



Memorial, Burial & Thanksgiving Service

Sarah Nana
MARTEY





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Functionaries

OFFICIATING MINISTERS

CHURCH OF PENTECOST

Pastor Frank Agyemang Prempeh.
Area Head, COP, Maryland

Pastor Kwame Ofori Amanfo,
COP Maryland district

Pastor Eric Akpanul,
COP Richmond district

Pastor Caleb Owusu Adu,
COP Spring City Church Winning Grace

WINNING GRACE INTERNATIONAL CHURCH

Bishop & Rev. Mrs. Osei Tutu

Rev. Charles Osei-Adu

Pastor Caleb Owusu-Donkor

Pastor Ernest Chongo

Pastor Paul Amoako

Pastor Prosper Koubgam

Pastor Tracy Ames

OTHERS:

Rev. Isaac Heavenson

Rev. Francis Duodu

Rev. Edward Poku

Order of Service

PART 2 – TRADITIONAL FUNERAL RITES

ORDER OF SERVICE

FRIDAY, 20TH FEB, 2026 @ 8 - 11PM

VENUE: THE CHURCH OF PENTECOST U.S.A., INC.,

15421 OLD COLUMBIA PIKE, BURTONSVILLE, MD 20866

Arrival of guests –

Music interlude – **D.J**

Opening Prayer –

Introductions/Welcome of Guest – **Moderator**

Purpose of meeting – **Moderator**

Greeting of bereaved family – **Guests**

Music interlude – **D.J**

Response from bereaved family – **Family**

Music Interlude – **D.J**

Biography – **Family Rep.**

Tributes:

Exhortation -

Prayer for Bereaved Family –

Announcements - **Moderator**

Vote of Thanks – **Family Rep.**

Closing Prayer –

Benediction –

Moderator:

PART 1 – VIEWING/MEMORIAL SERVICE

ORDER OF SERVICE

FRIDAY, 20TH FEB., 2026 @ 4PM – 7PM

VENUE: HOWELL FUNERAL HOME, 10220 GUILFORD RD,
JESSUP, MD 20794

Opening Prayer –

Worship –

Songs/Hymns –

File Past –

Introductions/Welcome of Guest – **Moderator**

Bible Reading –

Songs/Hymns –

Prayer of thanksgiving –

Biography – **Family Rep.**

Tributes:

Exhortation –

Prayer for Bereaved Family –

Vote of Thanks – **Family Rep.**

Announcement – **Moderator**

Closing Prayer –

Benediction –

Moderator:

PART 3 –BURIAL SERVICE

ORDER OF SERVICE

21ST FEB., 2026 @ 8:30 – 9:30AM

**VENUE: HOWELL FUNERAL HOME, 10220 GUILFORD RD,
JESSUP, MD 20794**

File Past

Opening Prayer/Worship

Songs/Hymns

Introductions/Welcome of Guest – **Moderator**

Bible Reading

Songs/Hymns

Exhortation

Prayer for Bereaved Family

Announcement – **Moderator**

Closing Prayer

Benediction

Moderator:

PART 4–INTERMENT

21ST FEB., 2026 @ 11:00 – 12:00PM

VENUE: 7225 EASTERN AVE, BALTIMORE, MD 21224

Prayer

Songs / Hymns

Committal

Prayer/Benediction





Sarah Nana
MARTEY



Some lives are so full, purposeful, and radiant that it's hard to accept their absence. Sarah Nana Martey was one of those lives.

Born on Wednesday, October 24, 2001, to Alex and Vida Martey, Sarah was a gift—carefully given, deeply loved, and beautifully stewarded. From the moment she entered the world, she carried an unmistakable presence. She did not demand attention, yet people were drawn to her confidence, her compassion, and the warmth she carried effortlessly. Her smile reassured, her spirit uplifted, and her kindness left a mark on everyone she met.

A Brilliant Mind, A Humble Heart

Sarah's love for learning shone brightly from an early age. Books were her companions, curiosity her guide. Excellence followed her not because she sought recognition, but because she poured her best into everything she touched. She graduated from Meade High School in 2019 as Salutatorian, ranking second out of 478 students, with a 4.32 GPA—a testament to her discipline, perseverance, and grace under pressure.

Yet for all her accomplishments, Sarah never flaunted her brilliance. She celebrated others' successes, offered a hand when someone struggled, and led with humility. Whether as President of the Red Cross Club, a member of the African Student Association, Key Club, Student Ambassadors, or the POMS Dance Team, her service was natural, a reflection of her heart. She volunteered tirelessly—supporting homeless students, honoring veterans, helping children at the library, and preparing for her future in healthcare through the Academy of Health Professions. Even then, she was already becoming who she was called to be.

Biography

OF THE LATE

**Sarah Nana
MARTEY**



A Life Anchored in Faith

Above all, Sarah loved God. Her faith shaped her every step and anchored her in purpose. She served faithfully in church as a youth leader, choreographer, choir member, and children's ministry worker. She was undergoing training to be ordained as a Deaconess at PIWC Richmond, Virginia, and would have soon been officially ordained. She poured herself into PENSA, eventually serving as Vice President at VCU, and became a devoted member of the Powerful Pensa Prayer Force, known for her sincerity and unwavering belief in the power of prayer.

She fasted for 21 days while applying to Virginia Commonwealth University, placing her dreams fully in God's hands. When she was accepted into VCU's 8-Year Guaranteed Admission Program for Medicine, it felt less like chance and more like confirmation. She trusted God completely—and He ordered her steps.

Called to Heal

Sarah's dream of becoming a physician was born from compassion. Titles did not drive her; impact did. She studied Biology, minored in Chemistry, and pursued medicine with dedication and grace. She led in multiple student organizations, volunteered with initiatives supporting trauma survivors and underserved communities, and even as a young medical student, made remarkable contributions to research. Her work—published in PubMed and other respected journals—addressed cardiovascular disease, obesity, heart failure, and disparities in colorectal cancer care. In May 2025, she presented her research at the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons Annual Scientific Meeting, representing VCU on a national stage.

But Sarah never measured success by accolades. What mattered most to her were people—their stories, their pain, their healing.

The Love She Left Behind

Sarah will be remembered for her tenderness, her prayers that felt like refuge, her listening without judgment, and her love without condition. She made people feel seen, safe, and valued.

She was a devoted daughter, a loving sister, and a loyal friend. She laughed

easily, hugged warmly, and carried joy in every gesture. Her half-hearted gesture—waiting for someone else to complete it—was a reflection of her soul: always reaching out, always connecting, always loving.

Though her time with us was far too short, Sarah's life was full. She lived with purpose. She walked in faith. She loved deeply. And she leaves behind a legacy that cannot be erased.

Rest in Eternal Peace

We grieve because we loved her. We ache because she mattered. And though our hearts are heavy, we trust the promise she held dear:

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." — Psalm 116
"To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord." — 2 Corinthians 5:8

Sarah Nana Martey now rests in the arms of her Savior, the One she served with her whole heart. Her light has not gone out—it has only changed place.

Until we meet again, sweet Sarah. Your life was a blessing. Your memory is a treasure. Your love remains.





SARAH



Tributes

FROM PARENTS



With hearts filled with love, gratitude, and deep sorrow, we remember our beloved daughter, Sarah Nana Martey.

From the moment you were born, our lives were forever changed. You brought a special joy, gentle warmth, and a sense of completeness to our



family. Your life was filled with light, purpose, and grace, and we will always cherish every moment we had the privilege to share with you.

You loved God deeply and devoted your life to faithful service. You were undergoing training to be ordained as a Deaconess at PIWC Richmond, Virginia, and would have been officially ordained. You also sang in the choir, helped lead the children's ministry, and dedicated your time and heart to the church and ministry. Your relationship with God guided your decisions, shaped your character, and motivated everyone around you.

You were a dedicated third-year medical student, committed not only to academic excellence but also to service and leadership. You were actively involved in many organizations, including the Trauma Survivors Network, the Student National Medical Association, research in Colon and Rectal

Cancer Surgery, the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Student Organization, where you served as President, and Jacob's Choice. In every space you entered, you carried yourself with humility, intelligence, and compassion. We are so proud of you.

Beyond your accomplishments, it was your heart that truly made you unforgettable. You were kind, joyful, wise, selfless, and sincere. You carried a warm smile, a gentle presence, and a spirit that made others feel seen, safe, and valued. Though you never sought attention, people were naturally drawn to you because of the love you shared.

The bond between you and Keziah brought us comfort and pride as parents. Watching you love and support one another and grow together was one of the greatest joys of our lives. You were truly best friends.

One of our most cherished memories will always be your half-hearted hand sign—waiting for us to complete it. In that

simple gesture, you reminded us of connection, love, and family.

Sarah, you will always be remembered as a beautiful soul—inside and out—intelligent, articulate, bold, compassionate, and full of purpose. You were a daughter, a sister, a friend, a servant, and a leader whose life touched so many.

Your passing has left an emptiness that words cannot fully describe. But even in our sorrow, we thank God for the privilege of being your parents. We thank God for every smile, every prayer, every dream, and every memory we were blessed to share with you.

Though we grieve deeply, we hold on to God's promise that this separation is not forever. As 2 Corinthians 5:8 reminds us: *"We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."*

We take comfort in knowing that you are resting in the presence of the God you loved so dearly. Sarah, your life was a gift. Your love remains with us. Your memory will live in our hearts forever.

Our beloved daughter, Sarah Nana Martey, we will always carry you with us. Until we meet again, rest peacefully in the presence of the God you loved so dearly. We love you Sarah!



Tributes

FROM KEZIAH MARTEY



Sarah, till this day, it is still so hard for me to believe that you have departed this world. I'm in constant disbelief, and even now, my heart struggles to accept it.

Writing this tribute has been one of the hardest things I've ever done. I would start, then stop, unable to continue, because putting your life into words made it feel all too real — that I am truly writing about you in the past tense.

Sarah, my confidant, my best friend, my only sister — nothing could have separated us. Nothing.

When mommy and daddy were looking for a name for you, I suggested Sarah. I had no idea they would actually take my suggestion and name you Sarah. That small moment, though, felt like the beginning of the bond we would share — a bond that was immediate and unbreakable.

From the moment you were born, our connection were clear. You wouldn't sleep unless you held my finger, and I wanted nothing more than to be there for you, to protect you, to make sure you were safe and loved. As we grew older, our bond only deepened. We shared our secrets, our dreams, our laughter, and sometimes even our tears. We did everything together, and

everyone who knew us could see it — it was always me and you.

I was always so proud of you. My precious Sarah, you were so bright, so wise beyond your years, and so beautiful — inside and out. Watching you grow, seeing you excel in school, hearing your professors and deans describe you as one of their brightest students — it filled me with so much pride.

As a third-year medical student at Virginia Commonwealth University and a Dean's Scholarship recipient, you worked so hard. You conducted meaningful research that was published in PubMed and other prestigious journals, and you held leadership roles as president and officer in several recognized student organizations. That's my girl.

You gave your all — in your studies, in your leadership, and in the way you showed up for me, our parents, and others. When you set your mind to something, you pursued it with discipline, excellence, and purpose, and I admire you endlessly for that.

I was your number one supporter, and you were mine. Nothing made me happier than celebrating your achievements alongside you, just as I knew you celebrated mine.

There was still so much left for you to fulfill, Sarah. So many dreams ahead of you, so many milestones you were meant to reach. And there was still so much for *us* to do together — plans we talked about, moments we imagined, a future that always had “me and you” written into it. Losing you feels like losing not only my sister, but the life we were still supposed to share.

You were selfless, brilliant, and caring. Everyone who knew you could see your wisdom and generosity. Whenever I needed guidance, your advice was always thoughtful, measured, and full of love. I treasured every moment we spent together, even if it were just chatting on FaceTime while going about our day. Those moments were everything to me.

Your departure still makes no sense. I remember your last day on earth as though it were this morning. I was outside, waiting for you and daddy, and suddenly the world felt so quiet, so incomplete. Oh Sarah, my precious sister... I cannot question God, but my heart aches for the answers only He knows.

