The Graduate School along with the Multicultural Association of Graduate Students (M.A.G.S.) kicked off the start of the school year with the 4th Annual Graduate Diversity Welcome Reception, Wednesday, August 21 in Strickler Hall. This networking event was a great way for underrepresented graduate students to connect with other students, faculty and staff.
Happy fall ya’ll! I am delighted to serve as the Director of Graduate Recruitment and Diversity Retention for the Graduate School, a position I have held since April. I am a two-time graduate of the University of Louisville and am extremely proud and excited to be back at my alma mater.

The mission of the Graduate School is to advocate and provide support for graduate education, graduate students, and interdisciplinary programs, and to promote the advancement of knowledge through the teaching and training of post-baccalaureate students.

One of the ways that we carry the torch of the larger mission, is by implementing intentional recruitment and retention initiatives that support a diverse graduate student population through programs and professional development workshops for faculty and staff, and through workshops and social events for students. As such, The Advocate newsletter serves as an informational means to keep readers up to date with developments and happenings in the Graduate School, at the University, and in the community, as related to diversity, inclusion and scholarship.

I encourage you to explore the newsletter to learn more about the brilliant learning environment at U of L as well as the exceptional work being done by our students, faculty and staff. I hope that in these pages, you find an opportunity to get involved or that an article you read sparks you to explore more about that particular topic. I am looking forward to meeting more of you and engaging further with students and members of the University community.

Go Cards!

Tamekka Cornelius.

Director
Graduate Recruitment and Diversity Retention
The Graduate School
This issue of The Advocate launches the third year of the publication. Since that first issue, the university has embarked on an exciting trajectory under the leadership of a new president, Dr. Neeli Bendapudi, whose vision statement is that UofL will be recognized as “a great place to learn, a great place to work, and a great place in which to invest because we will celebrate diversity, foster equity, and strive for inclusion.” The Graduate School fosters an inclusive campus environment and diversity in our student population through many active initiatives. At the beginning of each academic year, we host the Graduate Diversity Welcome day. At the end of the academic year, we celebrate the accomplishments of our diverse student population with the Celebration of Excellence in Graduate Diversity. Sandwiched in between those events, we support students through our Diversity Scholarships, Presidential Diversity Awards, the Check-in and Connect Program, the Minority Association of Graduate Students, and many other professional development opportunities for students. Collectively, these programs help create a supportive and nurturing community for our diverse scholars, and a crucial framework for success in graduate school. Speaking of success, this issue of The Advocate will be published near a time in the semester that we celebrate the achievements of students at the December commencement ceremonies. The Graduate School holds a special Doctoral Hooding Ceremony to honor students who’ve earned doctoral degrees in graduate programs, and we honor master’s students at our main commencement ceremony. This is a wonderful time of year, and a favorite of mine because I get to meet many graduating students, their families and friends as they celebrate the culmination of much hard work. Finally, I want to recognize the staff and faculty at UofL who work with, instruct and mentor our graduate students. Their devotion to the success our students’ is immeasurable, and is not overlooked.

Paul DeMarco, PhD

Acting Vice Provost for Graduate Affairs and Acting Dean of the Graduate School
The Black Diamond Choir has existed as a safe space for Black students and those who practice Christianity. There is a short list of things that bring people together, which includes food and music. The Black Diamond Choir, also known as BDC, check each of those essential boxes for human interaction and community building. Music is a given, food, albeit for the soul, is achieved by the shared connections that have bonded members of BDC for 50 years. The Black Diamond Choir is a child of the Civil Rights Movement. Black students saw a need for congregating together to support each other during the tumultuous times of the late 1960's. These founders attended classes and experienced campus life in an era where voting rights for Blacks were only 4-years-old, in addition to the recent assassinations of various Civil Rights leaders. But, there's more. Black students walked to classes literally under the shadow of a 70-foot-tall monument built to commemorate Confederate soldiers who died in the Civil War. Imagine the daily feelings of angst and pressure these founding members felt, as they began a beautiful Black organization in the shadow of the memory of an enemy who fought for slavery to remain in America. However, pressure makes diamonds, and sometimes, they're Black. Throughout the 5 decades of Black Diamond Choir's life, students have performed gospel music and recorded songs to contribute to albums. Despite the transformations of Gospel music over the years, BDC remains because of the sense of community and nurturing that takes place amongst sopranos, altos, tenors and baritones seeking connection to something bigger than themselves at UofL. Whether traveling to our nation's capital, the Deep South or the United Kingdom, BDC uses music and fellowship to provide food for the soul.
NEW FACULTY/STAFF SPOTLIGHT

TaChae Sowell

Title: Graduate Assistant with the Graduate School at the University of Louisville.

