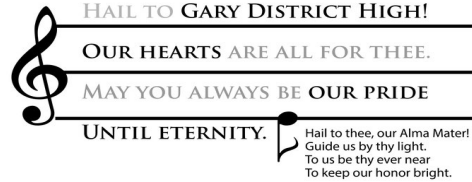


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Gary District High School



The WV McDowell County Board of Education allowed for voluntary integration based upon the individual district. By 1957, the number of black students attending integrated schools in the county was four times greater than the entire state of West Virginia in 1959. At the beginning of the fall term in 1958, black students were given the option of remaining at Gary District High School or transfer to the all-white Gary High School. Many of the students chose to remain at Gary District

High School. In 1961, the West Virginia Human Rights Commission was formed after the West Virginia League of Women Voters, the NAACP, the Federal Civil Rights Advisory Committee, and the AFL-CIO lobbied the state legislature successfully. The Commission discovered that in 1963, there were 88 all-black schools still operating in the state. A meeting held in June 1964 by the State Board of Education found that only five counties still maintained all-black schools, including McDowell.

Gary High School



By early 1965, it had become obvious that McDowell County would need to do more than allow voluntary integration to previously all-white schools. Shortly after a consultant had published a scathing remark against McDowell's controversial and discriminatory policies against black students, the county

adopted a plan to merge its segregated school systems. Black students at Gary District High School would attend Gary High School. The building would be repurposed as an integrated elementary school. The segregated school systems were merged by the spring of 1966. By the fall, all black students in the county attended integrated schools. The repurposed Gary District High School remained open for elementary students until it merged with a school in Welch in 1975.

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A Word from The President



Greetings, Garyites!

I hope that everyone is staying healthy and well. It appears there may be a “light at the end of the tunnel” with this pandemic.

Once again, we will not have a Gary District High Alumni Association reunion this summer - 2021; however, I am hopeful that next year we can go back to meeting in person again. From the feedback that the GDHAA Board of Directors has received, there is an overwhelming desire to have the next reunion in West Virginia.

Within the past year, three GDHAA chapters have dissolved. They are Cleveland, Winston-Salem, and Boston. The only chapters remaining are Detroit, West Virginia, and the National Chapter. The National Chapter will host the next reunion with help from Detroit and West Virginia. With so few chapters remaining, when we convene in 2022, the future of the GDHAA reunions will be a topic of discussion.

Since the last newsletter was distributed, there have been several Garyites who have passed away. Please continue to keep these families in your prayers. Caleb Carson does a great job of informing everyone when a Gary family sustains a loss. Thank you, Caleb!

The GDHAA will have its annual meeting virtually again. It will be held on Saturday, July 17 at 11:00 am. A Zoom link will be sent to everyone who is a “dues” paying member of the organization.

After business is conducted at the meeting, there will be a virtual awards program where three scholarship recipients will be recognized and honored. Those three students are: Khalid Alford, Zayd Delane, and Zachary Smith. These students are featured in this edition of the newsletter. CONGRATULATIONS TO Khalid, Zayd, and Zachary!

In closing, I would like to thank Bill Madison for the outstanding job that he does with compiling and distributing the newsletter! It is great to hear about all the various accomplishments of the Gary families. Please send information to him when there are noteworthy happenings in your family.

Please continue to take care of yourselves. Stay safe and well, and God willing, I hope to “see” you at our virtual Annual meeting on July 17, 2021

Peace, love, and blessings —

Sandra

Khalid Esteban Alford - 2021GDHAA Scholarship Recipient



I, Khalid Esteban Alford, sincerely wish to thank the Gary District High Alumni Association (GDHAA) for the great and generous scholarship I just received.

I am 20 years old, and I am a rising sophomore at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. I am a Kinesiology (sport/ movement science) major.

I am the Grandson of Leona Cunningham-Alford, a GDHS graduate in the class of 1956. Great Nephew of Arvester Cunningham GDHS class of 1953, Shedrick Cunningham Class of 1959, Vivian Cunningham Class of 1960. Cousins of Charles, Houston, Clyde, Maurice & Brenda Cunningham, and Mary Joyce Cunningham- Hale. I worked hard academically and tirelessly to become a member of the National Honor Society. I am pursuing a bachelor's degree in Exercise Science/Kinesiology as my long-term goal is to obtain a master's degree in Physical Therapy. I want to be a Physical Therapist while also training athletes to reach their athletic and physical potential.

My passion in life has been fitness, sports, and the general wellbeing of other. As a Physical Therapist, I will have the ability to help athletes and those who are not athletes recover from injury.