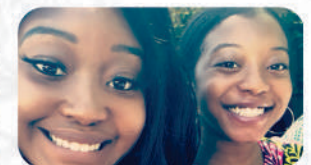
I find myself going through our messages, replaying your voice notes, watching your videos, holding on to every little trace of you that I can. I think about the future you dreamed of — becoming a doctor, continuing to make the world brighter with your intelligence and kindness. I think about all the lives you touched, all the people who admired you, and I wish I could have seen you fulfill every dream.

Sarah, know that I love you more deeply than words can ever capture. I love you, Sarah. I love you. Heaven has gained an angel, and I take comfort in the words of the Bible: “*Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.*” — Psalm 116, and “*To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.*” I hold onto the belief that you are with Him now, watching over us.

Even though you are gone from this world, Sarah, you will always be a part of me. You will always live in my heart, in my memories, in every lesson you taught me and every moment we shared. The love I have for you will never fade, and my life will forever carry a piece of you.

Sarah, my beloved sister, my confidant, my best friend — know that I love you so deeply. I love you more than words can ever capture. I will always carry your light, your brilliance, your laughter, and your love with me every

day. You will always be my Sarah, my star girl, my beautiful sister in whom I take so much pride. Sarah, my beloved sister, my confidant, my best friend — know that I love you so deeply. I love you more than words can ever capture, and this is forever.



Tributes

FROM FRIENDS



My dearest Sarah Martey, whom we sometimes called “Rah,” was my first friend in medical school. It's hard to put into words how amazing a human you were. I first met you over the summer before school started at the SNMA/LMSA weekend. I remember feeling extremely impressed with your accomplishments, achieving so much at your age, moving directly from undergraduate education to medical school, so beautiful, and another fellow black woman in medicine that I was excited to see at VCU and determined to make my friend. It didn't take long before me, you, and Nuham were attached at the hip the entire first semester. You were the kindest person. I admired her strength, maturity, dedication, and determination.

You worked so hard, you encouraged me and everyone around her, and helped me through so many difficult times. From studying late at night all over the city of Richmond, in coffee shops, libraries, etc., sharing snacks, tears, laughs, and prayers for each other, riding bikes, taking walks, and exploring food, festivals, dancing to music and singing, I have so many beautiful memories with her that I will cherish for the rest of my life. We created our own special birthday song and dance, which we performed together for every one of our med school friends' birthdays, which always made people laugh, smile, and feel loved. I know you were extremely loved by her friends and family, as evidenced by the various birthdays, church events, volunteer events, and more, which were just a testament to the amazing villager you were in building a strong community and village around her.



Her relationship with the Lord was extremely strong and beautiful. One of the greatest things I am so thankful for is how you helped strengthen my relationship with God simply by the way you lived.

You gave me the best hugs and have transformed me into a hugging person to the point where my family now thinks I love hugs too much. My life has forever changed for the better since meeting Sarah. I wouldn't have made it this far through medical school without you. It still feels surreal, but I know that God has a purpose for everything, and I have to trust in that.

Now that you are with our Heavenly Father, I smile and know that everything will be okay and that we will be reunited one day.

Sincerely,
Rebecca “Ribka” Alemu”



I would like to offer my heartfelt sympathy and love in your remembrance. Sarah, you were a dear friend who lit up every space you entered. Anyone who ever had the privilege of meeting you would say the same: you were so kind and caring; your soul was so beautiful, inside and out.

When I first met you, we were at CAT-North, and I would always see you after classes, running in your blue scrubs to your bus to get home. I always thought you were super quiet and kept to yourself. Then one day you walked into church, and I was like “*Wait, isn't that Sarah from school?*” and very quickly, I learned how wrong I was about her quietness. Once you opened up, you could talk for hours.

Nobody will forget how excited you would get when others experienced happiness or achieved something great. You genuinely loved celebrating others. I remember when you were so adamant about us going to IHOP because you had big news to share. You announced that you had gotten accepted into medical school. You couldn't stop smiling because you had realized that your dreams were finally coming true. It was an unforgettable moment, and seeing you succeed was so well-deserved.

There are so many other memories, whether it were getting locked out of the mall and having to walk in the freezing cold to find our cars, finally securing tickets to the African American Museum after waiting for months

during COVID, blasting your favorite music in the car, having deep discussions about God, or planning and sharing lessons for PENSA. No matter what we were doing, time spent with you was always meaningful and full of joy.

You lived your life in a way that truly showed that you modeled yourself after Christ. Your faith was practical, yet powerful. You always led by example. You showed up to every church event, no matter how busy life became. You were eager to help others, always open to discussing the Word of God, and you encouraged everyone to pursue God wholeheartedly.

I am grateful that our paths crossed and for the bond we formed. It is a bond that will never be forgotten. Although we are deeply saddened by your passing, we take comfort in knowing that even at only 24 years old, you made a lasting impact on many lives. We will always hold you in high regard throughout our lives.

You will be missed, Sarah. But I know that one day, we will meet again.

With love and remembrance,
Eric Osei Jr.



Tributes

FROM FRIENDS



I still remember the day I met you at church. After service, I walked up to say hello and asked for your name. When we realized we shared the same name, there was an instant connection. You smiled, just as you always did, and said, “Sarah!” From that moment on, our friendship began, and it quickly grew into something special.

Soon after, we grew close. Many Sunday afternoons were spent together, taking photos, talking with people, and simply enjoying one another's company. Sarah, you were truly a burst of joy. You had a way of always smiling, always encouraging, and bringing warmth wherever you went.

One memory that still makes me laugh is Pensa 2019, when we almost got stuck in the elevator while heading to the microwave to warm up our snacks after evening service. We couldn't stop laughing. We were both scared, but at the same time thinking, “*there's no way this is actually happening.*” Somehow, we made it out, and right after, we went back to our room to share the whole funny story with our roommates. That moment captures you so well. You had a way of turning even the smallest moments into something fun and memorable.

As joyful as you were, you also carried depth and intention. When it was time to grow, you committed yourself fully and worked diligently toward becoming better. During our senior year of high school, you, our dear friend Rita, and I made a decision to grow deeper in our walk with the Lord. We called ourselves the *Virtuous Women*. We would wake up at 5 a.m. to pray and get ready for school together, then meet again in the evenings to pray and study the Word. Even at such a young age, having friends who were passionate about Jesus and committed to becoming better were a gift I will





always cherish. That foundation is something I can truly say has carried us through the years.

It is hard to put into words the sadness of knowing you are no longer here with us. Our hearts feel your absence deeply. We miss your laughter, your encouragement, and your presence more than we can say. Yet, we remain grateful for the love, the memories, the faith, and the joy you shared so freely.

Sarah, you will forever live on in our hearts. We love you deeply, and you will never be forgotten.

Sarah Okyere

You, Sarah Okyere, and I (Rita Boateng) would wake up around 5 AM before school started to read The Word and pray—this was during high school. We called ourselves the Virtuous Women. Looking back, I laugh with delight at the boldness and desire we had in our pursuit of Jesus. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied” (Matthew 5:6). I learned this verse with you and have since never let go of it

Mighty seeds were planted at that time. It was a time for planting. I planted with you. You were my girl. From being bus buddies on the horrific journey to Werehlanta's Pensa conference (if you know, you know), to movie hangouts, to going on little adventures as independent high school girls who thought they were “outside” because one of us had a license lol (me).

As I write this, I have dried my tears, and my mouth has eased into a gentle smile because I remember my sister Sarah. Truly, I tell you, I do not have one bad memory of you. You were beautiful in every way. Honestly, you were a light that I never saw become dim. You were so

gentle, calm, friendly, and inviting.

Sarah. It is unreal that I am writing this tribute to you. I do not understand; yet even in this lack of understanding, I will remember your smile. I will remember your quirkiness. I will remember your sweet laugh. I will remember my Virtuous sister

Sarah, we love you and will never forget you. Never. Thank you for being my friend. Thank you for being my sister. Thank you for pursuing the Lord with me. Thank you for planting with me (I see the mighty fruits of our labor today). Thank you for the many memories of laughter and kindness. We pray prayers of peace for your soul. The Lord loves you, even after this life. May you live on in blessed memory, my beautiful sister Sarah.

Rita Boateng



Tributes

FROM FRIENDS



Sarah Nana Martey.

The girl who had one of the biggest hearts.
The girl who worked hard and excelled in all you did.
The girl who had some of the silliest jokes.
The girl who never failed to pour into others.

My constant support, always cheering me on and helping when I struggled.
My chatterbox, who could sit on the phone or in our rooms and talk with me for hours.
My comfort, always offering the best hugs and smiles.
My forever roommate and my twin.

My heart is shattered. Days have been filled with cries, prayers, and whispers to God, begging for you to return, for one more conversation, for one more day where I could see you. But I also smile when I think of you. I read our messages. Look at our pictures and videos. Listen to music that reminds me of you. Reflect on every moment spent with each other. I think of the person you were and who God called you to be, and I can't help but let happiness wear over me because you are truly so amazing. Through the tears, thoughts of you bring joy.

I don't think I'll ever understand why you were taken from us so early, but I find comfort in knowing that you're resting peacefully in the Lord's arms. When you turned 22, one of the prayers I had for you was that God would

love you and hold you through all the days of your life. I extend that prayer now. May He continue to love you and hold you through all of eternity. May He also remind you that your family and friends love and miss you so much. We will carry you with us in all that we do.

Thank you for stopping me in GRC after church service our freshman year to ask if I wanted to grab food with you. It gave way to knowing and loving one of the best people I have ever had the privilege of meeting. And being loved by you all these years was such a blessing. Every laugh, every conversation, every disagreement, every meal together, every song and dance session, every hug, every "shawdy," and every "I miss you." I am eternally grateful for it all. You are, and always will be, such a big part of my life.

Till we meet again, sister. We're going to have so much to catch up on. It will always be Bebe & Cece!

I love you.

Stephanie

Stephanie

NORA

Tributes

FROM FRIENDS



Our dear 'Saraiiii'... it feels unreal to be writing this for you. It still doesn't make sense and my heart writes we had more time. I find comfort knowing you're resting peacefully in the wonderful hands of God. Till we meet again, Sarah. May your soul rest in perfect peace.

Nora



Sarah,

In the short two years I had the privilege of knowing you, it's an understatement to say the impact you have had on me. Your sweet smile, your hugs, your genuine kindness, and your love for locking arms were such a breath of fresh air. One of my favorite memories with you was the day you insisted on coming to my art exhibition and spending the day with me on my birthday, along with our PIWC Richmond sisters. I was caught by surprise because we didn't know each other that well yet. This day showed me your kind heart and the Christ in you. Sarah, your love and dedication to serve, intercede, and be there for others taught me so much about walking with Christ. All I can say is "Well Done, Sarah." Thank you for diligently reflecting Christ in all your ways. Thank you for spreading your light. Sarah, I love you and will always keep you in my heart, sister.

With Love,

Ewura Esi

Tributes

FROM FRIENDS

You were someone who was always smiling. There wasn't a moment that your smile couldn't light up a room or change a person's mood. You were such an amazing person and vocalist when we were a part of the IMPACT choir at Burtonsville assembly. I will never take for granted the conversations that we had about life and school and everything. I am so grateful to have had her in my life.

Kwamzy (Michael Osei)

To be able to call you my friend was a blessing. While you had countless invaluable traits, if I had to choose two, it would be your faith and your smile. From the first day I met you, to the last day I saw you, you always had a smile on your face. These are undoubtedly difficult times, but the memory of your smile helps me carry on. One of the last conversations we had was about attending Love Fest (evangelism event). There was a scheduling conflict, but you were trying to convince me to drop everything to attend anyway. That mundane interaction was representative of your fervor for God. Your faith were infectious, and because of it we can recall the words of Psalm 31:14

But I trust in you, Lord; I say, "You are my God."

