are occurring in the environment that require and demand our undivided attention. The effect of these climate and atmospheric changes are evidenced in our lakes and rivers as well as our marine life and wildlife. Our oceans and glaciers are experiencing such rapid and chaotic change that some believe the effects may endanger certain animal species and alter the food web structure within our lifetimes.

Scores of scientists make their life’s work the study of climate shifts and patterns. At the Howard University Beltsville Research Campus (BRC) a team of science specialists collaborate with the likes of NASA, NOAA and EPA to understand the systems and variables that drive climate and atmospheric chaos. Howard University’s research in this area is led by Dr. Demetrius D. Venable, whose research team specializes in optical physics – the study of light.

“I use electronic magnetic radiation to probe the physical properties of the atmosphere,” Dr. Venable explains. His other research has focused on the effects of multiple scattering in marine environments, insolation and turbidity measurements, and remote sensing of the atmosphere. Utilizing state-of-the-art technology, his team is able to probe and study atmospheric properties without physically disturbing them to better understand the climate chaos that may very well affect all manner of life on the planet.

Dr. Venable’s research focus on predictability of weather and climate provides hands-on experiences for students with instrumentation including operations, methodology, measurement capabilities, data handling/reduction, and error analysis. The team employs the cutting-edge Water Vapor-Raman Lidar System to implement its work. Dr. Venable’s leadership in the development of the Raman Lidar Program at the BRC involves collecting data to complement radiation-measurement instrumentation co-located at the laboratory, as required by the BRC Modeling Team and by its NOAA and NASA sponsors. Program scientists are currently investigating atmospheric dynamics with emphasis on water vapor mixing ratios in the lower troposphere.

The Howard University Water Vapor-Raman Lidar System is one of a limited number in the country, and Howard is only one of a handful of universities in the United States to house one. Others are located at NASA and the Department of Energy. Used to study water vapor, this system is one of the best and most effective means of determining the resolution of spatial and temporal dynamics of atmospheric water vapor and understanding the changes in water vapor content and climate.

Demetrius D. Venable, PhD., is Professor of Physics in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Howard University. He served (2001-2008) as Director and Principal Investigator for the NASA funded “Center for the Study of Terrestrial and Extraterrestrial Atmospheres”.
Develop Tomorrow’s Scholars

Howard University understands the urgency to develop and train
The Howard University Math and Science Middle School, also known as (MS)², is the first charter school established by a university in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. With an eye toward developing and preparing youngsters for a future in mathematics and science, faculty and resources are committed to developing the whole child. In 2007, (MS)² ranked in the top 10 among District of Columbia charter public schools.

Recently, Kimberly Worthy, the seventh grade social studies and language arts teacher at (MS)², was voted 2009 District of Columbia Teacher of the Year. The award was presented by D.C. State Board of Education President Robert Bobb and Deputy Mayor for Education Victor Reinoso, State Superintendent Debra Gist and State Board of Education member Mary Lord.

Howard University is on a mission to increase the number of minorities with doctoral degrees in the sciences by 25 percent. They are working in partnership toward achieving that goal with the National Science Foundation (NSF) and four other major universities through a vehicle called the Atlantic Coast Social Behavioral and Economic Alliance, or ACSBE.

ACSBE universities include Howard University, University of Florida, University of Maryland at College Park, University of Miami and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

“Whatever the number, it’s not enough. Howard ‘gets it,’ though. Too few minorities are pursuing degrees and careers in math and science. That’s why we must reach them early.”

Dr. Florence B. Bonner, Howard University Vice President of Research and Compliance
2009 Truman Scholarship Awarded to Hamilton Cunningham

**Hamilton Cunningham** was recently named a 2009 Truman Scholar. Cunningham is Howard University’s sixth Truman Scholar since 1989. The prestigious Truman Scholarship, which provides up to $30,000 for graduate study, is awarded annually to students who have excelled academically and are committed to careers in public service.

