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Closing the Gap

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Closing The Gap

EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF EDUCATION • OCTOBER 2008 • ISSUE 2, NO. 1

The Fall 2008 Doctoral Symposium and Dissertation Workshop for Students of Color Paving the Road to the Doctorate

by Dr. Sherwood Thompson

The Doctoral Symposium and Dissertation Workshop for Students of Color (DSDWSC) is celebrating its fourth symposium on the campus of Eastern Kentucky University. The Dean of the College of Education along with the departmental chairs and faculty will intermingle with doctoral students of color from around the United States during a weekend of inspiring speeches and workshops.



Sheila Presley (left) and Chris Amaechi (right) visit with Dr. Sherwood Thompson during the Friday night opening of the Spring 2008 Doctoral Symposium.

Approximately eighteen (18) doctoral students will gather to learn strategies on succeeding in an education doctoral program. "It's encouraging to see this talented pool of individuals working seriously together in pursuit of learning new strategies and tips that will successfully assist them in completing the doctoral degree." Says Dr. Bill Phillips, the Dean for the College of Education at Eastern Kentucky University.

The DSDWSC is designed to meet the needs of students who are finding it difficult to complete their doctorate degree because of conflicting life styles challenges. "The College of Education is determined to make a big difference in the way doctoral students see their future," says Dean Phillips. Dr. Sherwood Thompson, Assistant Dean of the College of Education and coordinator of the symposium stated, "We want to make a difference in their lives, we want to be part of the solution,

helping students of color succeed in doctoral programs."

The Doctoral Symposium and Dissertation Workshop for Students of Color attracts doctoral students who are enrolled in educational doctoral programs. Participants are involved in a series of workshops geared to train them in developing successfully skills to complete their doctoral programs. The DSDWSC provides networking opportunities with contacts throughout the U.S. through professional associations and universities for participants of the Symposium.

The DSDWSC intends to provide the participants with valuable opportunities in which professional skills in the areas of research, teaching, and professional writing can be developed. A secondary purpose of the DSDWSC is to build relationships, contacts, and networks with a cohort of scholars that are interested in assisting doctoral candidates in completing their doctoral studies. The College of Education has already realized success from the Doctoral Symposium. One of its first participants recently was hired by the College as a tenure track faculty member. Other participants have connected with faculty members in the College of Education to work on joint research projects.

The Symposium exists to direct efforts to coordinate, initiate and design programs to increase retention, participation and involvement of ethnic, gender and underrepresented populations in successfully completing the doctorate degree in Education.

The next Symposium will be held November 14 and 15, 2008. For information please contact Dr. Sherwood Thompson at sherwood.thompson@eku.edu

From the Dean:

We live in a time of academic achievement gaps which produce more African-American male inmates than African-American male college graduates. In response, the College of Education at Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) is confronting these social and educational injustices by attracting professors of color to serve as role models and mentors to the next generation of teachers. Our goal is to celebrate diversity, infuse multicultural competence throughout the curriculum, and to encourage more people of color to join our profession. EKU is sponsoring an annual symposium for doctoral candidates of color to help them complete their degrees, is attracting outstanding education professors of color, and is offering scholarships to qualified African-American males who are serious about becoming teachers. We are serious about diversity.

Bill Phillips, Dean,
College of Education,
Eastern Kentucky University

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College of Education Wall of Honor Inducts Joe Washington

by Dr. Billy Thames

The Wall of Honor of the Eastern Kentucky University College of Education recognizes those who were dedicated to high quality instruction, scholarship, and service and whose actions inspired, supported, challenged, and enriched students who aspired to careers in education and the helping professions in our diverse society. The actions of these individuals have touched the lives of others and have made our world better for the generations to come. The College Wall of Honor committee is pleased to induct Joe Iva Washington.

Joe Washington is a member of the Eastern Kentucky University Class of 1973 having earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Physical Education, as well as his provisional Teaching Certification from EKV. He came to Eastern on a foot-

ball scholarship and was an outstanding member of the Colonels football team from 1969 to 1973 receiving national recognition and honors for his performance and leadership.