Athletes who get injured are prevented from playing the sport they love; I want to help the individuals get back on the court or field as quickly as possible. For those who are not athletes, I will be helping them recover from injuries so that their quality of life is not negatively affected. Some injuries can cause an impact that affects everyday activities, making them difficult to complete, such as walking and household chores. I want to help these people for them to get back to life as usual. I know there are a lot of young people (especially in my community) who are in the same position. I want to give back to these starting athletes, as the trainers in my life did for me.

Along with playing sports, I also want to train athletes. The people who trained me had a big influence on me. They helped me improve my skills and confidence as an athlete. Before I met them, I did not know how hard I had to work to be successful. One of Khalid's coaches, Mr. Eric Jenkins, recently said, "As an athlete, Khalid is focused and determined, often doing skill workouts twice a week during the offseason to improve his basketball skills and to stay in peak physical demeanor not, treating people courteously, regardless of the circumstances or outcome of a game. His level of maturity and positive attitude have made him a leader on most of the teams I have coached".

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Zayd Sakifu DeLane - 2021GDHAA Scholarship Recipient



My name is Zayd Delane, and I am currently a rising Sophomore at the University of Chicago studying economics. I am from Silver Spring, Maryland, and have four other siblings. My oldest sister, Sumaiya Delane, received the GDHAA scholarship in 2014. I graduated from Landon High School, Bethesda, MD, in the top 10 percent of my class last year.

I also maintained a 4.0 GPA and received Honor Roll I all throughout high school. While in high school, I started on the Varsity Football team since freshman year playing running back and linebacker. In addition to my major, my academic interests include linguistics and foreign languages. I speak Spanish and am studying French and Arabic as well. Due to my dedication and excellence in the Spanish language, my high school awarded me a full scholarship to participate in a summer immersion program to Spain.

After the trip, I realized I have a deep passion for learning languages. I have discovered that I am more expressive and comedic when I speak

Spanish. I am curious as to why certain languages bring about different personalities in people. Additionally, I made lifelong relationships with Spanish speakers that likely never would have formed if I did not take an interest in languages. These connections are what further drive my interest. Specifically, I am drawn to the Romance languages because they have similarities in terms of grammar and vocabulary. I also wonder in what ways language shapes how one culture understands the world differently than another. I also enjoy studying business, and this summer I will be working as a student consultant, helping local startup companies in Chicago. It is an honor to receive this scholarship and to continue the legacy of academic excellence in my family.

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Zachary Karl Smith - 2021GDHAA Scholarship Recipient



Hello, I am Zachary Karl Smith, grandson of Ida Jim English Smith. I sincerely thank you for choosing me as one of the GDHAA Scholar Recipients.

In 2020 I graduated from Westerville Central High School, Westerville, OH, with a GPA of 4.45.

Now, I am entering my second year at Ohio State University pursuing a major in Environmental Engineering along with a minor in Sustainable Business as well as Humanitarian Engineering. This past year I finished with a cumulative GPA of 3.94. Along with my academics, I became a member of the Morrill Scholars, the Humanitarian engineering Scholars, and my Dorm's Hall Council.

I would eventually like to work in the field of water harvesting or agriculture but currently looking at taking advantage of all OSU has to offer, including working in the college of food sciences at Ohio State this summer as an undergraduate research assistant.

In my free time, I like to learn more about certain engineering skills and concepts such as working with Computer Augmented Drawing (CAD) programs like Autodesk Inventor and Autodesk Revit. I am also learning to code in Python as well. Along with this, I use the internet to research different design topics that interest me such as sustainability and ergonomics.

I like to stay active in my community and I do so by staying vigorous in my church as an Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister for the past two years, and volunteering at the church's summer camp (for the past five years).

I also stay engaged at my school, by taking part in our National Honor Society for a year now, being part of the student government for the past two years and volunteering as a tutor for the past two year. Additionally, I volunteer in my city by leading groups of other volunteers at my city's monthly community fair, which I have done for the past three years.

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Aaron M. Smith, Former GDHAA Scholarship Recipient



I just wanted to write and thank you for the **Scholarship** I received from the Association in 2013 and give you an update on my life.

Since the time I last saw you, I attended Ohio Northern University, Ada, Ohio where I graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in athletic training and received a minor for Biomedical Sciences. While at Ohio Northern I was also blessed to become a member of the varsity men's soccer team and achieved great success, winning three (3) conference championships and reaching the NCAA tournament all four years. I also was blessed to meet my lovely and beautiful fiancée while at ONU and we will be getting married in September 2022.

Literally days after graduating from Ohio Northern University I moved to Cincinnati, OH where I attended the University of Cincinnati (UC) to get my doctoral degree in Physical Therapy. At UC I was an Albert C. Yates Fellowship recipient, graduate assistant for the undergraduate anatomy and biomechanics courses. I was elected as class representative. Unfortunately, the events of the past year stalled the initiation of my professional career, but thankfully I

was able to get a job at a local hospital in early October where I helped treat coronavirus patients, along with many others through the tumultuous winter. In March of this year, I transitioned to the outpatient physical therapy setting where I am working towards my Orthopedic Certified Specialist certification and becoming a Certified Orthopedic Manual Therapist.

