Our Story

BETHUNE-COOKMAN STUDENTS HELP CHILDREN TELL THEIR STORY

During the month of October 2014, every Wednesday, Bethune-Cookman University students met with elementary and middle school children from Turie T. Elementary, Horizon Elementary, and Campbell Middle School at the Dickerson Library to teach strategies for creative writing. College students helped grade school students work on drafting ideas, storyboarding, organizing, and pushing final drafts to press.

Everyday after school, children from around the area regularly gather at the library to do homework, to check out books and to use the library computers. However, during the month of October, they had the special opportunity to create their own publication with the help of older student mentors.

Bethune-Cookman University, as a part of it’s mission, encourages service learning and civic engagement, and the college student mentors were delighted to see how much their strategies were appreciated. Every Wednesday, from 2 pm to 4 pm, they arrived with materials for writing and drawing and assisted children from the ages of 5 to 13 in the preparation of their “story” for a shared publication between Bethune-Cookman University and the John H. Dickerson Library.

The opportunity to serve was organized by Nadine Heusner, the Bethune-Cookman University director of Behavioral Community Health Programs in the College of Health Sciences, and Inez Jeffers, Branch Head of the John H. Dickerson Heritage Library.

Who are the Daytona Beach children who love the library and spend their afternoons reading and writing each week?

The following pages are the results of time spent with their college mentors in which they tell “their story” in pictures and words.
BRYCE’S LIFE

Hello, my name is Bryce, and I was born in Tallahassee, Florida. I loved the park there. I loved the slides. My mom bought me candy from the corner store.

I like basketball, video games, and science. I like science because I can make slime, and I like learning about the moon. My favorite team is the Miami Heat, and my favorite player is Michael Jordan. My favorite game is Saints Row, a video game where I take back stolen things.

My mom’s name is Kimberly. I respect my mom the most. My cousin and I went to Daytona Lagoon for his birthday. My cousin’s name is Levonte. I was chased by a possum and that was scary. My dad took the possum away.

In the future, I want to have an education and be an engineer. I want to go to college, and I want to work on cars.

“I was chased by a Possum, and that was scary!” —Bryce

MY LOVES (JANELLE)

Hi, my name is Janelle, and I was born in Daytona Beach, Florida.

I go to the beach a lot with my older sister. The sun on my skin, it feels warm, and the water is cold. I see people at the beach.

I like to play with my friends. My friend came to my house to play, and we played tag. We also played a game.

Once, I wanted to go roller skating, but I was too small, but I did go see a play. I also like cats. I want to help them when they are sick.

One day, at school, my teacher helped me with a test! I was doing addition and subtraction. She helped me count.

I respect my mom; she tells me what to do. She tells me that she wants me to clean my room, and I do what she says.
Hello, my name is Julia, and I want to tell you my life. First, I was born in Daytona Beach. I spend a lot of time on the beach. On the beach, I like to go to the Board Walk. At the Board Walk, I like to play games like baseball and ball shooting games. Sometimes I go on their rides. One day my family and I went in a hotel, and that night we all looked for shells. The whole night the water was full with waves.

The thing I like is art. No, I don’t like art, I love art. I like going to Disney World, it’s fun, and SeaWorld. I also like sciences. Science is a fun experience and writing is too.

I respect my mom because she is nice, and she is fun and awesome. I love her very much. One day I was playing outside all day, and I got a big sun burn. My mom helped me by putting sun lotion on me. I felt so much better.

In the future, I will be a vet, and I will help all animals. My clinic will be on the beach. I will have lots of pets. I will have cats, dogs, turtles, and all of the animals.

I’m going to tell you something about all of my family. There are 10 members that I know: mom, dad, Jaylen, Janelle, Jayden, Brittany, Kayla, Grampy, Grandma, and others. I love them very much, more than school, and more than being by myself.

In my spare time, I like to jump rope, blow bubbles and watch Doc Mcstuffins on Disney Junior. In the future, I want to be a teacher in the classroom.
AURIEON

AGE 6

MENTOR-ASSISTED WRITING

I was born in Tallahassee and lived in a white and brick house. My mother had a black car that she would park outside of the house.

I like to play Minecraft. I like to lay in my mom’s bed to play Minecraft. It is my “me” time. My brother Brice watches me play for a little while.

I like to go to Daytona Beach. I like to go on the Lazy River at Daytona Lagoon with my brother and cousin. We go for special occasions. The last time I went was in summer camp. I love my summer camp because we went on trips every day. I like my friend, him and his sister.

