To all students, I commend you on the progress you’ve made to date in your academic program of study. It takes a lot of time, commitment, dedication and sacrifices to complete undergraduate, masters and doctoral degrees. It is also paramount that students approach their work with a sense of integrity. Walden University partners with our students, faculty and staff to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. Simply said, we want all work that you submit for credit to be your own. There has been recent usage of websites that buy and sell assignments and write assignments for a fee. Usage of these sites, whether buying or selling, is a violation of our academic integrity policies. Violations of our academic integrity policies may lead to academic sanctions up to and including academic dismissal from the university. We encourage students who are struggling with academic expectations to discuss their concerns with their faculty or academic advisors to identify resources and solutions. We also remind you that we have many writing and tutoring resources available at our Writing Center and our Academic Skills Center. Please contact Codeofconduct@mail.waldenu.edu if you have any questions regarding our academic integrity policies. We are invested in your success and appreciate the commitment we see every day from our students, faculty and staff in upholding academic integrity.
Meet Jason Wiggins

Achieving the Dream: The Successful Journey of Doctoral Student

When I began my journey as a doctoral student in the College of Management and Technology at Walden University, I didn't comprehend the amount of dedication and work that would ensue to achieve the goal of graduating as a scholar practitioner. At the end of the journey there was a complete comprehension of what was needed to be a member of an elite group as a scholar practitioner. It would be extremely inaccurate if I stated that the path to the doctoral hooding ceremony was easy and without sacrifice. However, I can state that achieving this goal was the greatest personal achievement and excitement that I have experienced with only two exceptions: The birth of my child and my wedding day.

I would like to share my experience with the Walden community. Growing up as a young man I was always interested in learning, but struggled to obtain the grades I desired. I even managed to secure one of the lowest SAT scores at my school among the SAT participants my senior year. Therefore, it seemed unlikely I could achieve a PhD in my lifetime. This is my story to achieving what was once seen as impossible by many individuals that were aware of my struggles.

My journey started as a KAM student, in which I was responsible to write several 100 plus page papers that included the following sections: breadth, depth, and application, along with related course work that the proceeded the KAM papers. Like any online self-directed learning platform, it was important to be self-disciplined with emphasis on time management and dedication to the process. I would have finished the program sooner if I was able to use the needed time management skills that are desired for the program. However, once I became entirely committed to the process and dedicated to achieving and surpassing all the milestones/potential barriers to success was when I satisfied the progress needed.

Every doctoral journey is unique with its own set of obstacles and pitfalls that can be a barrier to success if an individual becomes discouraged. I initially researched the PhD program at Walden University in 2005 and soon after I enrolled in the KAM program. Like many adult learners in the KAM program I became lost because of the magnitude of each 100 page plus document that I needed to write. I spent most of my days writing in the evening and treated the program like a hobby which is not the proper approach to take. Unfortunately, before I made noteworthy progress I had to request a leave of absence because I ran out of monetary funds for the program while still owing approximately one quarter of tuition at the time. I also was in a little financial distress due to the lack of accountability on my part. I thought I was even close to declaring bankruptcy in 2010. But for me this was no option because I accumulated the debt and I expected to take care of my obligations.
Prior to re-enrolling, I began to prepare myself to finish the program and needed to take the proper steps for financial viability. First, I had to make changes in my own life by taking control of my finances. I did so by starting a new job that afforded me the opportunity to pay off approximately $30,000 in debt while down-grading my life style from living in a downtown San Diego condo to residing in an undesired community slightly outside of San Diego. This was part of the sacrifice to finish my doctoral program. I knew the only way that I was going to complete my journey as a scholar practitioner was to pay my own yearly tuition out of pocket. The process for getting out of debt and getting my finances in order took a combined 5 years. However, through all that time I always knew I would re-enroll in the program and finish my doctoral journey. I was never an individual that would give up on anything, and I wasn’t about to start then. I contacted Walden’s enrollment advising in August of 2012 stating that I was ready to return to Walden. I paid off the quarter of tuition I still owed and I was officially enrolled in the program again.

