ON THE PATHWAY

New School Year, New Plans

With a new school year, typically come new Graduate Assistants for the program, who bring new ideas due to different backgrounds.

We have three new Graduate Assistants for the Ph.D. Pathways Program, all whom are introduced on Page 3.

The program has expanded exponentially this year and will continue to do so. Not only have we opened up the program to all departments this year, we have also broadened the definition of “underrepresented” students. In the past years, the program mainly focused on ethnic or racial minority students. However, this year we have also opened this program to students with disabilities. We plan on continuing to open up this program to more underrepresented groups on campus as we continue to grow.

We have also started a Protégé Training Program to go along side our Faculty Mentor Training. Students, Dr. Susan McDowell, a Professor in the Department of Biology, is facilitating this Protégé Training. We hope to continue this annually, for new students to the program.

We are also transitioning this semester into online applications for students and an online mentor training option.

If you have any ideas that you think would be beneficial to the program, we would love to hear them! Please e-mail Paulina Wojtach, pwojtach@bsu.edu.

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

2 Welcome Back Reception and Fall 2016 Faculty Mentor Training Recaps
3 Meet the Graduate Assistants of the Ph.D. Pathways Program
4 Volunteering Opportunity: MLK Dream Team Alumna Spotlight: Ciara A. Johnson
5-6 Research Opportunities
6 Upcoming Workshops

Ph.D. Pathways Program is Now on Social Media

This year, we have put a major focus on widening the visibility of our program, which includes our online presence. We now have accounts for Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Benny Link.

We highly recommend that you like, follow, subscribe, and join our accounts to stay updated on a more day-to-day basis compared to our monthly newsletter.
On Monday, August 29, 2016, the Ph.D. Pathways Program launched their Welcome Back Reception at the Football Stadium Picnic Shelter. Mentors and protégés alike were present.

We had a delicious dinner, provided by University Catering. Lots of information about our upcoming events, as well as plans for the program, was shared. We also played corn-hole, as well as some fun icebreaker games. It was extremely entertaining hearing all these fun facts from some of our professors!

It was a lovely evening during which we had the opportunity to meet some of the new additions to the program as well as the past participants. We had a great deal of fun at this reception, and it was an excellent way to kick off the semester!

We will try to have more fun events like our Welcome Back Reception throughout the year.

--------

On Monday, September 19, 2016, we had our Faculty Mentor Training. Unlike past training events, we decided to forgo the typical lecture-style, PowerPoint presentation and brought out conversation amongst the mentors and the Graduate Assistants. The conversation included updates on the program, basics of mentor-protégé relationships, and what worked and what did not work in the previous years of the program.

Understanding and Engaging Under Resourced College Students is a great book that was recommended as a useful resource by Dr. Kristen McCauliff.

We understand that not all mentors can attend, and for those who were unable to attend, we will be sending out a video version of the training.

If you have any input on or ideas for the program, please e-mail Paulina Wojtach, pwojtach@bsu.edu. Your opinions help shape our program!
Meet the Graduate Assistants of the Ph.D. Pathways Program

As Graduate Assistants come and go, we realize that it can become difficult to keep track of which Graduate Assistants are part of the Ph.D. Pathways Program. We are excited to introduce ourselves to all of you. The Graduate Assistants for this year are Allison Cipriano, Paulina Wojtach, Jaylin Lee, Maegan Pollonais.

Allison Cipriano is a Masters of Social Psychology Student in the Department of Counseling Psychology. She graduated from the Ithaca College with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. Her aspirations include earning a Ph.D. in Social Psychology and conducting social psychological research on issues surrounding prejudice and discrimination. Allison is thrilled to have the opportunity to work with the Ph.D. Pathways program and hopes to help students reach their education goals and facilitate quality mentoring relationships.

Paulina Wojtach graduated from Dominican University with a Bachelor of Arts in Clinical Psychology, with minors in English and Social Media. Currently, she is pursuing a Masters Degree in Social Psychology and Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Paulina plans on continuing on in a Ph.D. Program in either Clinical Psychology or Social Psychology when she completes her Masters degree at Ball State. Her ultimate goal is to be a part of the trifecta of psychology: serving as a university professor, clinical therapist, and avid researcher. Paulina is very excited to work with the Ph.D. Pathways Program and to utilize her experiences and knowledge to help students who also want to pursue higher education.

Jaylin Lee is a returning Graduate Assistant for the Ph.D. Pathways Program. She completed her undergraduate degree in Speech Language Pathology at Ball State University. As an undergraduate, she participated in the Ph.D. Pathways Program where she had heaps of opportunities to attain the resources and better prepare herself for Graduate School. Jaylin’s Ph.D. Pathways mentor continually provided quality support and guidance. This guidance enabled her to foster better relationships with staff in the Ball State community, and ultimately led to more value in her education. Hoping that other students can find similar experiences, Jaylin took on the task of being a Graduate Assistant for the program. She is completing her 2nd year with the program as her time at Ball State nears an end. Before she departs Muncie in January, Jaylin will focus centering the program around both mentor and protégés along with the other Graduate Assistants in the program.

