



# Our Legacy: Minority Female Physicians

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Ethics and Humanities Project

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# My Project

- Interview and photograph minority female physicians
  - Encourage other women and young girls who aspire to become physicians



# Image Search I

Google: Very little diversity



# Image Search II

Bing and Yahoo: Very little diversity



# Questions I asked...



- When did you know you wanted to be a doctor?
- If you had the opportunity to do it all over again would you still be a physician?
- What obstacles did you face in pursuing medicine?
- Did you feel these obstacles were attributed to your gender, race, ethnicity, or disability?
- What advice would you offer other female physicians, med students, pre-med students?
- What do you feel is your greatest accomplishment?



# The Interviewees



# Dr. Nancy Fawcett

*“Well when I first came here [Jackson] there was still segregation. It was the house-staff that pushed the administration to get rid of segregation.”*





# Words of Wisdom

*“Life is short. You’ve gotta decide what are your priorities in life and put it together...”*

*Take time for your own self. That way you’re strong and you can meet stresses and things if you really have that support... Work hard, learn as much as possible, and learn to communicate with everybody, whatever their needs are.”*



## Dr. Marie Denise Gervais

*“I think that if God gave you the opportunity to be either a king or a king maker I would choose to be a king maker because it has more value.”*



# What is your greatest accomplishment?

*“To become what my mother wanted to become but could never. My mother always wanted me to have a ‘guy’s job’, I’m able to have a ‘guy’s job’ but still stay true to who I am.”*



## Were you treated differently as a minority?

*"Yes but I always chose not to think that... It's a matter of choice, you can decide that you're going to dwell on it and be miserable about it or you're going to... not choose that route. It takes two people to have a war. I am not a part of it. I am never a part of the equation."*

# Words of Wisdom

*“Give forward... because all the blessings that you put out there will return to you or your loved ones”*

*“You need to know where you’re coming from in order to know where you’re going and you need to know who you are.”*





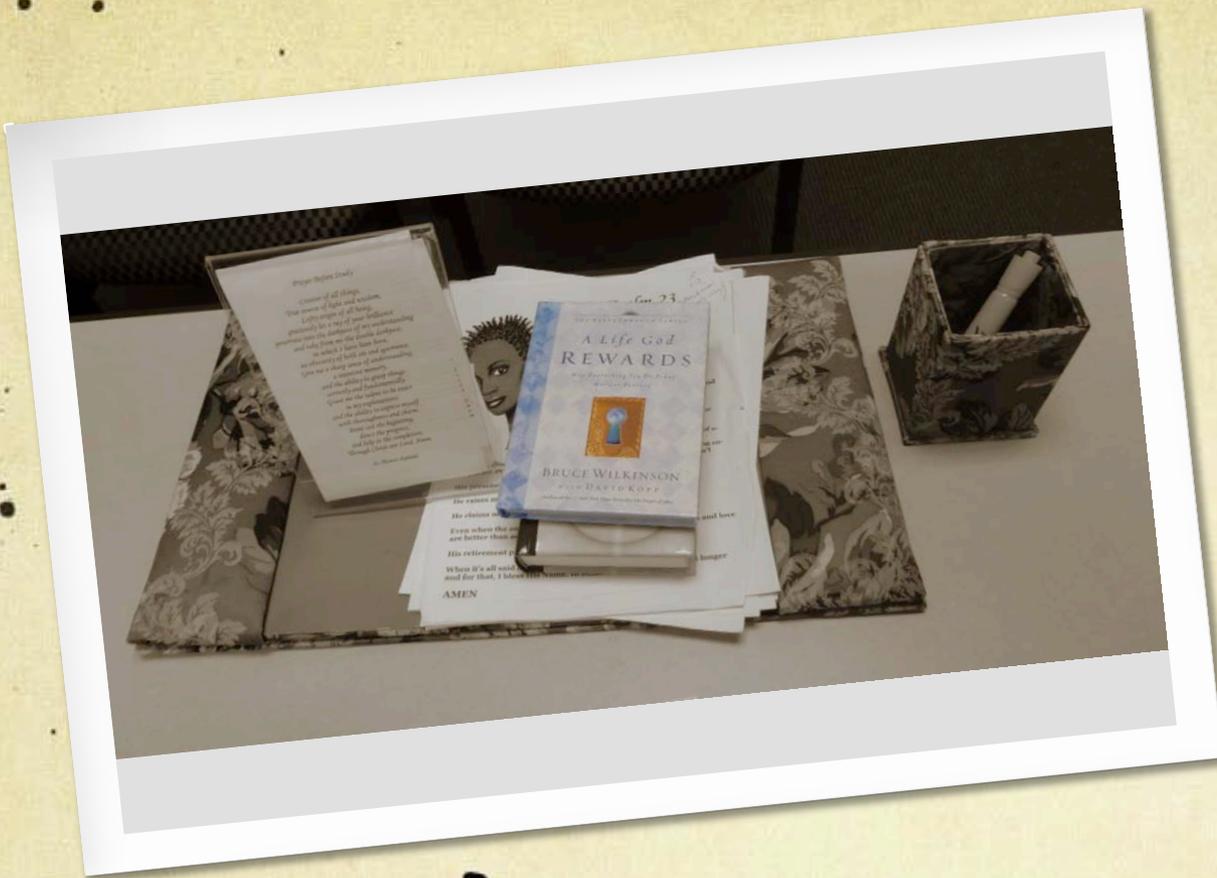
# Dr. Karen Young

*“Whatever you do, you do to the  
best of your ability”*



# What is your greatest accomplishment?

*“My children, everything else is secondary.  
Nothing else comes close to that.”*



*“If you think that there’s prejudice, you shouldn’t be scared to speak up. We should try to get into leadership roles as much as policy. Get into policy-making to help the next generation coming up.”*

*“As a woman, enjoy what you’re doing”*

## Words of Wisdom



## What advice would you give?

*“There is absolutely nothing you want to achieve that you can’t achieve. It’s cliché but if your mind can conceive it, you can achieve it.”*

*“I never ever think that because I am female I can’t do it or a male will get it more than I can. I just don’t think so. So, I just go ahead and I do it. Everything will take care of itself once I do my best.”*



# Dr. Rozalyn Paschal & Dr. Rozalyn Paschal-Thomas

Mother and Daughter Pediatricians



## “In those years...

*there were a lot of prejudices, a lot of difficulties for us in school. We all knew that when we got on a rotation that most of the people wanted to be with us because they would automatically get a better grade than us. We had to work harder.”* Dr. Rozalyn Paschal



# Greatest Accomplishment?

*Dr. RP: "My children"*

*Dr. RPT: "I am proud that I am able to work with my mom and now soon transition to take over her practice"*



# Words of Wisdom

*Dr. RP: "Get out and see what you want to do. Being well rounded... doctors can't be straight edged and not know how to talk to people, don't know people's experiences. Be aware of everything that's going on around you."*



*Dr. RPT: "Pursue your interests... be well rounded. Get out and see what you're interested in. Study hard."*



Thank you to all the women who graciously took time out of their schedules to sit down and talk with me. Thank you for being trailblazers and for making a path for the next generation of minority female physicians.



**Thank You!**