How long have you been with Johns Hopkins?
I have been with Johns Hopkins for six years! I began as an administrative resident within the departments of general services and medical affairs. Then I worked in the Department of Surgery as a clinical operations project manager. Now I am an assistant administrator for the Department of Medicine, serving both Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center and The Johns Hopkins Hospital.

What are some fun things about you that you want readers to know?
I earned three championship rings playing football for West Virginia University and was inducted into my high school’s athletic hall of fame.

How did you decide to focus on health care administration?
I have always had an interest in the correlation between an individual’s background, culture and experiences—how that shapes an individual’s life and the related impact on health outcomes. As a college athlete, for instance, I could see the tremendous resources that went into improving my health, while realizing that the health of many of my neighbors, friends and families worsened. I felt a calling to improve health care for vulnerable populations and to identify ways to address health inequities.

Who are your African-American heroes?
I have many, but my biggest hero will always be my dad, Willie Brownlee. His motto was: “Do the right thing.” He taught me that it was a privilege to do right for others—and doing right by others is the easiest way to make the world better.

Is there an episode in African-American history that particularly resonates with you?
I am actually drawn most to the present day. African-Americans are more culturally, politically and economically diverse than ever. The influx of Africans and Afro-Caribbeans is changing the face of America, and the notion of what it means to be African-American is evolving.

I am particularly fascinated by the dynamic conversations that are unfolding regarding identity, community and equity, as our savvy generation of multi-ethnic African-Americans use social media to document history in the making. The future depends on what we do today, and I am proud to see so many African-Americans making a difference in our nation.

What mark do you hope to leave on Johns Hopkins, your community, the nation or the world?
I hope that I can serve a critical role in the effort to promote health equity, enhance the access of care and advocate for the improvement of health in underserved communities. I want to make health a shared value for all individuals and I hope I can concretely improve the health and well-being of our communities, our families and those we love.

What advice can you give other African-Americans pursuing health care careers or leadership?
Go for it! As the minority population continues to grow in the United States, we need to increase our multicultural and multilingual talent in health care. Our collective contributions will help reduce health disparities, improve quality of care and give all patients a fair and just opportunity to achieve the promise of medicine and reach optimal health.