

Jackson Heart Study Graduate Training and Education Center Jackson State University

2015 SCHOLARS



LaVonne D. Brown is a first-year student in the Doctor of Public Health Degree Program with a concentration in Behavioral Health Promotion Education at Jackson State University. She holds a BS degree in Child Development from The Florida State University. She obtained her teaching credentials in Early Childhood Education from Brenau University and earned a master's degree in Health Services Administration from Strayer University. She is a licensed Educator and has worked in schools, communities, and skilled nursing facilities with at-risk and vulnerable populations for over 20 years in both Florida and Georgia. LaVonne received a congratulatory letter from Dekalb County School System for being nominated for the Sallie Mae First Class Award acknowledging her as an outstanding teacher and recognizing her outstanding performance in the classroom. She also taught Conversational English in Changdong, South Korea. She enjoys traveling, hiking, and cooking in her spare time.



Trimella Jefferson is from Madison, MS, and attended the University of Mississippi. She received a Bachelor of Science in Biology. Trimella has always possessed a natural inkling of serving and constituting change in the lives of those around her. It comes as no surprise that she decided to pursue a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology at Jackson State University. Although only a semester into her course of study, Trimella was selected to be one of the Daniel Hale Williams Scholars, where she hopes to gain invaluable experience in the field of epidemiology while working towards combating cardiovascular disease among African Americans. Ultimately, her career goal is to continue to work towards contending health disparities. Trimella is disciplined in her commitment to learning and driven by an ability to succeed.



Adam Keasling obtained a Master of Science in Biology from Middle Tennessee State University. Subsequently, he was employed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration as a Research Biologist at the National Center for Toxicological Research until joining the University of Mississippi. He is currently pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmaceutical Sciences within the Department of Biomolecular Sciences, with a specialization in Pharmacognosy. He is a recipient of an NIH grant to fund research at the interface of natural products and neuroscience. His research focus is on drug

with a specialization in Pharmacognosy. He is a recipient of an NIH grant to fund research at the interface of natural products and neuroscience. His research focus is on drug discovery through the design and development of molecular probes to address the critical need for research tools to enable the investigation of receptor-ligand interactions.



Princeton J. Smith received his BA and MS from Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, FL, in General Psychology. He is currently enrolled at Jackson State University pursuing a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. He is knowledgeable of mainstream theoretical approaches, and evidence-based treatments in therapy. He is proficient in Inferential Statistical using SPSS and he is adept in administering standardized psychological assessment batteries. His research interest involves psychosocial dynamics that contribute to health disparities among African American. His research interest includes investigating risk and protective factors that are linked to treatment utilization for cardiovascular health in African Americans. He believes that this training will provide him with rigorous educational and clinical training skills in cardiovascular epidemiology, resulting in research that will better address the needs of African Americans and other disproportionate groups.