



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF BLACK ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



BLACK ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP FUND 2019 AWARD LUNCHEON

Sunday, September 15, 2019 - 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Nouvel Hotel (1740 René Lévesque Ouest, Montréal, QC)

HISTORY

The Black Academic Scholarship Fund (BASF) is a non-profit organization whose main goal is to provide scholarships to students from the Black Community, who are actively pursuing a course of study at an accredited institution. The objective is to enhance the economic status of the Black Community and provide more opportunities for students to achieve their educational goals.

The organization received its Letters Patent in March 1996 with the registered Charity No. 89440 6396. This facilitates the provision of tax receipts to contributors (to the fund).

The Fund collaborates with other organizations to identify internships, support the networking process, provide career advice, and offer career counseling services when needed.

The Jackie Robinson International Golf Tournament is one of the major activities hosted by BASF annually to raise funds for the scholarship program. Between 1996 and 2018, a total of 247 scholarships have been awarded to students in trade, career, undergraduate and graduate programs. Sponsorship has also been provided for youth activities hosted by community organizations. Some past recipients are now valuable contributors to the Montreal community, Quebec, various parts of Canada, and other countries.

MISSION

Black Academic Scholarship Fund (BASF) exists to provide financial assistance to Black and other visible minority students who are in the process of acquiring an education in any area of study at an accredited institution.

2019 LUNCHEON & AWARD CEREMONY PROGRAM

12:30 – 12:45 pm	Welcome Chair – Mrs. Sylvia Piggott Scholarship Coordinator – Mrs. Kathleen Suite
12:45 – 1:45 pm	Luncheon
1:45 – 2:15 pm	Awarding of Scholarships
2:15 – 2:45 pm	Guest Speaker – Mr. Linton Garner
2:45 – 3:00 pm	Acknowledgements & Closing Remarks

SPONSORED BY

Jackie Robinson Golf Tournament

WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



Congratulations to all the 2019 BASF Scholarship winners. The Board of the BASF and the Scholarship Sponsors would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a successful year of learning, participating in community activities, taking on leadership role in your institution of learning, but most of all keeping your focus on what you would like to achieve. You are already a winner and an achiever and so your future can be bright and rewarding as long as you focus on your educational goal. So, work diligently towards your goal and ask for advice when you think you need it, cultivate the company of positive people. We are willing to help you find a mentor if necessary. Good luck!

Sylvia E. A. Piggott, President, BASF
seapiggott@gmail.com, www.basfund.ca

GOLF COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS



On Friday the 5th July 2019 we celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the Jackie Robinson Golf Tournament. This was an important milestone and we are happy to report it lived up to expectations. We were happy to welcome golfers from Ottawa, Toronto and the USA and look forward to seeing them again in the future. They, in addition to our committed local supporters, made for a very enjoyable day of golf.

Once again, we extend a very special thank you to our sponsors and media friends for their continued support. Also thanks to the BASF board members and volunteers whose efforts throughout the year and on tournament day made for a smooth successful event. Plans are well on the way for next year's event to be held on Friday, July 3rd 2020 at Club de Golf St Raphael. For pictures of the event and other important information on all our activities please visit our website at www.basfund.ca

Glen Gunning
Chairperson

BOARD MEMBERS

SYLVIA PIGGOTT

President



Sylvia Piggott is a founding member of the BASF, and has served as President and Chair since its inception. She is a graduate of McGill University – BA Anthropology (1977) and MA Library and Information Studies (1979). Mrs. Piggott has 16 years of work experience with the Bank of Montreal as a senior manager of Research and Business Information Services, and was also a consultant to Major North American companies managing information strategic planning and reengineering of information services. Between 1998 and 2004, she held several senior positions with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in Washington, DC, during which time she was responsible for libraries and information centres in over 180 countries. Mrs. Piggott has also held several elected offices and received numerous awards. She is a past president of the Montreal Association of Black Business Persons and Professionals (MABBP). In 1983, she was named to the Board of the McGill University Alumnae Association, where she initiated the Tool Box Series as a means of helping to prepare new alumnae for the workforce. Mrs. Piggott is now retired but is frequently invited to speak at international conferences in North America, Europe, Asia, the Caribbean, Africa and Australia.

