

**THE DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION
COMMITTEE IN THE CAHP RECOGNIZES
PIONEERS IN THE ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS**



Ground-breaking Black Medical Scientists

L to R: Gladys West, Charles Henry Turner, Alice Ball, Percy L. Julian, Sophia B. Jones, Elijah McCoy, Charles Lightfoot Roman

All Black Pittsburgh's Freedom House Ambulance Service 1967-1975



Mary E. Black

Occupational Therapy



- She was an occupational therapist, teacher, master weaver and writer, created almost single-handedly a renaissance in crafts in Nova Scotia in the 1940s and 1950s.
- Her best-known book, "*The Key to Weaving*", was published in 1945 and has since run to 3 editions and numerous printings. Its clarity is without parallel, and, more than half a century later, it remains a handweaver's prime source of information.

Bessie Blount Griffin

Physical Therapy



- Was an inventor, scientist, and physical therapist
- Best known for finding new innovative ways to treat patients who had lost limbs, creating a food receptacle device that allowed patients to eat independently, and for becoming the Portsmouth Police Department's chief document forensic examiner in the 1970s
- Became the first woman and first African American to be featured on the television show "The Big Idea" in 1953

Prentiss L. Harrison

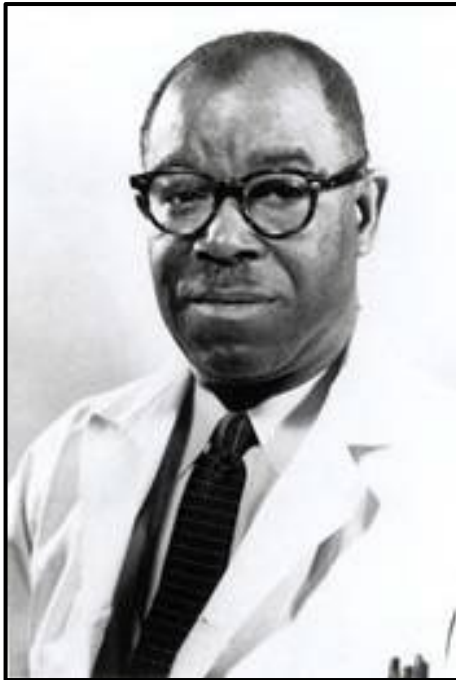
Physician Assistant



- As the nation's first African American Physician Assistant (PA), he has been recognized by the AAPA African Heritage Caucus for his pioneering efforts in the PA profession.
- As a student and graduate of the Duke University PA Program, he helped educate African American physicians about the PA concept.
- After graduating in 1968, he worked full time at Duke University Hospital in neonatology and part-time at Lincoln Hospital which served primarily the African American community in Durham, NC.
- As a joint project between Duke's Department of Community Health Sciences and Lincoln Hospital, he staffed one of the first satellite rural health clinics in the country.
- He worked closely with others to establish the AAPA minorities' affair committee in the early 1970s.

William Edward Allen, Jr., MD, FACR

Radiology



- First African-American to be certified as an x-ray technologist
- First African-American to receive a Gold Medal from the American College of Radiology
- Organized the first training school for Black x-ray technologists at St. Mary's Infirmary in St. Louis, MO
- Developed scholarships for students from Haiti, Nigeria, and Liberia to study Radiology
- Responsible for placing the first Cobalt-60 unit, to treat cancer, in Monrovia, Liberia, Africa
- Born and raised on our Gulf Coast, in Pensacola, FL

Hallie Quinn Brown

Speech Pathology



- She was an equally renowned elocutionist and educator in the late 19th century/early twentieth century and was a significant figure in the history of speech language pathology in the United States.
- She was born Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to two former slaves.
- It was in the Canadian schools that her talent as a speaker was first evident.
- Hallie attended Wilberforce University, and graduated with her BS degree in 1873.
- She was a teacher of African-American children in Mississippi and South Carolina.
- She served as a dean at Allen University, a historically black institution of higher education, from 1885 to 1887. Returning to her home state, from 1887 to 1891, Hallie taught night school in the African American community of Dayton, Ohio and then worked for one year (1892 to 1893) at Booker T. Washington's Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.
- She was a professor of elocution at Wilberforce University and also served as a member of the Wilberforce Board of Trustees.