He began his teaching career at MacDonald Middle School in Fort Knox, Kentucky teaching Physical Education and continued his teaching career there and in Hardin County at both the middle and high school levels and served as a drop-out prevention teacher at all levels. He has also been a Head and Assistant High School Football Coach as well as a Middle School Gymnastics and Basketball Coach. He was recognized as Kentucky's Teacher of the Year in 1980. Since that time he has served as the Second Vice President

of the National State Teacher of the Year Organization and as the President of the Kentucky State Teacher of the Year Chapter. In 2002 he received the WHAS/PNC Excel Award.

In 2003, Mr. Washington was named the Outstanding Alumnus of the Year by Eastern Kentucky University. He is now a minister and motivational speaker with a nationally recognized reputation.

He is married to Dr. Youlanda Washington, Principal of MacDonald Intermediate School in Fort Knox, Kentucky. They

have two sons, Joe Iva Washington III who has a degree in Sociology and plays Arena Football for the Louisville Fire, and Kevin Washington a senior at Tuskegee University.



Mr. Washington

Leadership Changes within the College of Education

by Theresa Collins

Dr. Bill Phillips, Dean of The College of Education is pleased to announce several promotions and leadership changes within the college this past semester. **Dr. Sherwood Thompson, Ed.D.**, former Director of Teacher Education Services has been promoted to **Assistant Dean** of the College of Education. His duties will include the Curriculum Change Process, Diversity, and oversight of Model Laboratory School. Taking his place at the helm of Teacher Education Services is **Dr. Norman Powell, Ed.D.** Dr. Powell steps into this position from being director of KECSAC (Kentucky Educational Cooperative for State Agency Children). Teacher Education Services (formerly Teacher Admission and Certification) handles all processes dealing with admission to teacher preparation programs, professional laboratory experiences, teacher certification issues, and alternative certification. The interim director of KECSAC is **Dr. Ronnie Nolan**. Dr. Nolan has been Associate Director of KECSAC for several years and will insure that this important department will continue providing services to

Kentucky's at risk children smoothly and efficiently. **Dr. Michael Martin** is stepping aside as Chair of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction to direct the work of the new Literacy Program in the



Dr. Sherwood Thompson



Dr. Norman Powell

College of Education. Effective August 1, 2008, **Dr. Dorie Combs** is the new Chair of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. Dr. Combs brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this position. She was recently appointed to the Kentucky Board of Education. She is active in numerous organizations and associations and promises to continue being an asset to the college in this new role. The newly formed Department of American Sign Language and Interpreter Education

welcomes its first chair, **Dr. Laurence Hayes**. Dr. Hayes is a familiar face to this new department having been a faculty member and active participant in ASLIE while it was still a department within the Department of Special Education. With his intimate knowledge of this academic area he will lead this new department into uncharted waters to improve the programs and provide new and exciting services to students and faculty alike. Model Laboratory School has been searching for a new Director since Debbie Brown retired in May of 2007. Dr. Phillips and the search team are happy to announce that **Mr. James Dantic** has accepted the position as Director of the Model Laboratory School. Mr. Dantic is no stranger to Model or the College of Education having been a teacher and director of the high school at Model for a number of years. He and Dr. Thompson will work together to continue to provide outstanding services to the students of Model Laboratory School and provide observation and practical experiences to the education majors from EKV who apply for them at Model.

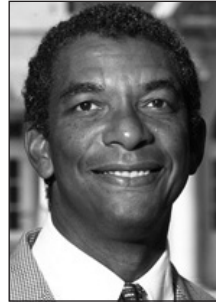
Education Faculty Showcase

The College of Education is honored to showcase her African/African American faculty members and teacher leaders.

