Dan Hall, UofL’s vice president for the Office of Community Engagement, joined the university in the fall of 1985 after spending seven years in Washington, DC, working on Capitol Hill with Louisville Congressman Ron Mazzoli.

His office is responsible for the facilitation, coordination, assessment and recognition of the community engagement activities of faculty, staff and students, and also directs the activities of the Signature Partnership Initiative.

In addition to serving on numerous community boards, Hall is co-founder of the Louisville Public Radio Partnership Board of Directors. The Louisville native, Central High School graduate, is also a three-time Golden Gloves Champion. He earned his undergraduate from Dartmouth College, Law degree from Harvard University and Master of the Arts in Theological Studies from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

UofL News had the chance to talk to Hall about his career and how the concept of community engagement has changed in the past three decades.

**UofL News: What made you come back to Louisville?**
**Dan Hall:** I was approached by UofL to oversee governmental, public and community relations. I accepted the position thinking it would provide a great opportunity to reconnect with the community before resuming my law practice. Little did I know at the beginning that it would become a labor of love for 31 years. Also, my wife Sheila and I were delighted to return home to raise our three young children in a community that is so family friendly.

**UofL News: In your time here, what has surprised you the most and what accomplishments have made you most proud?**
**Dan Hall:** I was pleased to discover that very few things of significance happen in this community without the direct or indirect involvement of this wonderful university. As an anchor institution, UofL usually is involved in major new initiatives in the areas of education, healthcare, economic development, technology, social services and the arts and culture. I soon realized that UofL provided me with a wonderful platform from which to make a difference in our community.

I am particularly proud to have been the first African American appointed to a vice president position here at UofL. I’m proud that I successfully secured a prominent role for UofL during the enactment of the Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997. This historic law assigned to UofL its current mission to become a premier metropolitan research universi-
As a part of this legislation, the General Assembly appropriated the initial funds to create the Research Challenge Trust Fund known as the “Bucks for Brains” program. This historic legislation and funding established the foundation and trajectory for UofL to become a major research university that is helping to transform and advance our community.

Of course, I’m also very proud of the nationally recognized Signature Partnership Initiative with west Louisville. Last year more than 2,000 UofL undergraduate, graduate and professional students, along with over 600 UofL faculty and staff, participated in more than 100 research or service-learning projects in collaboration with many community partners.

**UofL News: How has the concept of community engagement changed during your career?**
**Dan Hall:** In the world of higher education, community engagement is now regarded as a critically important pedagogy for teaching students, conducting research or focusing service. In years past, community engagement simply was deemed to be a one-way street with the university reaching out to community to benefit society. The academy now understands there is a mutual benefit to community engagement. Not only does the community benefit, but student learning outcomes are advanced when students leave campus and apply what they learn in the classroom or laboratory to solving or addressing real-world issues.

**UofL News: What has been your favorite thing about working here? What is your favorite part of campus?**
**Dan Hall:** Having access to good basketball and football tickets has been my favorite thing about working at UofL. The panoramic views of campus from the windows in my office on the second floor of Grawemeyer Hall overlooking the Oval are second to none.

**UofL News: What are your retirement plans?**
**Dan Hall:** My family, including five grandchildren, will now have me full-time. I look forward to staying connected with community sharing the love of God and sharing the word of God.

---

**Upcoming Diversity Events & Announcements**

- **Angela Project Conference 2017**
  The Angela Project is a three year movement commemorating the 400th anniversary of black enslavement in America. Please join special guest speakers Dr. Jared Bell, Tim Wise, Yvette Carnell, Dr. Robert Franklin, and Antonio Moore as they set a new trajectory for the next 400 years.
  **When:** Monday, September 11, 2017
  **Time:** 9:00 AM—5:00 PM
  **Where:** Galt House Hotel, 140 N. 4th St. Louisville, KY 40208
In elementary school, teachers are involved in every aspect of a student’s learning. They teach every subject, reading, writing, mathematics, etc. Middle school finds the teachers less involved. Kids switch classes throughout the day, and teachers only teach one or two subjects. In high school, teachers do the same, but at this point those pre-teens have become teens and do not require their hands to be held through class.

In college, there are professors or lecturers. There are some that differentiate themselves by allowing students to learn through life experiences and research. Professors like Dr. Muriel Harris and Trinidad Jackson, accompanying eight students to Ghana for 21 days. Dr. Harris and Trinidad became tour guides, travel agents, emergency responders, chaperones, photographers and whatever else a college student needed to make their time in a host country memorable, educational, comfortable and most importantly fun.

