

Xavier University
Black Student Association
24th Annual
Antonio Johnson Scholarship Banquet



“Destined to Excel”

March 31, 2000
5:30 p.m.
The Phoenix
Cincinnati, Ohio

"Destined to Excel"

Given the odds, we weren't supposed to stop being slaves. Given the opposition, we weren't supposed to have an education. Given the history, we weren't supposed to have families. Given the blues, we weren't supposed to have spirit. Given the power of the enemy, we weren't supposed to fight back. Not only have we achieved victories, we have—despite the powers against us—become our own victories.

—Camile Cosby

"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 the 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.*

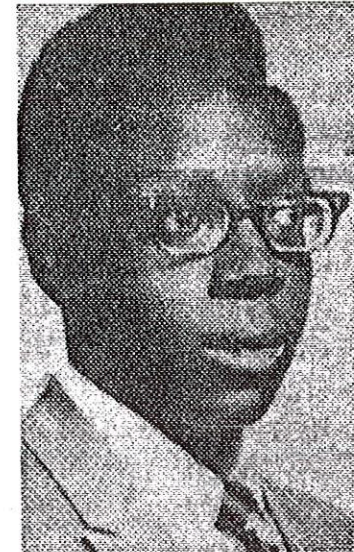
*Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chast'ning rod
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died.
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come treading our path through the blood of 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 the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, 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

Front cover: *Zimbabwe African Masks. Masks were used in traditional societies in Africa to educate, entertain, divine, enhance fertility of both soil and family, protect and garner respect for ancestors, elders and tribal traditions. It is most fitting that we pay homage to our Motherland, by using one of her symbols in our own celebrations and traditions.*

IN REMEMBRANCE



Antonio Johnson was born on 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. 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 minority 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 his hard work, for he died at the age of 22 on February 8, 1976. 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 keeps his memory alive through the Antonio Johnson Scholarship Banquet. A scholarship is presented to an African American junior for his or her academic excellence, leadership, contribution to the Black Student Association, and community service. His sister Wanda Jones said, "school was his life, it is a great honor to have a scholarship in his name."

Rev. Dr. Vashti M. McKenzie
B.S. M.Div., D.Min



Dr. Vashti M. McKenzie is an ordained Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the Pastor of Payne Memorial A.M.E. Church in Baltimore, Maryland. This 101 year-old congregation has tripled in membership in the last six years to over 1,300 members. Under Dr. McKenzie's pastorate, there have been 25 new ministries which are designed to enhance, enrich, inspire and meet critical needs of the community and beyond. Included among these ministries are the Intensive Job Service Program (JSP), Payne Memorial Outreach, Inc. and the Collective Banking Group of Baltimore and Vicinity, Inc. of which she is the founding President.

Payne's JSP employment project provides a variety of professional services and training, and caters to welfare recipients seeking to enter the workforce. This project, housed in a new Payne Memorial Outreach facility located in Baltimore's Inner Harbor East, has trained and placed more than 450 persons in employment since October 1997. As an additional part of the church's aggressive community development program, a 5-story, 32,000 sq. ft. building was purchased and is now being developed into a \$2.6 million human and economic development center.

Under Dr. McKenzie's leadership, Payne Memorial Outreach was recently selected as one of five nonprofit entities to participate in a progressive new attempt to revitalize Baltimore City's declining public schools. This effort, the New School Initiative, affords uniquely qualified nonprofit organizations the opportunity to manage and operate a public school, with the challenge of raising standardized test scores and improving the quality of education and resources available to students and their families. After undergoing a competitive proposal submission and extensive examination process, Payne Memorial Outreach now serves as the New School Operator for Callaway Elementary School in northwest Baltimore.

Dr. McKenzie is the author of Not Without A Struggle, now in its third printing. It focuses on tracing the thread of female leadership in four different cultures and religions.

A poll of national, civic, social, religious and academic leaders selected Dr. McKenzie for an Honor Roll of Great African-American Preachers, featured in the November 1993 issue of Ebony Magazine. In November of 1997 she was honored to be named at the top of Ebony's 15 Greatest African-American Female Preachers.

In December of 1996, Dr. McKenzie received a letter of commendation from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees for Payne Memorial's support of the "Love Baton Project," an outreach ministry to Liberian women and children residing in the refugee camps of Ghana. Dr. McKenzie's growing visionary ministry has been featured in The Black Church magazine, The Washington Post, The Baltimore Sun and the Baltimore Afro-American Newspaper.

