Presidential Ponderings…

By Dr. Crystal Coel Coleman
Organizational Communication

I never understood how people could complain without offering a solution.

I have been asked to represent the Black Faculty and Staff Association during the Murray State University presidential search process. It is so important that we have a voice in who is hired. Sure, it could be tempting to be cynical; but unless we “try,” complaints and excuses become “tools of incompetence that build monuments of nothingness.” I hope you will allow me to represent you by emailing me questions and concerns about who is being considered for the presidency. I need YOU to tell me the qualities YOU want in a president and the initiatives you want advanced as priority items and not afterthoughts.

Help me. Help me to share YOUR thoughts with the search firm so we are either thrilled with the new president or at least content. Apathy is not an option so voice your opinion and I PROMISE to share the messages. Of course, NO NAMES will be given! Come on now. This is me. I’m with you.

I also was asked to discuss diversity issues with several other BFSA members and other MSU employees. I will share what I know. Again, please email me any issues you want me to bring forth. ALL of us are important and deserve to be seen AND heard. Talk to me and I will pass it on. Life is short; we all need to make sure we remember “Life is not a having and a getting; it is a being and a becoming.” Let us be encouraged and inspired; let us become even more active and engaged.

Blessings,

Crystal
Years of Service Awards

- Charletter Ellis-35
- Doris Sarr-25
- Algie Graves-15
- Re’Nita Avery-Meriwether-10
- Sonya Baker-10
- Mary Elaine Horn-10

*Congratulations for the recognition for your years of dedication and service to MSU!*

2013-2014 BFSA Book Scholarship Recipients

Mike Young, BFSA Director of Scholarships is pleased to announce the winners of the 2013-2014 scholarships:

**Passion Wilson** is an exercise science major from Hickman, KY. She plans to one day open her own rehabilitation center.

**Stacey West** is a graduate student from Hopkinsville, KY. Her major is Youth and Nonprofit Leadership. She wants to go on to receive her Ph.D. and become a university professor.

We thank all those who submitted applications. We are so proud of our students.

Employee Spotlight

Mammie Foster works in Dining Services/Racer Hospitality. She says that she likes her job at MSU. She is the mother of two sons, Thurman who is a car dealer with David Taylor and Shickill who works at Pella. Ms. Foster grew up in the church and is a current member of St. John Missionary Baptist Church. She enjoys working in the church, working with and helping other people.

Ms. Foster grew up in the Murray community. She attended Murray High School and Murray State University. She is a certified nursing assistant. Her experience is varied—working at the Murray Calloway County Hospital, Fisher Price, Westview Nursing Home, Briggs and Stratton and Jakel, Inc.

Employee Spotlight

**Deidre Redmond** is a new faculty member in the Department of Political Science and Sociology. In her position of assistant professor, she teaches classes related to medical sociology. Dr. Redmond received her Ph. D. in sociology from Indiana University. Her hobbies include working out and doing anything active. Dr. Redmond grew up in Cleveland, Ohio.

You Asked, We Listened!

Preliminary results from the BFSA interest survey are in and respondents are asking for more learning opportunities and group activities. The executive board listened and with the help of our Director of Professional Development, Dr. Barbara Washington, the October meeting will focus on health and wellness with Mrs. Lauren Smee and the November meeting will feature Dr. Lou Davidson Tillson, who will offer strategies to get promoted.
Members and guests gathered at the MSU Faculty Club on Saturday, August 24th for food and fellowship. Special guests included Dr. Tim Miller, Interim President, Regent Dr. Renee Fister and Dr. Jay Morgan, Provost. Additional pictures are available on the BFSA website.
Movie Excursion...

BFSA members participated in an outing to Cheri Theaters to see The Butler. Based on responses from the member survey, BFSA is making concerted efforts to promote professional development and group activities.

Pictured below, left to right: Dr. Cynthia Gayman, Dr. Crystal Coleman, Dr. Debbie Owens, Dr. Pearl Payne, and Ms. Stephanie Obaigbena.

September Meeting Reminder...

The September BFSA membership meeting will be held on September 10th at 12:30 p.m. by conference call (424) 203-8400, access code 962933. The meeting will feature special guest, Mr. Tom Hoffacker, Director of Human Resources, who will answer your employment-related questions. Email your questions by September 5th to Crystal Coleman at ccoleman@murraystate.edu. This will allow Mr. Hoffacker time to prepare for the meeting.
November Meeting Agenda

12:30 pm  Call to Order and Dining (August Moon)
12:45 pm  Brief Business Meeting
1:00 pm   Dr. Lou Davidson Tillson, Professor Organizational Communication
1:30 pm   Adjourn

**Workshop Title: Career Promotion Tips**

Tired of watching other workers advance with their careers as you continue to exceed expectations, without promotions you deserve? Successful workers create their own paths leading to promotions. Laying a foundation for your success is so important!

