

# AIMS TIMES



March 2011

Volume 11, Issue 2

## Director's Chair

### Special points of interest:

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### Greetings AIMS Family!!!!

In just a few short weeks, we will see you at our annual summer Orientation for you and your parents/guardians! **Wow!!!** It is difficult to believe that one year has passed so quickly!!! We really have some exciting new activities and academic challenges planned for you this summer! I am happy

to report, that many of your beloved Residential Advisors and Instructors will be returning this summer! We are excited they will be on board. I am also happy to report, that I will not be having surgery this summer! I had four surgeries last year....fingers crossed that that will be the last of them! I'm ready to go!!!! Watch out....here I come full speed!

Please remember that we are an educational program...because you **WILL BE CHALLENGED** academically this year in the program. Of course we will offset that by having a bunch of fun activities!

You know how AIMS rolls!!!!

I look forward to seeing each of you in April! Take care and enjoy the rest of your school year! Below is a little tidbit about the month of March! Enjoy!

"March is known as the "windy month" opening the door to spring. The name comes from the god of war, Mars. The vernal equinox, which marks the beginning of spring, occurs during the third week of March, making the month fall partly in the winter and partly in the spring".

Yours in education,

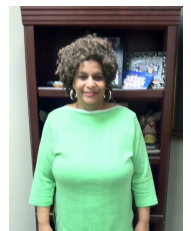
*Dr. Doris Clark-Sarr*

## Message from our Administrative Assistant

Hi Everyone,  
As I have previously said, last summer was an instant ago, now here we are going into the next summer. We have been busy, as usual, preparing for your return to the AIMS Summer Component.  
I look forward to seeing all the new and old faces that will be joining us this year for our adventures.  
This will be my second summer with AIMS and as the days have given way to months, and months to years, I see so many benefits the

program has for you.  
AIMS is the chance of a lifetime to learn **new things, meet new people, to explore, and to realize that we have so many things in life to help us succeed.** To the students, I encourage you to study hard, follow the rules, and keep a positive attitude, no matter what comes or goes in your life. I can honestly say you can and will go far in life if you follow these rules.  
So, enjoy the rest of the school year and keep your anticipation high for this

year's AIMS Summer Program, because here in the office it's all a buzz waiting for your return.  
May GOD always send blessings your way,  
Gail Woolridge  
Administrative Assistant  
AIMS Dept.



## Coordinator's Corner - AIMS I



Hello AIMS Family:

The Winter seems to be freezing by quickly and soon we'll be all warmed up and ready for spring showers! This time of year is very exciting for AIMS because it is when we prepare for the summer component. We recently interviewed over 30 applicants, interested in teaching you, living with you, and/or working with the AIMS program this summer!

We have made several additions to the AIMS Family. Counselors and current

students, please continue to encourage interested students to send in their applications. The application deadline for this year is Friday, March 18, 2011. Also, if interested students have questions or concerns, remind them that Evan and I are always available to answer questions. The next few weeks is pretty busy for us all so please feel free to contact us via email, Facebook, and by cell phone. We would like to see as many new students in the AIMS Family as possible!

We have also been receiving several AIMS 2011 Summer Confirmation Forms. The staff is looking forward to seeing each of you at the AIMS Parent/Student Orientation on Saturday, April 16, 2011 from 10:00am—1:00pm in Blackburn Science Building, Room 251. New students, this event will answer all your questions about the summer component! You will also

meet the program staff, instructors, and residential advisors who will be working with you this summer.

March also kicks off the National Financial Literacy Challenge, which is administered by the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the U.S. Department of Education. We will be asking your counselors to administer the test to you on or before April 8, 2011. More information about the challenge is included in this newsletter.

We are so excited to see each of you at our various upcoming events and we look forward to an exciting and rewarding summer with you on the campus of Murray State University. Please keep in touch and have a great spring semester!

Much Love,

*Stephen D. Keene, Coordinator*

## Coordinator's Corner - AIMS II

Greetings to all!!

Spring is in the air and I'm SO GLAD . . . I'm pretty tired of cold and snow! Spring means warmer weather, and spring weather leads to summer, and summer leads to the AIMS SUMMER COMPONENT!!

If you can't tell, I'm a little excited. In fact, all of the AIMS staff is excited. But why, you ask?

The classes, activities, and staff are all slowly begin-

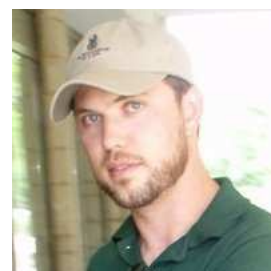
ning to take shape—and all I can say is GET READY! Get ready to work hard. It is going to be challenging. Rising to those challenges is the first step to taking yourself to the next level. With that being said, get ready to have a ton of fun as well.

I can't wait to see all of you in April!! Let me know if you need anything whatsoever—take note of my email address and find me on Facebook, too. Take good

care and behave yourselves!!!!

***“Life's challenges are not supposed to paralyze you; they're supposed to help you discover who you are.”***

– Bernice Johnson Reagon  
*Evan O'Neal, Coordinator*  
**AIMS II**



# CLASSES TO CAREERS

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Because there are so many career choices, the decision can seem daunting. Did you know that your talents and interests could lead to a career? If you know what you don't like, chances are you know what you DO like. Talk with people whose careers or jobs interest you, asking where they went to school and what they thought of the program they took. As your parents, school counselor or librarian for help in your career quest and check out tools for exploring careers in the *Planning for College* section of [kheaa.com](http://kheaa.com).

You may know which classes you like already. Ever consider turning them into a career?

