

# SSSP DISPATCH



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

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## A SPECIAL THANKS TO DR. LAMARIAN HAYES-WALLACE



The Samuel H. Johnson Board of Directors and Advisory Board sincerely thanks Dr. LaMarian Hayes-Wallace for 24 years of exceptional service and outstanding commitment to the SSSP Foundation.

Dr. Hayes-Wallace is a native of Atlanta, GA. In 1964, she met Samuel H. Johnson, her lifelong educational mentor. He selected her to become a participant in the 1964 Summer Study Skills Program (forerunner to the federally-funded Upward Bound Program). He also recommended her for the A Better Chance Program for minority students to attend private preparatory schools.

Dr. Hayes-Wallace has been an advocate for the Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation, Incorporated since its inception. She was one of the original members of the Board of Directors selected by Samuel H. Johnson to provide leadership for the organization. As a board member for the past 24 years, she served as President from 2010 to 2017, Second Vice President, First Vice President, and most recently as Recording Secretary. She also served as Chair of the Scholarship Committee for over 20 years and as Chair of the Event Committee since 2017.

As President of the Board, Dr. Hayes-Wallace launched two of the Foundation's signature fundraisers: The annual spring jazz concert and the SSSP Black History Program held in partnership with the Christian Education Ministry of Hillside Presbyterian Church, Decatur, GA, and First World Africa Productions founded by Dr. Webster Wallace. Her principal objective as President of the Board was succession planning so that the Foundation would continue to successfully provide scholarships to talented, but financially-challenged minority college students.

The Board of Directors, Advisory Council, and students sincerely thank her for many dedicated years of service and for leaving a blueprint and lasting legacy to the SSSP Foundation.

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# MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

*In 2023 three new Board Members were added to the foundation*



**Ms. Lelia Crawford** is an outstanding educator and long-time financial supporter of the Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation, Inc. She started her career as a program assistant in the African American Studies Program at the University of Montana. After three years, she moved to Whitworth College, where she served in several capacities as Coordinator of Student Services. In 1979, she came to Emory University as Assistant Dean and Director, Division of Campus Life. Over twenty-eight years, she was responsible for Student Disability Services, Minority Student Services, International Student Programs, and International Student and Scholar Programs. For the next seven years, she was Director of the International Student and Scholar Programs and Services. At her retirement celebration in 2014, Emory University honored her for thirty-five years as a champion for minority and international students and for nurturing and developing young adults into mature, productive contributors to their communities. Lelia has served in numerous professional organizations, given presentations at conferences, and received many awards and recognitions for her work.

Lelia was acquainted with Mr. Johnson through her professional work, and served with him as a member and elder at Hillside Presbyterian Church in Decatur, Georgia.



First and foremost, **Reverend John G. Byrdsell** is a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ. He is the pastor of Concord Missionary Baptist Church and is dedicated to spreading the gospel through preaching, Christian education, teaching, and evangelism. He has been a Sunday School teacher, Christian Education Director, GriefShare facilitator, and lead minister at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church North. Rev. Byrdsell was licensed to preach and ordained at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church North under the Pastorate of Rev. Dr. Cameron M. Alexander. He is affiliated with national, state, and local Baptist conventions.

In addition to being a pastor, he is a Senior Sales Executive experienced in organizing and executing sales strategies and programs resulting in increased market share, profits, and revenue goals. He is married to Mrs. Elma Jean Byrdsell, a social worker, and they have three daughters.



**Dr. Beverly G. Coleman**, a 1964 and 1965 participant in the Summer Study Skills Program, is the first African American to be elected to the Presidency of the American College of Radiology. 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 at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center with responsibility for ultrasound, magnetic resonance imaging, body computed tomography, gastrointestinal and genitourinary radiology. Dr. Coleman, Professor Emeritus, is the first Director of Fetal Imaging in the Center for Fetal Diagnosis and Treatment at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. She received an undergraduate degree in biology from Vassar College in 1970 and her medical degree from Harvard Medical in 1974.

Dr. Coleman has been a leader in many radiology specialty societies with numerous honors and awards. She has published extensively and lectured locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.



## WELCOME BACK

We are thrilled to have Mrs. Stella Murray return to the Board as our Recording Secretary. Stella participated in the Summer Study Skills Program in 1964 and 1965. As a Samuel H. Johnson SSSP charter member, she was selected by Mr. Johnson to be the first recording secretary of the organization. She served in this position for over ten years and then joined the advisory council in 2011, where she has supported several committee initiatives. We thank her for stepping forward to take on this critical position.

## RETREAT AT R.I.C.E.

On June 3, 2023, the Board of Directors and Advisory Board met at the Russell Innovation Center for Entrepreneurs (RICE) for its first retreat. The purpose of the retreat was to develop strategies and solutions for moving the organization forward. Many great suggestions and recommendations resulted from the retreat including ways to increase and sustain the endowment, how to support and involve students in the organization effectively, and methods to increase our visibility in the community.



## BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM



*“We Have Come This Far By Faith”* was the theme of our annual Black History Program hosted by the Hillside Presbyterian Church Education Ministry in Decatur, GA. The Black History Program was highlighted by Summer Study Skills Program participant Mr. Michael McBride, a baritone. He energized and mesmerized the audience with three spiritual renditions “Oh Wasn’t Dat a Wide River”, “Every Time I Feel De Spirit” and “Ride On King Jesus.” The program showcased the range of talent in our community with spoken word, dance, and instrumental praise. We acknowledge Dr. Webster Wallace of First World Productions for his coordination and leadership in making this program successful. ***Please join us on February 3, 2024 at Hillside Presbyterian Church for another exciting Black History Program.***

# 2023 SPRING BENEFIT CONCERT



The dynamic duo of Ms. Amarylis Sueing on the saxophone and Mr. Jody Mayfield on the piano gave a masterful performance of jazz for the return to the in-person Spring Benefit Concert for the Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation, Inc. Everyone was excited and eager to return to the City of South Fulton Southwest Art Center to experience this sensational jazz concert. They put us in a Jazz State of Mind with their rendition of “Just the Two of Us,” “God Bless the Child,” “Golden,” and much, much more.

Serving as Honorary Chairperson and Master of Ceremony for the Concert, Mr. Tom Jones, senior general assignment reporter for WSB – TV and a lover of jazz, skillfully and entertainingly guided us through the concert.

The Samuel H. Johnson Education Award was presented to outstanding educators, Dr. Roland M. Carter and Dr. Kevin James, President of Morris Brown College.



In photo: Tom Jones, Ivoryana Neal, Harry Holley, and Calvin Bell. Ivoryana and Calvin were two of the recipients awarded the 2023 Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation Scholarship.

Dr. Carter is the Holmberg Professor Emeritus of American Music at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC). He has served at UTC for 24 years. Prior to his tenure at UTC, Dr. Carter served for 25 years as the Director of Choirs and chairman of the music department at Hampton Institute (now Hampton University), his undergraduate alma mater. Dr. Carter is an authority on performing and preserving African American musical traditions and composers. His arrangement of the Negro National Anthem, “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” is widely acknowledged as a standard. He has received numerous awards, recognitions and accolades during his life and career in music, which spans over 60 years!

Dr. Kevin James is the 19th President of Morris Brown College. He became the leader of Morris Brown College after the institution lacked accreditation for almost two decades and faced closure on numerous occasions. He believed the college could regain its accreditation and initiated a campaign to restore Morris Brown to compliance and recognition by the U.S. Department of Education. This goal was achieved in April 2022 when the college secured its accredited status with the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools.

In addition, Dr. James secured a \$3 million grant from the U. S. Department of Education, the largest single gift to an institution of higher education from the department in over 20 years. Dr. James also established a partnership with Hilton Hotels to build a \$40 million hotel on campus, with the ability to train students in hotel and restaurant management. He has received numerous awards and has been featured on almost every major national news outlet.

# SSSP FOUNDATION NOW MORE THAN EVER

BY ROSE LOGAN-LEE

Financial assistance to students is needed NOW MORE THAN EVER. Students from African American households face more financial challenges than any other minority group. Minority households continue to experience more financial hardship due to the severe COVID-19 effects, environmental changes, and economic downturns; thus, meeting their financial requirements is still crucial. The Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Scholarship Foundation continues to provide scholarships to minority students. Since 2002, the SSSP Foundation has given scholarships to 84 undergraduate students in the Southeast.

African American students have greater financial obstacles both during and after college, and they are disproportionately more in need of financial aid for their post-secondary education. Recognizing the extreme financial hardship caused by student loans, President Biden proposed up to \$20,000 in relief to millions of borrowers struggling with student loan debt. At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Trump Administration suspended student loan repayments and interest accrual; however, the repayments were scheduled to begin again in October 2023. The plan proposed by President Biden would have assisted borrowers with an annual income of less than \$125,000 a year (\$250,000 for households in 2020 or 2021).

President Biden's proposed student debt reduction was unfortunately met with opposition from five southern states; nonetheless, 16 million applicants applied for repayment relief. The Supreme Court heard the matter and ruled in a 6-3 decision that the Biden Administration overstepped its authority last year when it announced that it would cancel up to \$400 billion in student loans. Up to 43 million Americans would have benefited from the debt relief. The previous pause (during COVID-19) in monthly payment requirements was also scheduled to resume in October 2023.

The student loan landscape shifted due to significant decreases in anticipated financial aid. The Biden Administration announced \$9 billion in public service loan forgiveness, income-driven repayment plans, and debt cancellation for some student debtors. The proposed plan drastically scales back the Biden Administration's student debt relief initiatives. The borrowers must remain vigilant for future developments and handle present and upcoming debt reduction initiatives with caution.

As Samuel H. Johnson SSSP supporters, we continue to be watchful and resolute as more students require assistance. The current challenges fuel our commitment to collectively continue our goal of consistently assisting present scholars and future aspiring leaders.