Characterized as an electrifying speaker, she is a graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park, and holds a Master of Divinity degree from Howard University School of Divinity. She earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, and currently serves the seminary as a Doctor of Ministry mentor, leading a group of doctoral candidates with Dr. Johnny Ray Youngblood.

Dr. McKenzie is a former journalist and electronic broadcaster. She has held a variety of media positions at the Arizona Republic newspaper, the Afro-American newspaper, three radio stations and WJZ-TV - from Staff Writer to Corporate Vice-President of Programming.

She has been honored as a religious role model for outstanding achievement and community service by a number of diverse civic, educational, business and government institutions. In 1996, Dr. McKenzie was invited by President Bill Clinton to deliver the Closing Prayer on the Opening Night of the National Democratic Convention in Chicago, Illinois. This prayer, calling for justice and peace, was carried nationally and internationally via radio and television.

Dr. McKenzie serves as a member of the Board of Trustees for Wilberforce University and is a member of the National Advisory Board of the Family and Community Violence Prevention Program for historically black colleges and universities. She is also a member of several national civic organizations, including 100 Black Women and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Dr. McKenzie is the granddaughter and namesake of one of the founders of Delta Sigma Theta, the late Vashti Turley Murphy, and serves as the spiritual leader of over 200,000 college educated women in her capacity as the sorority's National Chaplain.

Dr. McKenzie has traveled extensively and continues to do so across the United States and beyond. Her preaching ministry has taken her from Alaska to Bermuda, Europe, Africa and the Carribean. She continues to serve as a preacher, revivalist, keynote speaker, seminary instructor, and worship and seminar leader.

Dr. McKenzie is the wife of Stan McKenzie (former star in the National Basketball Association) and they have three children. She is humbled and grateful to God for the many opportunities He has presented for her to be of service to His Kingdom, and is committed to pressing forward in increasing stewardship and faith, giving Him all honor, praise and glory for the things He chooses to do through her life and ministry.

Mistress of Ceremonies – Ms. Tamra M. Greer



Tamra M. Greer, a native of Alexandria, Virginia, is a junior Sport Management major with a minor in Business Administration. Her future plans include continuing her education with graduate studies in Sport Administration upon graduating. Her career goal is to work in the marketing and public relations aspect of professional and collegiate sports. Currently, Tamra is an assistant in the Athletic Ticket office at Xavier. There, she assists the Ticket Manager with the ticket sales and operations of six priority sports at Xavier. The time and effort that Tamra has devoted to working has paid off, affording her the opportunity to work with the Washington Mystics WNBA team, Washington Wizards NBA team, and the 1999 NBA Draft.

Besides her work schedule, Tamra manages to remain active on campus. She was appointed a member of Xavier's Athletic Advisory Board, which consists of the Athletic Director, Associate Athletic Director, faculty and outside businessmen and women. Tamra played a key role in the chartering of the Rho Psi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., here at Xavier. She manages all public and media relations for the chapter. Further, Tamra has been an active member of the Black Student Association for the past three years.

Tamra believes all her success can be accredited to her mom, Patricia Greer, whom she calls her best friend and biggest fan. "My mom is my rock. She is there for me when no one else would be and I can not imagine what my life would be like without her," says Tamra. Tamra also thanks her friends Charssie, Tamura, Dana, Sam, Ed, and Will for helping her become a better person and teaching her how to enjoy life.

Welcome to the 2000 Antonio Johnson Scholarship Banquet. On behalf of the Antonio Johnson Banquet Committee, I would like to thank Rev. Vashti McKenzie, the Charles Cooper Quartet and all program participants. You have contributed greatly to the success of this event.

A special thanks is extended to my phenomenal committee. It was a pleasure to work with you. We also extend appreciation to our cosponsors – Weekenders and the Student Government Association, and the many departments, organizations and individuals that have supported this event. Finally, our gratitude is extended to our advisor, Mila P. Cooper for her tireless efforts, encouragement and guidance. I would like to congratulate Ameerah Khalifa, the Antonio Johnson Scholarship recipient along with all of the 2000 Antonio Johnson Scholars and other award recipients. Always remember, you are destined to excel!

Again, I welcome you and hope you enjoy this year's banquet.

