Winter Break is Coming…

We hope that all of you have had a great semester with the Ph.D. Pathways Program, which was a first for many of us in the Program. Enjoy your winter break! Make sure to relax and enjoy yourself without the worries of exams, essays, and projects. Happy Holidays from the Ph.D. Pathways Graduate Assistants, Allison Cipriano, Jaylin Lee, Maegan Pollonais, and Paulina Wojtach!

Save the Date!

Executive Board Applications Due
December 30
More information available on page 6

Spring Semester Begins
January 9
Welcome back to Ball State University!
December Event Recaps
Recaps of our End of the Semester Celebration
and our Quiet Study Session

End of Semester Celebration

On Friday, December 9th, in Teacher’s College, Room 1008, the Ph.D. Pathways Program hosted a party celebrating a successful Fall 2016 semester. Mentors, protégés, administrators, and graduate assistants all gathered together potluck style, sharing company and dishes from a wide range of cultural backgrounds. Graduate assistants for the Ph.D. Pathways Program discussed the results from the Fall 2016 semester survey evaluating program success and satisfaction with all in attendance. Plans for the upcoming spring 2017 semester were also discussed. The program also said farewell to one of the graduate assistants for Teacher’s College, Jaylin Lee. Dr. Charlene Alexander thanked all in attendance for all the hard work they put in to contribute to a successful semester.

Quiet Study Session

The Bracken Library can be very full and loud before finals; some of the quiet study rooms are booked weeks in advance. Finding a quiet study area on campus can seem almost impossible. So, the Ph.D. Pathways booked a large conference meeting room in the Bracken Library basement for protégés to come in and study for finals on Monday, December 12, from 5:00pm to 7:30pm. Protégés were provided a quiet study area, charging cables for phones and laptops, hot chocolate, and coloring sheets for quiet, soothing breaks. Nine hardworking protégés participated in the quiet study session. We hope that all of the protégés benefited from having a private, quiet study area and that all of our protégés surpassed their expectations for their final exams.

More pictures from our events can be seen on our Facebook page!
Responses of the End of Semester Survey

On Monday, December 5, we sent out the End of the Semester Survey to all of our Ph.D. Pathways protégés to examine the communication in mentoring relationships, feelings towards relationships with mentors and with graduate assistants, belief in the program overall, and thoughts regarding events that occurred this semester, prior to initial mailing of this survey. Therefore, the End of the Semester Celebration and the Quiet Study Session were not included in this survey. The survey is completely anonymous. At the time of this newsletter, only about one-third of protégés (n=21) had filled out the survey. If you are reading this article and have not yet completed the survey, please do so. Your graduate assistant can send you another link, if necessary.

Protégés were asked to rate their feelings towards their mentors, their graduate assistants, and the program overall. In regards to satisfaction with their current mentor match, the majority of students strongly agreed (n=14) that they were very satisfied with their mentor matches.

In regards to communication with their mentors, the majority of protégés agreed (n=9) and strongly agreed (n=9) that they were satisfied with the amount and quality of communication occurring in the mentor relationship.

In regards to relationships with the graduate assistants, the majority of students agreed (n=12) that they felt comfortable coming to the graduate assistants with any problems.

The majority of students strongly agreed (n=10) that the Ph.D. Pathways Program would help them to build the skills and knowledge necessary to attend graduate school.
Protégés also provided information regarding what they would like to see in future events and workshops for the Ph.D. Pathways Program. Students main ideas were around the topics of scheduling, graduate school applications, networking, volunteering, and events related to specific colleges and fields. This past semester, the majority of our events were on Tuesday evenings, which was an issue for students who had classes, jobs, or internships during that time. So, next semester, we will be working on having workshops and events spread throughout the weekdays. In regards to graduate school applications, we do have three events in the woodwork related to the search for the best graduate school program per individual, graduate school applications, and the GRE. We are planning a month of networking in regards to a face-to-face networking event and on how to utilize LinkedIn to network with other professionals. We are also planning to have at least one volunteering event every semester, which we did this semester with the Muncie Animal Shelter. We also want to build bridges within our own colleges; therefore, we will also be planning at least one event per college next semester. This way, you can learn more about your field specifically and other individuals who are interested in that field.

In regards to the events and workshops of this past semester, we asked students to rate which events they believed were the most enjoyable and most educational and which events they would like to see again. The most enjoyable events were Protégé Training ($n=10$), Finding Your Voice in Research, also known as our Beginning Research workshop ($n=7$), and the Therapy Dog event ($n=8$).

The most educational workshops were Protégé Training ($n=10$) and Adulting 101 ($n=8$).

The events that protégés would like to see again, in a similar style, were Adulting 101 ($n=15$), Research Funding ($n=13$), Volunteering with the Muncie Animal Shelter ($n=13$), and the Therapy Dogs event ($n=13$).

Thank you for all of your input! We take it all to heart and hope you will enjoy what we have in store for next semester.
Multicultural Alliance in Criminal Justice

The Multicultural Alliance in Criminal Justice is an organization whose main objective is to serve as a support group and voice for students in Criminal Justice at Ball State University. Dr. Kiesha Warren-Gordon, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice and mentor in the Ph.D. Pathways Program, has been very instrumental in the creation of this organization, inspiring our Ph.D. Pathways protégés to join and have a voice.

Adrian Arellano, a Ph.D. Pathways first time protégé spoke with us, sharing more information on the organization. "We thought this was important and necessary because there isn't enough representation of ethnic students in the Criminal Justice Department here at Ball State. We're still in the building blocks of the organization, but we're hoping to serve as the home away from home for many students on both a professional and social level," said Adrian Arellano, a criminal justice major.

