



FROM INTERN TO DIRECTOR!

Mrs. Deandra "Dee" Bowie is the new theExperience Internship Director!

"I used to hate reading the Bible," she said. "I didn't understand it." However, theExperience helped Dee discover ways to tackle scripture that suited her. Now she loves reading the Bible; "I never miss a day," she said.

Read more on page 1 to learn how Dee's internship story has come full circle.

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FROM INTERN TO DIRECTOR!

Dee Bowie as the New Director for theEXPERIENCE College Internship

Written by Kimiko Gray

Deandra "Mama Dee" Bowie's internship journey began at a Manna Students Thanksgiving "stu" (an old-fashioned term for "student group event") in 2016. Pastor Nick Ertel, theExperience director at the time, had an internship booth for anyone who wanted information on the program. After speaking with Pastor Nick, Dee was excited to learn that he wanted to start up a counseling track within the internship, and she jumped onboard.

Dee has been a part of theExperience College Internship ever since. After just one semester as an intern, Dee participated in the program's events and trips, served as the leader of three different tracks, and has been a vocal advocate of the program and its mission to empower young leaders. She has also personally grown because of the program. She believes the internship helped her mature as a person, a wife, and a mother. The program also changed her relationship with scripture.

"I used to hate reading the Bible," she said. "I didn't understand it." However, theExperience helped Dee discover ways to tackle scripture that suited her. Now she loves reading the Bible; "I never miss a day," she said.



As the new director, Dee will oversee the spiritual and personal development of new and returning interns. She plans to give the program a "face-lift," and "do things a little differently." At this time, she is still laying the groundwork for such changes, but new and returning interns for years to come can expect to blossom under "Mama Dee's" loving and watchful eye.

theEXPERIENCE College Internship is a hands-on Ministry Internship that helps students grow in their faith, character, and leadership while gaining their degree. Help us welcome Dee into her new role!

To learn more about theEXPERIENCE College Internship, scan this QR code or head over to our website at www.manna.edu/theexperience



THE EARLY COLLEGE EXPERIENCE (ACCORDING TO NATHALIE FLETCHER)

Written by Kimiko Gray

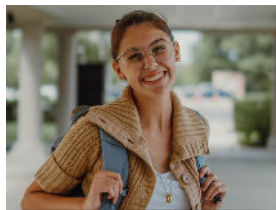
Not long ago, Nathalie Fletcher realized she wanted to pursue vocational ministry. To receive the necessary theological training, Nathalie turned to Manna University. She is currently in her second semester, and she has found the experience to be incredibly rewarding. "It was really, really fun," she said, describing her time at Manna U.

What is incredible is that Nathalie is only sixteen years old. How is someone so young able to take classes in college? Nathalie's opportunity was made possible by Manna University's Early College (or Dual Enrollment) program. In the Dual Enrollment program, students aged 15 and over can take college classes while still in high school for \$75 per credit hour.



In her first semester, Nathalie took two courses: College Writing and Spiritual Formation. The workload pushed her to balance her schoolwork with her daily life and keep herself organized. Though difficult at times, Nathalie overcame the challenge and grew both as a student and as a daughter of the Lord. Particularly, she said that Spiritual Formation developed her connection with God.

Like Nathalie, students in Manna University's Early College program will be exposed to the rigors and rewards of college academia while still in high school. While the experience is invaluable in preparing young adults for the challenges of higher education, some students may be uncertain about starting college so soon.



When asked how she would encourage those students, Nathalie pointed to Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." She also suggested that anyone considering the Early College Program should seek God's counsel on the decision, and then take a step forward in faith. Students can be assured that the rewards will be worth the struggle!



