

Tosha Sampson-
Choma

FORD HALL ADVISOR OF THE YEAR

2004-2005

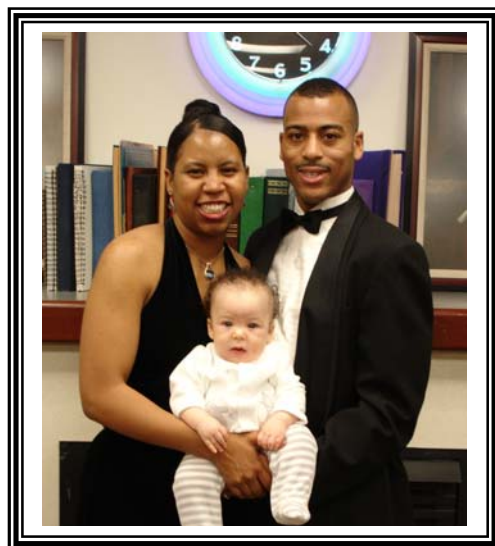


**"At the heart of each of us,
whatever our imperfections,**

there exists a silent pulse of perfect rhythm which is absolutely individual and unique, and yet which connects us to everything else.”
-George Leonard

Introduction

There are many different characteristics and responsibilities that the advisor of the year should display, and when thinking about these qualities, one name comes to mind, Tosha Sampson-Choma. Tosha goes above and beyond the expectations and every day tasks of Residence Life Coordinator. There are many deserving advisors in Housing and Dining of this award, however Tosha deserves this award above all. The qualities she possesses makes her more than qualified for this honor. We feel as though these qualities reflect upon Ford Hall as a whole as well as upon every resident that resides in our building. Overall, we feel that Tosha Sampson-Choma's strongest aspects are that she is *talented*, *outstanding*, *service oriented*, has an *honest personality*, and *admirable* because of the work she does. These qualities encompass the theme of our Advisor of the Year nomination, Tosha Sampson-Choma.



Tosha Sampson-Choma, Advisor of the Year 2004-2005

Tosha, her husband Kimathi and Isaiah

Talented

Along with being a Residence Life Coordinator here at K-State, Tosha is working towards her Doctorate of Philosophy in English, specializing in African-American Novels and Women Writers of the African Diaspora, from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Tosha has received many awards for her outstanding services, abilities, and accomplishments. Just this year at the Upper Midwest Region of American Colleges and Universities Housing Officers Conferences (UMR) Tosha was awarded “Best Feature Article for Regional Publication” titled “How Suite Is It?” An Of The Month (OTM) nomination was made in November.

Tosha has also been complimented on her ability to adapt to being a new mother and coming back to work at a building that has been running without her for several months. Her adjustment to the new RAMA staff and HGB was exceptional. She was able to gain the respect and admiration of her student leaders.

If it's not already difficult enough to manage a building of 437 women, with emotions and drama, add in construction workers, drilling and hammering at 8am! Tosha oversaw a building-wide suite renovation concluding this year. She was able to establish a strong community with her staff and student leaders to help with the transitioning of suite rooms and opening up common rooms on the wings of each floor. Going above and beyond the call of duty is a phrase that is used often to describe Tosha throughout the year.

“I have had the privilege of working with Tosha for three years. Every year she teaches me something new, whether that is patience, intentional listening, exercising observational skills, and especially encouragement. Tosha does an amazing job of quietly supporting and encouraging the people she meets. She assesses you, your skills, and your work and gives you specific feedback and encouragement. Because of this I know that what she tells me, or writes about me, is sincere. Working with her has been a blessing to me. She recently took the time to nominate me for an

award through ACPA. I know that she has submitted other nominations through NRHH in OTMs and is currently working on an OTY for Fatou Mybe for Outstanding Service Award.”

