## Practicing Veterinary Medicine in a Multicultural Society

### African American History, Culture, Data & Vet Med

#### Thursday, May 3, 2024

Kimathi Choma, DVM, MPH CAS Assistant Dean for Diversity, Recruitment, and Retention & University Student Ombudsperson



# Kimathi Iben Ahmed Choma

- African American (Ethiopian Ancestry)
- Born in Springfield, IL
- Raised in Roselle, NJ (21,699,2020)
- Lived in the Midwest for 24 years
- Faith: Christian (Missionary to Ghana 15 yrs)
- Family Man: (Wife and 2 kids ages 13&18)
- Fields: VM, Public Health, College Administration
- Education: Messiah College, PA;BS K-State; DVM '07 and MPH '13



## Leadership



#### NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER



THIRD EDITION



LEADERSHIP SKILLS TO CREATE LASTING BEHAVIOR CHANGE

JOSEPH GRENNY • KERRY PATTERSON • DAVID MAXFIELD RON McMILLAN • AL SWITZLER

FORMERLY PUBLISHED AS INFLUENCER

## **Rules of Engagement**

- Disclaimer: I do not speak for all African Americans. I don't mean to offend anyone. This is not a lecture, but a dialogue.
- Ground rules: Please feel free to ask me any questions. I will not be offended. It is better to ask than to assume. We are all here to learn.

## What Do You Know?

- Please list 5 things you know about African American Culture
- 5 minute discussion

## Master Class: "Black History, Black Freedom, & Black Love" course

- The History You Weren't Taught In School
- Streaming FREE on MasterClass platform during Black History Month of February.
- You can find the three-part class here: <u>https://learn.masterclass.com/blackhistorymonth</u>





- National Museum of African American History and Culture https://nmaahc.si.edu/
- A museum that seeks to understand American history through the lens of the African American experience.
- 1400 Constitution Ave, NW Washington, DC 20560

## STAMPED FROM THE BEGINNING and How to Be An Antiracist by Ibram X.Kendi

- Please read these book!
- The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America
- > 2016 NATIONAL BOOK AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR





## African American History and Culture Began with Africans in Africa

AFRICA: Cradle of Civilization and Humanity Great Kingdoms of Africa

- Ancient Egypt : Kemet (Ancient Greeks studied in Kemet)
- Mutapa Empire: Great Zimbabwe
- The Za Dynasty
- Kingdom of Songhay
- Kingdoms of Nubia
- Kingdom of Ghana
- Kingdom of Mali



www.africakingdoms.com

## Africans from Africa to America

In the mid-1400s the Portuguese were the first Europeans to arrive in West Africa, where they began trading for African resources

Later they would trade and capture African people, who were enslaved and transported to the Americas

## The Depiction of Africans

- In order to justify the enslavement of Africans, propaganda was created, thereby shaping the perceptions of Africans.
- The following are examples of stereotypes about Africans: No souls, Immoral, Unintelligent, Animal–Like, Incapable of Feelings and Emotions, Docile or Childlike, No Attachment to Family, Lazy, Violent

## The Stigma of Racial Prejudice

- Once African enslavement was established, it was maintained through an ideology about Africans in general and people of darker complexions in particular (people of color)
- Unlike indentured servitude, slavery was an inescapable, caste-like system
- Eventually, the color of one's skin was used as a marker to identify and maintain the status of enslaved people

## Moving Beyond the Stigma

- Long after the Civil War and the end of enslavement, people had difficulty seeing African Americans apart from their lower status
- Negative associations and stereotypes prevailed
- Segregation and Jim Crow laws were evidence of the racist attitudes towards African Americans

## Race as a Social-Political Construct

- Biologically, there is no proven difference among the races
- Race is a system of separating people into a hierarchy and valuing some groups over others
- Race is an arbitrary social construction

www.ibramxkendi.com/stamped-from-the-beginning

See the documentary: *Race: The Power of an Illusion* for additional details Can be found in Hale Library

> http://newsreel.org/video/RACE-THE-POWER-OF-AN-ILLUSION https://www.pbs.org/race/000\_General/000\_00-Home.htm

## Historical Context

- African Americans have had to struggle against oppression and discrimination throughout American history
- They have fought against slavery, segregation, and contemporary discrimination (Racism, inequity in pay)
- Consequently, there is sometimes a lack of trust towards European Americans

www.ibramxkendi.com/stamped-from-the-beginning

## Implications for Veterinarians

- Given the history of racism and the oppression of African Americans, it is important to establish positive relationships and to make efforts to show there is no hostility or prejudice in one's professional interactions with multicultural clients
- As we expect veterinarians to uphold the veterinarian's oath, we thereby expect them to consider all perspectives, including multicultural perspectives

## The Veterinarian's Oath

- Being admitted to the profession of veterinary medicine, I solemnly swear to use my scientific knowledge and skills for the benefit of society through the protection of animal health, the relief of animal suffering, the conservation of livestock resources, the promotion of public <u>health</u> and the advancement of medical knowledge.
- I will practice my profession conscientiously, with dignity and in keeping with the principles of veterinary medical ethics.
- I accept as a lifelong obligation the continual improvement of my professional knowledge and competence.

