

*Xavier University
Black Student Association
22nd Annual Antonio Johnson Scholarship Banquet*



“Rising To The Challenge”

*April 3, 1998
The Phoenix*



The Honorable Melba Marsh

Keynote Speaker

The Honorable Melba Marsh, educator, attorney, and life long Cincinnati resident is currently serving her first term as a Hamilton County Common Pleas Judge.

Judge Marsh graduated from the College of Mount Saint Joseph and earned a law degree from the University of Cincinnati College of Law. Admitted to the Ohio Bar, she began an eleven year career in the Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office. As an assistant prosecuting attorney, she tackled cases spanning the gamut of criminal prosecution through the Juvenile, Municipal and Common Pleas Court divisions.

In 1989, Judge Marsh was elected to the Hamilton County Municipal Court - "The People's Court." Her judgeship spanned seven years prior to being elected to the Hamilton County Common Pleas Court.

Judge Marsh has won numerous awards and garnered special recognition which include: YWCA Career Women of Achievement for excelling in Law (1987), 200 Who's Who in Cincinnati (1989), and Ten Outstanding Young Americans (TOYA) by United States Chamber of Commerce (1991).

Having served as a lecturer for over ten years in Business Law, Judge Marsh has been active in both educational and civic activities. In addition, she was appointed by Ohio Supreme Court Justice Thomas J. Moyer, to serve as a member on the "Ohio Commission on Racial Fairness in the Ohio Court System." She has also served on several boards in the Greater Cincinnati area including the Franciscan Home Development and Housing Board, The American Red Cross, Cincinnati Chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and the Queen City Foundation.

Mistress of Ceremonies

Regina Carswell joined WXIX-FOX 19 News in 1996 and serves as Anchor and Reporter on "19 in the Morning." A graduate of Purdue University, Ms. Carswell began her broadcasting career in her home state of Michigan, where she forged a reputation as a gifted and committed journalist. Her distinctive style and flair of storytelling garnered Ms. Carswell seven Associated Press and National Association of Broadcasters awards, including Best Feature, Best Documentary and Best Investigation.

In addition to her work at FOX 19, Ms. Carswell is an active volunteer. She donates her time and energy to such causes as AIDS awareness, adult literacy, and domestic violence. Ms. Carswell is also a member of the Lincoln Heights Missionary Baptist Church.

A fervent fan of her hometown Detroit Pistons, Ms. Carswell is enthusiastic about her new home: "I am, and always will be proud that I'm from Detroit, but I've absolutely fallen in love with Cincinnati."

Program

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"	Xavier Gospel Choir Director, Mr. J. Leonard Harding
Welcome	Ms. Eleasha D. Mercer, Chair, Antonio Johnson Banquet
Mistress of Ceremonies	Ms. Regina Carswell, News Anchor, WXIX-Fox 19
Greetings	Rev. James E. Hoff, S.J., President, Xavier University
"Still I Rise" by Maya Angelou	Ms. Danielle V. Vinson Sophomore, Communication Arts
Invocation	Rev. Benjamin J. Urmston, S.J., Founding Director, Programs in Peace and Justice
~ Dinner ~	
Statement of Purpose	Ms. Desireé S. A. Demonbreun President, Black Student Association
Selection	Xavier Gospel Choir Director, Mr. J. Leonard Harding
Keynote Address	The Honorable Melba Marsh Common Pleas Court Hamilton County
Award Presentations	Xavier Faculty, Staff, & Students
Closing Remarks	Mr. Maurice L. Cole, Coordinator, Multicultural Affairs
Benediction	Rev. Benjamin J. Urmston, S.J., Founding Director, Programs in Peace and Justice

Award Presentations

Alumni Recognition	Mrs. Lori L. Wright, Coordinator, Minority Admissions, Office of Admissions
Outstanding Freshman Award	Mr. John F. Kucia, Administrative Vice-President, Office of the President
Antonio Johnson Achievement Award	Dr. Ronald A. Slepitz, Vice President for Student Development
Outstanding Scholar Awards	Dr. James E. Bundschuh, Academic Vice-President, Academic Affairs
	Dr. Janice B. Walker, Chair, Mathematics and Computer Science Department
Antonio Johnson Scholarship Award	Dr. Neil R. Heighberger, Dean, College of Social Sciences
Black Student Association Faculty Support Award	Ms. Eleasha D. Mercer, Chair, Antonio Johnson Banquet
Staff Support Award and Special Recognition	Ms. Desireé S. A. Demonbreun, President, Black Student Association



Natasha L. Collins
Antonio Johnson Scholarship Recipient
1998-99

Natasha Leigh Collins, a native of Cincinnati and graduate of McAuley High School, is a Xavier junior majoring in psychology. Natasha volunteers in Over-the-Rhine at ReStoc and Peaslee Neighborhood Center and is involved in Amnesty International, Earthbread, Earthcare, and Habitat for Humanity.

