



## Mid-South American Humanics Collaborative

### *The Collaborative Link*

Summer, 2008

*The mission of the Mid-South American Humanics Collaborative (MSAHC) is to prepare college students for the nonprofit workforce. The MSAHC is made up of local nonprofit and academic partners committed to this mission.*

#### **MSAHC Nonprofit Partners**

[Boys and Girls Clubs of Memphis](#)  
[Chickasaw Council, Boy Scouts of America](#)  
[Community Foundation of Greater Memphis](#)  
[Exchange Club Family Center](#)  
[Junior Achievement](#)  
[Leadership Memphis](#)  
[Memphis Child Advocacy Center](#)  
[Memphis and Shelby County CSA](#)  
[Memphis Zoo](#)  
[Porter-Leath](#)  
[Shelby Residential Vocational Services](#)  
[United Way of the Mid-South](#)  
[Volunteer Memphis](#)  
[Youth Villages](#)  
[YMCA](#)  
[YWCA](#)

#### **MSAHC Academic Partners**

[LeMoyné-Owen College](#)  
[University of Memphis,  
Division of Public & Nonprofit  
Administration](#)

#### **Inside this edition . . .**

- New nonprofit career guide available
- Federal Student Loan Forgiveness
- Partner spotlight

The MSAHC publishes *The Collaborative Link* three times a year to keep partners and students informed of the work of the Collaborative. Send your ideas and information to be included in future editions to: [ahumanics@memphis.edu](mailto:ahumanics@memphis.edu).

#### **MSAHC Hires a Director**

##### First Paid Staff for the Collaborative

Ms. Nina Blockman has been named the first director for the Mid-South American Humanics Collaborative. Nina's past experience and education make her ideal to fill the newly formed position. The director position will focus on service to the partner organizations of the Collaborative.

Nina Blockman graduated with a BA in psychology from the University of Memphis in 1986. After working in education, marketing and real estate, Nina decided to pursue a Master of Public Administration (MPA) from the University of Memphis and graduated in 2007. As an MPA student, Nina earned her American Humanics certification through the University of Memphis program. While raising her children, Nina participated in many volunteer activities with her children's schools. Currently, Nina is serving a two year term as president of Jewish Family Service, a social service agency in Memphis that provides adoption services, counseling, emergency assistance and senior services. Nina is also a member of the Hadassah Leadership Academy. Hadassah is an international nonprofit agency with a mission of healthcare and women's issues.

"Nina's experience as a nonprofit volunteer as well as her American Humanics graduate certificate brings a balanced perspective to the Collaborative," says Nancy Williams, MSAHC Steering Committee Chair. "Her enthusiasm for the future of the MSAHC has excited us, and will propel the Collaborative toward our goal of preparing nonprofit leaders."

Nina is excited about her new post as director of the Mid-South American Humanics Collaborative. As director, Nina plans to strengthen the ties between nonprofit partners and students. Another goal of Nina's is to include more area nonprofits in the important work of the Collaborative. With increased nonprofit involvement MSAHC hopes to offer more programs to future AH students. Special support for the new position has been provided by generous grants from the United Way of the Mid-South and the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis.



## American Humanics National Alliance Introduces New Nonprofit Career Guide

Released Summer 2008, Book Will Guide Young Career Seekers

**The Nonprofit Career Guide: How to Land a Job That Makes a Difference** by Shelly Cryer (Fieldstone Alliance, 2008) is the most up-to-date and comprehensive guidebook on nonprofit sector careers. It has been released jointly by publisher Fieldstone Alliance and the national American Humanics Alliance.

**The Nonprofit Career Guide** is targeted to college students, faculty members and academic advisors, young professionals, career counselors, and potential "sector switchers" who want to learn more about the nonprofit sector and how to build a nonprofit career. The book provides the most current data on the size and scope of the nonprofit sector and an overview of the varied organizational missions represented. This book presents real-life profiles of leaders working at nonprofit organizations - individuals who are doing a wide range of work at very different types of organizations across the United States. Readers will find sample job descriptions created from actual postings so they can get a sense of the types of positions available at nonprofit organizations, and the skills and experiences employers seek.

The guide provides easy but effective strategies on how to prepare for a nonprofit sector career ... and how a job seeker can make an application stand out to a nonprofit employer. It offers advice on networking, informational interviews, cover letters and resumes, creating professional portfolios, useful resources, and other key tools for launching a meaningful career in the nonprofit sector. Throughout the book, boxed text sidebars provides "snapshot" advice from experts in the field. Readers can flip through the book for a quick read to get "tidbit" advice. Or they can read it cover-to-cover to gain more comprehensive nonprofit career advice. Either way, **The Nonprofit Career Guide** can make the difference between landing a job and landing a great job that will launch a meaningful and rewarding career in the nonprofit sector.

The **Nonprofit Career Guide** is \$16.95 and available at [www.fieldstonealliance.org](http://www.fieldstonealliance.org) or [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). For more information, email [careerguide@humanics.org](mailto:careerguide@humanics.org).