Abrandice Q. Ross, Banquet Chairperson

On behalf of the Black Student Association, I would like to thank you for your support of the 24th Annual Antonio Johnson Scholarship Banquet. Each year the banquet provides an opportunity for the Xavier community to recognize the efforts and achievements of African American students.

One of the goals of the Black Student Association is to enhance and promote academic success. This banquet is just one of the vehicles that we use to realize this goal. We extend congratulations to the scholars and award recipients.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge your prayers, concerns and constant encouragement during my tenure as the Black Student Association President. In this challenging role, the support of my fellow students, faculty and staff has indeed been critical to my success. In addition, I extend gratitude to the dedicated, hard-working Executive Board. I trust that you have learned and gained as much as I have from this challenging yet productive academic year.

*Yours Truly,
Ameerah Khalifa, President, Black Student Association*

On behalf of the Banquet Committee, I, too, would like to welcome you this evening. It is my pleasure and honor to greet you and extend warm wishes for a most memorable and enjoyable evening. The Antonio Johnson Scholarship Banquet is a cherished Xavier tradition and we are delighted that you are sharing with us.

Congratulations to Ameerah Khalifa, the 2000 Antonio Johnson Scholarship recipient, the Antonio Johnson Scholars, award recipients and those who made the Dean's List during the past two semesters. Your accomplishments have not gone unnoticed, we are very proud of you!

Many thanks to the parents, guardians and families for allowing us to work with your children. They have touched our lives and we often learn as much from them as they from us. I applaud the banquet committee for your enthusiasm, energy and dedication. Kudos to Abrandice Ross, the committee's diligent, organized and visionary chairperson.

This is a bittersweet moment for me. It has been a rewarding experience to work with so many talented, intelligent young people. I am optimistic that you will continue to have a positive impact on campus and in the community. May God continue to smile on each of you.

*Peace, love and joy,
Mila P. Cooper, Director of Multicultural Affairs*

Antonio Johnson Scholarship Banquet

Ms. Tamra M. Greer, Mistress of Ceremonies

<i>Prelude</i>	<i>The Charles Cooper Quartet</i>
<i>"Lift Every Voice and Sing"</i>	<i>Led by Mr. Tony Anderson & Ms. LaWanna Baker</i>
<i>Welcome</i>	<i>Ms. Abrandice Q. Ross, Chairperson Antonio Johnson Banquet Committee</i>
<i>Greetings</i>	<i>Fr. James E. Hoff, S.J. Xavier University President</i>
<i>The Occasion</i>	<i>Ms. Destiny Howard</i>
<i>Invocation</i>	<i>Ms. Latrice Edwards</i>
Dinner <i>Music by The Charles Cooper Quartet</i>	
<i>BSA Mission</i>	<i>Ms. Ramani Hunter, Treasurer Black Student Association</i>
<i>Remembering Antonio Johnson</i>	<i>Ms. Chaka Miller</i>
<i>Response</i>	<i>A.J. Family Member</i>
<i>Introduction of Keynote Speaker</i>	<i>Ms. Ericka Walton</i>
<i>Musical Selection</i>	<i>Xavier University Gospel Choir</i>
<i>Keynote Address</i>	<i>Rev. Dr. Vashti M. McKenzie, Pastor Payne Memorial A.M.E. Church Baltimore, Maryland</i>
Award Presentations	
<i>Acknowledgments/Remarks</i>	<i>Ms. Ameerah Khalifa, President Black Student Association</i>
	<i>Ms. Abrandice Q. Ross</i>
	<i>Fr. James Hoff</i>
	<i>Mrs. Mila P. Cooper Director of Multicultural Affairs</i>
<i>Benediction</i>	<i>Rev. McKenzie</i>

Award Presentations

<i>Outstanding Freshman Award</i>	<i>Mrs. Lori Wright Assistant Director of Admission</i>
<i>Antonio Johnson Service Award</i>	<i>Dr. Ron A. Slepitz Vice President for Student Development</i>
<i>Outstanding Senior Award</i>	<i>Fr. Michael J. Graham Executive Assistant to the President</i>
<i>Antonio Johnson Leadership Award</i>	<i>Mr. John F. Kucia Administrative Vice-President Office of the President</i>
<i>Antonio Johnson Scholar Awards</i>	<i>Dr. James E. Bundschuh Academic Vice-President</i>
	<i>Dr. Janice Walker, Dean College of Arts and Sciences</i>
	<i>Ms. Sue Wideman, Dean Center for Adult and Part-time Students</i>
<i>Antonio Johnson Scholarship Award</i>	<i>Fr. Thomas Kennealy, Associate Dean Colleges of Arts & Sciences and Social Sciences Chair, University Scholarship Committee</i>
	<i>Dr. Neil Heighberger, Dean College of Social Sciences</i>
<i>Faculty Support Award</i>	<i>Mr. Justin Wade Legislative Vice-President Black Student Association</i>
<i>Staff Support Award</i>	<i>Ms. Krystal Gordon</i>

