

# SSSP ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

FALL 2016

## STAY CONNECTED



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## Where Are They Now?

### Hear from SSSP Grads



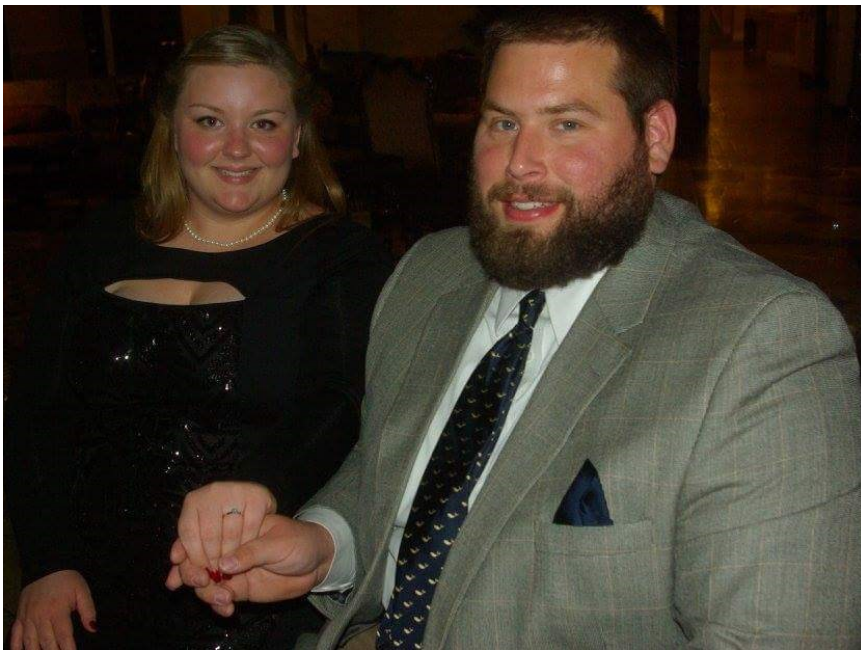
My name is Totiyana Evans and I graduated from UD in May 2013. Since I graduated a lot in my life has changed. However, the three biggest accomplishments that I have experienced are becoming a homeowner in October 2015, then getting engaged in November 2015, and in May 2016 I graduated with my Masters in Social Services from Bryn Mawr College. I am working on becoming a Licensed Social Worker in the near future. However, in mid-July I will begin my career as a Medical Social Worker at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. I will be working with children and families that have asthma, cystic fibrosis, lung transplants, and other medical concerns. Though I am enjoying adulthood and planning a wedding, I do miss being a carefree young adult studying in the ARC while I was in SSSP. I didn't realize how much SSSP supported me until I graduated. SSSP taught me responsibility and helped me become independent, which are key concepts in adulthood. Thank you to everyone in the SSSP family for my success.

-- Totiyana E.



Since graduating from the University of Delaware I went on to get a master's degree at the University of Central Florida in Corporate Communications. The communications program at UCF gave me a strong mix of both theory and practical skills allowing me to secure a position as the PR/Digital Marketing Specialist at a \$7 million dollar catering & event planning company in Orlando. One thing I love about life after graduation is the amount of opportunities that are available. Unlike college where things are scheduled and prepared for you, finding opportunities after college requires some digging! When you do find these opportunities, however, whether it be a key contact, a tip off about a new position or the like, they are worth pursuing and can have a huge impact on your future!

-Shantel C. '13



After college I was working for the York County of Pennsylvania's child protective services. I investigated abuse and neglect for children in York county. My time at CYF was some of the best I have ever had and a wonderful experience. I learned a lot, got field experience, and also learned more about myself. During that time I also got engaged!

Any advice that I would have for students in SSSP is to take advantage of all of the wonderful programs and tutoring, it helps A LOT. Also MAKE FRIENDS in SSSP because not everyone is going to understand some of the struggles you're going to face. For me as a first gen. College student it was one of the hardest things

I've ever done because no one will truly understand. For alumni, I would say if you work in HMSV is SELF CARE. This is the time of your life where you can be a little selfish. Get your nails done every 2 weeks or go out and buy the jeans you like. Also, don't feel obligated to stay in 1 area because you love your coworkers. Follow your heart and do things you may never get the chance to do again !

