

FEATURES

Life After Graduation

by Cortney "Nunu" Taylor

On May 8th, at 9:00am in the Crown Coliseum, approximately 450 students will participate in commencement exercises and receive their degrees. All who are enrolled in college, one day hope to reach this step in life, but once their degree is obtained there are those mind-boggling questions on what to do with it. What is next? Coordinator of Student Professional Development in the Office of Career Services, Tamara Taylor, advises graduates and upcoming graduates on life after graduation.

The Voice: Thank you for having me! Upon graduating many students ask what is next. Could you elaborate on that idea?

Tamara Taylor: Well, it really depends on the student and their interest. If they want to go to graduate school, hopefully they already submitted their application. They need to know that if they have, they also need to resubmit their official transcript, because the transcript that they did submit along with their application did not include the final grades from their spring semester. They also would have to do their financial aid, basically everything they have done when applying here at Fayetteville State. For those who are not going to graduate school and do not have a job, they are really behind the ball. They really should have been looking back in January for employment. We had our career fair back in March; hopefully they took full advantage of that. We had about 60-65 organizations here on campus, which is the highest we had in a long time, and with that many, that means, the agencies were looking to hire students. So hopefully the students took advantage of that. If they did not, again, shame on them, but they are really behind the ball, if they have not started their looking. They need to focus and write down their skills and the type of employer they would like to work for, get on the internet, reach out to their people at church, professors, staff members, former high school teachers and principals, people in their "network," and tell them what their degree is in and what they're looking for. Jobs these days are no longer advertised and are being informed by word of mouth, so students need to develop a network.

TV: I hear time and time again from students, that they are not eager to find a job because of the recession. Is that a wise decision or what is your take on that?

Taylor: Absolutely not! Just because there is a recession does not mean that employers are not hiring. This is even a better chance to start looking, because no one knows when the job market will turn back around. Employment in North Carolina is still high at 11% which is very good, and to have that attitude is very detrimental to their future, because we do not know when it's going to turn around. And if they're not looking for jobs, they will be missing out developing their skills and professionalism in their niche or their field. It will yield them no results.

TV: In many of my current articles, I always stress the use of networking, because it is no longer about what we know, but who we know. Would you mind elaborating or do you have an idea on how one should get them out there?

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Radio Host Promotes Mentoring

by LaTasia Jones



Michael Baisden and FSU Chancellor, Dr. James A. Anderson

photo by Angel Robinson

Walking into Seabrook auditorium on Wednesday April 7th, dozens of excited people were found claiming seats. They ranged from FSU students to children, to members of the community to several Greek organizations, all to see one man, Michael Baisden. Michael Baisden came to town to promote his foundation's mission to motivate one million concerned adults to become dependable mentors to children all across America.

Doors opened at six and at first the turnout was not good. "I don't care if there's 50 people out there or five; they're going to get the same energy," said Baisden backstage before the show. By 7:00 pm more interested fans had poured in. When the famous radio personality walked onto the stage the crowd went wild, fans hopped out of their seats and gave him their full attention. Baisden's energy was instantly contagious. It covered the room like a blanket. "I love him. My mom listens to him all the time. He wasn't like most speakers... he seemed as happy to see us as we were to see him," said freshman Lashanna Williams.

Baisden was spurred to action after last year's beating death of 16 year old Derrion Albert of Chicago. Baisden has

spent the past few months traveling the country to promote mentoring. Several representatives from local mentoring organizations such as Caring Family Network, The Boys and Girls Club, and Great Oak Youth Development Center, accompanied Baisden as panel members. Together Baisden and the panel worked to express the importance of mentoring to the Fayetteville community. Before the show Baisden huddled the panelist together for a pep talk. He encouraged them not to hold back and share any stories they have come across in their years of mentoring. The crowd was shocked by some of the encounters panel members have faced. "If we took five minutes to ask these kids why you so angry? Why you so loud... Why you so sleepy? You all would get the same horror story," said Baisden.

Baisden's passion for mentoring certainly showed. Throughout his presentation he had several one on one conversations with the children of the audience. He asked them questions and gave them advice. He showed genuine interest in their lives. When asked if he had a mentor as a child Baisden responded, "Yes, you know we grew up in a different era... we had neighbors we had teachers, we had

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