



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

SSSP DISPATCH

WINTER/SPRING 2019/2020

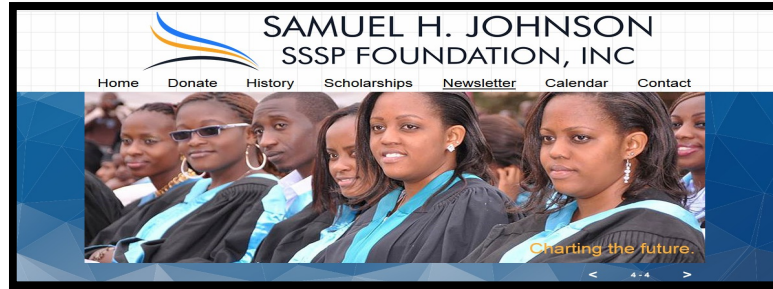
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The SHJ-SSSP Foundation Redesigns Its Website

The Samuel H. Johnson Foundation Board of Directors is excited to announce the launch of our newly redesigned website. The website redesign was one of the goals established by the Board in 2018, necessitated by the Foundation's need to utilize technology to stay connected to its supporters. We also see the use of



technology as a way to inform and attract new supporters.

The Board remains committed to its objective of continuing to raise funds to

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Spotlight on Former SSSPer



In the Spring of 1963 Orion L. Douglass, a gifted athlete and scholar who was attending St. Pius X High School in Savannah, Georgia, was selected to be one of the participants in the third Summer Study Skills Program (SSSP) held at Knoxville College in Knoxville, Tennessee. He was selected because Mr. Samuel H. Johnson, the founder and director of the program saw in him the potential to excel academically and be a significant contributor to the community, city, state, and nation in which he was growing up.

Orion graduated from St. Pius X High School in 1964 with a four- year athletic scholarship to attend Holy Cross College in Worcester, Massachusetts. In 1968 he graduated with an A. B. degree in philosophy and immediately enrolled into Washington University Law School in St. Louis, Missouri. After receiving his Juris Doctorate degree, he was admitted to the Bars of Missouri and Georgia in 1973.

Judge Douglass has had an illustrious career starting with being a law intern for the St. Louis Legal Aid Society and subsequently, Assistant Circuit Attorney for the city of St. Louis. St. Louis is a great city but there is no ocean nearby. The pull of

See *Judge Douglass* Page 2

Website

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grant scholarships to help deserving students remain in universities and colleges. Therefore, we recognize that maintaining updated Website and Social Media platforms is vital to our success in achieving this objective in today's fast-paced world.

When you log on to our website at WWW.SSSPFOUNDATION.ORG, you will be able to

- Make donations on line;
- Connect to Facebook, Instagram and Twitter from our Home Page;
- Interact with members of the Board of Directors;
- Follow Foundation related activities of the Board of Directors;
- Review information on scholarship recipients;
- Review copies of newsletters;
- Review our calendar of events; and
- Review photographs from prior events.

We look forward to getting social with you!

Judge Douglass

(continued from Page 1)

sandy beaches and the ruffle of the ocean waves brought Orion back to Coastal Georgia where he settled on St. Simons Island in November of 1974. He spent the next twenty years in the Glynn County community and throughout Southeast Georgia practicing law as a general practice trial lawyer.

In 1981, the Brunswick City Council recognized him as a man of integrity, fairness and honor and appointed him to the position of Judge of the Municipal Court where he served for twelve years. Believing that he had honed his skills in this position, Judge Douglass ran for and was elected to the position of Judge of the State Court of Glynn County in November of 1992. He was re-elected four more times, and after serving twenty years in that position, retired as Chief Judge. Then in 2013, Governor Nathan Deal appointed Judge Douglass Senior Judge of the State Court of Glynn County for life.

Judge Douglass has been appointed to several special commissions by the Georgia Supreme Court and the Governor of Georgia. He is past president of the Council of State Court Judges for Georgia and was once nominated to the Governor's shortlist to fill a vacancy on the Court of Appeals until he withdrew his name. He currently serves on various commercial and nonprofit boards of directors.

Special honors were bestowed upon Orion by his alma mater, Washington University Law School, including his induction into the University's Order of Coif as an honorary initiate in 2004. In 2006, the university awarded him a Distinguished Law Alumni Award. Other awards include: a) The Alfred W. Jones Sr. Man of the Year Award from the Brunswick-Glynn County Chamber of Commerce; b) Justice Robert A. Benham Legacy Award for career contributions to the state of the judiciary in Georgia from the Judicial section of the Gate City Bar Association; and c) the Liberty Bell Award for dedicated service to the rule of law and the Glynn County Community by the Glynn County Bar Association.

In 2014, Judge Douglass was recognized and honored by the State Bar of Georgia for his contributions as an attorney in the "Civil Rights Movement and the struggle for equality and integration of African American Citizens in Georgia."