*Author **Shelly Cryer** has been a consultant to nonprofit organizations for 18 years and has worked with American Humanics for the past four years. She helped develop American Humanics' "Initiative for Nonprofit Sector Careers." A graduate of Duke University and Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, Shelly divides her time between New York City and Kansas City, MO (where her husband Michael Stern is the music director of the Kansas City Symphony). Shelly can be reached at 212-665-0588 or [scryer@erols.com](mailto:scryer@erols.com).*

### Partner Spotlight: Porter-Leath

For over 150 years, Porter-Leath has been the primary resource for Memphis' at-risk children and families. By focusing on the essential building blocks of healthy development, we not only give them access to the tools they need, but also a sense of hope. The result is Porter-Leath helps build stronger children, stronger families and a stronger Memphis.

Porter-Leath's focus is on preparing children to become successful adults. Porter-Leath meets the needs of children and families at all stages of life by focusing on forming solid foundations through five focus areas:

- **Head Start** - offering a top-quality pre-school education for more than 500 of the highest risk children in Shelby County annually, plus support for their families, completely free of charge. [Click here to find out more.](#)
- **Spoonfuls** - ensuring nutritious meals and snacks are served to over 800 children a day in 75 family day homes that serve low-income communities. [Click here to find out more.](#)
- **Cornerstone** - meeting the needs of 600 pregnant and parenting families in their homes to give preschool children the best start in life, regardless of circumstances. [Click here to find out more.](#)
- **Connections** - bringing nearly 400 children together with families and caregivers in a stable, nurturing environment. [Click here to find out more.](#)
- **Generations** - providing low-income seniors an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of over 6,500 disadvantaged children and young adults.

*To learn more about volunteer and other opportunities available through Porter-Leath, visit their web site at [www.porter-leath.org](http://www.porter-leath.org).*

**Thank you for your support of the Mid-South American Humanics Collaborative!**

### American Humanics Competency Highlight

The national American Humanics program is centered on developing eleven competencies essential for all successful nonprofit leaders. AH programs use academic and co-curricular components to develop the framework for teaching the competencies. At certification, all AH graduates will have the skills and knowledge to meet these competencies.

#### Competency: Accounting & Financial Management

- Procedures for handling income receipts
- Policies & procedures for requisitioning
- Procedures for developing a program budget
- Reporting mechanisms & requirements
- Read & interpret financial statements
- Understand regulatory compliance standards

## Spread the Word!

As a Mid-South American Humanics Collaborative partner, you have a great opportunity to help us spread the word about the work we are doing for the local nonprofit community. Our programs have certified over 45 students working in the sector. We have contributed more than 16,000 hours in internships to nonprofit organizations. The Mid-South American Humanics Collaborative has strengthened the local nonprofit workforce through annual professional development opportunities, new linkages between agencies, and connections with the national nonprofit agenda.

If you know of a local nonprofit organization that may be interested in joining our work, please contact Nina at [ahmemphis@bellsouth.net](mailto:ahmemphis@bellsouth.net) or 901.489.7004.

### Opportunity for Funding Internships: National AH NextGen Leaders Program



The Next Generation (NextGen) Nonprofit Leaders Program provides a competitive internship stipend to all eligible American Humanics students, particularly a racially and ethnically diverse group of students. The internship stipend of \$4,500 is designed to assist students and organizations in making meaningful internship experiences.

NextGen Leaders must be actively seeking American Humanics certification and have an internship agreement in place. Applicants must present a record of demonstrated leadership and civic engagement. Host sites must be 501(c)(3) organizations and provide supervised administrative internship experiences.

For more information on the NextGen Leaders program, visit the national American Humanics Alliance web site ([www.humanics.org](http://www.humanics.org)) or contact Ben Nemenoff with the national AH office at [bnemenoff@humanics.org](mailto:bnemenoff@humanics.org).

### University of Memphis NextGen Leaders Hold Nonprofit Roundtable

Two students from the University of Memphis were named NextGen Leaders in the summer 2008 round of awards. Sylvonna Reed, a senior graduating this semester with a bachelor's degree in nonprofit and public administration, served at Volunteer Memphis. Sylvonna worked with 200 plus member agencies to update their records. Maurice Williams is a graduate student in the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program who is pursuing concentrations in urban outreach, advocacy and nonprofit administration. Maurice worked with the Memphis Convention and Visitors Bureau Foundation. Through his work there, Maurice organized "The Man, The Mission, The Movement," a commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr., and planned a youth summer work program. Maurice leveraged his \$4,500 NextGen stipend to raise more than \$40,000 for the program.

As a final requirement of their NextGen awards, Sylvonna and Maurice facilitated a roundtable discussion with MSAHC partners and their host site mentors. Both students gave a description of their experiences and then shared insights and perspectives they gained as part of the internships. The students remarked that the NextGen stipend allowed them to fulfill the certification requirement, build their resumes and have meaningful learning experiences.