



## The Fuss about GUS

### Welcome Back GED Scholars

September 26, 2008



2-3pm at the GED Scholars office.

Volume 1, Issue 1

We will be introducing some new workshops and seminars this academic year to address the needs of non-traditional students like ourselves.

#### Special points of interest:

- ✓ Farewell to GED Scholars Initiative Director, Brian White
- ✓ Student Spotlight
- ✓ Alumni Spotlight
- ✓ Math Tutoring Available
- ✓ Grey Matters Racial Discussion Group

On behalf of the GED Scholars Initiative, we would like to welcome back all returning GED Scholars and say hello to all new freshmen GED Scholars. We are so pleased to have you with us at Kent State University.

We're looking forward to this semester and have many things planned that we hope all of you can take the opportunity to be involved with.

Our student organization, GUS, will be holding it's first meeting on Friday, September 26, 2008 from

We'll be conducting interviews for student and alumni spotlights and will begin the process to create an alumni chapter for GED Scholars.

We're also excited about the opportunity to create a new discussion group, Grey Matters, which will address the issues of racism with the much needed chance for students to come together for an open dialogue in a discussion group that unites for change in our communities.

All of this and much more awaits you and your fellow GED Scholars. We all wish you the best academic and social success that the semester can bring you!

—GED Scholars Staff

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### OPEN HOUSE!!!

Please share in our open house on Friday, October, 3rd, 2008 from 4-6pm at the GED Office.

Stop by for refreshments, conversation, and more information about the GED Scholars Initiative.

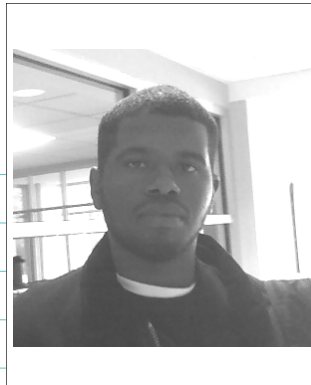


## Student Spotlight-Will Gourdine

Meet GED Scholar, Will Gourdine, junior Pan-African Studies major. Will felt an obligation to major in Pan-African Studies so he could learn about the world and culture through the perspective of those of the African Diaspora.

Will lives in Akron and is active in his community at such organizations as Coalition for Safer Communities and the Akron/Canton Chapter of Black Social Workers.

Will serves as a mentor for young males in his community and spends his time volunteering when he isn't in class as a full-time student.



After graduation, Will would like to pursue graduate studies and one of his main interests is child psychology. He also wants to continue his active participation in making his community a better place.

Will is an inspiration to others but one who is humble about his accomplishments. The staff of the GED Scholars would like to recognize him for his outstanding work at Kent State University, including his service to the GED Scholars as well as his example-setting community activism.



## Grey Matters

This semester, we are embarking on an exciting challenge. We are challenging ourselves to address the issue of racism with frank, open discussion groups.

In a diverse world, things cannot be seen as just black or just white. Most of us fall in the grey matter in between.

We invite you to embark on a new way of addressing racial equality and tolerance using a series of study circles and discussion

groups.

To begin the dialogue, we offer you some tips from the YWCA on eliminating racism as you are confronted with it:

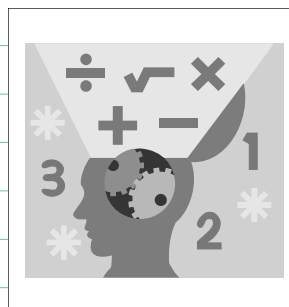
1. Don't laugh at racist, sexist, ageist, homophobic and other stereotypical jokes or assumptions. By laughing, you're acknowledging the joke is appropriate and encouraging more inappropriate comments. You

can interrupt without being rude. Don't let your silence speak for you. Simply say, "I don't find that funny," or "I don't appreciate jokes like that."

2. Make an effort to get to know people different than you. Look for things in common with other people and celebrate the differences. We can learn from and appreciate something about everyone.

## Math Tutoring

The Academic Success Center offers math tutoring at various locations on campus including the library and the Women's Resource Center. You can pick up a copy of the ASC locations/days/times chart in the GED lab. You can also apply for scheduled tutoring. Forms are available in the lab as well. Please take the opportunity to take advantage of this free service!



"The essence of mathematics is not to make simple things complicated, but to make complicated things simple."

