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San Diego White House Convening

In conjunction with the First Lady's Reach Higher Initiative, San Diego State University hosted an invitation-only gathering of committed leaders and commitment-makers focused on improving school counseling preparation, programs and practices with the goal of increasing access for students. This event happened in November, 2014 and our program was represented by the following people:

Dr. Pam Paisley, Dr. Karen Griffith, Dr. George McMahon, Dr. Deryl Bailey, Dr. Darris Means, Dr. Diane Cooper, Brandee Appling and Taryne Mingo

“The White House Convening at San Diego State was an extraordinary experience. I appreciated the diversity of the Georgia Team and the range of commitments that we made to improve educational experiences and outcomes as well as to enhance college and career readiness for all students in Georgia. This is an incredibly exciting time nationally -- I would even say historical time -- for school counseling as a specialty of the profession!” - Dr. Pam Paisley

Tameka Oliphant Awarded NBCC Fellowship

Tameka Oliphant is the recipient of the NBCC Doctoral Minority Fellowship. The NBCC Minorities Fellowship Program recognizes counseling students who are dedicated to providing quality mental health care and substance abuse services to underserved populations. In addition to a monetary stipend, the fellowship provides a sustainability package which includes mentoring, leadership skill building, and access to professional development resources. Fellows commit to working with underserved populations for two years following the completion of the program. Tameka’s populations of interest are students with disabilities with an area of focus in college and career access.
Dr. Deryl F. Bailey recently earned the rank of full Professor in the Department of Counseling and Human Development Services at the University of Georgia. Prior to earning his education specialist and doctoral degrees from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia, he worked as a school counselor for ten years. His areas of special-ization include school counseling, group work, multicultural and diversity issues, mentor- ing, counseling professional development, Afri-can American adolescent development and the development and implementation of enrich-ment and empowerment interventions for ado-lescents. He is the founder and director of Empowered Youth Programs (EYP), which includes: Gentlemen on the Move (GOTM), Young Women Scholars (YWS) and the Parents of Empow-ered Youth (PEY).

Dr. Bailey participated in an interview and dis- cussed the importance of forming meaningful relationships with colleagues and other profes-sionals and the students he serves. We are privi- leged to have Dr. Bailey’s voice represented in this edition of our newsletter.

What cultivated your initial interest in school counseling?

‘I didn’t really have a great educational experi-ence in middle and high school. My counselors were not that supportive of students who were considered “average” or “below average.” I, like many other Black males, who fell into one of these two groups probably could have been a better and happier student with additional attention and support. However, most of the attention went to students who were consid-ered “strong students” and definitely those who were “better behaved.” I wasn’t a bad kid, I just never applied myself…you know, the kid who did just enough to get by. As a high school stu-dent, I thought about this a lot and as a result I wanted to be that source of support for other students, especially for students who I thought weren’t average and overlooked. I have always been very interested in the relational aspects between teachers and students and wondered why some students seemed to have better relationships with their teachers, counse-lors and administrators than others.

When I graduated from college, I reflected on my school experiences and decided to explore different careers in counseling and psychology. I knew that my experience had not been an iso-lated experience and I wanted to help the group for those students who did not have particularly good or meaningful relationships with their teachers and counselors.

What significant events in your career en-hanced your desire to pursue & excel as a coun-selor & counselor educator?

During my master’s education, I completed my practicum and internship experiences at one of the county schools and a young female student I worked with completed suicide during the holy-week break. She was one of the students that was teased a lot and wasn’t considered popular, so I thought about this a lot and as a result I wanted to be that source of support for other students, especially for students who I thought weren’t average and overlooked. I have always been very interested in the relational aspects between teachers and students and wondered why some students seemed to have better relationships with their teachers, counse-lors and administrators than others.

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My counseling experiences continued to confirm for me that I was in the right profession and that being a school counselor was an extremely important role and an integral position in the school.

Please share the development of the programs & research initiatives you have created through public service.

