



SAMUEL H. JOHNSON
SSSP FOUNDATION, INC
BUYING A FUTURE - SUSTAINING THE LEGACY

SSSP DISPATCH

WINTER/SPRING 2018/2019

Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 372750, Decatur, Georgia 30037-2750
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Foundation Turns Twenty

On January 25, 2019, the Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation, Incorporated will celebrate its 20th Anniversary. The decision to establish the Foundation was the outcome of a reunion of former SSSPers who traveled to Atlanta to celebrate "Daddy J's" birthday. At the conclusion of the reunion, 36 former SSSPers made a written commitment to support the development of a foundation to be named in honor of Mr. Johnson. Twenty years later, the Foundation continues to move forward. Thanks to the visionary and dedicated leadership of Board presidents, Mark Clark (1999-2010), LaMarian Hayes- Wallace (2010-2017), and Harry Holley (2017- present), the Foundation has explored innovative ways to continue the legacy of Samuel and Edith Johnson and their commitment to the Summer Study Skills Program (SSSP). Katherine Wilson, as treasurer, has kept a keen eye on the finances of the Foundation to ensure that the Board makes wise and beneficial financial decisions so that it continues to award scholarships to talented, but economically challenged undergraduate students.

The first scholarships were awarded in 2002. To date, the Foundation has awarded over **\$50,000** to **62** students attending **25** historically black colleges and

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Spotlight on Former SSSPer

During the summers of 1964 and 1965, a young scholar named Beverly Gilbert from Pine Bluff, Arkansas, traveled to Knoxville College in Knoxville, Tennessee, where she was a participant in a six-week Summer Study Skills Program (SSSP). There she met other young scholars as she matriculated in the English, mathematics, art classes and cultural offerings of the Program. This program, conceived and directed by Mr. Samuel H. Johnson, was sponsored by The Board of National Missions of the United Presbyterian Church USA.

Though Beverly's high school counselor discouraged her from applying for admission to the Ivy League and the Seven Sister Schools, she had been encouraged to apply as a part of the SSSP. Fortunately, involvement from Mr. Johnson's office continued after the six-week program ended, and contact was made with the NY office of the Presbyterian Board of National Missions, which followed through with the high school guidance counselor. Beverly applied and was accepted by both Vassar and Mt. Holyoke Colleges. She chose Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York, partly because she knew that former First Lady of the U. S., Jackie Kennedy, was a Vassar graduate.

Beverly was one of about ten black young ladies in her freshman class. She

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universities throughout the Southeast. The scholarship awards have ranged from \$500 - \$1,000 each. Since 2008, the Foundation has partnered with Dr. Cynthia Neal Spence, Executive Director of the UNCF/Mellon Mays Program and Spelman's Social Justice Program. Dr. Spence has assisted the Foundation in identifying eligible scholarship applicants. The Foundation has also established partnerships with Hillside Presbyterian Church USA and First World Africa Productions in sponsoring annual black history programs that celebrate African American culture and heritage and pay tribute to the Johnson legacy – i.e., promoting access to higher educational opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds. Proceeds from this event support the Foundation's annual scholarship awards.

Dr. Beverly Coleman (continued from Page 1)

received an undergraduate degree in biology in 1970, continued her studies at Harvard University Medical School and received a medical degree in 1974. She subsequently completed a radiology residency and an abdominal imaging fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania, Perelman School of Medicine.

Currently, Dr. Coleman, Professor Emeritus at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center, is the first Director of Fetal Imaging in the Center for Fetal Diagnosis and Treatment at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. She was appointed this year as the inaugural holder of the Beverly Gilbert Coleman Endowed Chair in Fetal Imaging.

Dr. Coleman's professional vita is stellar. She is a renowned radiologist, researcher, and a prolific author. She has had a very long and distinguished career in radiology serving as Chief of the Ultrasound Section and Associate Chairman of the Abdominal Imaging Division with responsibility for Ultrasound, Magnetic Resonance Imaging, Body Computed Tomography, Gastrointestinal and Genitourinary Radiology. Her career spans decades where she served in numerous positions of responsibility for various organizations with election to fellowship in the American College of Radiology, the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine, the Society of Radiologists in Ultrasound and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Philadelphia.

In 2016, Dr. Coleman was one of the physicians featured in the PBS award-winning documentary "Twice Born: Stories from the Special Delivery Unit." The award came from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. She has received many other awards, including lifetime service awards from both the American Board of Radiology and the Society of Radiologists in Ultrasound and recognition multiple times by colleagues as a "top Doc" for *Philadelphia Magazine's* special medical edition. She has authored over 200 publications and given more than 280 lectures both nationally and internationally, including Canada, Mexico, South America, China and Russia.

