

# The Black Book of Georgetown seeks to inspire

This document identifies tangible resources for students to engage with both on-campus at Georgetown University and off-campus in the Black identifying communities around Washington, D.C. This document outlines of several resources but is, by no means, an exhaustive list of the support available to Black students. *The Black Book of Georgetown* is produced with love, authored by the community, for the community. Use as you feel necessary.



### BLACK HISTORY OF GEORGETOWN

This section traces the presence of Black people in the Georgetown community and the greater Washington, D.C. area from the rise of slavery in the U.S. to the trials free black people on campus. For more information about Georgetown's Black history, see Black Georgetown Remembered and Georgetown University's Slavery Archives.

1600's

The year 1619 marked the emergence of slavery and enslaved Africans in British-American colonies at Point Comfort, Virginia. Slaves that arrived here were sent to ports near the Potomac River, the soon to be founding grounds of Georgetown University.

1700's

Slaves worked on plantations in Georgetown, Maryland hauling pounds of cotton and tobacco. African-Americans accounted for one-third of the total United States population, 34 of which were documented as free Blacks. In this environment, Founding Father John Carroll established Georgetown University in 1789.

## **EARLY 1800's**

By the year 1800, the number of enslaved people in Georgetown totaled around 1,449, almost one-third of the area's population. The number of free Blacks also increased with 227 documented or about 5% percent of the population.<sup>2</sup>

In 1838 several Jesuits with the Maryland Province Society of Jesus, including Fr. Thomas Mulledy and Fr. William McSherry, sold 272 men, women, and children to contribute to the financial stability of the university and their plantations.<sup>3</sup> They were sold for \$115,000, a price equivalent to \$2.7 million in 2018.<sup>4</sup>

## LATE 1800's

By 1861, the Civil War divided Georgetown's campus and nearly closed the university. With students fighting on both sides of the war, enrollment dropped to a mere 17 students.<sup>5</sup> The majority of those who enlisted in the war fought for the Confederate Army; about four-fifths of the unenrolled population stood with the South. At the conclusion of the war, the school became occupied by more Catholics and supporters of the North. The Black population in Georgetown remained just under 30%, however, and the university still declined to admit students of color.

Despite its Whites-only status, Georgetown witnessed its first Black President, Fr. Patrick Healy S.J., in 1874. Fr. Healy's biracial heritage masked his ethnic background and made him an effective leader to mobilize change to the university and its curriculum. During his tenure, the Philodemic Society held several debates regarding topics of the Civil War, often voting in favor of secession and slavery.<sup>6</sup>

# **EARLY 1900's**

In the early twentieth century, Black residents in the District of Columbia and Georgetown began to build their own communities in pockets of the city. These communities, several of which are still standing today, included churches, schools, parks, and more. Some examples that remain include Mt. Zion United Methodist, First Baptist, Jerusalem Baptist, St. Augustine's, and Ebenezer A.M.E. Church. Education was also segregated: Francis Junior High was designated for Blacks while Georgetown's only public elementary school, Hyde-Addison, was Whites-only. Additionally, Jackson School which now hosts an art studio was also Whites-only. Even recreational areas were divided; in the 1940s, Rose Park Tennis Courts were declared "for Colored People Only," by the city.

1930 - 1934 In the mid-1900s, Black people occupied the Georgetown neighborhood in alleyways. Residents of these alleys tended to be the city's poorest citizens. Most were African-Americans, many of which resided in former slave living quarters. Despite the rich culture in these communities, given this demographic, the government viewed their residency as breeding grounds for crime and disease. In response, Congress implemented an act that "cleared" alleys by removing Black residents from their living quarters and tearing down most of the houses near the alleys. This act is legally known as the *District of Columbia Alley Dwelling Act of 1934.*7

1950 -1999 Congress continued their efforts in the next decade with new legislation that increased residential taxes in Georgetown. In this time, Black representation in the neighborhood fell from almost 30% to nearly 9% by the 1960 census.<sup>8</sup> It was during this period of Black removal that the first Black student, Samuel A. Halsey, was admitted to Georgetown University's night school, the *Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service*.

Although Black students were admitted to the university after 1950, their numbers remained slim, collectively totaling only 30 students and comprising less than 3% of the student population. Through the trials of their environment, the small community formed the BSA and asserted their presence. In the late 1960s, Black students staged a movement to demand that the university take more action in support of the Black community. These students protested at the President's Office, fighting for Georgetown to admit more students of color, designate spaces to support them and take responsibility in ensuring their success.