We would like to know the answers to our questions, have our grief immediately absolved, or better yet, ultimately have you here with us. But since we know He is Our God, I can trust that this is His plan for you.

Rest in eternal peace.

Christopher Appiah

CHRISTOPHER

19



The thought of you being gone is one I still cannot comprehend, but in all things, I give thanks to the Lord. I thank Him for your life and for allowing you to be a part of mine. Thank you, Sarah, for being a wonderful friend, a sister, a genuine and kind soul, and for always interceding on our behalf. To have experienced who you are —your kindness, your love, your beautiful smile, and most importantly, your love for God— will always be one of my greatest honors. Even though I miss you deeply, I am grateful for the time and memories we shared. Though I am sad, I find comfort knowing you are receiving the rest you so richly deserve. I love you forever and always, Dr. Sarah M. Please continue to intercede on our behalf until we meet again.

Your dear friend,

Sophia.

IBRAHIM

Tributes

FROM FRIENDS



In memory of Sarah

Hello, Ibrahim here. I want to take this moment to let the family of Sarah know that Sarah was a steady presence during our college years, not just a neighbour on campus but a reliable friend. We were not inseparable, but our connection was genuine and built on mutual respect.

She brought clarity and discipline to everything she did, whether patiently helping me work through physics assignments or committing herself fully to her studies. Sarah was a serious, focused student, the kind who showed up prepared, upheld high standards, and followed through without hesitation.

As a final year medical student, she embodied the values the profession demands: dedication, rigor, and service. Her journey was cut short, but her impact remains tangible. She will be remembered for her intellect, her generosity, and the promise of the doctor she was on track to become.

May her soul rest in peace. I pray that God grants Sarah eternal rest and light, and gives strength, patience, and comfort to her parents, siblings, and extended family during this profound loss.

May her friends also find peace in cherished memories and the knowledge that her life, though brief, was meaningful and purposeful.

Ibrahim

Sarah,

I miss you deeply. Your gentle voice, warm laughter, and kind presence had a way of making everything feel lighter. Meeting you at VCU was a blessing from God. I am so grateful for the three years we spent living together, sharing life like sisters and for the love, wisdom, friendship and encouragement you gave so freely.

I admired you deeply, your kindness, thoughtfulness, and the grace with which you carried yourself. Our conversations and shared memories will always be cherished.

Learning the meaning of your name “Sarah,” a princess, feels so fitting, because that is truly who you were. You brought peace, joy, and light to those around you. I will miss you dearly, cherish you always, and love you forever. You will always hold a special place in my heart and will never be forgotten.

With love, Vina



KRISTIN

Sarah

What a gift you were to us all
A gentle warrior and a kind soul
I will forever cherish all the time God
has allowed me to have with you
And all the best hugs you gave
PIWC girlies will never be the same
without you, our missing piece
But we know that you are at perfect
peace, with your Maker
Rest well, Sarah

Kristin



Tributes

FROM FRIENDS



ELEIZA

I remember when I first committed to VCU, I was terrified. I was going so far away from home, and I had no one close out there. I was constantly told by people around me to stay home but me being stubborn, I didn't want to. As a teenager in my last year of High school, going into this different chapter in my life? I was so scared. I felt so alone. Until one day, at church I was talking to Auntie Leena about where I'm going to college, and she told me "Oh! Sarah goes to VCU, you should talk to her." I immediately felt a breath of fresh air when I heard that because I knew that if you were there, that meant a piece of home was there. That meant I wouldn't be out there alone. When I talked to you and told her I was going to VCU, I remember how excited you were for me. You told me all the different things that college has to offer, which eased so many of my worries.

See, I never visited that college, but you painted the picture for me and suddenly moving away wasn't as scary anymore. I remember her telling me, "you can text me or call me anytime," with the biggest smile on her face. You were radiated with sweetness and beauty, inside out. You had this energy about her that made me feel at peace whenever I talked to her. Whenever I called you, you not only helped me out with how to navigate the campus, you taught me the number of resources as a freshman that I could use.

You told me about certain professors you had heard of, you taught me how to navigate a space with roommates, you showed me how I'd do my laundry at school. You connected me with a church and transportation to get to that church; you even showed me how to get home.

The reason why I was able to get more scholarships from financial aid and have a better understanding of how that works was because of your advice. The reason why I was able to settle in so well at VCU was because Sarah

helped me. I had no idea how anything worked, but you showed me everything there is to know about VCU.

You were a mentor and a big sister to me during my first year and continuously helped me out and checked in on me. I know people use past tense a lot, but I don't want to do that. Sarah, you are a light; you have the most beautiful heart I've ever seen.

You guided me and directed me when no one else could because we shared the same experience. You are home to me and always will be when I'm out here at VCU. You may be physically gone, but her soul and spirit live on forever. I know you're watching down on me and I pray that you are proud of how far I've come. From a girl who didn't know anything to an independent woman thriving at a school that you gave me hope at. It is because of you that I was able to be who I am now at VCU.

I know God brought her into my life for a reason and I know God wanted her back in His arms for a reason as well. It hurts a lot, but I know you're having a blast up there free from the troubles of this world. And one thing that will always remain is that you will always be my big sister here when I'm at school. Even though I can't call her, I'll always keep her words close to my heart. I love you forever Sarah and thank you.

Eleiza

EMILY

To say I am devastated would be an understatement; words cannot truly describe how huge this loss has felt. Whenever I go back to any childhood memories, you are always right there. Spending summers at each other's houses, playing outside, and even just going to the library. What I would give to be able to go back, to just hang out one last time. We were girls together and no matter how much time, distance, or space, that's a bond that could never be broken. My mind and my heart cannot believe I have to type this, but I know grief is just love with nowhere to go. Thank you for loving and growing up with me. Sarah, I love you forever—until we meet again. Emily

Sarah

We met our sophomore year in AP US Government. We clicked instantly. You were my Best Friend. We laughed together, cheered together, danced together, prayed together, graduated high school together, watched each other graduate college, and I watched you get your white coat...

I told you to tell me your med school graduation date and I would be there. A day we both dreamed of...

We talked about how we'd be the God Moms of our children...

I was excited to ask you to be my bridesmaid...

Proverbs 3:5 NKJV "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding"

While I do not understand why He brought you home so early, I do know that your heart was pure. You are one of God's favorites and I know that your soul is happy and at ease

In life and in departure, you've continued to inspire me to move with more will, intention, and faith. I pray that we will meet again.

"Bestie" (Eryn)



EUNICE

Sarah, it still feels unreal that you are gone. I thank God that I had the opportunity to experience you as a sister. I will miss your smile, your laugh, your random dancing, and most of all, your presence. Your passing has left an emptiness that will never be filled. Sarah, I will carry you always. I love you so much, and I pray that you are resting peacefully.

Love, Eunice

I am deeply saddened about your sudden departure. You always had a smile on your face and showed genuine kindness. I admired your confidence, spontaneity, and the way you carried yourself, not afraid to be yourself, which inspired me. I'm grateful to have known you, I do wish we had stayed connected and that I could have seen more of the woman you became, but from what I could tell, you were driven and lived a Godly life with purpose. May you rest in perfect peace, and may your loved ones find comfort in how deeply you were cared for.

Afia-Grace Harris



Sarah, you were one of my first friends when I moved to the U.S. You made me feel wonderfully comfortable and loved. I remember when you, me, along with two friends spent a night together and baked some brownies. It was such a wonderful memory that I have always kept with me. Sarah, you were a light, a safe place, and a laughter that still lingers on.

Your kindness and the way you showed up for people will never be forgotten. Your spirit will continue to live in every life you touch. I will carry you well with me in the memories we had. Rest peacefully, my amazing friend.

Kezia Ohene

Sarah... my sister, my confidant, my friend, and my personal gift from God. Your sudden departure has left a space in my heart that only the Lord can comfort, but your life was a light that will never be forgotten. You were the living embodiment of the fruit of the Spirit. Your love was genuine, your kindness effortless, and your faith unwavering. You carried a joy that overflowed into every room you entered. That joy lifted heavy hearts, brightened many of my ordinary days, and reminded me of God's goodness.



To know You was to be seen, heard, and cared for. You gave wise counsel with gentleness, listened without judgment, and prayed with faith that moved mountains. Your nickname was Kaboo Warrior, because of how prayerful you were; our personal intercessor. So many of us leaned on your strength, your prayers, and your steady presence, and we are better because we did.

I will always treasure the memories we shared: the late-night conversations, the car rides, birthdays and holidays won't be the same without you, Sarah. Those moments were sacred gifts, and I will carry them with me always. Your words echo in my heart and my heart carries them everywhere I go. Though I grieve so deeply, I am grateful; grateful that God allowed me the privilege of knowing you, of loving you, and of being loved by you. Your life was precious, your spirit beautiful, and your impact eternal.

I miss you dearly, but I hold onto the hope I have in Christ, the promise that this goodbye is not forever. One day, I will see her again.

Until then, I honor you. I remember you. I thank God for you. Rest well angel.

Love, Dollar

PEGGY

My sweet Sarah, it's crazy to think about how you're not here with us anymore. It's been so hard for me to process your loss. I miss you so much. I admired how God-fearing you were. You were beautiful, funny (which I always told her you weren't lol), selfless, and caring. You were always willing to listen and support me in whatever way you could. I have not stopped thinking about every single moment I got to spend with you.



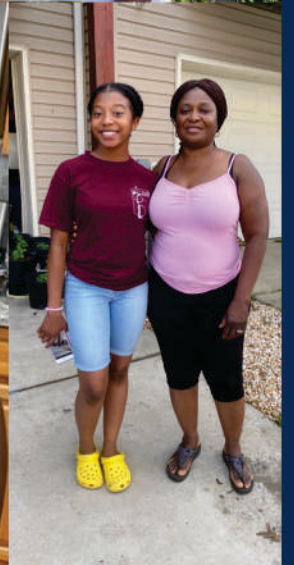
I wish I could live in one of those moments for just a second, but I can't. I know you're in a better place and loving it there. That brings me peace; I will forever love and cherish you, Sarah. Rest easy. Peggy

Sarah, you were a truly genuine person whose faith and dedication quietly inspired those around you. You had an honest heart and always wanted to do the right thing. We would sometimes sit on the floor together, talking about our experiences and sharing moments of reflection during rotations.

I will always remember those moments. One of the first things I remember from our initial interaction was your bubbly personality; and it stayed with me. Your presence brought comfort, seeing you walk through the door or simply knowing you were in the other room gave me peace. You will be deeply missed

Tobi

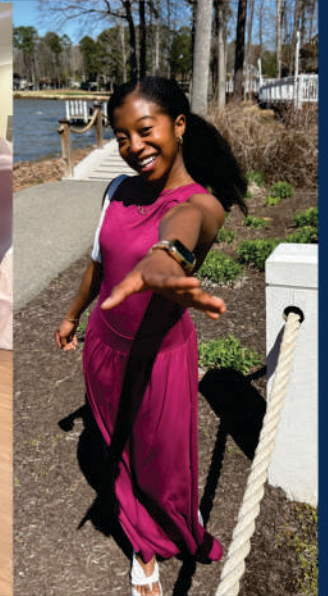
TOBI











Sarah, you are truly one of the kindest and most loving people I've ever met. From meeting you for the first time when you came to PIWC in Burtonsville, I knew I'd have a friend in you for life. We shared many laughs, smiles, and prayers over the years, and I am so grateful to have known you.

My love for you is deep, and I am glad to know that though you're gone, you are in a much better place in the presence of God. I love you always Sarah, rest well.

Michael Osei
Bafour



SAMY

To my beloved Cousin Sarah

Even though we weren't as close as I wish we had been, losing you still hurts more than I ever imagined. You were my cousin, my family, and that bond meant more to me than I realized until now. Your absence is deeply felt, and there's an emptiness that words can't quite explain.

Your presence in this life we live in was incredibly meaningful, and you were cherished beyond measure. I'll always carry a special place in my heart for you and the small memories we shared—each one something I'll forever hold onto. Rest peacefully, Sarah. I pray the good Lord holds you close, surrounds you with His love, and grants you the peace you deserve.