THOMAS G. SAUNDERS

Secretary



Thomas (Garry) Saunders is a retired educator. After nine years working in industry he returned to university to study education. He began teaching high school in 1970 while continuing his university studies, earning a Master of Education degree from McGill University. When he retired in 2006 he held the position of Director of Schools at the Lester B. Pearson School Board. Mr. Saunders has served on a number of Boards including The Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada (SEVEC) and the former Batshaw Youth and Family Services. Mr. Saunders now fills his retirement time with volunteer work, golf and alpine skiing.

KATHLEEN SUITE

Treasurer & Scholarship Coordinator



Kathleen Suite is a graduate of Concordia University (Finance & Accounting). She was employed in the corporate business field for many years, spending most of those years as a Financial Controller. Today, she works as an independent consultant, providing tax and accounting services to individuals and firms. Mrs. Suite has also worked with youth in her community and been a mentor to several students. She is a past president and board member of Montreal Association of Black Business Persons and Professionals (MABBP). She served for 6 years as the financial warden for St. Gabriel's Parish in St. Hubert, and continues to be active in its activities. She has also provided accounting assistance to other not for profit organizations.

BOARD MEMBERS

GLEN GUNNING

Golf Chairperson



Glen Gunning attended Kingston College and the Jamaica School of Agriculture before immigrating to Canada in 1970. In Canada under the accreditation of Chartered Insurance Broker (CAIB) he successfully practiced as a Life, Property and Causality Insurance Broker for 30 Years. His involvement in the Montreal community has been extensive. As Past Presidents of both the Jamaica Association, and the Montreal Association of Black Business Persons and Professionals (MABBP). Mr. Gunning was successful in strengthening the links between the Montreal Black Community and the wider business community. During that period, he hosted a breakfast attended by over 400 of the most influential business leaders of the black community of Montreal where the guest of honour was the Honourable David Dinkins, then Mayor of New York City. While at MABBP, Mr. Gunning observed a link between the lack of training and unemployment among our young people. As a result, he negotiated with Employment and Immigration Canada and set up the first training courses for young black individuals in the areas of CAD, Office Systems Technologies and Banking. His keen support for the anti-Apartheid struggle and ANC of President Nelson Mandela led him to become involved in development projects in South Africa. Since his retirement in 2008, Mr. Gunning has been active as the Chair of the Jackie Robinson Golf Tournament which raises funds for the BASF (Black Academic Scholarship Fund) that supports black students in Montreal at both the college and university levels. In addition to his community involvement Mr. Gunning is a dedicated family man. He and his wife of 49 years Dr. Pamela Gunning are the proud parents of two accomplished daughters, Claudine & Roxane.

ALLISON SAUNDERS

Media & Social Media



Allison Saunders is a Digital Content Advisor at Concordia University working for the university's Communications department. Prior to that, she worked at CBC/Radio-Canada for more than a decade, in radio, television and online. Allison has been a member of the BASF board of directors since 2013. She has also volunteered on and/or chaired a number of committees within the Lester B. Pearson School Board as a parent representative on the LBPSB Parents' Committee. In addition to working and volunteering, Allison is a married mother of two who enjoys spending time with her family and raising her sons in the suburbs of Montreal.

KELLY HENNEGAN

Scholarships & Alumni Relations



Kelly Hennegan is a final-year medical student registered at McGill University (MDCM Candidate 2020). In 2016, she completed a Bachelor of Science degree at the same institution. A proud two-time recipient herself, Ms. Hennegan works to increase the visibility of BASF scholarships within the Black community. She is fortunate to have firsthand knowledge on the profound impact that the community's generous donations have on our youth. It is this unique perspective that has motivated her to remain involved with the BASF each and every year—first as an event volunteer, and now as a board member. Ms. Hennegan also oversees Alumni Relations, a growing area of interest within this non-profit organization. In collaboration with her fellow board members, she helps past recipients connect with one another, be that through social media groups, or in-person during networking events.



2019 JACKIE ROBINSON SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

“Young, gifted and bound for success”

GRADUATE AWARD: Lynn Valeyry Verty - Université de Montréal - Neuropsychologie Clinique