About TaChae: TaChae is a 2nd year master’s student in the College Student Personnel program here at the University of Louisville. Currently TaChae serves as the Graduate Assistant under Director Tamekka Cornelius, focusing on Diversity, Recruitment and Retention. Under the direction of Tamekka TaChae assists with recruitment of underrepresented students, the Graduate School website, and The Advocate Newsletter. TaChae is also the Co-Community Engagement Chair in GAPSA where she works to implement community service opportunities for her program each semester.


Favorite thing about UofL: The amount of student groups and organizations on campus makes me feel wanted and supported.

Favorite quote: "I'm not longer accepting the things I cannot change...I'm changing the things I cannot accept."
- Angela Davis

Michelle Montalvo-Jourdan

Title: Program Coordinator Student Recruitment Success/Retention

About Michelle: Michelle is the current Program Coordinator for Student Recruitment Success/Retention for the Graduate School at the University of Louisville. Previously, she was the Program Coordinator of Assignments for Campus Housing at the University of Louisville. She is a UofL Alumna with a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology with Skeletal Forensics and Archaeology concentrations. For the past two and a half years, she has been attending the university taking post-baccalaureate classes focusing on GeoSciences, Cartography, and Remote Sensing in preparation for Graduate School.


Favorite thing about UofL: The passion and dedication teachers have to help their students succeed and all the opportunities for professional development that the university offers to students, so they can flourish.

Favorite quote: “When you find your path, you must not be afraid. You need to have sufficient courage to make mistakes. Disappointment, defeat, and despair are the tools God uses to show us the way.” — Paulo Coelho
Check in and Connect Meeting
Self Care: Get Out Of Your Own Way
Nov 22

Brittany A Johnson, LMHC is a Licensed Therapist with a private practice in Southern Indiana. Brittany works with clients who have anxiety, depression and or past trauma to identify triggers to help overcome them to live their desired lives. Brittany also specializes in working with professional adult females who identify as feeling stuck in their lives. Brittany is Certified in Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing (EMDR) and uses EMDR with her clients who have experienced trauma as well as for her clients who want to manage their symptoms related to anxiety and depression. Brittany is the author of Get Out of Your Own Way, 21 Days to Stop Self Sabotage where she teaches you how to identify your sabotaging behaviors and how to stop them. Brittany has developed and trained adults in various topics including trauma informed care, creating boundaries, goal setting/achieving, mental wellness in the workplace and practical self-care.

Carla Flippin, MSN, APRN, CPNP-PC

Title: Pediatric Nurse Practitioner-Primary Care and Graduate Assistant with the Graduate School at the University of Louisville.

About Carla: Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP), with a Psychiatric/Mental Health Specialty.

Research Interests: Addressing childhood anxiety and stress management by utilizing an evidence based, age appropriate, coping skills intervention.

Favorite thing about UofL: The University of Louisville gives each student and opportunity to succeed professionally and personally. UofL feels a like community to me, providing unmatched resources and fostering life long connections.

Favorite Quote: "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won’t feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do.”

----Marianne Williamson
The University of Louisville recently subscribed to an institutional membership of the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity. The National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity is an independent professional development, training, and mentoring community for faculty members, postdocs, and graduate students, 100% dedicated to supporting academics in making successful transitions throughout their careers. That means YOU now have access (via signing up for a free account) to:

- Faculty Success Programs
- Campus Workshops
- Guest Expert & Multi-Week Courses
- Dissertation Success Series
- 14-Day Writing Challenge
- Monday Motivator Newsletters
- Coaches, and many other online resources!
- From writing to job-searching to time management and organization, this resource will help set you up for success!

Simply go to http://facultydiversity.org and create an account.

From Dr. Michelle Rodems, Director, Graduate Student Professional Development, Retention, & Success
Dr. V. Faye Jones is a native of Kentucky. She received her BS in Biology from Western Kentucky University before attending and graduating from the University of Louisville (UL) School of Medicine in 1985. Dr. Jones went on to complete her pediatric residency in the UL affiliated Kosair (now Norton) Children’s Hospital. Continuing her education while practicing as a full-time clinician, Dr. Jones received her Masters of Science in Public Health in 2001, followed by her Doctorate in Epidemiology in 2006, both from the University of Louisville. Additionally, she has participated in various leadership programs to enhance her skills: Executive Leadership for Academic Medicine (Drexel University); AAMC Diversity and Inclusion Healthcare Executive Certificate Program (Georgetown University); the Academy for Innovative Higher Education Leadership (Arizona State and Georgetown University); and currently, the AAC Academic Leadership Network.