She says, "As I write this, I am one of ten students participating in Xavier's Service Learning program in Nicaragua. I live with a family in Managua, where I am studying Spanish, political science, and theology. I work in a nutrition program for malnourished children, but I also enjoy traveling around the country. I am learning so much and I look forward to sharing my experiences with as many people as I can."

Natasha goes further to say that it was the influence of her family that has shaped her willingness to be open minded and to avoid prejudice of others. It was they who instilled in Natasha the strength and confidence to stand up for her beliefs, even when it is not easy. Natasha credits her parents as the source of her understanding the importance of a good education, having provided her with their example and unfailing support.

"I strive to do the best I can in school so that I can have a better understanding of the world. I want to take positive action to change things when and where I can, to work for a more just society, and increase my understanding of people and things around me. I feel very fortunate to have parents like mine."

Xavier University Dean's List Scholars

In recognition of academic excellence, the following African American students have earned either a grade point average of 3.5 during fall semester or have achieved a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 and above for a year.

Erica J. Baker
 Sophomore~Information Systems

Marie E. Bolton
 1st Year~Natural Sciences

Kendra J. Brown
 Senior~Art

Kenita D. Brown
 Senior~International Business

Anneliese M. Clear
 Senior~Music

Natasha L. Collins
 Junior~Psychology Justice

Erika L. Davis
 Sophomore~History

Joi C. Davis
 1st Year~Psychology

Desirée S. A. Demonbreun
 Junior~Communication Arts

LaNiece M. Douglas
 1st Year~Marketing

Tamra M. Greer
 1st Year~Sports Marketing

Aric A. Hassell
 Sophomore~Business

Natasha R. Howard
 Sophomore~Communication Arts

Cirita C. Johnson
 1st Year~Elementary Education

Angela M. King
 Senior~Psychology

Eric N. Landon
 Junior~Economics

Chinina M. Lyle
 1st Year~Marketing

Genise E. McKenzie
 1st Year~Communication Arts

Vanessa M. McPhail
 Junior~Finance

Lavanski D. Meeks
 Sophomore~Finance

Eleasha D. Mercer
 Senior~Finance

Beaully H. O'Neale
 Senior~Psychology

Michael F. Page
 1st Year~Chemistry

Damianne C. Scott
 Senior~English

Deryl L. Sweeney
 1st Year~Business

**Center for Adult and Part-Time Students (CAPS)
Dean's List Scholars**

*In Recognition of academic excellence, the following non-traditional,
Full-Time African American students have achieved a
cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher.*

Dovetta Dangerfield
Junior~Liberal Arts

Sherri D. Daniels
Senior~Liberal Arts

Marilyn M. Hedges
Junior~Liberal Arts

Toresa Jenkins
Senior~Liberal Arts

Marquette Miller
1st Year~Liberal Arts

Temple Parker
Senior~Liberal Arts

Sandra B. Parks
Senior~Liberal Arts

Linda M. Roberts
Junior~Liberal Arts

Hieman Roger
Senior~Liberal Arts

Leona Ross-Taylor
Senior~Liberal Arts

Part-Time students with 9-11 hours and a grade point average of 4.0.