You are truly missed, and your spirit will always live on in our hearts, reminding us of the love and light you brought into this world.
RIP Sarah - Sam Y

When I think of Sarah, I think of God's gift to this earth. How can someone be so kind, so thoughtful, so encouraging, and so beautiful on the inside and out? How can someone dedicate their life to serving God from such a young age while minimizing distractions and truthfully living life with so much ambition and so much purpose? Sarah, you were an angel on earth. You inspired me and so many people in so many different ways.

I've been blessed with the opportunity to be around you when you pray and to see you preach. Sarah's life on earth has not only inspired people but has literally saved souls as well. Anytime we had movie nights, you would welcome us and make spending time at your house so much fun. You were always incredibly intelligent in so many ways. It pains me to know that you're no longer here, but I know that heaven is rejoicing because they just gained one of the most beautiful and pure souls. I truly mean that.

When I graduated college in 2020, it was during the pandemic, and we were on lockdown. I was upset, feeling that I couldn't celebrate such a huge moment. However, to my surprise, you, Keziah, Auntie Vida, and my family threw me a graduation party in your home, which I will never forget. The love, the generosity, and the kindness that you and your family have is so out of this world. It is a testament to your inspiring character, which will never be forgotten.

Sarah, you have truly been a light to this world. You will be missed. We will forever hold onto the beautiful love and light that you have blessed this world with. Heaven is rejoicing now because one of God's most treasured angels has come home.

I love you, Sarah. May God bring your family peace, hope, and strength during this time.
Yolanda

YOLANDA

That fateful morning that I was awakened with calls and messages from my family still plays in my head. The feelings of disbelief, frustration, anger even. Finding out that I lost you was for a lack of better words, super tough.

Sarah, literally one of my favorite people in the whole world. Words cannot begin to express how I feel. I don't know where to begin or what to even say, because losing you feels unreal.

You are the kindest person I have ever met. You had a heart that was always open, always ready to help, always ready to show up for anyone who needed you. So many times, you put others first and didn't always make room for yourself, because that's just how deeply you loved.

You had such a great impact on my life. You were my confidant, my tutor, my supporter, and truly my best friend. No matter what I was going through, you were always there. You were someone I could tell anything to without fear, because you never judged me.

I will miss our talks. On multiple occasions since your passing, I have found myself thinking about calling you, reaching for my phone out of habit, only to remember that I can't. I will miss your voice. I will miss your presence. I will miss knowing that I could call you for anything at any time. Life will never feel the same without you here.

I love you always, Croissant

Adom



OBAAAPA

Sarah, you were like a little sister to me. From the very beginning, you were ambitious and determined to be the best version of herself. Once you decided to pursue medicine, you committed yourself fully to the journey. You were the kind of person anyone would be honored to mentor. Your drive, humility, and willingness to learn kept me motivated and ambitious, knowing that someone was watching and drawing inspiration from my path.

From the application process, your internships at Johns Hopkins, and then to your work at the NIH, you worked tirelessly and excelled at every step. Your achievements were not just milestones—they were reflections of your character.

In 2025, I was especially blessed to grow even closer to you as we both navigated important transitions in our careers. We prayed together and a common mantra we shared in our conversations were: endurance and intentionality. Those words defined how Sarah lived—never giving up, always moving forward with purpose.

Above all, you loved God deeply. Just last year, you shared with me how much you had grown in trusting Him more. That truth brings me comfort now. I know you are in a better place, resting in His presence, smiling down on us all.

Though we have lost your precious soul here on earth, Heaven has gained a beautiful angel. Sarah, your life inspired me, and your legacy will continue to motivate me for the rest of my life. I thank God for the gift of being your mentor, your cousin, and your sister in Christ.

Rest well, Sarah.

With Much Love, - Obaapa

“In all circumstances give thanks to God, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.”

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Sarah, you were reserved, yet your presence was powerful. You did not need to be loud to be felt. Your life spoke for you. You were God-fearing to the core, a devoted future deaconess at the Church of Pentecost, and your Christian walk was not something you wore on Sundays. It was the very thing that fueled your existence. God was at the forefront of everything you touched, every decision you made, and every way you showed up for others. What stood out most about you was how deeply you cared. The moment you heard something had happened to someone in the family, you were already pulling up. You asked questions, not out of curiosity alone, but because you wanted to understand fully so you could help, pray, support, and stand with them. You wanted every detail because people mattered to you.

GIDEON

Family mattered to you. Your smile and bright face were truly out of this world. There was a warmth that came with your presence, a calm assurance that made you feel safe and seen. Even in simple moments, you brought light. And somehow, you always knew where everything was on sale. It amazed me every time. It was as if you had a special connection with food places and stores, and it always made us laugh. One memory that stays with me clearly is the day I unexpectedly bumped into you at the Atlanta airport. I asked her where you were traveling to, forgetting for a moment that you were no longer the 10th or 11th grader I once knew. That moment reminded me how time had passed, yet your gentle spirit and warmth remained exactly the same. Now there is a silence that hurts. A void that feels unreal. I will no longer hear her thoughtful questions during our little meet-ups, that beautiful curiosity that showed how deeply you cared. I am broken and deeply saddened, and I still struggle to believe that you have parted from us.

There are moments I find myself asking God if He could have allowed you to stay a little longer. Then I remember who I am to question God. His ways are higher than ours, even when our

hearts ache and do not understand. What I do know is that heaven gained an angel, and I can only imagine the rejoicing as you were welcomed home, faithful and true.

Sarah, you lived a life of service, faith, and love. Though you are no longer with us physically, your legacy remains. In our memories, in our family, and in the example you set for all of us.

“Well done, good and faithful servant.”

Matthew 25:23

Rest in perfect peace, Sarah. You are deeply loved, dearly missed, and forever cherished.

Gideon Y

MICHAEL APPIAH

It has been a blessing to know you, Sarah. I met you during my days in youth, which were fairly recent compared to when I met a lot of the other youth members. So naturally, I was wondering: Is the new girl kind? Are you easy to talk to? Will you get along with everyone else? The answer was yes.

Sarah was one of the kindest people you will ever meet, and although you were timid at first, you got along with everyone so well, as if we'd known her since we were in Sunday School.

Every time we spoke, you would talk about your time at VCU and your goals for post-grad. I could tell from our first conversation that you were ambitious, and you were going to do great things with your life. And you did. Your success was shown through all of the people you impacted. I saw it from up close when I volunteered for Vacation Bible School with you for years.

You lived a beautiful and God-fearing life, and your legacy will live on through us as long as we live. Rest well, Sarah.

Some people don't just walk into your life — they light it up. That's who you were, with your warmth, your smile, and your quiet goodness. You were always willing to lend a helping hand and just be there whenever you could, whether at church or with friends.

We were the Marylanders in a room full of Virginians at VCU, and between that and meeting her mom, Auntie Vida, who is literally her twin and even triplet with sister Keziah, we got closer. Even though we didn't talk often, whenever our paths crossed again, it felt like no time had passed at all.

I am so proud of you. You always had a goal when it came to school and watching you work so hard to get where you were, was something I found truly inspiring. Sarah, thank you for always being a light!
Crystal Boateng



Tributes

By the
Osei Tutu Family



With heavy hearts but unwavering trust in God, we honor and remember our beloved niece, cousin, Sarah Martey.

Sarah, you were beautiful both inside and out. From a young age, you carried yourself with maturity, gentleness, and a servant's heart. We still remember the very first time you came to visit us. You were young, so sweet, and so eager to help. Your first morning, you were up early, trying to assist in the kitchen and fix breakfast for your dad. Watching you move around, trying to be useful, was quite intriguing to say the least. It was a moment that revealed your nature—helpful, thoughtful, and full of quiet determination, even then.

Your life reflected kindness, humility, and a genuine love for God. You carried yourself with grace and had a heart that desired to please the Lord. Your walk with God was evident in your character and conduct. You were hardworking and no matter the circumstance, you were almost always seen with a warm smile. Your joyful spirit was a gift to all who knew you.

Though you were taken from us far too soon, we take comfort in knowing that you are now in a better place, resting in the presence of your Heavenly Father. Sarah, your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure, and your love a gift we will always carry in our hearts.

Rest peacefully, Sarah.
With love, Osei Tutu Family

Tributes

FROM COUSINS

Today, we speak as cousins—but also as siblings and friends—honoring a life that meant so much to all of us. Losing Sarah still feels unreal. She was more than our cousin; she was a steady presence, a safe place, and a light in our lives.

Sarah had a rare way of making people feel seen and cared for. She checked in, showed up, and listened with genuine love. Many of us still find ourselves reaching for our phones, expecting to hear her voice. Her absence is deeply felt.

She carried herself with humility and excellence in everything she did. As a medical student, she worked hard and served with purpose. She guided and encouraged many of us, patiently answering questions and helping others find their way—never making anyone feel small, always wanting everyone to succeed.

But beyond her achievements, it was her heart that made her unforgettable. Sarah had the warmest smile, the best hugs, and a joy that lifted others without effort. She celebrated people fully and loved family deeply. Her faith was not something she spoke about often—it was something she lived. God was at the center of her life, and her prayers, kindness, and trust in Him strengthened those around her.

Though her time with us was far too short, her life was full of meaning. We are grateful for every memory, every laugh, and every moment shared. Scripture reminds us that the Lord is close to the brokenhearted, and we hold onto the hope that Sarah is now resting in perfect peace with the God she loved.

Sarah, you will always be our cousin, our sister, and our friend. Your legacy lives on in the lives you touched and the love you gave. You are deeply loved, dearly missed, and forever cherished.



Tributes

FROM AUNTIES

Today, we speak not only as friends, but as mothers whose heart breaks alongside yours.

To Sarah's parents: no words are enough, but please know this— Sarah was extraordinary. You were a reflection of the love, faith, and values you poured into her. As parents, we hope to raise children of character, compassion, and purpose, and you did just that. Sarah lived with grace, humility, and strength, and the world is better because you were in it

To Sarah's sister Keziah: I know how deep this loss cuts. Sarah was your baby sister, your joy, your inspiration, and your pride. Her smile, her kindness, and her gentle spirit will forever live in your heart. Though you were younger, you carried wisdom and light far beyond her years, and her love for you will always remain.

Sarah had the most beautiful smile—one that brought comfort and warmth without her saying a word. you served others quietly and faithfully, always willing to help, always willing to lead. Her leadership was gentle but powerful, rooted in integrity and kindness. She didn't just shine; you lifted others as you rose.

As a valedictorian and a young woman preparing for a life in medicine, Sarah led with excellence. As a Christian, She led with love. Her faith showed in how you treated people, how she carried herself, and how she chose service over self.

Her sudden passing on December 27th, 2025, has left a pain no mother should ever have to bear. Yet we hold onto God's promise:

“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” — Psalm 34:18

Our prayer to the Martey family, as fellow mothers, is that God's strength will surround your family, hold you in moments when the weight feels unbearable, and give you peace that surpasses understanding. Sarah's life was a gift, and her legacy will live on in every life you touched. With love, from one mother's heart to another.



Tributes

FROM UNCLES

Today, we honor and remember our niece, Sarah. Even saying those words feels heavy, because our hearts are broken. At just 24 years old, her time with us feels far too brief, yet the impact of her life will echo far beyond the years she was given.

Sarah was a gift from God—fearfully and wonderfully made. Her life radiated warmth, faith, and a deep love for God that touched everyone around her. She carried a gentleness and a quiet spiritual strength that made people feel seen, cared for, and embraced. Her presence was grace in motion.

She had a way of reaching people in the simplest yet most meaningful ways. I will miss her timely text messages—those small check-ins that always seemed to arrive exactly when they were needed. They were never just words on a screen; they were her heart, her compassion, her way of saying, “*You’re not alone.*”

And then there was her smile—that beautiful, unforgettable smile. It could brighten even the heaviest day. It didn’t just lift a room; it lifted spirits. Every time she greeted me with, “*Hello Uncle,*” it filled me with warmth and joy. That smile reflected the love she carried inside, a love rooted deeply in her faith and generously shared with everyone she met.

