



Alonzo A. Crim Center For Urban Educational Excellence

SHARE THE NEWS! A Quarterly Newsletter

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A Magical Celebration: Jumpstart Atlanta at Georgia State University Celebrated the Season with Fairytales Learning Center

A fun-filled holiday celebration marked the finale of the fall semester at Fairytales Learning Center. GSU's Jumpstart core members presented gift bags to the students, which contained books, holiday ornaments, puzzles, socks and more. The students also enjoyed many fun activities such as making gingerbread houses. The highlight of the day consisting of listening to holiday music, singing and dancing. Program partners, core members and students all had a blast making this occasion a special time to remember!

A Lecture to Remember: Dr. Mark Alexander featured at the 19th Annual Benjamin E. Mays Lecture Series

“Obesity and high blood pressure affect children’s attitudes, their attention span, their ability to concentrate and their test scores. By not investing in the fitness of children, teachers and communities are shooting themselves in the foot.”

These words of wisdom came from Dr. Mark Alexander, the co-chair of the 100 Black Men of America’s National Health and Wellness Committee and featured speaker of the Crim Center’s 19th Annual Benjamin E. Mays lecture, held on November 1, 2007, at Georgia State University. Dr. Alexander gave an attention-grabbing lecture titled “Health, Fitness, Education and

Community: A Comprehensive Look at the Development of Black Children.” Lecturing across the nation, Alexander hopes to help convince communities to make sincere efforts towards improving the health of the 25 million children who are either overweight or at-risk for obesity. He pays special attention to urban neighborhoods where fast-food chains run rampant. Thank you Dr. Alexander for your inspiring words!



The “DREAMS” Initiative

The Alonzo A. Crim Center for Urban Educational Excellence is preparing to kick off another round of the DREAMS summer institute for high school students in the Fulton County area. DREAMS (Developing Relationships to Enhance African-American Mentees’ Success) programs provide a venue for the positive identity development of youth who reside in low-income urban areas. This program aims to promote high-school retention,

encourage college matriculation, increase academic self-efficacy and indirectly prevent student engagement in delinquent behaviors, substance abuse, etc. by providing a unique blend of services that address academic achievement, cultural identity, social competence and the life goals of students. For more information on the DREAMS programs contact Susan McClendon at scrim2@gsu.edu.

Our Good Neighbor: Ms. Ann



Elizabeth Ann Heard (affectionately known as Ms. Ann), a retired senior, began working with the Good Neighbor Program (GNP) in August of 2007. She completed the GNP training, and because of her outstanding classroom participation, “Ms. Ann” was hired as a senior peer

trainer with Good Neighbor. Ms. Ann worked for 36 years as a lead sewing operator. Since she

completed the GNP, she has moved into her own home under the Atlanta Housing Authority’s Home Ownership Program. “The most rewarding part for me is going to the high-rise housing and talking to senior citizens, there because I am one of them, and I understand what they’re going through. Thank you for giving me this opportunity.”

For more information on the Good Neighbor program, please contact Angelique Spruill at aspruill@gsu.edu.



Student Spotlights

Crystal Goodwin-Bradley, a student in the Urban Teacher Leadership Master’s Degree Program, has set a scholarly example for study and practice at the College of Education. Ms. Goodwin-Bradley, a student and a first grade teacher, stated that her mission is for 80% or more of the students, including those with learning disabilities, at Columbia Elementary to be literate. To help achieve this goal, Crystal proposed the Ball-Stick-Bird reading program to the Crim Center for

sponsorship. This innovative series aims to immerse students in the contextual and implicit learning of reading skills through progressive stories, based on theories of developmental linguistics. Research has supported the efficacy of this reading program in increasing the reading fluency and reading comprehension of students with low IQ scores as well as for students who are at-risk for illiteracy. For more information on this program, contact Susan McClendon at scrim2@gsu.edu.



Student Spotlights (cont'd)

College senior Britten Wilson is being recognized at the Crim Center for his dedication and motivation to excel. With a double major in marketing and managerial sciences, Britten also manages to hold three jobs, and serve as the vice-president of



**Britten Civi
Wilson**

Tighter Grip, Georgia State's African-American male recruitment and retention initiative. Britten proves to be a leader in working to ensure that the members of Tighter Grip are both academically and socially sound through study groups, community service, and networking activities. For more information on Tighter Grip, please contact Earl Bray at tightergrip@gmail.com.



Jumpstart

Jumpstart is a national non-profit early education organization that prepares low-income preschool students with the tools that they need to succeed in the classroom. Jumpstart has been at Georgia State for three years and has recently acquired two new preschools sites (Easter Seals at the Federal Center and Beacon of Hope).

For more information, please contact Kimberly Packer at cuekdp@langate.gsu.edu, or visit the website at www.jstart.org.



Upcoming Major Events

Jumpstart: Soup Kitchen at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral
February 9, 2008

Brown Bag Series: Teaching about Race and Social Justice

“Are We There Yet?: The Rocky Road to Empowerment”
Dr. Rhina Fernandez & Dr. Brian Williams
February 13, 2008

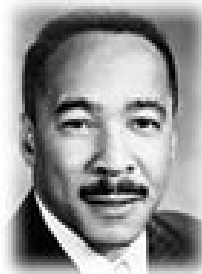
Brown Bag Series: Teaching about Race and Social Justice

“Creating/Managing Tension in a Graduate Multi-Cultural Education Course”

Dr. Caitlin Dooley
April 16, 2008

**3rd Annual Sources of Urban Educational Excellence Conference:
Road to Asa-fication
College of Education Building
April, 2008**

- First African American Superintendent of Atlanta Public Schools (1973-1988)
- Recipient of over nine honorary degrees
- Chair of Benjamin E. Mays & Professor of Urban Educational Leadership
- Founder of Benjamin E. Mays Lecture Series
- Professor of Education at Georgia State University
- Director of Ford Scholars Program at Spelman College



**Dr. Alonzo A.
Crim**
(1928–2000)



**Dr. Benjamin E.
Mays**
(1894–1984)

- President of Atlanta Board of Education
- President of Morehouse College for 27 years.
- Baptist Minister
- Dean of the Howard University School of Religion
- Advisor to several United States presidents
- Teacher and mentor to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Andrew Young and Julian Bond

Spring 2008 Graduate Research Assistants



Lawanda Cummings

Community Psychology

"I love working with children. The Crim Center empowers both children and their teachers. It is important for me to be a part of that."

"I am grateful to be a part of an organization that so nobly dedicates itself to the urban community through scholarly research and service."



Christina Bibbs

School Psychology



Onyebuchi Rapu

Finance

"...The programs here are intelligently designed and implemented to improve the quality of education of our Teachers and students."

Spring 2008 Student Assistants



Trunae Lands

Speech, Psychology

"I truly respect the mission of the Crim Center, and I feel that the programs within appeal to anyone."

"I like being a part of the Center, located in the College of Education, because of the versatility of its curriculum and wonderful faculty and staff."



Willie Rosser

International Business, Spanish

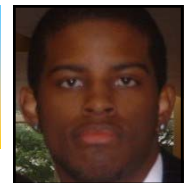
"I am truly excited to be joining the Crim Center. It is a great opportunity!"



Anthony Abner

African-American
Studies, Art & Design

"I thoroughly enjoy working at the Crim Center, because it gives me an opportunity to use my talents."



Britten Wilson

Marketing and
Managerial Sciences



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We're on the web: <http://education.gsu.edu/cuee/home.htm>