

# WU Rehabilitation Counseling Program, on the move

BY MORGANE BRUCE

The Master of Science degree in Rehabilitation Counseling Program here at WU is on the move. It recently received a \$3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education, and the program is expanding their facilities by moving the the Learning Resources Center.

Are you interest in working with disabled persons? Would you like to continue your education with graduate studies at Wilberforce? Do you want to work in a field where jobs are expected to grow up to 26 percent through 2014 (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)? If so, this program may be for you.

The Master of Science degree in Rehabilitation Counseling started in 2004, graduating only seven students in the first class. The program has graduated just 12 students since 2004. The program is an elite one, offering students a certification known as Certified Rehab Counselor (CRC).

“The program is geared towards working adults,” said Dr. Sonya M. Ware, Assistant Professor and Program Director.

The program is typically a two year commitment. Students are required to take 48 credit hours. These classes are offered in the evening to help working adults reach higher

learning. Students usually only take one class a day, Monday through Thursday. Students also have to complete 700 clinical hours, similar to a practicum or internship. The program sets students up with various organizations to complete their field work.

Future December graduate John E. Thompson, Jr. said, “Sometimes I had to work full time so it was hard to do internships.”

Thompson, Jr. worked in Ohio Rehabilitation Service Commission in Dayton to complete his clinical hours. There he was a counselor working directly with different type of disabilities. He was able to receive hands on experience similar to what his future job would be like. In the internship he evaluated the clients, took their health records, and helped people with disabilities find jobs. The majority of his work involved finding jobs for disabled people.

“I worked with everyone. I was assigned with 10. I helped develop a career program for the Dayton office,” Thompson, Jr. said, explaining his time at Ohio Rehab Service Commission.

Thompson, Jr.’ decision to continue his education was driven by personal trials. He is already an alumni of Wilberforce from the class of 1973. After graduation he found work in the mental health field. Yet, he

was missing his CRC to completely establishment himself.

“It’s a lot of years of procrastinating things in my life but something told me it was time for a change,” Thompson, Jr. said.

Thompson, Jr. admits that even in his two and a half years of matriculation, he has seen changes with the program. Whether it was with the faculty or the programing, things are going to improve because of the grant.

The enhancements in the program should be seen in the Spring semester. The master’s program would have its own space on the campus. There would be an office space as well as a administrative assistant station in the office for numerous business purpose. Also in the works is a library resource center with software, journals and indexes especially for the rehabilitation field.

The proposal was created within a short period of time. The money has carefully been placed. Within the six year span of the grant, the school receives \$500,000 annually, and scholarships and other assistance in the amount of \$52,000. The rest of the funds will be saved as endowment money for future improvements beyond the grant’s time period.

Students in the undergraduate program of Rehabilitation Services will have the advantage of having

some prior knowledge. Social Science majors can complete their master studies in Rehabilitation Counseling.

Tawan Bailey, a Rehabilitation professor and graduate of the master’s program in 2004 said, “It’s a good option to continue your education and I’m a product of it.” Those interested in applying for the program can visit the university’s website and apply for the master’s program. The process requires three recommendations and transcripts. There are scholarships and financial assistance available.

The program will bring a new dynamic to the university. The Master degree program will continue to evolve under Ware’s direction .

“I feel really excited about this opportunity I have been given. I am blessed to lead this program.” Ware said.

In this career field, people can work in the medical, social, psychological and even educational fields. With the new \$3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education going to the only graduate program at Wilberforce University, students majoring in Rehabilitation Services we be able to take advantage of this opportunity.



**Brian Butler, Simone Torrey, Ashley McDonald watch as Derrick Barker spins records at Showtime at WU during the Homecoming activities last semester.**