As we began our journey, we did not know what to expect, but we were excited about what the Ghana-Sankofa Experience could bring to our lives. On May 16th, 2017, eight students from the School of Public Health and Information Sciences, embarked on a journey that we would never forget. We were given the opportunity to embrace the culture and the beautiful people of Ghana, Africa.

We visited Ghana, completed a qualitative research study within the community and immersed ourselves into a new world. Within this qualitative study we traveled to the city of Obuasi, home to one of the four major gold mines in Ghana. We facilitated and completed a photo voice project that entailed asking community members to take pictures of things around them that affected their health and interviewing them. Through these interviews, we gained a better understanding of the public health issues within the population.

During our trip, we traveled to the capital of Ghana, Accra, the city of Kumasi and many more. Throughout our three weeks in Ghana, we were also afforded the opportunity to partake in amazing excursions such as the hanging bridges in the Kakum National Forest, The Cedi Bead Factory and Tafi Atome Monkey Sanctuary.
In addition to breathtaking excursions, we were taken to educational monuments that reflected the history of Ghana, civil rights and Pan-Africanism. These monuments included Independence Park, where advocate for independence Kwame Nkrumah is laid to rest, and the house of civil rights activist W.E.B Du Bois. To fully experience the culture of Ghana we spent some time in the city of Cape Coast. While there, we visited two slave castles, Cape Coast and Elmina Castle.

It was an unforgettable and chilling experience to stand in the same room where millions of slaves were held. We experienced the cells and the dungeons where human beings were shackled together and forced to sit and sleep in their own waste. Personally, the most memorable element of this tour was walking through the “Door of No Return.” The door in which slaves marched out of the slave castle to the boat that would take them away from their homeland.

As I reflect on my time in Ghana, I am reminded of the concept of Sankofa, which means “to go back and get it”. Sankofa teaches us that we must go back to our roots in order to move forward. Whatever we have lost, forgotten or have been stripped of can be reclaimed. This trip to Ghana has opened my eyes to my roots, while also teaching me about myself and my full potential as I move forward. I am thankful for the captivating experience and forever grateful for the opportunity that Dr. Harris has given me and my classmates.
Health and Social Justice Scholars

UofL Health and Social Justice Scholars Launch Plans to Improve Health Equity in Louisville

by Betty Coffman, Health Communications Specialist

The first cohort of the University of Louisville Health and Social Justice Scholars (HSJS) is ready to begin implementing strategies to improve health equity in the Louisville community.

The four Health Sciences Center students, who began the program last summer, presented project plans to a group of faculty members, program directors and future scholars that include research and action aimed at improving the health of Louisvillians. Each of the students worked with a faculty or community mentor to develop a plan for a project to be completed over the next two years. Their projects focus on improvements in access to fresh food, community trust in healthcare providers, dental care for HIV patients and diversity in the healthcare workforce.

“The diversity of the projects speaks volumes. Although they receive guidance from mentors, this is truly their work, based on their vision for a more equitable Louisville. I can only imagine where these initiatives will lead,” said Katie Leslie, Ph.D., program director in the UofL HSC Office of Diversity and Inclusion and director of the Health and Social Justice Scholars program.

The HSJS cohort includes one doctoral student from each of the four schools on the UofL HSC campus: School of Dentistry, School of Medicine, School of Nursing and School of Public Health and Information Sciences. The students are selected based on their commitment to social justice and health equity to engage in a three-year program designed to help them learn techniques for working interprofessionally and with community members to improve the overall health of local residents. Their projects are to include community-based research conducted along with a faculty mentor and a report prepared for scholarly publication. In addition, they participate in community service projects and attend monthly discussions.

Ashton Green
School of Dentistry
Mentor: Karen Krigger, M.D.

“Improving Access to Dental Care and Resources for Individuals Living with HIV”
Oral signs are often the first indication of larger health problems, and related oral conditions occur in 30 to 80 percent of HIV-infected individuals. Green hopes to improve dental care compliance in this population by developing and testing educational materials that will reinforce the importance of oral health and encourage them to seek and continue dental health care.
Diana Kuo
School of Public Health and Information Sciences
Mentor: Brandy Kelly Pryor, Ph.D.
“Examining and Addressing the Effects of Food Systems on Health Outcomes in Louisville”
Neighborhoods with limited access to healthy food, known as food deserts, are associated with reduced health among residents. A number of areas in central Louisville have been identified as food deserts. Kuo plans to evaluate whether neighborhood international markets are good sources of fresh food for the community.

