Near the end of *Hamilton*, Lin Manuel Miranda's hero sings, “Legacy. What is a legacy? It’s planting seeds for a garden you never get to see.” I’ve been thinking a lot about legacy since the death of my friend Robert Binswanger, who passed away on March 16, 2019. A US Army veteran, civil rights activist, educator and public servant, Robert shared the Ron Brown Scholar Program’s unwavering faith in The Value of One, The Power of All. Though I am deeply saddened by the passing of my dear friend, I choose not to mourn the death but to celebrate the life and legacy of Robert Binswanger.

Robert’s devotion to our community exemplified the ethic of service that defines Ron Brown Scholar family. Professor Binswanger volunteered on our National Selection Committee for nearly 20 years, getting to know almost every one of the 465 Ron Brown Scholars along the way. His impact was especially strong on Scholars who attended Dartmouth, where he taught for decades. Like so many of this Program’s friends and mentors, Robert worked tirelessly to help these Scholars reach their full potential.

Hassan Hassen (RBS 2014 and Dartmouth ’18) remembers meeting Professor Binswanger at his Selection Weekend in 2014. Hassan graduated from South Cobb High School as the only early graduate Valedictorian in the Cobb County School District, and gained acceptance to Dartmouth College at the age of 16. When he got to Hanover, New Hampshire, Hassan recalls that the culture shock made for a tough transition. “Upon arrival, Professor Binswanger made me feel welcome by taking me around campus and sharing stories about his time as a student.”

My first year at Dartmouth was extremely difficult, and often I felt inadequate and questioned if I was good enough to be at a place like Dartmouth. But whenever things weren’t going well in my life, Professor Binswanger was always there for me; helping me get back on track. He made sure that I knew I had someone who believed in me and supported me. We talked on numerous occasions each term and met monthly from the day I got on campus, till the time I walked across the stage at graduation. Even after I graduated, we stayed in touch and I made several trips to Hanover. Professor Binswanger made sure that I knew that he would not give up on me, and this always made me feel so much better. He challenged me to do more because he saw the potential, I had within me, and I am a better person because of him. Whenever I would share my accomplishments with him, he would smile and laugh with excitement.”

Continued on Page 3
Alumni Join Advisory Board

In January 2019, the Program welcomed new Ron Brown Scholar alumni to the Program’s Advisory Board. With many alumni reaching mid-career and forging pathways to professional and leadership positions in a variety of fields, their experiences and insight combined with the expertise of the existing Board members will help strengthen and ensure the growth and sustainability of the Ron Brown Scholar Program.
Sterling Alic (RBS 2017), Daphra Holder (RBS 2003), Jeff Nelson (RBS 2006), Tracy “Ty” Moore II (RBS 2002), and Brandon Nicholson (RBS 2001) connected at AfroTech 2018 in San Francisco. Ty reported back: “I am feeling super inspired and energized, having recently attended AfroTech, the #1 conference for black people in tech. Jeff Nelson (RBS 2006, Co-Founder & CTO of Blavity) and his crew put together a generation-defining conference. Even if you’re not really into tech, I highly recommend that Scholars attend AfroTech 2019—it will offer inspiration, ideas and an engaged community of positive, motivated and high-energy black folks who are creating the future.”

As a student at Dartmouth, Hassan Hassen, RBS 2014, was supported and encouraged by Robert Binswanger. Hassan is now pursuing a Master of International Affairs at Columbia University.

Those accomplishments continue to mount. Hassan has garnered scholarships from Herbert Lehman, and—appropriately—the Alexander Hamilton and Friends Association. Most recently, Hassan was named a Pickering Fellow, a Foreign Service pathway program offered to ten undergraduate students nationally. As a Pickering Fellow, Hassan is pursuing a Master of International Affairs at Columbia University before beginning his journey as a Foreign Service Officer. Through this opportunity, he will be able to fulfill a long-standing goal of a career in public service while inspiring others to pursue their passions while also giving back. Already, he has held coveted internships at the Bureau of Counterterrorism and Countering Violent Extremism and also at the U.S. Embassy in the Dominican Republic.