Throughout school and the early stages of my professional life, I have made sure to stay true to the values and lessons my family has taught me that made myself worthy of getting a scholarship such as the one awarded to me by GDHAA. Along with this scholarship, alongside with others throughout my education, I was able to graduate **debt free** with my Doctorate. I just wanted to give a big thank you to the Alumni Association for their belief in me all those years ago and investing in my future to help me reach the amazing heights and attain the place I am in today.

I am the son of Brent/Sherri Smith, Westerville, OH, grandson of Ronald/Ida English-Smith, Columbus, OH, nephew of John, Charles, Golden Love, Darwin, Ronnie, Michael, Lillian English-Spencer, Dorothy English-Dunnings, and Elaine English-Prince.

The English family grew up in Gary Bottom, WV, and graduated from Gary District High School.

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Thank you so much and God bless.

Aaron M. Smith DPT, PT, ATC

ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT HAVING TO PAY FULL PRICE FOR COLLEGE?

Dyrell Madison, has toured the country for the last 13 years as a public speaker saving families thousands of dollars in college costs. His role has always been to assist students and parents successfully navigate the complex road to the right college. However, his real passion is helping students pursue a career in alignment with their gifts and talents...ensuring families are not saddled with unreasonable debt. Since these issues are even more complicated post-Covid, his company is conducting a college planning bootcamp for rising Juniors and Seniors, where he teaches the insider secrets every family needs to know. His company, "College action Now" will host two (weeklong) bootcamps that will take place in July and August. Please support his business and forward this to all families in your network that might need our help. We help find money while inspiring students to take charge of their future.

Register today!

Dyrell is the son of Norma and Bill Madison

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Summer College Bootcamp

Intensive Daily 1 - week ZOOM sessions

for rising Juniors & Seniors

July 19 - 23 or August 2 - 6, 2021 9a - 12noon



FINANCIAL AID COACHING

Expert instruction on the financial aid process. Coaches help identify strategies on lowering college costs through the use of merit aid, grants, work-study and scholarships.



CAREER COACHING

Career coaching to review personality and career assessment results. Coaches help students develop college planning goals that are S.M.A.R.T (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time bound).



ESSAY WRITING

Our process is designed to help each student paint a vivid picture of their personality and character through their writing. Students learn to find their "HOOK", while remaining interesting and concise. From brainstorming essay topics to editing the final draft, we teach students what they need to know about crafting a strong college essay.



CUSTOM STUDENT PORTAL ACCOUNT

24 hr access to in-depth national college discovery database (Private, Public, Co-Op, Honors, Liberal Arts, HBCU's and Research Institutions etc). Unlimited access with easy-to-use online tools that help students and parents find, explore and compare "right fit" colleges. Includes 30-Day subscription to the portal for all attendees.



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Save families thousands by introducing students to local and national scholarships. Coaches will guide and facilitate the completion and submission of 2 completed scholarship applications during the bootcamp.

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[GINNY PRESELY ROBERTSON](#)



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I am honored to be included in this issue of the Gary District High Alumni Association Newsletter. I was born in Filbert (#9), and when I was 3, we moved to Munson (#14), where I lived until I married a man from MD and moved to Baltimore. I graduated from Gary High School in 1969 and was starting 9th grade when Gary High and Gary District High merged. Because of the voluntary integration policies of the local school board, I had a few Black classmates when I started GHS in 7th grade. So, I do not recall having any particular feelings about the school merger. I was naïve and uninformed about how painful it must have been for the GDHS students to leave their school and everything they had created and earned there and start over in a place where they could not feel assured of being welcomed and treated fairly.

I attended Concord College, majoring in Language Arts, and transferred to the University of Maryland Global Campus, where I changed my major to Business Administration. After graduating, I had a lucrative career in the banking and finance industry, rising to Vice President. I was successful, but unfulfilled. I had a son, Christopher, in 1980 and juggled the intensity of my career with motherhood, more education, and a marriage that had hit a dead end. I ended my marriage, left my corporate career, and began a new way of life. I remarried and started a business, bringing women together in community to network and support one another. 21 years later, the On Purpose Woman Global Community is going strong. We hold in-person gatherings in Maryland and Richmond, VA. When covid hit, I took everything online, so we have become a truly global community.

I also published On Purpose Woman magazine for 12 years and, in 2019, took it online. The mission of my organization is "to connect women around the world to their gifts, their purpose, and each other." I shine a spotlight on women and give them greater opportunities to be seen and heard. Starting in 7/20, this statement is included in every issue of On Purpose Woman Magazine: "We embrace diversity. We will work harder to practice Inclusion. We will use our platform of privilege to do both." I invite you to check it all out here: <https://www.opwgc.com> and any woman reading this is welcome to join our free online meetings.

