

2002

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Recommended Citation

Coleman, Amaziah (2002) "Undergraduate Opportunity Spotlight," *The Catalyst*: Vol. 1: Iss. 2, Article 4.

DOI: 10.18785/cat.0102.04

Available at: <http://aquila.usm.edu/southernmisscatalyst/vol1/iss2/4>

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Undergraduate Opportunity Spotlight: The Luckyday Scholarship

By Amaziah Coleman

Frank R. Day, former chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Trustmark National Bank, had a desire to help young people succeed. Mr. Day's Luckyday Foundation, the result of this desire, funds the Luckyday Foundation Citizenship Scholars Program at The University of Southern Mississippi. The Luckyday program funds scholarships for Mississippi high school seniors who are exemplary student leaders and outstanding citizens committed to continued involvement in community service.

The scholarship provides 100 entering freshman with scholarships of \$2,000 per year with up to four years renewable. Each year, 100 freshmen scholarships are added and the previously awarded scholarships renewed, provided recipients continue to meet eligibility criteria. When fully funded, the program will provide annual awards to 400 students, in addition to 10 study-abroad scholarships. The Luckday study-abroad scholarships, which award \$4,000 annually for a scholar's choice of Southern Miss' study-abroad programs, provide an extra incentive for recipients to excel. The gift will provide more than \$800,000 annually to The University of Southern Mississippi, the largest gift in school history.

Luckyday Scholars are provided extra support and encouragement to help assure their academic success through a required Luckyday Citizenship seminar, which prepares scholars to be student leaders on campus and in the community. The course is designed to familiarize students with the Luckyday program

and the concepts of service-learning and community engagement. Scholars also engage in a University 101 study skills course, designated housing assignments to encourage a living/learning community, community service learning requirements, and many other opportunities. Some areas of service where students are involved include Forrest General Hospital, Habitat for Humanity, MS Reads, MS Mentors, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and local animal shelters.

The Luckyday Scholars greatly appreciate Mr. Frank Day for his generosity and endeavors to help young people succeed. The Luckyday Program provides an opportunity for scholars to expand their college experience while learning more about community service and engaging in lifelong commitments to serving the community.

*This information and more about The University of Southern Mississippi's Luckyday Foundation Citizenship Scholars Program can be found at the Luckyday Web site:
<http://www.usm.edu/luckyday>.



Amaziah Coleman, daughter of the late Elder Author Wayne and Mrs. Roy Ann Coleman of Richton, Mississippi, is a

sophomore biology (pre-medicine) major at The University of Southern Mississippi. She is a Luckyday and Honors College scholar and currently serves as a member of Southern Style 2004, Afro-American Student Association, Gamma Beta Phi honor society, Honors Student Association, community service chair of Alpha Epsilon Delta, and Luckyday Leadership Team. She is also an Honors College Ambassador. Amaziah enjoys reading, playing the piano and flute, and volunteering at Forrest General Hospital and in her hometown. Her plans are to pursue a career as a pediatrician. Amaziah is honored to be a part of the first class of Luckyday scholars at Southern Miss. Through her Luckyday experience, she is gaining a greater understanding and appreciation for service. She feels that serving the community not only benefits those served, but also benefits those who are serving. She believes that the best leaders are those who serve others. Amaziah is thankful for her family and for the opportunities God has allowed for her to be of service. Being a Luckyday scholar has taught Amaziah that one person really can make a difference in a community and in the world.