



Building a Stronger Future at Wilberforce University

WILBERFORCE — Friends of Wilberforce University gathered in Covington, Kentucky to hear from the University's president—and students—about progress and plans for the future. The dinner meeting, held Friday, September 23 at Covington's Metropolitan Club, was a fundraiser attended by alumni and friends as well as administrators, faculty and students.

Dr. Patricia Hardaway, president of the University, told the attendees about her vision and priorities for the University. She plans to strengthen the University's academic offerings and update classrooms with computer presentation and communication technology.

Six University students provided a highlight of the evening by recounting their co-op work experiences at employers including NASA, John Deere, Cintas and the Metro District of Cincinnati. The students told the attendees of their positive experiences at the University and that the cooperative education program was life-changing—in some cases leading to substantial, career-building job offers.

Gary Seagraves of Cincinnati, head of regional operations for Kraft Foods and a supporter of the University, served as host for the dinner. Over the past few years Seagraves and Kraft have offered co-



Standing: Gary Seagraves, David Wiggins, Chris Brown, Brandon Leake, Hila Williams, Graciano Andrews, Chris Adams, Donald Brooks
Seated: Danielle Dixon, Da'Shanai Cochran and Ale'ce Andrew

op positions to Wilberforce students. He told the attendees he wanted alumni and friends to have an opportunity to meet and talk with students, faculty and administrators.

The Covington fundraiser is the first of a series of planned meetings around the nation.

Wilberforce takes steps for future

By: Laura Englehart, Staff Reporter
Dayton Business Journal

Date: Friday, September 2, 2011

ONLY ONCE IN THE 155 YEARS since it was established has Wilberforce University closed its doors.

During the Civil War in 1863, declining enrollment and mounting debts forced the private, historically black institution near Xenia to shut down,

only to reopen later that year with a new owner and president.

In 2008, it looked as though the university—the 15th largest in the Dayton region—was doomed to repeat history. It was spending more than it earned and carried more than \$22 million in debt. To add to that, its enrollment numbers had plummeted more than 30 percent when administrators axed almost two dozen degree programs.

Back from the (almost) dead, the university now stands strong.

It restructured its debts and has balanced its operating budget, even reaping a \$100,000 surplus last year. To do that, university leaders took some bold initiatives, including:

- Slashing operating expenses by \$4 million in three years. This entailed dumping \$1 million in travel, technology and other miscellaneous expenses;

- Reducing its administrative team by three and keeping the provost position empty;
- Instituting 11-week furloughs for all employees; and
- Clipping non-union employee salaries and halting 401(k) contributions. It devised a five-year financial forecast and renegotiated better interest rates on long-term debt.

All the while, Wilberforce maintained core student programs and services and kept almost all its 70-plus employees.

You can read the entire text of the September 2, 2011 Dayton Business Article at:

<http://www.bizjournals.com/dayton/print-edition/2011/09/02/wilberforce-takes-steps-for-future.html>

NEWS NOTE:

Dr. Everett Jones Wins A.S.C.A.P. Merit Plus Award!

Congratulations to Dr. Everett Jones for winning an A.S.C.A.P. Merit Plus Award!

A.S.C.A.P. (the American Society of Composers Authors and Publishers) gave this award to recognize Dr. Jones' creative contributions to American and African American Music.

Dr. Jones is an Assistant Professor of Piano at Wilberforce University, where he teaches Applied Piano, Group Piano, Counterpoint, Music Theory, Music History, and Form and Analysis.

As a leading expert on William Grant Still, Dr. Jones is currently editing, performing, and recording the piano and chamber works of William Grant Still in association with William Grant Still Music Inc. and NAXOS. He is also securing the rights to record the complete piano works of William Grant Still under the auspices of WGSN, Inc.