2000 Antonio Johnson Scholarship Recipient



Ameerah Khalifa

Ameerah Khalifa, a native of Romulus, Michigan, is a junior English major with a minor in Secondary Education. Her goal in life is to impact the lives' of America's inner city youth by working as an English teacher in an urban high school. Aware that this will not be an easy task, Ameerah prepares herself by spending summers working at various summer camps and teaching writing at a summer enrichment program for underprivileged youth. She has also served as a coordinator for Xavier's College Friends program, and as a student director at a local day camp.

Believing that it is essential to give back to any community that she is a part of, Ameerah has served Xavier's African American community as the President of the Black Student Association and chair of its action committee throughout the academic year. She also serves as a student representative on the search committee for the Executive Director of Diversity Development. In the past, she has served on the Multicultural Student Concerns Committee and on Central Ohio's Black Student Task Force. Ameerah has an Honor and Weninger Scholarship and despite her busy schedule, manages to maintain a 3.5 grade point average.

Ameerah credits her success to God's blessing of so many loving and supportive people in her life. When asked to explain what makes Ameerah stand out in a crowd, those close to her say that it is "her determination and unselfishness." In any role, position or organization she becomes a part of, she tries to broaden people's minds and accomplish any goal that is worthwhile, not for herself, but for Xavier students and her community.

**Antonio Johnson Scholarship Award
Past Recipients**

- | | |
|------|-----------------------|
| 1999 | Aric Hassel |
| 1998 | Natasha L. Collins |
| 1997 | Damianne C. Scott |
| 1996 | Kelie Roberts |
| 1995 | Aarionne L. Farmer |
| 1994 | Shauna A. Starks |
| 1993 | Cherie L. Beal |
| 1992 | Sharon Y. Richardson |
| 1991 | Kenrick S. Richardson |
| 1990 | Jhules A. Clark |
| 1989 | Lea C. Williams |
| 1988 | Linwood Riddick III |
| 1987 | Jacqueline Nash |
| 1986 | Margaret A. Gooden |
| 1985 | Boaz Jackson |
| | James Thomas |
| 1984 | Julie I. Graves |
| | Benetta Roper |
| 1983 | Pamela D. Smith |
| | Teresa L. West |

Antonio Johnson 1999-2000 Scholarship Finalists

The following students were finalists for the Antonio Johnson Scholarship. They are to be commended for their academic accomplishments, campus involvement, and community service.

- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Yolanda Buffington | Ameerah Khalifa | Deryl Sweeney |
| Joi Davis | Genise McKenzie | Ericka Walton |
| Krystal Gordon | Michael Page | Charssie Willis |
| Tamra Greer | Quiana Quirles | |

Antonio Johnson Scholars

The following African American students are being honored because they have achieved a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 and above.

~Tanya Breckenridge~
~Yolanda Buffington~
~Fatimah Conley~
~Joi Davis~
~Aric Hassel~
~Ameerah Khalifa~
~Cirita Johnson~
~Keianna Matthews~
~Genise McKenzie~
~Natosha Cuyler-Sherman~
~Deryl Sweeney~

Antonio Johnson Scholars

Center for Adult and Part-time Students (CAPS)

The following African American students are being honored because they have achieved a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 and above. They have also completed at least 12 credit hours at Xavier as of Fall 1999.

~Albert Beard~
~Brenda Brown~
~Erica Dean~
~Pamela Elliott~
~John Haysbert~
~Leslie Mason~
~Jeanette Parham~
~Herman Roberts~
~Tiffany Stewart~
~Renee Whiteside~

Congratulations to the following students who were on the Dean's List during the 1999 Fall semester and the 1999 Spring semester.