The seeds Robert nurtured—the young people whose lives he helped shape—are flourishing. And like Hassan, they will, in their turn, go on to help and inspire others. That, of course, is the true meaning of legacy: it is not a product but an unceasing process, rolling down like waters. Ron and Alma Brown, Tom Boggs, Chris Pilaro, and now Robert Binswanger: these friends may be gone but their work lives on in us. Each of us a part of their legacy, cultivating and propagating the garden they helped plant by living our own lives of service.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Mallory
President and CEO
The 10th Annual American Journey Awards
Celebrating Visionaries in Education

The 10th annual Ronald H. Brown American Journey Awards—held March 22, 2019, at the J.W. Marriott in Washington, DC—were a celebration of the impact generous and visionary individuals can have on the lives of many.

The evening’s honoree, Esther Wojcicki, founded the Palo Alto High School Media Arts Program, which focuses on empowering students through the use of media (newspaper, magazine, yearbook, websites, video production, photography, radio and television). The program—which began in 1984 with 19 students producing a newspaper—has grown into one of the most distinguished and largest scholastic media programs in the nation. In 2016, more than 600 students produced nine publications out of a 25,000 square foot Media Arts Center.

Mrs. Wojcicki is also the author of the recently-published How to Raise Successful People: Simple Lessons for Radical Results and co-author of Moonshots in Education: Blended Learning in the Classroom. She is mother to three daughters: Susan Wojcicki, the CEO of YouTube; Anne Wojcicki, the CEO of 23andMe, and Janet Wojcicki, a professor of pediatrics at the University of California, San Francisco.

In accepting the award, Mrs. Wojcicki told the crowd of over 450 guests about her passion for teaching:
"I have 36 years teaching at Palo Alto High School, and I’m still teaching today. The reason I am still teaching today is because I love being with students. I love supporting kids and seeing where they can go and how dramatically their lives change when you believe in them... I think the most lasting gift a teacher can give a student is belief in themselves."

Scholar Alvin Hough, Jr. (RBS 2002), recipient of the Christopher A. Pilaro Fellowship in the Arts Award, knows the power of having adults who believe in you. Alvin is a pianist, conductor, and music director. He has played in 12 Broadway orchestras, and recently served as musical director for the Broadway revival of Once On This Island, which won the 2018 Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical.

"I stand here today, ultimately because of the results of two individual decisions made by two very different people in my life."

At left: American Journey Host Chaz Beasley, a 2004 Ron Brown Scholar, presents the Christopher A. Pilaro Fellowship in the Arts Award to 2002 Ron Brown Scholar Alvin Hough, Jr. At right: Board members Patrick Baker (far left) and Gavin McFarland (far right) with Program Founder Anthony Pilaro and 1997 Ron Brown Scholar Dr. Carmelle Norice-Tra, MD, PhD.
“Alvin began as he recalled his Pre-Kinder-
garten teacher, Dr. Swann, and the way
she changed his life two years after he was
her student. As the teacher on duty in the
afterschool program when Alvin was a first
grader, she noticed that his enthusiasm for
playing the classroom piano might be nur-
tured by lessons, and mentioned as much
to his mother, who followed through. “I’m
beyond grateful to my mother, Shari, who
is here tonight, for nurturing my creativity
in the best possible way. I’m grateful to my
wife, Rebecca, also here, for supporting my
ever-fluctuating lifestyle and for believing
in me even when I don’t... I want to help
my children find their creative outlet that
fulfills them as the piano has done for me.
I want to show them that nothing is out of
their grasp. I want to be their Dr. Swann.”

The Fellowship in the Arts was created
to honor the memory of Christopher A.
Pilaro, son of Founder Anthony M. Pilaro.
The Program was honored to have Anthony
Pilaro, his son Andrew Pilaro—a member
of the RBSP Board of Trustees—and their
guests in attendance for the tenth annual
American Journey Awards ceremony.

Scholar Dr. Carmelle Norice-Tra, MD,
PhD (RBS 1997), brought the audience to
tears with her moving tribute to Mr. Pilaro.
She recalled greeting him as he arrived
at the 2005 Triennial Conference in the
Berkshires:

“It was a bright and sunny day, but noth-
ing shined as brightly as the expression on
Mr. Pilaro’s face when he stepped out of the
car to meet us. It was the look of a proud
parent on a graduation day... it was the look
of pure joy over a lifetime achievement... it
was the look of great anticipation of things
to come. All that he so generously gave, and
all that he hoped for in giving... captured in
one look.

