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Peyton Anderson Foundation Awards 25 Renewable Scholarships to Bibb County Graduates

Anderson's Grandson Serves as Special Guest Speaker and Addresses 30 Years of His Grandfather's Philanthropic Legacy on Central Georgia

(Macon, Ga.) The Peyton Anderson Foundation awarded 25 Bibb County graduating seniors with scholarships today at their annual awards luncheon at Middle Georgia State University. This is the 11th year that the Foundation has helped fund college tuition for deserving students in the Central Georgia community.

"As the Peyton Anderson Foundation marks our 30th year of philanthropy, we are so proud to honor the high school achievements and bright post-graduate future for our newly named Peyton Anderson Scholarship recipients," said Karen Lambert, president of the Foundation. "We also reflect on the network of success and family-like support our robust scholarship program continues to achieve, thanks to Mr. Anderson's strong faith in education and vibrant vision for our community."

The Peyton Anderson Scholarship is renewable for up to four years. Recipients must maintain a 3.0 grade point average and perform volunteer service in their home or campus communities. The Foundation maintains regular contact with each of the students during their college tenure and continues to maintain support with an alumni network.

The luncheon and awards ceremony included keynote speaker Dr. Reid Hanson, DVM. Dr. Hanson is the grandson of the late Peyton Anderson and serves as a Trustee and Treasurer of the Peyton Anderson Foundation. He is a Macon native and resides in Auburn, Alabama where he is a Professor of Equine Surgery and Sports Medicine in the Department of Clinical Sciences at Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine. He also serves as a business and education consultant to domestic and international businesses worldwide.

Dr. Hanson spoke on his grandfather's philanthropic legacy on Central Georgia, which is marked this year by the 30th anniversary of Anderson's namesake Foundation.

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Mercer Chancellor and Peyton Anderson Foundation Trustee Dr. R. Kirby Godsey awarded the Juanita T. Jordan Community Service Leadership Award for 2019-2020 to Filmore Thomas IV, a senior Mathematics Major finishing a 3+2 Dual Degree program at Fort Valley State University. Thomas has decided to pursue a second bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering and is double minoring in Computer Science and Cyber Security. He could not attend the Awards Luncheon because he was recently chosen as an Apple HBCU Scholar and is spending the next 12 weeks working for Apple in Sacramento, California. He will serve as an Apple Ambassador for the 2019-2020 academic year.

The Juanita T. Jordan Community Service Leadership Award was established in honor of the first president of the Peyton Anderson Foundation for her many years of service to the Foundation and Central Georgia. The award is presented each year to an outstanding Peyton Anderson Scholar who is a rising senior, in recognition of educational achievements, volunteer service and demonstrated leadership in improving the community for all of its citizens.

As a senior in high school, Thomas developed a website with free scholarship resources to aid other local students in their search for funding assistance. Since beginning college, he has performed over 400 community service hours. These hours have been spent mentoring middle school students twice every week in Starbase Robins' STEM program, organizing and executing a Saturday park cleanup and voter registration drive and organizing a mobile food pantry in the Fort Valley area to combat food insecurity in underserved neighborhoods. Thomas also regularly spends time at the local park, named for his late grandfather, Filmore Thomas, Jr., cleaning, working and overseeing park activities.

About the Peyton Anderson Scholarship:

The Peyton Anderson Scholarships continue Anderson's dedication to education and support for students from Bibb County. During his lifetime, he provided funding for deserving young people to attend college. Among them, he mentored Macon native Tom Johnson, president of the *Cable News Network* during the 1990s (and before that, publisher of the *Los Angeles Times*), as well as award-winning journalist Jim Wooten of the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*.

The Peyton Anderson Foundation has awarded more than \$2.25 million to deserving students since the program was launched in 2009. The scholarships, up to \$7,500 annually, support promising high school students in Bibb County who plan to attend one of the following institutions: Central Georgia Technical College, Fort Valley State University, Georgia College and State University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia Southern University, Georgia State University, Kennesaw State University, Middle Georgia State University, Mercer University, University of Georgia and Wesleyan College.

About the Peyton Anderson Foundation:

The Peyton Anderson Foundation serves as a lasting memorial to a man whose goodwill lives on long after his death in 1988. Peyton Anderson, owner in the 1950s and 60s of the *Macon Telegraph* and the *Macon News*, was a highly successful businessman, family man, civic leader and philanthropist. In his will, Peyton Anderson assigned the bulk of his estate for charitable purposes to benefit his hometown and region of Macon and Central Georgia. He maintained that the people of Macon, Bibb County and Central Georgia had been good to him, and he in turn, wished to be good to them. His instructions were, "Reward good doers, not do-gooders."

The full list of Peyton Anderson Scholars and Schools is found on the following page.

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2019 Peyton Anderson Scholars & Schools:

1. Hollis Bradham, Academy for Classical Education: Georgia College and State University
2. Za'Kiya Brown, Southwest High School: Kennesaw State University
3. ShaMiyah Chambliss, Westside High School: Georgia State University
4. Yuna Chitea, Howard High School: University of Georgia
5. Kenzavious Coats, Southwest High School: Georgia Southern University
6. De'Omini Daniely, Southwest High School: University of Georgia
7. Sean Dumas, Westside High School: Middle Georgia State University
8. Mia Ferro, First Presbyterian Day School: Georgia Institute of Technology
9. Eliazer Galvez Cruz, Southwest High School: Middle Georgia State University
10. Anisha Goswami, Tattnall Square Academy: University of Georgia
11. William Hoang, Westside High School: Georgia Institute of Technology
12. Nicholus Jackson, Central High School: University of Georgia
13. Donell Lossa, Northeast High School: Kennesaw State University
14. MaKensie McElmurray, Howard High School: Georgia College and State University
15. Aubrey Merritt, Rutland High School: Georgia Southern University
16. Garrett Patterson, Howard High School: Georgia State University
17. Janesia Phelps, Westside High School: Georgia State University
18. Savannah Polk, Rutland High School: Mercer University
19. Stephanie Rawls, Central High School: Georgia Institute of Technology
20. Jordan Rozier, Howard High School: Kennesaw State University
21. Jordan Stuckey, Southwest High School: Georgia Southern University
22. Maggie Watson, Tattnall Square Academy: Georgia Southern University
23. Emerald White, Central High School: Georgia Institute of Technology
24. Mary-Alaysha Woodford, Northeast High School: Georgia Southern University
25. Katlyn Yancey, Rutland High School: Georgia State University

For more information or for pictures and interviews of Peyton Anderson Scholarship recipients, please contact Program Director Charla Ivey at civey@pafdn.org / 478.314.0948. You can also visit peytonanderson.org.

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