Cunningham is one of only 60 students from 55 colleges and universities across the nation selected for this honor. More than 600 candidates were nominated for the 2009 award by 289 colleges and universities.

An economics major in the University’s College of Arts and Sciences, Cunningham plans to pursue a Masters of Arts in Art Policy and Administration. He received an Associate of Science degree in music from Georgia Perimeter College (GPC) before transferring to Howard University in summer 2007. At GPC, he earned a Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship, which is awarded to outstanding students transferring from community colleges.

The Atlanta native is a high-achieving student with diverse extracurricular interests. Last year, he was a trumpet instructor at a local arts organization. The music enthusiast’s career goals include working to expand access to arts education, increasing jazz awareness and appreciation, and generally increasing cultural literacy among Americans. Cunningham is an example of the University’s focus on increasing its population of high-achieving transfer students.

Howard University Students Named Fulbright Scholars

Howard University students Florence Maher, Kelly McCray, and Justin P. Dunnavant – recipients of the 2009 Fulbright Scholarship – will head to Jamaica, Germany and Thailand, respectively, in the fall. The prestigious Fulbright Scholarship awards are for one year of study and/or research that can be pursued in more than 140 countries. Their purpose is to increase understanding among peoples of the United States and other countries “through the exchange of persons, knowledge and skills.” Since 1998, 22 Howard University students have been named Fulbright Scholars.

**About the Scholars**

**Justin P. Dunnavant** *(B.A., History and Anthropology, ’09).* Dunnavant will travel to Jamaica to research African cultural retentions through archaeological data, with a goal of expanding understanding of the African experience in the Americas.

**Florence Maher** *(B.A., Political Science and Economics, ’09).* Maher will travel to Germany to explore social integration on the German-Polish border.

**Kelly McCray** *(B.A., English and Greek, ’09)* McCray will travel to Thailand and spend a year teaching there as part of the English Teaching Assistantship Program.
Three Howard University students received scholarship awards from the White House Correspondents Association (WHCA) during that organization’s 2009 annual dinner in Washington, D.C. First Lady Michelle Obama presented $7,000 scholarships to Curtis McLeod, Melissa Noel, and Erica Robinson, who are each journalism majors in the University’s John H. Johnson School of Communications.

These competitive scholarships were awarded to McLeod, Noel and Robinson on the basis of the students stellar academic achievement and their exemplary work as student journalists. For three years in a row Howard University journalism students have received the prestigious scholarships.

The 2009-2010 winners are committed to careers in journalism. Broadcast major Curtis McCloud has been attracted to storytelling since he first picked up a video camera in the third grade. He currently is the senior producer of the student training department at Howard University Television station WHUT-TV, a PBS-affiliate in Washington, D.C. McCloud plans to become a broadcast news reporter and tackle issues that are often underreported.

Plans for the Future

Erica Robinson, an intern with the White House Press Pool, is positioned to make her mark internationally as a bilingual journalist. Robinson will intern with Telemundo this summer. She has published several articles in the campus newspaper, The Hilltop, and on www.BlackCollegeView.com, the Journalism Department’s news web site.

Melissa A. Noel is an intern at ABC 7 (WJLA-TV) in Washington, D.C. She is passionate about investigative journalism and intends to explore international affairs as a foreign correspondent. She maintains that the WHCA scholarship will assist her with the development of an international television network for young adults that she aspires to launch.
Howard University research at work with industry and community

“making a difference”
Contact Info for OVPRC Staff

Carol D. Winston  
Deputy to the Senior Vice President  
202.806.4759  
cwinston@howard.edu

Yonette F. Thomas, PhD.  
Associate Vice President  
Research Compliance  
202.806.4759  
YThomas@howard.edu

Ricardo A. Brown, PhD.  
Associate Vice President  
Sponsored Programs  
202.806.5567  
ricbrown@howard.edu

Dana Hector  
Manager  
Office Sponsored Programs  
202.865.0250  
dhector@howard.edu

www.ovprc.howard.edu