For more news notes, visit our official Wilberforce Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Official-Wilberforce-University/-268447839837144>

WILBERFORCE UNIVERSITY AWARDED RESEARCH GRANT

Wilberforce University was recently awarded \$100,000 to conduct research titled **"Toward a more complete understanding of dislocation behavior in Ti-Al alloys for energy absorbing applications."**

This collaborative grant is funded by the ARO through the **Battelle Memorial Institute**. Representatives from the Army's TARDEC unit were on campus Tuesday, October 4, 2011, to officially kick-off the research initiative.

The PI/PD for the grant is **Dr. Anu Venkateswaran**, an Associate Professor in Wilberforce University's Professional Studies Division. As a part of this grant, two Wilberforce University students and a student from one of Wilberforce University's SOCHE partner institutions will be afforded the opportunity to conduct research on Ti-Al alloys and competing materials.

The Fountain

Is published by:

The Office of Development
Wilberforce University
1055 North Bickett Road
Wilberforce, OH 45384
937-708-5709

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To remember Wilberforce University as a charitable beneficiary in your will, personal trust or retirement plan, it is important to do so accurately. The correct reference is: The Wilberforce University, Wilberforce, Ohio 45384 and the federal tax identification number is 31-0604719. To explore how you might remember The University, please contact the Office of Gift Planning at (937) 708-5709. If your estate/retirement plan includes The Wilberforce University as a beneficiary, we encourage you to contact us to accurately record your intent and include you in the appropriate donor recognition group.

Cooperative Education Gives Wilberforce University Students Edge for Employment

Fall Fair included 65 partners

By Kevin Lavoie

Nothing prepares a student for "real world" professional success like experience and relationships within real business. And through participation in a mandatory cooperative education program, Wilberforce University students enjoy an edge over most aspiring professionals.

All Wilberforce students work in a professional capacity in company for 10 to 16 weeks, putting in 30-plus hours each week of a co-op assignment. Some are so impressive that their co-op becomes their first professional destination after college.

"Wilberforce is one of four institutions of higher learning in the United States who mandate that every student must have a co-op experience," said Hila Williams, program director for the past 13 years. "We partner with federal and municipal government bodies, non-profit organizations, for-profit organizations and pretty much all types of companies."

Christian Chapman is a junior from Omaha, Nebraska, who spent most of this past summer helping The Boeing Company in St. Louis, Missouri. She got paid and was also given a place to stay. While she was shadowing the director of communications for the large defense contractor, she wrote several news stories for the company's intranet and had two articles published in their print publications.

"It actually gave me a feel for what it's like to work for the company," Chapman said. "It prepared me for possibly having a full-time position with them, and it just gives me an upper hand over others coming out of college. I've already got an offer to come back there next summer. I'm staying in touch and trying to get a feature article published in their Frontiers magazine, highlighting the community service of one of the employees."

Each student starts the program with a general co-op class that covers resume writing, networking, social networking, interview skills and tips on how to be successful on the job. "We try to groom them to be a great employee," said Williams. "I love my students, and we all want the very best for them."

To read the complete article and see pictures of 2011 Career Fair visit: www.wilberforce.edu

On Campus Now: The Wilberforce University Phone-A-Thon

by Courtney Wiggins '11 and Larry Hudson

Wilberforce University continues to move forward year after year—making changes around campus and beginning new programs. One important new addition sends friendly telephone calls from the University to members of the Wilberforce family across the nation: **The Wilberforce University Phone-A-Thon.**

The **Phone-A-Thon** is aimed at raising funds for the University—to support general operations and much more—including academics, scholarships, cooperative education, student retention, student affairs, campus maintenance and beautification.

Sonseeahray "Sonie" Ross, Director of The Wilberforce University Annual Fund, is in charge of the program, re-established this year. Ross says the Phone-A-Thon is already providing benefits for students.

"The purpose of the Phone-A-Thon program is to reach alumni and friends of the University to ask them to support various academic and student programs." She goes on to say, "Our goal for the Phone-A-Thon is to make contact with as many alumni as we can, to help increase the amount of money alumni give and increase the number of alumni supporting the University."