Mr. Pilaro, you said ’What has resulted
from this initial undertaking has far
exceeded my greatest hopes and expecta-
tions.’ Because of you... our greatest hopes
and expectations... and that of our families
and our communities... are being achieved.
May we continue to honor your great legacy
with our leadership and service in the bright
future ahead.”

Scholar Dr. Tiffany Jackson (RBS 1999),
recipient of the 2019 American Journey
Award for Emerging Leadership, is one
example of a Scholar whose ambitions were
realized with the support of the Program.
Dr. Jackson is a gynecologist who practices
in Texas and specializes in minimally inva-
sive gynecologic surgery.

In her remarks, she thanked Mr. Pilaro
directly for his generosity and vision.

“The Ron Brown Scholar Program helped
me achieve my dream of becoming a phy-
sician. The support of those in the room
tonight is also helping young, talented men
and women to achieve their dreams.” She
also expressed gratitude to her family and to
her patients. “It is an honor and a privilege
to journey with you to health.”

A record-setting $101,000 was raised for
the Program during Text to Pledge, which
was hosted by 2014 Scholar Colin Webb II
and led by a generous donation from Joshua
B. Rales and Susan Weissman.

The evening concluded with Ron Brown
Scholar Program Trustee Dr. Nicole Bates
inviting the 2019 scholarship Finalists to
the stage to introduce themselves. These 25
exceptional high school seniors represent
14 states; their interests include theater,
writing, computer science, engineering,
medicine, public policy, and social change.

Twenty-four hours later, after an intense
day of interviews, all 25 Finalists learned
that they were named to the 2019 class of
Ron Brown Scholars—a perfect conclusion
to the Program’s 23rd Selection Weekend.
Congratulations to the 2019 Ron Brown Scholars

Thank you to our 2019 Scholarship Sponsors: Goldman Sachs, Ann Horner, Donald S. and Kim Orkand, the Ron Brown Scholar Alumni Association and the Thomas Hale Boggs, Jr. Endowed Scholarship.

Christian Alexander
Hawthorne, California
Washington U. in St. Louis
Journalism/English

Destiny L. Brown
Baltimore, Maryland
New York University
Theatre/Psychology

Jason T. Brown
Kansas City, Missouri
Brown University
Creative Writing

Halle C. Clottey
Blue Island, Illinois
Harvard College
Computer Science

Cameron J. Cole
Chicago, Illinois
U. of Southern California
Mechanical Engineering

Makayta A. Cole
Hamilton, New Jersey
Stanford University
Computer Science

Iman M. Dancy
Raleigh, North Carolina
Yale University
Ethics/Political Studies

Linda N. Denson
New Orleans, Louisiana
Stanford University
Biomedical Engineering

Morgan C. Emokpae
Byram, Mississippi
Yale University
International Relations

Betlehem Engeda
San Leandro, California
Stanford University
Computer Science

Wallace R. Greene
Beaumont, Texas
Northwestern University
Chemical Engineering

Andy E. Iyabor
Austell, Georgia
Princeton University
Material Science and Engineering

Leodson S. jean Baptiste
Orange, New Jersey
Stanford University
Computer Science

Nicolette J. John
Brooklyn, New York
Harvard College
Biology

Jovoni O. Johnson-McCray
Conway, Arkansas
Rice University
Economics

Michael J. Lawes
Elmont, New York
Columbia University
Computer Science

Kinan Martin
Charlottesville, Virginia
MIT
Engineering

Timothy O. Ogunfunmi
Dallas, Texas | MIT
Electrical Engineering or Computer Science

Christine O. Ohenuzuwa
Blaine, Minnesota
Princeton University
Aerospace Engineering

Christian M. Porter
Atlanta, Georgia
Harvard College
Economics

Austen J. Roberson
Columbia, Maryland
MIT
Aerospace Engineering

Chase M. Swinton
Sherwood, Arkansas
Stanford University
Neuroscience

Kahmile A. Whitby
Norfolk, Virginia
MIT
Mechanical Engineering

Madeline A. Wright
San Pedro, California
University of Chicago
Neuroscience, Philosophy/Psychology