Facebook became a big part of my business marketing, and I learned about the power of FB groups. So, in 2009, I started the Gary High School Coaldiggers FB group. My intention was to bring together anyone who attended GHS or GHDS, their families, and past or current community members. One of the beautiful things that happened was the sharing of stories about our school merger and some hard truths about many Black students' experiences. Members share memories and photos, past and present. It is also how we keep up with those who have passed on. I invite you to join the group. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/GaryHighSchool>

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Reverend Brian K. Madison



Brian K. Madison was born August 4, 1965, in Washington, D.C. He is the second of four sons born to Fred T. Madison, (Class of 1954) and Joyce T. Madison. He was raised in Prince George's County, Maryland and educated in the same school system.

Throughout his childhood, he developed a love for music and at the age of 9 years old, he began playing the saxophone. He is still playing today. He was graduated from Oxon Hill Sr. High School in 1983. Upon graduation, he matriculated at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland where he was graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration. His love of music allowed him to play professionally while in school at Morgan State and it supplemented the cost of tuition. This love of music also allowed him to discover another trait about himself. He was a people person and wanted to do whatever he could to help his fellow man.

After graduation from Morgan, Brian worked in the business field in jobs dealing with the public from Savings Counselor at a bank to eventually working as a Constituent Director for two separate Prince George's County, Maryland County Council Members. His duties included dealing directly with the public and mediating sides to listen and find common solutions to best assist the citizens and their wellbeing. All these appointments and positions that involved dealing directly with the public would later serve Rev. Madison as he transitioned from his vocation to his calling.

In 2007 After much prayer and counsel, he answered the call of the Lord to preach the Gospel and "feed the sheep". He then matriculated at Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia where he earned a Master of Divinity Degree from the prestigious Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology. It was during these years of learning that Rev. Brian Madison was shown his true passion. Rev. He was led by his love and compassion for people to become a Chaplain. Meeting the spiritual and emotional needs of persons going through crisis provides an indescribable joy. To be the emissary of God when a person is at their most vulnerable and showing them the way through is truly a labor of love.

Rev. Madison was trained in these duties by completing two 6-month internships approved by the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education, at the Washington Hospital Center in the District of Columbia. Brian is also in a yearlong Residency at Georgetown University Hospital, where he received intensive training on how to counsel in every unit of the hospital dealing from infants to adults to even counseling cancer patients.

As a clinically trained Staff Chaplain, Rev. Madison now serves for Seasons Hospice counseling patients and families as they go through the transitional stage of life. Rev. Madison is called upon to go from Facility to Facility or even directly to a Patient's home to provide comfort, encouragement, and counsel to help a patient or family find their way through and see the most that life can still offer as they move through a difficult time. He also

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provides follow up counseling as the remaining family goes through the stages of grief in the bereavement process. He currently serves as the Minister of Pastoral Care and the Youth Pastor at the 1500 member Galilee Baptist Church in Suitland, Maryland.

Reverend Brian is The Minister of Pastoral Care and assists the Pastor in caring for the needs of the congregation as they go through the ups and downs of life. The Youth Pastor provides spiritual and emotional guidance to the Youth and their families.

Rev. Madison is married to his wife of 30 years, Crystal L. Madison (retired U.S. Treasury Analyst) and they were blessed with two (2) gifts from God in the form of their children, a son Brian Jr., who recently graduated from Delaware State University, and is now being trained to become a Secret Service Agent, and a daughter Aurielle, who will graduate from high school next year.

Rev. Madison also followed in the footsteps of his Father Fred, and is a proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

Lastly, Rev. Madison believes wholeheartedly in the scripture Philippians 4:13,



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Robert D. Redd (Bob)

Robert D. Redd (Bob), son of the late James W. Redd Sr., GDHS Class of 1941 and Geraldine L. Redd. Bob was born and grew up in Welch, W.Va. He was a graduate of Mount View High School, Welch, WV in 1982.

Bob, as he likes to be called, received his B.S. Degree in Journalism at West Virginia University in 1986, and Master of Arts in History at Southern New Hampshire University.



Bob has had an outstanding career, serving in the following positions:

- Press Assistant to U.S. Congressman Nick J. Rahall II,
- Vice President - Federal News Service, Washington, D.C.
- Vice President of News at Federal New Service
- Worked at WWVU-FM
- Vice President at Federal News Service, Bluefield, WV
- Sports Editor - Bluefield Daily Telegraph, Bluefield, WV
- Sports Director and Broadcaster - Adventure Radio, Bluefield, WV
- Sports Information Director - Bluefield College, Bluefield, WV. (Current)

Bob's late brother, James W. Redd Jr., was a graduate of GDHS Class of 1965, James was an Investigator for Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Dallas, Texas.

