



*The
August Ball
August 5, 2023*

*The Bluffs Ballroom
University of Wisconsin - La Crosse*



Debutantes

Carma Pierrha Banks

Carma is a sophomore at Logan. Visual Art is her favorite subject in school. She enjoys drawing landscapes, sunsets, and also enjoys painting. With talent like this, it's only natural that she wants to be an interior designer after graduation. She wants to find a college that has a strong program in interior design, where she can learn all that'll be needed when she opens her own interior design business. Her family is important to her. She shows her appreciation by helping her mother at her beauty shop.



Shannon Kay Hicks

Shannon is a junior at Logan High School. However, she plans on graduating early, at the end of the next school year. English is a favorite subject for her. She enjoys creative writing and writes poetry and other narratives as an effective outlet. She wants to go to Western Tech as a beginning step for exploring her career options. She is a member of the Girls' Group, a support group for teenage girls, sponsored by Hope Restores. She enjoys being with her family. She has also enjoyed being a member of this

year's court. She says it's fun, and learning the style of ballroom dancing, is a new and enjoyable experience for her.

Zakhia Jahna Mack

Zakhia is a sophomore at Logan High School. Her favorite subject is math. Zakhia wants a career in networking and marketing. She enjoys encouraging other people and wants to help clients organize and grow their businesses. She is a lifelong basketball player and enjoys playing for Logan's Girls' basketball team. When she's not in school, she is involved with Hope Restores Girls' Club, B.L.A.C.K.'s Ujima club and shopping at the mall and online.





Arianna Emone Martin

Arianna is a sophomore at Central High School. She and her family recently moved to La Crosse from Gulfport, Mississippi. She finds the town of La Crosse to be very supportive. Her favorite subject in school is algebra. All math-related subjects are her favorite subjects. She is very fortunate because there are plenty of career opportunities she can pursue with the strength of her math skills.

Presently, she is interested in learning more about

becoming a Certified Nursing Assistant. When she's not in school she enjoys being with friends.

Bryanna Justice Mayer *

Bryanna is a senior at Central H.S. Very active in track, basketball, and softball, sports activities have been important to her throughout her school career. She is an active member of the YMCA's Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Basketball community group which has been in competitions in Madison, Milwaukee, and other Wisconsin cities. Bryanna is also a cellist in the school orchestra. She plans to pursue a college degree with a career choice in real estate.



Mya Elyce Mosier

Mya will be a junior at Onalaska HS in the fall. She is an avid art student and has participated in numerous visual arts contests and exhibitions sponsored within the community. As an artist for Melanin Beauty Bar, she designed outfits for their winter fashion show. She has won 1st and 2nd places in art competitions in recent years for her colorful pictures. Myra also enjoys ceramics. She plans to attend Minneapolis College of Art and Design after

graduation. After college, she wants to relocate to Chicago or Los Angeles, where her goal is to be an art director in films.



Kyra Pavela-Lee

Kyra is a Sophomore at Central HS. Her favorite subjects in school are English and history. She is active on the debate team, having been part of the team that won a state debate award last season. She uses her skills in debate as practice for her future career as a lawyer specializing in criminal law. She loves sports, especially basketball, softball, and volleyball. She is active in the Central summer sports program and has been an active member of the Ujima Club sponsored by B.L.A.C.K. for two years. She has looked forward to being a member of this court because it has turned out to be a fun and rewarding experience. She has found her previous studies in dance to be very helpful when learning tonight's routines in ballroom dance. She has one dog named Zara and is the oldest of four sisters.



Daezhanae Arhie Rochester

Daezhanae is a Junior at Logan HS. Her favorite subject in school is math. But she also has an interest in the law and wants to be a lawyer. She has a gift for presenting her position in debate, a talent all lawyers need to have. Her hobbies include hiking, swimming, and shopping. She is also active in the Ujima Program, a mentoring program for younger students who are having problems in school. Her previous dance lessons and skills have been very helpful in her learning and teaching tonight's choreography to her

fellow debutantes, escorts, and beaux. A lifelong animal lover, she enjoys sharing three dogs, Raya, Freya and Buttercup, and several cats and kittens with her sisters.

Tyrionna Ashaneigh Rochester

Tyrionna is an early graduate of Logan HS. She graduated one year ahead of time, in June, 2023. Her career goal is to be an English teacher. She will be attending Western Technical College for one year and then UWL for the remaining three years of college. At present, she is studying to become a Certified Nursing Assistant while going to school. She enjoys taking care of her two dogs, Buttercup, age 3, and Raja, age 12, and a hamster named Kyle. She is a member of the Girls' Group, an enrichment group for teenage girls. Being a member of this year's Juneteenth Court has been a rewarding and enjoyable experience for her.