Mia T. Wright
Hampton, Virginia
Harvard College
Engineering
Fighting for Social Justice in Medicine
Antonia Henry (RBS 1998), MD, MPH, Commander (Select) U.S. Navy

Dr. Antonia Henry’s academic, professional, and military awards and attainments are incredibly impressive, diverse, perhaps intimidating, but unquestionably inspiring. She holds a BS with distinction from The University of Michigan, MD and MPH degrees from Harvard University’s Medical School and School of Public Health, and sharpshooter ribbons from the United States Navy. She was also a Rhodes Scholar finalist. She completed residency in General Surgery and fellowship training in Colon and Rectal Surgery at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, served as Director of Surgical Services at the NATO Multinational Medical Unit based at the Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan, and she is currently Head of the Combined Endoscopy Center of the Naval Medical Center in San Diego where she holds the military rank of Commander Select. There are still many professional goals and life-fulfilling dreams Antonia plans to pursue in the future.

Like many people who go into health care, Dr. Henry saw medicine as a pathway that combined service to others with care, Dr. Henry saw medicine as a path - her daughter Adela. At left: Dr. Antonia Henry with her parents and sister, Dr. Androni Henry. At right: Dr. Henry holds health care disparities. 

As for her military experience, Antonia applied for the Health Professions Scholarship Program to pay for the exorbitant costs of medical school tuition. She also thought it would open opportunities to be more involved in global health.

Though that part of her plan did not work out quite as she had hoped, her deployment to Afghanistan (October 2017-April 2018) did offer numerous opportunities to provide health care to US service members and Afghan nationals who were wounded in combat trauma and by suicide bombers. Dr. Henry found her deployment personally and professionally fulfilling because she knows those patients were able to receive far better medical care than if her team had not been there.

Antonia is confident about her extraordinary abilities and enthusiastic about her long-standing mentoring of minority students aspiring to become medical and health professionals. She is dedicated to fighting for social justice in all fields of medicine. In her 1998 high school essay submission for the Ron Brown Scholar Program, Antonia discussed being cited by white peers as the exception to the stereotype of African American because of her academic endeavors. In the intervening 21 years, she has attained academic and professional achievements so far above and beyond those of most people that the word “stereotype” is irrelevant. However, she says that in so many situations, “I’ve been the only in the room and that position lends itself to imposter syndrome where, despite my accomplishments, there is always that feeling that I don’t belong or that I don’t deserve to be at the table. As I’ve developed my confidence as a surgeon, I’ve come a long way towards taking my place at the table. I’ve also realized that the micro-aggressions I confront on a daily basis originate from someone else’s racism and the threat they perceive from my presence, talents and success. As a result, I’ve taken my power back and work to not shrink myself to make others feel comfortable.”

Reflecting on being a Ron Brown Scholar, Antonia says it is inspirational to be a member of a group filled with so many people making an impact. Her advice to young RBS interested in medicine is, “The fact is that medicine is a very straightforward path if you meet all of the wickets including passing USMLE exams, matching for residency, passing board exams, etc. It becomes very difficult if you start missing them, so do everything you can to meet them the first time. My advice would be to surround yourself with mentors for various parts of your professional life, tutors for difficult subjects, and peers on the same path for mutual support. There are many diverse ways to fight for social justice in all fields of medicine. Be creative and don’t restrict yourself to one specialty or another. Health care disparities affect all body systems!”

Dr. Henry is an avid believer in the power of mentorship. She cites the active involvement of influential adults and supportive peers as key to her own success. Throughout elementary, middle, and high school, her parents sought out mentors for her in the community who helped her to enroll in gifted and talented programs, attend specialized magnet schools and, during high school, participate in summer science programs at colleges and universities in engineering and biomedical research. Her
Selection Weekend Alumni Connections

Over 50 Ron Brown Scholar alumni participated in the activities of Selection Weekend 2019, including Saturday’s meeting of the Ron Brown Scholar Alumni Association (RBSAA).

Esther Owolabi (RBS 2011), RBSAA Vice President and Director of Strategic Planning, and Errol Saunders (RBS 2002), a member of the RBSAA Strategic Planning Committee, led a discussion of near-term and future initiatives of the Alumni Association, along with opportunities and challenges. Leslie Turner (RBS 2013), RBSAA Director of Regional Chapters, updated attendees on chapter delegates and events (see below for photos of recent gatherings).