His brother William Redd, 1968 graduate of Gary High, is an Attorney in Huntington, WV. William's wife, Marie was the first African American elected to WV State Senate, serving from 1998-2002, representing Cabell and Wayne Counties.



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GDHAA Salutes Larry A. Callahan



On May 21, 2018 – Howard University announced the appointment of **Larry A. Callahan**, from Wilcoe, WV as Associate Vice President of Human Resources and Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO), effective May 21, 2018. In this role, he will provide strategic leadership in the planning and implementation of quality-based, mission-focused human resources programs for all faculty and staff of the University and Hospital.

“We are excited to have Mr. Callahan join the team at Howard University,” says **President Wayne A. I. Frederick**. “His wealth of progressive experience in both university and health care environments will be a tremendous asset to help move forward my vision to make Howard the best place to work and retire from.”

Throughout his career, Callahan has developed and led innovative programs encompassing employee relations, reward and recognition, talent acquisition and candidate assessment, compensation & benefits, employee health, employee compliance, employee and patient satisfaction and employee engagement/ workforce commitment. These programs led to increases in employee retention, reductions in voluntary turnover, increases in employee

engagement, consistent application of employee counseling and an overall improved workforce.

Callahan spent a distinguished 23 years at Siemens Corporation where he served in a variety of roles, from corporate HR manager all the way to senior vice president. During his time as director of Executive Development and Education, Callahan worked with multiple organizations and helped develop and lead the Emerging Leaders Forums and the Siemens Management Review for the U. S. These programs helped identify high potential candidates and served as the basis for succession planning.

As vice president, HR, he implemented a structured position classification system for management positions, and as senior vice president, HR, he restructured HR to reduce the voluntary turnover rates and increased employee engagement metrics. Callahan says his time at Siemens was critical in helping him become the employee-focused, data-driven leader that he is today.

From 2012 - 2014, Callahan served as senior vice president and chief human resources officer for Grady Health System, in Atlanta, Ga. Grady, the 5th largest public hospital in the United States, is affiliated with Emory University and Morehouse Schools of Medicine.

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Callahan was responsible for improving the Workforce Commitment score from the 9th to the 46th percentile in one year from 2012 to 2013 and from the 46th percentile to the 60th percentile from 2013 to 2014. He also reduced overall employee turnover from 23 percent to 18 percent and first year turnover from 21.5 percent to 18 percent in 2013.

Lastly, he was an integral part of the leadership team and led quarterly Leadership Development Institutes for the top 250 leaders of Grady.

Additionally, Larry served as an independent HR Consultant for the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) in Washington, D.C. (2011) He also served as the system chief human resources officer at Vidant Health System of Eastern Carolina (2010). From 2008-2010, he was the vice president and chief human resources officer for the University of Chicago Medical Center, where he successfully negotiated three union contracts and attained an employee engagement survey participation rate of 76 percent. Most recently, Callahan served as vice president, Human Resources North America, for Diebold Nixdorf, Inc., a \$4.5 billion global company. Since 2014, he has been responsible for leading the North America HR organization, including HR business partnering.

Callahan received his bachelor's degree from West Virginia State University and his master's degree from Marshall University. As the product of an HBCU undergraduate upbringing, Callahan says he looks forward to complementing President Frederick's vision for Howard University and enhancing its historic legacy of truth and service.

"Every day I plan to come in with a focus on continuous improvement for both the team and me" says **Callahan**. "I want the team to develop the proper goals and measures that drive improvements for the staff and faculty we serve, the processes we collaboratively implement and to leverage technology for Howard University and the Hospital. That is how we will create positive, sustainable change."

Mr. Callahan graduated from Gary High School, Gary, WV after the schools were integrated. His uncles and cousins graduated from Gary District High School.



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How Bill Madison Became the “Silver Fox”



In 1983 I was appointed by President Reagan’s Administration as the youngest and first African American civil servant to head a major regional federal agency. I had the pleasure of serving as the Regional Administrator of the U.S. General Services Administration in the National Capital Region (NCR) where I managed nearly one million employees in seven states. I was promoted to a SES-06, the highest level a civil servant can achieve. This was an honor and I thought I had reached my pinnacle. Little did I know there was more to come.

So how did I get started in the fashion industry?

Well, for many years I was a member at St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church, in Washington, DC. The late Mayor Marion Barry and his wife Effi lived directly across the street from the church. Mrs. Barry was a member of St. Timothy’s herself and was quite involved in church activities. One-year St. Timothy’s Vestry asked Mrs. Barry to produce a fund-raising fashion show. I knew she had been an airlines stewardess and an educator but would soon discover she was also a New York fashion model. She began choosing models, and to my surprise approached me one day saying, “Mr. Madison I’ve noticed how well you dress, I’m about to produce a fashion show and would like for you to be one of my male models.”

