



SSSP Foundation Hold Annual Meeting



(l to r seated) Cynthia Johnson, Bettie Rounsaville, Katherine Wilson, Stella Gardner Murray, LaMarian Hayes-Wallace
(l to r standing) Robert Rounsaville, Harry Holley, Benjamin Ridgeway

The Annual Meeting of the Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation, Incorporated was held on Saturday, September 20th at Hillside Presbyterian Church in Decatur, Georgia. The Annual Meeting gives the Board the opportunity to review the previous year's activity and plan for 2015. The meeting began with a moment of silence in memory of deceased Board member Cheryl Smith. During the meeting, the five 2014 scholarship recipients were announced; the financial status of the Foundation was reviewed and the Samuel H. Johnson Education Award was presented to Webster Wallace, Ph.D. The Board voted to establish an Advisory Council and appointed the first member of the Council – Cynthia K. Johnson. Ms. Johnson provided critical advice regarding a SSSP presence on

social media. As one of the 2015 goals, the Board will be seeking new Board members to bring both new ideas and expanded exposure of the Foundation to new audiences. Members of the Board will be seeking additional suggestions of ways to reach the 2018 goal to establish a **\$500,000** Scholarship Endowment including an increase in annual pledges by former SSSP program participants who work in corporations that make matching fund contribution to nonprofits.

SHJ/SSSP Education Award Presented To Webster Wallace



Webster L. Wallace, Ph.D. is the 2014 recipient of the Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Education Award. In addition to being a retired educator who has taught for 47 years at the university and public school levels, Dr. Wallace is the Founder and CEO of First World (Africa) Production Enterprises. Its mission is dedicated to the preservation, interpretation and presentation of the historical and cultural heritage of African Americans and other people of African descent throughout the African Diaspora. For the past 16 years, Dr. Wallace has presented "**God's Trombones**" by James Weldon Johnson throughout Metropolitan Atlanta, in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and in Hilton Head, SC. at the 8th Annual Native Islander Gullah Celebration in 2004. He has presented "God's Trombones" on behalf of the SHJ/SSSP Foundation for the past three years.

This year, the SHJ/SSSP Foundation was pleased that Dr. Wallace introduced, "**What Manner of People Are These!**" This Black History performance presented local artists performing in three areas of the performing arts: Music, dance and storytelling/poetry. Dr. Wallace was instrumental in helping the Foundation establish its annual signature fundraiser, in partnership with Hillside Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Due to his efforts, the Foundation has been able to raise approximately **\$13,000** over the last four years for college scholarships.

Where Are They Now? Cynthia & Pamela Johnson



Cynthia & Pamela with Mrs. Johnson

Most SSSP participants only attended one or two years in the program. However, Cynthia and Pamela Johnson attended the program for every year of the program's existence. The Johnsons would pack up the family including the dog and, for six weeks, Knoxville College would become their home.



Cynthia K. Johnson served the citizens of Fulton County for 12 years as an Assistant D. A. She has served on the Board of Directors of Fashion Group International-Atlanta and Dress for Success Atlanta, and the Fashion Advisory Board of AIU-Buckhead. She was a member of the US Dept of Commerce's Export Textile Advisory Council. She has traveled extensively and researched the fashion industries in Paris, London, Toronto, Dusseldorf and Tokyo. In 2000, she launched HIPPS and branded a holistic shopping experience that catered to full figured women. The boutique

was awarded Atlanta Magazine's coveted BEST OF ATLANTA award three years in a row. The Atlanta Business League recognized her for Outstanding Achievement

as an entrepreneur. hippsTOO, the evolution of HIPPS, was launched this year. Johnson's current CEO positions include networking, fundraising, forging

relationships and board development, as well as performing and overseeing designer assistance and day to day activities.

