

**X**

**A**NTONIO  
**J**OHNSON  
2018

## IN REMEMBRANCE

Antonio Johnson was born October 30, 1953, to Clarence and Roberta Johnson. He 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. Johnson 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 minority independence, strength and development.

Johnson single-handedly organized and implemented activities for Black Awareness Month in February 1976. Unfortunately, he was unable to see the results of his hard work because he died on Feb. 8, 1976, at age 22. Johnson is 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 keeps his memory alive through the Antonio Johnson Scholarship Banquet. A scholarship is presented to a junior of African descent for his or her academic excellence, leadership, contribution to the Black Student Association and community service. Johnson's sister, Wanda Jones, said, "School was his life; it is a great honor to have a scholarship in his name."

## ANTONIO JOHNSON SCHOLARSHIP AWARD PAST RECIPIENTS

2017	Eseoghene Obrimah	2004	Simone Harris	1991	Kenrick S. Richardson
2016	Sarah Ochieng	2003	Natasha Hamilton	1990	Jhules A. Clark
2015	Victoria Dickerson	2002	Justin H. Hardy	1989	Lea C. Williams
2014	Chuma Nnawulezi	2001	Janelle E. Hines	1988	Linwood Riddick III
2013	Josephine Lando	2000	Ameerah S. Khalifa	1987	Jacqueline Nash
2012	Tiara Anderson	1999	Aric Hassel	1986	Margaret A. Gooden
2011	Jared F. Greene	1998	Natasha L. Collins	1985	Boaz Jackson James Thomas
2010	Thailer Buari	1997	Damianne C. Scott	1984	Julie I. Graves
2009	Aaron Marble	1996	Kelie Roberts		Benetta Roper
2008	Lydia Powell	1995	Aarionne L. Farmer	1983	Pamela D. Smith Teresa L. West
2007	Keyona Gullett	1994	Shauna A. Starks		
2006	Corey Hawthorne	1993	Cherie L. Beal		
2005	Shurrell Suttles	1992	Sharon Y. Richardson		

## WELCOME

Welcome to the 42nd annual Antonio Johnson Scholarship Gala! Forty-two years and counting of celebrating the Black Excellence that is present here at Xavier University! It has been an honor and a privilege to witness all of the talent, sophistication, and the beauty that the students have exuded throughout the year. The theme for the Black Student Association this year was **Lest We Forget: I Am My Ancestor's Dream** and I believe that each one of us are standing on the shoulders of our ancestors and exemplifying this theme. Thank you to the board for dedicated to this organization and upholding the culture that BSA aims to foster. I would also like to thank the AJ committee team, the Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI), and all of those who had a hand in making this night possible. We are gathered here to celebrate the life, the work, and legacy of Antonio Johnson through awards and scholarship. On behalf of the Black Student Association congratulations and God bless to all the nominees, and enjoy the night!

Sincerely,

Chloe Motley  
2017-2018 Black Student Association President

## HISTORY OF THE BLACK STUDENT ASSOCIATION

During the 1960s, Xavier University, along with many other American universities, experienced racial strife. African-American students attending Xavier in the '60s wanted privileges and opportunities similar to those of 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 meeting the unique needs of African-American students at Xavier, and it serves as an integral lifeline that supports academic excellence, involved leadership and service to the community.

## MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES



### Charla Henderson

Charla Henderson is a 2017, Xavier Graduate from the Philosophy, Politics and the Public Honors program and a current Master's student in the Private Interest, Public Good Program. She is currently completing her fellowship with the City of Hamilton Community Development Department, and excited about her next career chapter. This year's theme, "Lest I forget, I am my ancestors wildest dreams", deeply resonates with her and the work she does. With her tonight, are her parents and her name-sake and grandmother, Charla E. Henderson, one of the first Black female managers for Cincinnati Bell. Without the struggles of her a grandmother, and her parents she could not be where she is today. Charla, follows the philosophy that one-day we will be someone's ancestor, so we must dream bigger than ever.

## ENTERTAINMENT



### The Gregg Bacon Quartet

Sizzlin' Gregg Bacon, an Indianapolis native and jazz legend, is considered one of the most exciting and versatile musical entertainers. Gregg began performing jazz, blues and R&B as a teenager. Early in his career, Gregg studied saxophone with Nicholas Brightman at Butler University and was mentored by saxophonist Charles Tyler and singer James Bell. He can play the flute and perfected the technique of playing two and three saxophones at the same time.