Marion Downs

Audiology



- American audiologist and Professor Emerita at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Denver
- Pioneered universal newborn hearing screening in the early 1960s
- Spent more than 30 years trying to convince her peers to adopt the testing in hospitals and to place hearing aids on infants who showed hearing loss
- Alerted the medical world to the developmental problems associated with childhood deafness
- Efforts led to have 95 percent of all newborns in America today screened for hearing loss
- Devoted her professional life to the promotion of early identification of hearing loss in newborns, infants, and young children and to helping deaf and hard of hearing individuals lead fulfilling lives

Joyce Nichols, PA-C

Physician Assistant



- First woman formally educated as a PA
- First African American woman to practice as a PA
- Served on AAPA Board of Directors
- Established the AAPA Minority Affairs Committee
- Established one of the first rural health satellite clinics

Henry “Buddy” Treadwell

Physician Assistant



- Precursor to physician assistant
- Earned honorary PA certificate in 1970
- Veteran and leader in community
- Eugene Stead modeled the PA profession largely on the interactions noted between this man and his supervising MD

Kara Caruthers

Current President Of Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA)



- Involved in Project Access, an outreach recruitment program, created to encourage high school students from underrepresented minoritized groups to consider the PA profession as a career
- Has participated in or led nearly 15 Project Access events in the communities she has served

Karen Finklea, PA-C

Physician Assistant



- Native of Monroeville, Alabama, and a 2018 graduate from USA's PA program
- Resides in Rochester, NY, where she works with underserved populations in obstetrics and gynecology
- Is pursuing her Doctorate of Medical Science degree at the University of Lynchburg with hopes of pursuing a career in PA education
- Currently mentors pre-professional students through the African Heritage PA Caucus and the National Society of Black PAs
- Has worked with USA's PA program to assist with diversity efforts
- Enjoys spending time with her fiancé Matthew and their sweet puppy Teddy in her spare time

Damonique Evans

EMS/Paramedic



- A 2021 paramedic graduate of the Dept of EMS
- Excelled in both academic and clinical settings, and after graduation she made history by becoming the first African American female firefighter/paramedic to serve the City of Mobile's Fire and Rescue Department
- When asked what it means to her to make departmental history, Ms. Evans stated, "It is a great honor and privilege to serve my city, and I just hope that I am an inspiration to other females that wish to pursue a career in the fire service."

Lynda D. Woodruff, PT, PhD

Physical Therapy



- At the age of 13, she was one of two African American students to desegregate a high school in Lynchburg, VA.
- She received her master of physical therapy degree from Case Western Reserve University and went on to become the 1st African American to join the PT department at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- She also founded the department of physical therapy at North Georgia State College and established the 1st DPT program at Alabama State University.
- Dr. Woodruff helped to establish APTA's Advisory Council on Minority Affairs and was a mentor to many.
- She has received numerous awards for her leadership and achievement, including the Lucy Blair Service Award.
- February 24 has been declared in Georgia as Dr. Lynda D. Woodruff Appreciation Day.

Mary McKinney Edmonds, PT, PhD, FAPTA

Physical Therapy



- Dr. Edmonds founded Cleveland State University's physical therapy program, was dean of Bowling Green State University's College of Health and Community Services, and was vice provost at Stanford University, as well as a professor at Stanford Medical School.
- Known for her leadership skills and passion, she mentored many PTs, including Lynda Woodruff, PT, PhD.
- One of her most notable accomplishments was to help lead the fight for the autonomy of PT education programs from the American Medical Association.
- She became the first African American to become a Catherine Worthingham Fellow of the APTA.

Arnold Bell, PT, PhD, ATC

Physical Therapy



- Dr. Bell was one of the first African American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties (ABPTS) certified specialists in sports physical therapy.
- He established Florida A&M University's physical therapy program.
- He was also an athletic trainer at the 1984 and 1996 Olympic Games and was inducted into the Springfield College Olympic Alumni Hall of Fame and the Florida A&M Sports Hall of Fame.
- As a staunch supporter of the APTA, Bell was a member of the Advisory Committee on Minority Affairs.

Theodore “Ted” Corbitt, PT, MPT

Physical Therapy



- Ted Corbitt was an Olympian, army veteran, professor, and clinician for 44 years at the International Center for the Disabled in New York City.
- Known as the “father of American distance running”, Ted became the first African American Olympic marathon runner to represent the United States.
- Using his passion for the sport, Ted founded the measurement and course certification program that certifies and verifies American racecourse distances to this day.
- He also founded the USA Track & Field’s Road Running Technical Council.
- As a professor at Columbia University, Corbitt was one of the first physical therapists to teach connective tissue massage, proprioceptive neuromuscular facilitation, progressive resistance exercise, and applied kinesiology.

