



Educational Leadership and Counseling Newsletter



Co-Editors
Dr. Roman Alvarez
Dr. Bernadine Duncan
Dr. Patricia Smith
Dr. Tyrone Tanner

The 16th Annual Counselors' Conference was held on Saturday, March 1, 2008 featuring an inspirational and motivating keynote speaker, Dr. Na'im Akbar. The conference captured an attendance record of approximately 650 attendees. A panel discussion, that consisted of Dr. Na'im Akbar, Dr. Lesajean Jennings, and Ms. Sadie Woodard, took place during the second half of the conference. The Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling was saturated with positive comments about the message and the messengers as the topic, "Helper, Know Thyself: The Influence of Ethics", was explained in an upbeat, empowering manner.

Special thanks to the conference task force – Drs. Bernadine Duncan-chair, Wanda Johnson, William Ross, Lee Coleman, F.A. White, , and Roman Alvarez for their persistence and attention to detail. In addition, the committee would like to thank the ELC faculty, staff, and students for making the conference a dynamic success. We make a great team!!! (PVAMU Counseling Conference Committee).

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Dr. Bernadine Duncan gracefully welcomes Dr. Na'im Akbar and audience to the 16th Annual Counselors' Conference



Dr. Na'im Akbar delivering a fiery and inspirational discourse on Ethics, Culture, and Self



Characteristics of the Successful Online Student

William Ross, Ed.D., LPC-S

Know your advisors

Counseling

Mr. Lee Coleman	936-261-3642
Dr. Ron Howard	936-261-3650
Dr. F..A. White	936-261-3658
Dr. Karen Osterholm	936-261-3401
Dr. William Ross	936-261-3538
Dr. Wanda Johnson	936-261-3651
Dr. Roman Alvarez	936-261-3538
Dr. Donald Collins	936-261-3643
Dr. Waymon Webster	936-261-3641
Dr. Bernadine Duncan	936-261-3661

Administration Leadership

Dr. Douglas Hermond	936-261-3648
Dr. Ben DeSpain	936-261-3653
Dr. Tyrone Tanner	936-261-4146
Dr. David Herrington	936-261-3649
Dr. J.D. Gregory	936-261-3647
Dr. Patricia A. Smith	936-261-3421
Dr. William Kritsonis	936-261-3652
Dr. M. Paul Mehta	936-261-3530
Dr. Laxley Rodney	936-261-3530

The privilege to do most of your coursework anytime and anywhere you have an Internet connection provides you with some unique opportunities and equally unique responsibilities for managing your own time and completing your course assignments. The online learning process is normally accelerated and requires commitment on your part. Staying current with the class and completing all work on time is vital. Once you get behind, it is almost impossible to catch up.

The most common reason why students do not do well in an online course is because they do not develop a plan for successful time management and task completion. There is no single personality profile that guarantees a person will be a success in an online course. You don't have to be a technical wizard or a super-brain. In fact, some students who have not done well in the traditional classroom have found that online classes are just the thing for them.

In general, the online student should adhere to the following guidelines. They should be self-motivated and self-disciplined. With the freedom and flexibility of the online environment comes responsibility. The online process takes a real commitment and discipline to keep up with the flow of the process. Students should recognize that they are the primary person responsible for their own success and act accordingly in priority setting and decision-making. Once you get behind in an online course it can be difficult to catch up again, so don't let things slide.

Students in online courses must be able to communicate through writing. In the Virtual Classroom, nearly all communication is written, so it is critical that students feel comfortable in expressing themselves in writing. Many students have limited writing abilities, which should be addressed before or as part of the online experience. This may require remedial efforts on the part of the student.

Successful students will log into the course at least once a day during the duration of the course. Students who participate consistently report a much higher level of satisfaction with the online learning experience. Students must be willing and able to commit to 4 to 15 hours per week per course. Online courses are not easier than the traditional educational process. In fact, many students will say it requires much more time and commitment.

Resources:

Here are some resources that might help you determine if you have the characteristics of a successful online student.

[What Makes a Successful Online Student?](http://www.ion.illinois.edu/IONresources/onlineLearning/StudentProfile.asp)

(<http://www.ion.illinois.edu/IONresources/onlineLearning/StudentProfile.asp>)

Illinois University's top 10 tips for being successful in an online course. This site also contains links to many other resources on the same subject, including a quiz that will help you determine whether or not online learning is for you. Much of the information is geared toward post-secondary students (Illinois U students specifically) but general ideas are equally relevant for high school students.