To learn more about the Early College Program, scan this QR code or head over to our website at www.manna.edu/dual-enrollment-admissions-2



230+

*Students registered for
the Fall Semester*

5

*Students Enrolled in
the Early College Dual
Enrollment Program*

2+

*New Classes for the
2023 Spring Semester*





MEET OUR NEW DEAN OF STUDENTS

*Susan Blaylock as the Dean of
Students for Manna University.*

Written by Paul Devine

Manna University has elevated Susan Blaylock (formerly Gaffney) to Dean of Students. Dean Blaylock is the first full-time Dean of Students at Manna U and is just one way that the University continues to demonstrate a commitment to our students. "I am committed to the care and development of our students, not just in academics but to see them educated, equipped and empowered and developed holistically," Blaylock explains.

She is assisted by the chaplain for Manna U male students, Dr. Robert Clanton, a long time Manna U faculty member. Blaylock and Clanton share the goal of connecting with each student at least once per semester the student is enrolled. "We want to give them an invitation to reach out to us. We want to be available to talk," Susan Blaylock states.

*"I am committed to the care and development of
our students, not just in academics but to see them
educated, equipped and empowered and developed
holistically." – Susan Blaylock*

Dean Blaylock will be a general advocate for students as well as a sounding board for student concerns. Blaylock's role includes oversight of all spiritual care of Manna U students. Blaylock is the chaplain for all Manna U female students. During the fall term, Blaylock has been busily trying to make a personal connection with every female student enrolled at Manna U.

All students should feel free to reach out to Dean Blaylock. Faculty are encouraged to refer students as well. Dean Blaylock can be reached at sblaylock@manna.edu.

TURNING TRIALS INTO TRIUMPHS

Rebecca Dykes, Doctoral Student at Manna University

Written by Paul Devine



Manna U doctoral student Rebecca Dykes is not quite sure where her studies will lead and is content for now just to enjoy the process. "The deeper you go the more you understand the meaning. It excites the love," Dykes enthuses. "I love learning and I love Jesus, what better thing to learn about than Jesus and the Bible?" Dykes works her DMin studies around her full-time job, and family responsibilities, including caring for a daughter with special needs.

While that may sound challenging to most, Dyke's current circumstances

are considerably less stressful than what she experienced for much of her adult life. Dykes has been a single mom since shortly after graduating high school. The challenge of being a single parent may have slowed her down but did not stop her. She has earned a bachelor's and master's in Social Work. She has also stacked up professional accomplishments,

mostly as a therapist for various addiction and substance abuse non-profit organizations. She earned numerous certifications including Licensed Clinical

married and the couple had their daughter Sophia. Dykes also decided it was time to conquer the next frontier as the owner/CEO of an intensive outpatient substance abuse

"The deeper you go the more you understand the meaning. It excites the love."

treatment program. The business was off to a good start

Social Worker (LCSW). She presented several papers at conferences and won awards for her volunteer work. All while raising her son. "My life was all about the accolades and accomplishments," Dykes says explaining her hard-charging method of life. Things were looking up for Dykes in 2014-2015, when Dykes

but then Dyke's life started to come undone. In a matter of a few months, she discovered her husband had been embezzling and had been repeatedly unfaithful. She was betrayed by investors in her business, lost her home, had major surgery, discovered her infant daughter was autistic, had her car repossessed, dealt with death of



“I love learning and I love Jesus, what better thing to learn about than Jesus and the Bible?”

her step-father and an overdose by her mother. By spring of 2016, the hard charging, high achieving Dykes was wearing down. In March 2016 things started looking up when she had a meeting with a high school friend named Chris. On top of her other woes, Dykes had a contractor abscond with funds borrowed from family to re-build her home. So, she was looking for a way to afford rebuilding her house. Chris arranged for his employer, a lumber yard, to take on much of the rebuild for free. Chris began to build a relationship with Rebecca and Sophia. Rebecca began going to church with Chris and within a few weeks had an encounter with God. “I cried for an hour,” Dykes remembers. Dykes’ life began to change rapidly after that. She and Chris began attending Manna West Florida on the second weekend of the site’s existence.