Dr. Margaret Davis, Ed.D: Dr. Margaret Bell Davis received a BS in Elementary Education from Kentucky State University in 1963, her Masters in Education in Reading Specialization from Western Kentucky University in 1973 and her Ed.D in Curriculum and Instruction, Reading Education from the University of Kentucky in 1994. Always a teacher, Dr. Davis began her career in Louisville, Kentucky teaching elementary school. She taught high school in California for 15 years, but her heart always belonged to Kentucky. Upon her return to the Commonwealth she taught Reading Recovery, became a teacher in residence at the University of Kentucky, taught part time at the University of Kentucky while serving Fayette County Public Schools as Language Arts Coordinator. During her esteemed career she has taught a variety of language arts and reading development/readiness courses at EKU. Literacy on all levels is Dr. Davis' passion. Her scholarly and teaching interests all focus around literacy. She is or has been involved in at least 15 professional organizations on the local, state and national level. And she is involved in community service, again addressing the literacy issues of the community in which she is serving. As a university instructor at EKU she has received outstanding reviews from students. She is passionate about empowering students by helping them gain knowledge, skill, and confidence needed to be successful teachers of the language arts in the elementary school. Currently she is in the RTP (retirement transition program) at EKU. But even in "retirement" she will remain active and productive, always the outstanding citizen preparing all for a brighter, more literate future.

Dr. Aaron Thompson, Ph.D: Dr. Thompson is a Professor of Sociology in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at Eastern Kentucky University. Thompson has a Ph.D. in Sociology in areas of Organizational Behavior/Race and Gender relations. Thompson has researched, taught and/or consulted in areas of assessment, diversity, leadership, ethics, research methodology and social statistics, multicultural families, race and ethnic relations, student success, first-year students, retention, and organizational design. He is nationally recognized in the areas of educational attainment and academic success, African American fatherhood, divorce in the Black family, and Black and White differences in marital expectations. His latest co-authored books are "Thriving in College and Beyond: Research-Based Strategies for Academic Success and Personal Development," "Focus on Success" and "Black Men and Divorce". He has 27 publications and numerous research and peer reviewed presentations. Thompson has traveled over the U.S. and has given more than 300 workshops, seminars and invited lectures in areas of race and gender diversity, living an unbiased life, overcoming obstacles to gain success, creating a school environment for academic success, cultural competence, workplace interaction, organizational goal setting, building relationships, the first-year seminar, and a variety of other topics. He has been or is a consultant to educational institutions, corporations, non-profit

organizations, police departments, and other governmental agencies. In addition, Thompson's research has been cited in popular publications such as *Cosmopolitan*, *Baltimore Sun*, *Orlando Sentinel*, *Tampa Tribune* and others. Thompson's current research includes building culturally relevant models for student success, transition to college from high school, and persistence to graduation.



Dr. Aaron Thompson

Dr. Samuel Hinton, Ed.D: Dr. Hinton joined the faculty at Eastern Kentucky University in 1990 and is currently Professor of Educational Studies in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. Dr. Hinton is tenured and has attained full professor status with Eastern Kentucky University. He received his doctorate in Education from the University of Virginia with a specialization in Comparative and International Education. He has full graduate faculty status and has taught graduate and undergraduate courses in four different university departments. Dr. Hinton has book and article publications to his credit and has participated in two Fulbright-Hays seminars. He is forever striving to assist junior faculty members in scholarly activities, encouraging them in their research and publication efforts. His own background in this endeavor coupled with his mild manner and easy going temperament make him a natural mentor.



Dr. Samuel Hinton

Education Faculty Showcase

The College of Education is honored to showcase her African/African American faculty members and teacher leaders.

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Mr. James Womack: James Womack hails from Murfreesboro, Tennessee. He received a B.A. in English with a minor in Psychology from Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. His Masters is from California State University at Northridge in Special Education and Rehabilitation with a minor in Deaf Education. His special ambitions include refining his understanding and skill of computer based video editing using chroma key and video editors; to continue to explore computer based quiz software that does serious quizzing in game format based on TV games shows; create instructional media specific to ASL, Deaf Culture, and Deaf History, specifically for deaf children. In short, explore innovative ways to enhance ASL and Deaf Studies via computer based media no one else in the field even things of doing. He has the ASLTA Provisional Certificate and the Texas Lifetime certificate K – 12. The Department of American Sign Language and Interpreter Education is happy to have Mr. Womack join their faculty this year in August of 2008.