I was extremely excited to have a second and final chance to make my dream of being PhD holder come true. I jumped in right away by starting and finishing KAM VII while beginning my course work. I continued to work diligently and I was ecstatic when the opportunity was presented to start working on the premise. This meant that I was close to approaching the proposal stage. Now I had so many questions about the proposal and the dissertation stages. One thing I learned that helped transitioned my progress from mediocre to making substantial progress was taking control of my program. It is not uncommon during the journey to change chair(s) or committee member(s) depending on the situation. Different circumstances can occur during the length of a PhD journey. At the time of my PhD in management becoming conferred I was on my third and final chair. No doubt I saved the best chairperson for the last. The first chair did an impressive job, but she left the University and I was then appointment a new chair. Unfortunately, this chair was not a good fit as we were not on the same page throughout. At the same time, I was looking to transition to another chairperson, he left the university. Now the decision was simplified to change chairs.

This was the first opportunity I had to choose my chair depending on who was available. I did significant research to find a chairperson who was dedicated to the process and his students. I also reviewed the number of finished dissertations to see how involved the professor was. I found Dr. McCollum who met all the criteria I was seeking and I asked him to be my chair. He stated yes! I can state that because of his commitment and feedback amplified my progress because there would be a quick turnaround during each review. In return, I would commit as much time as needed to make the changes and send back.

An integral part of the PhD journey is the need to have good support group that includes family and friends. However, there is a need to include individuals that are involved in the dissertation process and share the same adversity the most experience during the journey. I was an individual who needed that support group and I found it with Dr. McCollum’s cohort group. The group meets one hour per week to help each other. This involved doctoral students who were all in various stages of their program. I was identifying with individuals completing the program and graduating. I began to realize that others do complete the program. I was encouraged by the success of others within the cohort group while becoming more involved in the cohort. I learned so much from the help of others that experienced pitfalls and could help us individuals that were not as far in the process avoid and navigate through those same issues.

I was asked by Dr. McCollum if I would like to help co-lead the cohort group and help support others in the cohort. I was so excited about the opportunity and of course I wanted to help. This
only helped facilitate the need for me to complete the journey because I had to continue to demonstrate that the program is one that is meant to have a finish line. The turning point for me in my journey was approximately May 2015. I was continuing to make acceptable progress, but not working at the level that I needed to. My wife who was supportive of the dissertation journey asked me when I would ‘finally’ complete the doctoral program? To this point, I didn’t have a date of completion in mind. However, I knew that I needed to provide my wife with an achievable date. I reviewed and inserted my information into the dissertation timeline to determine when I would complete the program and the feedback obtained was approximately April 2017. This was not going to satisfy her if it took me another 2 years to complete the program. Therefore, I stated I should be done with the program in November of 2016. I wasn’t sure if this was achievable, but it was important to set a date and then share that date with others. The more I discussed the completion timeline, the more it seemed achievable. During this process in January of 2016, my wife and I found out a baby was arriving at the end of October 2016. My understanding was it can be very difficult to make considerable progress with a newborn, so I knew that the November target needed to happen and I needed to sacrifice other ‘fun’ activities to hit the targeted date. My degree was conferred in November 2016 which was the month I had informed by wife 18 months earlier when I would finish. I set the date and achieved the date, so it can be done and more importantly I made my wife and new mom happy.

I attended the graduation celebration in Orlando, Florida in January 2017, not to proclaim the completion of the PhD program as my own individual achievement, but to pay tribute to all those individuals that were responsible for my success. I had a wonderful support group from individuals’ that knew they were impactful in my progress to those that had no idea, but they are the reason I am who I am today. I am so thankful and look forward continuing Walden University’s pledge for social change by being a key contributor. I have learned anything is possible if you pour your heart and soul into something that you desire to achieve. Once I earned my PhD I now have an obligation to help others and share that knowledge while helping further and/or uncovering new found knowledge to improve the lives of others.