Beverly has been married to Everod Augustus Coleman, Jr. for forty-five years. He was the first student to graduate from Harvard with a DMD and MPH. They have one daughter, Erin Coleman, who is a news anchor with NBC10 in Philadelphia, and two grandchildren.

When contacted earlier this year about the Samuel H. Johnson Foundation Scholarship Drive, Beverly immediately made a generous donation, paying forward the opportunity she was given many years ago that helped to encourage her scholarship. Having been educated in a totally segregated public system, where she had used textbooks and one microscope for multiple students, Beverly epitomizes a SSSP Success Story. Her advice to our young scholars is to "NEVER let anyone else define you!! You MUST do that yourself while striving to reach your goals."



It's All Jazz

Sunday April, April 28, 2019
5:00 p.m.

Southwest Arts Center Performance Theater
915 New Hope Road
Atlanta, Georgia 30331



Southwest Arts Center Performance Theater
Atlanta Georgia



Xernona Clayton
2018 Honorary Chairperson

It's All Jazz Benefit Concert--A Smashing Success!!!

On Sunday, April 29, 2018 at 5 pm, the Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation, Inc. held its third consecutive benefit concert at the Southwest Arts Center Performance Theater, 915 New Hope Road, S.W., Atlanta, GA 30331. The program, "It's All Jazz," once again featured local performers; in addition, it also honored outstanding community members who continue the Johnson legacy of promoting access to higher education.

The Uzee Brown Society of Choraliers, founded and directed by Dr. Uzee Brown, Jr., served as the special guest artists. They performed an array of musical selections that included songs by Fats Waller, George Gershwin, Duke Ellington and other composers. Dr. Brown is a noted educator, composer/arranger, performer and chair of the Morehouse College Department of Music. He was also a 2017 recipient of the Samuel H. Johnson Education Award. The Choraliers were accompanied by Ms. Ella Lewis on piano, and Mr. Robert Tanner on drums. The program also included the **Tufton Tet String Quartet** and **Ms. Amarylis Sueing (saxophonist)** and her trio. All performers gave an outstanding performance and left the audience wanting more.

The Foundation was elated to have Atlanta's own, **Ms. Xernona Clayton**, serve as the Honorary Chairperson for 2018. She gave the program a special flair as only she can do. **Mr. Art Terrell**, host of KISS 104.1 (WALR-FM) Morning Groove radio show, was the Master of Ceremony and treated the audience with his mesmerizing voice as he guided the program. The 2018 Samuel H. Johnson Education Award Honorees once again represented those who through their career and community service help to provide higher education opportunities to students from diverse backgrounds. They included **Dr. Donna Akiba Sullivan Harper**, the Fuller E. Callaway Professor of English at Spelman College; **Mrs. Bertha Hightower-Smith**, flutist/philanthropist, who has used her God-given talent to support numerous non-profit organizations including the SHJ/SSSP Foundation; and **Dr. Maurice Hobson**, Assistant Professor of African American Studies and Historian at Georgia State University. This year, the Foundation was pleased to present one of the 2017 scholarship recipients, **Ms. Irah Gates**, who attended the concert. Ms. Gates had just completed her junior year at Rust College, in Holly Spring, MS.

It was a rewarding program on many levels and everyone left feeling uplifted and inspired. The SHJ/SSSP Foundation Board of Directors extends deepest appreciation to the Atlanta Chapter Charms, Inc., Ms. Monica Magette (I'Moni Events), concert sponsors and all financial donors, and everyone who contributed to the success of the program. See you next year, Sunday, April 28, 2019, 5 p.m.



(l to r) Dr .Donna Akiba Sullivan Harper, Dr. Maurice Brown, Ms. Xernona Clayton, Ms. Bertha Hightower-Smith Re. Harry Holley



Uzee Brown Society of Chorliers



1Tufton Tet String Quartet



Amarylis Sueing

Black History 2018

On Saturday, February 3, 2018, the SHJ/SSSP Foundation participated in another successful black history program, ***“What Manner of People Are These!”*** For the eighth consecutive year, the Foundation partnered with Hillside Presbyterian Church’s Christian Education Ministry and First World (Africa) Production Enterprises’ Founder & CEO, Dr. Webster Wallace, to produce a wonderful program honoring Samuel H. Johnson, Edith V. Johnson and our rich African American heritage. Minister Harry E. Holley, President of the Foundation’s Board of Directors presided. Rev. Irving E. Simon, Pastor of Hillside Presbyterian Church, opened and closed the program with a welcome, invocation and concluding remarks, respectively. Dr. LaMarian Hayes-Wallace, past President of the SHJ/SSSP Board, gave a special tribute to Samuel and Edith Johnson, which is a standard feature of the program.