I was a school counselor for ten years; while I was a school counselor in Ashville, I started a program called “Gentlemen on the Move (GOTM),” which was really borne out of the work I did with the schools Saturday Detention program. It was for kids who I truly believed really wanted to do well, but didn’t have the motivation or foresight to recognize how doing well academically really prepared them for the work in the long run. So I started GOTM and have been running it for over 25 years, in three differ-ent states. It has been in Athens now for the past 14 years. The program now informs my research, service, and is a major source of my service to the community. GOTM has evolved into what is now known as the Empowered Youth Programs (EYP), which consists of GOTM, for boys in grades pre-to 12th grade, Young Women Scholars (YWS) for girls in grades pre-to 12th grade, and Parents of Empowered Youth (PEY). I also employ 8-15 graduate students each year through graduate assistantships, ser-vice learning opportunities, and 3-4 former par-ticipants of EYP participating in the research program. These opportunities provide undergradu-ate and graduate students with valuable out-of-class opportunities to work with kids, families and schools and to use their skills on behalf of the program.
...Interview with Dr. Bailey, continued
How did you ultimately decide to share your talents here at the University of Georgia?
I honestly never thought that I would end up at Georgia, but I came here and I met the faculty and was really excited about what I was seeing with many of the people that I met as a doctoral student. They were really pleasant and seemed to really want me here, but there was one catch: they didn’t have a job opening. Luckily for me, the department (led by Drs. Pam Paisley and Richard Hayes) was willing to advocate for the additional position. I think this was because of my 10 years of experience as a school counselor and other assets they felt I could bring to the School Counseling program and the department as a whole. While I was also getting offers from other institutions, UGA remained at the top of my list, mainly because of the faculty and the reputation of the School Counseling program as well as the Counseling Psychology and Student Affairs programs. Another attraction for me was the fact that the faculty were involved in national professional organizations like the American Counseling Association and the American Psychological Association. For a while, there was a back and forth between UGA and another SEC school, until my grandmother finally said, “You just need to make a decision, and if it is the wrong one, you can correct it later.”
In the end I decided to come to the University of Georgia. However, the first couple of years of teaching were rough because I wasn’t trained as a teacher, I was a practitioner. At that time, I believed that if you worked hard, good things would always happen. What I knew was that there were/are a lot of folks who look like me that work hard but opportunities that I have been afforded still don’t seem to come for those folks. I know you can think of a lot of people like that too, there are a lot of unemployed folks with master’s degrees and PhDs but when things get bad for everybody, they get worse for folks of color.
The interview with Dr. Bailey does not stop here. Much like the fact that his sphere of influence does not stop with his work as a professor, Dr. Bailey’s passion for his graduate students and the lives of the young people and families he serves is evident in all he does. As the above interview came to a close, Dr. Bailey was intentional in addressing the fact that while he would like to impact and touch the lives of all the students he teaches, he realizes that there must be a balance as he strives to continue to do the work in the “trenches” that called him to the field. Dr. Bailey is certainly doing great work in the trenches and reaching out to equip others with what it takes to do the same.
Written by Reisha Moxley

Dr. Anneliese Singh, Rebecca Eaker, and Claire Davis (not pictured) worked as volunteers at the Bayard Rustin/Audre Lorde Breakfast on Martin Luther King Day 2015. The 14th annual event honored the lives of the late Bayard Rustin and Audre Lorde as well as the ongoing work of Black LGBTQ and those committed to social change. This event provided an opportunity for fellowship and dialogue supporting the work of local activists. Rebecca Eaker helped with the children’s programming and facilitated educational and creative sessions where children had the opportunity to create posters for the afternoon march and rally held in downtown Atlanta. Rebecca described her experience as insightful and invigorating – “I was really enlightened seeing the outpouring of love and support the attendees had for one another. It seemed like a homecoming or a family reunion. You could tell the event revives the spirits of this ‘beloved community’ as they continue the work of the late Dr. King, Bayard Rustin and Audre Lorde. I left that day with a sense of motivation about my own involvement in advocacy and activism.”

Students in Action

For their ECHDS8290 project, Joseph Pak, Tia Jackson and Latiesa Cantey partnered with a local non-profit organization, Don’t Be a Bully Foundation, and created an anti-bullying curriculum for school-aged children to compliment their efforts in combating bullying in our communities. Their educational training module focused on the following areas: (a) definition of bullying, (b) types of bullying, (c) resources and strategies for victims, and (d) resources and strategies for perpetrators. Since partnering with this organization, they have worked collaboratively with the South Cobb and Atlanta Fulton County libraries to facilitate anti-bullying workshops utilizing the presentation they created. For more information about this organization, visit http://www.dontbeabully.org/
Student Advice: Tips for Interviewing for a Faculty Position

Tip #1: Be Prepared to Ask Questions
Prepare unique questions to ask each person of groups with whom you will interview or will be involved during the campus visit. This includes car rides, breakfast, lunch, dinner, campus tours, or any other “informal” time.

Tip #2: Ask, “What’s important for me to know about____________?”
Before entering each interview, ask the current person/group what’s important for you to know about the next person or group of people.

Tip #3: Don’t Be Afraid to Ask the Tough Questions
A campus interview is an opportunity to learn as much as possible about the position, the department, college, university, and surrounding community. Therefore, don’t be afraid to ask about the following: the culture of the department, college, university, and surrounding community; the departments’ commitment to multiculturalism and social justice, and what that looks like; opportunities for you to connect with others like you (other people of color, single, young families, LGBTQ, women faculty, etc) within the college, university, surrounding community, etc; support and mentoring for junior faculty; where to find housing; how courses are assigned; expenses for travel, equipment, and research; ANYTHING.

Tip #4: Include a Research Timeline
In your research presentation, show a timeline to accompany your research agenda.

Tip #5: Prepare Small Talk Topics
There will be many opportunities for small talk. This is a great opportunity to show your personal-ity in ways that are more authentic than in the formal interview settings. Be prepared to share about personal interest and hobbies, your family (if you’re comfortable), opinions about popular news topics, etc.