In 2006, Dr. Jones took on a more active role within the School of Medicine as the Associate Dean for Minority and Rural Affairs, before eventually becoming the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. This gave her the opportunity to take a leadership role in many diversity-related programs, including overseeing the pipeline programs related to workforce diversification. In 2013 she was named the Assistant Vice President for Health Affairs/Diversity Initiatives and subsequently the Associate Vice President. As the Associate Vice President, she works with all four schools on the Health Science Center (HSC) campus (Schools of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, and Public Health & Information Sciences) to create an inclusive, engaged community fostered by the understanding and celebration of the many differences in perspectives, thoughts, experiences, belief systems, and cultures of our students, faculty, and staff. In this position, she has been influential in creating many opportunities - opportunities to engage the HSC community in learning activities; opportunities to enhance and/or create partnerships; opportunities to showcase group and individual activities; and opportunities to grow as a community.

Working with multiple partners from both within the university and in the community, she has pursued and developed initiatives with the long-term goal of achieving equity by re-envisioning educational frameworks, developing fuller research agendas, enriching experiences (including clinical experiences), and deepening community involvement for students, staff, faculty, and community partners. Through this strategic approach of intentionally promoting the integration of diversity initiatives into all the core aspects of the institution, the goal is to bring a culture of truly valuing the importance of our differences and commonalities. Presently, serving as the Interim Senior Associate Vice President of Diversity and Equity, Dr. Jones is committed to the establishment of this integrative framework for diversity to support the university’s mission of creating a great place “to learn, work, and invest.” In this role her focus is on attempting to infuse this integrative framework for diversity throughout the four fundamental areas of education and research, workforce development, community engagement, and campus climate. This, in turn, creates a matrix with which to measure progress and programming through structured quantitative and qualitative methods in order to move toward an inclusive and equitable environment that fosters success for all.
There are 12 members of our current team: Katy Baxter, LCSW, Gabrielle Billings, LCSW, Dr. Ruby Casiano (Training Coordinator), Rachel Evans, ATR, LPCC, Dr. Geeta Gulati, Michelle Pinckney Johnson, LPCC, LMFT, Dr. Juan Pablo Kalawski, Dr. Sarah Kolb, Moriah LeCorgan, LPCA, NCC, Susan Schroeder, LPA, Dr. Aesha L. Uqdah (Director), and Arlene West (clerk). One of our longest-running groups is our Graduate Student Support Group, led by Billings and Johnson. This group brings together students from a variety of disciplines to share struggles & successes in both graduate school & in life. The goal is to provide a comfortable space to receive & offer support while navigating through the graduate school journey. An important part of the Counseling Center’s purpose is contributing to the training of students in mental health-focused graduate programs. Our training program provides opportunities for students to join our team in providing mental health services to UofL students. We offer year-long Therapy practica to Master’s and Doctoral students from UofL’s Counseling and Human Development programs, Doctoral students from Spalding University’s Clinical Psychology program, and Master’s students from the UofL Kent School of Social Work. We also offer semester-long (Fall or Spring) Assessment practica for students from both clinical and counseling doctoral programs as well as 2 Graduate Assistantships. Dr. Casiano has fostered strong relationships with these programs and continues to ensure that our trainees receive a quality experience. We, at the UofL Counseling Center, are deeply invested in our students’ psychological well-being, as it is a critical component of student success. President Bendapudi, Provost Boehm, and VPSA Mardis share in that investment. To that end, ULCC will be relocating to the SAC during Spring 2020. The move will provide a more convenient location for students, as well as space for additional staff to provide services.

The mission of the University of Louisville Counseling Center (ULCC) is to provide services and programs that support the psychological well-being, holistic development, and retention of University of Louisville students. The Center seeks to promote an environment that is conducive to positive personal growth and educational achievement. We are committed to diversity in the provision of services and in supporting the University community, while honoring the unique needs and concerns of individuals and traditionally underrepresented groups. We are dedicated to achieving excellence in all aspects of service provision, consultation, training, and research. ULCC provides short-term individual, group, and couples counseling, crisis intervention, and psychological testing. Our clients seek services for a variety of areas of concern, including psychological, personal/social, academic, and career issues.)
LGBT-friendly Sober Tea Shop

Sis Got Tea -- the brainchild of Arielle Clark, a MBA UofL Alumna, based the business in her experiences as a black, LGBTQ+ woman -- will be a tea cafe that will serve as a safe, sober space for LGBTQ+ people (in particular, black, LGBTQ+ people).