Jason Wiggins, PhD (Walden University graduate-January 2017)

Wiggins, Jason E., 2016, “Exploring Generation Y Leaders’ Motivation and Retention Within the Service Industry” (Dissertation), Walden University

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Meet Nashira Funn

Nashira Funn is currently putting the final touches to complete her PhD in public policy and administration with a specialization in criminal justice. Her dissertation focuses on law enforcement knowledge of people with mental illness. She is currently a licensed clinical social work with the state of California.
Despite being a single mother, working a full time challenging and dangerous job and completing her doctoral studies, Ms. Funn has taken the time to enact social change in her community. She has started presenting and developing trainings for officers and professionals regarding mental illness. She collaborates with local law enforcement in this presentation and has been accepted to present at numerous major conferences all over the nation. Additionally she has presented at several local universities and forensic agencies on this topic.

She is also in the process of marketing programs to California middle schools and high schools such as conflict resolution, mental health awareness and education and suicide prevention and crisis intervention based on California assembly bill 2246.

Meet Diane Shafer

On May 6, 2017, Lindsey Wilson College in Columbia Kentucky sponsored a poster competition in conjunction with the 3rd Annual Mental Health Symposium. With my entry of Process Gambling, I won first place. I also presented a breakout session on Problem Gambling.

**Problem Gambling and Process Addictions**

**Abstract:** Problem gamblers usually overspend and deplete resources that can lead to family disruption, income loss, and divorce. Treatment can prevent personal tragedy and restore financial responsibility. Counseling can help reduce the gambler’s need to gamble. Problem gambling is a hidden addiction without a substance. The DSM -5 makes the diagnosis Gambling Disorder.

**Definition:** A Gambling Disorder is the persistent and problematic gambling behavior leading to clinically significant impairment or distress, as indicated by the individual exhibiting four or more of the following in a 12 month period:

1. Needs to gamble with increasing amounts of money to achieve desired excitement.
2. Is restless or irritable when attempting to control, cut back, or stop gambling.
3. Has made repeated unsuccessful efforts to control or cut back on gambling.
4. Is preoccupied with gambling. (thinking of ways to gamble)
5. Often gambles when distressed (helpless, guilty, anxious, depressed).
6. After losing money, often returns to get even (chasing).
7. Lies to conceal the extent of involvement with gambling.
8. Has jeopardized or lost significant relationship, job, or educational, career opportunity.
9. Relies on others to provide money to relieve desperate financial situations caused by gambling.

Process addictions are non-substance addictions such as Internet, pornography, and exercise.

**Treatment**

1. CBT, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy will help modify thoughts, perceptions, and behaviors that resulted in problem gambling. Counseling is mainstay of treatment.
2. Financial Responsibility. The gambler must face his debts and pay them back. A financial
consultant can help. A spouse or another takes over the finances. Take courses such as those offered by www.LearnFinancialLiteracy.com.
3. Make restitution.

**Differences Between Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse**
1. Hidden addiction without a saturation point such as overdose or means of testing such as lie/bet, DSM-5, Brief Biosocial Screen, or LACG 3 Questions.
2. Financial problems create a crisis which requires immediate attention.
3. Problem gamblers can look and act normal like holding a job or attending school.
4. Fewer resources and prevention message is not understood by community.

Diane Shafer M.D., 201 Euclid Avenue, Paintsville, KY 41240. drdianeshaferyahoo.com

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**Meet Rufus Hobson**

**Tell us a little about your background:**
I am a 35-year-old male from North Carolina. I’m currently working in the field of Administration. I’ve been working as an Administrative Assistant for going on nine years in August 2017. I have an Associates in Applied Science Degree in Information Systems and wanted to do something else with myself. Communications has always been a passion of mine. I wanted to do all parts/aspects of this field. Whether it be in Public Relations/Publicity, Advertising, Marketing, Television / Radio Broadcasting, etc. I wanted to do it. Radio and Television were my first areas of interest. I studied celebrities and their platforms and envisioned myself doing what they were doing. I’m currently voluntarily working as a Radio Host and interim Operations Manager for an Internet Radio Station. In the future, I see myself working in the field of Public Relations / Marketing or Television or Radio, doing a job or in a position that I love.

