



Andrew Dermarkarian, Meharry Medical College- c/o 2021, Dentistry



Name : Andrew Dermarkarian

Your HBCU : Meharry Medical College

Graduation Year : 2021

Major : Dentistry

1. Where are you from? Who introduced you to HBCUs?*

My family is originally from Egypt and Sudan. I was born in Boston, then moved to Orlando, FL, where I completed undergrad at the University of Central Florida. I was introduced to HBCUs from many different sources, such as friends from school and church. Many family friends had attended and matriculated from HBCUs such as Meharry, Morehouse, and Howard and went on to break new grounds in their respective fields.



2. Why did you choose an HBCU over a pwi?*

I believe I chose an HBCU over a pwi because of the familial bonds among everyone at the school. There is a sense of belonging and looking out for one another that is very evident, whether from an inside or outside perspective. This bond amongst everyone is what enticed me to attend Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry.

3. What is the story of your "experience" at Your HBCU given its heralded status as a stellar and prestigious institution?*

My HBCU exemplifies the status of a stellar and prestigious institution by way of its mission statement: "Worship of God through service to mankind." Not all of us can be priests and preachers but we all can do God's work with our talents. "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you. Before you were born I set you apart, I have appointed you a prophet of the nations." Jeremiah 1:5

4. "First time" experiences at your HBCU?*

My first experience at my HBCU was the interview day, where I met many people still in my life today. From the faculty to my fellow interviewees, I felt that bond and it solidified my resolve to attend this particular school. I knew that the people I met would play a greater role in my life and shaping me for the future.

5. Who are the professors that have impacted your life in and out of the classroom? How did they do that?*

The two professors that have impacted my life would be Dr. James Tyus and Dr. Harold Jackson.

Both instilled an indelible core of knowledge, service, and faith. They made it a point to understand that it's not enough to know facts, but to know why those facts are even fact, all while instilling an unshakable faith in God and how He would use us for His work.



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