Sarah’s kindness and care for others were evident in everything she did. It was this very compassion that inspired her dream of working in healthcare and led her to medical school. Though she did not live long enough to become the great caregiver we know she would have been, her heart for service was already so clear. Her days on this earth, though few, were full of meaning, and she touched countless lives.

Scripture reminds us that “*The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves*

those who are crushed in spirit” (Psalm 34:18). In our grief, we cling to this promise. We grieve deeply because we loved Sarah deeply. And yet, as Christians, we do not grieve without hope.

We trust in the promise that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord, and that Sarah is now held in the perfect peace of God’s presence. We take comfort knowing that death does not have the final word. Jesus is the resurrection and the life, and because of Him, we believe this separation is not forever. One day, every tear will be wiped away, and we will be reunited in a place with no pain, no sorrow, and no goodbye.

Until that day, we will carry Sarah’s memory with us—honoring the love she gave, cherishing who she was, and striving to live with the same warmth, faith, and sincerity she showed so naturally. We entrust her fully into God’s loving hands, grateful for the time we had with her and holding fast to the hope we have in Christ.

Sarah, until we meet again, rest well with the Lord.

Sarah damirifa due, due ne amanehununu.



Tributes

FROM SPRING CITY CHURCH (SCC)

Today, our hearts gather in both sorrow and gratitude as we remember and honor the life of Sarah Martey.

Sarah joined us as a young girl in 2018, and over the years, we were blessed with the sacred privilege of watching her grow –gracefully and faithfully– into a beautiful young woman. When we say *beautiful*, we do not speak only of outward appearance. Like Sarah in the Bible, you reflected a beauty that came from within–*an unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit* (1 Peter 3:3-4), rooted in humility and godly character. Sarah lived this truth.

Sarah was not merely present in our church; you were planted here to flourish. She served faithfully, loved sincerely, and gave freely of herself. She had a deep love for children and found great joy in serving in the Children's Ministry. During her summer breaks –when many choose to rest, Sarah chose service.

Spring City Church Children's Ministry remembers Sarah for the countless hours of volunteering during Sunday School and for being an integral part of the team who made our Summer Vacation Bible School a success. Sarah had a true zeal for teaching young ones and nurturing them in the way of the Lord. She exemplified the fruit of the Spirit, reflecting God's love through her actions and service.

Her demeanor was calm and gentle, yet she possessed a unique ability to captivate the attention of children–whether teaching lessons, assisting with arts and crafts, or simply offering her presence. It was evident how naturally children were drawn to her comforting arms whenever they saw her.

Though Sarah's life feels heartbreakingly short, her life was full –full of purpose, full of love, and full of impact. Sarah lived a life that mattered, not because of its length, but because of how faithfully it was lived.

The Bible reminds us in Psalm 90:12 to “*number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.*”

Sarah numbered her days well. you used her time wisely. you lived intentionally. you showed us that fulfillment is not measured in years, but in obedience; not in accomplishments, but in love freely given.

Sarah's life reminds us that a life surrendered to God is never wasted. Her legacy lives on in the children you served, the youth you walked alongside, and the church family that were blessed to witness her growth. Her story challenges us to live more intentionally, love more deeply, and serve more faithfully.

Today, “*we do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him*”.

We grieve because Sarah mattered.

We grieve because Sarah was deeply loved.

Yet we hold tightly to the hope that Sarah's story does not end here.

We thank God for the precious gift of Sarah Martey.

Gone too soon, but never forgotten.

Absent from us, but present with the Lord.

We are thankful to Sarah for sharing your gift with us. We miss you dearly, yet our hearts are comforted by the promise that we will meet again at the rising of the saints. May your life continue to speak –softly, powerfully, and eternally.

Sleep well, Sarah.

Tributes

**BY THE CHURCH OF
PENTECOST RICHMOND PIWC**

On behalf of the Chairman, the General Council, the leadership, and the entire membership of the Church of Pentecost, we extend our deepest condolences to the family, friends, and loved ones of our dear sister, Sarah Martey.

Today is a difficult day. We come together with heavy hearts, feeling the pain of loss, yet holding firmly to the hope we have in Christ. The Bible reminds us that though we mourn, we do not mourn without hope, because our trust is in the Lord who gives life and also receives His children back to Himself.

Sarah Martey was more than a member of the church; she was a sister, a friend, and a daughter of the Most High God. Her life was a quiet but powerful testimony of faith, kindness, and love. She carried herself with humility and warmth, and touched many lives simply by being herself. Those who knew her will remember her gentle spirit, her respect for others, and her sincere devotion to God.

Sarah served the Lord with a willing heart. Whether through fellowship, prayer, encouragement, or simple acts of kindness, she showed what it truly means to live a Christ-centered life. She may not have sought attention, but her presence was felt, and her absence is deeply felt today.

Though her passing has left a great void, we take comfort in the assurance that Sarah has gone to be with the Lord you loved and served. We believe she has been called from a place of labor to a place of rest, where there is no pain, no sorrow, and no tears—only eternal peace in the presence of God.

To the bereaved family, we stand with you during this painful time. We share in your grief, and we continue to uphold you in prayer. May the Lord Himself

comfort you, strengthen you, and grant you peace that surpasses all understanding.

As we say our final farewell to our dear sister, Sarah Martey, we thank God for her life, for the memories we shared, and for the impact you made. We look forward to the glorious hope of resurrection when we meet again.

“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.” — Psalm 116



Tributes

**FROM THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
CHURCH OF PENTECOST, RICHMOND PIWC**



Today is a very hard day for us. We are standing here not just as a ministry, but as people who loved Sarah Martey deeply. Sarah was one of us. She walked with us, served with us, laughed with us, and carried the children in her heart.

Sarah had a quiet strength about her. She didn't make noise about what she did, but she was always there. You could count on her. When there was a need

in the Children's Ministry and leadership was required, Sarah didn't wait to be puyoud—she stepped in willingly. She took on the responsibility because she cared, because she knew the children needed consistency, and because she loved God's work.

Sarah led in a very human way. She listened. She encouraged. She corrected with patience. She understood the children, even on the difficult days. Many times, her calm presence alone was enough to bring order and peace. She made both the children and the teachers feel supported.

Sarah didn't serve for recognition. you served from her heart. Even when you were tired, you still showed up. Even when things were challenging, you stayed faithful. Her love for the children was real, and the children felt it.

We will miss her smile. We will miss her gentle voice. We will miss seeing her in her place, doing what you loved. Her absence has left a space that cannot be easily filled.

Yet even in our pain, we are thankful. Thankful for the time we shared with her. Thankful for the love you gave. Thankful for the lives you touched. We believe that God, whom Sarah served so sincerely, has called her to rest.

Sarah, thank you for giving us your time, your strength, and your heart. Thank you for stepping up when we needed you most. You will always be part of us.

Rest peacefully, dear sister. You are loved, and you will never be forgotten.



Sarah was truly special. From the moment she entered a room, her presence was felt—not loudly, but through a quiet grace and a warmth that drew people in. Her radiant smile and sparkling eyes brought joy to every conversation, whether the topic was academics or life itself. To know Sarah was a privilege, and each interaction with her left people lighter than before. The reflections shared here represent the collective voices of several faculty members who had the privilege of teaching, mentoring, and learning alongside Sarah.

“Each time I was met with the same pleasant manner and the SMILE. Oh, what a SMILE...one that lifted my spirits when we saw one another. It was so genuine.”

Sarah's presence was full of life and love. Even in moments of vulnerability, she carried hope and resilience, gently turning tears into laughter and reminding those around her of what truly mattered.

“On the rare occasions we shared tears, she would always find a way to bring laughter.”

As we came to know Sarah more deeply, it became clear that her joy was grounded in faith. That foundation shaped the way she lived—with purpose, humility, and a deep concern for others, especially those most in need. She valued not only her closest friendships, but every personal interaction, treating each person with dignity and care.

“Then I learned that Sarah leaned on her faith. For me that explained it all—the joy in her smile, her care and concern for others, especially the 'least of these,' and the way she valued not only her close friendships, but every personal interaction.”



Sarah brought that same intentionality and curiosity to her learning. She was deeply engaged in the classroom—faithful in attendance, often sitting right up front, and always prepared. She followed up thoughtfully, eager to ensure she understood every concept fully, never content with surface-level understanding.

“I have a stack of email exchanges with Sarah, as she loved to follow up with questions, making sure that she understood perfectly. In one exchange, I teased her about her early morning email at 4:34 a.m.—that's dedication.”

Her work ethic was matched by her humility. Sarah did not rest on her accomplishments or seek recognition. Instead, she quietly held herself to high standards, never accepting “good enough,” and always striving to grow—for herself and for those she hoped to serve.

"To me, the greatest quality in a human being is humility. Humility is Sarah. She worked hard, was always prepared, and never accepted 'good enough.'"

Beyond the classroom, Sarah was a leader and a scholar. She served in student organizations, contributed meaningfully to her academic community, presented research at the Virginia American College of Surgeons meeting, and published her work—accomplishments that reflected both her intellectual rigor and her deep commitment to medicine.

Yet what set Sarah apart most was not what she achieved, but who she was. She brought a quiet sweetness and genuine compassion to every conversation. Her concern for others was constant and sincere. We mourn not only her loss, but also the loss to the many future patients who will never experience her humility, her curiosity, and her extraordinary care.

"We were all made better because we were given the opportunity to get to know her."

Sarah's life, though far too short, was full- full of purpose, faith, love, and light. She will be remembered always, and her legacy will continue in the countless lives she touched.

Sarah was a treasured part of the VCU community. She was a cherished member of The School of Medicine family. She had a bigger smile and loved her friends. I'm incredibly sorry for your loss. She will always be a part of VCU. You are in my thoughts and prayers. *Stephanie.*

I'm so sorry for the loss of Sarah. She is deeply missed here too. She was full of sweetness and compassion. I wanted you all to know that we saw all of her special qualities too. One memory of her that I wanted you all to have also was an advising meeting that she and I had. She was an M1 student and planning her summer research applications. I really enjoyed getting to know her through that meeting and her care and authenticity in wanting to serve her future patients really shone through. Seeing her in the halls after that was always a bright spot in my day. As Sarah's Dean of Students, I've also been able to talk to many other students who were able to share what light she was. I hope these stories give you a small amount of comfort in your time of loss. We are all thinking of you and lifting you up in our hearts.

Nicole Deiorio

Sarah's smile lit up every room she entered, and her presence made those around her better. She was deeply passionate about providing care to others and led with kindness, strength and purpose. We mourn not only her loss, but also that her future patients will never have the privilege of experiencing her compassion and care. We feel so fortunate to have known Sarah and will carry her memory with us always. Holding your family in our hearts and sending our deepest sympathy. *Luan Lawson, MD*

We are saddened by the loss of our friend and organization member, Sarah. She will be remembered for her advocacy for the care of the less fortunate and her stand for justice, she left a legacy of good works and the gift of her smile which would light up a space she entered. We vow to honor Sarah's memory by acting when we encounter injustice and healing those who are hurting. As a young woman of faith, Sarah prayed for her friends and classmates. Therefore, we offer these words to you." Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love." Lamentation 3:32
VCU SOM SNMA
Naomi Carter, President *Dr. Donna Jackson, Advisor*

As a parent myself, I can't imagine the loss and grief you must feel. No words express my sorrow appropriately. I feel blessed to have known Sarah for the short time that I did and am keeping you all in my thoughts and hearts.

Sarah Hobgood

Sarah was a rising star and has risen to the highest height. To be with God. Continue to be blessed. For her kind spirit and smile

Dr Whiteharst Cook

There are no ways to capture the magnitude of this loss. Sarah was bright, kind and brilliant. Thank you for sharing her beautiful soul with us. Even if it was only for a brief time. She would be remembered and loved always. You, all will be in my prayers. *Perri*

Sarah was in my academic group and she was an amazing person and hard worker. Her loss is felt deeply. Sending prayers to you and your family.

