



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

SSSP DISPATCH

WINTER/SPRING 2020/2021

Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 372750, Decatur, Georgia 30037-2750
Website: ssspfoundation.org email: foundation@ssspfoundation.org

A Look to the Future

As the Board of Directors of the Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation, Inc. looks to the future, we thank God for what he has allowed us to accomplish. That “us” includes every person who has made a donation to the Foundation; every program participant in our many programs; the hospitality of the Pastor, officers and members of Hillside Presbyterian Church; the staff at the Southwest Arts Center Performance Theater, and Dr. Cynthia Neal Spence, Executive Director for Mellon Programs, and her staff. From 2002 through 2020, the Foundation has awarded 73 scholarships totaling \$61,500. Thank you for your continued support of the Foundation.

This year (2020), COVID-19 caused us to significantly change the way we conduct our programs and fundraising. Instead of the usual live spring concert, we had to conduct a virtual concert. Your response to the virtual concert was outstanding. We also virtually presented the Samuel H. Johnson Education Award to three honorees. Because of your generosity, we have increased the number of scholarships by one. Instead of five one thousand-dollar scholarships, we have given six this year.

The Board of Directors has made significant decisions to ensure that the Foundation continues to prosper and carry out the goal of giving scholarships to deserving students attending historically black colleges and universities throughout the Southeastern United States. Among those decisions was the addition of three new members to the Board of Directors. Additionally, an endowment fund has been established. We have campaigned to raise \$500,000. We are not there yet but are making great progress. In the future this fund will allow us to increase the number and amount of the scholarships given each year. Also, we are increasing our social media presence significantly. Please friend us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 A Look to the Future
(Words from the
Foundation President)
- 2 2020 Scholarship
Recipients
- 4 Foundation Goes
Virtual
- 5 Black History 2020
- 6 Meet New Board
Members
- 7 2020 Georgia Gives
(December 1, 2020)

Scholarship Recipients for 2020

(Each scholarship recipient has received a \$1000 award.

The Foundation has awarded 73 scholarships totaling \$61, 500 to date)



Inayah Avant- Inayah is a senior at Hampton University (Hampton, VA) who is majoring in English. She is an honor student who aspires to obtain a PhD degree in African American Literature and teach. Inayah is actively involved in extracurricular activities including Student Director of the Hampton University Writing Center, Co-President of Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society, and Secretary of Alpha Kappa Mu Interdisciplinary Honor Society. She is an UNCF/Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow who desires to serve her community through social action and political activism.



Artimus Cunningham - Artimus is a senior at Morehouse College (Atlanta, GA) majoring in English. Artimus is an honor student who not only aspires to obtain a PhD degree and become a college professor, he also seeks to become a Knight-Hennessy Scholar and obtain a joint JD/PhD from Stanford University. His goal is to develop a credit repair agency to aid members of the black community. He also wants to teach financial literacy to students. Artimus is involved in numerous extracurricular activities. In addition to being awarded rugby player of the month, he has served as an English tutor and mentor at the Latin American Youth Association. He is currently an UNCF/Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow. This is his second year as a SHJSSSP Foundation scholarship recipient.



Ebonee Brown - Ebonee is a senior at Spelman College (Atlanta, GA) majoring in English. In addition to being an UNCF/Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow, Ebonee has served as a Resident Assistant, a Panelist at the National Council of Black Studies, Student Ambassador and Study Abroad Ambassador. She is also actively involved in community service and has served as a Community Liaison and Community Service Coordinator. Ebonee aspires to obtain her PhD degree and become an African American Studies or Literature professor at Spelman College.



Ashee Groce – Ashee is a senior at Spelman College (Atlanta, GA) majoring in political science. She is active in extracurricular activities and community service. She has served as President and Vice President of the Young Democrats of American. She has also volunteered at Dunbar Elementary School and the Black Women’s Wellness Center. Ashee desires to advocate for others and make their lives better. In order to actualize this goal, she plans to join the Peace Corps and teach in underprivileged communities in the world.

Scholarship Recipients for 2020

(continued)



Morgan Lyle – Morgan is a sophomore at Spelman College (Atlanta, GA) majoring in economics. She is a classically trained dancer who has participated in marching band, concert band, and the majorettes. Morgan is an honor student who is also engaged in community service. She desires to obtain her economics degree and move forward in the real estate world. She also aspires to become an esthetician. (Note: Esthetics refers to the application of various techniques to the epidermal layer of the human body. In the beauty world, it refers to the health and beautification of the skin.)



