Anyone passing by Medical Alumni Hall a couple Fridays ago would have heard a lot of music—and clapping—coming from the auditorium. Gospelrama 2009 was in full swing!

“I am so thankful that people keep the tradition of Gospelrama alive,” said Al Black, COO. “Traditions are very important.”

And keeping with Gospelrama’s tradition, many employees came on stage to showcase their talents, including Davonne Bey of OB/G, Ayesha Dixon of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery (who performed with LaToya Gantt), Tamika Patton-Watson of Administration, and the Penn Inspirations. Also performing were Sister Ramona Cecil, adjunct chaplain at HUP, Kahlil Johnson, grandson of Dotty Dickson of Catering, Manny and Amy Negron, children of Myra Belen of Patient Facilitated Services, and Victory Outreach Ministry Step Team, which included Malika Miles, granddaughter of Johnnie Dawson of Infertility.

MC Madeline Dawson of Patient Facilitated Services kept the program running smoothly in spite of a few glitches.

Special thanks to those who generously donated food: Morrison’s Catering, Potbelly Sandwich Works, Atlas Pizza, Johnnie Dawson, and Tamika Patton-Watkins. Thanks also to Musically Speaking for providing the upbeat music that kept the program moving along.

Black noted that “this year is especially important. The NAACP was formed 100 years ago.”

In closing, he quoted Jackie Robinson, the first African American to play in the major leagues: “A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives. Gospelrama has that impact.”