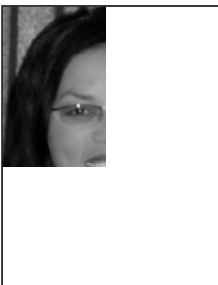
Dr. Roger Cleveland, Ed.D: Roger C. Cleveland is an assistant professor at Eastern Kentucky University in the College of Education. Prior to his appointment at EKU in August of 2008 he was on faculty at Morehead State University for three years. Dr. Cleveland spent six years at the Kentucky Department of Education, three as Director of the Division of Federal

Programs & Instructional Equity. He completed his Bachelor's Degree at Morehead State University, his Masters Degree at Union College in Social Sciences of Education. He has an earned doctorate degree from the University of Cincinnati. In 2005, he received the Educational Leadership Award from Nova Southeastern University and the Mississippi Department of Education. In 2008 he was appointed to the Kentucky Department of Education Commissioner's Blue Ribbon Panel for Student Achievement.



Dr. Roger Cleveland

Dr. Deneia Thomas, Ph.D: Deneia Thomas is an Assistant Professor in Counseling & Educational Psychology at Eastern Kentucky University. She earned her undergraduate degree in Psychology and Sociology from Kentucky State University, an MS in Educational Psychology and an Ed.S in School Psychology and Ph.D in Educational Psychology from the University of Kentucky. She has been active and maintains memberships in numerous national and state organizations in the field of Counseling and Educational Psychology. Dr. Thomas has a record of scholarship relating to the examination of factors that promote success among diverse populations, which is reflected in her national and state refereed publications. In addition, she regularly presents in national and state



Dr. Deneia Thomas

conferences to advance the knowledge of empirical findings in the area of interest. Dr. Thomas has a vast array of experiences serving within K-12 education, the State Department of Higher Education. She is very active in the community participating on numerous boards and advisory committees around the state.

Mrs. Rose Skepple: In her own words she states: Thanks to EKU I am the first college graduate in my family. Thanks to EKU I am the first student athletic scholarship recipient in



Mrs. Rose Skepple

my family. Thanks to EKU I am the first teacher, principal and central office employee in my family. Thanks to EKU I am the first person in my family to receive a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. Thanks to EKU I am the first person in my family to receive a Master of Arts degree in Counseling. Thanks to EKU, I have the privilege of being inducted in to the EKU Athletics Hall of Fame. Thanks to EKU, I was selected for their first Educational Leadership and Policy Studies Doctoral Program cohort. Thanks to EKU I am the Interim Assistant Director of Teacher Education Services for the College of Education. Here at Eastern Kentucky University it IS a Matter of Pride. Rose Gilmore Skepple, Class of 1986

In addition to these outstanding faculty the College of Education has excellent support from Fe'Lisa Wilson, Minority Recruitment and Retention, Jamie Jones, Administrative Assistant in Teacher Education Services, and Tequila Green, Senior Office Associate, Model Laboratory School.

7th Annual Diversity Conference Held at EKU

by Emily Christensen

Nelson Lauver had dyslexia; but he didn't know that's what it was until he was 29 years old and a stranger asked him for directions.

Until that day, Lauver struggled with his dyslexia on his own. In 2nd grade, after being laughed at by his peers, he decided never to read out loud to an audience again. When he got to 3rd grade, he was teased for writing his name differently each day. His classmates would call him whatever he wrote, like "Nelson Liver," for the rest of the day.

It was at this young age that Lauver realized, "I could be the dumb kid or the bad kid; and I would give anything not to be the dumb kid."

Lauver graduated from high school and earned a diploma he couldn't read. Since he could not fill out resume forms, he decided to start his own businesses. Some failed and some did well, but he was still struggling with undiagnosed dyslexia. For years he worked various jobs just to keep food on the table. At 29, while Lauver was working as a parking lot line painter, he met a stranger who changed his life.

