

12/04

- 1 W** 1955: Rosa Parks arrested for refusing to give her seat to a white man, sparking the Montgomery bus boycott.
1987: Carrie Saxon Perry, mayor of Hartford, Connecticut, becomes first African American woman mayor of a major U.S. city.
- 2 T** 1884: Granville T. Woods patents telephone transmitter.
- 3 F** 1847: Frederick Douglass publishes first issue of *North Star*.
- 4 S** 1909: James Anderson founds *The New York Amsterdam News*.
- 5 S** 1955: Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. organizes Birmingham bus boycott, marking beginning of the Civil Rights movement.
- 6 M** 1932: Richard B. Spikes patents automatic gearshift.
- 7 T** **Hanukkah Begins (Sundown)**
1941: Navy steward Dorie Miller shoots down four Japanese planes during attack on Pearl Harbor.
- 8 W** 1925: Entertainer Sammy Davis Jr. born.
- 9 T** 1872: P.B.S. Pinchback of Louisiana becomes first black governor.
- 10 F** 1950: Dr. Ralph J. Bunche becomes first black awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.
- 11 S** 1938: Jazz pianist McCoy Tyner born.
- 12 S** 1975: The National Association of Black Journalists founded.
1992: President Bill Clinton appoints six African Americans to Cabinet and White House staff.
- 13 M** 1944: First black servicewomen sworn into the WAVES.
- 14 T** 1829: John Mercer Langston, congressman and founder of Howard University Law Department, born.
- 15 W** 1883: William A. Hinton, first black on Harvard Medical School faculty, born.
1994: Ruth J. Simmons named president of Smith College.
- 16 T** 1976: Andrew Young nominated by President Jimmy Carter to be U.S. ambassador to United Nations.
- 17 F** 1802: Teacher and minister Henry Adams born.
- 18 S** 1971: Rev. Jesse Jackson founds Operation PUSH.
- 19 S** 1875: Educator Carter G. Woodson, "Father of Black History," born.
- 20 M** 1860: South Carolina secedes from the Union.
- 21 T** 1911: Baseball legend Josh Gibson born.
- 22 W** 1943: W.E.B. DuBois becomes first black elected to the National Institute of Arts and Letters.
- 23 T** 1867: Sarah "Madam C.J." Walker, businesswoman and first black female millionaire, born.
- 24 F** 1832: Charter granted to Georgia Infirmary, the first black hospital.
- 25 S** **Christmas**
1760: Jupiter Hammon becomes first published black poet with "An Evening Thought."
- 26 S** **Kwanzaa Begins**
1894: Jean Toomer, author of *Cane*, born.
- 27 M** 1862: African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church founded in New Bern, North Carolina.
- 28 T** 1905: Earl "Fatha" Hines, "Father of Modern Jazz Piano," born.
- 29 W** 1924: Author, sportswriter A.S. "Doc" Young born.
- 30 T** 1842: Congressman Josiah Walls born.
1892: Dr. Miles V. Lynd publishes first black medical journal for physicians, the *Medical and Surgical Observer*.
- 31 F** 1930: Odetta, blues and folk singer, born.



"It's particularly gratifying to watch students enter into the unknown of dental school and graduate as extraordinary dental health providers."

Cherae Farmer-Dixon, D.D.S., M.S.P.H.

Students, front to back:
Kevin Bolden, Junior; Erin Hughes, Junior; Errol Isaac, Senior; Audrey Kemp, Junior; Talisha Mason, Senior; David Maxwell, Junior

Cherae Farmer-Dixon, D.D.S., M.S.P.H., and National Health Services Corps Scholars

Meharry Medical College, School of Dentistry, Nashville, TN

Dr. Cherae Farmer-Dixon can relate to the students she counsels every day at Meharry Medical College, School of Dentistry. That's because 13 years ago, this associate dean and admissions chairwoman was a student working diligently to complete four years of dental study at the historically black college located in Nashville, Tennessee.

"It's particularly gratifying to watch students enter into the unknown of dental school and graduate as extraordinary dental health providers," said Dr. Farmer-Dixon. Meharry's School of Dentistry, whose mission is to serve the underserved, accepts only 55 dental students each year.

What attracted Dr. Farmer-Dixon to the college in 1986 is what keeps her there today. "It's a place where everyone knows your name," she said. "It's a close-knit family environment. And it's typical that students come to me at all hours, even on the weekends, for advice."

Getting out into the community to serve the underserved is what Meharry students are motivated to do when they enter the college — particularly those students who are selected as scholars of the National Health Services Corps, a program of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. While in school the students participate in numerous dental health programs targeted to the underserved. Upon graduation, each student scholar pledges to dedicate two years of services in underserved communities.

Senior students Talisha Mason and Errol Isaac had the opportunity to provide dental care to the homeless through their outreach in SEARCH — Student Experiences and Rotations in Community Health. "It was a humbling experience," said Talisha, adding that these opportunities strengthen résumés and provide perspectives on how their career paths will unfold. Errol, who would sometimes see 10 patients before lunch, saw it as an opportunity to put his dental education into practice.

Talisha, who grew up in Newark, New Jersey, will be entering the field of pediatric dentistry upon graduation in May 2004. Errol has accepted a general dentistry residency at the V.A. Hospital in Dayton, Ohio, his home state.

Junior students David Maxwell, Kevin Bolden, Audrey Kemp and Erin Hughes also are taking advantage of extracurricular activities while at Meharry. David, from Holly Springs, Mississippi, worked on research in a north Nashville health center to address the Healthy People 2010 objectives. He aspires to establish a network of comprehensive dental clinics that serve the underserved, as well as the general population.

Kevin, from Mobile, Alabama, has spent many weekends working at the Children's Oral Health Institute, preparing him for a career in pediatric dentistry. He also had the opportunity to work with migrant workers during a summer weekend program hosted at the University of Rochester, New York.

Each year, Erin and Audrey look forward to Community Day at Meharry, where they provide dental screenings to local children; and Healthy Happy Halloween, where they teach children what and what not to eat. "They should eat apples, cheese and parsley to clean their teeth," said one of the students. Erin hopes to go home to California to establish a practice specifically for patients with special needs; while Audrey, from Oviedo, Florida, plans to pursue pediatric dentistry.



Toothbrush

Rotor toothbrush, circa 1930s.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

December