Though she is originally from Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean, Maegan Pollonais graduated with her BA in Sociology and Music from SUNY Plattsburgh in New York and her Masters in Music from Bowling Green State University in Ohio, where she was the recipient of the Winifred O. Stone Presidential Scholarship. She is currently pursuing her Doctorate in Music with a concentration in Educational Psychology. Maegan is excited to be part of the Ph.D. Pathways Program, where she plans to use her gifts and skills to bridge music, diversity, leadership and education together. She is very passionate about helping students find their voice, identifying what makes them unique and manifesting those characteristics into leadership and excellence.
Volunteering Opportunity: MLK Dream Team

The Martin Luther King Dream Team is a group of diverse community volunteers composed of Ball State students in Muncie, Indiana. Their goal is to keep Dr. Martin Luther King’s “dream” alive across East Central Indiana through a series of events and activities. With the collaboration and sponsorship from the Muncie Human Rights Commission, Virginia B. Ball Center for Creative Inquiry, City of Muncie, and the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies, the Dream Team can fulfill their mission via The Freedom Bus. Their key mission is to educate 4th & 5th graders about civil rights activism in East Central Indiana as well as, inspire these students to make a difference directly in their communities.

The Freedom Bus project began in the year of 2005 when Muncie Indiana Transit System (MITS) donated a retired city bus to the Dream Team. Not until the year of 2014, a team of 14 Ball State students collaborated with members of the Dream Team to research, design, develop, and install exhibits to transform the bus into a mobile museum.

We are encouraging our mentors and protégés to volunteer and participate in this life-changing experience, as it will give you an insight on the histories of Central Indiana residents who were active in the Civil Rights Movement.

If interested, the Dream Team meets the 4th of each Thursday of each month at 8:00 AM in the Muncie community Schools Administration Building, or contact dreamteam@mlkdreamteam.org.

Ph.D. Pathways Alumna Spotlight: Ciara A. Johnson

Ciara A. Johnson participated in the Ph.D. Pathways Program from August 2014 until May 2016, when she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Interpersonal Communication. She is now currently a graduate student, working towards her Master’s Degree in Emerging Media Design and Development. Not only is she a student, but also she is continuing to excel as a Graduate Assistant for the Graduate School. Here is what Ciara had to say about her experience in the Program.

"Ph.D. Pathways was my gateway to graduate school. I signed up to have a mentor so I could receive some guidance in how I should navigate junior year, but I left with a network of support, a new perspective, and a passion for higher education. Because of the relationships I built and maintained throughout my time in the program, (not to mention the positive reinforcement I would get from my mentor), I began to feel a sense of empowerment. My active involvement ultimately led me to a few graduate assistantship opportunities and now I am working as the Development and Special Events Coordinator for the Graduate School.

Through this experience, I can honestly say that I learned the power of networking. You have to be willing to step outside of your comfort zone and connect with people. You never know those connections may lead you to discover more about yourself and the things you are capable of."

Ciara A. Johnson participated in the Ph.D. Pathways Program from August 2014 until May 2016, when she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Interpersonal Communication. She is now currently a graduate student, working towards her Master’s Degree in Emerging Media Design and Development. Not only is she a student, but also she is continuing to excel as a Graduate Assistant for the Graduate School. Here is what Ciara had to say about her experience in the Program.

"Ph.D. Pathways was my gateway to graduate school. I signed up to have a mentor so I could receive some guidance in how I should navigate junior year, but I left with a network of support, a new perspective, and a passion for higher education. Because of the relationships I built and maintained throughout my time in the program, (not to mention the positive reinforcement I would get from my mentor), I began to feel a sense of empowerment. My active involvement ultimately led me to a few graduate assistantship opportunities and now I am working as the Development and Special Events Coordinator for the Graduate School.

Through this experience, I can honestly say that I learned the power of networking. You have to be willing to step outside of your comfort zone and connect with people. You never know those connections may lead you to discover more about yourself and the things you are capable of."
Research Presentation Opportunities | Conferences & Symposums

**October 8, 2016, Milwaukee, WI:** At the Diversity in Psychology Research Conference, attendees will be provided with an opportunity to meet professors and their students who are conducting cutting-edge research in diversity-related areas in psychology. The event includes advice from both Marquette Graduate School personnel and from a Director of Clinical Training (DCT) with over two decades of experience in graduate training on how to maximize the appeal of your application to a graduate program. There will also be a panel of current graduate students who will answer questions about applications, interviews, and balancing the rigors of graduate school. The registration deadline is September 30, 2016.