**2000S** 

In response to the BSA's advocacy, the university created the Community Scholars Program (CSP) to support students from under-served backgrounds in their transition to Georgetown. The university also invested in a space for students of color to be embraced by the Black community: the Black House. By 1970, Georgetown admitted 33 Black students out of their incoming class of 1,100. In 1971, the incoming class included almost 70 Black students. Fast forward to 2016, the university's history with slavery returned to the forefront of attention following the research of a student-faculty working group that expounded upon Georgetown's 1838 sale of 272 men, women, and children. The university issued a public apology and agreed to implement a list of demands created by the working group. The Board of Directors also voted unanimously in 2016 to create the department of African-American Studies (AFAM), allowing students the option to declare AFAM as a major or minor.

2020

In 2019, Georgetown's undergraduates made it the first institution in the United States to vote in favor of a system of reparations for the descendants of its formerly enslaved population following a historic student referendum. The vote concluded with 66% of participants in support of a self-tax-reparations system (2,541 to 1,304).

**Today**, the marathon continues. Georgetown is about 7% Black, 54% female, and 46% male, with representation from 50 U.S. states and over 130 countries. Students on campus are leading efforts to assert their presence at the colleague, administrator and executive level. There are over 15 clubs and student organizations dedicated to serving Black students and even more multicultural organizations serving the greater community of colored people. Black spaces are also expanding on campus. In 2019, the university announced their intent to open a Student Equity and Inclusion Office which comes in tandem with their efforts to support students of color through the Center for Multicultural Equity and Access (CMEA), the Black House, CSP, and the Georgetown Scholars Program (GSP).

## **Black Legacy of Georgetown**



### **Anne Marie Becraft**

#### Sister and Founder of Seminary School

Anne Marie Becraft (1805-1833) was one of the first African-American Nuns in the United States and was a trailblazer for Black women in Georgetown. Becraft was motivated by a passion for teaching. Her commitment to serving God lead her to found a seminary school for Black girls in Georgetown in 1827. As an educator, Becraft persevered in an environment that was both anti-Black and anti-Catholic, eventually improving the quality and number of educational opportunities for Black girls in the neighborhood.<sup>11</sup>



## Patrick F. Healy S.J.

First Black President 1874 - 1882

As the son of an Irish immigrant and former slave, Fr. Patrick Francis Healy S.J. (1874-1882) is recognized as the First Black President of Georgetown as well as the first African-American to head a predominantly white institution (PWI). During his time as president, Fr. Healy helped improve Georgetown's professional schools by expanding their curriculum. His presence on campus was monumental in transitioning Georgetown to a modern university. He is often regarded as the Georgetown's second founder.<sup>13</sup>



## Samuel A. Halsey Jr.

SFS '53, First Black Student

Samuel A. Halsey (1925-2012) graduated as top of his high school class, served time in the army and attended a few HBCUs before applying to Georgetown as a transfer student. Halsey was admitted to the SFS evening school during a time when the university remained closed to Black students. He attended Georgetown in an environment defined by overt discrimination and racism. The next Black student in the Georgetown College would not be admitted until the 1960s.<sup>12</sup>



### **Matilda and Margaret Peters**

#### National "Doubles" Champion Tennis Players

Margaret (1915-2004) and Matilda (1917-2003) Peters were Black Hall of Fame tennis stars born and raised in Georgetown, Washington DC. As young girls, these two taught themselves to play tennis at Georgetown's Rose Park. From 1937-1941, the sisters would go on to win the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championship and become four-time National Tournament Champions in the U.S. Amateur Tennis Association. Their historical influence played a transformative role in desegregating parks in Washington DC. <sup>14</sup>

tory: The Black Legacy Today



### **Rosemary Kilkenny**

First Vice President Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer

Rosemary Kilkenny (L'87, P'06) was appointed the First Vice President for Diversity and Equity after she was originally hired as a Special Assistant for Affirmative Action Programs in 1980. In her time at the university, she has taken action on issues regarding racial equity in the classroom and the workplace, as well as Title IX, Affirmative Action and other challenges facing people of color on campus.



## **Gwendolyn Mikell**

#### First Black Tenured Professor

Dr. Gwendolyn Mikell was the first Black tenured professor of Georgetown University and has taught in the School of Foreign Service since 1976. Dr. Mikell served as the Director of the African Studies Program from 1996 to 2007. Throughout her tenure, Dr. Mikell has played an integral role in incorporating African Feminism into the curriculum of the Africa Studies Program. Dr. Mikell has also served on the board of the American Anthropological Association and the African Studies Association. She currently serves on the Board of the Smithsonian Museum of African Art.