We have also have another Ph.D. Pathways protégée in this newly developed organization: Ms. Kristyn Hobbs.

For more information about the organization and how to get involved, please send an e-mail to Maegan Pollonais, mdpollonais@bsu.edu.

Need For More Amazing Mentors!
Help Us Spread the Word!

Do you know any driven professors or staff on campus who you think would be perfect for this program?

The Ph.D. Pathways Program, as you may have seen, is constantly expanding. We need more and more mentors to keep up with the amount of motivated and hardworking students that we have apply each semester. The only thing that we ask from mentors in our program is to meet with students at least once a month face-to-face, and to be a source of academic and professional support. If you know of any one who would be beneficial to our underrepresented students, please let your Ph.D. Pathways liaison know so that she may contact that individual and tell them more about our wonderful program!
Protégé of the Month:
Kyra Woods

The Ph.D. Pathways Protégé of the Month for December is Kyra Woods. Kyra Woods is a sophomore Exercise Science major, who wrote a wonderful article that will be featured in the January 2017 publication of Tizio Magazine.

Tizio Magazine is centered on black culture and excellence. The magazine features articles among various topics including the arts, fashion, and politics. Kyra’s writing touches the topic of representation of natural African American Hair. She addresses the stigma of natural hair in the black community and how the media portrays African American hair textures. The main goal of her article was to plainly state why proper representation of all African American natural hair textures matter especially how it affects those within the black community.

For more information about the magazine and to order the January 2017 publication of Tizio, with Kyra Woods's article, please visit www.thetizio.com. The January 2017 issue will also include articles about #BlackLivesMatter, Ivy Park, Yeezy Clothing, and more. An individual issue is $4.99, or you may subscribe to the magazine for $4.99 per month, which amounts to $59.88 per year.

If you know another amazing protégé that you believe should be featured, please send an e-mail to Paulina Wojtach, pwojtach@bsu.edu.
News From You!

As you may have noticed, at the end of each newsletter, we ask you, our Ph.D. Pathways Program members to share any news with us that we could share with you through our e-mails and newsletters. In this issue, we would like to share an event that will be occurring in the spring semester and two available courses, taught by our very own Ph.D. Pathways mentors.

**Shared by Dr. Lori Byers, Associate Dean of the College of Communication, Information, and Media:**

We invite you to the MLK Speaker Series presentation by Kevin Powell "Looking for Martin: Dr. King, Community, Civil Rights, Social Media & the New Activism". The presentation will take place at Pruis Hall on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 @ 7:30 p.m.

Kevin Powell is one of the most acclaimed political, cultural, literary and hip-hop voices in America today, Kevin is the author of 12 books, including his newest title, The Education of Kevin Powell: A Boy's Journey into Manhood. Kevin's writings have also appeared in CNN.com, Esquire, Ebony, The Huffington Post, Rolling Stone, ESPN.com and Vibe. In addition, Kevin is a co-founder of BK Nation, a new American organization focused on civil and human rights for all.

**Shared by Jason Conerly, Ph.D. Pathways protégé:**

Journalism 299: Diversity & Media will address issues of diversity in newspapers, broadcast, news internet sites and new media platforms. In this class, we will discuss a series of specific issues, problems and current events in a seminar format – explored through the perspectives of diversity, culture, ethics, and social responsibility – and informed by communications, social science and social psychological theories. This experience is designed to engage critical thinking, thoughtful discussion and scholarship as to provide all of our department’s majors with a deep and nuanced understanding of the relationships between diversity, journalism and democracy. There are six seats remaining, as well as no prerequisites to take it. Dr. Martin Smith-Rodden, Assistant Professor in the Department of Journalism, teaches the class.

**Shared by Dr. Ruby Cain, Assistant Professor of Adult & Community Education:**

Are you interested in addressing race, culture, racism, and community engagement in America? This may be the course for you. Please share with others who may be interested.

**EDAC 698-870 CRN: 36494** (Seminar in Adult, Higher, and Community Education: Cultural Identities & Community Engagement) – Blended (Online & Campus) 5 Saturdays, 9-4 pm, 9- 1/21, 2/4, 2/18, 3/18, 4/15, (you can take up to six credit hours of EDAC 698)

The seminar will explore the intersectionality of cultural identities, history and impact of structural racism, positionality of race, and strategies for promoting inclusion and civic engagement through family and history research, presentations, oral storytelling, and/or the development of traveling exhibits. Students will complete an immersive learning project, working along with community members. The project will be developing a facilitator guide for the Facing Racism book for high school and community educators. You can view the book at [http://racemuncie.facingproject.com/our-stories/](http://racemuncie.facingproject.com/our-stories/). It is designed as an interactive seminar to foster student discussion, discover family histories, and promote community involvement. The course is constructed from curriculum developed in the program; It is Well With My Soul.
We Want To Hear From You!

Do you know a prominent protégé? Have you heard about any of our amazing alumni? Have you recently presented at a conference? Are you doing anything exceptional yourself either academically or extracurricularly?

Let us know!

Please e-mail Paulina Wojtach, pwojtach@bsu.edu, with any stories that you think we should feature in our newsletter.

The Ph.D. Pathways Program is looking for protégés to join our Executive Board. The Executive Board is made up of College Leaders (one per college), a Student Recruiter, a Public Relations Director, a Community Service Director, and an Event Coordinator. Protégés who are part of the Executive Board will assist the Graduate Assistants hands-on with the program. This experience is wonderful for your resume, as these roles require time management, responsibility, and collaboration – all great traits that are applicable to every field. If you are interested in joining the Executive Board, please fill out an application, which will be emailed out to the protégés, and email the filled-out application to your college’s liaison by the end of the day December 30.

CONTACT US!

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