Dr. Wallace did a masterful job of selecting outstanding participants that included songs by the J.L. Roberts, Jr. Men’s Chorus of Ebenezer Baptist Church; spoken words that encompassed poetry by Ms. Brenda Griffin and Dr. Richard Campbell, as well as a short story by Ms. Carsie Mason. The featured guest was Dr. Donna Akiba Harper, Fuller E. Callaway Professor of

English at Spelman College. Dr. Harper read several selections from the writings of Langston Hughes, some of which were less familiar than many of his works.

Elder Robert Rounsaville, Fundraising Chair of the SHJ/SSSP Foundation made the financial appeal. All funds collected during the offering were donated to the Foundation’s annual scholarship fund. The last selection on the program was the song, *“God Is Still Moving,”* performed by the J.L. Roberts, Jr. Men’s Chorus. It was the perfect conclusion to a stellar program.



Saturday, February 2, 2019, 4:00 p.m.
Black History Program and Fundraiser
 Hillside Presbyterian Church
 1879 Columbia Drive
 Decatur, Georgia 30032

“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.”

Malcolm X



Dr. Webster Wallace



2Dr. Donna Akiba Harper

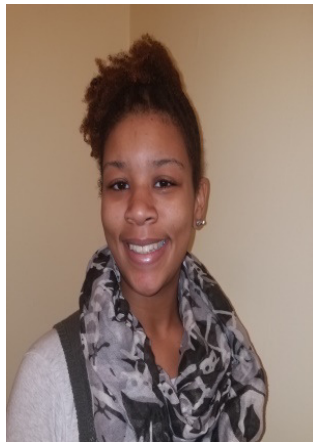


The Joseph L. Roberts Jr. Men's Chorus

2017 Scholarship Recipients



Dorian Black – Dorian is a talented young man from Newport News, VA who is currently enrolled as a junior at Hampton University (Hampton, VA). His major is Music Education and he aspires to obtain a doctorate degree in Ethnomusicology and Sociology and teach at the collegiate/university level. He has an overall GPA of 3.77 and is actively involved in both school and community organizations. Dorian is a Pell Grant recipient and meets the full requirements for financial assistance. His father is a disabled veteran who is trying to send Dorian and his sister to college.



Irah Gates – Irah is an impressive young woman who is a junior enrolled at Rust College (Holly Springs, MS). She is from Memphis, TN and is majoring in Sociology. Irah aspires to obtain a doctorate degree so that she can become a university professor specializing in mental and emotional health education. Irah's father passed when she was seven years old. His passing placed an emotional and financial strain on her family. Irah has a 3.5 GPA and is a Pell Grant recipient. She exemplifies leadership skills and is actively involved in community service, which includes volunteering to serve meals and distribute toiletries to the homeless as well as organizing a mission project for St. Jude Ronald McDonald House of Memphis.



Ryan Loo – Ryan is also an impressive young woman enrolled as a sophomore at Spelman College (Atlanta, GA). Ryan **in** from Atlanta and is majoring in Philosophy. She is engaged in numerous school and community activities and demonstrates strong leadership skills. She too aspires to be a university professor and obtain a Ph.D. degree. One of her goals is “to help improve the lack of diversity in academia.” Ryan has a 3.97 GPA. Although she is not a Pell Grant recipient, her parents are sending two children to college at the same time. The scholarship committee believes that she warrants financial assistance.



Lewis Miles -- Lewis is another talented young man who is a senior at Morehouse College (Atlanta, GA). Lewis is from High Point, NC and is majoring in Sociology. Lewis is actively involved in both activities and community service. He currently serves as a Resident Advisor. Lewis aspires to obtain a Ph.D. degree and become a university professor. Lewis' father passed during his first semester of college which has contributed to his financial challenges in completing his undergraduate education. Lewis is a Pell Grant recipient and has a 3.91 GPA.



Contribute to the Foundation on Georgia Gives Day

By Robert Rounsaville

**SAMUEL H. JOHNSON
SSSP FOUNDATION, INC.
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Donate to the Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Scholarship Fund through Georgia Gives Day or #Giving Tuesday on November 27th, 2018. The tax exempt donation process is as follows:

To donate, Google:

1. GaGivesDay 2018

(then you will see Georgia Center for Nonprofits)

2. scroll down page to find **“For Donors”**, then click **“Donate now”**

3. at search results page, *(top of screen)* type in search for: Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation

4. Click on Donate Now – fill in your donation details, select your card for donation You may use: Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express

5. **click “submit”**

Last year, an incentive of \$1000 was offered to the organization receiving the largest number of donations of \$25 or more during a specific giving hour. Our preferred giving time on November 27th is from 2:00-3:00 pm., if the incentive is offered this year.

Thank you for your support. By giving to the SHJ SSSP Foundation’s Scholarship Fund, you are “Buying a Future - Sustaining the Legacy”.