Vizuri Kabisa 2017

Vizuri Kabisa

University of San Francisco

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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
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 Ghanian 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 Madriz 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.
THANK YOU TO:
- BLACK ALUMNI SOCIETY
- BLACK COMMUNITY COUNCIL
- BON APPETIT
- DR. MARY WARDELL-GHIRARDUZZI
- EVENTS MANAGEMENT AND GUEST SERVICES
- OFFICE OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION
- OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR
- OFFICE OF THE VICE PROVOST FOR STUDENT LIFE

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- IAN ZAMORA
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