Journalism Student Learns Service Through Donor Scholarships

Gifts Allow Her to Pursue Dream of Becoming Talk Show Host

For Judayah Murray, the requirements that came with her donor scholarships were the catalyst to her love for community service.

The junior broadcast journalism major in the School of Communications got her first taste of serving her community as a college student after she was accepted into the school’s Annenberg Honors Program, as a freshman, and awarded $2,000 from the Annenberg School of Communications Endowed Scholarship Fund. The late Walter H. Annenberg, publishing magnate, broadcaster, diplomat and philanthropist, who had a deep interest in education, originally established the fund with a $2 million endowment gift. Once the University matched Annenberg’s gift, the School of Communications was able to establish the Honors Program in fall 1989.

The scholarship, though, required that Murray complete a certain number of community service hours.

“I’m always looking to do community service,” Murray said. “Some of (my peers) have never done that. Now I enjoy doing it. (It) encouraged me to figure out what I care about in the community. I like mentoring...working with kids.”

That same enjoyment propelled Murray, during her sophomore year, to participate in the Alternative Spring Break program – serving communities in need and involving students in meaningful service. In March 2016, the program sent about 500 students to seven cities with specific community service projects. Murray, whose ultimate career goal is to host her own television talk show, participated in the project in Memphis, Tennessee. When she met a girl at the Boys & Girls Club who privately told her about some personal things that were happening at home, Murray exchanged numbers with her and established a long-distance mentorship relationship.

SOMETIMES, WE HAVE TO JUST START WITH ONE

Murray had no idea that she was destined for even more donor scholarship funds.

Even though her friends warned her that she could apply, but likely would never hear anything back, she persevered. August rolled around and others were finding out about their donor scholarship awards. Murray heard nothing and assumed she didn’t get anything, until her mother called her to suggest she check her BISON Web account.

“(When) I saw that amount sitting there in my financial aid,” Murray said, “I had a praise break in the middle of traffic.”

That amount she saw was the $10,000 BET Scholarship. Being that she only was in need of an additional $2,000 at the time, Murray was beyond outdone. With the excess funds in her bank account, she’s been able to pay toward her unsubsidized and subsidized loans that she took out as a freshman and paid some of her tuition this academic year.

Murray has made it her personal mission to “help other people in (her) situation. I’m going to tell as many people as possible that (they) can apply for these donor scholarships, (though) they’re not really advertised or promoted.”

To this end, Murray created a brand, #BlackGirlsYouTubeToo, a few years ago as a Youtube channel. She said it has more than 7,000 subscribers, with more than 390,000 channel-wide views. Most of Murray’s page views come from her advice videos regarding the University and how to matriculate as a freshman.

“I have the responsibility to pay that forward,” she said. With your continued support, students like Judayah Murray can reach for their dreams and fulfill their destinies.
Howard University President Wayne A. I. Frederick announced a $4 million gift to the School of Communications from Alfred C. Liggins III, president and CEO of Radio One. This notable contribution was made through the Catherine L. Hughes and Alfred C. Liggins III Foundation and establishes that the school will be named in honor of Cathy Hughes, Radio One founder and chairperson, and former Howard University staff member.

A ceremony naming the “Cathy Hughes School of Communications” was held Oct. 23.

“The Howard community is thrilled that Mr. Liggins has chosen to honor his mother, Ms. Cathy Hughes, in this manner for her pioneering work in the field of communications,” said Dr. Frederick. “The gift will have a transformational impact on the school’s commitment to serve the communications industry and as a high-level producer of diverse media specialists.”

He went on to acknowledge that Hughes is well known for her accomplishments at the school and University, particularly at WHUR-FM, where she created the popular, urban music format known as the “Quiet Storm.” She also holds the school’s third Time Warner endowed chair. The gift recognizes the vigor of Howard’s School of Communications and its faculty, students, staff and alumni. It demonstrates Hughes and Liggins’ beliefs in the role the School plays in providing a range of educational and leadership alternatives for African Americans in communications.

The 45-year-old School boasts four departments: Communication Culture and Media Studies; Communication Sciences and Disorders; Media, Journalism and Film; and Strategic, Legal and Management Communication.

Howard Alum and Dean Emeritus Gives $275,000 to Endow Public Health Chair

Dr. Floyd J. Malveaux, a nationally recognized expert on asthma and allergic diseases and dean emeritus of the College of Medicine, along with the Malveaux Family have donated $275,000 toward the launching of the Floyd J. Malveaux, M.D., Ph.D. Endowed Chair for Public Health.

