

FCBA Foundation Awards 12 College Scholarships

The FCBA Foundation, celebrating its 17th Anniversary, is pleased to announce that it has awarded 12 college scholarships to graduating seniors from five District of Columbia high schools. The scholarships (funded over four years) will assist these students as they move forward in their educational careers. The Foundation also is giving the scholarship winners a laptop computer to assist with their studies. Thanks to the generosity of FCBA member companies and law firms, as well as FCBA members, the Foundation is committing about \$140,000 in funds to this year's scholarship program. In addition to direct donations, funds for the Scholarship Program also are raised through the annual Chairman's Dinner and Golf Tournament, and Raffle at the Annual Seminar.

The Foundation received 38 applications from students of diverse backgrounds from Bell Multicultural, Cardozo, McKinley Tech, Roosevelt, and Thurgood Marshall High Schools in the District of Columbia. 22 of these students were then selected for interviews. All of the applicants were deserving of assistance, which made the selection process particularly difficult despite the number of scholarships awarded. Information about each of the scholarship recipients appears on the following pages.

The Foundation gratefully acknowledges the support of the following companies, law firms and individuals, who made significant contributions to this year's Scholarship Program: **Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, AT&T Services, Inc., John Bagwell, Laura Berman, Evangula Brown, Sally Buckman, Laura and Jonathan Carter, Diana Cohen, Deborah Coleman, Comcast Corporation, Dennis Corbett, CTIA – The Wireless Association, Rebecca Cunningham, Seth and Diane Davidson, DirecTV, Genevieve Edmonds, FJC Liebermann Godles Fund, Google Inc., Harris, Wilshire & Grannis LLP, Kellogg Huber Hansen Todd & Evans, PLLC, Sharon Krantzman, Erin Kucerik, Lampert, O'Connor & Johnston, P.C., Lawler Metzger Milkman & Keeney, LLC, Steven Lerman, Leventhal Senter & Lerman PLLC, Louis Levy, Brian Madden, Microsoft Corporation, Jeffrey Mooradian, Lois and Larry Movshin, News Corporation, Nancy Ory, Sushama Pathak, Ford Pippin, Qwest, Charla Rath, Judith Settles, Sher & Blackwell LLP, Sidley Austin, Ann Sonkwa-Kirindongo, Squire, Sanders & Dempsey LLP, T-Mobile USA, Inc., Verizon Communications, Greg Vogt, Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP, Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP, Nancy Wolf, and Richard Zaragoza.**

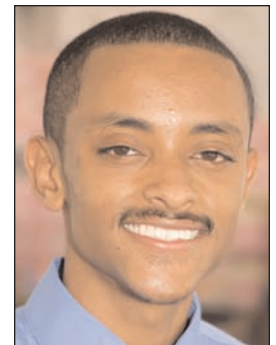
The Foundation thanks Board members Kathleen Abernathy, Laura Carter, Rick Chessen, Erin Dozier, Stacy Fuller, Larry Movshin, and Lee Petro and non-Board members Jennie

Chandra, Adam Copeland, Devin Crock, Parul Desai, Matthew Gibson, Katrina Gleber, Diane Griffin Holland, Kimberly Hulsey, Travis Litman, Patrick McFadden, Elizabeth McIntyre, Amy Mushahwar, Karen Onyeije, Anna Gomez, Jake Riehm, Marisa Roy, Rebecca Schwartz, Megan Stull, Ron Whitworth, and Stefanie Zalewski for reviewing the written scholarship applications, and Board members Laura Carter, Rick Chessen, Erin Dozier, Stacy Fuller, Larry Movshin, Jane Mago, and Lee Petro and non-Board members Jennie Berry, Jennie Chandra, Diane Griffin Holland, Patrick McFadden, Elizabeth McIntyre, Anna Gomez, and Ron Whitworth for participating in the applicant interviews. The Foundation also thanks Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Altschul, Erin Dozier, Stacy Fuller, Jack Goodman, Jane Mago, Larry Movshin, and Lee Petro, who coordinated the Foundation's fundraising efforts this year. Thank you also to the National Association of Broadcasters for making its offices available over the April 25-27th weekend for the applicant interviews.