-Marilyn M. '15

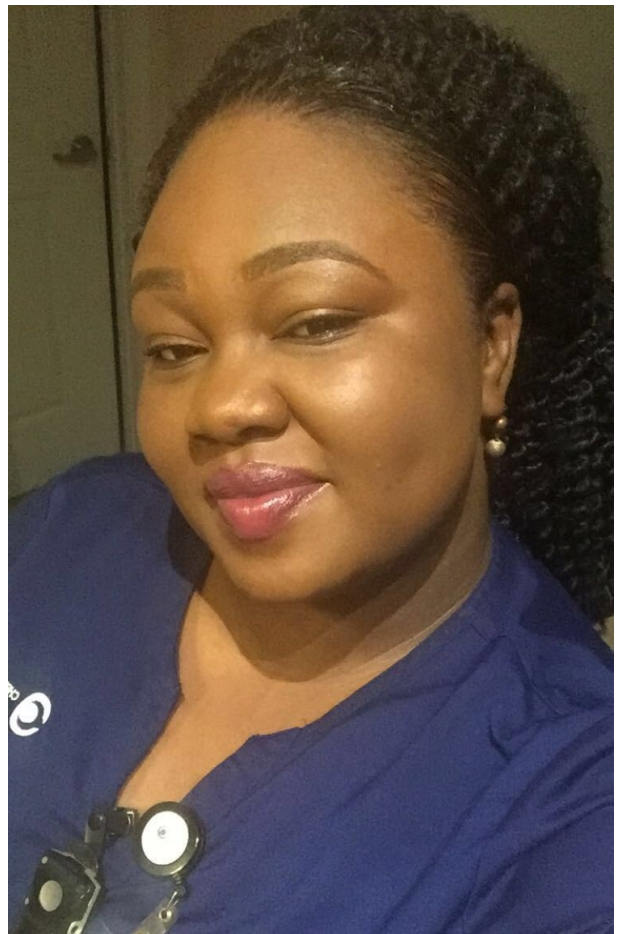


Once I left UD, I started my full time position as an Assistant Store Manager with Target. After just about 2 years in role, I was recruited by 7-Eleven to be a District Manager. I currently oversee a subgroup of 9 stores assisting with daily operations and making strategic sales decisions to increase store profits and meet companywide financial goals. I got married this past May and just recently celebrated one year of homeownership in July. My husband and I also have a 1 year old Australian Shepard puppy that keeps up pretty occupied during our spare time.

Breann L. '13

Life after graduation has been challenging but fulfilling. After successfully completing UD's nursing program I earned my bachelors of science in nursing. I then successfully completed my nursing board exams and earned the title of registered nurse. Soon afterwards I was accepted in the surgical nurse residency program at Christiana Care. After successful completion of the program I was hired to work as a nurse on a surgical step down unit. Within the past year I've also been blessed with a new car and a place of my own to call home. What I can say is that life after graduation has not been a simple walk in the park. You must continue to apply yourself, work hard, and strive for greatness. Thankfully I've acquired many skills throughout my college experience that has helped me in combating some of these hurdles I've come across. I also give great credit to SSSP for its contributions in helping to shape my career and future. I'm still a young adult learning to survive in this journey called life. I have much to look forward to in the years to come and even more to learn. Nonetheless with all things considered I'm extremely proud of the woman I'm growing up to be. Thank you SSSP!

-Stephanie A. '14



# SSSP by the NUMBERS

175 # of students served  
(minimally) each year

93% Persistence Rate

74% Graduation Rate

94% Students with Good  
Academic Standing

35 # of students recognized  
on the Dean's List—  
Spring 2016

TRIO Student Support Services Program continues to have a positive effect on First Generation students, students with low income and students with disabilities on the University of Delaware campus.

How Can YOU make a DIFFERENCE?

## DONATE

Help a current SSSP participant by donating money to SSSP at UD to help with tuition, books and other fees that will help them persist in college. You can send a check payable to University of DE-SSSP to Ms. Cheryl Davis-Robinson at 150 S. College Ave, Newark ,DE 19716 or give online, specifying TRIO Student Support Services Program for “other”:

<https://udapps.nss.udel.edu/makeagift/main.action>

## MENTOR

Let us know if you are interested in being a mentor for current SSSP participants. We can connect students who are interested in exploring the field in which you are currently studying or working. Please contact [sssp-staff@udel.edu](mailto:sssp-staff@udel.edu) if you are interested!

## SHARE JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Send job and internship opportunities to [sssp-staff@udel.edu](mailto:sssp-staff@udel.edu). We will include these announcements in the weekly emails sent to students and alumni.