



Spelman College family graduates include Janet Webster Jones (seated), holding a portrait of her late mother, Estelle Bailey Webster, and daughter Alyson Jones, holding a graduation photo of her sister, Hilary Jones, who was out of the country.

Blacks have family ties to an HBCU that go back generations.

That's the case for a family of physicians connected to Howard University College of Medicine since 1926. When Alaina Fields, M.D., graduated in the 2008 class, she continued a family tradition. Her maternal grandfather, the late T. Wilkins Davis, graduated from the school's Class of 1945. He was the first board-certified radiologist trained there and one of five founders of the HU Medical Alumni Association. Her uncle, Trent Wilkins Davis, M.D., a neurologist, graduated in 1976; her aunt, Bonnie C. Davis, M.D., a radiologist, is a 1983 graduate; and her great-great aunt, Alice L. Tompkins Coombs, finished in the College of Medicine's Class of 1926 in pharmacy.

Fields, the newest family physician, says she will encourage her children to attend the school if they are interested in medicine. "My decision was inspired by my grandfather, my uncle and aunt because of their great love of what they were doing," says Fields. "I was also influenced by my great-great aunt Alice having completed higher education in pharmacy at HUCM, which was an extraordinary accomplishment during that time in history. You get the sense on the first day [at HUCM] that you are a part of something very special, and for this reason, I believe the legacy will continue through the generations."

Doris Baldwin, a Class of 1948 graduate of Bennett College in Green