Stay tuned for our next newsletter with a discussion on the impact of the historical underfunding of Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

*1Ninety-two percent of full-time, full-year Black undergraduate students received financial aid, compared to 85 percent of Hispanic students, 77 percent of White students, 68 percent of Asian students, 80 percent of Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander students, and 83 percent of students of two or more races...*

*HEROES ACT- a law passed during the wake of 911 empowering the Secretary of Education to respond to a national emergency by waiving or modifying any statutory regulatory provisions.*

[www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)

“African American students have greater financial obstacles both during and after college, and they are disproportionately more in need of financial aid for their post-secondary education.”

## STUDENTS' NOTES OF GRATITUDE



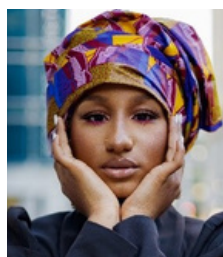
Dear Samuel Johnson Scholarship Foundation,  
My name is Ivoryana Neal and I'm one of the recipients of the 2022 Samuel Johnson Scholarship. Thanks to your generous sponsorship, I'm able to continue pursuing my passion for political science on the legal track at Spelman College.

I'm an undergraduate student in my second year as a political science major. Throughout my degree I have maintained a GPA of 3.9 while partaking in many rigorous extracurricular activities such as the Spelman Speech and Debate Team and being a Social Justice Associate. I look forward to pursuing a career as a Criminal Defense Attorney upon graduation in May of 2025. I am most confident that the knowledge gained at Spelman will help change the inadequate justice system, ultimately contributing to the fight for social justice, equity, and equal rights.

Over the summer, my family and I lost our home due to a storm that hit the Chicagoland area. The storm left my family and me very confused and distraught. As a first-generation college student living in a single-parent household, the finances were already tight, and coming to Spelman was a risk. Now that our home is gone, I not only have to worry about funds for school, but am now seeking a new place to call "home." Though these have been a struggling few months, I have still been able to manage and maintain a high grade point average and have had an abundance of support from professors and students. I do not let my current situation define me nor deter me from my goal and ultimate dream of becoming an attorney. Instead, I use this traumatic event as motivation to keep moving forward. And moving forward is what I will do.

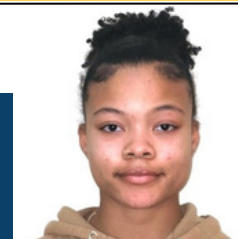
The Samuel Johnson Scholarship assisted with my tuition expenses, which allowed me to focus less on my financial burden and more on my studies. Thank you for your investment in my educational journey.

*Ivoryana K. Neal*



Dear Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation Scholarship Committee,  
Thank you for your generous \$1800 Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation Scholarship. I was very happy and appreciative to learn that I was selected as the recipient of your scholarship. I am a third-year history major with an emphasis on African American and African history at Clark Atlanta University. I plan to pursue my career as a researcher documenting the issues Black girls face in academic institutions globally. Thanks to you, I am one step closer to that goal. By awarding me the Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation Scholarship, you have lightened my financial burden as a first-generation college student, which allows me to focus more on the most critical aspect of school: learning. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I can help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me.

*-Oumou Sale Kaba*



Dear Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation,  
Thank you for gifting me this award to put towards my education. I am grateful to have been selected as a recipient of the Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation Scholarship. I am appreciative of your generosity and thoughtfulness during this time as this award allows me to offset some of the cost of my education.

*-Brooklyn Farmer*

THE SAMUEL H. JOHNSON SSSP FOUNDATION, Inc.

INVITES YOU TO

## DONATE ON GIVING TUESDAY NOVEMBER 28, 2023

YOU CAN HELP FUND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS WHO NEED  
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WHILE ATTENDING COLLEGE

Make your donation between 10:00 – 10:59 am EST and help us increase our chance of receiving a  
bonus from a sponsor.



BRIGHAM YOUNG

## TEXT TO DONATE

Help us reach our \$5,000 Goal

Text **SCHOLARS** to **844-844-6844**

Or scan the QR Code below



All donations are tax-deductible

The Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) corporation dedicated to awarding scholarships to economically challenged students attending college, primarily in the Southeast.

[ssspfoundation.org](http://ssspfoundation.org)

Donate and connect with us at: [ssspfoundation.org](http://ssspfoundation.org)

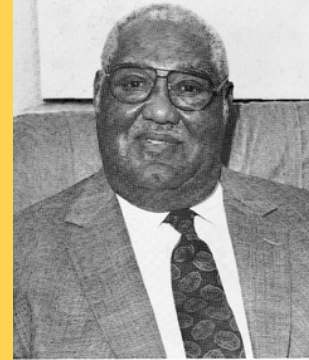
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In loving memory of Samuel H. Johnson, a  
 legendary educator, an extraordinary champion,  
 and an influential leader.



Samuel Harrison Johnson