Randy Tripp, Jr., Director of Scholarship and Alumni Services for the Ron Brown Scholar Program, previewed two examples of technology platforms the office is considering adopting to facilitate RBSAA communications and activities—one of these platforms will be rolled out in conjunction with the Program’s transition to Salesforce for data management.

RBSAA Regional Chapter Get-Togethers

Mentoring relationships between older and younger Scholars begin during Selection Weekend. Here, A.J. Rucker (RBS 2017) talks with Christian Porter (RBS 2019).

Scholars in New Haven met for brunch in April: In back: Idris Mitchell (RBS 2014), Michelle Osagie (RBS 2018), Mojique Tyler (RBS 2015), Marcus Shallow (RBS 2018), Jaylen Pittman (RBS 2015) and Deja Chappell (RBS 2016) In front: Chidera Osuju (RBS 2015) and Saaya Sugiyama-Spearman (RBS 2017).

Leslie Turner (RBS 2013), Ray Prior (RBS 2015) and Chaz Beasley (RBS 2004) at a gathering of North Carolina Research Triangle area alumni.
Scholar Job and Internship Spotlight

This time of years sees our undergraduate Scholars participating in summer internships and our graduating Scholars embarking on their post-University careers. Many of our alumni Scholars have also reached out to the Program with news of job changes and promotions. What follows is just a sampling of Scholar internship and job placements:

Isis Anderson (RBS 2017), a rising junior at Stanford University, and Jerry Registre (RBS 2017), a rising junior at Harvard College, will both participate in Leaders Network Partner Google’s Building Opportunities for Leadership and Development (BOLD) Immersion program.

Sara Hailu (RBS 2017, Ron Brown Goldman Sachs Scholar), a rising junior at Princeton University, will intern as a Summer Analyst with Leaders Network Partner Goldman Sachs.

Keylonnie Miller (RBS 2017), a rising junior at the University of Michigan, will intern at Facebook.

Jadal Williams (RBS 2017), a rising junior at Stanford University, will also spend his summer at Facebook as an engineering intern.

Adinawa Adjagbodjou (RBS 2016), a rising senior at Harvard College, will spend her summer as a Business Intern for Leaders Network Partner Lockheed Martin.

Maurice Ware (RBS 2016), a rising senior at Yale University, will join Leaders Network Partner Latham & Watkins for a Legal Recruiting Internship.

Jason Adulley (RBS 2015), a graduate of Williams College, will join Leaders Network Partner Deloitte as a Government and Public Service Talent (GPS) & Organizational Performance (T&OP) Analyst.

Irvin Akinseye (RBS 2015), a graduate of Brown University, will join Leaders Network Partner Goldman Sachs as an Investment Banking Analyst.

Montell Brown (RBS 2015), a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, will work as an eighth grade science teacher and advisor at the B.B. Comegys School.

Desmond Howard (RBS 2015), also a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, will join Microsoft as a Software Engineer.

Chidera Osuji (RBS 2015), a graduate of Yale University, will join Leaders Network Partner Latham & Watkins, LLP, as a Business Development Trainee.

Ray Pryor (RBS 2015), a graduate of Duke University, will teach middle school math in Memphis with Teach for America.

Matthew Shearin (2015), a graduate of Dartmouth College, will join JP Morgan as an Investment Banking analyst in their healthcare group.

Sean Means (RBS 2014), a graduate of Stanford University and the Wake Forest University School of Business, will join Leaders Network partner Deloitte as a Federal Consulting Analyst.


Rassan Walker (2012) just passed the 2 year mark as a Software Engineer at Pinterest.


Folake Dosu (2007) will join The Walt Disney Studios in LA to work on the CRM Marketing team and be responsible for Acquisition and Growth for Disney Movie Rewards. In this role, she’ll be promoting upcoming theatrical and at-home releases in digital marketing campaigns and engaging Disney fans online.

Tracy “Ty” Moore II (2002) and his business partner/fiancée, Rebecca, are preparing to launch the social media and content platforms of their company, VeraVis—a boutique executive coaching and leadership development firm that helps high-octane, visionary leaders crush it sustainably.