Gregg is an active volunteer for the Clarian Health Breast Cancer Survivors and St. Vincent's Foundation, Breast Cancer Awareness. Gregg is a member and musician at Liberation A.M.E. Zion Church and was featured with its mass choir on a Christmas CD released in 2008. His CDs include "Makin' Bacon",

"Secret Place", "Jam Faktor", and "My New America".

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

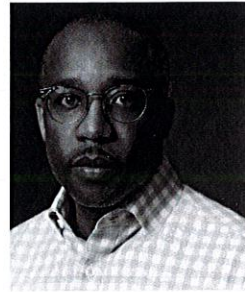


### Ruby Bester

Ruby Fredricka Shuttlesworth Bester, second daughter of Rev. Fred L. and Ruby K. Shuttlesworth was born in Mobile, Alabama on January 7, 1945. Her siblings are Mrs. Patricia Massengil, Mr. Fred Shuttlesworth, Jr. and Dr. Carolyn Shuttlesworth. The family moved to Birmingham in 1953 when Rev. Shuttlesworth was called to pastor, the now Historic (2004), Bethel Baptist Church. He was serving as membership chairman of the NAACP in 1955 when the state of Alabama outlawed the NAACP. Rev. Shuttlesworth organized the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights – an organization that met every Monday night to pray, sing and strategize for human dignity and civil rights in city nicknamed "Bombingham". Their home was bombed Christmas night. On December 26, 1956, the next day, Ruby rode the segregated buses in Birmingham with her father and others from

the movement and sat in the front of the bus. In September of 1957 Rev. and Mrs. Shuttlesworth attempted to enroll Pat, Ruby, and Nathaniel Lee in the all-white (segregated) Phillips High School. Rev. Phieffer drove the car. Rev. Shuttlesworth was severely beaten and Mrs. Shuttlesworth was stabbed in the hip. A lawsuit was filed, Ruby Fredricka Shuttlesworth vs the Birmingham Board of Education. In 1957 Dr. Martin L. King, Rev. Ralph Abernathy, Rev Shuttlesworth and others organized the Southern Christian Leadership Conference SCLC. In 1960 Ruby, Pat, and Fred, Jr. spent 6 weeks at Highlander Folk School in Montheagle, TN. They were arrested for sitting on the front on an Interstate Bus. Ruby graduated from A.H. Parker High School May 31, 1961. She attended the University of Cincinnati and earned a BS '71 in Education of Deaf and Hard of Hearing student and a Masters '75 in Special Education. She heard her father speak at the 1963 March on Washington. Ruby married Rev Harold H. Bester in June 1965. They have two children Mrs. Audra Bester-Coley and Minister H. Steven Bester, six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Mrs. Bester taught special education and served as Special Education Department Head at Princeton Jr High for 26 to 30 years. She is a choir member, youth supervisor and Vocal Choir president at Greater New Light Baptist Church. Mrs. Bester is amember of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Her favorite times are spent with the youth and the elderly, sharing teaching, and ever being aware of God's Grace and Mercy.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER



### Damon Jones

Damon Jones believes passionately in the power of communication to create connections, open hearts and change minds – the foundation of a professional career that spans five cities in four countries over three continents – and a track record of community engagement rooted in Jesuit ideals.

As Director of Global Company Communications for Procter & Gamble, he works to ensure the world's largest marketer is also known as one of the most trusted corporate brands in the world. He leads a global team responsible for corporate communications, digital and social media, stakeholder engagement and crisis management for the Company.

During his 20 years with P&G, Jones has had responsibility for various P&G's Communications operations – with postings in Boston, Geneva and London, before his most recent assignment in Singapore where he was responsible for the image and reputation of P&G and its brands in 14 markets across Asia, including some of the world's fastest growing economies.

Following his passion for politics, Jones took a leave of absence from P&G to serve as the Communications Director for the 2008 Democratic National Convention, part of the successful campaign to elect Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States. He led the development and successful execution of the communications strategy engaging more than 15,000 media for the most watched US political Convention on record at that time.

Closer to home, Jones remains deeply involved through many professional and community organizations. He was a founding Board Member of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and currently serves as a political appointee to the Greater Cincinnati Redevelopment Authority in addition to his second term as a member of Xavier University's Board of Trustees.

A proud Xavier alum, Jones graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communications. During this time at Xavier, he was active in many campus organizations and is the only student to be twice elected to serve as the President of Student Government Association.