# Applying the Oath

As a conscientious veterinarian who displays **dignity**, it is important to carefully consider my clients. I should take the time to create a humanizing environment for all of my clients and to treat them in ways that will make them comfortable. Part of being a professional and increasing my **knowledge** and **competence** is learning about multicultural issues that effect those whom I serve.

## Points to Consider

- Names Take time to learn clients' names
- Make Eye Contact People feel affirmed when you make eye contact
- Be Intentional Show clients that they are important (what are some ways to do this?)
- Fully Explain Procedures Don't rush through information, use excessive jargon, give vague orders
- Consider Different Perspectives Value placed on animals, social class background, level of respect

## Why Understand Diversity?

#### Dr. Kendall states:

"Knowledge about specific groups within diverse communities (e.g., their history, values, beliefs, and language) can substantially improve a veterinarian's ability to deliver highquality care for his or her patients and identify important public health trends"

Tom Kendall, DVM, CVPM, AVMA Vice President 2002-2004

JVME 31(4) 2004 AAVMC

## **PIONEER AFRICAN AMERICAN VETERINARIANS**

The first African Americans to obtain professional degrees in veterinary medicine were Dr. Henry L. Stockton, Sr. (Harvard School of Veterinary Medicine,1889) and Dr. Augustus P. Lushington (University of Pennsylvania, 1897)

The first African American female veterinarians were Dr. Alfreda J. Webb (Tuskegee University, 1949) and Dr. Jane Hinton (University of Pennsylvania, 1949)

Between 1889 –1948, meager 70 AA veterinarians graduated in US and Canada Kansas State University led the way with 22 graduates



Dr. Alfreda J. Webb



Dr. John Brown



Williams

Dr. Eugene W.

Adams

www.vet.k-state.edu/docs/about/diversity/AA\_409.pdf www.vet.k-state.edu/about/diversity/history-aa.html



Dr. Frederick D. Patterson



Dr. E. B. Evans



Dr. Walter C. Bowie



Dr, Lloyd .B. Mobiley

## Historical Overview of AA Veterinarians in the United States

- In 1945 Veterinary School at Tuskegee (Institute) University was founded by Drs. F.D. Patterson and E.B. Evans,
- Significantly increased the number of AA veterinarians in the US
- Three of the first eight faculty graduated from KSC of VM
- With 5 more KSC Grads to follow

Reference : Author Eugene W. Adams paper named "A Historical Overview of African American Veterinarians in the United States: 1889-2000, as published by the JVME.

## Prominent African American Veterinarians

Despite efforts to draw more people of color, veterinary medicine remains the least diverse field in the medical profession. An October 1 article in JAVMA reports that, according to the 2000 U.S. census, 92.4 percent of veterinary professionals were listed as "white non-Hispanic".



Dr. Michael Blackwell



Dr. Debbye Turner

Veterinarians you should get to know!



Dr. Phillip Nelson



Dr. Evan Morse



Dr. Lila Miller





Dr. William A Hill Dr. Willie M. Reed

# Black KSU Veterinary Graduates (1912–1950)...

- 1912 John W. Brown
- 1916 Richard Chatman
- 1918 John Campbell
- 1921 Thomas Perry
- 1921 Jerry Jarmon
- 1924 Raymond M. Williams
- 1924 George Bronson
- 1926 Cornelius Mobiley
- 1927 Norman Howell
- 1929 Francisco Taberner
- 1935 Theodore Williams
- 1935 Monroe Balton

- 1937 Robert Cotton
- 1937 Maurice Crouch
- 1938 Lloyd Mobiley
- 1943 Terrence McDonald
- 1943 William Jamison
- 1944 Eugene Adams
- 1945 Alfred Poindexter
- 1946 Raymond C. Williams
- 1947 Earl Brown
- 1947 Walter Bowie
- 1947 G. Odell Howell
- 1950 Leonard Goodloe
- 1950 Robert H. Williams