[Are Distance Learning Courses for Me?](http://www.cod.edu/dept/CIL/CIL_Surv.htm)

(http://www.cod.edu/dept/CIL/CIL_Surv.htm)

Complete the survey on this site to see how your preferred method of completing tasks might contribute to, or hinder, your success as an online student. If you answer the questions honestly, the resulting score will be a good indication of whether or not online learning might work for you.

[Characteristics of a Successful Online Student](http://www.wake.tec.nc.us/dist_ed/internet/studchar.html)

(http://www.wake.tec.nc.us/dist_ed/internet/studchar.html)

A short and concise list of characteristics that are shared by successful online students. This site is maintained by Wake Technical College.

Ensuring online learning success means being present for self-growth. Accomplishing your goals means taking responsibility for your work-student centered learning, as well as interacting with peers for feedback and support. In short, it's a two-way exchange of ideas and information.

ELC FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Dr. Ben DeSpain

Ben C. DeSpain, Professor of Leadership, ELC Department, is the author of a new leadership book entitled: *Your right to gripe, and how to do it effectively*, published by Wizard Academy Press, Austin, Texas. The book is scheduled for official release May 9, 2008 in hard cover and will initially be available on line at barnsandnoble.com, borders.com, amazon.com and at leaderslovegrippers.com. An audio version will be available in August.

Dr. Leon Kilpatrick

State Conference Presenter

Dr. Leon Kilpatrick, adjunct instructor, with the Educational Leadership and Counseling Department at PVAMU, was a co-presenter at the 2008 secondary school counselors' conference in Galveston, Texas February 17 –19. The topic for the seminar was *Super Counselors: Making All the Pieces Fit into an Effective Counseling Program*. The focus of the seminar was on implementing creative ideas for making the Texas comprehensive, developmental guidance and counseling program become an integral part of the educational program to help remove barriers to learning. Seminar participants were introduced to the Texas model of guidance and counseling program as prescribed by the Texas Education Agency.

Dr. Kilpatrick is the Counselor Supervisor for the Northwest Learning Community with the Dallas Independent School District. He supervises the counseling programs at the 34 schools in the northwest learning community in Dallas ISD.

Dr. Bernadine Duncan

Dr. Bernadine Duncan participated in Elsik High School Career Day Program on March 6, 2008 in which she educated high school students about the field of counseling, going to college, and overcoming challenges.

Dr. Duncan also serves as program co-chair of the Texas Association of Black Personnel in Higher Education Conference which will take place in Houston, TX on April 3-6, 2008. She will be presenting a pre-conference workshop on "Teambuilding" and will give a presentation on "African-American Women and Depression".

Dr. Karen Osterholm

The Texas Department of Human Services has invited Dr. Karen Osterholm to present a 6-hour multicultural workshop at San Antonio State Hospital on the interface between ethnic folk healers and licensed mental health practitioners. The workshop will emphasize her research on *Curanderismo*, a holistic system of Latin American folk healing.

How To Improve Motivation in Psychological and Counseling-Related Courses

Donald S. Chandler, Jr., Ph.D., LPC, CFAE

According to Chandler (2000), intrinsic motivation has been characterized as the student's curiosity, persistence, and mastery of knowledge. Among educators, intrinsic motivation represents the inner drive that is essential to academic achievement. Research has suggested that students with high intrinsic motivation have higher grades, higher test scores, and frequent perceptions of academic competency. On the other hand, low intrinsic motivation has been associated with poor academic progress, poor school attendance, and poor career choices. According to the person-environment fit theory, low intrinsic motivation is due to a mismatch in the student's need for autonomy and school resources. In other words, as educational institutions provide more opportunities for self determination and self exploration, students are more likely to be successful.

As a method of improving intrinsic motivation in psychology and counseling-related courses, Psychology Trivia was created at the Dallas Community College District (Chandler, 2000). As a pilot program, Psychology Trivia was offered to the students as an online extra-credit project. This project was connected to the electronic library system where students were able to access it independently of class instruction. In conclusion, majority of the students completed the Psychology Trivia despite their mid-term and overall grades. Moreover, the students participated more in lectures, computer applications, and library resources with the use of Psychology Trivia. Additional studies with Psychology Trivia are currently being considered.