I declined her invitation and told Ms. Barry that I was sorry, but I knew nothing about modeling. I asked if she knew how old I was compared to her younger models. She responded emphatically that fashion was for every age, and it is never too late to try something new! I told her I would discuss her request with my wife Norma. I initially planned to decline Effi’s offer. I was ashamed to try to be a model because I was nearly

50 years old! Norma said, “as nice as Mrs. Barry is you cannot refuse to participate. I think that you should give it a try”. The next day I called Effi to let her know I would take a chance and try my hand at modeling.

Mrs. Barry then began putting the pieces together. She invited clothing designers, make-up artist, photographers, hair stylist, model agencies, and industry celebrities. Rehearsals began and the designers were busy as bees doing multiple fittings and preparing all the outfits for the models. Now it is “Show Time.” It was standing room only in the Church Auditorium. Little did I know the audience included producers and model agency reps from Washington, D.C., New York, and Los Angeles. Clearly, I was in the presence of fashion royalty and Mrs. Barry, a celebrity in her own right, was pushing me into the limelight.

A few days after the extraordinarily successful “Effi Barry Fashion Show”, I received a phone call from the director of Tres **Jolie Models of Talent**, a very popular local modeling troupe who invited me to a “Models’ Call”.

I went to the audition and was surprisingly accepted. Wow! in an instant I became a professional runway fashion model just like that. The Troupe produced fashion shows every Saturday evening at Andrews Air Force Base, and eventually grew to other cities throughout the U.S. During this time, I was taught how to walk the runway by Larry Massenburg, who was also my hair stylist at the Barry Fletcher Salon. Because of my silver hair, Massenburg and Fletcher nicknamed me “The Silver Fox.”. For the last 27 years, Avatar’s Bruce Johnson has enhanced and embellished the “look.”

At the conclusion of one of the Tres Jolie shows, I was approached by an international fashion designer (Bill Washington) to model his clothes in the Bronner Brother’s fashion show in Atlanta, GA.

I agreed, went for a fitting, and met his friend, Derek Rutledge (who is currently Oprah and Michelle Obama’s make-up artist). I needed a head shot and Derek, who was early in his makeup career, touched me up for the photograph to be used during the

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advertising campaign entitled “The Silver Fox”. The Bronner Brother’s show was extremely successful, and I would become their featured model for the next ten consecutive years. Eventually, my photos would help launch a massive advertisement campaign for the Bronner Brother’s International Beauty Show which attracted more than 100,000 patrons to Atlanta, GA. Soon after, world famous Traves Winkey of Baltimore, MD invited me to become one of his runway models too where I traveled around the nation to sold out shows. I even modeled in Hollywood while the music icon Prince was in the audience. He later invited the Winkey Models and me to a club for dinner and drinks – now how about that PRINCE!

Over the years I have studied and mastered the art of the runway. It has been said that as an elder statesman I bring a wealth of wisdom, dedication, and commitment to perfection to the table. I quickly became known in the fashion industry as the “Model’s Model”. Various fashion magazines have written, “Bill is the consummate professional in the fashion world. Without a doubt, he is the most popular mature male model in the nation, if not the world. His international exposure coupled with his wide array of industry experience gives him great credibility”. Discovering a newfound passion after the age of 50 brought new energy and purpose to my life. I was blessed to receive the prestigious New Day Associates Achievement Model of the Year Award and was recognized by fashion magazine mogul John Blassengame from New Jersey for my contributions as an inspiring mature model in the fashion industry. I was also featured in the Congressional Black Caucus Fashion Show for five (5) consecutive years.

My resume reads like a “Who’s Who” among the fashion conscience. My wide array of fashion show experience includes participation in major fashion events in nearly every market in the United States and abroad to include the Congressional Black Caucus, the African American Women on Tour, Essence Communications, NY, the National Council of Negro Women, the NAACP, Deltas, AKA’s, World Renowned John Blassengame’s New Day Associates, and others. Modeling has afforded me other opportunities off the runway as well. As a SAG-AFTRA Member since 1991, I have made cameo appearances in more than 40 feature films to include box office hits such as, Wag the Dog, The Pelican Brief, A Few Good Men, Sleepless in Seattle, Karate Kid IV, and Head of State starring Chris Rock. My TV credits include appearances with the British Broadcasting Corporation (London, England), The Cosby Show, Chicago Hope, and as a frequent featured model on NBC’s “Broadcast Live”. I was even fortunate to make numerous appearances on Black Entertainment Television (BET).

