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YSPAS GOALS

- *To act as an additional resource to the Young Scholars Program staff and scholars, lending continuity to the core values of the Program.*
- *To provide Young Scholars Program alumni an organized forum, while creating opportunities to fellowship with one another and current scholars at social events.*
- *To generate supplemental funding for ongoing education and programs aimed at students in the Young Scholars Program.*
- *To mentor Young Scholars Program students who are preparing to enter college, already attending college and preparing to enter the work force and/or pursuing graduate studies.*



Alumni Society donates \$10K towards Summer Academy Endowment

YSPAS is dedicated to preserving the Young Scholars Program and has created an OSU Endowment Fund to support the Summer Academy.

(Continued on page 4)

Alumni Spotlight: Dr. Keisha Hunley-Jenkins

By Michael Periatt



Dr. Keisha J. Hunley-Jenkins, a sustaining member of YSPAS, is exceling in both the Education and Law fields. Keisha never thought she would pursue a career in politics, but after the office of Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman called with a job offer, she's now directing an office in City Hall. Hunley-Jenkins is the Director of External Affairs for the mayor, a role in which she connects with the community on a grass-roots level, and then helps shape policy to address the community's needs. "No two days are the same," she said, adding that the job is more rewarding than any professional experience she's had in her life.

"I get to see major projects come to life here," she said. "To be able to come to work every day and actually see the impact of your work and that you're leaving a legacy here on community improvement, that factor alone is incredibly attractive."

(Continued on page 3)

Ohio State Buckeyes 2015 College Football National Champions

Kato Mitchell is a senior majoring in Sport Industry, with a 3.2 GPA. He is also a walk-on for the OSU football team. As part of the “Scout Team Assassins,” he is a member of the first ever College Football National Championship Team. The motivation to try out for the team came from a former classmate and fellow Young Scholar, Donte McCoy, with whom he attended John Hay High School in Cleveland. Before his tragic and sudden passing, Donte encouraged Kato to try out for the wide receiver position. His college experience has taught him to always be ready and prepared. He acknowledges that he would not have this opportunity to attend The Ohio State University without the Young Scholars Program. Driven by the determination to provide a better life for his mother, Kato works hard to succeed on and off the field.

CONGRATULATIONS KATO!!!



#18 Kato Mitchell

Scholars on the Move: Men With Purpose



Photo (front to back): Charles Parkham, Joe Ingram, Yonatan Tsige, Michael Bradford, Melvin Gregory, Tre’von Forte, Demondre Peak, and Jawan Davila-Love.

After learning that the national graduation rate for African-American males, at four-year institutions, is down to only 47% and witnessing a huge decline of upperclassmen during 2014, eight Young Scholars founded Men With Purpose. This group of freshmen created the organization with two major goals in mind: to raise the acceptance rate and increase the retention rate of Black males. Currently, OSU is raising the bar on standardized test scores and acceptance criteria for incoming freshmen. Since the 2014 school year, Men With Purpose has volunteered at Trevitt Elementary School in Columbus. The members also mentor students at Marion Franklin High School, helping them to fill out FASFA forms. Men with Purpose aims to give back to their community, fully aware that the Young Scholars Program served as their vehicle to attend The Ohio State University.

“I would not be here without YSP.”

- Charles Parkham

Alumni Spotlight: “All Rise”



Keisha J. Hunley-Jenkins, J.D., Ph.D.

Hunley-Jenkins plays a pivotal role in improving Columbus City Schools. Because of less-than-stellar grades on state report cards, a data-scrubbing scandal, and the link between public education and future economic vitality for the city, the school district has become one of the most important issues for Coleman’s administration. Keisha’s background prepared her for the role, though. Education issues have interested her ever since her undergraduate years at The Ohio State University. Being a teacher in the classroom didn’t appeal to her, but shaping education policy did. After exploring what non-teaching opportunities existed in the field, she realized going to the Moritz College of Law would help her achieve her career goals.

“I felt like going to law school would help organize my thoughts in what I wanted to do in a way that people who are in legislative and decision-making roles understand,” she said.

To supplement her J.D., she pursued a master’s degree in education administration through a combined degree program at Ohio State. She went on to earn her Ph.D. in education administration as well. Having the opportunity to work toward two degrees at once was extremely beneficial, she said, because she could “see the overlap between my studies and how education policy tied directly into case law and statutes.”

Her formal education – in addition to her experience working for a nonprofit education policy organization called KidsOhio.org – prepared her for her role in the mayor’s office.

She is helping to create a new Office of Education focused primarily on kindergarten through 12th grade and also will help hire the director for the department. During her time as a policy analyst at KidsOhio.org and also as community relations associate at JPMorgan Chase & Co., she established critical connections that are helping in her new political career.

Born and raised in Columbus, Hunley-Jenkins now has the opportunity to help the community where she grew up, including programs like the Young Scholars Program, and is now raising her own family. She and her husband, Aaron, have two children – an 8-year-old son, Julius, and a 5-year-old daughter, Jiselle.

“My legal training helps me tremendously with communication, both oral and written,” she said. “I’m also able to clearly, concisely, and quickly identify the issues in a given situation, understand the nuances or multiple perspectives, and work logically to come up with an inclusive and effective solution – or at least lay the groundwork to do so.”

This article was modified and previously written for “All Rise”, The Moritz College of Law, Winter 2014

YSPAS Mission: The Society serves the Young Scholars Program (YSP) through programming, social networking, student recruiting, student scholarships, and advocacy. We, as an Alumni Society have formed to positively impact, and continue writing the success story of the Young Scholars Program.

Young Scholars Fall Semester Graduates

Nickayla Brooks Durrell Douglas Wesley Payne
Madgenith Rivera Raven Stewart

2015 YSP Summer Programming



Year:	Dates:
Rising 11 th Graders	June 21 – June 27
Rising 12 th Graders	July 5 – July 11
Incoming OSU Freshman Bridge	August 8 – August 21

The Young Scholars Program Alumni Society is committed to raising \$10K per year, over the next four years, for the endowment. Donations made to the fund will assist the Summer Academy with items such as: book bags, classroom supplies, career exploration, and/or transportation.

If you'd like to donate, please make your check payable to: **OSU Foundation** and be sure to write

Fund #482722 YSPAS on the memo line. Please send checks in a sealed envelope to:

**OSU Foundation
c/o Gift Processing
1480 W. Lane Ave.
Columbus, OH 43221**



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**JOIN YSPAS FOR \$30 AND RECEIVE A
COMPLIMENTARY T-SHIRT**

Contact us at: yspas.osu@gmail.com