Lynn Valeyry has been accepted into the doctoral program at the Université de Montréal's Neuropsychology Clinic, a program designed to help people with cognitive challenges. Various people in Lynn Valeyry's life believed that she would never be accepted into such a competitive field, but she is now one of only 12 graduates accepted into the program. She graduated with honors in Psychology from the Université de Montréal as a straight A-student, far exceeding her comparison group's final average. As a research assistant at CRIUGM, she extracts and classifies data from Parkinson's Progressive Makers Initiative and Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative. She has also been a research assistant for Dr. Sylvie Belleville, in regards to aging Neuropsychology. This work has allowed her to obtain a research grant from Réseau Provincial de Recherche en Adaption-Réadaption. Her scientific article "Behavioral Impairment: a window for understanding cognitive impairment" has been published in Frontiers Neurology. She has also published many research reports within her concentrated field, such as Thèse Honor (April 2019), and Rapport de recherché (December 2017 & May 2018). This fall, Lynn Valeyry has been invited to teach an Introduction to Psychology class at CEGEP Montmorency, under the supervision of Dr. Amélie Cloutier. She is an active member of Église Le Portal where she has organized a number of community events and other volunteering projects; and has also been a supervisor and counselor at Autism Laval Summer Camp.

GRADUATE AWARD: Sarafina Métellus - Université de Montréal - Psychologie Clinique

Sarafina holds a Bachelor's in Psychology with Honors from the Université de Montréal and has been accepted into the Psychology Clinic doctoral program at the same university. During the years of her undergraduate program, Sarafina received many prestigious awards and scholarships, and she has already been granted an FRQ-SC scholarship for the first two years of her doctorate program. She hopes to one day become a psychological researcher and clinician. Sarafina is an educator at the Centre de jeunesse de Montréal - Institut Universitaire, where she interacts with children and adolescents placed in Health & Social Services, Child Protection Services, and juvenile detention centers. There, she uses her learned tools of the psychoeducational model and cognitive-behavioral approach. Sarafina is a research assistant for Dr. Sophie Bergeron for the Laboratoire d'étude de la santé sexuelle, where she is responsible for following up with the study participants. She has been an assistant editor for the Journal sur l'identité, les relations interpersonnelles et les relations intergroupes. Her duties consisted of revising articles, as well as making crucial publication decisions. She volunteers for Centre d'écoute et de référence at UQAM, having face-to-face sessions with clients going through various psychosocial issues. She was a co-organizer of the 4th edition of l'Université d'été féministe at Université de Montréal.

GRADUATE AWARD: Marie Jélenia Cyrise - Social Work - McGill University

Marie Jélenia has been accepted into the Master of Social Work program at McGill University, in the hopes of one day becoming a family therapist. Her aim is to help immigrants and individuals who suffer from mental illness. In 2018, Marie Jélenia was awarded the IHSP Undergraduate Award, which is an internship at McGill's Institute for Health and Social Policy, and has been on the Dean's Honour List at the university. She was a research assistant for the McGill's Health Observatory on Health System Reforms. She is a social worker at St. Mary's Hospital's Psychiatry In-Unit and Outpatient Clinic and Info Social Montreal. She is also an intervention worker at Suicide Action Montréal, where she intervenes with clientele in suicide crisis. She has interned at CLSC Cote des Neiges, Mount Sinai Hospital, St. Margaret Day Center, and Women on the Rise. Despite personal and financial struggles, Marie Jélenia also found time to volunteer at Camp Erin Bereavement for Children, a grief camp for youth, and Parkinson Canada.



“A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives.”

— Jackie Robinson

UNDERGRADUATE AWARD: Rachelle Rose - Laws, Civil Law & Social Work - McGill University

Rachelle is currently pursuing three programs at McGill University: a Bachelor of Civil Law, a Bachelor of Laws, and a Masters in Social Work. Part of the reason Rachelle feels so passionate about law is because she recognizes the lack of legal support and advocacy being provided to marginalized people within her community. She is a Project X coordinator of Heads and Hands, where she collects and analyzes youths' testimonials detailing their experiences with racial discrimination. Through this position, she also facilitates a "Know Your Rights" workshop. She is a research assistant at McGill University, conducting research that predominantly pertains to anti-discrimination and equality law. She was a community worker at NDG Community Council, where she held individual meetings with residents to provide information on their rights as tenants. She volunteered at the McGill's Legal Information Clinic and was VP Academic of Law Students' Association. She has also been co-president and VP Internal of Black Law Students' Association of McGill. Rachelle has been described as motivated, determined and committed – all qualities that will certainly serve her well now and in the future. Rachelle enjoys weightlifting and dancing.