**What brought you to Walden?**
As previously stated, I had already completed college before applying to Walden U. I had a mindset that I wanted to achieve some goals before I settled down and began a family, get another degree was one of them. It was a toss between two schools and when inquired about both on my personal Social Media Page, a friend commented and gave her reviews and remarks about Walden. By her remarks, I was sold by them.

**How will a Walden education help your career?**
The classes I’ve taken at Walden and the ones I plan to take in the future, are and will be a big help and a big part of my Career. The subjects and material studied, are excellent material that we, as working adults, can use and apply to our current job or future jobs. Example: studying and learning about protocols for Crisis Management or how to respond to a Crisis, is very important in any career that you’re working in. It is so that we can act accordingly and appropriately. I’m now studying and putting in place a “crisis action plan” for my current job, if
such emergency shall arise.

Was Walden’s mission of positive social change a factor in your decision to come to Walden?
If so, how do you plan to incorporate a similar mission in your personal and career life?
In the beginning, I didn’t know a lot about Walden, and I didn’t know of their mission for social change. But upon researching, applying and attending classes at Walden, I now understand the mission of positive social change. I also realized that it included something that I stood for. As quoted in the “Walden University 2017 Social Change Report Final”, it reads “Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you’ve imagined”. - Henry David Thoreau. I’ve learned the same from a Minister that we have to “walk like we're blessed and like we're living the life I deserve.” So, making a change, living the life we’d imagine/deserve emits happiness, happiness is spilled out into our homes, and with that, better homes make better communities for a better change.

Meet Kris Keith

I would like to shine the spotlight of current positive social change initiative on my Graduate student from my Prevention, Intervention and Consultation course, Kris Keith. This is Kris’s last course towards graduation in the Human and Social Services Community Intervention and Leadership program. Kris has been an inspiration to faculty and peers in the course from day one sharing her compassion, knowledge and strong avocation for her personal and professional work with individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Kris has shared that she actively works in the field supporting clients in her community with disabilities and she also has adopted children who all have various disabilities. In addition, Kris and her family are very involved in Special Olympics. They have assisted with the bowling program, gymnastics program and swimming program as well. Kris has also been working with the Spirit Horse group by helping while the kids are in therapy and she truly enjoys this work. She is authentic in exploring and sharing her ongoing growth in her counselor developmental process while continuing to strive and share excellence in her immense knowledge, understanding and application of the work she does in caring for those with disabilities. Kris mentions her passion and desire is to give clients with disabilities opportunities in life and this brings her joy. She shares that she found her passion for working with individuals with disabilities after finishing her undergraduate degree. During college, she knew she loved children and would work with them in some capacity and even knew she would someday adopt children. When she graduated, she took a job at a rehabilitation center for individuals with disabilities. She fell in love with this population ever since. Currently Kris works as a Service and Support Administrator Supervisor. She continues to make a difference as well in mentoring the individuals who are beginning their career to carry on the passion for taking care of those with special needs. Kris meets and exceeds Walden’s mission of positive social change through her dedication in her personal and professional life to individuals with DD and ID diagnoses. I am looking forward to continuing to see all the amazing work Kris will do to impact positive social change in supporting those with disabilities. It is my pleasure to introduce
Kris Keith and her family!

- Dr. Candace M. McLain (Core faculty CMHC)

Here are a couple of pictures of my family. I am the one on the left in the all-white "gap ad" type picture! In the second picture I am the one in the black shirt with my wife Shelley and my children, Kaili (Kay-lee), Jazmin and Jonah. All three are adopted and all three have their own special needs (FAE, Autism and Autism and Down syndrome). They are wonderful children and I cannot believe how blessed we are to be raising them. It is such a blast just to hang out with them!!