Helen F. Jones
Junior~Liberal Arts

**Antonio Johnson Scholarship Award
Past Recipients**

1997-98	<i>Damianne C. Scott</i>
1996-97	<i>Kelie Roberts</i>
1995-96	<i>Aarionne L. Farmer</i>
1994-95	<i>Shauna A. Starks</i>
1993-94	<i>Cherie L. Beal</i>
1992-93	<i>Sharon Y. Richardson</i>
1991-92	<i>Kenrick S. Richardson</i>
1990-91	<i>Jhules A. Clark</i>
1989-90	<i>Lea C. Williams</i>
1988-89	<i>Linwood Riddick III</i>
1987-88	<i>Jacqueline Nash</i>
1986-87	<i>Margaret A. Gooden</i>
1985-86	<i>Boaz Jackson James Thomas</i>
1984-85	<i>Julie I. Graves Benetta Roper</i>
1983-84	<i>Pamela D. Smith Teresa L. West</i>

History of the Black Student Association

During the 1960's, Xavier University, along with many other American universities, experienced some racial strife. African American students attending Xavier in the '60's wanted similar privileges and opportunities as their white counterparts. In 1969, the university recognized the need and created the Urban Affairs Office, which was designed to assist African American students in their pursuit of higher education.

In conjunction with the Urban Affairs Office, The Black Student Association, formerly called the Afro-American Student Association, was formed to help meet the needs of African American students. Ken Blackwell, Tony Davis, Wes Turner, Barbara Milon, Alicia Coggins, and Amelia Tucker were the pioneers of this organization.

The organization continues to commit itself to the unification of African American students at Xavier and serves as an integral lifeline that supports academic excellence, involved leadership, and service to the community.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Antonio Johnson was born on October 30, 1953 to Clarence and Roberta Johnson. Antonio grew up in the Walnut Hills area and attended Roger Bacon High School.

Antonio began his academic career at Xavier University in June of 1971. While majoring in Urban Studies, he participated in the school band, and was an active member of St. Andrews Roman Catholic Church. Antonio worked hard and dedicated his time to the Black Student Association as President, earning him the respect of the Xavier campus and the adjoining communities. He stressed the importance of independence, strength, and development.

Antonio single-handedly organized and implemented activities for Black Awareness Month, in February, 1976. Unfortunately, he was unable to see the results of all his hard work, for he departed this life on February 8, 1976, at the age of 22. Antonio will be remembered as a caring, compassionate, confident, and articulate individual who was dedicated to the principles of social change and justice.

Each year, the Black Student Association helps support a scholarship for a junior who excels in both academic excellence and leadership.



Black Student Association Officers 1997-98

*President
Legislative Vice-President
Administrative Vice-President
Executive Secretary
Corresponding Secretary
Treasurer
Member-at-Large (SGA)
Member-at-Large (SAC)*

*Desireé S. A. Demonbreun
Malissa M. Cooper
Terry A. Thomas
Willie J. Hunter
Tulisha V. Doctor
Eleasha D. Mercer
Germarquerita R. Brown
Desireé S. A. Demonbreun*

Antonio Johnson Banquet Committee

*Cynthia Y. Bellinger, Germarquerita R. Brown, Maurice L. Cole,
Joi C. Davis, Teresa L. Hamilton, Willie J. Hunter, Terri M. Hurdle,
Eleasha D. Mercer, Genise E. McKenzie, Beauty H. O'Neale,
Michael F. Page, John Marcus Rudolph, Terry A. Thomas, Lori L. Wright.*

Acknowledgments

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persons, departments and organizations. Thank You.*

*Admissions Office
Academic Advising
Academic Affairs
Affirmative Action
Dr. James E. Bundschuh
Ms. Regina Carswell
College of Arts & Sciences
Family Essence, Inc.
Dr. Neil R. Heighberger
Rev. James E. Hoff, S.J.
International Student Society
Dr. Max J. Keck
Rev. Thomas Kennealy, S.J.
Mr. John F. Kucia
Marketing & Public Relations
Judge Melba Marsh
Multicultural Affairs
Peace and Justice Programs
The Phoenix
Physical Plant
Pieczonka Trophies
Residence Hall Association
Residence Life
Dr. Ronald A. Slepitz
Spiritual Development
Student Activities Council
Student Development
Student Government Association
Rev. Benjamin J. Urmston, S.J.
Weekenders
Xavier Gospel Choir*

Artwork by Johana

“LIFT EV’RY VOICE AND SING”

Lift ev’ry voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring.
Ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list’ning skies
Let us resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that dark past has
taught us.
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has
brought us.
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chast’ning rod
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died.
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been washed,
We have come treading our path through the blood
of the slaughtered.
Out of the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last,
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way,
Thou who hast by Thy might,
Led us into light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the place, our God, where
we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world
we forget Thee.
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God
True to our native land.

. . . James Weldon Johnson