

## Jackson Heart Study Graduate Training and Education Center

### Jackson State University

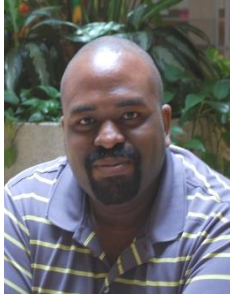
#### 2013 SCHOLARS



**Amanda Berry** graduated from nursing school from Northwest Mississippi Community College in December 2002. She worked as a nurse in critical care at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis for 10 years. In 2012, she left to work as a clinical research coordinator at Gastro One. She has enjoyed working in research and plans to do so after graduating. She is currently enrolled in the RN-MSN Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner track and will graduate in spring 2016. In the little free time, she has, she enjoys spending time with her family and dogs, running, or reading.



**Vanessa Bland** is currently pursuing a Doctor of Public Health degree with a concentration in Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Jackson State University. During her adolescent years and the beginning of adulthood, she knew she wanted to pursue a career that would allow her to study health, more importantly, the health and well-being of people. *She is a native of Lexington, MS.* She received her Bachelor of Science degree from Mississippi Valley State University in biology/chemistry and a Bachelor of Science in health-related professions from the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Cytotechnology. Later, she received her Master of Science degree from Jackson State University. She has had the opportunity to participate in several research projects. “The Effects of Ethanol and Dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) on the Developmental Stages of the *Japanese Medaka* in Relation to Fetal Alcohol Syndrome,” “The Pap Test: What Every Female Should Know,” and HIV/AIDS and Co-infections in Tanzania are topics from previous research projects. Her research interest is obesity in African American women. This topic is significant because obesity is known to increase the risk of other health-related conditions. It is important to determine effective strategies that will help decrease the chance of other illnesses and increase the life span of women affected by obesity. She is devoted to her studies and strives for excellence. She has had the opportunity to work with exceptional mentors that have motivated and encouraged her to succeed beyond her wildest dreams. And because of such guidance, she will succeed above all odds.



**Corvell Coburn** is a doctoral student at Jackson State University in the School of Social Work who has developed an interest in medicine and health—particularly with the elderly population. In addition to his social work studies, he has taken courses in human anatomy and physiology, microbiology, and nutrition. Corvell has a basic understanding of the cardiovascular system as well as an understanding of how nutrition relates to health and problems caused by malnutrition. As it relates to research, he has taken three statistic courses, four research courses, and college algebra. He is familiar with both

bivariate and advanced and multivariate statistical methods (t-tests, ANOVA, multiple regression, profile analysis, Pearson correlations, discriminant analysis, etc.). His social work courses may also be helpful in exploring the social determinants of health as well as issues relating to social justice (i.e. social welfare policy, human behavior, social environment, and populations at risk, etc.). Corvell's research interests include social determinants of obesity and hypertension among older African Americans, environmental or social factors (SES, discrimination experiences) affecting mental health among older African Americans, and discrimination factors and health care use/accessibility. As an African American male, he is zealous about participating in research efforts to prevent and treat cardiovascular illnesses.