Pamela Johnson is pursuing her passion for the performing arts, in addition to her career in computer science. Pamela Johnson began acting at the age of 12. She began



developing her acting skills with the Northside High School of Performing Arts, Purdue University's New Directional Players, and Elma Lewis School of fine Arts. Currently Pamela studies acting at the Company Acting Studio (TCAS). As an engineer by degree and an IT developer by profession, Pamela enjoys using both the analytical and creative sides of her brain. She enjoys dancing

swimming and spending quality time with loved ones. Pamela recently had a leading role in the Act 1 Theater's production of The Ransom of Miss Elverna Dower.



"Celebrating the Past and Present; Charting the Future - The SSSP Legacy"

2014 SHJ/SSSP Foundation Scholarships Awarded

Thanks to the support of our donors, the Foundation has awarded over **\$31,000** in scholarship funds. This year, the Foundation will give five \$1000.00 book awards to students attending a number of colleges in the Southeast.



Rami Blair is a junior at Morehouse College (Atlanta, GA), majoring in French Literature. He is an exceptional student who excels in both academics and community service. He was named the Outstanding Scholar for 2014 during the UNCF/Mellon Mays Summer Institute and has received numerous academic honors and awards. His career goal is to obtain his Ph.D. degree in Comparative Literature and become a university professor initially. His ultimate career goal is to become a provost or college president. Rami is from Bangor, Maine.



Lavaisa Ezell is a junior at Philander Smith College (Little Rock, AR), majoring in English. As an UNCF/Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow, she too aspires to become a college professor. Lavaisa has a profound desire to give back to her community by help other deserving students, even as she completes her own academic studies. She excels academically and served as President of the Chess Club last year. Lavaisa is a native of Brooklyn, New York.



Reid P. Moss is a junior at Spelman College (Atlanta, GA), majoring in Sociology with a minor in Comparative Women Studies. She aspires to become a college professor. Reid desires to use the knowledge she obtains to change the way women of color are portrayed within the media. She views obstacles that she has encountered to date as circumstances that motivate her to achieve her future goals.



Maya Stephens is a junior at Paine College (Augusta College), majoring in Biology. As an UNCF/Mays Mellon Undergraduate Fellow, she desires to obtain a Ph.D. (and possibly an MD as well) specializing in Infectious Disease and Immunology. In addition to teaching at the college level, Maya desires to do research in third-world countries. She is actively engaged in numerous extracurricular activities as well as community service. She is a native of Lithonia, GA.



Brittany White is a senior at Huston-Tillotson College (Austin, TX), majoring in History. As an UNCF/Mays Mellon Undergraduate Fellow, her career goal is to become a history professor. She has served as a volunteer at the Austin History Center in order to obtain practical experience in her chosen field of study. She is a native of Austin, TX and has had to overcome personal challenges to pursue her career goal. She is currently applying to graduate schools so that she can continue her academic study.

*In order to continue investing in the future through scholarships to deserving students, the Foudation needs YOU! Please use the Foundation website to make your donation. You may also consider making an annual pledge. Your tax deductible contributions will make a critical difference in reaching our 2018 endowment goal of **\$500,000**.*

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Remembering Cheryl Smith

Cheryl Paulette Smith, Esq. attended SSSP in the summers of 1965 and 1966. She joined the Board in 2006 in spite of her tremendously busy schedule. She gave the Board invaluable legal advice and was a strong advocate of the Foundation. Cheryl died on September 9, 2013. The Board of Directors salutes Cheryl Smith and will always treasure the significant contribution she made to the growth and development of the Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation Inc.



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Georgia Gives Day is a collaboration of the [Georgia Center for Nonprofits](http://www.givesday.org) (GCN) in partnership with participating nonprofits, state agencies, corporations and businesses, associations, foundations and public relations and advertising firms. Donate to SSSP on **November 13, 2013** using the link below :

<https://www.gagivesday.org/c/GGD/Search?p=1&keyword=Samuel%20H.%20Johnson%20SSSP%20Foundation>

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