

5-16-2017

## Vizuri Kabisa 2017

Vizuri Kabisa  
*University of San Francisco*

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### Recommended Citation

Vizuri Kabisa, "Vizuri Kabisa 2017" (2017). *Black Activism and Education*. 16.  
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THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO PRESENTS  
THE 21ST ANNUAL



— BLACK GRAD CEREMONY —

# VIZURI KABISA

— BLOOMING THROUGH ADVERSITY —

TUESDAY, MAY 16TH 5:00 - 7:30PM  
MCLAREN COMPLEX



UNIVERSITY OF  
SAN FRANCISCO

The Cultural Centers  
Intercultural Center  
Gender & Sexuality Center

# **HISTORY OF VIZURI KABISA**

Through the efforts of African American faculty and staff, the Vizuri Kabisa Unity Celebration 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 students. This annual event is planned by the Cultural Centers and a committee of staff, faculty, and students.

## **PROGRAM**

### **Student and Faculty Procession**

#### **Opening Remarks**

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

### **Black National Anthem**

#### **Student Speaker**

Ashley Jones, Sociology Major, African American Studies and Psychology Minor

### **Awards Presentation**

### **Presentation of the 2017 Graduates**

#### **Keynote Speaker**

Dr. Candice Harrison, Associate Professor of History and African American Studies

### **Recession and Reception**

# AWARDS

## **Community Activism and Social Justice Award**

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.

## **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. This leader may or may not hold a formal leadership position, but encourages collaboration, trust, foresight, listening, learning and the ethical use of power and empowerment.

## **Graduate Student Award**

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

## **The Suzette Degrange Rising Star Award**

This award is presented to an African or African American freshman, sophomore, or junior who demonstrates leadership and service to the USF community in the spirit of the University mission.

## **Sankofa (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 Ghanaian term for "looking back in order to move forward".

# GRADUATE STUDENTS

*Tanika Byrd, Doctorate, Organization and Leadership, Concentration in Higher Education*

*Christelle Bamona, Masters, Economics*

*LaShawnda Barker, Masters, Public Administration*

*Theresa Birks-Torres\*, Masters, Psychology Counseling; Concentration in Marriage Family Therapy*

*Jacqueline Brown\*, Masters, Public Health*

*Aminata Cissokho\*, Masters, International and Development Economics*

*Berenger Djoumessi Tiague, Masters, Economics*

*Desmond Jeffries, Masters, Public Administration*

*Lauren Lewis, Masters, Higher Education and Student Affairs*

**Terri Lewis-King**, *Masters, International and Multicultural Education*  
**Marlene Mateo\***, *Masters, Nursing; Clinical Nurse Leader*  
**John Onoja**, *Masters, International & Development Economics*  
**Tairinda Rushing**, *Masters, Higher Education & Student Affairs*

## **UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**

**Emily Adsit**, *Bachelors, Performing Arts and Social Justice, Music Concentration, Politics Minor, Tech and Design Certificate*

**Kiara Augustin**, *Bachelors, Communication Studies*

**Pearci Bastiany\***, *Bachelors, Marketing, Public Service and Community Engagement Minor*

**Cristal Bowman\***, *Bachelors, Business Management*

**India Buckley-Becknell**, *Bachelors, Computer Science*

**Shon Buford**, *Bachelors, Business Management*

**Jasmine Butler**, *Bachelors, Kinesiology*

**Raymond Byrdsong**, *Bachelors, Sociology*

**Asaundra Dalton**, *Bachelors, Sociology*

**Brianna Foster**, *Bachelors, Marketing, Economics Minor*

**Keith Avery Honig**, *Bachelors, International Business*

**Heavyn Jackson**, *Bachelors, Communication Studies*

**Ashley Jones**, *Bachelors, Sociology, Double Minor in African-American Studies and Psychology*

**Sophia Kaunda**, *Bachelors, Accounting*

**Kelsey Mays**, *Bachelors, Media Studies*

**Alexis McCadney\***, *Bachelors, English Literature, Double Minor in African-American Studies and German Studies*

**Nkeiruka Medani**, *Bachelors, Accounting, Public Relations Minor*

**Guadalupe Medina\***, *Bachelors, Kinesiology, Gerontology Minor*

**Azkia Muhammad**, *Bachelors, Communication Studies*

**Edith Nalule**, *Bachelors, Nursing*

**Kelechi Nwachuku**, *Bachelors, Chemistry, Concentration in Biochemistry*

**Whitney Reese**, *Bachelors, Architecture Major, Structural Engineering Minor*

**Ashlyn Slatton\***, *Bachelors, Psychology*

**Clarence Wilson**, *Bachelors, Accounting*

**\*First generation student**

# **GUEST SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

## **STUDENT SPEAKER, ASHLEY JONES**

Ashley Jones was born in Los Angeles, California and graduated in 2013 with high honors from King/Drew Magnet High School of Medicine and Science. During her time at USF, Ashley has been involved with the Muscat Scholars Program as a participant, peer mentor, and currently as a Resident Advisor. She also participated in the Esther Madrí Diversity Scholars program, which changed the trajectory of her college career. For the 2016–17 academic year, Ashley served as the President of the Black Student Union and will be receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with minors in African American Studies and Psychology in May of 2017.

## **KEYNOTE SPEAKER, DR. CANDICE HARRISON**

Dr. Candice Harrison received her Ph.D. in History from Emory University, with an area of emphasis in African American and labor history, and slavery in the Atlantic World. She has spent over twenty years working to eradicate institutional racism and inequity in education, by developing diversity programs, workshops, and curricula for K-12 schools and universities. She has served as an advisor for the Black Student Union and Sister Connection, and chaired the African American Community Coordinating Team and the African American Studies Program. Dr. Harrison is currently working with faculty, staff, administrators, and students to develop a new living learning community and scholars' program to ensure black student's inclusion in and achievement at USF.



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- BLACK ALUMNI SOCIETY
- BLACK COMMUNITY COUNCIL
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