Dean's List – Fall 1999

Karima Abdullah
Brandon Anderson
Angela Barber
Tina Barwick
Secole Boothe
Tanya Breckenridge
Kasi Britton
Tanisha Brooks
Yolanda Buffington
Doreen Collins
Fatimah Conley
Joi Davis
Erica Dean
La Niece Douglas
Kimberly Dulin
Jeffery Granville
Doreen Haley

John Haysbert
Destiny Howard
Audrey Humphrey
Rhonda Lewis
Chinina Lyle
Barbara Lynn
Leslie Mason
Keianna Matthews
Monique O'Neal
Tonette Otchere
Michael Page
Jeanette Parham
Teneal Poole
Ricarla Reed
Catrina Reese
Cleveland Reese
Michelle Sanders

Michaela Siewert
Yvonne Starkey-Posey
Deryl Sweeney
Donyale Terrell
Tami Todd
Stella Tooson
Linda Ubeku
Tara Viney
Cheya Watkins
Patricia Weems
Renee Whiteside
Robin Williams
Angela Willis
Karen Wilson
Angela Withers

Dean's List – Spring 1999

Toni Andrews
Tameca Barron
Yolanda Buffington
Danisha Burnett
Natasha Collins
William Cordery
Natosha Cuyler-Sherman
Tikisha Davidson
Joi Davis
Kimberly Dulin
Steven Easley
Sommer Edwards
Monica Glover

Krystal Gordon
Leslie Graves
Carnitta Gregory
Aric Hassel
Trina Hatchett
John Haysbert
Deborah Hines
Destiny Howard
Audrey Humphrey
Helen Jones
Charlotte Kellis
Ameerah Khalifa
Wanda Mari-Jata

Amanda Mayes
Genise McKenzie
Jennifer McKnight
Herman Roberts
Kimberly Robinson
Michelle Sanders
Yvonne Starkey-Posey
Tami Todd
Renee Whiteside
Angela Willis
Taryn Yarborough

History of the Black Student Association

During the 1960's, Xavier University, along with many other American universities, experienced 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 meeting the unique needs of African American students at Xavier and serves as an integral lifeline that supports academic excellence, involved leadership, and service to the community.



Left to right: G. McKenzie, A. Matthews, A. Khalifa, R. Hunter, M. Cooper, J. Wade, D. Goodwin
not pictured: J. Davis and Q. Quirles

Black Student Association Executive Board 1999-2000

President	Ameerah Khalifa
Legislative Vice President	Justin Wade
Administrative Vice President	Quiana C. Quirles
Executive Secretary	Joi Davis
Legislative Secretary	Danielle Goodwin
Treasurer	Ramani Hunter
Member-at-Large (SGA)	Anna Keels (Fall) Ayshah Matthews (Spring)
Member-at-Large (SAC)	Genise McKenzie
Advisor	Mila P. Cooper

Antonio Johnson Banquet Committee

Keyanna Charlton, Krystal G. Gordon, Teresa L. Hamilton, Destiny Howard, Chaka Miller, Lavenia Pierson, Tenisha Smith, Amber Stewart, Ericka Walton, Abrandice Q. Ross, Chair
Mila P. Cooper, Advisor



Standing left to right: Teresa Hamilton, Tenisha Smith, Krystal Gordon, Abrandice Ross, Keyanna Charlton, Amber Stewart, Kneeling left to right: Destiny Howard, Lavenia Pierson, Mila Cooper, Erika Walton, not pictured: Chaka Miller



Acknowledgments

The Black Student Association and the Antonio Johnson Banquet 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. James E. Bundschuh
Dr. Jerry Cline-Bailey
Mila P. Cooper
Latrice Edwards
Kimberlie Goldsberry
Fr. Michael Graham
Tamra M. Greer
Teresa Hamilton
Dr. Neil Heighberger, Dean
Rev. James. E. Hoff, S.J.
Terri Hurdle
Rev. Thomas Kennealy, S.J.
Mr. John F. Kucia
Rev. Dr. Vashti McKenzie
Charles Cooper Quartet
Dr. Ronald A. Slepitz
Dr. Janice Walker
Ms. Sue Wideman
Mrs. Lori Wright
Academic Advising
Academic Affairs
Office of Admission
Center for Part-time and Adult Students
College of Arts & Sciences
Education Department
Xavier University Gospel Choir
Human Resources/Affirmative Action
Multicultural Affairs
President's Office
Residence Hall Association
Residence Life
Spiritual Development
Student Development
Student Government Association
Weekenders
William College of Business
The Ink Well - Columbus, Ohio
Peterson's Awards
The Phoenix
Sherman's Family Floral Shop*