Within a short period of time, Rebecca married Chris Dykes and the couple blended their families, and dove into life at the church with Rebecca Dykes eventually coming on staff in 2019. The couple has proven a natural draw for young people. Rebecca explains that they have “a whole wall” of stockings at Christmas for children they claim as their own. “People get confused when we talk about our family.

They think we have a hundred kids,” Dykes muses. Dykes says she and Chris continue to allow God to shape the vision but the couple has a dream for a faith-based emotional care ministry (a private therapy practice but without the medical model). Regardless of how God works out the details, there is no doubt that the Niceville, FL region will benefit from whatever God does with (soon to be) Dr. Dykes.



MANNA U ACROSS THE GLOBE!



Seats waiting to be filled by our Latin American students.



Rebecca Carlen translating for Dr. Carlo Serrano as he brings a message to our Latin American students



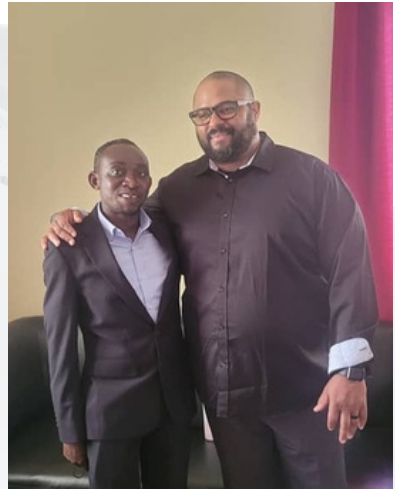
Daniel McBride networking with Latin American students



Rebecca Carlen and Dr. Serrano teaching a Latin American class



Dr. Carlo Serrano, Dean of Graduate Studies at Manna University, networking with Sam Cotton in Kigali, Rwanda



Dr. Carlo Serrano and a future Manna U.D.Min Student, Celestine



Above: Dr. Serrano and Dr. Nsengiyumva in a seminar celebration with Christ Hope leaders in Rwanda

Below: Dr. Serrano and Rwanda Mentoring Center Director, Dr. Stephen Nsengiyumva





Our Alumni Fall Festival was a blast!

The afternoon was filled with fellowship, fun games, and lots of s'mores and caramel apples!

Come See Us At Our Next Event!

You're invited to have

A Sweet

Caroline

Christmas

with Manna University!

Come out to enjoy a Christmas evening with your Manna U Family! There will be food, fun, fellowship, and of course lots of Christmas spirit!

WHEN?

December 16th at 7pm

WHERE?

5117 Cliffdale Rd
Fayetteville, NC 28314

RSVP HERE!

Email jdeitz@manna.edu
by December 10th

WAYS TO PRAY FOR MANNA U

Join us in prayer as we continue to pursue the call God has for our university.

- For our students and their families to thrive in every way: spiritually, mentally, physically, emotionally, and financially.
- That God would increase our students and send mission-focused people to Manna University, whether they be students, faculty, staff, or donors.
- That God would foster international relationships and partnerships in places throughout Latin America, Rwanda, and everywhere else God has called Manna U to operate.
- That God would increase our scholarship monies and donations so that Manna U can educate, equip and empower more students.
- May doors open in the Fayetteville/Fort Bragg region outside the Manna Church oikos so that we may share the opportunities offered at Manna University to educate, equip, and empower the body of Christ in our area.



WAYS TO GIVE

Your gift will help make an immediate impact on our city and everywhere our students go with what they've learned at Manna U.

If you have any questions regarding how to become an active donor, please contact Diane Axon at daxon@manna.edu.

ONLINE

Head over to this link, www.manna.edu/giving and select where you would like your kingdom investment to go.

CHECK

Checks can be sent by mail to our secure mailbox:
Manna University
Attn: Bookkeeper's Office
439 Westwood Shopping Center
PMB 106 Fayetteville, NC 28314



*Manna University is a biblical higher education institution
dedicated to educating, equipping, and empowering emerging
leaders to change the world.*

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