Keaysia Bryant, R.T.(R)(M)(BR)(BS)

Radiologic Sciences



- Graduated from USA's Dept. of Radiologic Sciences Program in 2021
- Works at Ascension Providence
- Advanced specializations include Mammography and Breast Ultrasound
- Was the Vice President of the Lota Nu City-Wide Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated during her time at South

Erryce Hamilton

Radiologic Sciences



- Graduated from USA Dept. of Radiologic Sciences Program in 2014 with concentrations in Radiography, Magnetic Resonance Imaging, Computed Tomography, and radiology administration
- Is an employee of USA Health as a Radiologic Technologist III
- Was inducted into the Alpha Eta Honors Society while at South
- Was the 1st ever RadSci Alumni of the month when the recognition began in August of 2019
- Was recognized as a Health Hero in 2019
- Is a proud Lifetime Alumni and loves the jags and supports the jags every chance she gets

LeZyon LaGarde

Radiologic Sciences



- 2018 graduate of USA's Dept. of Radiologic Sciences program
- Received his Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Sciences with a concentration in Radiography and Computed Tomography
- Continued his educational journey at the University of Alabama at Birmingham
- Currently a Physician's Assistant in a CVICU in Birmingham

Jessica Leggett Dexter

Radiologic Sciences



- Received her Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Sciences from USA in 2007
- Has expertise in almost all areas of Radiology that are taught here at the University
- Currently the Mammography Supervisor at a USA Health Imaging Center.
- Is a team player and also functions as a CT technologist and a radiographer when her team needs her help
- Was recognized as a Health Hero for her work as an Interventional Radiologic Technologist

Charles Tolbert

Radiologic Sciences



- Is a 2013 graduate of the University of South Alabama
- Has a Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Sciences with concentrations in Radiography, Computed Tomography and Magnetic Resonance Imaging
- Is an employee of USA Health

Christina Johnson

Radiologic Sciences



- Is a 2019 graduate of the Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Sciences program at USA
- Career is in the field of Interventional Radiology
- Was inducted into the Alpha Eta Honors Society while at South
- Graduated Cum Laude from the University of South Alabama

Kenneth Jones

Radiologic Sciences



- Works in our community as a Radiographer and a Magnetic Resonance Technologist
- Is a 2021 graduate of USA's Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Sciences program

Yvette Hillery

Radiologic Sciences



- Graduated from USA in 2016 with her Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Sciences
- Works as a Radiographic and Computed Tomography technologist, locally

Mariah Philpot

Radiologic Sciences



- Received her Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Sciences from USA in 2019
- Career is in Computed Tomography
- Was the Vice President of her Radiology class while at South

Ryan Ford

Biomedical Sciences



- Is a 2022 Honors College graduate of USA with a major in Biomedical Sciences and a minor in Psychology
- Currently an M1 in her first year at USA's College of Medicine
- She expresses her appreciation for South “in all of the support I found in truly unexpected places. It took me a long time to learn that asking for help is a strength, and when I finally decided to reach out, I found more than a couple of outstretched hands ready to give me a boost.”
- Will be the first physician in her family

Debra Dwight, Ed.D., C.C.C.

Speech Language Pathology



- Graduated from USA with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech Therapy in 1973
- Went on to earn her Master of Arts in Early Childhood Education, also at South in 1975 and a Master of Arts in Communicative Disorders from the University of Alabama in 1976
- Earned a Doctorate of Education in 1985, also from the University of Alabama
- Has taken on a variety of roles in various settings including academic and clinical teaching since earning these degrees and is considered a leader in the field of speech-language pathology
- Recently published the 3rd edition of her book, *Here's How to Do Therapy: Hands-on Core Skills in Speech-Language Pathology*
- Was the 2021 Covey College of Allied Health Professions Hall of Fame inductee
- When asked what inspiration she would share with students, "Education truly absorbed and captured as your own is never wasted. It gets rolled into one big ball that grows over time, and you never know where that ball will bounce, nor how high. Wherever it bounces, however, and to whatever heights, it takes you with it - if you are a willing traveler." (dDwight, 2023)

Dr. Victoria Howard, PA-C

Physician Assistant



- Graduate of the USA Physician Assistant Studies Program July 2009
- Completed a Doctorate of Medical Sciences in 2019 from the University of Lynchburg
- Currently practices in Family Medicine in rural Alabama and works with PA students in their clinical year
- “Attending USA PA Program was a vision fulfilled. The faculty and staff were very helpful and instrumental in my completing the program. I especially enjoyed my clinical rotations – ALL of my rotations - which made it very hard to decide which area of medicine I would pursue a career in; however, I ultimately decided on Family Medicine and I have been pleased with my decision.”

Jonalyn Moore-Venton, Au.D., CCC-A

Audiology



- Is a 2015 graduate of the Doctor of Audiology program at USA
- Currently is a Telehealth Audiologist with the VA Montana Health Care System
- When asked about her greatest professional achievement, “...my work to help implement VA Video Connect (VVC) procedures into our Audiology clinic. This work helped to continue with hearing aid dispenses and follow ups due to limited face to face appointment availability as a result of the COVID pandemic. I really enjoyed learning about the remote world of audiology and teaching patients, up to 96 years old, and their family members how to use technology in order to continue their appointments at home.”
- When asked what inspiration she would share with students, “My advice for students would be to follow your interests and to pursue them even if you are scared. Through the right education, mentorship, and experience, you will be surprised where your passions will take you. Be more afraid of not attempting to embark on the life you want.”