The stranger asked Lauver for directions and listened patiently while Lauver told him: you turn that way, and then this way, and it will be up ahead – carefully avoiding any use of the words "left" and "right". The stranger then asked Lauver if he would write the directions down for him. Lauver hesitated.

Annoyed now, Lauver told the man it wasn't hard, and quickly repeated: you turn this way, then that way, and go straight down the road. The stranger, now confident in his notion, suggested to Lauver he might have dyslexia and offered to help.

For the first time in Lauver's life, he had a name for this struggle - a name for the cause of so much anger and frustration. Lauver got tested for dyslexia and finally had tools to help him. Today, he is the Founder and Director of the syndicated radio feature, The American Storyteller Radio Journal.

Nelson Lauver and many others shared their insights and life-stories at the 7th Annual Diversity Conference, held at Eastern Kentucky University February 6 and 7, "Addressing Diversity through Intervention". The conference was hosted by Eastern Kentucky University's College of Education, the Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children, the Kentucky Center for School Safety, Southeast/South-Central Educational Cooperative, the Kentucky Department of Education, and AmeriCorps.

Speakers addressed issues such as: understanding various cultures and learning to appreciate the differences as well as similarities; understanding the method by which adolescents process and think about diversity and multiculturalism in society today; strategies for acknowledging and working with diversity issues related to sexuality such as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender students and staff; how to help children who self-harm; and learning about new opportunities for individuals with disabilities like "Camp Courageous" – a medical camping facility in Scottsville, Kentucky.

The conference featured artistic performances as well as speeches. Valerie Viramontes, from "Living Voices," did a stirring performance involving theater, video and live interaction as she described the life of a Latin American migrant farm

worker from the 1960s. The audience was also treated to performances by the River City Drum Corp, which instills in its students (ages 2-18) not only a love for African drumming, but also the tools to be successful in school, work, and life.

Many people found the Diversity Conference to be a great success. "They really do a top-notch performance," said Maureen Keithley, an ELL Consultant from the Department of Education. "They bring in great speakers and it's well organized. It's one of the best Kentucky Conferences!"



Nelson Lauver speaking at Diversity Conference.

Closing The Gap

Editor: Theresa Collins

Dean: Bill Phillips

Associate Dean: Kim Naugle

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OCTOBER 28, 2008
6:30 – 7:30 P.M.
EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY PRESENTS AFI-TIOMBE DAMBON.
FEATURED ARE A 17 MINUTE PLAY "BLACK DIAMOND" AND
A 24 MINUTE PRESENTATION: "AN EXTRA CUP OF MOLASSES"

NOVEMBER 11, 2008
7:00 - 9:00 P.M.
"A CONVERSATION ON RACE, GENDER AND THE AMERICAN SOCIETY"
LECTURE BY T. D. SHARPLEY-WHITING,
O'DONNELL AUDITORIUM, STUDENT SERVICES BUILDING

NOVEMBER 12, 2008
9:00 - 11:00 A.M.
"HIP HOP'S HOLD ON YOUNG BLACK WOMEN" WORKSHOP AND
BOOK SIGNING BY T.D. SHARPLEY-WHITING,
KEEN JOHNSON BALLROOM

NOVEMBER 14 & 15, 2008
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION DOCTORAL SYMPOSIUM AND DISSERTATION
WORKSHOP FOR STUDENTS OF COLOR. CONTACT DR. SHERWOOD
THOMPSON AT SHERWOOD.THOMPSON@EKU.EDU

FEBRUARY 11 & 12, 2009
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION DIVERSITY CONFERENCE.
CONTACT MR. TOM BONNY AT TOM.BONNY@EKU.EDU

APRIL 10 AND 11, 2009
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION DOCTORAL SYMPOSIUM
AND DISSERTATION WORKSHOP FOR STUDENTS OF COLOR.
CONTACT DR. SHERWOOD THOMPSON AT
SHERWOOD.THOMPSON@EKU.EDU

**DATES
TO REMEMBER**