## Soyica Diggs Colbert

Professor C'01, Vice Dean of the College

Soyica Diggs Colbert (C'01), is the Director of the Theater and Performance Studies Department and a full-time professor of the African-American Studies Department. She was appointed Vice Dean of the Georgetown College in October of 2019. She is also the recipient of several distinguished scholarships and fellowships including the Schomburg Scholars-in-Residence Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson Foundation Career Enhancement Fellowship, and Stanford Humanities Post Doctoral Fellowship.

## **Off-Campus Resources**

#### Hair, Beauty, & Clothing

- Beauty Island Beauty Supply store (651 Florida Ave NW, Washington, DC 20001)
- World Class Cuts (403 K St NW, Washington, DC 20001) ask for Luke
- Eddie's hair creations (1718 Florida Ave NW, Washington, DC 20009)
- Melissa Hair Salon Unisex (3171 Mt Pleasant St NW, Washington, DC 20010)
- **Georgia Ave. Thrift** (6101 Georgia Ave NW Washington, DC 20011)
- Charming Nails (1355 Wisconsin Ave NW 2nd Floor, Washington, DC 20007)
- No 1 Beauty Supply (5928 Georgia Ave NW, Washington, DC 20011)
- Amy's Nail and Spa (2108 18th St NW B, Washington, DC 20009)



#### **Mental Health**

Association of
Black Psychologists
Department of Behavioral Health Community Providers
Therapy for Black Girls
Rape, Abuse, & Incest Nation-

Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network (RAINN), 1 (800) 656-4573

DC Victim Hotline, 1 (844) 443-5732, online chat (devictim.org)

National Sexual Violence Resource Center 1 (877) 739-3895

Network for Victim Recovery of DC 1 (202) 742-1727

**Washington Hospital Center** (110



#### **History & Culture**

- African American Civil War Museum (1925 Vermont Ave, NW Washington, DC 20001)
- African American History Museum (1400 Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC 20560)
- Benjamin Banneker Park (429 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Washington, DC 20024)
- Frederick Douglass House (1411 W St SE Washington, D.C. 20020)
- National Portrait Gallery (8th St NW & F St NW, Washington, DC 20001)
- Howard Theatre (620 T St NW, Washington, DC 20001), Shaw
- Howard University (2400 6th St NW, Washington, DC 20059)
- Malcolm X/Meridian Hill Park (16th St NW &, W St NW, Washington, DC 20009)
- Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site (1318 Vermont Ave NW, Washington, DC 20005)
- Metro PCS on Florida Ave. (DON'T MUTE DC with gogo music)
- MLK Memorial (1964 Independence Ave SW, Washington, DC 20024)
- Mural of Historically Black Figures (1213 U St NW, Washington, DC 20009 on the side of Ben's Chili Bowl)
- Saint Augustine Church Historically black church (1419 V St NW, Washington, DC 20009)

#### **Food & Dining**

- **Appioo** (1924 9th St. NW, Washington, DC 20001)
- Ben's Chili Bowl (1213 U St NW, Washington, DC 20009)
- **Bukom Cafe** (2442 18th St NW, Washington, DC 20009)
- Busboys and Poets (2021 14th St NW, Washington, DC 20009, 450 K St NW, Washington, DC 20001, 625 Monroe St NE, Washington, DC 20017)
- Calabash (2701 12th St NE, Washington, DC 20018)
- The Carolina Kitchen (2350 Washington Pl NE, Washington, DC 20018)
- Due South (301 Water St SE, Washington, DC 20003)
- District Soul Food (500 8th St SE, Washington, DC 20003)
- Florida Avenue Grill (1100 Florida Ave NW, Washington, DC 20009)
- Half smoke (651 Florida Ave NW, Washington, DC 20001)
- Hot N Juicy Crawfish (2651 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC 20008)
- Keren (1780 Florida Ave NW, Washington, DC 20009)
- Milk and Honey Cafe (5832 Georgia Ave NW, Washington, DC 20011)
- Nando's Peri-Peri (1210 18th St NW, Washington, DC 20001)
- Nu Vegan (2928 Georgia Ave NW, Washington, DC 20001)
- Ooh's and Aah's (1005 U St NW, Washington, DC 20001)
- Roaming Rooster (3176 Bladensburg Rd NE, Washington, DC 20018)
- Sunrise Caribbean Restaurant (5329 Georgia Ave NW, Washington, DC 20011)
- Sweet Home Café (1400 Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC 20560)
- Teddy's Roti Shop (7304 Georgia Ave NW, Washington, DC 20012)
- Zion West African Kitchen (1805 Montana Ave NE B, Washington, DC 20002)

## **On-Campus Resources**

#### **Black Organizations**



**African Society** of Georgetown (ASG)



Afromoves



**Aspiring Minority Busi**ness Leaders & Entrepreneurs (GAMBLE)



The Black House



Black Leadership Forum (BLF)