Photos by Mark Van Bergh

EFREM AYALEW **\$12,000**

Efrem has been inspired to succeed by his mother, who encouraged him to view education as “the passport to your success in life.” He says that because his mother made great sacrifices to improve the lives of her children, he refused to let language and cultural barriers hold him back when he moved to the United States five years ago. Today, his academic and extracurricular achievements would make any parent proud.



Focused and diligent, Efrem went from struggling at the start of high school to being an advanced placement student with top grades. Efrem also has demonstrated leadership skills both in and out of the classroom. As captain of his research group in his Senior Capstone Class, Efrem oversaw the development of a video presentation to educate others about the crisis in Darfur, which was shown to high school students throughout the greater Washington, D.C. area. Efrem devotes significant time to volunteer efforts at his church, as a peer educator, and by serving food to the homeless at a local food bank. His other extracurricular activities include soccer (he was once captain of the team), the Upward Bound program, the Robotics Club, and the Architectural, Construction and Engineering Program.

This fall, Efrem will attend St. Mary's College, where he plans to study Mechanical Engineering. He wants to use his education to improve the world's use of natural resources, develop new sources of energy, and improve the quality of life in places where basic resources are lacking.

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BRITTANY CLARK \$8,000

Ranked second in her graduating class, Brittany Clark is a graduate of Cardozo High School and will attend North Carolina A&T State University in the fall where she will study broadcast journalism. As the child of a single mother, the FCBA scholarship will help her achieve her dream of becoming a television journalist. Active in her community, Brittany has participated in Teen Women in Action, Brainfood, and the Foster Care Campaign. The latter organization sought to improve the rights and living conditions of the 400 children living in D.C. foster care programs. Brittany also represented all of the students in the District of Columbia in her role as the student representative to the D.C. Board of Education. More recently, Brittany completed an internship at the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. "Never afraid of a challenge," Brittany has set very specific goals for herself and her track record to date suggests that she will achieve those goals through her hard work, curiosity and dedication.



BIANCA EDWARDS \$20,000 – News Corporation

Bianca Edwards is a natural born leader. She started her own record label at the age of fourteen, and is the producer and originator of *Roosevelt Idol*, which is now an annual school event. Bianca is also an artist and entertainer herself, having recently released her own CD. Bianca has interned at DC-28 and with the Washington Post. Bianca is highly regarded among her fellow students and the community. She was elected Student Government President as both a junior and senior, and was elected Senior Class President. She was selected to participate in the Media and Children 5th World Summit in South Africa and to study French in Paris. She is captain of the girls' varsity basketball team and also mentors elementary school girls. In addition to her community and school involvement, Bianca has maintained a 4.0 plus grade point average and worked part time. One of Bianca's goals is to "enlighten an audience as a performer, writer, event coordinator, or executive within the media industry." In her own words, "I am and want to be in the position to influence the media and its exposé of the world. I feel it necessary to not only exemplify leadership, creativity, and productive skills, but to use them to create a platform for my peers and for generations to come."

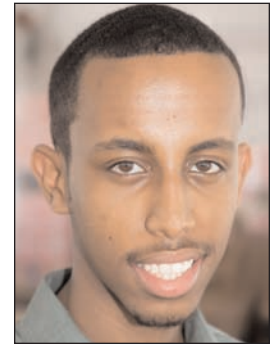


NATNAEL ETUMA \$12,000 – Sidley Austin

First in his class at Bell Multicultural High School, Natnael aspires to a career in medical research. He will attend the University of Virginia this fall.

With his exceptional grades and confident speaking style, it is hard to imagine that Natnael struggled to learn English when his family emigrated from Ethiopia just four years ago. What kept him motivated during challenging times was his family's purpose in moving here—to ensure access to education and opportunity. Natnael strives to make the most of the options that life in the U.S. has afforded him.