Dominique.

We are all so incredibly sorry for your loss. Sarah was such a bright spirit, today we talked about how much her smile brightened anyone's day in the medical school. She was hardworking and dedicated to perfecting her craft. While also being such a great friend to many people. We remember Sarah and honor her as we move towards the next chapter of our careers, her spirit and faith will live on.

Ayana.

Sarah and I had almost all of our rotations together during our third year. She always had a brighter smile and was extremely hardworking. I remember during lecture she would always be prepared and make sure to ask questions if she didn't know something. So many people come to her memorial today and I want you to know she is so loved and will be missed dearly with love.

Bahira Ahmed

Dear Sarah. I'm sorry I didn't get to know you better and that can't be done anymore. When we've talked before, you've always made me feel. Sure. And you and your hugs. You were always available to help anyone and make them feel better. We may not share the same faith but I know you are with God now and I hope you are in peace. All the love I wish I gave before.

Jenny

I had multiple conversations with Sarah about our Christian faith and what that meant to us in this stage of our lives. She always offered an ear to listen to any conversation we had about anything at all. She will be missed.

Efren

Although I only knew Sara from quick interactions outside of class or seeing her at the VMFA lawn with her friends, she was such a joy to be around. I would talk with her like I had known her forever and we were catching up like old pals. I remember how smart and dedicated she was and I used to tell myself I need to be more like her from her passion, drive and kindness. I know I should strive to have her same qualities. She will be deeply missed by everyone she touched and would stay in our hearts forever. God is with her.

Love,

Sydney Ahlquist, M3

I only spoke to Sarah a few times in passing, but my impression of her was that she was a very kind, bright and above all happy girl. She did have a contagious smile and I can tell from everything I have heard about since her passing, she had a profound impact on a lot of students in the VCU community. Praying for peace for you all in this difficult time and the reassurance that Sarah's life was important, perpetual, and full of happiness. You raised a kind, loving and compassionate woman. We thank you for your strength. Thank you for reminding me what this life is about.

Rachel

Every moment with Sarah was a gift from God. I'm blessed to have known your beloved daughter, sister, a light to her community. She has entered God's rest, Hebrews 4:10 tells us, "For he who has entered His rest has himself. Also seized from His works as God did from His." Sarah was on fire for Jesus while she was with us and is now resting in the glory of God. Take peace and strength in that. I pray for you. May the Holy Spirit comfort you in this time.

I shared some time with Sarah on my OBGYN rotation and I would tell that she was a sweet and loving person. I am very sorry for your loss and I hope you know she was loved by the class. I pray you may find peace and know that she is with God. My deepest condolences:-

Nolan Yano.

There are no words to describe how sorry I am that the world lost such a beautiful and radiant soul. She had the brightest smile and lit up every room with her positivity. I hope that through this incredibly difficult time you are able to find some comfort in all the fond memories you had together and in knowing she made a positive impact in all of our lives. We remember her forever with love.

Victoria Wu

I am so incredibly sorry for your indescribable loss. Sarah was an incredible person that never failed to bring a smile and warmth to any space, regardless of the day. She would have undoubtedly been an excellent, compassionate physician. We should have had more time to learn from her, not only in an academic sense, but from her warm spirit, Her memory will live on in our class, her friends, the people she changed, the patience she helped, and in your hearts. I pray your family's pain will ease soon and you will find peace.

Sarah was such a lovely classmate. For the first two years of medical school, I went to nearly every lecture with her. I remember seeing her there each time. She was always working so hard and she always asked questions that helped the entire class to learn. She had a beautiful smile and a loss would be felt deeply by our entire class. I'm so sorry for your loss:-

Morgan Pugrissi, Fellow Medical Student.

Please accept my deepest heartfelt condolences. I cannot imagine the anguish that you must be feeling right now. I am grateful for the two years that I was blessed to know Sarah and want you to know that she left a profound impact on me with her smile and a love for Christ. I pray that He comforts you as only He can, Wishing you peace.

Dani Oni-Orusin

Sarah was a wonderful friend to me from the day I met her. My first memory of her was how she celebrated a friend's birthday in August of M1 year. We had all just become friends and she went out of her way to surprise our friend with a surprise birthday party. She got cupcakes for everyone. The cupcakes had the flower shaped ring which I saved with me and it always brought me so much joy. She was a wonderful friend and I miss her a lot. I will pray for her and her family with much love. *Natasha.*

Dear Sarah, I never thought I would have to say goodbye to you like this and remember so many afternoons in PCM.CM riffing with Dr. Titchner and taking some of the first steps in learning how to doctor. You were my last line of defense in anatomy lab. So many days I remember struggling to show up and dissect without feeling sick to my stomach. You were always there to support me. Your love will live in me, in my head forever, infectious and genuine. Thank you for everything, for lifting me up when I was down, but I'm sorry I would never be able to repay you. I wish you peace.

Goodbye Sarah, *Kellen.*

I wanted to send my heartfelt condolences to your family in this time of sorrow. Sarah was a beautiful soul and I only hope all of the happy memories you share with her soul continue to keep her spirit close. Sarah is the kind of person and doctor we can only hope to become, and her spirit and dedication to the craft will continue through all of our work. In my religion we say it is from God we came and it is to God we return. So I know Sarah is with God now.

While I only interacted with Sarah once during medical school, I so clearly remember my first thought being this girl is a little spitfire. She so clearly was passionate about medicine and an advocate for her patients. I found it inspiring! It was a group activity and I remember her being so warm and welcoming as well. She made our group more fun and contributed so much to the dynamic. Even though I only met her once, she has left this impact on me and I will always remember her as an inspiration, passion for medicine and advocating for others.

Meghan Macaughy.

I wanted to send my heartfelt condolences to your family in this time of sorrow. Sarah was a beautiful soul and I only hope all of the happy memories you share with her soul continue to keep her spirit close. Sarah is the kind of person and doctor we can only hope to become, and her spirit and dedication to the craft will continue through all of our work. In my religion we say it is from God we came and it is to God we return. So I know Sarah is with God now.

My name is Priya and I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to know the beautiful soul that Sara was. We knew each other since the start of medical school, but our friendship truly blossomed when we became table group mates. She was the most supportive, hardworking individual I have ever met and we shared so many jokes, laughs and conversations. The biggest hugs and most of all, the most beautiful memories every time we saw each other, even just in passing in the hallways, she always had the brightest smile and always gave the biggest hug. It always felt as if no time had passed. I'm so so sorry for your unimaginative, unimaginable loss, and I truly miss her so much. I'm so thankful to the universe that I had the privilege of knowing her kindness. I sent all my love to your family and always will hold her in my thoughts and prayers. *Priya*

My name is Hardee and I am an M4 at VCUI. I pray that you all find strength and peace in the face of your unimaginable loss. Amen. I didn't know Sarah but from what I learnt about her today, I'm struck by her beautiful personality and character that she demonstrated to the world. I'm inspired by her work ethic and her unwavering commitment to her friends, the hospital chaplain talked about unrealized potential. I'd like to think that Sarah has given us all the gift to fully realise our own and not take each day for granted. I hope we take a part of her through whatever challenges we will face. Please take care of yourself with love. *Hardee.*

Hello, my name is Sidney. I met Sarah for the first time during her orientation to medical school. We had a pool party for SNMA/LMSA students and I remember her coming in. She was shy at first and reminded me of myself when I started here. I remember wanting her to feel welcome and like she belonged, and quickly she started opening up. Over the years I would see her at SNMA meetings and in the hallways of the hospital and she would always stop to talk and offer a smile. Your daughter was kind, smart, beautiful, and loved by so many. I'm so glad I was able to know her. I'm so sorry for your loss. I pray that God watches over her and comforts your family with love.

Sidney Barksdale.

I still remember the first time I met Sarah. We were standing in the hall chatting about apartments in Richmond, but her presence and joy were so clear. Over the time I have gotten to know her, Sara has been such a wonderful friend, classmate, and most importantly, an amazing person. Her energy was infectious and I was always so excited to see her. It always made my day better. Her memory will always live with me. *Reyna.*

Your daughter was a bright soul. I may not have known her well, but for my brief moments with her, I could tell of her passion for medicine, her eagerness to stand out for others and her joyful attitude towards life. We are all blessed to have known her and are deeply saddened by her passing. I pray she is in a peaceful place.

My interaction with Sarah primarily happened in class as we were both diligent class goers. I admired her passion and excited attitude about learning that could be felt with every question she asked. I was encouraged as a fellow classmate to pursue learning as she did. Her beautiful smile and spunky go getter attitude is what I will remember about her. I'm thankful that her hope and trust in God was ever present in our school ceremony of her life. And I pray for the peace that surpasses all understanding to cover you in this time of grief, God bless, *Rachel Fry* (VCU SOM.c/o 2027)

I'm so sorry for this unimaginable loss. Sarah was a light at VCU for all the time I knew her in undergrad and medical school. Her accomplishments, ambitions, and kindness is absolutely remembered by all her peers. Kind regards, *Yamna Rahman* (Classmate.)

There are simply no words that could be said in the face of a loss like this. I am a classmate of Sarah and I also went to undergrad with her at VCU. There were many things I deeply admired about her since the very beginning of my time knowing her. The grit and determination with which she lived her life was something I was always in awe of. She worked so hard to live out her dreams and I just hope I can carry even half of her drive forward in her honor. She was destined to be great and I am so sorry that you did not get to see her achieve all that she was meant for. In my eyes, in the few years I knew her, I can tell you that she was already great in so many ways. More than one. I'm so proud of the woman she grew to become, and I promise that as a class, we would honor her legacy In all its greatness, sending love and prayer.

Mallika Patta

My name is Vidhu. I am a classmate of Sarah. I actually met Sarah during college at VCU in 2021. We were volunteering at Red Door together during their meal service for the homeless on Fridays. As someone who didn't eat many sandwiches growing up. I remember feeling stupid for not knowing how to make a PBJ at Red Door. Sarah happened to be the volunteer next to me and we had so much fun together. Her contagious energy is something I will carry with me. Every time I see PBJ would think of her, I can't believe that I got a chance to spend a whole Semester at the same table group with her during medical school. Sarah was safe for me as someone with social anxiety. She was someone I could always r myself around. Please reach out if you guys ever need anything. *Vidhu*

Hi, Sarah, it's Shilpa. We've come far from February 6th, 2019 (interview day) to now, we were on the way to accomplishing our dreams. Is going to hurt when I don't get to share the end with you too. But now every single one of us has one more reason to push forward so we can represent the doctor you would become. Hope you are seeing patients up there. Honestly, I get it, knowing the person you are, God wanted you there with him. Guess we can't all have you. Thank you for the impact you had on all of us. You made the world a better place without a doubt. I will forever cherish the memories we had together. Fun fact; I wanted my name to be Sarah so bad. Now I know why. *Shilpa.*

There aren't enough words to adequately describe Sarah in the joy she brought into every room. I knew her during undergrad at VCU. We shared classes and worked at the CLC together. She always had this steady, kind and calm presence about her. She loved helping people. Offering words of encouragement. When she tutored other students, she was always so patient and warm. She never rushed them or said anything that would make them feel anything but capable. You could see her passion for it too. Her love for others was a palpable presence and it continues to be even without her here. When we started Med school, she and I would study together and take time to check in. She always asked how I was doing and she never hesitated to offer to pray for me. I will always be so grateful to have known her and felt her laugh. You all have my sincere condolences. I hope you can find some peace knowing she is in Heaven. *Laura Clark*

Sarah and I were in the same society, Blue Ridge, which is how I got to know her. She was vocal, spiritual and always had a strong reaction during our conversations about school. Knowing Sarah is with God now doesn't sit right with me, but I truly hope she is in a better place and that her suffering has come to an end. May you, her loved ones, find peace and smile when her memories flash across your eyes. May you go forth and live for yourself but also for Sarah. *Sushma*, Medical Student.