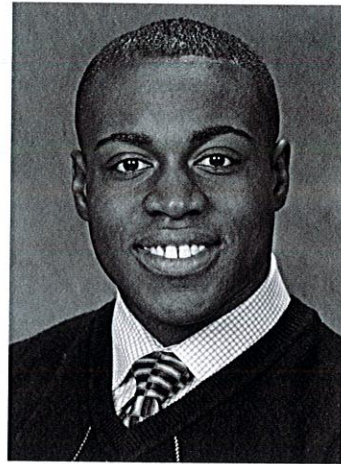
## ANTONIO JOHNSON SCHOLARSHIP GALA PROGRAM

Charla Henderson, Mistress of Ceremonies

Prelude.....	The Greg Bacon Quartet
Student's Welcome.....	Chloe Motley Class of 2018 BSA President
Welcome.....	Dr. Janice Walker Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, Institutional Diversity and Inclusion
Remembering Antonio Johnson.....	Charla Henderson Class of 2017 Alumni
Invocation.....	Adrian Parker Class of 2018
Dinner.....	Please wait for further instructions
Introduction of Speaker.....	Charla Henderson
"Lest We Forget" Keynote Address.....	Ruby Bester
Creative Performance.....	Xavier Students
"I am my Ancestor's Dream" Keynote Address.....	Damon Jones
Outstanding Freshman.....	Blair McKee Class of 2020
Outstanding Sophomore.....	Ihsan Walker Class of 2020
Outstanding Senior.....	Spenser Ford Class of 2020
Outstanding Service.....	Kendall Means Class of 2020
BSA Committee of the Year Award.....	Elise Sampson Class of 2019
Antonio Johnson Leadership Award.....	Dr. Daniel McSpadden Director of TRIO- Student Support Services
Antonio Johnson Scholars.....	Audrey Calloway Senior Designer, BSA Advisor
Faculty and Staff Award.....	Ihsan Walker Class 2020
Macy's Multicultural Runner-Up Award.....	Hannah Sheppard Macy's Representative and 2016 Macy's Multicultural Scholarship Award Recipient
	Kaelen Doolan Macy's Multicultural Scholarship Award Recipient
Antonio Johnson Scholarship Award.....	Taj Smith Director, Center for Diversity and Inclusion
	Eseoghene Obrimah 2017 Antonio Johnson Scholarship Award Recipient,
Closing Acknowledgements/Remarks.....	Joy Owens Class of 2020
Benediction.....	Dr. Kyra Shahid Associate Director for the Center of Diversity and Inclusion, BSA Advisor

## ANTONIO JOHNSON SCHOLARSHIP FINALISTS

### Andrews Beniana



Andrews Beniana is a reserve individual with a big heart who desires to act the Catholic Social Teaching of Solidarity. Even though Andrews is his name, his friends and peers along with professors call him Andy. Andrews Beniana is currently pursuing a degree in Accounting at Xavier University. Andrews Beniana is native to the West African Country, Ghana, and he currently resides in Chicago, Illinois. He is the son of Francis and Rita Beniana who live humble lives as a Professional Driver and Caregiver. Andrews Beniana is oldest of three children and will be the first person in his family to go to college. Andy believes that attending Xavier University is an opportunity because he hopes to use his knowledge in Accounting to help others make sound financial decisions. Andrews has held several executive

positions as a First-Year student. He was the Treasurer for Resident Student Association, Program Coordinator for Information Technology club, Vice President of University Relations for Accounting Society, and treasurer for National Association of Black Accountants(NABA). During the second semester of his Freshman year, he assumed the role of NABA's President. It is where he is attempting to promote NABA to be an organization of Diversity and Inclusion in the Williams College of Business. Andy did not only show active participation in student organizations, but he strives to make an impact in serving other as a Resident Assistant. Andy is passionate in promoting the ideology of *Cura Personalis* to the community. One way he accomplishes this task is that he and his NABA Board members are currently working on a project where they can educate the students of Aiken High School on personal finances.

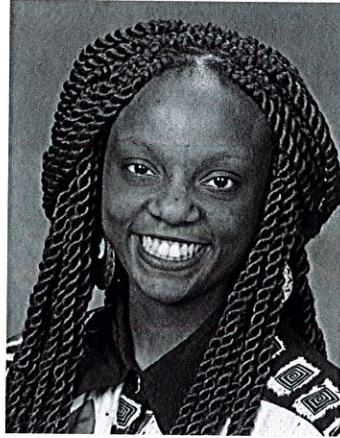
### Benmun Damul



for Faith and Justice (CFJ).

