

THE LEGACY

A Publication of the Multicultural Achievement Program and EXCEL Center
University of West Georgia

Volume 10, Issue 3

Celebrating 24 Years of Excellence

November 2007

Soaring At Home And Abroad

Editor Lyndsey McGaha –MAP Graduate Assistant

Riean Norman is taking West Georgia nationwide and is excelling amongst the best and the brightest!

In August 2007, Riean Norman was given the opportunity to participate as an exchange student in a four month study abroad program in Monterrey, Mexico. This program gave students the opportunity to experience the Spanish culture first-hand. Exchange students within the program reside with Spanish host families and work on improving their Spanish speaking skills.

Currently, Norman is taking Spanish courses in phonetic and pronunciation, reading strategies, as well as in communications. He is also working as a intern for the Tecnologico de Monterrey Oficina where he works as a translator for the administration and other international students.

Norman has an avid love for politics and has worked at the Georgia State Capitol for two consecutive sessions as a Legislative Aide and most recently as House Research Intern. Here he researched and analyzed bills for House Committees like Public Safety, Homeland Security, State Institutions and Property, and Interstate Cooperation. Norman was also an intern at the Department of State Information Programs Bureau in Washington, D.C., where he conducted research on political, economic and environmental issues.

Back in the States, Riean is very active on UWG's campus. He currently serves as the President for Georgia Students for Barack Obama, a program geared to raise the voter support for the presidential candidate among college students. Riean is also the Exchequer of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated. In 2006- 2007 Norman also aided in serving students campus-wide as the Student Government Association President. Here, Riean served as the liaison between students, faculty, staff and the community at large.

The future looks bright for Riean, who aims to obtain his Bachelor's degree in December 2007. Norman hopes to begin law school in 2008 to practice international law.



Riean Norman

Learning With The Best, Excelling Among The Rest

Editor Lyndsey McGaha –MAP Graduate Assistant

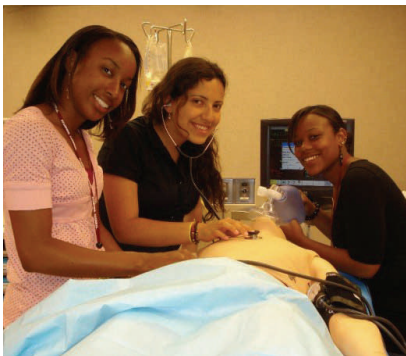
As a rising junior at the University of West Georgia, Bette Ford has been afforded the tools to achieve academic excellence and is geared for success! This summer Ford was given the opportunity to study pre-med at the world's leading research and teaching institution, Stanford University, in Palo Alto, California.

This program, formally known as The Health Careers and Opportunity Program, (HCOP) selects 25 underrepresented minority students and gives them first-hand experience within the medical field. HCOP is geared towards pre-med undergraduate students who are pursuing careers as physicians and provides students with the opportunity to study under some of the world's best medical personnel.

"I was nervous entering the program, but overall, it was a positive learning experience that has influenced me to strive for excellence. I learned to meet community needs, and I learned that working hard to get things done is what makes a difference," says Bette.

Throughout the program, interns were required to attend several workshops that helped nurture student development and provide the tools needed to embark and excel within their career field. Within these workshops students began working on the format of personal statements and other questions that would be asked on medical school applications. Interns within the program also attended classes in anatomy and research, civic activism, and cellular biology.

"I believe this program was another step up the ladder toward my future ambitions in becoming a successful physician," says Bette.



Left to right: Bette Ford, Luisa Fernanda and Sheena Mouton



Left to right: Fernanda and Ford



**The Legacy
Multicultural Achievement Program**
University of West Georgia
Room 200 UCC
Carrollton, Georgia 30118

Faculty/Staff Spotlight

James Paul, a native of Montclair New Jersey, is currently working as UWG's Senior Production Coordinator at UTV Channel 13.

As a professional staff member, Paul enjoys teaching students and watching the fruits of his labor as students perfect their crafts and exercise their gifts and talents.

"Working for this university has given me the opportunity to meet and work with great people. The slogan "Educational Excellence in a Personal Environment" is so true. With the help of my fellow co-workers we are able to provide the best education in fostered environments, and much more."

Paul works as the producer for the shows "Free Verse" and "Take 2," and is actively involved as the advisor for the student organization "Free Verse the Experience."

In his free time, Paul enjoys producing music and practicing his talents on the keyboard and drum set.

Each day Paul continues to encourage everyone to "Learn who you are, then make a difference." In the future Paul plans to produce his first short story film and obtain his Master's degree in film and video production.



James Paul

Student Spotlight

July Carrillo, a native of Columbia, is a second-year sophomore majoring in secondary education. July hopes to work in the Gwinnett area as a high school teacher, teaching and inspiring discouraged students to graduate and achieve success.

Carrillo is very active at UWG and has taken advantage of the many opportunities that the university has to offer.

"The United States is full of so many great things. I love being able to take advantage of these opportunities. Everyone has initiative, but not everyone takes it."

Carrillo is currently participating as the Rush Chair for Alpha Kappa Psi Professional Business Fraternity, as well as the Diversity Affairs Chair for the Student Government Association. July has also been an active member of UWG's Envy Dance Team for two years.

Despite her busy schedule, July always makes time for her family and friends.

"I consider myself very family oriented, especially with my father; he is all I have. My family reminds me of where I came from and they inspire me to achieve my dreams."



July Carrillo

A Success Story of Her Own



Left to right: Fred Kitchens and Renee Chambers

"There is always hope out there. We just have to try a little harder and push a little harder"- Renee Chambers.

The Multicultural Achievement Program would like to congratulate Renee Chambers on her acceptance of the Wine and Spirits Scholarship!

Every year Fred Kitchens, Executive Director of the Wine and Spirits Wholesale of Georgia awards a full tuition scholarship based on written essays to students in college. Chambers, author of the award winning essay, was chosen as the '07-'08 scholarship recipient.

Chambers is a full-time mother and Nursing major at UWG. Yet despite her obligations to motherhood, Renee plans to graduate in May 2008.

For Renee, this is her success story.

"My first year in college, I didn't take school seriously, and my grades really suffered. I was told by many of my teachers and advisors that with my grades I would never make it into the Nursing Department. Nursing has always been my dream."

But Renee was not defeated, and despite the discouragement, she pressed harder with determination.

"I retook some classes; I made the Dean's list, and I raised my GPA high enough to compete with 200 other students for a 40 student spot in the Nursing Department. Needless to say, I made it!" says Renee.

Not only was Chambers accepted into UWG's nursing department, she also received offers from Albany State and Georgia Baptist at Mercer University.

"I'm glad I chose West Georgia. I was familiar with the faculty, and I liked the caring philosophy that this school upholds. I enjoy the small classes, and I believe that our school truly lives up to its motto, "Educational excellence in a personal environment," say Renee.