I didn't know Sarah well, but she lived near my apartment and I remember telling her to move by the river and enjoy the trees and sun. I was so excited when she did move because she was always such a happy soul to be around. She was a part of my first table group in Med school and then she became my bus buddy after she moved. I miss her terribly. I still see her in my mind when I walk the halls of the hospital or when I walk home. I replay the last convo I had with her. I wished her a happy winter break a few weeks prior to our break because we didn't really get to see each other. I can't believe she's gone. She was amazing and I hope she is at peace and knows how well loved she was.

I still remember talking to you in the first year of medical school and you introduced yourself super warmly to me. I remember complimenting each other's glasses and having a small conversation. Whilst waiting in line to ask professors questions, you have a really, really bright smile. Thank you so much for being such a warm friend to everyone around you.

Thank you so much for raising such a sweet soul. Please know that she is deeply loved by her VCU community and she is dearly missed. She touched many lives and her presence would not be forgotten. With heartfelt sympathy. *Jasmine C.*

I'm so sorry for your loss as Sarah's classmate, I didn't know her well but only heard amazing things about her from our peers. My warm memory of meeting her was just in passing as we were heading home from class. I remember looking over as I was talking to a friend and just seeing her with the most beautiful smile. That smile was something brought up by multiple people who knew her well at the vigil and am grateful to have had a chance to experience it. I'm sorry again for your loss and hope you are able to find comfort during this time. With love and support, *Pamela Dang*

I know there's no amount of letters you receive that would lessen the amount of immense pain I can't even begin to fathom. I just wanted to share what she meant to me. I know Sarah since 2019. We were both in the GMED program and I remember the first day of undergrad we bonded over sharing the same name and both being from Maryland. I will never forget that day I met her. I will never forget her smile, compassion for others and for her career. I know she made you all so proud. I have faith she is at peace with God now.

Sarah Abouassali

I'm so sorry for your loss. Though I did not know Sarah well, it is evident how profoundly she touched the hearts of the VCU community. I have spent the last few weeks thinking about what it means to be a physician after hearing of her passing. Though her life was cut short, anyone who enters the profession is someone to be applauded. The value of helping another individual is the highest good that can be done, and it is clear that Sarah embodied this value in her actions. I will try my best to live my life according to this value, and even if she cannot, I will push forward in her memory:-

Ryan Ngweri, Sarah's classmate.

Sarah was a bright light with a smile that lit up every room she walked into. Although I never met her or spoke to her, just from sight alone, I could tell that she was a passionate, intelligent. Incredibly caring woman who was loved and adored by everyone who had the privilege of knowing her. I wish your family happiness in knowing how much of an impact she had on those around her. *Andrew*

Although I did not know Sarah well, we were among the dedicated few daily lecture goers. Even in the early hours of the morning, her joy, smile and laugh would fill the room and bring it to life. I have no doubt she would live in the hearts and memories of many. She was a beautiful light. Your family would be in my thoughts and prayers.

I only spoke with Sarah a few times but I could tell what a genuine person she was. She always asked questions I was too afraid to ask during lectures and answered questions I didn't know the answer to. She really had the best smile and I would miss her presence in class immensely. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. *Ally*, (fellow medical student)

I am so sorry for your loss. Words cannot describe the feeling of a loved one who is no longer with us. It is a failing of mine that I never really got to know Sarah, all that well. However, I do know the impact she had on her classmates and the community at VCU. Thank you for sharing her with us and allowing the privilege of getting to know her.

I didn't know Sarah well. Still, she was warm, kind, and genuine in each interaction, no matter how long or short. She taught me that kindness doesn't have to be loud to be impactful. She would have been a doctor that patients loved. She was loved by everyone. I'm so sorry for your loss, but I hope. It is healing to know how much Sarah was admired and cared for.

Jennifer Wong, M3

Sarah was such a kind, smart and humble classmate. I would never forget her contagious smile. God bless. *Ryan Clary*

All of my thoughts and prayers are with you all. I know there are not enough words to say that could make this less painful. She is with God now. I only had a few interactions with Sarah, but all I remember was a bright, beautiful huge smile. She smiled at you like she would have known you forever. She made you feel important. A truly wonderful person. May she rest in peace.

I can't imagine what you must be going through. I didn't know Sarah very well, but I heard some amazing things about her life from her friends who she loved. I also knew her smile and how much she meant to others. I hope during this time you lean on each other and God for support and know that she is looking down on all of you and her Spirit is with you. Sincerely, *Amanda (M3)*.

Sarah, we are incredibly devastated that you had to leave us. You brought so much light to the school, it was an honor to know you.

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of Light, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. Sarah, you were a true and a lovely gift. Your kindness and love for God always shone through in all of our conversation. No more sorrow, no more struggles, no more tiredness. You are home and at rest.

Love you, *Janet*

I want you all to know how Sarah was such a light. I wish I had gotten the opportunity to have more conversation with her and get to hear her jokes. Her faith in God was truly the first thing I knew about her. It was in everything she said or did. You raised a wonderful woman who had an impact on everyone around her. Thank you. I know she is with God now and watching over us all. I pray that you find strength during this difficult time.

I would like to express my deepest condolences to you all. I did not know Sarah very well, but the interactions that I had with her were always so uplifting. It was clear that she was an amazing person and friend who brought so much light into the lives of everyone she interacted with. Please know that we will all miss her daily as part of our class.

Love, *Sarah T*

I didn't know her well, but she had the biggest, most genuine smile out of anyone at our school. You raised a person that was kind, loving and reliable. You raised one of our best classmates. I'm heartbroken for your loss. She will live on in my memory.

Love,

Hisham

I have known Sarah since freshman year at VCU due to the GMED program. She was an incredible human being and brought joy to all of us. I also had a gift of being in VA General Surgery a few months ago with her. There is no one else I would have rather done the 5:00 AM with. She was dedicated, courageous and strong willed and we are all better people for knowing her. She will be deeply missed and remembered.

Love, *Raveena Joshi*.

I was not close friends with Sarah, but she was always one of those people who would greet me with a huge smile anytime I saw her. She was the friendliest, sweetest person ever. I still remember her taking the time to compliment my outfit as we passed by each other in the bathroom, or smiling, waving as we passed each other in the halls. She was the kind of person who could make anyone feel seen and welcomed. We all miss her so much. I'm deeply sorry for your loss *Nina.*

My name is Kai Yeung. I'm a classmate of Sarah at VSU. I didn't know Sarah all that well personally, but a few times I interacted with her I could tell she was a kind, warmhearted and caring person. I could see that she filled the lives of people around her with joy. That's a special thing. I know every time in our class will say the same fact, no matter if she was someone they know or just someone like me who talked to her once or twice. I don't know what the right words are, but...she will be missed dearly. Prayer and my deepest condolences. *Kai Yeung*

Sarah was my beautiful classmate with the most wonderful smile. She would be missed dearly. *Marisa Mehori M3.*

Sarah, you brought so much joy and peace into this place. We might not have spoken often, but when I did see you, I always felt uplifted by the kindness you showed me. You were. Incredible person and the impact you had on me is something I will carry forever with gratitude. *Will Sheffield.*

I didn't know Sarah closely, but it sure felt like it did when we would greet each other in the hallway and she smiled in that warm way she was known for. She was such a force of light in this world. We would miss our sweet Sarah here at VSU. *Love Bridget,* Sarah's classmate.

Dear Sarah, first thing that comes to mind when I think of you is your bright smile that would be reflected back to me every time I ran into you. You were so genuinely happy to see me to a point I wondered what I did to deserve such kindness and excitement from you. I always admire how driven and hardworking you were and that was very telling even from my brief convos with you. The way you hosted the DEI talks with such confidence and passion was so admirable and I could tell you had so much in you. I am so lucky to have met you in this lifetime. Thank you for everything Sarah.

Rachel.

I didn't know Sarah as well as some of her friends did, but I knew her as a classmate, as a peer, and someone who I admired from afar and up close. Every time we spoke, she would always be smiling, always so encouraging and inspiring. I remember her explaining concepts to me during our first year in anatomy lab when she didn't have to, I asked her for her name and from then on I would always appreciate her friendly, caring demeanor. She was a beautiful inspiration to us all and would never be forgotten. My deepest condolences, *Shreya*

I'm so sorry for your loss. No words can do justice to the amount of sorrow that you are all experiencing. Sarah was such a light at our VCU School Of Medicine (SOM). And I can say for certain that everyone misses her. I've only interacted with Sarah a few times, but I was truly touched by her kindness, dedication and passion. I remember on a Saturday afternoon while studying for anatomy exam in the lab, I was alone trying to review. Sarah came up to me and asked if we wanted to review together, even though I hadn't met her before. She was super friendly and we had a productive review session. Please know that Sarah and you are in my prayers. Fellow M3 at VCU SOM.

You had a lovely daughter, she brought joy and passion everywhere she went. Her loss is felt deeply by the VCU community. Her faith grounded her and God is lucky to have her now. You all are in my breath. Sincerely, *Kaila Ress*

I'm so deeply sorry for your loss. I met Sarah at a conference in our M1 year. Whilst we knew each other only peripherally she had such a wonderful smile and beautiful energy about her that I will never forget. The love she had for her friends and dedication she had for caring for patients was unmistakable. I know her legacy at VCU will continue to live on. *Laven Blanchetti*
Sincerely,

Based on today's gathering alone the impact Sarah left was abundantly clear. She was loved by everyone who knew her and her future patients would have been in the best hands. I was on SNMA board with her and from the few convos we had I could already tell her faith was strong. May she rest in peace.

My sincerest condolences to you and your family. I was in Sarah's class, and her wonderful smile never failed to brighten my day. Her positive energy was contagious and no matter how busy she was, she would always make time to stop by and say hi. Whilst I wasn't very close with Sarah. I wish I could express how much of a positive impact she had on my time here. I am heartbroken she couldn't have had more time with us here. She was such a big inspiration to me and I will carry her positive unforgettable energy with me forever. I hope you all find peace. *Amala Nayak.*

I didn't know Sarah very well, but somehow she was still a part of my life. I study very, very late at school, sometimes until 3:00 AM. Some nights I would hear rustling in the halls. Without fail, every time, I saw her hard at work, whiteboarding and we'd smile at each other. There were many nights like this, to the point where I'd expect to see her every time, and I often did. S those late nights, it gave me comfort to know Sarah was there, alongside me in an otherwise empty building. I will miss hearing and seeing her in the halls, and most of all, I'll miss that midnight smile, that "good luck" before an exam, that constant, hardworking spirit. I will never forget that. Much love to you, to her family. I pray she is with God, looking down upon us. And I pray that I can be even half the physician I know she would be. Praise God, One of Sarah's classmates.

Whilst our paths crossed only a few times, I feel touched by each time we met. I wish we could have gotten a chance to know each other better. One thing I would remember is your dedication to being the best doctor. You always went to the front of the room to ask questions and made sure you knew it all. You inspired me then and continue to inspire me. Your memory will live on in our class and all the patients we see.
Love, *Nicole.*

In my first week of medical school I was searching for someone to eat lunch with and I spotted this group of women, among them Sarah their smiles were infectious and inviting, none more than Sarah's, whilst we didn't build a deep friendship, through the years I saw her at events and was struck by her bright smile. There were many moments I wish I had built that deeper friendship. And yet I'm so glad to see that she had this incredible group of women around her who shared their reflections so beautifully. In Sarah I saw a fierce advocate, incredibly, intelligent and unmatched work ethic. I know she would have made an incredible physician. I feel so glad for the

patient she was able to have an impact on during her time at School and feel deeply saddened at the loss. I hope to carry on with her impact and serve my future patients with the same compassion and intelligence that Sarah had.

Paula.