Jalesheah Laliah Simpson

Jalesheah is a recent graduate of Logan HS. She will be a freshman at Western Technical College in the fall. She wants to enroll in the maximum amount general education classes as possible to prepare for eventual admission to UW Madison, where she intends to study psychology. She has been a dance student at Misty's Dance Unlimited for four years and is active in hip-hop competition teams as

part of her dance experience. Her main hobby is crocheting marine animals, such as octopi, jellyfish and whales. She was able to successfully sell her "pets" at the Juneteenth Celebration in Riverside Park. Jalesheah wanted to be on this year's court in order to take part in the etiquette classes offered and learn the art of ballroom dance. She was hoping this experience would be fun. It has proven to be just that.



Sharissa Dawn Miller-Tillman *

Sharissa is a Sophomore at Logan HS. Working at the award-winning Meringue Bakery, she likes learning how to bake the many sweets. Sharissa enjoys swimming and reading realistic modern fiction, such as novels and short stories. Her career goal is to be a lawyer, taking advantage of her strength as a logical thinker. A good debater, she is quite comfortable standing up for what she believes in. She loves to crochet and enjoys taking care of her pet cat, Little Bit, age 2. Her dream is to attend

Charleston College in Charleston, SC. With its picturesque surroundings, Charleston has a strong pre-law program and a solid law school curriculum.

Beaus

Antoine Dontae Hardie Jr.

Antoine will be a senior in September at Central HS. He is active in football and track and loves math because it comes to him easily. English is also a favorite. He plans to play Division One football at a university out of state - maybe Troy University in Alabama, Chattanooga University, or Brown University. He enjoys being a member of a large family and often serves in family and community leadership roles. He choreographed one of the modern pieces you will see tonight. His leadership skills have served him well with family members, and teammates. He will miss playing football at Central but looks forward to new adventures. He has enjoyed learning ballroom dancing and the new experiences of being on this court.



James Brody Richardson

James is a sophomore at Logan. He is returning this year, having taken part in the first August Ball as an escort last year. He enjoys swimming, football and video games. He finds an ease in communicating with people and as a member of the Ujima Club he is able to help students work on their academic and social skills as well as their mental health. This empathy and a love for biology has helped him choose the goal of becoming a family doctor. He has also discovered a love for history. He was excited about returning to this year's August Ball to be a part of a connection to La Crosse's Black History. He's impressed with the energy exerted by adults in an effort to do something positive and fun for young people. He feels that through the August Ball, he is able to be a positive example for other black and brown youth here in La Crosse.



Escorts



Jamyian Shoundell Jones

Jamyian is a freshman student at Central HS. Coming from Longfellow MS where he was active on their basketball and football teams, he plans to continue playing at Central. He has played teams in Winona, La Crescent, and surrounding areas. Spending time at the library, he loves reading novels, especially novels about urban living. He has been active at Hope Restores in their Boys' Group and would like to take part in B.L.A.C.K.'s activities when he enters high school this fall. He has enjoyed the experience of learning the art

of ballroom dance and sharing what he has learned with his family.

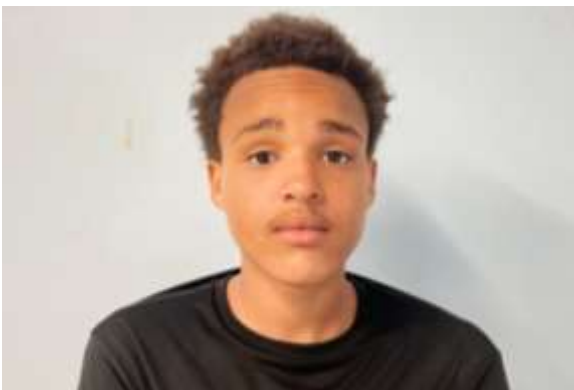
Elmer Lee McCloud Jr.

Elmer is a Central HS freshman. He will continue to be active in track, football, and basketball, as he was in middle school. He has participated in past La Crosse School District's Summer Youth Experience Trips and community groups accentuating black culture. For relaxation, Elmer enjoys being with his friends. He is developing more independence by being a member of various social groups and using his talents on sports teams. Being a member of this Juneteenth Court is one of the many ways he continues to bond with close friends, gaining confidence and maturity.