Natnael's high level of motivation to succeed is evident not only from his GPA but from his long list of honors and awards for academic achievement, essay writing, playwriting, and leadership. His many extracurricular pursuits include the Upward Bound Program, the Environmental Science Program, the National Honor Society, and the Tennis Team. He also has served his community as a peer leader educating others about the harmful effects of drugs, and by serving food to the homeless at a local food bank. Natnael hopes to make an impact on his chosen field by using his expertise to cure disease.



KATHERINE FELIZ \$8,000 – DirecTV

The recipient of the DirecTV scholarship and the first in her family to attend college (Penn State), Katherine Feliz views a higher education as her chance to show her family that "life has endless possibilities." Having lost her father when she was just twelve, Katherine and her four brothers and sisters have been raised by their single-parent mother. As a result, Katherine's financial need is great, and her hard work and determination made her the perfect candidate for our scholarship program. A community volunteer, a key leader in the local Boys and Girls club, a company commander in NJROTC, and President of the National Honor Society, Katherine is also ranked #2 in her graduating class at Bell Multicultural High School. One teacher describes Katherine as a student "characterized by curiosity and vigorous intellect...rare in her high level of motivation, thoughtful personality, desire to learn and participate, and extreme sense of respect for her education and her community." Katherine plans to take these skills to



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medical school where she would like to become a doctor who can serve her community, particularly those who are most needy. That desire is consistent with her comments thanking the FCBA for her scholarship, stating that it “is much more than the money that can be won, but the idea that people want to help.”

KATHERINE HARVEY

\$8,000 – Comcast Corporation

The recipient of the Comcast scholarship, Katherine Harvey is a graduate of Cardozo High School and will attend Norfolk State in the fall where she plans to study accounting. While achieving a 3.3 GPA, Katherine worked in a hair salon, was a hostess in a restaurant, held down an internship at the US Department of Transportation, served in her school’s student government, taught karate to children, volunteered at St. Anne’s Home for Teen Moms, was voted Most Valuable Player on her basketball team, and participated in debate team, Model UN, and Dance team, among many other activities. She believes that “knowledge is much more valuable than money, clothes, jobs...because no one can take knowledge away from you.” Using that knowledge Katherine plans to open her own accounting firm and establish her own scholarship program to assist needy children in Washington, D.C.



LOUIS NGONZO-BIYO

\$10,000 – CTIA – The Wireless Association

Louis is an aspiring architectural engineer who makes a strong first impression because of his professionalism and drive. A native of Cameroon who came to the United States only three years ago, Louis struggled to overcome language barriers, and today his English is as good as his native French. Louis is graduating from Bell Multicultural High School and will be attending Penn State University this fall.



Louis’ aptitude and accomplishments have garnered several honors and awards, including honor roll, “most outstanding” advanced placement student, and a local oratory contest. His past volunteer and work experience includes an internship at the World Bank, serving as a peer leader with the Latin American Youth Center, and raising funds for school events. Among Louis’ extracurricular interests are soccer (as team captain in 2006, he led Bell to victory in the city championship), hiking, writing plays, and serving as a drummer in the school band.

Louis believes that education is the “key to access the professional world and the empowerment of the next generation.” Thus, in addition to his professional goals, Louis looks forward to serving as a role model and mentor to his five siblings and other young people. He hopes to use his degree in architectural engineering to “help rebuild communities in the developing world.”

DIEGO PEREIRA

\$8,000 – Microsoft Corporation

The recipient of the Microsoft scholarship, Diego Pereira, is a 2008 graduate of Bell Multicultural High School and will be attending Hobart & William Smith College in the fall. Blessed with what one of his teacher’s describes as “a remarkable intellectual curiosity quite rare in a young person his age,” Diego is well-versed in the world’s current events – from Global Warming to the latest in Washington politics. In a recent school project, Diego produced a “piercing rebuttal” to Governor Bill Richardson’s troop withdrawal plan, using historical lessons learned from sources as varied as Mesopotamia and General Douglas McArthur. Diego plans to use his curiosity and interest in world affairs by attending law school, and towards that goal, he already has completed an internship at the law firm, Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan. As the first in his family to attend college, Diego will take his “dedication, curiosity and enthusiasm” to the next level, and we – like his teachers – are confident he will excel in his future academic and professional endeavors.