I am so sorry for your loss. Sarah was a beautiful, kind, smart person who touched the lives of so many. She would truly be missed by all. I remember running into her very late one Sunday night in the anatomy lab the night before an exam. We were two of the only people in the building, and she was there, as always, demonstrating her love for her career and dedication to doing everything in her power to succeed. But not only did I admire her as a fellow student, but I also would never forget the way her smile lit any room. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.. May God bless you and may her memory live on forever. *Nicole.*

Thank you for the gift of my friend Sarah. She brought me closer to God and a smile lit up every room. She was there to cut my birthday cake every birthday in medical school. She is inspiring and I will always take her spirit with me wherever. I wish you all my prayers and love. She will never be truly gone as the people who knew her would remember her always. Her hugs were warm, smiles bright, she was the best of us in every way. She is now in the most perfect place. I wish you all strength. Love always.

I'm so beyond sorry for your loss. While I did not know Sarah well, I would frequently run into her in class and in the restroom in between. She would always have a smile on her face and whenever we had a little chat. She was always so positive no matter how stressful medical school was at the time. I feel blessed to have met her, without knowing her well, I could tell how driven she was. I would be thinking of your family. Her presence would be missed. Love, *Sydney* (VCU M3 student.)

I'm incredibly sorry for your tremendous loss. I had the honor of meeting Sarah during undergrad and was immediately imparted by the grace and positivity she carried into every room. I was and always would be inspired by her undying curiosity, passion for learning and continuous smile. I hope God blesses you all with strength to get through this tough time and I pray for peace and healing in your family. I want you to rest assured that I and the rest of our class will keep her legacy alive by practicing with integrity, patience, and love. Just like Sarah. With love, *Yashnoor S.*

My prayers for our profound loss, Sarah is deeply missed among our classmates. Although my moments with her were brief, Sarah was, and will always be remarkably memorable. I remember some of my toughest days in class, I would often hide in the bathroom- Sarah always passed along a bright smile, shared something sweet about my hair or what I was wearing, and gave me a distant acquaintance, something to smile about. She was uniquely passionate, in medicine and social causes, something I always admired. I did not spend the most time with her, but she made a significant impact on myself, and all of us as future physicians. We will always strive to carry forward her memory by emulating her kindness, fierce passion in helping others, humility in all that we do and the patients we serve. Much love to you all. *Shivam Mullapudi* (Classmate of Sarah)

Sarah was such a special person who left light wherever she was. I remember her in anatomy lab while all of us were generally at our lowest and lacking motivation, smile, make jokes and bring light to us. Even at 7:00 AM after spending all night in the lab. At every party, I knew where to go if I ever felt overwhelmed or needed someone to just relax. I also remember her on OBGYN, always working so hard to provide the best care for some of the sickest patients I have seen. Please know she is remembered fondly. She was the brightest light and the sweetest soul. Thank you for everything you have done to make her an amazing person. I cannot imagine your grief. There is a phrase. I tell my patients and family during loss: "Thank you. I love you. I forgive you. Please forgive me." I hope your grieving process is comforted by these four sentences and knowing she was an amazing person.

I'm incredibly sorry for your loss. I knew Sarah mostly through short interactions in class and she brought a sense of joy and light to every room she entered. She would have been an amazing attending doctor, but I know even in her training she already imparted countless patients by listening, understanding, and helping in whatever way she could. I wish I had the opportunity to work with her more closely and I appreciate that she's also a person of faith. I take comfort in the fact that I know where she is sitting right now. Brooke, Nuham, & Kehah played Christian music at her memorial. And it was some of my family's favorite songs. I'll keep your family in my prayers sincerely. *Nancy Beinlich*

The magnitude of your heartbreak cannot be put into words, so I just wanted to tell you how sorry I am for your loss. And although Sarah and I were not close friends, I will forever keep the memory of her alive in my medical practice. I have lost a friend on this brutal career path and since then, I'd always try to think of him and what kind of a great doctor he would be and how he would choose to care for patients. I know Sarah would have become an incredible doctor, and I can only gracefully honor the gift of knowing her by keeping the love, compassion, and kindness of hers in memory in my patient care. I am sending so much love to you all. *Rufina Kore*

My name is Dino and I was a classmate of Sarah. Although the relationships I had with her may not have been as strong as others, her smile and joy is something I will always carry with me. We are all a family and although her dreams of becoming a physician may not be fulfilled, it is our responsibility and honor to remember her and her passion and determination through every patient we treat. My dearest sympathies and condolences extend to you the family. *Dino O.*

My name is Derika Puri and I worked with Sarah multiple times in medical school. Most recently, she and I were on the same team for Maternal Fetal Medicine during our OBGYN rotation. It was a busy service we were running between the hospital and clinic. And squeezing in lunch when we could. One thing that always stood out to me about Sarah was how thorough she was. She worked so hard to know every detail about the patient, even with back-to-back patients and running low on time, her preparation and diligence never lacked. She would have made an amazing physician. And the other thing I noted about Sarah was her kindness. She wasn't the type of person to leave you confused about a topic. I was in the same table group with her during M2 year and if I or someone else at the table was confused about a topic, she would take the time to slow down and explain it to us. And lastly I'll remember and learn from her curiosity. She was always asking questions (even questions I had on my mind and was too afraid to ask). I am very sorry for your loss. I will continue to pray and keep you all in my thoughts. Our medical school class isn't the same without her. Sending lots of love. Sincerely, *Devika Pun.*

Sarah touched my life in so many ways. We were in Blue Ridge Society together, and she quickly became one of my first friends at VCU SOM. Some of my memories with her include going on a picnic at VMFA, her choosing my white elephant gift at a holiday party, and her attending my birthday party when some of my other friends cancelled at the last minute. Sarah was a kind soul, and I always looked forward to her spontaneous hugs. Her smile lit up every room she walked into. Sarah and I were closer and hung out more often in M1 and M2. I wish I had stayed close with her throughout M3 and been someone she could lean on. Unfortunately, our opposite schedules made it difficult to find that time to remain close. I am so grateful to have known Sarah and I pray she's resting peacefully. My thoughts are with you as you grieve this unimaginable loss.

Love, *Sonya Feeser*

Dear Sarah's family,

I offer my deepest condolences for the tremendous loss you have experienced. Her passing is also a big loss for our community at VCU SOM - and the greater medical community. I am honored to be her classmate. I never knew her very well; I may have exchanged hellos with her at most, but I always perceived her as someone sweet and kind. The biggest memory of her that I have was when we were all waiting in line to pick up our quizzes from the anatomy lab in M1 year. We were all cramped in the hallway and Sarah helped by calling out the names of the quizzes. This helped some people pick up their papers quicker. I was standing next to her and remember thinking that she was brave, outspoken in a positive way. This is a minor memory compared to those who had the opportunity to know her better, but I decided to write about it because even for someone who barely knew her, she made an impact. We will miss her dearly. I wish that you all remember to take good care of yourselves.

Much love, *Catherine Phan*

I am so sorry for your loss. Words cannot describe what you must be going through. I hope you find peace and I hope you know I am inspired by the lives I lived and will aspire to become like her. Thank you.

To Sarah's family,

I know that there are no words that can properly convey comfort to you all for the loss of your sweet girl. I hope you know what an amazing woman you raised and how her sunny personality touched everyone she met. I first met Sarah at her class's SNMA weekend prior to starting at VCU. I'm in the class above her, and I was there to help students who were still deciding about attending VCU. I remember hoping that Sarah would come study to be a physician at VCU. I was immediately drawn to her, and after chatting, I knew she was the kind of person that I want to train beside. She truly would have made the most warm, wonderful and brilliant physician. I'm so grateful to have interacted with her, even for a short time. My deepest condolences to you all. *Shemannah Kenrich*

My name is Danny and I had the honor of being a classmate of Sarah's in the Class of 2027. While I did not know so well outside of school. I was so fortunate to sit at the table next to her. For our preclinical lectures in the first two years, I have kept thinking since I lost how lucky I was to share my learning with her. She was absolutely brilliant and never afraid to speak up and ask questions over the mic. I was someone who was. Often confused and lost in class, and I cannot tell you how often I suddenly thank Sarah for being the one brave enough to speak up and ask the question. We were all secretly hoping someone would just by sitting nearby. Sarah helped to teach me so much of the medicine. No, no, my classmate and I all had a tremendous death for all that she taught us as our most bright and bold students. We will carry her memory and a spirit with us always, and there will be a piece of her wisdom and kindness in every patient we treat. We will cherish Sarah forever.

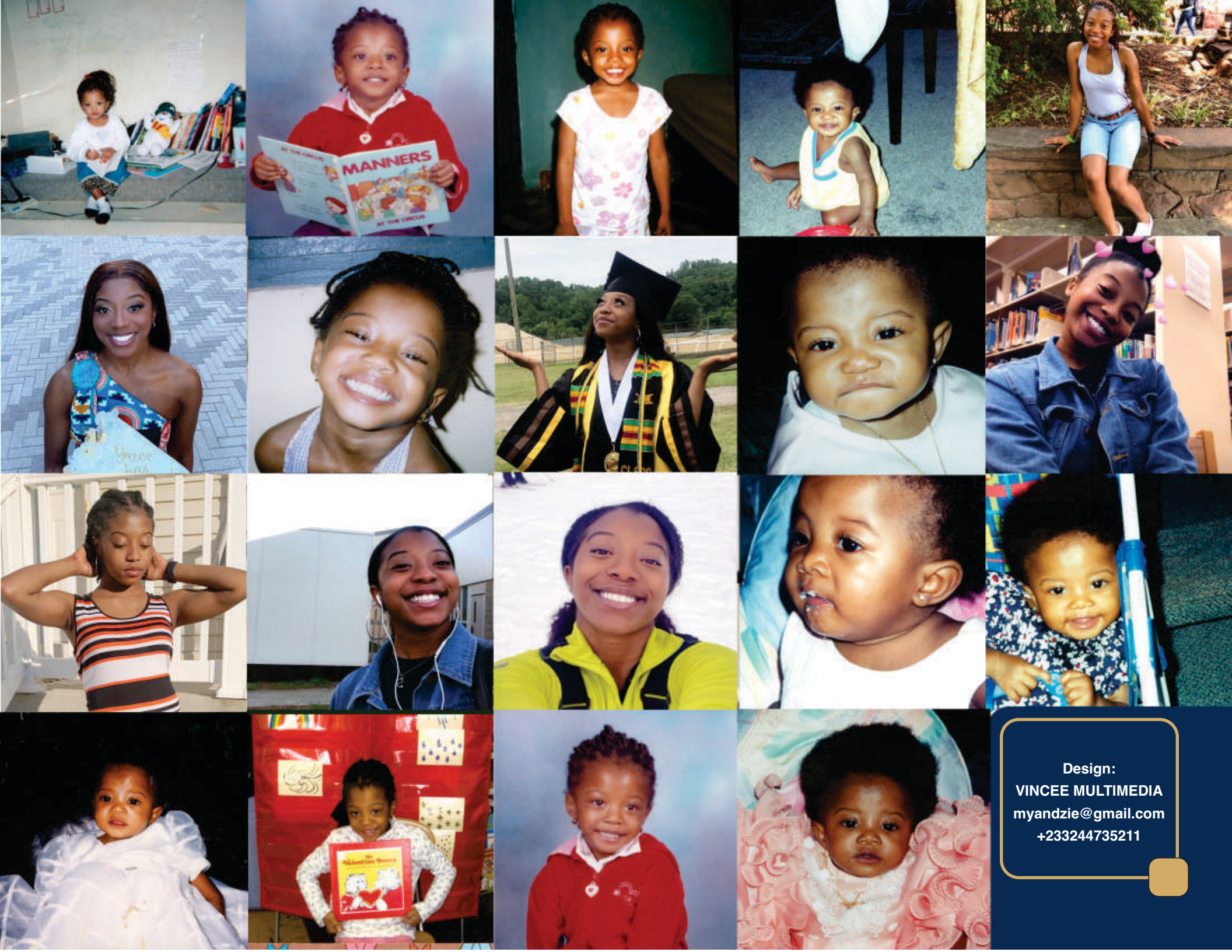
Danny B. VCUSOM '27





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