

Professor Said L. Sewell, Ph. D.

Professor Said L. Sewell, Ph. D., a native of Houston, Texas, entered Morehouse College at the age of 15 in 1988 as an early admission scholar. Sewell excelled academically graduating from Morehouse in 1992 at the age of 19 with a B.A. in political science. He has been mentioned as one America's rising young leaders for the 21st century.

Dr. Sewell received his Master of Public Administration in public policy from Texas Southern University at the age of 21, becoming the youngest person in the program's history to complete all the requirements for the degree in a year and a half. He continued his academic pursuits in Georgia by earning a Ph.D. in political science from Clark Atlanta University in 2001. It was during this time that he was awarded an academic doctoral fellowship from CAU. Dr. Sewell's dissertation was entitled: "A Quantitative Analysis: Black Baptist Pastors' Perceptions and Actions Toward Community Development in Atlanta."

Dr. Sewell has taught in the Social Science Department at Georgia Perimeter College and Dekalb College, Political Science at Clark Atlanta University and Morehouse College, and Public Administration and Political Science at the Albany State University and Georgia Institute of Technology. He is currently an Assistant Professor of Political Science and Public Administration at the University of West Georgia. Professor Sewell is the author of several articles on faith-based initiatives, community and economic development, religion and politics, and juvenile issues. He recently published an American Government Textbook, entitled: Conflicting Democracy: A Critical Analysis of America's Political Process. Because of his work as a scholar and an exceptional professor, he has received numerous awards: The National Conference of Black Political Scientists' Teacher of the Year Award for 2004, The University of West Georgia's Student Government Association awarded Sewell its' highest award—The Dr. Jim Mathis' Outstanding Faculty Member for 2002-2003 and the American Political Science Association and the Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Society bestowed upon him its 2003 Outstanding Teaching Award in Political Science, to name two recent awards.

Because of Sewell's determination and political savvy, he was appointed by Rich Bond, Chairman of the Republican National Committee, to both the 1992 Republican National Convention Planning Committee in Houston, Texas, and recommended to the Bush/Quayle Campaign. Sewell has also worked on numerous campaigns: Rev. Jesse Jackson's 1988 Presidential Campaign, Gov. Ann Richards' Gubernatorial Race in Texas, the late Congressman George "Mickey" Leland of Houston, the late Mayor of Atlanta—Maynard Jackson and Mayor Shirley Franklin. The news media, scholars, and policy makers often invite him for his insights on various community and political issues.

Dr. Sewell's most exciting recent contribution was the formulation of the Black Males with Initiative (BMWI) program at the University of West Georgia. This program aims to develop a 21st century generation of African American leaders. Its mission starts with young African American men, particularly those who demonstrate the potential to comprehend and apply the fundamental principles needed by leaders. In addition, it seeks to equip selected first year African American men with vital leadership and success skills by working along with other professionals/experts to instruct the participants in parliamentary procedures, conflict resolution, models of leadership, public speaking, community and civic engagement, cultural and spiritual enlightenment, and educational enhancement skills. The program, which is in its third year, has been met with great success both among the participants and the University population as a whole. Of the entire cohort of participants (35 African American males), on average their G.P.A.s have been higher, their retention rate has increased, they are taking a more active role in other campus organizations, and have experienced fewer disciplinary actions than their peers, specifically African American males.

Sewell, who is an ordained Baptist minister, is active in several professional, civic, and social organizations. He is a Life Member and the National Chairman of Leadership Development and Citizenship Education Institute for his fraternity—the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. the 100 Black Men, and the NAACP. He was recently elected the State Secretary for the Georgia's District Conference of the NAACP. He is a member of the Victory Baptist Church (Stone Mountain, Georgia). Sewell is single.