## Black KSU Veterinary Graduates 1951 –

## 1998

- 1951 Donald Jackson (Wichita, KS)
- 1951 Leslie Billingsley (Fair Oaks, CA deceased)
- 1954 Robert Allen (Kansas City, MO deceased)
- 1954 Soronda Swann (Topeka, KS deceased)
- 1956 Theodore Sims (Los Angeles, CA deceased)
- 1960 Robert Lewis (Golden Valley, MN deceased)
- 1966 Nathaniel Adejunmobi (no information available)
- 1968 Kenneth Onyia (Nigeria)
- 1974 Arthur DeHart, DVM, MD (Wichita, KS)
- 1979 Curtis Hightower, DVM, MD (Houston, TX)
- 1981 Lawrence Craig (Olathe, KS)
- 1983 Belinda Mason-Wiatt (Encino, CA)
- 1995 Kevin Collins (Las Vegas, NV)
- 1998 Errick Clayborn (Andover, KS)

## Black KSU Veterinary Graduates 2002 – 2016

- 2002 Tiffany Lewis (Winter Springs, FL (Da' Girl Genius)
- 2007 Kimathi Choma (Manhattan, KS)
- 2008 Pilar Wendell (Baltimore, MD)
- 2011 Meredith Cruse (Arlington, TX)
- 2011 Rebecca Lee (West Lafayette, IN)
- 2012 Johna Wallace (Wichita, KS)
- 2014 Crystal Drakes (Trinidad)
- 2014 Jamila McKenzie-Long (Jamaica)
- 2015 Bridgette Sharpe (Arkansas)
- 2016 Ashley Cole (Centennial, CO)
- 2016 Loren Easterwood (Kansas City, KS)

## **Recent Black KSU Veterinary Graduates**



2014 - Crystal Drakes (Trinidad) 2014 - Jamila McKenzie-Long (Jamaica) 2015 - Bridgette Sharpe (Rogers, AR) 2016 - Ashley Cole (Centennial, CO) 2016 - Loren Easterwood (Kansas City, KS)



#### Diversity and Inclusion on Air: Black Lives Matte...



ANNO .

Veterinary Medical Colleges

#### Diversity & Inclusion On Air

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT DIVERSITY, INCLUSION & VETERINARY MEDICINE

Watch on 🕟 YouTube

# Black Lives Watch Later Share in Veterinary Medicine



Dr. Michael Blackwell Director for Pet Health Equity University of Tennessee - Knoxville

Dr. Tyra Davis National Association of Black Veterinarians Dr. Tierra Price Black DVM Network

Dr. Cara Williams Multicultural Veterinary Medical Association

https://www.aavmc.org/resources/div ersity-matters/

## **Veterinary Student Demographics**

#### AA∛/MC

American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges

> TRUSTED LEADER VALUED PARTNER ADVANCING HEALTH

## **Student Diversity Data**

2021-2022

A Report of the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges 655 K Street, NW; Suite 725 Washington, DC 20001 202-371-9195

Last updated on June 20, 2022

aavmc.org

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Please direct inquiries to: Lisa M. Greenhill, MPA, EdD Senior Director for Institution Research & Diversity Igreenhill@aavmc.org

#### This report should be cited as:

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Applicants v. DVM Students Enrolled in the U.S. Class of 2024 by Race/Ethnicity Internal AAVMC Data Reports 2021

White	Applicants	
	Class of 2024	
LatinX/Hispanic	Applicants	
	Class of 2024	
Asian	Applicants	
	Class of 2024	
Multi-Racial/Multi-Ethnic	Applicants	
	Class of 2024	
Unknown	Applicants	
	Class of 2024	
African American/Black	Applicants	
	Class of 2024	
Foreign National	Applicants	
	Class of 2024	
American Indian/Native Alaskan	Applicants	
	Class of 2024	
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	Applicants	
	Class of 2024	

10.0% 20.0% 30.0% 40.0% 50.0% 60.0% 70.0% 80.0% 90.0%

Percentage of Applicants/Enrolled DVM Students

The total number of applicants to the class of 2024 was 8,152.

The total DVM student enrollment across the U.S. Colleges of Veterinary Medicine for the class of 2023 is 3,3719



## Veterinary Student Demographics

- These numbers clearly show that the veterinary profession does not reflect the United States population racially"
- Thus, the veterinary profession does not reflect the growing multicultural state of society in either its membership or its leadership, nor has it proactively explored ways to more effectively serve an increasingly diverse client base"

## Mentorship for African American Veterinary Student

- The lack of role models of color is often given as a reason why more students from under-represented minority groups are not recruited into veterinary medicine"
- "On average, there are currently fewer than 30 black veterinarians, 70 Hispanic veterinarians, 15 Asian veterinarians, and 15 American Indian veterinarians in practice in each state" JAVMA, Vol 222, No. 1, January 1, 2003

https://www.vet.k-state.edu/about/diversity/demographics.html

## African Americans View of Animals

In a Kellert study:

"African American generally tend to see animals as valuable only to the extent that they can be used or have purpose, while European– Americans generally tend to see animals as objects of sentiment or anthropomorphically."