~S. Gudder

## Farewell Brian White

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to a pivotal person in the GED Scholars Initiative. Director, Brian White, after successfully completing his Master's degree, has accepted a position in the College of Education as an advisor and recruiter.

Brian played a key role in the success of the GED Scholars Initiative and is known, not only for his ability to get the job done, but also and more importantly, for his compassion and genuine concern and care for our GED students.



Brian began his career at the GSI as a program assistant and worked his way up to the director position. His intellect, wit, and warmth, will be sorely missed but we all wish him well in this new chapter of his life. Stop by and see him sometime in his new offices in White Hall.

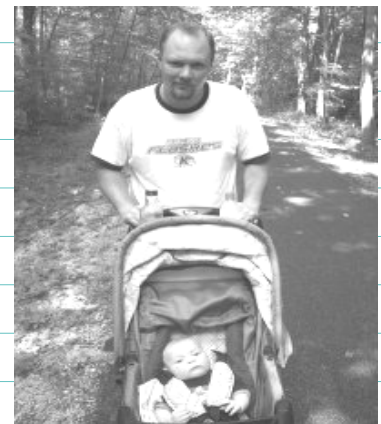
Good bye Brian and thank you for all your contributions to the GED Scholars Initiative!

## Alumni Spotlight-Michael Smith

Michael is a 1994 GED recipient and graduated college in 2008 with a B.A. in Secondary Education-Integrated Social Studies from Kent State University.

Besides obtaining his degree this year, he also became the new proud papa of a baby boy. He has been a stay at home dad over the course of the summer.

Mike received his teaching licensure from the State of Ohio and this fall, he began teaching GED classes for local area Compact ABLE and ESOL classes for Maplewood ABLE. He currently resides in Ravenna with his wife and son, Edison.



## Introducing the GED Scholars Staff:



**Lametris Joiner:** 1997 GED recipient and current Kent State sophomore, Lametris works part-time as a program assistant & MRDD support professional. Her field of study is Human Development and Family Studies with the Youth option and her minor is Justice Studies. She is a member of KASA and she is the Juvenile Justice Chair for the Kent State Chapter of the NAACP. She is the director of a 501c(3) non-profit organization "The LaDorr Foundation" ser-

ving inner city youth in the Cleveland area. She lives on campus in Allerton Family Housing with her son, De'Valle., who also attends Kent State, and is majoring in Psychology

**Heidi Bauer:** 1991 GED recipient and 2008 college graduate, Heidi holds a B.A. with distinction in English and completed an honors thesis, "An Engraved Invitation to Rape": *Sexual Psychology in Ayn Rand's Atlas Shrugged and The Fountainhead* at Kent State University. She works part-time as a program assistant and will begin

graduate school in January, majoring in liberal studies with a concentration in women's studies and a non-profit graduate certificate. Heidi's past internships have included the Kent State University Press and the Governor's Women's Initiative. She serves on the OLRC Book Review board and lives in Medina with her six year old son, Keagen.





## GED United Scholars

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**Mission:** The GED United Scholars is a special interest student organization formed by GED Scholars to share our experiences and offer social, academic, and professional support to each other through our educational journey.

**Membership:** The GED United Scholars is a diverse group with members of all ages, cultures, and backgrounds. Membership is open to all but voting rights are limited to GED Scholars. The only requirement for membership is a desire to establish a network of support for all GED Scholars.

**Goal:** The main goal of the organization is to change the negative stigma attached to earning a General Education Development (GED) diploma, by educating and bringing awareness to the university and the community that the GED is a credible alternative to a high school diploma.



## Eradicating the Stigma of the GED

### GUS Meetings

The first GUS meeting was postponed from Friday September 26, until Friday October 3, 2008. The meeting will take place at 3pm, prior to the Open House which begins at 4pm. Please RSVP to [gus@kent.edu](mailto:gus@kent.edu) if you will be attending.

Please bring your ideas, suggestions, and enthusiasm! We look forward to seeing as many people as possible! If you cannot make it to the meeting but would like something addressed, please email your issues or concerns to [gus@kent.edu](mailto:gus@kent.edu)



*Gus Members, 2006*

The agenda will include:

- Election/change of officers
- Scheduling
- Event Ideas
- Flyers/Program promotion/ How to get GED Scholars involved with GUS
- Alumni chapter
- Updating the website
- "Grey Matters" Race Discussion Group

**\*\*Light Refreshments will be Served\*\***