Judge Douglass is an active member of the Brunswick Second Presbyterian Church, where he is an Elder, sings in the choir and serves as interim music director. He is married to the former Shirley Hill of Valdosta, Georgia. They were blessed with three wonderful children; Orion Jr. (deceased), Omar, and Odet.

Scholarship Recipients for 2019



Ti'Ara Clark – Ti'Ara is a junior enrolled at Fisk University (Nashville, TN). She is from Dallas, TX and is majoring in Sociology and Political Science. Her career aspiration is to become a sociologist and conduct research on environmental injustices in this country. Ti'Ara is an honor student who wants to help people throughout the country impacted by natural disasters. She desires to provide resources needed to ensure that these families are emotionally and financially stable. She participates in numerous extracurricular activities including the UNCF Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program, the Fisk University Office of Global Initiatives, and Fisk Women's Basketball and Volleyball. She has also studied abroad in Cape Town, South Africa.



Artimus Cunningham– Artimus is a junior at Morehouse College (Atlanta, GA) majoring in English. His home is Naperville, Illinois. 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 a mentor at the Latin American Youth Association, English tutor, and the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program. He has used a negative early learning experience as motivation to excel.



Anastasia Taylor – Anastasia is a junior at Tougaloo College (Tougaloo, MS). She is from Jackson, MS and 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 the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program. She has worked at the Mississippi Museum of Art as a Teaching Fellow for the past year and continues to pursue her goals.



Raquel Thomas – Raquel is a junior at Spelman College (Atlanta, GA) where she is majoring in Sociology, with a minor in Spanish. She is an honor student who received the Outstanding First Year Student Award. As a UNCF Mellon Mays Fellow, she aspires to obtain a PhD degree and become a college professor. She has a special interest in researching the impact of parental incarceration on black girls. She also aspires to become the CEO of her program, *Liberating Legacies*, which exposes youth with incarcerated parents to a variety of social, emotional and learning experiences. Raquel has studied abroad in the Dominican Republic and Florence, Italy and is actively engaged in several community service organizations. She is committed to having a positive impact upon students in need.



Bellrica Williams – Bellrica is a sophomore enrolled at Claflin University (Orangeburg, SC) who is majoring in English. She is from Denmark, SC. Bellrica is an honor student. She is a member of the National Society of Leadership (2019), the Dean's List (Fall 2019), the BETA Club (2018), the National Honor Society (2018), and the President's List (Spring 2019). She is also actively engaged in community service. Bellrica aspires to become a high school English teacher after obtaining her bachelor's degree in English Education. One of her professors has described her as a natural leader who as freshman was very advanced with respect to her research and writing skills. She is an excellent communicator in both writing and speech and has been praised for her problem-solving skills as well. We know that she has a bright future ahead.

Another Successful Year for "It's All Jazz" Benefit Concert



An Evening of Musical Excellence

Sunday April, April 26, 2020
5:00 p.m.

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



Southwest Arts Center Performance Theater
Atlanta Georgia



(from l to r)
Minister Harry Holley, Sr.
Ms. Hayley Mason
Mr. James (Jay) Bailey

On Sunday, April 28, 2019 at 5 pm, the Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation, Inc. held its fourth benefit concert at the Fulton County Southwest Arts Center Performance Theater (Atlanta, GA). The program, "It's All Jazz," not only featured local performers, but also honored outstanding community leaders who have continued the Johnson legacy by providing educational opportunities to a broad spectrum of students.

The concert opened with guest artists, Rev. Richard Allen Farmer (pianist) and Ms. LaTonya Peoples (violinist and vocalist). Both gave outstanding performances. The featured artist was Ryan Kilgore, an Atlanta native and saxophonist, who toured with Stevie Wonder for almost a decade and also worked with legendary producers/writers, Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis. Mr. Kilgore treated the audience to an evening of smooth jazz and received a standing ovation for his performance.

Mr. James (Jay) Bailey, President and CEO of the Russell Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship was the Honorary Chair for 2019. Ms. Hayley Mason, CBS Channel 46 (Atlanta) news correspondent was the Mistress of Ceremony. Both did a superb job of keeping the audience engaged throughout the concert. A touching moment occurred off-state when Mr. Bailey re-connected with Mrs. Stella Murray whom he had not seen in years. Mrs. Murray, who is Secretary Emerita of the Foundation, was a dear friend of Mr. Bailey's mother. Mr. Bailey was so moved by their reunion that he dedicated his donation to Mrs. Murray.

The 2019 Samuel H. Johnson Education Award Honorees were Keith Gammage, Esq., Solicitor General for Fulton County; Mrs. Karen McKinney Holley, Associate Professor at Georgia State University –Perimeter College; Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum, President Emerita of Spelman College; and Dr. Angela Ferris Watkins, Associate Professor of Psychology at Spelman College. Three scholarships recipients were also presented: Ryan Loo, Spelman College (2017-2018); Julian Hemmings, Morehouse College (2018-2019); and Queen Jonafa' Tervalon, Clark-Atlanta University (2018-2019). The Foundation seeks to award five \$1000 scholarships annually.