SONIA RAMOS

\$16,000 – AT&T Services, Inc.

Articulate, engaging, and poised, Sonia appears ideally suited to her goal of becoming a broadcast or print journalist. She is graduating from Bell Multicultural High School and will attend George Mason University this fall.

Sonia has a strong interest in increasing public awareness about human rights issues, which forms part of her motivation to become a journalist. She also has a passion for writing, as evidenced by her strong performance in English classes and her participation in advanced placement English. Sonia admires writers who use “a variety of techniques to capture the attention of the public” and looks forward to “a career where writing is [her] main task.”



Sonia’s past volunteer and work experience includes an internship at the Holocaust Museum, serving as a peer leader with the Latin American Youth Center, and tutoring younger

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Bell students in math and English. She also is the captain of Bell's volleyball team and was successful in leading her team to a citywide championship victory in 2007.

TIFFANY THORNTON

\$16,000 – Verizon Communications

Tiffany Thornton wants to pursue a career in business and journalism and plans on attending the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where she previously participated in a week long journalism program. As Tiffany has stated, "I have taken an interest in journalism because it allows me to speak for those who can not speak for themselves . . . and use my voice for the greater good of myself as well as others." Among her many school and community activities, Tiffany was the Chairman of the DC Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Program Citywide Planning Committee of National Youth Service Day in 2007, mentors elementary school students, writes for the school newspaper, is captain of the dance team and on the cross country track team. Tiffany has a strong work ethic, balancing a part time job with academic achievements, such as being inducted into the National Honor Society. She has been described as "an eager student of life with a thirst for knowledge." Tiffany has been greatly influenced in her life by her grandmother who taught her to have faith and to believe in herself.



OBINNA UKWUANI

\$12,000 – Google Inc.

Obinna Ukwuani is at the top of his class at McKinley Technology High School, and plans on attending MIT next fall to major in biomedical engineering. Obinna's interest in communications and technology was exemplified in his essay in which he explained how the growth and development of the Graphical User Interface is the most significant



technological innovation in the last 20 years. As Obinna explains, "[a]n outstanding message is always appreciated, but more appreciated is an impressionable mode of delivery." Last summer, Obinna interned at NIH, where he spearheaded an effort to teach adolescents about new careers in genetics through video games. His diligence and work ethic are exemplified by his 4.0 plus grade point average and having been inducted into the National Honor Society. Obinna is one of the founding members of the Robotics Club, and was one of only 10 high school students from D.C. to display and discuss his research at the 2007 Benjamin Banneker Institute for Science and Technology Award Gala. Obinna's intellectual curiosity and drive are self evident. As the principle at McKinley noted, "[h]e gathers knowledge for the sake of improving the world around him and in promoting the highest ideals for all with whom he has contact."

CHRISTIAN YANEZ

\$10,000

Christian Yanez is described as "a once in a lifetime type of student . . . He embodies [a] world leader like I have yet to see a student do before." Christian wants to explore a career in television or radio broadcasting, and has spent the past year producing a documentary of his senior class. Christian is actively involved in both his school and community, as D.C. student representative to the Anti-Defamation League, peer facilitator for the Soul of the City, 2007 Premiere Delegate for Youth conference on National Affairs D.C. Youth in Government, and member of the varsity basketball and flag football teams, among other activities. Through his peer mentorship, leadership, and class involvement, Christian "has shown that he is willing to act as a voice for his community, as a leader who takes action to bring about positive change." Christian is planning on attending George Mason University in the fall, but will not be leaving his alma mater far behind. He wants to help other students, starting with those at Thurgood Marshall, get scholarships so they also will have the opportunity to attend college and pursue their dreams.