Tip #6: Be Yourself
Remember that this is not only an interview for the department to determine if you would be a good fit for them, but this is also an opportunity to determine if this department is a good fit for you! Therefore, be yourself. Show them who you are so that both parties involved know exactly what they are getting.

Tip #7: Bring Light Snacks and a Bottle of Water
You will be hungry! Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are all spent with the search committee, program faculty, students, or other stakeholders. Therefore, you won’t eat as much as you would probably like. My search committee laid out crackers and water in one room, but I was not always in that room and there is no guarantee that your search committee will provide snacks. It’s better to be safe than hungry!

10th Annual UGA Counseling and Diversity Conference
The 2015 cohort hosted this year’s diversity conference at the Gwinnett campus with Dr. Cheryl Holcomb-McCoy as the keynote speaker.

SACES 2014 Birmingham, Alabama
October provided an exciting opportunity for program faculty, students and alumni to present, engage and network at the SACES Conference in Birmingham. Numerous faculty and students presented sessions throughout the conference and many faculty were honored for their work. Dr. Anneliese Singh, Dr. Natoya Haskins, and Dr. Pam Paisley were all recognized for their outstanding work in Counseling and Counselor Education.
Getting to know your Faculty...

What is your favorite self-care regimen?

Self-care is really easy for me…A good book, 9 holes of golf, texting at night with my sister about almost any subject, glass of wine or good whiskey, sunning at the beach, watching leaves fall, De-Palmas on Monday nights with Drs. Paisley and Dean, listening to my parents talk about their family, washing Scandal, HGTV, or college football…all of these and more add to my life. —Dr. Diane Cooper

Playing Trampoline Ninja with my boys :) —Dr. George McMahon

Connection and relationships with family and friends. My husband and friends keep me grounded, energized and supported. Whether watching a Braves game, playing trivia, going to a movie or participating in community activities, they give me balance and fun. My husband sees more clearly that I do at times when I should be working (often at home) and when I should be taking a break and enjoying the rest of life. —Dr. Ken Jackson

When I am doing the best job of taking care of myself, I am making time for family and friends, my counselor, exercise, the occasional massage/manicure/pedicure, and time for hobbies or outside-of-work interests. I love to cook, read, watch British TV shows, and work jigsaw puzzles. I love those moments when the house is clean, my to do list is at least temporarily cleared or on hold, and I can sit on the screen porch with white lights on in the evening and catch up with Doug & a few close friends or have quite time to enjoy the moment. —Dr. Pam Paisley

Reading a good book in some peace and quiet. —Dr. Jolie Daigle

My favorite ways to engage in self-care include any time with my amazing partner, yoga, and meditation. —Dr. Anneliese Singh

Currently my self-care regimen includes developing new skills while I do home improvements....inside and out...and hearing my wife say "that looks good honey" while knowing what she really means is "oh no, not again." —Dr. Deryl Bailey

Being with family and taking time for spiritual rejuvenation. —Dr. Natoya Haskins

My favorite form of self-care involves a big chair, a good book, hot tea, a sleeping dog next to me, and ideally, as much time as I want to just breathe and get lost in the book. —Dr. Laura Dean

STUDENT ACCOLADES

Nicole Shaub (alumni) was nominated to be on the Board of Directors for the Southern Association for College Admission Counseling and will serve in this position for three years. Nicole also earned her LPC this year.

Brandee Appling and Taryne Mingo were selected to represent the state of Georgia at the White House Convening at San Diego State University in support of first lady Obama’s Reach Higher Initiative.

Shauna Nefos Webb began her new role as Assistant Professor of Counseling and Psychology in the Area of Social Learning at Milligan College in TN. Shauna was also the recipient of the Theodore K Miller Outstanding Professional Service Award from the Georgia College Personnel Association.

Michael Drew presented at the UGA Independent Research Conference on "Creative Community Partnerships." This topic involves bringing together members of the Traumatic Brain Injury population, animal assisted therapy, and fire fighters to teach fire prevention lessons in elementary schools. Michael is also presenting a mental health workshop for the San Francisco Fire Dept, focusing on positive coping strategies.

Taryne Mingo accepted a position as Assistant Professor of School Counseling and Play Therapy in the Counseling, Leadership and Special Education department at Missouri State University.

Nathan Brown was nominated as a SACES Emerging Leader 2014-2015.

Gerry Crete (alumni) earned his LPC and LMFT as well as ACS and CPCS credentials last year and published a book chapter on counseling men with trauma histories for the ACA.

Jeff Cooper was accepted onto the reviewer board for the Journal of College and University Student Housing.

Margie Gill was recognized as a Hall County Community Hero for the work she does with survivors of sex trafficking as the Executive Director of Tabitha’s House.

Lauren Moss (alumni) was selected to attend the SACES Leadership Breakfast, was awarded Pennsylvania Counseling Association’s 2014 Outstanding Counselor Education Program of the Year Award, and was honored at the Georgia School Counselors Association Awards Recognition Ceremony for creating a Recognized ASCA Model Program at Hightower Trail Middle School.

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