Amanda K. Johnson (2002) has recently moved to NYC and started work as Director of Ambulatory Care Integration for New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation. She will continue to see patients in the primary care clinic and the hospital in Harlem.

William Chichester, III’s (2001) talent acquisition lead role has expanded to include the hiring efforts for Capital One’s new partnership with Wal-Mart. This is in addition to his current responsibilities of leading the non-Tech experienced hire efforts for the firm’s Small Business Credit Card and Bank divisions.

Lauren Goins, PhD (2000) is currently in her final years as a post-doctoral fellow in the Molecular and Cellular Developmental Biology department at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

Julian Jordan (2000) is currently living and working in experience and digital design work as well as product strategy in São Paulo, Brazil.

Jordan Brewer (1997) is now an Engineering Manager at Box, where he manages a team of four people.
Four Years of Successful Connections
RBSP’s Partnership with Goldman Sachs

The commitment by Goldman Sachs is the largest corporate investment received to date by the Ron Brown Scholar Program. It underscores both Goldman Sachs’ commitment to promote diversity and the evolving national reputation of the Ron Brown Scholar Program.

Since forming the partnership in 2015, Goldman has:

- Named 51 Ron Brown Goldman Scholars;
- Hired 27 Ron Brown Scholars and Captains into their summer programs as summer analysts;
- Hired 8 Scholars—Aaron Gravely, Chanel Washington, Azeezat Adeleke, Njeri Grevious, Devin Cash, Kai Ross, Kani Keita and Irvin Akinseye—to work full time with the firm;
- Appointed Dane Holmes, Goldman’s Head of Human Capital Management and Head of Pine Street, as the Chair of the Ron Brown Scholar Program Board of Trustees.

The following Goldman employees have served on the Ron Brown Scholar National Selection Committee: Dane Holmes, Annie Hopkins, Cindy Joseph, Chauncey Nartey, Chauncey Nartey, and Kai Ross.

Goldman Sachs' Dane Holmes is Chair of the Ron Brown Scholar Program Board of Trustees.

Goldman Sachs hosted the Leaders Summit at their New York headquarters in 2017, and will do so again in 2019. Goldman’s Pre-Summit Engineering Symposium in 2017 was attended by over 120 Ron Brown Scholars and Captains, and this year they are one of three sponsors of the Women in STEM Breakfast.

Ron Brown Captain Stephan Johnson, who works in Customer Acquisition for Goldman, serves on the Leaders Network Advisory Council.

Kani Keita
RBS 2008
Vice President,
Merchant Banking

Chanel Washington
RBS 2011
Associate

Irvin Akinseye
RBS 2015
Investment Banking Analyst

Devon Cash
RBS 2014
Investment Banking Analyst

Azeezat Adeleke
RBS 2013
Legal Analyst, Derivatives and Commodities

Njeri Grevious
RBS 2013
Senior Analyst, Model Risk Governance

Kani Keita
RBS 2008
Vice President, Merchant Banking

Kai Ross
RBS 2005
Vice President, Technology Strategy

LEADERS NETWORK PARTNERS
I am proud to announce that I will attend Howard University and have been named a Bison STEM Scholar after competing in a national selection process,” Jonathan Gaither, a student from Annondale, Virginia, shared on the Guided Pathway Support Program (GPS) platform on April 20. Twenty-two GPS navigators and staff members replied with messages of congratulations, including Danielle Andrews from Tampa, Florida: “That’s so awesome!! Congratulations!! Hopefully we’ll run into each other on campus! #HUclassof23.”

And so began the most exciting time in the college application process for the high school seniors in GPS, as they take stock of their acceptances and financial aid packages and choose the colleges and universities where they will work towards their undergraduate degrees.

To date, GPS has helped 2,263 students from 835+ high schools across the US and abroad navigate the journey to college. Among them are:

- Navigator Naija Simon, who was invited to NYU Candidate Weekend in Abu Dhabi and was accepted as an NYU Abu Dhabi Student, a highly selective opportunity.
- Navigator Curtis Mark, who was the only student delegate to represent the United States before the United Nations in a summit in Vienna, Austria, on preventing youth drug and alcohol abuse.
- Navigator Renise Waples, who created a new website on mental health and depression as a part of a project with Girls Who Code.