For more information, contact Donald S. Chandler, Jr., Ph.D., LPC at 214-946-3676 or 214-695-2467. Email: donaldchandler@msn.com.

Reference

Chandler, D. (2000). Psychology Trivia: Promoting Intrinsic Motivation in Psychology Courses. Innovation Abstracts, Vol. 23, 2, National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development .

STUDENTS' SPOTLIGHT AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Spotlight on Hugo Avila

(Editors' Note: Mr. Avila was instrumental in conceptualizing our ELC Newsletter)

To many of my PV professors and classmates I am simply known as Hugo. I am in the Educational Administration program and with support and nurturing from my PV family, I will graduate this May! I have been teaching for the Dallas Independent School District for 13 years in the information technology programs. My experiences at Prairie View A&M University have been intellectually refreshing and practically rewarding. It is almost next to impossible for me to express in words how I have benefited from the quality instruction my PV professors devotedly provide. The fact that most of my professors are practitioners in the field of education and are dedicated community leaders makes my experiences even more gratifying.

Additionally, my professors have given me a more lucid understanding of setting high expectations for students, teachers, and the community. Likewise, I believe that high standards for and participation from the aforementioned personalities are needed to increase student achievement. They have also taught me to be a visible leader, to participate in school activities, and to always be a team builder. The program has also enabled me to be a critical and creative thinker, a problem solver, and a priority setter. During my time in the program, I have become more passionate about student learning and achievement. Innovations, research, sharing of best practices and utilizing data to drive instruction characterize my learned desire to improve student learning.

As an instructional leader, my professors have imparted that every child is important. Also, I have accepted as true that my commitment to service and motivation to succeed are directly related to their achievement. Although, I will graduate this spring, my support of the program will continue. Needless to write, I will miss all in the PV family who have had a role in my education; more so, I will miss my classmates.

After reflecting upon my time in the PV program, I thought about what I wish I had known when I matriculated. I submit the following to my classmates for consideration... *Top Six Recommendations First and Second Semester Students Should Consider:*

1. Know your advisor.
2. Complete your degree plan the first semester.
3. Always follow up on and retain copies of submitted documents.
4. Be courteous to those helping you.
5. For each class you have, identify a couple of colleagues who can serve as a circle of support and assistance. Retain a list of your classmates' contact information.
6. Read your syllabus thoroughly. The syllabus serves as a contract between you and your professor. All course requirements are in this contract—syllabus.

Hugo Avila, PVAMU-ELAC graduate student.

PVAMU Counseling Graduates Passed LPC Exam in Texas

Congratulations to Lisa Bailey and Jodi Cobler for successfully passing the challenging Licensed Professional Counselor Exam by the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors.

.Dr. Pamela Barber-Freeman

Interim Head

Department of Educational Leadership & Counseling

PO Box 519 MS 2420

Prairie View, TX 77446

Phone: (936) 261-3530

Fax: (936) 261-3617

Edna Butler

Program Specialist

evbutler@pvamu.edu

Phone: (936) 261-3530

Fax: (936) 261-3617

Jannet Doyle

Senior Secretary

jrdoyle@pvamu.edu

Dr. Lucian Yates, III

Dean of College of Education

Whitlowe R. Green

College of Education

P.O. Box 519, MS 2400

Prairie View, TX 77446

Phone: (936) 261-3600

Dr. William H. Parker

Dean of Graduate School

P.O. Box 519, MS 2800

Prairie View, TX. 77446

Phone: (936) 261-3500

WORDS TO THE WISE

If we are to keep our democracy, there must be one commandment:

"Thou shalt not ration justice."

- Sophocles -

"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others."

*---from A Return to Love,
by Marianne Williamson ---*

Visit:

www.elac.pvamu.edu



Dr. Wanda Johnson warmly welcomes ELAC students, faculty and guests



Dr. Barber-Freeman solemnly prepares and welcomes the audience for an outstanding presentation on Ethics by Dr. Na'im Akbar



At least 650 attendees came to hear Dr. Akbar's inspirational and powerful discourse on Ethics



Dr. Akbar and inspired ELAC graduate students