On The Pathway
Ph.D. Pathways Program

We hope that you all had a spook-tastic Halloween and a great month of October overall! We are more than halfway done with the fall semester – just a few short weeks away from that precious winter break. Keep being your amazing selves and remember to take some time for yourself. As Ph.D. Pathways members, you are known to be high achieving, busy individuals. Remember to schedule in some me-time as the semester gets busier.

Save the Date!

Volunteering
Sat., November 11
11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Muncie Animal Care & Services
Volunteer at the Muncie Animal Shelter and play with animals

#LifeBalance
Mon., November 13
5:30 pm
Teachers College, Room 1008
Learn how to balance life’s stresses with the Counseling Center

How To: LinkedIn
Thu., November 30
5:00 pm
Bracken Library, Room 008
Learn how to utilize your LinkedIn profile to its full potential

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From the Desk of Dr. Melinda Messineo:

“I hope your semester is going well. I have greatly enjoyed getting to meet many of you at the various Pathway events. Over the past few days I have been attending the Teaching and Mentoring Institute for the Southern Regional Educational Board (SREB https://www.sreb.org/) and the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU https://www.hacu.net/). Both of these national programs are working hard to increase the number of under-represented individuals in the professoriate. At the evening plenary at SREB, the Ph.D. graduates of the previous year walk in wearing full regalia and share a few words about their experience. They also offer encouragement to the other participants who are still navigating their paths to degree completion. This was a profoundly moving event and I wish you all could have been there to hear these testimonials. The graduates spoke passionately about the challenges of completing an advanced degree and also beamed at the immense reward of reaching their goal. One consistent thread through each of the attendees’ comments was the power of having a support group. Families, friends, teachers, mentors, loved one, and peers all play a role in our success. I hope that you are finding a support network through the Pathways team. We are here for you and eager to help connect you to the national movement toward advanced degree completion.”

Winners of the Homecoming Day Parade:
Caribbean Student Association

It is our distinct honor, and pleasure to formally announce that the Caribbean Student Association (CSA) - in all its splendor - brought home the win in the following categories for the 2017 Homecoming Parade presentation of Caribbean Nations United: Independent Winner for the Car/Walkers Category and the Overall Winners for the Car/Walkers Category for the Homecoming Day Parade. Both protégé, Gabrielle Spence, and Graduate Assistant, Maegan Pollonais, participated in this event. Gabrielle even designed the winning costumes. This participation by the Caribbean Students Association was an endeavor started by past Associate Provost and OID Director, Dr. Charlene Alexander. The CSA is very appreciative for this opportunity to represent their islands, present their culture, and share their pride with Ball State.
Let’s Get Social!

Protégé Social
Thursday, September 28, 5:30 p.m. | Teachers College, Room 1008

This was our very first social event held specifically for our Pathways protégés. Pathways protégés and the graduate assistants Paulina Wojtach, Allison Cipriano, and Maegan Pollonais, came together for an evening of lighthearted fun and connection away from the stresses of academia. Those in attendance enjoyed some snacks and music while playing card and board games in large groups. We had a blast and will be continuing with social events for Pathways protégés.

Mentor Social
Wednesday, October 18, 7:30 p.m. | Dr. Amy Beckett’s Home

The mentor social event was graciously hosted by Dr. Amy Beckett, one of our Pathways faculty mentors. This was the first mentor social event Pathways has hosted. Mentors, graduate assistants Paulina Wojtach and Allison Cipriano, and Office of Institutional Diversity Director Dr. Melinda Messineo came together for an evening to connect as faculty mentors and colleagues. We will be continuing with social events for Pathways mentors following the success of this event. If you would be interested in hosting the next mentor social, please contact one of our Graduate Assistants.

Halloween Protégé Social
Monday, October 30, 5:30 p.m. | Teachers College, Room 1008

For Halloween, Ph.D. Pathways celebrated with cookie decorating, snacks, and some spooky music. Protégés and the graduate assistants, Paulina Wojtach, Allison Cipriano, and Maegan Pollonais, came together to celebrate this spooky holiday and to get away from post-midterm stress. Thank you to all who came. We cannot wait until our spring protégé social in the coming semester. We hope to see you there!
October Workshop Recaps

Graduate School Application Information Session
Monday, October 2, 5:00 p.m. | Bracken Library, Room L82B

There were eighteen protégés in attendance, as well as one mentor. In this session, the Graduate Assistants shared important and necessary information needed, as well as tips to aid the students in their application process for Graduate Schools. Some protégés had specific schools that they wanted to examine or wanted more information about, where the GA's guided some students individually.

