

Taylor: Well, networking is getting yourself out there. You don't have to have a network where the people only work at Fortune 500 companies. Or you may not ever know a person that works at one. Your network is just people who are employed, who know other people, who know what's going on at their company. It's a matter of writing down who you know and where they work. You could email them, call them, or meet them face to face, or take them to lunch that's affordable to you, like a McDonald's or something to let them know where you are in life and see how they can assist you. Scroll through your phone, I know how you guys love your phone, and see who you can call and have a general conversation with, letting them know where you are, what you're doing, and what you like to do. Now if your contacts are filled with students then maybe this is not a helpful idea to you. Same goes for those at your church. That is what networking is all about. It's not necessarily going to a former function. Back in March we had about 7 or 10 executives on campus who made themselves accessible to all of our students. Those who participated made connections, those who did not, well there isn't too much you can say when the opportunity is presented to you and you do not take advantage of it. Students need to make themselves available, get out of their shell, and learn how to talk to people. When sending an email, don't send it the same way you would send a text; even if it is a family or friend, they don't have to help you. If they see an email that is not professional, they are going to pull an application for you, and in return, make them look bad. It is going to take a lot of education on yourself. Develop your network and communicate.

TV: You just spoke about educating yourself. How would you respond to first generation graduates; where their mother and father, and grandparents have never been to college? What other sources would you recommend to help them along the way?

Taylor: Well everyone knows somebody.

TV: True.

Taylor: Again it does not matter if it's a professional job. You may have a cousin that works in a professional environment; your parent does not have to be your source. You can have a parent that works in the cafeteria, but that does not mean she/he cannot help you, because there are parents of the students that may come through the cafeteria that works a variety of jobs. Or they may know the principal. Everyone knows somebody, so there should be no reason why you can't still have a network. You cannot think on a small level, because if you think small, that is how other people will perceive you. Yes your parent may not have experience writing an interview, but we have the Office of Career Services, that has been at Fayetteville State for how many years. If you have not come to the Office of Career Services and asked what can you do... well what can do? We have counselors for freshmen, sophomores, juniors, seniors and alumni, who we work with on a one-on-one basis. So it's up to the students to take advantage of these services, which are free. When it comes to educating yourself; what is it you want to do with your major? If you don't know, have you been listening in class? Talk to your professors, your advisors, come to the Office of Career Services. Hop on our website. We have a link called, What can I do with my major. It tells you the different fields you can go into with your major/degree. All of that is online. But once we give you that information and start you with the process, it's totally on you because it's for you, not us. Use the Google search engine. If you are in Health Education, search for Health Education jobs and a slew of job listings will pop up. Don't make it hard, but don't treat it as if it's A, B, C, D, E, F, G... and then again, you'll be selling yourself short.

TV: Many of my friends are graduating this May, and I have friends who graduated last spring and I talk to them on Facebook, and they are not doing anything because of how hard it is. Do you have any words of encouragement or advice?

Taylor: Well, yeah. Life is not meant to be easy. Life is full of challenges and it's up to you to step up to the challenge and knock the ball out the park. You might strike out the first three times at bat, but the fourth swing can be a homerun. It's a matter of persistence, it's a matter of dedication, and it's a matter of education. You have to educate yourself. Students have to recognize that the competition is stiff. Some are competing against their parents. Some will be competing against classmates. I tell students all the time, you all are not each other's competition, the competition is out there. If you haven't done any internships or worked any jobs, you are at a total disadvantage and it's not because of the recession. Employers are no longer impressed with you having a four-year degree. They want to see what else you have. Have you got any internships, have you volunteered, have you worked? Were you in roles of student leadership? That's what they really want to see. They want to see a well-rounded student. So you can't expect magic, when you haven't done anything to create it. Just be aware that competition will exist from here on out. You need to plan on what you are going to do. For those who have not graduated at the moment, they need to search for internships. Ms Osborne, here in our office, is our internship coordinator. If you are not in communication with our office, you need to do so; you are cutting yourself short.

TV: What is your take on students in Greek organizations and them including that organization in their resume'?

Taylor: That is a sticky one because you won't know who will view your resume. People have hang ups on things all the time. But it's my recommendation that if you are going to include it, just know that it can be used against you. Is it fair? No. Does it happen? Yes. But I always encourage students that have leadership roles in those organizations, don't hesitate to include it in your resume. If you are the president, secretary, or treasurer, you definitely would want to put it, because it's

a leadership role. So it really depends. I'm not going to say yes, I'm not going to no.... just be aware. It can get you an interview or it can be someone's hang up.

TV: Are there any ideas of how current graduates can balance work and graduate school? I know that I want to further my education at Tennessee State University and find work. How can one with similar ideas balance that?

Taylor: You have to do a weekly schedule. You know, on this day I'm doing this. At 12 o'clock, I am dedicating this time to do this. And on Friday, I'm dedicating this towards break. You may feel as though you're running in circles and so your mind and body will need rest. It is all about balancing. You also need to make sure the program you're entering at graduate school requires an internship, because most times they will place you, or give you a list of local work sites to go to do your internship. It will be a juggling act for you, but that is what we call life. Like when I was in graduate school, I was able to juggle work and school because the program I was in, was set up during the night, so I would go to work and head to class. It's a matter of coming up with a routine that fits you. It's imperative to use the time management skills you have at Fayetteville State wisely, so when you enter the workforce or you go to graduate school you will really be prepared for the rigorous work you're required of.

TV: Is there anything else you would like to include?

Taylor: Just take full advantage of our services. I am very open and honest and don't sugarcoat anything because that will be a disservice to you. I have noticed there are many students whose communication skills are weak. Go to a community college where they offer courses; it may be for one day for a hour, but it's there. Join Toastmasters and be open to constructive criticism. Allow others to help you.

End Of Year Memories

by Monique Vaughn

At The end of the year most people sit around with their peers and reflect on the events that took place. The Voice is no different, because at the end of the day, memories are all that's left. Memories may not always be good; some short and sweet, some long and painful, but if they made it to your memory, you'll never forget it. Fayetteville State University is a very diverse school; different people from different areas; different skin tones; different lifestyles. Yet, these people make Fayetteville what it is.

Darryl Gentry, Jr. - Chicken Wednesdays for the first six weeks on my Facebook status.

Trenise Cockerham - When Eta Nu came out in the cafe, when Chris imitated Joe Clark at the Mr. Fayetteville State University Pageant; and those god awful "HONESTY BOX MESSAGES"... clearly they were cowards who spectate but will not reveal themselves.

Briana Denkins - When I became a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

Akin Kayode - That Wednesday that the cafe ain't have no chicken, the Sigma's won the step show again, Mrs. Chavis got a ROOM for all her hard work, not a building.. A ROOM, the year that females ran SGA, and the year that the Alpha Blackout party went the hardest!

Tiara Long - When I had to say good-bye to my boyfriend, then say HELLO to 27 Line sisters!!

Starshena Howard - When Justin "Boiled Eggs" Sanker was dancing with that girl; that was the most memberable thing because he don't get no play from nobody, and it was too funny!!

Darshawn Johnson - When the Bronco Pride Guys performed "Attitude Check" during halftime at one of our

home games.

Malcolm Jay - When the K's did a performance during our Kappa probate.

Tyrone Robinson - When my friends crossed Kappa.

Deirdre Freeman - When I got my audit back and was approved to graduate.

Tempestt Rudd - Working out for our performance was my most memorable moment.

The Voice Newspaper - Our very first online issue; our first print issue and how much work went into making it happen. When Bobby Ray aka B.O.B came and we hosted that event.