**October 12th-16th, Seattle WA:** The National Collegiate Honors Council will feature the theme “Know Yourself” and will explore this theme from three perspectives: 1) at a personal level; 2) in regard to honors education and the NCHC; and 3) in relation to Seattle, the site of the 2016 NCHC conference. “Becoming empowered – finding purpose and direction, which can be termed as self-authorship – starts with and then builds upon knowing who you are. Ideally the educational experience by being relevant and significant is able to develop that awareness of self and then enable self-authorship.”

**October 21st and 22nd, Indianapolis, IN:** The Inaugural Black Wom(b)en’s Wellness & Empowerment Summit will feature numerous speakers with relevance to students, practicing clinicians of all disciplines, scholars, and advocates. The summit is FREE and the opening event on Friday is a student research poster session. Register now at: https://goo.gl/forms/rBLGXlhFH8xJlixz2 . For more information, email: cpso@indiana.edu

**March 31st and April 1st 2017, Ball State University:** At the first ever Great Lakes Counseling Psychology Conference, the focus will be on presenting and being exposed to research that can serve a social justice purpose of some kind. More information will be available soon, but be on the lookout for this new and exciting event.

**April 2017, Butler University Indianapolis, IN:** At The Undergraduate Research Conference, students from across a broad spectrum of disciplines present their research findings from the following content areas: Anthropology, Art Exhibition, Art History, Biology, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Business & Economics, Chemistry, Communication & Media Studies, Education, Exercise Science & Human Performance, Gender, Women's, & Sexuality Studies, History, International Studies, English Literature & Creative Writing, Mathematics & Computer Science, Modern Languages, Literatures, & Cultures, Music, Pharmacy & Health Sciences, Philosophy & Religion, Physics, Political Science, Psychology, Social Work, Sociology, Sustainability, Urban Ecology, & Environmental Studies, and Theatre. The registration deadline is February 8, 2017.

**April 2017, Ball State University:** At the Ball State University Student Symposium, BSU provides students with the opportunity to showcase creative and scholarly projects, while gaining practical experience presenting their work in a conference setting right here on Ball State’s campus. The Student Symposium encourages interdisciplinary discourse, allowing students to learn from each other about engaging topics from many disciplines around the university. Poster presentations are eligible for one of six cash prizes and all paper presentations will receive feedback from a faculty moderator. Students, who are currently involved in research projects or creative endeavors, or planning to become involved in the future, may use this as an opportunity to find potential collaborators and to see the many types of academic activities already being undertaken at Ball State University. Students not yet involved in these kinds of activities will discover that attending the Student Symposium is a great way to learn about the broad range of opportunities available on campus. Students must have engaged in academic activities either inside or outside the classroom, and have been advised by a Ball State faculty mentor. Research on a project does not have to be completed as long as a reasonable presentation can be made that conveys the essential aspects of the project and the expected/intended outcome(s).
registration dates for this event will occur in January and February during the spring semester. More information may be found on the official website: 
http://bsu.edu/About/AdministrativeOffices/StudentSymposium

April 2017, Ball State University: At the BSU Annual Poster Session, the Department of Psychological Science holds a poster session in which undergraduate and graduate students present their research. The event is open to students of all majors who have completed or partially completed any behavioral science research project in which they took an active role. Such projects include independent research conducted under faculty supervision, collaborative work done with a professor, honors theses, master’s theses, and independent research that fulfilled a course assignment. Students can present finalized projects, preliminary data, or predicted results.

April 20-22 2017, Chicago, IL: At the Midwestern Psychological Association Convention you can share your research, make new friends, and connect with psychological scientists from across the Midwest and the world. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday, November 8, 2016. All poster presentations, oral paper presentations, and symposia that are submitted are reviewed by the MPA Program Committee. Approximately 85% of submissions are accepted. More information may be found at http://www.midwesternpsych.org/.

Q: Why should I participate in a research conference?
Graduate School admissions committees and potential employers are impressed when an applicant has presented his or her work at an annual departmental conference. You can get experience with the final step in the research process: communicating your results and conclusions to others. You can exchange research ideas with other students and faculty. You can have your work recognized by faculty and peers. You can help educate other students about research being conducted at Ball State.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS:

• Tuesday, September 27, 2016 – Protégé Training with Dr. Susan McDowell, from 5:00pm to 6:00pm in Bracken Library, Room 104
• Wednesday, October 26, 2016 – “Finding Your Voice Through Unanswered Questions” with Dr. Lisa Rubenstein, from 5:00pm to 6:00pm in Bracken Library, Room 104

More workshops are being finalized! They will be e-mailed to you once they are set in stone.

CONTACT US!
Allison Cipriano, Liaison for Teacher’s College 
aecipriano@bsu.edu
Jaylin Lee, Liaison for Teacher’s College  jlee@bsu.edu
Maegan Pollonais, Liaison for College of Sciences and Humanities mdpollonais@bsu.edu
Paulina Wojtach, Liaison for College of Communication, Information, and Media and Miller College of Business pwojtach@bsu.edu