Daymond John, the creator of the clothing brand FUBU (now an investor on ABC's “Shark Tank”), invited me to model his clothes as well. Imagine that a mature model wearing contemporary hip-hop wear! Later, I even became a fit model for VERSACE, Paul Ko Ko, Anyiam’s Creations International, and fashion mogul Malcolm Staples. A highlight of my newfound career was in 1996 when I participated in a national 300-man competition winning first place as the national “Remy Martin Man of the Year”. This resulted in a \$10,000 prize and landed me a deal to be the face of Remy Martin that year. Modeling has awarded me opportunities to travel and see the world. I have met so many interesting people on this journey who have taught me that age is nothing but a number and that it is never too late to pursue a new passion in life.

At 81 years YOUNG, I am still full of life working fulltime as a Subject Matter Expert in Contracts and Acquisition supporting a major Federal Agency. I also enjoy teaching and mentoring the next generation of young models in the industry. I believe fashion, beauty and health are all inter-related and that you are only as old as you feel. It is important to exercise daily, eat well and remember that true beauty is on the inside. Relationships are everything in this industry, so remaining positive and being professional are equally important. I am so grateful to have the support of my loving wife Norma, and family as I continue to do the things I love.

So, remember when a new opportunity presents itself, one that makes you stretch beyond your comfort zone, take the challenge, and go all in...SAY YES!

After all, it is better late than never.

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GDHAA SALUTES IT'S FEATURED GARYITE DESCENDENT



Talmadge Carlton Hairston Jr. (TC) was born April 20, 1961, to Talmadge Carlton Hairston Sr. (Popsie - Class of 1958) and Wanda Thompson Hairston (Class of 1959) in Chicago, IL. He graduated from Luther College, Decorah, IA in 1983 with a Business Management degree where he obtained academic and sports scholarships (basketball and track).

Upon graduation, TC worked at the Marshall Field department store in Chicago, IL for approximately one year before relocating to the Washington DC area due to a work opportunity granted by William (Bill) Madison Former General Services Administration (GSA) – National Capital Region (NCR) Regional Administrator.

TC began his federal government career as a GS-5 Management Analyst at GSA in May 1984. He began to climb the ladder of success while wearing an assortment of job titles such as Management Analyst, Telecommunications Specialist, Realty Specialist, Contracting Officer, Real Estate Branch Chief and current job as the Director, GSA Client Delivery Division. His government career took him from a GS-5 to a GS-15. He has worked with the GSA for 37 years and has been labeled as a subject matter expert and trusted advisor for the Department of Defense (DOD), Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Department of the Treasury (DoT), Department of Energy (DOE), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). He was a main staple during the 9/11 attacks on the Pentagon on September 11, 2001, where he served as the lone Contracting Officer helping to stand up replacement office space for approximately 1,800 federal employees in 30 days because of those attacks. He received Presidential and the GSA Administrator Awards for his efforts!

Additionally, while maintaining his work career - he also pursued a music career in both Gospel and R&B music. TC has recorded songs in both fields of music and is currently involved with a former Motown Classic 70s group named "**The Dynamic Superiors**". The group's number one song is entitled "Shoe Shoeshine", which was recorded in 1974. The group continues to share the stages with the Whispers, Stylistics, Delfonics, Dennis Edwards and the New Temptations, Blue Magic, The Spinners, The Manhattan's, and a ton of other Classic R&B 70s groups. Currently, he is and has been the lead singer (1st tenor lead) for the Dynamic Superiors for nearly 15 years and continues to travel the world demonstrating his talents and keeping the history of the group and its music alive!

On August 17, 2013, the Dynamic Superiors was presented with hall of fame accolades when they were inducted into the Official R&B Music Hall of Fame Museum in Cleveland, OH. Both past and present members were honored with this prestigious award, while also being recognized in the Archives of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame as well.

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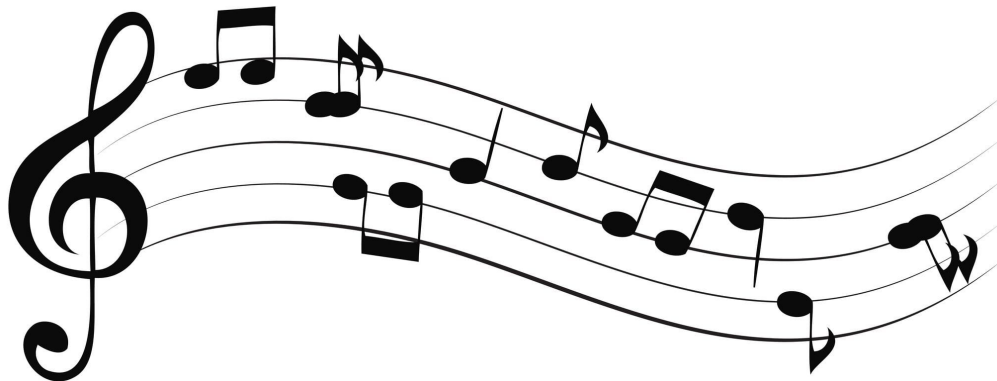
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TC has managed to maintain a well-balanced life with his work and music career.