Jade Montanez
School of Nursing
Mentor: Vicki Hines-Martin, Ph.D.
“Confronting Health Disparities Through Post-Secondary Health Sciences Degree Attainment”
Montanez hopes to support an increase in the number of underrepresented minorities in nursing by strengthening a program that prepares junior high and high school students for post-secondary education. She anticipates that a more diverse health-care workforce will benefit not only the students themselves, but also the community through reduced health disparities.

Mallika Sabharwal
School of Medicine
Mentor: Theo Edmonds, J.D., M.H.A., M.F.A.
“Understanding Medical Mistrust in Smoketown”
Mistrust of the medical community can prevent individuals from receiving care and cloud interactions with healthcare providers. Sabharwal plans to survey residents of Smoketown and UofL students and providers to assess mistrust of health professionals. She then will develop tools to improve cultural competency among providers and improve communication between providers and Smoketown residents. She hopes to include a focus group for creative expression by Smoketown residents, providers and students, possibly resulting in a creative project.

In developing the HSJS program, V. Faye Jones, M.D., Ph.D., M.S.P.H., associate vice president for health affairs and diversity initiatives at UofL, hoped to tap into the students’ interests and aptitudes while instructing them in techniques for addressing community issues.

“Our original vision for the program was to educate our students of the complexity of the problems facing our communities,” Jones said. “Each one has found a unique avenue for integrating their passion into a community project to address health disparities. Although each project has a connecting theme of social justice and health equity, the diversity in the approaches ignites excitement for the program.”

New scholars announced
The second cohort of Health and Social Justice Scholars has been selected and will begin matching with mentors and developing their projects this summer.

- Morgan Pearson – School of Dentistry
- Devin McBride – School of Medicine
- Charles (John) Luttrell – School of Nursing
- Tasha Golden – School of Public Health and Information Sciences

For more information about the HSC Health and Social Justice Scholars program click here.
Elmer Lucille Hammonds Allen was born on August 23, 1931, the first child of Elmer and Ophelia Guinn Hammonds. Her parents would later bare a son also named Elmer, thus she was always called by two names, Elmer Lucille. Elmer Lucille would later marry Ray Allen.

In 1953 Elmer Lucille became one of the first African American female chemists in the country after her graduation from Spalding University with a degree in chemistry. Despite holding this degree she was unable to find a job as a chemist in Kentucky. Elmer Lucille initially took a position at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indiana as a clerk/typist, but soon after she was hired as a research chemist at the University of Louisville’s School of Medicine. In 1966 the Brown-Forman Company recruited Elmer Lucille as a junior chemist, and she became the first African American chemist employed by the company. After 31 years of employment Elmer Lucille retired as a senior chemist in 1997.

Five years later Elmer Lucille returned to college at the University of Louisville where she studied to earn her Master of Arts degree in creative arts with a major in ceramics. She went on to work in both textiles and ceramics using shades of blue and black to create her art. She would often use the Japanese technique of shibori while creating textiles. This technique involves folding, crumpling, and binding cloth before dyeing it. Elmer Lucille went on to become a charter member of the Arts Council of Louisville, curator of the Wayside Expressions Gallery, and founded the short-lived Afro-American Coalition for Artists. Elmer Lucille created the first African American Arts Directory in Kentucky and also belonged to the esteemed Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

Elmer Lucille’s life served as the topic of the 2003 play ‘She Moves Like the Wind’ by Nancy Gall-Clayton. In 2004 she became the first recipient of the Community Arts Lifetime Local Achievement Award and was also honored by the Center for Women and Families as a Woman of Distinction that same year. Later in 2007 Elmer Lucille was included in the Portraits of Grace collection, a portrait collection depicting women in their 80s whose lives have made a positive impact on Louisville.

Elmer Lucille and her work both still continue to influence the community widely. You can find some of her exhibits displayed in the Kentucky Artisan Center in Berea, the Kentucky Museum of Arts and Crafts in Louisville, Kentucky State University, the Kentucky Capitol, the Actors Theatre of Louisville, the Owensboro Fine Arts Museum, the Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest, as well as many private collections including Spalding University, Brown-Forman Corporate Collection, and the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs at Purdue University.