Kentrell Jaquez McCoy

Kentrell will be a freshman in September at Central HS. Leaving Lincoln MS, he was active in basketball and football and wants to continue those sports at Central. He is a Straight A student and has been encouraged to enroll in Advanced Placement courses as a freshman. He looks forward to taking AP Math and Spanish, his favorites. He was a part of B.L.A.C.K.'s Youth Summer Experience Trip to Tennessee in the summer of 2022. At home, he enjoys being with the family cat Isabell, Izzy for short. He is glad to be a member of this year's Juneteenth Court.





Marques Jonathan Simmons

Marques is a freshman at Logan HS. Coming from Logan MS, he has just started playing basketball and soccer, which he discovered he really enjoys and has dreams of one day being an NBA player. He is also active in La Crosse School District's Summer basketball and soccer league programs. His favorite subjects in school are science and math. He enjoys being a member of this year's Juneteenth Court and looks forward to dressing in formal attire for the event. He has enjoyed learning the dances

and meeting the other members of the court but admits that ballroom dancing is outside the box for him, not something he'd normally do. Turns out - he loves it.

Amari Lee Thompson

Amari will be a freshman at Logan HS in September, coming from Longfellow MS. Amari enjoys playing basketball and football and wants to continue on teams at Logan. As a visual artist he enjoys drawing people and freestyle creations. He is a caring and empathetic person who hopes to join more school and community activities that are helpful to others. His empathetic nature comes from being a member of a large family with four brothers and one sister. He thinks being a part of this Juneteenth Court is a good experience and finds it very enjoyable.



Kristail Rose Young



Kristail is entering their second year at Western Technical College majoring in Special Education with an emphasis on Autism Spectrum Disorder. Their goal is to work in Occupational or Physical Therapy. Some therapists in these fields specialize in helping others with autism function in the activities of daily living. When they're not studying, they enjoy horseback riding, a hobby they've loved since childhood.

Junior Escorts

Jermaine Tobias Davis

Jermaine is one of our younger escorts, 10 years old. He is a student at Coulee Montessori Charter School, where he excels math, his favorite subject. He enjoys basketball with the Cycle Breakers, a group sponsored by Hope Restores. He is active with the Boys and Girls Club, and the YMCA. He wants to support his community projects like the August Ball, showcasing his love of dance and music. He enjoys being a member of a large family, consisting of two sisters, members of the first Juneteenth Court last year, as well as one brother. He loves traveling with his family to multiple states and Jamaica, his favorite spot.



Kristian Adam Joseph Tisdale

Kristian is an eighth-grade honor roll student at Holmen MS. Even though he does well in all subjects, his favorites are geography and math. He enjoys challenging himself in his school work. He's also active in football, where he has participated in competitions with West Salem, Logan and Onalaska Middle Schools. He is also on the school track team. For fun, he enjoys working out at the YMCA and also enjoys swimming. Other activities include camping in Northern Wisconsin on Lake Delton. He wants to eventually



become an engineer and an architect.

Carter Mitrel Viner

Carter is our youngest escort... 10 years old. He acquired a love ballroom dancing by participating in last year's premier August Ball. Carter is home-schooled. He plays football and basketball through the La Crosse Park and Rec Park Department summer football camp through UWL. He also enjoys swimming. He likes being creative and expressive in ballroom dance. This dancing experience is also an opportunity for him to get to know other kids that he can identify with. After high school, he wants to go to an HBCU and learn more about his heritage.



August Ball- Saturday, August 5, 2023

Bluffs Ballroom at University of Wisconsin, La Crosse

Doors Open- 5:30 pm Dinner Served- 6:00 pm

Musical Accompaniment- Dave Marck

Program- 6:30 pm

Black National Anthem..... Lift Every Voice..... LaKisha Hudson
Land Acknowledgement.....Tashyra Jackson
Greetings..... Shaundel Spivey
Keynote Speaker Mayor Mitch Reynolds
Make Them Hear You..... Aaryn Jones
Cello Solo.....Romance (original)..... Titus Gunderson
Unforgettable..... Michael Angelo

Historical Significance of the August Ball

Lilian DavenportRe-enactor..... Denise Christy
George Edwin TaylorRe-enactor..... Darrell Ferguson
Power PointEFP – Historian, Co-founder.....Rebecca Mormann-Krieger

