

Violet Nkwanzi Interview:

How would you describe your area of study to a novice?

My area of study is equipping me with knowledge and skills to be able to help people overcome their problems and make their lives better, especially the marginalized, and to effect social policy formulation and research aimed at improving social services delivery.

What is your primary motivation for persevering through graduate school?

Knowing that my knowledge and skills will impact the lives of the marginalized motivates me to work hard, to be creative, and to stay focused.

Do you think there is any value in social networking with other graduate students in non-related fields?

With whom we learn, we are made. We are all different parts of the same body and we all need each other to fully function. Social networking with graduate students in other fields is one of the ways we can learn and understand each other.

What is your favorite stress-reduction technique?

My favorite stress-reduction technique is running while listening to music.

What is the last book you read strictly for pleasure and how long ago was it?

The last book I read for pleasure is *Save the Date* by Jenny B. Jones. I started reading it on June 9, 2012.

Please describe your most meaningful academic relationship.

My most meaningful academic relationship is with Dr. Deneen Evans, who not only serves as my academic advisor and mentor, but also looks out for research opportunities for me to co-participate since research is one of my areas of interest. I feel so blessed to have such a wonderful mentor and academic advisor.

What surprised you the most about graduate school?

I was so surprised at how the professors work so closely with the students to provide the best education possible.

If travel to Mars happens in your lifetime, would you want to be one of the scientists on board? If yes, what would you contribute to the mission?

I don't want to travel to Mars.

What is your favorite comfort food and why? How often do you consume it?

My favorite comfort food is Matooke and ground nuts. Only a Ugandan would understand this food. ☺ I just like it; I hard to explain how it tastes. I only get to eat this kind of food when I travel home (Uganda), and that can only happen once in a year.

If you hadn't been admitted to graduate school, what do you think you would be doing right now?

I believe God always has me in the right place at the right time, and I strongly believe I am here because this is where God wants me to be now. I wouldn't think of being in another place doing something different.

When do you expect to complete your degree?

Different from most graduate students, I started during the spring semester, 2012, and I will graduate in May, 2014.