If you want to learn more about this group, the Dynamic Superiors, their web site is:

www.thedynamicsuperiors.com



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Dannielle Jones Pinson



In April 2021, Dannielle Pinson, who is the granddaughter of Wanda Hale-Jones (GDHS Class of 1959) and her late husband Dr. Clarence Jeep Jones, received the Suffolk GOLD (Graduates of the Last Decade) Council's 10 under 10 award. The 10 Under 10 honor is awarded annually to ten deserving alumni making extraordinary contributions to his/her field of work, community, and/or Suffolk University. Eligible alumni are those who have earned undergraduate degrees from Suffolk University, Boston, MA within the past decade.

Dannielle is married and is the mother of two sons (Quentin-9 and Kameron-4). She and her family reside in Boston, MA.

Ms. Pinson works in Client and Community Relations for PNC Bank, the 5th largest bank in the United States of America.

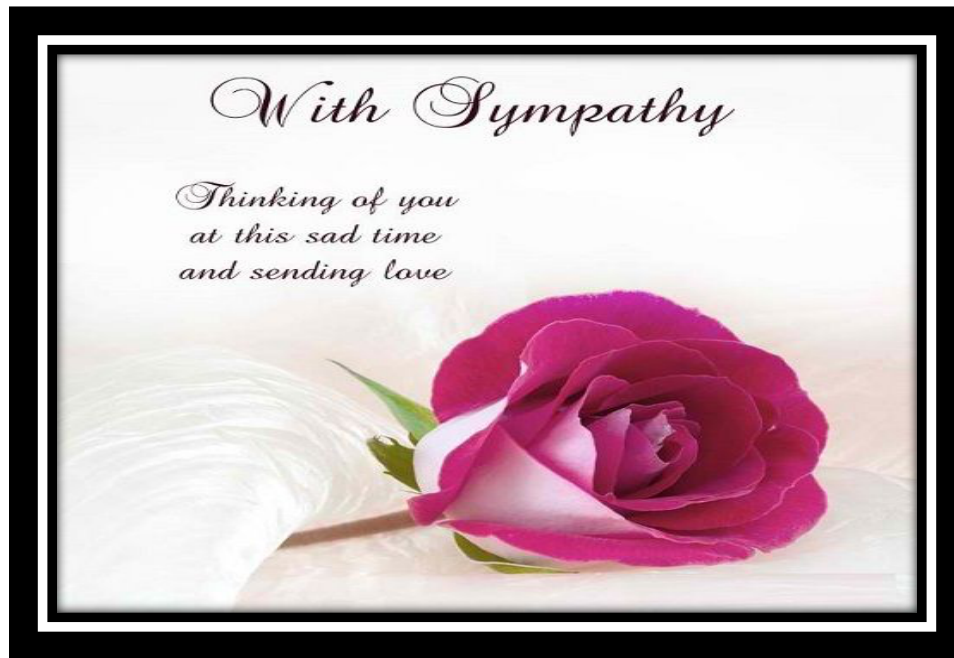
This fall she will be teaching a fundraising course at Suffolk University as well as participating in her 3rd consecutive year as an alumni mentor to an undergraduate student; her close connection to Suffolk is one of the reasons why she was selected as an honoree.



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Your Loved One who transitioned and was a student or dependent of a Gary District High graduate, leaves a legacy through their walk of faith that does more than point us back to a wonderful life remembered. It also points us forward in hope to an amazing celebration that is to come. Within the last few months, the following individuals, transitioned to be with the Heavenly Father, there many have been others:

- ❖ Doris Holloway-King
- ❖ Henry Neal Richardson
- ❖ Ronnie English
- ❖ Col/Ret. Vandy L. Miller
- ❖ Cheryl (Geter) Grace
- ❖ Carmen Anderson Goode
- ❖ Peggy Cloyd
- ❖ Dorothy Lapsley
- ❖ Joanne Smith
- ❖ Roland Stephney, Jr.
- ❖ Edwin Wilkerson
- ❖ Corcoran Holt
- ❖ Charles Nathaniel Ratcluff
- ❖ Viola English
- ❖ Shelia Cunningham
- ❖ Joseph Alexander Forbes
- ❖ Jannie Marie White Burks
- ❖ Ernestine Davis Pendagrass
- ❖ James Daniels
- ❖ Henry Neal Richardson
- ❖ Ecclester O'Neal
- ❖ Brenda Maxwell
- ❖ Yvonne Maxwell Barker
- ❖ Kenneth Maxwell

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