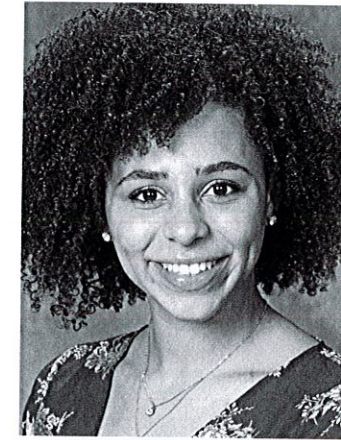
Benmun Damul is a junior Psychology Major from the amazing city of Jos, Nigeria and can often be seen walking around campus with a smile on her face, and a different color in her hair. On campus, she can be found chilling with her residents in Brockman, taking a nap in the Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI), drinking coffee in the Center for International Education (CIE), hunting down the best chocolates in various offices, or at an African Students Association meeting. Benmun is also a part of the Community Engaged Fellowship, and the Brueggeman Fellowship. Her most meaningful experiences at Xavier include the service she has been able to engage in through the community engaged fellowship and Center

## Rhea Elcock



Rhea Elcock is a junior mathematics major from Honolulu Hawaii. On campus, you will most likely see Rhea at the Black Student Association meetings where she serves on the board as treasurer or in Cintas where she has been manager of the Women's Basketball team for the past three years. In 2017, Rhea was a co-chair of the BSA fashion show where she helped raise money for a local charity. Most recently on December 3, 2017 she became a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated. Rhea's passion includes serving the community in every way possible. She has shown her passions through her Summer Service Internship at the Freestore Foodbank where she currently volunteers.

## Tianna Voza



Tianna Voza is a Junior Psychology major with a minor in Gender and Diversity Studies, Peace and Justice Studies, Sociology, and Criminal Justice. Tianna is a member of Xavier Women's Swim Team, named an All-BIG EAST Swimmer 2018, and BIG EAST All-Academic Team in 2016, 2017 and 2018. She serves as Vice President on the Student Athletic Advisory Committee, and Student Representative on Xavier University's Athletic Committee. Tianna is dedicated to promoting diversity and inclusion in both an athletic setting, as well as within the Xavier Community, specifically through her contributions to a growing body of knowledge on social justice issues. Tianna is conducting research with two lab teams under supervision of professors within the

Psychology department. One project focuses on characteristics of white anti-racist allies and will be presented at the Mid-Western Psychological Association Conference in Chicago this Spring. The other project is analyzing the relationships between black males and police officers. She is also conducting an independent study examining the effects of offender characteristics on sentence severity. Tianna plans on attending graduate school for a doctorate in Clinical Psychology, with a focus on corrections, and looks forward to making an impact in the lives of individuals impacted by structural racism and the cumulative effects of poverty

## BLACK STUDENT ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD 2017-2018

President .....Chloe Motley  
 Legislative Vice President .....Blair McKee  
 Administrative Vice President.....Elise Sampson  
 Secretary ..... Spenser Ford  
 Treasurer..... Rhea Elcock  
 Senate Member At Large .....Joy Owens  
 Public Relations Coordinator .....Kendall Means  
 Community Collaborative Liaison.....Ihsan Walker  
 Advisors.....Dr. Kyra Shahid  
 Audrey Calloway



LEFT TO RIGHT: Blair McKee, Joy Owens, Ihsan Walker, Audrey Calloway (advisor), Chloe Motley, Kendall Means, Dr. Kyra Shahid (advisor), Elise Sampson, Rhea Elcock

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Black Student Association and the Antonio Johnson Scholarship Gala planning committee would like to acknowledge the special support received from the following persons, departments, and organizations. Please accept our most sincere appreciation for your attendance, financial contribution, superb service and other assistance.

### Family of Antonio Johnson

Dr. Janice Walker  
 Audrey Calloway  
 Joya Dillard  
 Chloe Motley  
 Ihsan Walker  
 Blair McKee  
 Kendall Means  
 Spenser Ford  
 Elise Sampson  
 Rhea Elock  
 Eseoghene Obrimah  
 Charla Henderson  
 Damon Jones  
 Ruby Bester  
 Dr. Daniel McSpadden  
 Adrian Parker  
 Kaelen Doolan  
 Dr. Taj Smith

### Gregg Bacon Band

Hannah Sheppard  
 African Student Association  
 President's Office  
 Enrollment Management Office  
 Macys Inc.  
 Office of Graduate Students  
 Center for Diversity and Inclusion  
 H.O.L.A.  
 Gentlemen Organized for Achievement and Leadership  
 Office of Institutional Diversity  
 Center for Interfaith and Community Engagement  
 Habitat for Humanity  
 TRIO  
 Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.  
 Bruggeman Center  
 Center for Faith and Justice  
 Center for Diversity and Inclusion