Anastasia Taylor – Anastasia is a senior at Tougaloo College (Tougaloo, MS). She is currently majoring in English and Art. Her career aspiration is to obtain a PhD degree in the field of museum education. Anastasia is an honor student who has received honors as the Best Literary Magazine Editor of the Year (2017) and received a Presidential Scholarship to attend Tougaloo College. She currently serves as President of the Pens Literary Club. She is also a member of the Art Club and is an UNCF/Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow. She has worked at the Mississippi Museum of Art as a Teaching Fellow and continues to pursue her goals. This is her second year as a SHJSSSP Foundation scholarship recipient.

Special Thanks to Gladys Porter who will be leaving the Board. She has been an extremely valuable asset to the Foundation's progress in numerous ways. We wish her much success in her future endeavors.



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

Virtual Awards Ceremony For Samuel H. Johnson Education Award Honorees

On Sunday, September 20, 2020 at 6 p.m., the Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation, Inc. held its first virtual awards ceremony to honor three outstanding metropolitan Atlanta educators. The Samuel H. Johnson Education Award Honorees for 2020 are:



Dr. Mary Frances Early, (retired) Director of Music for the Atlanta Public Schools, Adjunct Professor of Music at Morehouse and Spelman Colleges, and the first African American Graduate of University of Georgia. In February 2020, UGA named their College of Education in her honor.



Dr. Harriett J. Walton, (retired) Professor of Mathematics at Morehouse College, and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Female Pioneer. In 2019, Morehouse honored her by hanging her portrait in the Hall of Fame within the Martin Luther King, Jr. International Chapel.



Dr. Alfred D. Wyatt, Sr., (retired) Assistant Superintendent of the Atlanta Public Schools and the Founder/Director of the Metropolitan Atlanta Community Band. He was one of the first African Americans to play with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and the Band of Atlanta. His many honors include receiving the Pathway to Excellence Award from Clark College Alumni Association.

A detailed biography of each 2020 Education Award Honoree appears on the Foundation's website at: www.ssspfoundation.org. The awards ceremony included a musical tribute by Mrs. Bertha Hightower-Smith, flutist; and inspirational remarks by Dr. Anthony Alford, retired pastor. It was an uplifting and enjoyable event.

Foundation Hosts First Virtual Concert: The Jazz Spotlight

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Foundation had to cancel its in-person jazz concert which has been held at the Southwest Arts Center for the past four years. However, as the saying goes, "When God closes a door, He opens a window." The Foundation was blessed to work in partnership with **Anonymous Da Band** to host its first virtual concert on Sunday, April 26, 2020 at 5 p.m. The concert was shown via YouTube.



Anonymous Da Band provided a wide array of smooth jazz selections which were entertaining and enjoyable. The group consists of a talented group of young men who range in age from 20-22 years old. Due to their humble spirit, they chose the name "Anonymous" to emphasize the group rather than a particular individual. The group includes Langston Michael - saxophone; Xavier Jones - bass; Xavier Davis - keyboards; and Justice Michael - drums/musical director. The

Foundation was honored to have such a wonderful group of talented, young musician to support our cause. The Foundation extends our sincere appreciation to our many donors for their continued financial support. The names of those who contributed at the Friends Level and above are listed on the Foundation's website at www.ssspfoundation.org. If you missed the concert, it is still posted on the Foundation's website for your enjoyment.

“Total Praise”: Tenth Anniversary Black History Celebration

On Sunday, February 1, 2020, the Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation, Inc. sponsored its tenth black history program, **“Total Praise,”** in partnership with the Christian Education Ministry of Hillside Presbyterian Church (USA) and Dr. Webster Wallace, Founder and Director of First World (Africa) Productions. Mr. Larry Tinsley, noted radio host of “Sunday Morning Praise” heard each Sunday morning on V-103 FM and WAOK-AM, served as the Master of Ceremony. The program featured Mr. Trey Daniels, Saxophonist, in addition to the following participants: The Joseph L. Roberts, Jr. Men’s Chorus of the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, under the spiritual and talented leadership of its director, Maurice Seay; the Bell Choir of Hillside Presbyterian Church (USA), directed by Ms. Althea Brown; and Vessels of Fortitude Praise Dancers of the New Piney Grove Baptist Church, Decatur, GA under the direction of Tachika Parks and Kedra Fairweather. Zion Hill Baptist Church members, Brenton and Kristiana Cox, and Lt. Vivian Dixon-Bradford, rendered beautiful, soul-stirring vocal selections.

The program has been produced in honor of the late Samuel H. Johnson and Edith V. Johnson for the past 10 years. The Foundation extends special appreciation to the following persons: Jaylen Murphy and Kaciney Patterson who gave greetings on behalf of Hillside’s Christian Education Ministry; Rev. Sylvia Wilson, Pastor of Hillside Presbyterian Church (USA) and the church members for their continued support of the Foundation; and Dr. Webster Wallace for his continued dedication to producing an excellent black history program for the past 10 years in support of the Foundation. **Total Praise** will be remembered as one of his best productions.