UNDERGRADUATE AWARD: Sonia Ishimwe Ahimana - McGill University - Laws

Sonia is currently in her third year of the Bachelor of Laws at McGill University, in the concentration of B.C.L. / LL.B. She majored in Political Science at Concordia University, where she was on the Dean's list for academic excellence. She has an essay published in the 2016 edition of the Journal of Political Affairs: Concordia University's Undergraduate Political Review. Coming from a "humble background," Sonia lives by the philosophy that "it is not where you come from, but where you are going that makes the difference." Sonia has been co-president and VP Finance of Black Law Students' Association of McGill (BLSAM). She has volunteered at McGill's Legal Information Clinic, where she conducted legal research, as well as simplifying complex legal notions for clients of all kinds. She is part of the Law Partner program, as the resource person for first-year law students. Sonia has been a scrutineer for the 2014 Quebec provincial elections, volunteered for the Parliament Jeunesse du Québec, Make-A-Wish Foundation, and the Women's Y of Montreal. Sonia is trilingual speaking English, French, and Kinyarwanda. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, listening to music, and physical training.

UNDERGRADUATE AWARD: Médard Mbusa Muvunga - Biomedical Science - Université de Montréal

Médard is now entering his third year in the Biomedical Science program at Université de Montréal. At Cote R Sport, he is a math tutor for new college students and a mentor in science and technology. He volunteers at Le Boabab Familial, aiding families going through difficult times. At Université de Montréal, he helps new students adapt to their new environment by giving them guidance and organizing activities. He volunteered at Centre Fédéral de Formation Laval, where he visited prisoners and organized cultural activities in order to help them re-insert themselves into society. He is a catechist and lector at Paroisse Notre Dame d'Anjou, where he also organizes religious activities and prepares young people for their first communion and confirmation. He has interned at Centre de Recherche du CHUM, on a research project specializing in liver cancer; Le Forêt de Demain, where he planted trees; and been a guide for visiting foreign diplomats for the G7 Summit 2018 held in Quebec City.

BURSARY: Takha Ako-Ni-Ko - Nursing - Université de Sherbrooke

Takha is currently in the Nursing program at the University of Sherbrooke. Despite raising two kids with another baby on the way, Takha is enrolled full-time with a determination to succeed and achieve her dreams of working in the medical field. She worked in the pediatric department of the CISSS de Laval / Hôpital Cité de la Santé, where her duties consisted of monitoring the vital signs in neurological and neurovascular patients before and after surgery. She worked at CIUSSS de Centre-Sud-de-Montreal/Centre d'hébergement des Seigneurs, in a concentration focused on reducing maternal and infantile mortality. She was a lab assistant at Hôpital district de Buea-Cameroun. She has also completed a pediatric stage at Hôpital Sainte Justine. Despite family commitments and studies, in her free time, Takha enjoys swimming, playing sports, dancing, and reading scientific journals.

BATSHAW AWARD: Marlena Goldberg - Concordia University

Marlena graduated from Tav College's arts and communication program with features such as graphic design, marketing, software design, and coding. The program also touched on social issues and the way different cultures and communities connect and interact. She is currently enrolled at an independent student at Concordia University, and hopes to pursue a degree in journalism. She would also like to travel the world and create content that sheds light on social issues, raise awareness on topics that need urgent attention, and encourage change. Marlena volunteered in Honduras, and assisted in the building of the foundation of two homes. Through her experience, she was able to see how the locals lived and learn more about a culture different from her own. Marlena is determined to carve out a positive future for herself. In order to do this, she has surrounded herself with positive people, and has decided that higher education is the key to success and growth.

2018 RECIPIENTS



From left to right: Shamal Henry, Malaika Awori, Sean Hennegan, Jaeden Wilson, Tinetendo Makata, Simone Spencer, Raven Spiratos. *Photography by Costa Sztrikacs.*

SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS – THANK YOU

JACKIE ROBINSON GOLF TOURNAMENT

Dr. Anita Brown-Johnson

Mrs. Nicole Piggott

Dr. Dexter G. Johnson

Mrs. Theresa Benedek

CONTACT US



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GOLF TOURNAMENT JULY 5TH, 2019 - CLUB DE GOLF ST-RAPHAËL, ÎLE BIZARD



Photography by Costa Sztrikacs

GOLF TOURNAMENT JULY 5TH, 2019 - CLUB DE GOLF ST-RAPHAËL, ÎLE BIZARD



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TOURNOI DE GOLF JACKIE ROBINSON GOLF TOURNAMENT



Vendome P.O. Box 23035, Montreal, QC H4A 3V4

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The golf Committee offers its warmest thanks to all the volunteers who so generously devoted time and effort to the cause. Thanks a million to all and we look forward to seeing you in July, 2020.