**Black Student** Alliance (BSA)



**Black Theater** Ensemble (BTE)



The Blaxa



Caribbean Culture Circle (CCC)



Eritrean Ethiopian Students Alliance (EESA)



Minority Association of Pre- Initiative Council Health Students (MAPS)



Minority Health (MHIC)



**Minority Pre-Law** Association (MPLA)



Mosaic



**GU NAACP** 



**National Society** of Black Engineers (NSBE)



Queer People of Color (QPOC)



Riqueza Dominicana (GURD)



Women of Color (GUWOC)



Students of Color Alliance (SOCA)



\*Alpha Phi Alpha



\*Kappa Alpha Psi



\*Alpha Kappa Alpha

#### **Ally Organizations**



La Casa Latina



**Community Scholars** Program (CSP)



**Gospel Choir** 



Hoyas for **Immigrant Rights** 



MeCHa



**Native American** Student Association



**Project** Lighthouse



Rangila



Reventón Latino

#### **Centers and Administrative Spaces**



Center for Multicultural Equity and Access Leavey 400



Georgetown
Scholars
Program
Healy Basement



Center for Social Justice Poulton Hall



LGBTQ+ Resource Center Leavey 300



Women's Center Leavey 300



McDonough Success Fund MSB

#### **Community and Faculty Support**

- Dr. Adanna Johnson, Sr. Associate Dean of Students and Director of Diversity, Equity, and Student
- Success, aj754@georgetown.edu
- Charlene Brown McKenzie, Director, Center for Multicultural Equity & Access, ccb4@georgetown.edu
- Cory Stewart, GSP Director of Outreach and Engagement, cms269@georgetown.edu
- **Devita Bishundat**, CMEA Associate Director of Academic & Student Support Services Director, db1208@georgetown.edu
- Jaime Brown, CSE Associate Director, jab549@georgetown.edu
- Jennifer Crewalk, Associate Director for Undocumented Student Services, jc3150@georgetown.edu
- **Jennifer Wiggins**, Assistant Director for Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Services, jmw322@ georgetown.edu
- Dr. Jo-Ellyn Walker, Staff Psychologist and GSP Liaison, jw1821@georgetown.edu
- Dr. John C. Wright, Psychologist, jcw57@georgetown.edu
- **Missy Foy**, *GSP Program Director*, foym@georgetown.edu
- Nikki Johnson, CMEA Program Coordinator for School Partnership & Community Engagement
- Obella Obbo, CMEA Program Coordinator, 00124@georgetown.edu
- Rev. Rondesia Jarrett-Schell, Episcopalian Residential Minister, rj463@georgetown.edu
- Rosemary Kilkenny, Vice President for Diversity and Equity, kilkennr@georgetown.edu
- Sivagami Subbaraman, Executive Director of LGBTQ Resource Center and Women's Center, ss826@ georgetown.edu
- Shauntell Pickney, Alumni Association, slp47@georgetown.edu
- Vanice Antrum, CMEA Program Coordinator for Student Success, va200@georgetown.edu



## Navigating Georgetown -

Tips and tricks to our university

Georgetown has money

Take class recommendations

**Networking is everything** 

**Get involved** 

**Know your rights** 

Be present and friendly

**Health first** 

Take advantage of resources

Love yourself

**Break the bubble** 

Performative blackness ain't it

**Know your limits** 

"Never forget that you belong here as much as anybody else"





**Georgetown has money** and so do private companies! Don't be afraid to use your resource and take advantage of Black recruiting!

**Take class recommendations** from trusted resources

**Networking is everything.** Take an extra two minutes to talk to people you encounter.

**Get involved.** Focus on connections and relationships, go to events on and off campus, and spend time enjoying life. Educate the whole self to take full advantage of Georgetown.

**Know your rights.** As a student when it comes to GUPD and access to resources! The Student Advocacy Office (SAO) has pamphlets to help you identify your rights as well.

**Be present and friendly.** You don't have to overwhelm yourself, just be an ally and a resource to live to the best of your ability.

**Love yourself.** Put yourself and your health first. No one is going to ride for you the way that you will ride for yourself.

**Health first.** As a Black student, self-care is a priority. Taking care of yourself should be one of the most important things to you.

**Break the bubble.** Leave campus when you can! It gets tiring being around the same people 24/7. Explore D.C. and enjoy the diversity of fun that exists. Columbia Heights and Anacostia are home to a lot of great cultural sites.

**Performative blackness ain't it.** Imitating that you come from an impoverished background to gain social clout or recognition is **NOT** cool. You are fine just the way you are, it got you this far.

**Know your limits.** Set boundaries but don't be afraid to cross them sometimes.