GPS has a 98.9 percent college enrollment rate, according to data provided by the National Student Clearinghouse on the GPS Class of 2017 and the GPS Class of 2018. The top ten colleges attended by GPS Class of 2017 and 2018 students are:

1. Howard University
2. SUNY Stony Brook University
3. University of Connecticut
4. New York University
5. University of Virginia
6. Cornell University
7. Harvard University
8. UNC-Chapel Hill
9. Morehouse College
10. North Carolina A&T State University

More GPS Navigators were named Ron Brown Scholars this year than ever before. Congratulations to Makayta Cole, Halle Clottey, Bethlehem Engeda, andLeodson Jean-Baptiste for being named to the 2019 class of Ron Brown Scholars.

In 2019, GPS passed yet another major milestone: 1,093 parents across the country have claimed accounts and maintain an active presence on the GPS Workplace by Facebook platform.

GPS is now recognized as a national college access organization by both The Common Application and The Coalition for College, the country’s two leading college application management platforms. Students applying for college through either platform may now list “The Guided Pathway Support Program: A Ron Brown Scholar Program initiative” as the community-based organization that helped them with the college application process.

In early May, GPS learned that the College Board had named the program a Fee Waiver Agency. Fee waivers will allow eligible GPS students to take the SAT or SAT Subject Tests for free and receive other benefits to apply to college.

GPS College Decision Day 2019

Georgena Williams: “I am ecstatic to announce that I will be furthering my education at Harvard College as apart of the Class of 2023! Thank you to the Ron Brown GPS community and to all of those who have supported me throughout the journey!! #Harvard2023”

Madison Myles: “I can hardly wait to continue my passion for soccer and education at the Mecca! Thank you to the Ron Brown GPS community for your assistance and support! #HU23 #bleedblue #gobison #studentathlete”

Michael Lawes: “I will be attending Columbia University studying Computer Science this fall. I’m excited to be apart of this program and help other people succeed! GO LIONS!!!!!!!”

GPS EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS
parents introduced her to several Black Obstetricians and Gynecologists in their town who let her shadow them during clinics and surgeries and introduced her to patient care and the highs and lows of “being on call.” During college, Antonia was part of a small and very supportive pre-med program at the University of Michigan. They had their own academic advisor (a Black woman who often served as a mother figure and helped her to survive in the competitive environment). At Harvard, she feels very fortunate to have become friends with a group of women who studied for exams and the USMLE together and provided moral support for each other during the tougher medical rotations. The women’s friendship continued through residency, fellowship, and into the present. They have been bridesmaids and godmothers to each other’s children, and even call each other for consults! Antonia has also enjoyed a mutually supportive relationship with her sister, Dr. Androni Henry, her best friend. Androni is an Emergency Medicine physician and Medical Director of acute care services at a hospital in Pittsburgh. They overlapped at the University of Michigan and supported each other through medical school and residency, often during late night calls commiserating about the unique challenges of being Black and female in medicine, difficult patients, and professional growing pains.

After completing her military service, Dr. Henry would like to work in a medically underserved community and set up a colorectal cancer screening and treatment program to streamline screening procedures to diagnose advanced colorectal polyps and cancers and procure referrals to specialty care based on the results of those procedures. In many underserved communities, access to screening tests, gastroenterologists, surgeons and oncologists is hampered by economic and insurance barriers, lack of specialty trained providers, a patchwork of medical care, and the absence of registries to ensure adherence to surveillance guidelines.

When asked how she will know that she has been successful, Antonia pointed out that type A overachievers in medicine never think they are done. However, in a nutshell, she says it is all about impact for the people we serve. Her hopes are that one day there will be a narrowing in the gap between majority populations and the historically underserved in terms of colorectal cancer diagnoses, stage at diagnosis, adherence to guideline appropriate care, and survival. Having recently attained board certification in two specialties (General Surgery and Colorectal Surgery) and fellowship in two professional societies (the American College of Surgeons, FACS, and the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons, FASCRS), her concrete next steps are to become more involved in those societies and move up the leadership ladder with the goal of affecting positive changes in colorectal cancer treatment as she climbs.

In addition to her professional achievements, Antonia and her husband, Martin Diaz III, are the proud parents of a two-year-old daughter, Adela. They are expecting their second child in June.