## African American Pet Ownership

- African Americans are 57% less likely to own a pet then the average American
- African Americans are 56% less likely to own a dog
- African Americans are 76% less likely to own a cat
- Among adolescents 12 to 17 years old African Americans owned pets at much lower rate of 37% then of racial groups independent of income and type of housing

Elmore JAVMA, Vol 222, No. 1, January 1, 2003

## African Americans and Education

 Historically, level of education has been an important determinant of African American success

As of 2014, the following is true:

- 84.4% of African Americans 25 and over with a high school diploma or higher
- 19.7% African Americans 25 and over who had a bachelor's degree or higher
- 1.8 million African Americans 25 and over, the number who had an advanced degree.
- 2.9 million African Americans enrolled in undergraduate college in 2014 compared with 2.8 million in 2009, a 5.3 percent increase.

Reference: African American Demographics www.infoplease.com/spot/bhmcensus1
#### African American Family Life

- Deeply rooted respect for elders
- Often non-blood family friends commonly accorded the status and titles of blood relations (Bro, Sis, Mama, Pops, Aunty,Unc)
- African Americans often have a broad sense of family which is based in an African value system

### The Significance of Hair

- Many African Americans view hair as an extension of their identity and therefore give particular attention to how they wear it
- Relaxed –Straightening of the hair through the application of heat or chemical processes
- Natural Hair (less socially acceptable hairstyles but gaining acceptance)
- Sisterlocks <u>www.sisterlocks.com/</u>
- Sisterlocks are tiny uniform locks that are the result of a precision parting grid, and the use a specialized tool used to place the hair into its locking formation.











#### African Americans and Oral Tradition

- Oral tradition The emphasis placed on the oral transmission of culture. Includes, folktales, storytelling, griot (family historian who memorizes information) to convey messages to the community
- African American preachers tend to value the rhetorical tradition in which they act out their messages using vocal intonations, active body language, and physical expression to transmit their sermons
- Call-and-Response is a system of communication in which a speaker presents information (the call) and the listeners actively receive the information and give an indication that they have received and understood what has been presented (response). It is often used to bring the audience into the presentation
- https://ir.uiowa.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1186&context=b

#### The Centrality of Music

- Music has always been integral to AAC
- African drums were used in ceremonies
- "Lift Every Voice and Sing" Negro National Anthem (like the Star Spangled Banner to AA )
- Jazz, ragtime, rhythm and blues, and swing
- In the South Bronx (NY) half speaking, half singing rhythmic street talk--'rapping'-- grew into the successful cultural force known as Hip Hop
- Black Violin <u>www.k-state.edu/mccain/events/2018-2019/black-</u> violin.html
- www.unf.edu/uploadedFiles/committee/AAFSA/The%20Evolution%20of% 20African-American%20Music.pdf
- National Museum of African American Music, Nashville Music ...
- www.nmaam.org/

#### Dance and AA Cultural Life

- From its African origins, to modern day innovative choreography, dance has been important in African American culture
- The Cakewalk was the first dance to gain widespread popularity in the United States (1890–1910)
- Other popular dances have included the Charleston, the Lindy Hop, and the Jitterbug
- Tap dance (mid 1800s)
- Hip hop genre has influenced all American dance forms
- In African American churches dance is an expression of worship
- Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
- www.alvinailey.org/



#### Organizations and Movements that Facilitated Racial Equality

- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) (1909)
- Civil Rights Movement (1950s)
- The Black Power Movement (1960s 1970s)

## African Americans and Religion

- Protestant Christianity is by far most popular
- lslam
- Judaism
- Buddhism
- African traditional religions, such as Vodou, Santeria, Ifa and diasporic traditions like Rastafarianism

#### **Traditional African American Cuisine**



A traditional soul food dinner consisting of fried chicken, candied yams, collard greens, cornbread, and macaroni and cheese.

#### Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa 2018 in US will begin on Wednesday, December 26 and ends on Tuesday, January 1, 2019 Founder Dr. Maulana Karenga

www.officialkwanzaawebsite.org/ index.shtml





An AA woman wearing traditional West African clothing lighting the candles on a Kinara for a Kwanzaa celebration.