The endowed chair will go toward supporting the teaching, research and service activities of the chair holder. The fund also will anchor the Howard University Masters of Public Health (MPH) program, due to begin in Fall 2017.

Malveaux, known for his longstanding commitment to public health and interprofessional learning, recognizes that the road to eliminating public health disparities is long and has said, “public health is a marathon, not a sprint.” But he firmly believes that Howard University students and faculty will be at the forefront of that cause.

Malveaux earned his Ph.D. in microbiology and public health from Michigan State University in 1968 and his M.D., with honors, from Howard University College of Medicine in 1974. Malveaux served in several faculty and administrative roles at Howard, including chair of the Department of Microbiology, dean of the College of Medicine and vice provost for Health Affairs.

County Executive Donates $25,000

Montgomery County, Maryland, County Executive Isiah Leggett and wife Catherine hosted a fundraising social at their home with many notable alumni, including Prince George’s County Executive Rushern Baker and Ambassador Horace G. Dawson Jr., who served as U.S. Ambassador to Botswana. The Leggets recently donated $25,000 to Howard’s School of Law, where Isiah Leggett earned a law degree.
Coates Gives $40,000 to Prince Carmen Jones Scholarship Fund

Ta-Nehisi Coates, the award-winning author and Howard University alumnus, has partnered with Dr. Mable Jones to add to the Prince Carmen Jones Scholarship Fund. The scholarship is named for Prince Carmen Jones, a Howard student who was killed by a police officer in 2001. Jones was a caring father and a great friend who was not involved in any criminal activity. His death was the result of mistaken identity and poor policing, Coates said.

Dr. Mable Jones, Prince Jones’ mother, initiated the scholarship. She started the $50,000 endowed scholarship with a gift of $10,000. Dr. Jones and Coates decided that they wanted to increase the endowment to $1 million by involving people who knew Prince.

Coates has given a total of $40,000. He has committed to give every award he gets for the book Between the World and Me to the scholarship. Coates is working with the School of Communications to develop marketing and communications for the project.

“The Prince Carmen Jones Scholarship was started last year in an attempt to transform tragedy into opportunity. (It) seeks to aid deserving and promising students in their effort to study at and matriculate from Howard University,” Coates said.

$500 The amount of most gifts to Howard. Together they add up to millions for financial aid, academics, research and other programs

Students Awarded Fulbright and Rangel Awards

Shannon Coombs, B.A. 2016, Brittany Galloway, B.S. 2016, and Layla West, B.A. 2016, have been named 2016 Fulbright Scholars.

Coombs and Galloway will complete English teaching assistantships in South Korea, while West will complete one in South Africa.

The Fulbright program was established in 1946 to increase mutual understanding between the United States and other countries through the exchange of people, knowledge and skills.

Hayley King, B.A. 2016, has been named a 2016 Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellow.

King will pursue a dual master’s degree in international relations and public relations, before beginning her career of service as a U.S. diplomat.

The Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellowship program, which was established in 2003 as a joint initiative between the U.S. State Department and Howard University, aims to enhance the excellence and diversity of the U.S. Foreign Service.
Will and Jada Smith Family Foundation Gives $35,000

The Will and Jada Smith Family Foundation gave $35,000 to Howard University. This donation was awarded to Howard University’s Gift A Senior campaign, a program that falls under the University’s Bridging the Gap Student Aid Campaign. Bridging the Gap was launched in 2012 to raise $25 million in scholarship and fellowship assistance to directly address the gaps in financial aid for current students. Funds from the program assist students in good academic standing who demonstrate high academic achievement but are unable to meet their financial obligations.

During the 2015-16 school year, 231 prospective graduates with outstanding balances totaling $1.6 million met the Gift A Senior criteria to receive a donor scholarship. Nearly half of those students had an Expected Family Contribution of zero.

The celebrity couple Will Smith and Jada Pinkett Smith started the Will and Jada Smith Family Foundation to help individuals and organizations advance in education, empowerment, health, community development, sustainability and the arts. The donation will guarantee that Howard’s rich legacy of academic excellence, leadership and service continues in spite of a student’s challenging economic hardships.

Howard Giving
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STATES WITH THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF ENROLLMENTS PER APPLICATION FOR THE INCOMING CLASS in rank order

- New York
- Maryland
- Georgia
- California
- Illinois
- Texas
- New Jersey
- Florida
- Virginia
- Pennsylvania
- North Carolina
- Louisiana
- Michigan
- Ohio
- District of Columbia
- Massachusetts
- Delaware
- Tennessee
- Alabama
- Mississippi
- South Carolina
- Connecticut

53,000+
Number of application materials (including incomplete applications) that the Office of Admissions handled for the 2016-17 academic year