Hope Restores Scholarships Winners

Co-founder Hope Restores..... Shamawyah Curtis

Presentation of Juneteenth Court

The Skaters, Op.183 Emile Waldtenfel



Additional Remarks from Historical Figures



Modern Selections from Juneteenth Court

Classic Man..... Rozay Hardie
Upgrade You..... Beyonce
Cupid Shuffle..... Bryson Bernard aka, "Cupid"

Juneteenth Court and Family

Photos, VideosTheresa Smerud, Phil S. Addis
Continued DancingCourt, Family, Friends
D Jay Deatre Immanuel

Not Ur Ordinary DEEJAY Radio Show

Programs Layout, Peter Nelson
Content, Denise Christy

Printer LAX Print.com

Videographer Phil S. Addis

Photographer Theresa Smerud

Choreographer Nikki Balsamo

Owner- La Crosse Dance Centre

Hair and Make-Up Consultants

Melanin Beauty Bar Choya Woods, Owner

Urban Beauty Darren Lee, Owner

Bianca Martin – Hair Consultant, Gabbie Rose- Make-Up Consultant

E Spa and TLYN Make Up Studio's Zen Den..... Estina Hanes, * Owner

Ruth Styles salon.....Keyona Banks, Owner

August Ball Committee

Tashyra Jackson..... co-founder, Hope Restores
Shamawyah Curtisco-founder, Hope Restores
Shaundel Spivey..... Executive Director, B.L.A.C.K.
Denise ChristyProducer, Enduring Families Project
Bianca Martin..... Choreographer- Upgrade You

Debutantes' Gowns Courtesy of:

Beautiful Butterfly Project Judy Wolff, owner
Salvation Army Estina Hanes, provider



Beaus' Formal Attire provided by
Charlotte's Bridal Shop



Etiquette Lessons

Jane Morgan, Instructor Playing By The Rules
Viterbo University Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Department
Melissa McCullum, Marlene De La Cruz- Guzman Hosts



Special Thanks to the Following:

La Crosse Community Foundation

UWL Diversity and Inclusion

City of La Crosse

Woodman's

Trane Technologies

Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration

Altra Credit Union

AARP



And a host of other organizations that contributed

To the Juneteenth Event and

Our second August Ball



Thank You also to those who served on

The Juneteenth Committee



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A Very Special Thank You to the following

For their contributions



Michael Slevin- Assistant Director, University Centers/UWL

Kelly Kamrowski- Director of Catering at Chartwells Higher Education Dining Services- UWL

University of Wisconsin- La Crosse Diversity Council

Jenna Rae Mills- Founder of Crown Academy Coaching

Kathy Wateski, Floral Manager Festival Foods, Village Shopping Center



Flower Girls



Ana Anderson



Danahji Jones

Jakiah Long



Sophia Anderson



Naomi Lawrence

Janiah Long



Masiyah Brown



Ayanna Simmons

Corina Weaver



Trinity Brown

Serena Weaver



Juneteenth Scholarship Winners



Chaya Davis



Cornell Banks



Ashuna Broadnax



Saniea Fahy-Barnes



Performers



Dave Marck- Dave has resided and performed in New York City for the past 40+ years. He has worked for Jacques d'Amboise's National Dance Institute, as an accompanist for the New School of Jazz and Contemporary Music, and has performed with several noted performers, such as Chloris Leachman, and Tony Yazbek. Returning to La Crosse annually, his performance with local musicians Greg Balfany, Karyn Quinn and Rich MacDonald on Viterbo's Mainstage has become a much-anticipated annual event. He also conducts workshops at local schools and universities.

LaKisha Hudson- LaKisha has lived in the La Crosse area for 24 years. The proud mother of seven children, 4 girls and 3 boys, she is presently a Homeless Outreach Specialist at ILR, in La Crosse, and serves as a board member and grants committee member at the La Crosse Community Foundation. A talented performer, she is an acting member in Enduring Families Theatre Group and frequently sings 'Lift Every Voice' for local programs, such as the MLK Program, and the Juneteenth Celebration.



Aaryn Jones- Aaryn has been a La Crosse resident for several years. A Viterbo grad in 2020, his BFA is in studio art with an emphasis in printmaking. He's been an active member of the performance community, while a student at Viterbo, at Burns Supper Performances, and as an actor at La Crosse Community Theatre. He was recently in LCT's production of *Rent*. Currently he's Assistant Store Leader at Kwik Trip.

Titus Gunderson- Titus has been playing the cello for 12 years in the La Crosse area. About to start his freshman year at Luther College in Decorah, IA, he will pursue a performance degree. He started his studies with Sister Marcella Steffes, cello teacher at Viterbo and continued his studies with Derek Clark, cello professor at UWL. He looks forward to continuing his studies with Dr. Kacey Clopton at Luther College.