Meet Beverly Ticer

Tell us a little about your background?
People tend to view me as rather eccentric, but in a fun, crazy kind of way! As a child I remember recording myself on cassette tape (wow, what’s that?) pretending to be an international radio station where I sang songs in different languages (more like gibberish as I only knew English) and announced the top songs of the day. Even after my mother passed away when I was 13, I found fun and pleasure in life and people around me. I grew from the challenges life presented me and learned that nothing could break my real joy in life unless I let it. Don’t get me wrong, there have been plenty of times when life has taken me down, I just never let it defeat me. As my mother would have told me, I needed to “Cowgirl Up,” so I did. Now, as a mother of 5 and wife to a wonderful man (who is just as crazy) I see how my life is blessed beyond measure.

What brought you to Walden?
My journey with Walden University began in the spring of 2015. I had recently completed my “basic” classes at a local 2-year community college and needed to find an online university to finish my degree program. My sister, who completed her MSN FNP with Walden, suggested I check them out. After researching the programs offered at Walden, I knew right away that Walden was the place for me. I remember having that feeling of “peace” when you know you’ve done the right thing. At the end of this quarter, I will be graduating with my B.S. in Business Communications, with the hopes of moving forward with my masters in the spring.

How will a Walden education help your career?
The skills I have learned throughout my degree program such as interpersonal communication, communicating in a digital world, and marketing to consumers has helped me be more productive in my career as a Digital Marketing Manager. I have discovered how to be more creative when communicating with others both in person and through the use of technology. With digital usage so prevalent, communicating creatively is necessary for communicators to engage their audience.

Was Walden’s mission of positive social change a factor in your decision to come to Walden?
If so, how do you plan to incorporate a similar mission in your personal and career life? Walden’s mission of positive social change has encouraged me to take action within my community. As a social change communicator, I have found the opportunity to demonstrate positive social change through a local non-profit organization that provides English as a second language instruction and citizenship classes to adults in the community. Furthermore, Walden has given me the ability to create social change within myself through education, a change I can now use in both my personal and professional life.

Meet Melinda Merillat

“I guess you could say writing is in my blood. I come from a long line of writers. There’s something about writing that is cathartic for me - it allows me to put my soul on paper.”

I have worked in communications, public relations, and marketing for most of my career. Over the past 10 years, I have developed a passion for crisis management. This, along with my writing, has enabled me to write crisis plans, develop crisis communications, and train others preparing for a crisis. However, I knew that something was missing. I had never finished my degree and I felt that I had cheated myself. It took me over a year to find a college that was right for me. I chose Walden because I wanted to earn my degree online and I wanted an accelerated class schedule so that I wasn’t spending 12 - 14 weeks in one course.

I still have a way to go before I earn my degree, but I can already tell that I think differently and work more efficiently. I’m not stopping with a bachelor’s, though. My sight is set on a master’s in communication. At 54, college isn’t easy. Life is hectic and time is limited, but achieving my educational goal is worth the effort.

One of the reasons I chose Walden is their commitment to social change. Life cannot be just about yourself. We are called to help those who are less fortunate or who have no voice. I have been a volunteer with military organizations since the death of my nephew, a USMC Sniper killed in action in Iraq. Attending Walden has deepened my desire to help others. It has made me even more aware of all that I have been given and all that I have to give.

Campus Civitan Club
Fellow Walden Students, I invite you to join the Campus Civitan Club chapter at Walden University. This club is a community service oriented group with a mission to help individuals with developmental disability with projects that are member focused and open to the entire student body. Feel free to fill out the Walden Charter Membership Application and submit to studentorgs@mail.waldenu.edu for more information.

