Vizuri Kabisa 2018

Vizuri Kabisa

University of San Francisco

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The 22nd Annual Black Grad

VIZURI
KABISA

Applying Our Excellence:
Living in Tribute to Our Roots

Tuesday, May 15, 2018
5:00 pm - 7:30 pm
McLaren Complex
HISTORY OF VIZURI KABISA

Through the efforts of African American faculty and staff, the Vizuri Kabisa Black Graduation was created to celebrate the accomplishments of African American students. In May of 1997, the first celebration was held with 120 students and guests in attendance. Swahili for excellence, the name Vizuri Kabisa was chosen to connect students, faculty, and staff to their African heritage while promoting the achievements of the students. This annual event is planned by the Cultural Centers and a committee of staff, faculty, and students.

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

Student and Faculty Procession

Opening Remarks
Dr. Mary Wardell-Ghirarduzzi, Vice Provost for Diversity Engagement and Community Outreach

Black National Anthem

Student Speaker
Kyle Bates, BA '18, Critical Diversity Studies

Awards Presentation
Dr. Shannon Gary, Associate Vice Provost for Student Life and Dean of Students

Presentation of the 2018 Graduates
Preston Walton BS '03, MA '05 and Janine Mixon, Director, Graduate Student Affairs, School of Management;

Keynote Speaker
Allison Wright MA '08, Vice President of Talent, Netflix

Recession and Reception
GUEST SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Student Speaker, Kyle Bates, BA ’18
The 2018 recipient of the Senior Leadership Award, Kyle will graduate from USF Summa Cum Laude, with a degree in Critical Diversity Studies and a Minor in STEM Education. Kyle's next steps include finishing his Master's Degree in Teaching at the University of San Francisco and receiving his teaching credential. He hopes to continue his career in the Bay Area as a teacher and to work with future youth in his community. He thanks his grandmother, mother, and Pops for supporting him and giving him the opportunity to make them proud.

Keynote Speaker, Allison Wright MA ’08
Allison Wright began her career in human resources over 25 years ago and has worked in a variety of industries, including: retail, hospitality, healthcare, and entertainment. She is currently a Vice President of Talent at Netflix, where she leads a global HR and employee services team. She joined Netflix in February 2013 when she fell in love with the company's unique culture of Freedom & Responsibility and laser focus on bringing amazing movies and tv shows by internet to people all over the world. Prior to Netflix, Allison worked as an HR business partner for Sledgehammer Games, an independent studio of Activision.

AWARDS

The Suzette Degrange Rising Star Award
This award is presented to a freshman, sophomore, or junior African or African American student who demonstrated leadership and service to the USF community in the spirit of the University mission.

Academic Leadership Award
This award is presented to a graduating African or African American student who achieves academically and consistently serves as a leader and role model to their peers and the greater University community. This leader encourages collaboration, trust, foresight, listening, learning and the ethical use of power and empowerment.

Community Activism/Social Justice
This award is presented to an outspoken African or African American graduating student who has worked diligently on campus as an activist and has worked to promote an environment of change and social progress.

Graduate Student Award
This award is presented to an African or African American student leader currently enrolled in a graduate degree program at USF, who demonstrates a commitment to academic achievement, leadership, and social justice in the Jesuit tradition.

Sankofa Award (Faculty/Staff Award)
This award honors a faculty or staff member who dedicates their experience, knowledge, time, and scholarship to African and African American students. Sankofa is the Ghanian term for “looking back in order to move forward”.
THANK YOU TO:
Black Community Council
Bon Appetit
Dr. Mary Wardell-Ghirarduzzi
Events Management
Office of Marketing and Communication
Office of the Registrar
Office of the Vice Provost for Student Life

VK Planning Committee:
Bethlehem Aynalem, Assistant Residence Director Loyola Village;
Robert Bromfield, Associate Dean & University Registrar;
Shawn P. Calhoun, Associate Dean, Gleeson Library;
Lionel Daggs, Assistant Director of the Cultural Centers;
Lester Deanes, Assistant Vice Provost for Student Engagement;
Leighia Fleming, Title IX Coordinator
Dr. Shannon Gary, Associate Vice Provost for Student Life and Dean of Students;
Janine Mixon, Director, Graduate Student Affairs, School of Management;
Monica Njoku, Assistant Director Alumni Integrated Communications;
Taylor Terry, Black Student Union Vice President;
Golden Venters, Director of Organizational Effectiveness, Division of Student Life

Cultural Centers Staff:
Erin Echols, Lionell Daggs, Denise Diaz, Jinni Pradhan, Ian Zamora
Graphic Designer Sonja Angst
Cultural Centers’ Interns

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