Dr. Lou Davidson Tillson is a full professor and member of the graduate faculty in the Department of Organizational Communication. She earned her Ph.D. in organizational communication from The Ohio University in 1992 and has taught at Murray State University for the past 21 years. Dr. Tillson has held multiple administrative positions during her tenure at MSU, including Basic Course Director, Assistant Dean for the College of Fine Arts and Communication, and Hart College Head. An award-winning professor, she regularly teaches Interpersonal Communication in the Workplace, Managing Public Speaking Anxiety, Health Communication, and the Senior Seminar in Organizational Communication, for which she’s supervised more than 750 undergraduate research projects. She has co-authored a public speaking textbook, published 29 articles, and delivered more than 70 formal presentations. Dr. Tillson has received the *Murray State University Board of Regents Award for Teaching Excellence* (twice), and the *Omicron Delta Kappa Advisor of the Year* award for her work with the national communication honor society (Lambda Pi Eta). She has been named *Communication Professional of the Year* by the Kentucky Communication Association.

**Employee Accomplishments**

**Dr. Bella Ezumah** has had a busy summer! She worked with the Governor’s Scholars Program (GSP) and made a great impact. She worked with her Journalism Scholars to produce a newspaper, *Governor’s Gazette*, which was the first in the GSP’s 30 year history. She and her Scholars in the Global Awareness class researched the Sister Cities International organization. They then met with Mayor Bill Wells and convinced him to register Murray in the Sister Cities International organization. Mayor Wells is currently considering partnering with a sister city in Germany for Murray.

Topping off her summer, Dr. Ezumah was conferred the honor of a Kentucky Colonel by Governor Steve Beshear.
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<th>MONTH</th>
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<tr>
<td>SEPT</td>
<td>BFSA Meeting, September 10, 12:30 pm-Conference Call, Guest Speaker: Mr. Tom Hoffacker, Employee Benefits</td>
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| OCT   | OMA Hump Night, October 2, 4:00 pm-Stables, Curris Center  
        BFSA Meeting, October 10, 8:00 pm-Conference Call, Guest Speaker: Mrs. Lauren Smee, Health and Wellness |
| NOV   | OMA Hump Night, November 6, 4:00 pm-Stables, Curris Center  
        BFSA Meeting, November 7, 12:30 pm-August Moon (dutch). Guest Speaker: Dr. Lou Davidson Tillson-How to get promotions and/or tenured? |
| DEC   | OMA Hump Night, December 4, 4:00 pm-Dance Lounge, Curris Center  
        BFSA Holiday Party, December 7, 6:00 pm-Oakhurst |
| JAN'14| OMA MLK Jr. Day of Service, January 20, 10:00 am-Large Ballroom, Curris Center  
        OMA MLK Jr. Community Service Project, January 25, 4:00 pm-Large Ballroom, Curris Center  
        BFSA Meeting, January 20, 1-3:00 pm-Oakhurst, Guest Speakers: Mr. Patrick White-Financial Planning Tips and Mrs. Tina White-Skin Care Tips (split sessions) |
| FEB   | OMA 8th Annual African American Heritage Gala, February 15, 6:00 pm-Carson Center, Paducah |
| APRIL | OMA Annual Diversity Achievement Awards, April 4, 7:00 pm-Large Ballroom, Curris Center |
| MAY   | OMA Spring Hitimu Celebration, May 9, 7:00 pm-Theater, Curris Center |
Membership Application

Academic Year 20__ - 20__

Date ____________________

Receipt No. ________________

_________________________________________________________________________________

Last Name  First Name  Middle Name

_________________________________________________________________________________

Local Address  City  State  Zip Code

_________________________________________________________________________________

Local Phone  Home email address

_________________________________________________________________________________

Campus Address  City  State  Zip Code

(__________) - __________________________

Work Phone  Work email address

_________________________________________________________________________________

Department Unit/Name

Status (circle one)  Faculty  Staff

_________________________________________________________________________________

Events of Interest

Annual Membership Dues are $25.00 due at the beginning of the fall semester for the entire academic year. Please make checks payable to Murray State University, put BFSA in the “memo” and forward to Donald Adongo, BFSA Treasurer at 6-A7 Faculty Hall.