I respect my mom. I liked when I planted flowers in the community one time. Once I took an easy test. My brain helped me. I want to be a teacher.

CASSANDRA

On June fourth 2003, I was born at the Holy Cross Hospital (my brother hates that place because he lost his favorite power ranger there). I eventually left the hospital and went home. In my house, there were my mom, my dad, my older brother, and a pet cockatiel named Pancho (he hated me for no reason). Nothing much happened in my life until I was around five years old. When I was five, Pancho died (he was 12 years old). My mom was really sad when he died suddenly (he was her bird).

When I was six something very important happened. That’s when I got my DSI (gaming system). It’s important because it made me who I am now. There was a system called Flipnote Hatena then. It was a place where people would make drawings and animations, and then they would post them for other people to see. When I joined, I had horrible art. My art looked like a bunch of squiggly lines. Even though my art was terrible, I kept trying. A person name Blaze«fire was my main inspiration then. She still is making art now.

Something also very important happened when I was seven. We were going to move to Nicaragua (a country in Central America). When I was there, I lost connection to Hatena for about seven months. During that time I kept practicing, and I got better. When I finally was able to connect to Hatena, I was very sad. It was going to close down permanently in about a week.

Once it closed down, I got depressed. I enjoyed watching other people, and I enjoyed posting my own art.

About one year ago, when I was ten, there was news of something called Sudomemo. Sudomemo was basically a Hatena. I looked up how to connect to Sudomemo. I was upset because the first time I tried to connect, I failed, but on my second try I had more luck.

I was so happy when I was able to connect, and I was even happier when I saw that Blaze«fire was on Sudomemo too!

I eventually had to make my own O.C. (own characters), and I eventually came up with Luna—she was a half-husky, half-wolf mix. She had a very simple design. I enjoyed her design, and I also daydreamed of me being her and doing stuff as her in my imagination.

Around four months ago, we moved back to the United States. I was happy because I was able to see my old friends (although they looked very different now).

One day a disaster happened to me. I hit my toe against a chair. It hurt a lot, and then I fell down right after. I hit my toe against the chair. They brought me to the hospital. They took X-rays and they told me that they couldn’t do anything for broken toes. I was really angry and upset then. I went home, and I could not put any pressure on my toe for two weeks. It eventually healed (although it is still crooked).

CALEB’S LIFE

My name is Caleb. I am 11 years old and was born in Daytona Beach. I love to wrestle and be over at my friend’s house. The most respect I have is for God and for my mom.

The worst thing that happened in my life was when I fell out of the pool.

When I grow up, I want to be a professional wrestler.

My favorite game is Mortal Combat. My favorite color is green. In school, we are learning about the biosphere.
THE LIFE OF ME (TERANCE)

My name is Terance and the worst thing that I ever had to go through in life was riding on a roller coaster by myself at Halloween. Nobody could get on because the ride had taken off. I felt all alone.

In the future, I want to be a semi-truck driver for Wal-Mart and buy me a mustang that goes really, really fast. I may be the inventor of the first flying mustang.

The best thing that ever happened to me was playing football for my little league team, the Wolf Pack. I like when my team goes to games and then we win all of our games.

In my free time, I enjoy playing video games, doing my household chores, writing, and playing sandlot football.

I'm from Bunell, FL, and I respect my mother the most in life because she loves me and takes care of me.

“I think the best thing that is going to happen is an opportunity waiting to happen.” —Megan

MEGAN’S STORY

My name is Megan. I'm a very intelligent person. Right now my main focus is to finish school, considering that my parent’s didn’t. It would be like an achievement for me and my family. I also want to pass math class. Huh? It’s hard! I feel like my brain is going to explode just thinking about it. But, I plan to pass with an A+! I want to go to college to be a teacher, and, hopefully, if I change my mind, I’ll still get a good career.

I'm from Chicago, Illinois. I was born November 1. I moved to Daytona Beach, Florida, last year. I think Daytona Beach could be a fantastic place to be if the people were nice. Then again, I also miss the friends I met along the way back in Chicago.

I like things simple, not too hard, and not easy, but okay. I like to draw, and maybe will do fashion design. But I love to read and write stories that my family, others, and I would enjoy. To me, reading and writing stretch the mind to higher standards, or to my “creative side”.

Where I live there are mostly old people. Boring! But my Mom has taught me to respect her and my elders. However, if they treat me with disrespect, I’ll do the same, not to be rude, but to prove a point.