Michael Angelo- Michael is an actor, vocal recording artist, and music producer from New Orleans. They've recently performed in Appleseed Theatre's *Into the Woods*, *Don't Let The Pigeon Drive the Bus*, and *SpongeBob*. At LCT, they've been seen in *Scrooge in Rouge* and at the Muse Theatre in *Little Shop of Horrors*. Their self-penned jazz, soul, and RnB debut album began streaming on Halloween of 2021. Release of their sophomore album, *The Empress*, will be on Halloween of 2023.

Darrell Ferguson - Darrell is a native of Chicago. After years of active-duty military service, he received a BA in German in 2001 from U. Illinois. Relocated to La Crosse, he is currently working as an Employment Navigator for Goodwill North Central Wisconsin. As an actor for the Enduring Families Project he portrays George Taylor, a La Crosse resident and the first African American to run for president in 1904 against Theodore Roosevelt. He enjoys lively German conversations, speaking and learning new languages with all who are willing.



The August Ball

The August Ball was an annual festival celebrated in towns along the Mississippi River. The ball was held in remembrance of the 1804 Haitian Independence, which marked the end of slavery there. African Americans in the United States identified with this emancipation day long before the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution officially ended American slavery in 1865.

News of the Haitian rebellion traveled on riverboats up the Mississippi River. A successful slave insurrection in Haiti gave African Americans hope for the end of slavery here. The gathering in La Crosse each year brought communities together. People traveled long distances to attend the August Ball. In addition to the social, economic and political exchanges, they also shared their stories with the next generation.

The August Ball was organized by the African American Literary and Debating Society. This vital women's group offered educational and social resources to the community. African American women's groups and small businesses were instrumental in supporting African Americans as they moved across this country after the Civil War. The Freedman's Bureau, whose mission was to provide relief and help to formerly enslaved people, never came to the Midwest. But the August Ball carried the day.

On the day of the August Ball everyone gathered in the morning for a mid-day picnic at Levi Park (Riverside Park today). There would be guest speakers calling for political action as visitors were meeting with the locals. All afternoon people opened their homes so neighbors could meet out-of-town visitors. In the evening there would be a grand ball highlighted with fireworks, dining and dancing. This was a perfect social occasion for young people to meet.

Summarized from notes in Black La Crosse, Wisconsin 1850-1906 written by Dr. Bruce Mouser, digital copy at UW-La Crosse, Murphy Library. Summarized and supplemented with additional research by Rebecca Mormann-Krieger.

Historical Consultants

La Crosse County Historical Society – Fiscal Sponsor, EFP

Amy Vach, Curator - La Crosse County Historical Society

Rebecca Mormann-Krieger, Historian - Enduring Families Project

*Jennifer DeRocher, Anita Doering, Scot Bauer - Archivists
La Crosse Public Library*

*Laura Godden- Archivist.....Murphy Library Special Collections, Archives
University of Wisconsin - La Crosse*

Historical Photos



The colored people of the Mississippi valley have decided to hold their emancipation celebration at La Crosse instead of Winona, Aug. 1. Ex-Congressman Lynch, of Mississippi, is to deliver the oration.



New York Public Library

EMANCIPATION CELEBRATION.
La Crosse August 1st. The Home Literary Debating Society gave a grand ball at Norden's hall Monday August 1st, in honor of President Lincoln's freeing the American Negro, Jan. 1st 1863, the attendance was large and the supper was grand, being under the supervision of a committee of ladies consisting of Mrs. Lewis Harrison, Mrs. Benj. Kane, Mrs. Frederick H. Ball, Miss Nancy Williams, Mrs. Emma Smith.

Distinguished people present, from Sparta. Mrs. Grunes, Miss Stewart, Miss Kitty Wilkins, of Winona, Minn.; Mr. and Mrs. John Ball, of Detroit, Mich.; Mr. Athnr Burke, of Minneapolis, Minn.; Mr. and Mrs. Schooly, Mr. Benjamine Jenkins, of Boston, Mass.; Mrs. Wallace, of Hokah, Minn.; Geo. E. Taylor, of this city; Mr. Geo. E. and Miss Nancy Williams, of Augusta, Ga.; and a host of others too numerous to mention. Everything passed off in grand style and those who participated, say, they never enjoyed themselves better.



La Crosse County
Historical Society



***Emergence of Beautillion-Cotillion Balls
in African American Society***