Ten benefits of being a Campus Civitan Member include:

1. Foundation financial support for 501c3 organizations in the community (Foundation for Children with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities FCIDD)
2. Support for research of causes and treatment of Autism Spectrum, Alzheimer’s, ADHD, and many others, through the Civitan International Research Center, in Berm
3. Travel opportunities to District meetings and conventions, via International conventions currently scheduled in Reno 2018 and Italy 2019
4. Opportunity to be the President, Treasurer, Secretary or Director of a non-profit organization
5. Knowledge of nonprofit bylaws, Robert’s Rules of Order, and IRS tax requirements
6. Leadership training from renowned Civitans
7. Scholarship Opportunities
8. Service Project and event leadership experience
9. Officer and board leadership experience
10. Opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others including youth, seniors, disabled, homeless, and hungry.

Nathaniel Geyer, DrPH, MS
Walden Alum

Current Student Organizations

Honor Societies:

- Alpha Sigma Lambda (Undergraduate)
- Alpha Phi Sigma (Criminal Justice)
- Chi Sigma Iota (Counseling)
- Delta Mu Delta (Management) - please email deltamudelta@mail.waldenu.edu for any questions or for more information.

- Golden Key (All Programs) - please email goldenkey@mail.waldenu.edu for any questions or for more
Kauffman Dissertation Fellowship: Now Accepting Proposals

The Kauffman Foundation is now accepting proposals for the Kauffman Dissertation Fellowship (KDF). The KDF is an annual competitive program that awards up to 20 Dissertation Fellowship grants of $20,000 each to Ph.D., D.B.A., or other doctoral students at accredited U.S. universities to support dissertations in the area of entrepreneurship. Since its establishment in 2003, the KDF has supported 188 dissertations on various topics related to entrepreneurship from a wide range of disciplines while maintaining an overall high quality of research. While dissertations can be written on any topic of importance to entrepreneurship, for the 2017-2018 cycle, the Kauffman Foundation is particularly interested in regional dynamics and local ecosystems, demographic dimensions of entrepreneurship, economic growth, entrepreneurship policy, declining business
Time Management Videos for Doctoral Learners

One of the key factors that preclude doctoral learners from being successful in completing their program is the lack of time management and goal setting. Below are six videos that will help you create a time management system, unique to your life, which will help you meet your educational goals.

- Managing from the Inside Out
- Introduction to Time Management
- Self-Awareness and Time Management
- What is Working and What is Not Working
- Goal Setting
Coping Strategies from ComPsych

Coping Strategies

Many of the symptoms historically associated with a “nervous breakdown” can be managed and treated. Here are some suggestions:

- Seek support. Do not wait until you reach your breaking point. Talk to a physician, therapist or contact your Employee Assistance Program for help.

- Try to identify the causes of stress. By recognizing the reasons behind your tension, you can feel more in control and change the source of the stress.

  - Get enough rest. Doctors recommend eight hours of sleep a night for adults.

- Exercise regularly. Swimming, running, brisk walking, aerobic exercises and other repetitive fitness activities are especially beneficial. Experts recommend exercising at least 20 to 30 minutes three to five times a week.

- Engage in fulfilling activities. Take a little time each day for something you like to do: a hobby, a walk, an hour with a good book, a home-improvement project, etc.

  - Avoid caffeine, nicotine and other stimulants. These can induce stress and anxiety.

- Avoid alcohol, tranquilizers and recreational drugs. These may contribute to anxiety and depression and a sense of loss of control.

STUDENT AWARD WINNERS

Leadership Excellence Award: Rosalie Wyatt

Nominee’s Name: Rosalie Wyatt
Nominee’s College: College of Social & Behavioral Sciences
Faculty Member’s Name who Nominated Student: Dr. Morris Bidjerano
Name of Award: Leadership Excellence Award
Accomplishments and Reason for Nomination:
1. Rosalie has excelled in her program of studies at Walden. She has consistently maintained a
4.00 GPA throughout the course of her studies. Her dissertation is very ambitious, of extremely high quality, assessed as “outstanding” by her committee members and URR at SPPA.