Graduate School Applications Workshop with the Writing Center
Thursday, October 19, 5:30 p.m. | Bracken Library, Room L82B

The Ball State University Writing Center collaborated with the Ph.D. Pathways Program to put on a workshop that goes over the intricacies of graduate school applications and necessary materials. This workshop invited protégés to bring in their application materials to be looked over by Writing Center staff after a presentation and discussion regarding do’s and don’t’s of applications. Five protégés and two of our own Graduate Assistants who are applying to higher education programs took advantage of this opportunity. We are grateful for the time and effort provided by the Writing Center.

Sneak Peak into Spring 2017 Events

Just as the Ph.D. Pathways Graduate Assistants planned the fall semester over the summer, we have been hard at work this semester to plan the spring semester! Your input on these potential events is highly recommended and preferred. We would love to know what you think you need, of course.

We are going to keep social events. one for mentors and one for protégés in the spring. The spring social will potentially include a scavenger hunt throughout Teachers College. We are also looking for a mentor who would like to host our next mentor social, as Dr. Amy Beckett did this semester.

Other events we are planning are “What Can You Do With a Ph.D.?” , a panel presentation with individuals who used their Ph.D.’s outside of academia; Adulting 101 & 12, two events to teach you the basics of college life and life after college (rent, mortgages, etc.); the return of the Therapy Dog Day, a favorite from last year; two research events, one regarding theses and another regarding how to become involved in research; an on-campus volunteering event; a first-generation panel; our returning GRE event; and an etiquette dinner. Please keep in mind that these are tentative events. If you have any suggestions or leads for this event, please contact your graduate assistant liaison.
Prominent Protégés

It typically takes a village to create something great and that’s what Ph.D. Pathways Protégé **Linda White** shared with us in the description of the creation process of the 2017 *Research* magazine.

The process began in the spring as SPA’s top brass chose who to profile in the latest edition. Linda worked all summer conducting interviews and taking photos. Much of the creation took place after the new semester began. Linda also created videos for the Outstanding Researcher of the Year and Creative Endeavor award winners! These are annual awards given to Ball State faculty members by their peers. Linda would like to thank SPA, and fellow Pathways protégé Briana Lomax, who a couple of articles for the magazine, along with everyone else who played a role in making sure the magazine was a success.

Magazine link: https://issuu.com/ballstatespo/docs/fall_2017_for_issuu

**Jaina Cox** is one of our new Pathways protégés and is already impressing us with her accomplishments! Jaina has begun a position with The Graide Network in the role of teaching assistant. Jaina’s responsibilities in this position include helping teachers grade their students’ assignments in addition to working with teachers to give students individualized feedback.

Jaina was also recently awarded the $4,000 William A. Crawford Minority Teacher scholarship! To qualify for this scholarship, the applicant must be an Indiana resident, identify as African American or Hispanic, and agree to teach in Indiana after graduation. Congratulations, Jaina!

**Gabrielle Spence** is currently an MBA student. On top of being a graduate assistant for the marketing department, attending multiple Ph.D. Pathway events, and a great student, she took extra time this month to go to two different conferences. Gabrielle is a great example of the kind of people that Ph.D. Pathways desires to help reach the next level of their education. Here is a short description of the conferences she attended and her experience in them.

1. **NAW MBA** (National Association of Women MBAs) held in Chicago, IL from October 19-21. This conference is designed for women currently pursuing their MBAs or those who have already earned their MBAs. All breakout sessions were lead by truly inspirational women in business and covered topics that ranged from Personal Branding 101 to Redefining your Career. The conference was not only an amazing opportunity to network with other current MBA students but the Little Black Dress Reception and the Career Fair allowed for professional networking as well. I was able to connect with companies such as Johnson & Johnson, GE, PwC and Discover. I would definitely encourage all of our women in the MBA program to attend this conference.

2. **WVU Colloquium XVII** held in Morgantown, WV from October 22-24. This conference is geared at encouraging prospective doctoral students from underrepresented backgrounds to pursue their respective programs at WVU. Executed by the Department of Diversity, Equality and Inclusion, the 3 day conference is packed with powerful nuggets of advice from current and past Ph.D. students. Participants were also allowed to visit their respective departments and this was the most noteworthy portion of the conference for me as I got an opportunity to sit and chat with the Department Chair; Dr. Michael Walsh, as well as Assistant Professor; Dr. Laurel Cook. When you’re considering such a huge sacrifice in the pursuit of your PhD it helps to meet face to face with the people who will be there to support you throughout your program. I walked away with this conference with a lighter heart as so many of my concerns and fears were alleviated.
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.

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