Scenes from “Total Praise “ A Black History Production 2020



Appreciation Certificate Recipients



Vessels of Fortitude Praise Dancers



Joseph L. Roberts Jr. Men’s Chorus
Ebenezer Baptist Church



Hillside Presbyterian Church Bell Choir

Meet the Foundation's New Board Members



Dr. Joycelyn Jonas-Fowler is a 5th generation Atlanta resident, who grew up in Southwest Atlanta in the Peyton Forrest and South Fulton County areas. The daughter of an education way maker and a teacher, she is a product of Atlanta Public Schools having attended Northside High School for the Performing Arts and Frederick Douglass High School. She earned her undergraduate degree from Clark Atlanta University in Mass Media Management, her Master of Public Administration from Troy State University, and her PhD in Humanities from Clark Atlanta University.

With a desire to fix the problem instead of pacifying the situation, she has served her community for over 20 years by directing or re-organizing several human service delivery programs, departments, and entities within state government and for non-profits. Joycelyn is the former Director of Vendor Management for the Georgia WIC Program, State Program Director for both the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program and the Community Services Block Grant, the National Director for Federal Grants, Projects, and Performance for the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, and the former Director of Grants Management for Strategy and Innovation for the State of Georgia's Vocational Rehabilitation Agency. Currently she is the Director for the Office of Community Support for the Clayton County Community Services Authority in which she oversees 10 government programs for Clayton, Henry, and Fayette counties and the development of new programs. Joycelyn has represented her state and her community by serving on several boards. She is an active member of several organizations, including her beloved Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Dr. Joycelyn Jonas-Fowler has been married to Dr. Joseph Fowler Jr. for 21 years.



Kay Carter - Originally from Michigan, she received her Bachelor's Degree in Economics--General Studies from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI and a Master's Degree in Urban Affairs & Policy Analysis from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, IL. From 1989 to 2012, Kay served as Assistant Regional Census Manager & Coordinator, U.S. Census Bureau, Detroit, MI. From 2012 to the present, she has served as Assistant Regional Director, U.S. Census Bureau, Atlanta, GA. Kay now calls Georgia home. She is a member of Antioch Baptist Church North (Pastor K.L. Alexander), where she serves with the Christian Education and Care & Comfort Ministries. Living in Georgia enables her to enjoy walking more often, which is one of her hobbies, as well as reading and meditating. She has already become an active contributor to the work of the Foundation.



Rodney Dennis started in his career in 2014 as the creator of "Shareplay," a music collaboration application. It was through this business venture that he recognized his passion for solving problems using technology. Though the Shareplay application was not a success, the startup kicked off Rodney's career in technology. Eager to hone in on his passion once more, Rodney began to pursue certifications outside of traditional education, earning certifications as an Ethical Hacker and a Cisco professional. Rodney is currently the Director of Technology & Communications at GS Construction, Inc. He also owns several small businesses. When he works with new clients, he helps them strategize, implement and develop technology, which takes the organization to a new level. His passion for technology and solving problems provides more than enough inspiration to propel his businesses, while climbing the corporate ladder. Atlanta is a competitive market that feeds his hunger for success. He is just one of many millenials in Atlanta setting a new standard for what it means to be "young, gifted and black" in America.



**Make the SSSP Foundation Your Cause:
Donate to Help Our Talented Scholars by Contributing on
December 1, 2020 to the Samuel H. Johnson SSSP
Foundation, Inc.**

**SAMUEL H. JOHNSON
SSSP FOUNDATION, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Minister Harry E. Holley, Sr.
President

Benjamin Ridgeway
1st Vice President

Robert Rounsaville, Jr.
2nd Vice President

Kay Carter
Secretary

Katherine Wilson
Treasurer

Gladys J. Porter
Financial Secretary

Dr. LaMarian Hayes-Wallace
Asst. Recording Secretary

Dr. Joycelyn Jonas-Fowler
Rodney Dennis
Members- at-Large

Mark Clark
President Emeritus

Stella G. Murray
Bettie M. Rounsaville
Secretary Emeritae

Your tax-exempt contribution is needed to give scholarships to talented, promising students in the Southeastern United States. These scholars need financial assistance to complete their college education. To give scholarships to help these students, make your donation on Giving Tuesday (December 1, 2020) by following the easy steps below.

1. Go to "gagivesday2020" then click on the #GaGives on Giving Tuesday site.
2. Scroll to the search line or box, then write Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation.
3. Click "Donate"
4. Follow the prompts to donate.
5. Use PayPal, American Express, Visa, MasterCard, or Discover.
6. Click "submit"

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

For more information about the Foundation, go to the ssspfoundation.org website. More information can also be found on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Giving Tuesday is a global day of giving celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving.



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