Rosalie is president of Wyatt Consulting Group International, Inc. that provides stakeholder engagement services for business development, citizen advocacy and public/private sector initiatives, including strategic military base and port community resiliency. Rosalie is National Director of the ReadyCommunities Partnership and its National Service and Sacrifice Awards. Rosalie is also a member of the board of the Bayat Foundation, working to increase the quality of life for women and children in Afghanistan.

2. Rosalie has excelled in her program of studies at Walden. She has consistently maintained a 4.00 GPA throughout the course of her studies. In March 2014, she was a presenter and an organizer of a round table discussion at the annual conference of the American Political Science Association in Washington, DC on the topic of the “Afghan Trusted Network.” In April 2016, she published in the PA Times a column, entitled “Encouraging a Neighborhood Contingency Policy for America’s First Responders.” In January and in April 2017, she published two additional pieces in PA Times: “It’s a Large-Scale Crisis: You May Be in Charge Until Help Arrives” and “Mayors Model Resiliency Policy on Volunteer Sweat Equity,” respectively.


**Academic Performance Citizenship Award: Winner**

**Donetta Wilson**

**Nominee’s Name:** Donetta Wilson  
**Nominee’s College:** College of Social & Behavioral Sciences  
**Faculty Member’s Name who Nominated Student:** Dr. Anita Neuer Colburn  
**Name of Award:** Academic Performance Citizenship Award  
**Accomplishments and Reason for Nomination:** Donetta Wilson will represent Walden’s first Academic Performance and Citizenship Award perfectly! In addition to her 4.0 GPA, she presents at academic conferences, and is currently preparing a manuscript for publication on wraparound services for counseling clients. She continually impresses her internship site supervisor as well as her peers.

Donetta embodies Walden’s unwavering commitment to service and social change, by providing direct services to marginalized groups and teaching/leading others to become effective change agents. As an experienced nurse and strong woman of faith, she completed her M.S. in Healthcare Management in 2009, and since then has been leading international mission trips to the Dominican Republic through two non-profit organizations, one of which she herself founded (Ambassadors for Christ). The teams build churches, schools, medical clinics, and water
purification systems. Since many Haitians were displaced to Los Mina, DR due to the damages sustained in the 2010 earthquake, Donetta and her teams have been helping the people heal from years of discord by facilitating ways for them to live and worship together in the same community. Donetta provides cultural diversity training and leads pastors and other Christian volunteers on annual mission trips to the Zumbon, Los Mina and Boca Chica communities of DR, where they distribute hygiene products, school supplies, and clothing to approximately 250 people at each visit. They also offer Vacation Bible School for the children and other worship services. In 2016, Donetta participated in a trip to Nairobi, Kenya, where she provided education to caregivers on blood-borne pathogens, proper hygiene, and care of HIV/AIDS patients.

Donetta and her husband also provide monthly financial support and an annual visit to an Indian orphanage in Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh. They are considered the American “Mommy and Daddy” of two young boys for whom they provide full sponsorship. Following the 2016 typhoon, they provided blankets, rice, bibles, and financial support.

Here in the U.S., Donetta contracts with a local barber to provide haircuts at the beginning of the school year for under privileged children in Washington, NC. She also provides them with backpacks and school supplies.

Despite so many accomplishments, Donetta is quiet, humble, and modest. She is an excellent listener, disciplined, kind, and has a great sense of duty.

Following graduation and clinical licensure, Donetta plans to develop and operate a comprehensive medical/wellness center in rural North Carolina to serve the needs of those with extremely limited access to mental, physical, and behavioral healthcare. The center will offer a variety of services, including outpatient therapy, assessment, medication management, intensive in-home therapy, and day treatment in the school system. Her plan includes a significant networking component with local psychiatrists, pediatricians, hospitals, primary care providers, and schools.

Donetta Wilson is a scholar-practitioner who will clearly impact positive social change. She is more than worthy of this award.

Contact Us

Do you have an article, a news item, or an announcement that you would like to submit? Or are you or another Walden student doing something that you would like us to share with the university community? Questions or comments? E-mail: gao-jai.yang@mail.waldenu.edu