The Phone-A-Thon also gives students an opportunity to do their part for the University. Freshman **Nichole Duehart** says she wanted to help raise money for the school. In her view, the Phone-A-Thon has not only benefited the school and other students, but has also helped her within her field of study.

"I think it's helping because I'm dealing with different kinds of people," Duehart says. "In my career as a children's social worker I'm going to have to deal with different types of people," she adds.

Sophomore **Kevin Ashley** also feels strongly about making a difference at Wilberforce University. Ashley believes the Phone-A-Thon is a way to leave your mark at the University.

"We can make a difference," he says. "Many people (students and faculty) don't try to help the school raise money for the things we want. This is our way of trying to make a difference for the school." Ashley says he is working to keep Wilberforce University going strong and plans to support University fundraisers in the future.

When participating in the Phone-A-Thon, students are assigned the tasks of calling alumni to ask for financial support for the University—and thanking them for past gifts. "It's helped us to obtain an organized way of raising

money and it allows our students to connect with current and perspective donors with a more personal touch," Annual Fund Director Ross explains.

"It allows us to get feedback to see what our alumni are doing and engage with them. It helps students because it gives them a marketable skill and in some instances they get encouragement from alumni and helps them to build a network," Ross adds.

"Raising money for the University is a responsibility that is necessary to enhancing the overall academic and social experience for students. The Phon-A-Thon is a key driver and component for fundraising," Ross says.

Around campus, everyone seems to agree—the Phone-A-Thon has been a great and beneficial addition to Wilberforce University's efforts to bring change and improvement at the school. Participants see Phone-A-Thon as a new and organized way both students and alumni can give back to their beloved University.



Phone-A-Thon

THE WILBERFORCE UNIVERSITY ANNUAL FUND - YEAR END 2011

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Thank you for your support!

Please make checks payable to: Wilberforce University or pay online at www.wilberforce.edu

Mail to: Wilberforce University, P.O. Box 1001, 1055 N. Bickett Road, Wilberforce, Ohio 45384



CLIMB still going after 20 years at Wilberforce University

By Karen Toni Preston '87

After two decades, the Wilberforce University *CLIMB* (*Credentials for Leadership in Management and Business*) Program continues its mission to provide quality education to adult learners. The *CLIMB* Program was developed for adults who desired to complete their degrees while accommodating work and family obligations, to increase their influence within their work environments and to improve their opportunities for advancement.

Over the 20 years, the *CLIMB* Program has graduated more than 2,500 adult learners, completing Bachelor's of Science degrees through majors in Criminal Justice Administration, Global Management and Communications (*no longer offered*), Health and Human Services, Information Technology and Organizational Management.

Courses are taught in weekly, four-hour classroom sessions in five-week blocks. The learner earns 33 hours of academic credit in their major. Courses are facilitated by adjunct faculty.

Classes are offered from 6:00-10:00 p.m. on the Wilberforce University campus and at off-campus sites in Cincinnati, Columbus and Dayton, Ohio. More information on the *CLIMB* Program is available on the Wilberforce University website: <http://www.wilberforce.edu/climb>



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Why consider *CLIMB*?

By Larry Hudson

For Dayton area bank vice-president **W. David Walton**, the answer was flexibility in meeting professional goals.

Walton wanted to complete his college degree, but was already employed with a family to support. He had some college credits already, but found other degree-completion programs would not count his previous credit hours. But when he found the *CLIMB* Program, he found both encouragement to enroll and teachers who did a great job incorporating "real world" experience into the courses. One of the professors gave Walton and his fellow students the view from his time as an accountant for a major corporation—a viewpoint that was especially of interest to Walton. Because classes were small, Walton had better access to his professors—especially important during the writing of his senior thesis. Walton completed his coursework in the *CLIMB* program—earning a degree in Business and Organizational Management. At a time when he was ready to pursue a career as a bank manager, the *CLIMB* Program helped him gain the credentials he needed to move forward.

"The *CLIMB* Program is a gift to adults in the community who wants to further their education and their careers," Walton says.



W. David Walton