#### African American Literature

- Phillis Wheatley
- W.E.B. Dubois
- Booker T. Washington
- Langston Hughes
- Ralph Ellison
- Richard Wright, James Baldwin, Gwendolyn Brooks
- *Roots* Alex Haley
- The Color Purple Alice Walker (Pulitzer Prize)
- Beloved Toni Morrison (Nobel Prize)

#### Language, Dialect, and Vernacular

- The history of African Americans sheds light on variations in speech
- Depending on geographic origins, local dialect, influence or retention of other languages, African Americans may speak in a variety of ways
- Some speak in standard written and spoken English, others use vernacular English
- Level of education, comfort, and setting also influence speaking styles

#### Language, Dialect, and Vernacular

- African Americans are often stereotyped and perceived as speaking a certain way: Ebonics
- Not all African Americans speak the same, just as Caucasians speak differently based on their region, education, local culture
- In some settings ebonics is a legitimate dialect
- In more formal settings, ebonics is viewed as slang resulting from a poor command of Standard American English
- Code Switching is the use of alternating registers in which people switch their speech patterns according to the setting

#### African American Humor



#### Questions



Kimathi Choma, DVM, MPH <u>kchoma@ksu.edu</u>, 785-532-6904

#### Problem

- "Veterinary Medicine is the least racially and ethnically diverse profession in the US today."
  Dr. Evan Morse D.V.M
- Color Blind Racism in Pandemic Time Eduardo Bonilla-Silva in Sociology of Race and Ethnicity
- Racism without Racists: Color-Blind Racism and the Persistence of Racial Inequality in America by Eduardo Bonilla-Silva

#### Solution

- Our profession must become more diverse if we're going to be able to handle the challenges of the future.
- Be an Ally, <u>Allyship</u>
- Diversity Matters Dr. Lisa Greenhill
- Cultural Competence and Cultural Humility
- Adopt Antiracist Mindset
- Why diversity is good for business
- Understand VM Public Data
- Avoid Color Blind frame work
- Be a Mentor of Students of Color in the future

#### A Profession in Crisis: Discrimination in Veterinary Medicine

- I believe that your generation of veterinarians can solve this PROBLEM! What can we do to solve this PROBLEM?
- Use the Diagnostic/Problem Solving/ Critical Thinking skills that you have learned in Vet Med.
- Appy what you know!
- Signalment (Who is experience the problem?)
- History (What is the context of the problem?)
- Physical Exam (Be observant of the problem occurring around you and to whom and why)
- Diagnosis Test (What can you do about the problem?)
- Response to Treatment (Is the problem resolving in your environment)

#### Questions: Please Raise your hand if:

- You have wanted to be a veterinarian since you were a kid?
- You find vet school to be difficult?
- You enjoy vet school?
- You care about people and animals?
- You enjoy science and are good at it?
- You have the skills to get alone with people that are different from you?
- You will be a Veterinarian in the future?
- You see yourself as a critical thinker and problem solver?

#### A Profession in Crisis: Discrimination in Veterinary Medicine

- We have a Problem in our Profession
- Our Profession is in a Crisis
- There is discrimination happening in Veterinary Medicine
- Definition of Discrimination: the unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people, especially on the grounds of ethnicity, age, sex, or disability.
- example: "victims of racial discrimination"
- Video: A Profession in Crisis: Discrimination in Veterinary Medicine

# A Profession in Crisis: Discrimination in Veterinary Medicine

- Was that the first time you have watch that video?What stood out to you?
- \* "As Veterinarians, We are no strangers to hard discussions. There is no reason we can't have this discussion too!
- Statements: Racism, discrimination and injustice occur daily in Veterinary Practices and Universities
  VM is 90% white in the US!

#### A Profession in Crisis: Discrimination in Veterinary Medicine

- INFERIOR
- BECAUSE I WAS BLACK
- OVER THE WALL
- IT'S LIKE SLAVERY
- REPRIMENDED
- LACK OF DIVERSITY
- BLACK PROFESSOR
- BRAGGING RIGHTS
- TEN TIMES HARDER
- BLACK FACE
- INNER CITY VET
- DON'T TAKE CARE OF ANIMALS

- INTERCHANGEABLE NAMES
- BLACK TRCY
- ETHNIC SOUNDING NAME
- GOOD AT ANIMAL RAISING
- ACEDEMIC STRUGGLES
- BROKEN ENGLISH
- NOTHING I COULD DO
- GEORGE FLOYD
- ASSUMED A JANITOR
- STOPPED WEARING TURBAN
- COMMON NAME
- MADE TO FEEL GUILTY
- KNOW PROBLEM

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