The best thing that ever happened to me hasn’t happened yet. I think that the best thing that is going to happen is an opportunity waiting to happen, like, for example, when you are in middle school and everyone thinks the best thing that happens to you is a relationship. No, no, no, no, NO! I don’t think that, but I do want something good to happen to me. I’m just waiting for that opportunity. You know?

Now, the hardest thing that happened to me is math class. Who likes math? Hmmm, not me. I know you need it in life, if you go to the bank, the store, or even when you have children, but it’s too hard, way too hard. No one can really help me with my math, not my parents, not my friends, and let’s just say that a whole group of scientists or tutoring teachers couldn’t help me pass math class. It’s like a nightmare, haunting my mind. But, I’m learning to teach myself, and I try my best everyday.
BRENTAVIOUS'S LIFE

Hello, my name is Brentavious. I come from Daytona Beach. I live by a racetrack. The things I like are school, math and candy. Math is easy to me. Watermelon candy is good to me because I like fruits. I mostly respect my granddaddy because he takes me places. The best thing that happened to me is that I found a five dollar bill on the road. I spent the money on Watermelon candy.

The worst thing that happened to me is that a crab pinched me on my hand. The crab surprised me because it came out of the shell. I picked up the shell and the crab pinched me. My granddaddy usually helps me but I overcame this by myself.

When I am old, I would like to go to the beach more often. At the beach I would lay on the sand and swim.

“That crab surprised me because it came out of the shell” —Brentavious

J'OVIEON’S STORY

Hello, my name is J'Ovien, and I am very nice. I was born in Daytona Beach. I like that Daytona is close to the beach.

One thing that I enjoy is playing football because it keeps me active and makes me happy. My favorite position is wide receiver. I also like to play basketball because it is fun. Basketball was the first sport that I played and loved.

I respect my parents the most. My mom really cares about me because she makes me feel like I'm the only one. My dad also cares about me too. He always takes me places, like football and basketball.

The best thing that ever happened to me was when my dad met my mom and got married. I’m happy that my dad wasn’t shy, instead he was brave enough to talk to my mom when they met.

The worst thing that happens is when my mom and dad disagree. It makes me feel like I wish they would love each other and stop disagreeing. One person that helped me overcome that was my grandmother. She helped by telling me to tell my parents to stop and love each other.

My plan for the future is to play professional football. I want to play for the Jaguars. I’m also going to college to play college football.
MALICHI

My name is Malachi. I like playing football and my video games. I like playing football because I like to run fast and catch the ball. My favorite video games are GTA, Football, and Need for Speed.

One day we went school shopping and I went with my mom and dad. We went to Volusia Mall. My mom and I bought pants and shirts.

I broke my arm on Tuesday, December 4. I had to go to the hospital. My mom and my uncle helped me up and took me to the hospital.

My dad and I, everyday, we go fishing, and he buys me stuff everyday. My family and I go on the beach and we play in the sand.

In the future, I want to be a professional football player and buy my own house and car.

THANK YOU

I would first like to thank the Lord for all the blessings that have been bestowed. Thank you, Dr. Jackson, for being a visionary and giving the charge to go into the community and identify needs that could be fulfilled by Bethune-Cookman University students through service learning opportunities. Thank you to the participants who eagerly came out each week of their own accord to share “THEIR STORY”. The children who participated intrinsically knew that the first step toward success is to simply be present.

Thank you to the Bethune-Cookman University student volunteers. You were awe-inspiring role models and mentors for our participants—who hung on your every word as you spoke about your college experience as Bethune-Cookman University students. Thank you, Dr. Carole Byrd, your intellectual and creative contributions provided the invaluable structure for this program and newsletter.

Thank you to Mrs. Inez Jeffers, Library Branch Head, for agreeing to have this program and allowing us to work with your children. The care and commitment that you put into this community library is evident in its welcoming environment.

We, at Bethune-Cookman University, look forward to future opportunities of providing programing to the children of the community at the Dickerson Heritage Library!

—Nadine Heusner, Director, Community Behavioral Health Programs, Bethune-Cookman University
The John H. Dickerson Heritage Library, built in 1978, is part of the Volusia County Public Library system. This community branch features basic reference collections and public-access computers.

They library is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday. To learn more about the Volusia County Public Library system, visit www.volusialibrary.org.

Bethune-Cookman University, founded in 1904 by Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, has become a leading institution of higher education. The University seeks to define a new standard for academic excellence as a way to become the best small college in the southern region. To educate and empower people to seek their own solutions; to advocate for opportunities for all citizens to improve their quality of life; and to inculcate an international perspective that would facilitate a keen appreciation of the new global realities.

To learn more about Bethune-Cookman University, visit www.cookman.edu.