## English/Language Arts

Teaching, writing, law, journalism or public relations

## Mathematics

Accounting, Statistics, financial planning, computers, aeronautics, teaching or insurance

## Science and Health

Medicine, pharmacology (pharmacy), veterinary science, meteorology, occupational therapy, environmental science, chemistry, medical research or forensic science

## Social Sciences

Psychology, city planning, criminal justice, anthropology, human resources, government or social work

## Foreign Languages

Government, translating, travel agency or foreign services

## Technical Education

Construction, mechanics, manufacturing or transportation technology

## Computer Science

Astronomy, advertising, business, engineering or software design

## Drama, Music, and Art

Animation, theater, cinematography, interior design, graphic arts, advertising, website design or broadcasting



## Settling Conflicts—the **RIGHT** way

*Conflicts don't only happen between "enemies." Even close friends and family members disagree. It's all in how you handle it.*

Use our 5-step strategy. It really works. Check it out:

### **GOOD**

#### 1. **Keep calm.**

Take some deep breaths. Don't start attacking the person.

Approach things with a level head.

#### 2. **Name the problem.**

For example: you disagree with the grade your teacher

gave you on your term paper.

#### 3. **Brainstorm solutions.**

Try to do this on your own, before you actually approach the person (in this case, your teacher). Don't worry for know about whether the solutions will work.

#### 4. **Think about the pros and cons of each idea.**

Make a list. Write down possible solutions, and pros & cons for each solution.

#### 5. **Pick the best solution.**

Make it sure it's one that works for the both of you.

Otherwise, someone will be upset.

### **BAD**

**FIGHTING** does **NOT** effectively solve conflict. It complicates the conflict, raises anger levels even more and could get somebody in trouble (like physical injury or suspension from school).

## National Financial Capability Challenge

Dear Counselors:

This is a reminder that the 2011 National Financial Capability Challenge begins in just under a month. The Challenge opens Monday, March 7, 2011 and runs through Friday, April 8, 2011.

If you are receiving this email, then you are already registered to deliver the Challenge and don't need to do anything else until the Challenge opens on March 7. Before then, however, you may want to schedule a computer lab and make plans to deliver the Challenge during its first week or two if possible – the website will get much busier closer to the end date. Please check the Treasury's Challenge website ([challenge.treas.gov](http://challenge.treas.gov)) for the latest information and to review the instructions for delivery.

Last year over 8,000

educators signed up, however some did not end up delivering Challenges. Some of the reasons that were provided as obstacles and ideas to help overcome the obstacles include:

- **Spring break came in the middle of the Challenge:** This year the Challenge runs for a full month, March 7 - April 8, 2011, to provide an expanded window of opportunity. Plan ahead as the Challenge ends on Friday, April 8.
- **Needing permission to deliver the Challenge:** At some schools, educators were required to obtain permission to conduct the Challenge and did not discover that requirement until the last minute. The Challenge is a federal government initiative delivered from a U.S. Treasury Department website, [challenge.treas.gov](http://challenge.treas.gov). You can refer school reviewers to

this Treasury website for more information on the Challenge.

- **Requiring a whole class period is a huge time commitment:** During last year's Challenge, over 75,000 students completed the Challenge with an average time of 23 minutes to complete all 40 questions, so an entire class period is usually not required.

Thank you for participating in the Challenge. Please let your colleagues know about the Challenge – they can sign up for free on the website at any time.

*NFCC team at the U.S. Department of the Treasury and U.S. Department of Education*

## Student Spotlight—Passion Wilson



Congratulations to Passion Wilson, junior at Fulton County High School on being selected to receive the Carter G. Woodson Enduring Legacy Award, sponsored by Berea College in Berea, Kentucky.

Passion was nominated for the award by the AIMS Staff due to her outstanding

achievements in academics, school activities, community involvement and volunteerism, and her leadership skills.

Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a Berea College alumnus, is known as the “father of Black History.” This award is named in his honor as a means of recognizing African American high school juniors who have demonstrated outstanding character, academic achievement, and leadership - as exemplified in the life of Dr. Woodson and the legacy of Berea College, the

first integrated, coeducational college in the South.

Passion exemplifies all the aforementioned traits through her excellent academic record, her involvement with her church, and her assistance with her local Blood Drive.

Passion will be honored at a special awards program, held on the campus of Berea College on March 5, 2011.

The AIMS Family would like to extend a hearty Congratulations to Passion for her achievement!

## March Birthdays!

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*Jonathan Bailey*

*Te'Onna Bridgett*

*Gianna Douglas-Shaw*

*Tim Grove*

*Mykea Hart*

*Terrez Henderson*

*Cisile Taft*

*Azajerron Wickes*



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**AIMS STAFF**

Dr. Doris Sarr, Director

Stephen D. Keene, Coordinator—AIMS I

Evan O'Neal, Coordinator—AIMS II

Gail Woolridge, Administrative Assistant—AIMS I

**AIMS 2011 SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE**

**March 2011**

18th

Application Deadline 2

**April 2011**

4th—10th AIMS Florida College Tour

16th AIMS Orientation 10am-1:00pm

Blackburn 251

**May 2011**

25th—28th Summer Staff Retreat & Training

Emminence, MO

30th Bridge Students/Residential Staff Move-In Day

31st Bridge Classes Begin

**June 2011**

3rd—5th

Bridge Weekend

12th

Undergraduate Move-In Day

24th—26th

Annual Bridge St. Louis Trip

29th

Bridge Graduation

**July 2011**

1st

Closing Symposium/Move-Out Day

5th—9th

End of Year Trip