With a goal to open in March 2020, Sis Got Tea will serve as a safe, sober space for people to study, relax, socialize, and sip tea while also enjoying vegan, nut-free, and gluten-free treats.

Sis Got Tea will also host events for the community, such as natural hair workshops, poetry slams, game nights, and other sober events. Currently, Sis Got Tea is attending events around the city while looking for a brick-and-mortar building that meets its needs.

Be sure to follow Sis Got Tea on @sisgotteaky for updates!
Q: What has been the most challenging and rewarding part about your journey as a graduate student thus far?
A: The most rewarding part about my journey as a graduate student this far is the opportunity to work on my research area (HIV) within the United States and globally especially in my homeland Ghana. This area is near to my heart. Having the support of my advisor Dr. Muriel Harris and faculty mentor Dr. Jelani Kerr has been a blessing. Their continuous support and push have not only made my journey rewarding but have opened doors for me to dive deeper into this topic both within the university and in the field. The challenging part of this journey is having the feeling of “trying to save the world” at once when I began my Ph.D. program. Hence, I was all over the place when I was trying to narrow and conceptualize my research topics. Also trying to achieve a good school/life balance have been challenging but time management and self-care routines have helped a bit.

Q: What advice do you have for someone who is interested in participating in 3MT?
A: I will advise future participants to be immersed themselves in their topics and prepare. They should not treat this competition as a script/speech to memorize. Knowing your topic well gives you an opportunity to explain the topic well. I will also suggest outlining the information you plan on discussing in a logical way. Last but not the least practice several times in a mirror with a timer.

"Overall, this has been a very positive experience and I look forward to the opportunities and the challenges that this journey will bring- Nana Ama Aya Bullock, Winner of 3MT"
Graduate Student Accomplishments

Name: Mutiyat Adr-Salu  
Department/School: Theatre Arts  
Title/Role: Masters Candidate/Instructor  
Accomplishment Date: August 2019  
Name of Conference attended: PEO (Philanthropic Education Organization) Sisterhood  
Describe accomplishment: I received the Professional Continuing Education grant as a professional woman returning to school to complete her Master’s in Kentucky.

Name: Brigitte Burpo  
Department/School: CEHD- Health and Sport Science  
Title/Role: PhD Candidate  
Accomplishment Date: Oct & Nov 2019  
Name of Conference attended: GSC, MAGS, HSS and the Women’s Center  
Describe accomplishment: I successfully passed my dissertation proposal on October 16, 2019. My dissertation will be a case study analysis of the strategic management of resources for an HBCU athletic department. I was also awarded the M. Celeste Nachols Award from the Women’s Center. I was also awarded the Graduate Student Council Research Grant and the Multicultural Association of Graduate Students Research Award. All awards will assist with my dissertation research expenses.

Name: Rachid Tagoulla  
Department/School: Fine Arts  
Title/Role: Student, Full Time  
Accomplishment Date: October 2019  
Describe accomplishment: Curator of photography exhibition; Morocco, May Eyes, One Vision. October 2019, MFA Gallery. Louisville, KY

Name: Daniella Prince  
Department/School: A&S Biology  
Title/Role: PhD Candidate  
Accomplishment Date: October 2019  
Name of Conference attended: XXIV Simpósio de Mirmecologia: An International Ant Meeting held in Belo Horizonte, Brazil  
Describe accomplishment: Honorable mention for my oral presentation entitled "Multisensory navigation and neuroanatomy of the tropical understory twig ant Pseudomyrmex boopis"
M.A.G.S PRESENTS

Holiday Potluck

11. 22. 19
6PM

MUSIC | GAMES | FOOD

SHUMAKER - RM 139
REPRESENT YOUR CULTURE BY BRINGING A DISH TO THE POTLUCK! (NOT REQUIRED)

Victory Osezua, President
Mutiyat Ade-Salu, Vice President
Brigitte Burpo, Treasurer
Denae Powell, Secretary
Jason Deakings, Public Relations
Yvette Stith, Advisor
Tamekka Cornelius, Advisor
INTERESTED IN SUBMITTING AN ARTICLE TO THE ADVOCATE?

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

• Article length should be approximately 500 words or fewer
• Include at least one picture (with a caption)
• Include (separately) information about the author (program, department, education, etc.)
• Please submit as either a Word (preferred) or PDF document
• Submit articles by February 14, 2020 to sigsdiv@louisville.edu for our Spring issue
• Please note that submission DOES NOT guarantee publication