The SHJ/SSSP Foundation Board of Directors extends sincere appreciation to the Atlanta Chapter Charms, Inc., Ms. Monica Magette (l'Moni Events), concert sponsors and all financial donors, as well as everyone who contributed to the success of the program. It was a wonderful evening of entertainment for a purpose. Funds raised moved the Foundation a step closer to its goal of raising \$500,000 for its scholarship endowment campaign.



(l to r) Melvin Buchannan, Katherine Wilson, LaMarian Hayes-Wallace, Harry Holley, Hayley Mason, Stella Murray, James Bailey, Gladys Porter, Bettie McCall Rounsaville Benjamin Ridgeway, Robert Rounsaville



(from l to r) Minister Harry Holley, Dr. Angela Farris Watkins, Dr. Beverly Tatum, Mrs. Karen McKinney Holley, Keith Gammage, Esq., Mr. James Bailey



(from l to r) Ryan Loo, Julian Hemmings, Queen Jonafa Tervalon



Ryan Kilgore



Rev. Richard Allen Farmer



LaTonya Peoples

Black History 2019 - Ninth Annual Black History Program: “What Manner of People Are These!”

On Saturday, February 2, 2019, the Christian Education Ministry at Hillside Presbyterian Church (USA) celebrated its ninth black history program held in partnership with First World (Africa) Productions (Dr. Webster Wallace, Founder and CEO) and the Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation, Inc. The theme was, “*What Manner of People Are These!*” Those in attendance received a thought-provoking message from Rev. James Foster Reese, an icon within the Presbyterian Church family. Rev. Reese has pastored three congregations and traveled to Atlanta from his home in the Philadelphia/South Jersey area to be a part of the program. Rev. Reese was introduced by Mrs. Karen McKinney Holley who is a close friend of Rev. Reese’s daughter and provided a personal touch to her introduction. In addition to Rev. Reese, the Joseph L. Roberts, Jr. Men’s Chorus from Ebenezer Baptist Church (Atlanta) returned as special guest performers. They once again received a standing ovation.

Other program participants included Elder Rosalind McIntyre (Hillside Presbyterian Church) who welcomed guest and gave the invocation; Mrs. Stella Murray who gave a tribute to Samuel & Edith Johnson; and line dancers representing the JOY (Just Older Youth) Senior Adult Ministry at Zion Hill Baptist Church (Atlanta), under the direction of Mrs. Jean Bell. Dr. Webster Wallace presented an inspiring slide presentation entitled, “*Why the King of Love is Dead,*” which was a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Other participants gave oral presentations reflecting the African American experience including Dr. Linda Akanbi, who read excerpts from her book, *From My Father’s Daughter*; and Ms. Brenda Griffin, a professional storyteller, who read the poem, “*The*

Mystic in the Market Place.” Rev. Sylvia Wilson, Pastor of Hillside Presbyterian Church, gave closing remarks and reaffirmed the church’s commitment to the Foundation. The program was a fantastic celebration of the African American cultural experience. Funds raised during the Offertory exceeded \$2000 and were donated to the Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation, Inc., where they will be used to provide scholarships to deserving college students within the Southeast.



Saturday, February 1, 2020, 4:00 p.m.
**Black History Program and Fundraiser
‘Total Praise’**

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 (front row left) and other program participants.



Rev. James Foster Reese



Joseph L. Roberts, Jr. Men's Chorus
Ebenezer Baptist Church



JOY (Just Older Youth) Senior Adult Ministry
Zion Hill Baptist Church

Meet the Foundation's New Board Member



As one of nine children raised on a small farm in north Mississippi, **Melvin Buchanan**, was taught the value of hard work and education by his parents, the late Cleveland and Synia Buchanan. Melvin Buchanan is a graduate of Mississippi State University with a major in Geology. He has worked all over the southeast in the AEC (Architecture, Engineering and Construction) industry with emphasis on geotechnical investigations and construction materials testing. He serves in the Christian Education Ministry at Antioch Baptist Church, Atlanta. He was elected to the Board of Directors in November of 2018 and has already proven to be a valuable asset to the Foundation.



Contribute to the Foundation on Georgia Gives Day

Giving Tuesday is a global day of giving celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving.

Please donate to the Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation, an organization that is dedicated to impacting educational opportunities for students in the Southeastern U. S. and to this organization that means so much to all of us.

You may use Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express.

Here's how to make your tax exempt donation:

1. Google GA gives on #Giving Tuesday
2. On the Show the love, Georgia! page **click "Donate now"**
3. Write Samuel H. Johnson SSSP Foundation in the search line and click on page with that name (large icon)
4. Click DONATE
5. Follow prompts through your donation preference choices
6. Click pay \$_____
7. Fill in your donation details, select your card for donation

An incentive of \$500 is offered to the organization receiving the largest number of donations of \$25 or more during a specific giving hour. Our preferred giving time on December 3rd is from 12noon-12:59 pm.

However, donations of any amount are appreciated.

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

SAMUEL H. JOHNSON
SSSP FOUNDATION, INC.
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