-Cassie Luke, Lower Terrace RA

Outstanding

We feel that Tosha is *outstanding* for several reasons. During the first month of school, just as everyone was settling in, Tosha was in her eighth month of pregnancy. On top of being pregnant, Tosha assisted in opening the hall and made sure that opening went smoothly. Shortly there after, she had her baby and was then officially on maternity leave. Despite her absence, Tosha was still available for questions, remained visible within the building and was also very active with the residents. Also, during her maternity leave, Tosha remained very involved with the executive board by attending their meetings since she knew she would be taking them over after her return. She also maintained communication with Shannon Cross, our Assistant Residence Life Coordinator, always staying up to date on what was going on in the building.

In November, the time came for Tosha to reassume her full-time responsibilities as the Residence Life Coordinator. At this time, Tosha worked very hard at establishing solid working relationships with the residents and the staff of Ford Hall. This was not only new to the residents and staff but also to Tosha since she did not have the opportunity to work with many of these people before her leave. This was due to the fact that her pregnancy and maternity leave happened very early on in the school year.



Tosha Sampson Chroma, Advisor of the Year 2004-2005

Tosha in her eighth month of pregnancy and

Upon her return, Tosha assumed the responsibilities of advising five RAMAs, maintaining one on ones with two executive board members of the Hall Governing Board (HGB), advising the entire HGB executive board, the HGB body, and also assisting with her senior staff responsibilities. In addition to these many responsibilities, Tosha has made an outstanding effort to make her face seen in Ford Hall by participating in many hall activities such as Bingo night, Diversity Team meetings, and the Roommate Game. Not only were these tasks demanding and time consuming, but she also had her daily duties such as dealing with roommate conflicts, talking to parents, assisting with the front desk operations, as well as adjusting to being a new working mother.

Overall Tosha has gained the respect of many women throughout the year. She has also become a role model for much of our staff and our residents by her commitment to Ford Hall and to setting a good example.

“Tosha is an excellent advisor all around. She is great with administrative, relational, and leadership roles in the building. While juggling family and work, she still acts as an excellent support system to the RAs in Ford by attending events and encouraging them from the sidelines.”

-Becca Larson, 5th floor RA

Service Orientated

While directly supervising four RAMAs and one grad student, Tosha has served on various committees. These include the Residence Life Coordinator Hiring Committee, she has advised the Undergraduate Student Affairs Club, has taught educational leadership class for para-professionals, currently serves on the recognition committee, the hall management manual

committee, academic initiatives committee, leadership programming committee, and helping with senior staff training, orientation, and development committee. She pursued professional development opportunities by attending UMR-ACUHO ACPA and served on the conference committees. Outside her professional life, she displays her skills in other areas as well. An example of this would be being the director of music at her church.

“Tosha is an excellent example of establishing life outside of work. Her balance of family, friends, community involvements, and work is something I truly admire. She demonstrates to our residents that she is a real person too!”

-Shannon Cross, Ford Hall Assistant Residence Life Coordinator



Tosha and Shannon, Ford Hall ARLC spending

Honest Personality

Tosha is an excellent example of someone who not only does her job well but also incorporates her own genuine touch to the job. There are many traits about Tosha’s personality that stands out, but the one that sets her the most apart from others is her *honest personality*. By this we mean that Tosha will always give a straight answer while maintaining her professionalism. If Tosha has an issue or conflict, she is assertive yet understanding when approaching a situation.

"Tosha is a very honest advisor. I know that when I have a problem or a situation arises, that she will not beat around the bush. I have confidence in the fact that I know that I will get a straight answer out of her and that she will be completely honest with me."

-Danielle Admire, Ford Hall President

As well as being honest, Tosha has many other positive personality attributes that make her a wonderful advisor. Some of these include; her outgoing nature, a friendly and smiling face, compassion, and dedication to her work.



Tosha actively participating in

"Tosha's ability to be a passive and servant leader is very valuable. She is sweet to everyone and works very hard at her job as a hall leader and a new mother. I take pride in knowing that I can go to her with any problem and she will be right there helping me to work it out! Residents feel comfortable asking her for advice or help as well!"

Janel Bowersox, Ford Hall Vice-President

Tosha is open about her advising style and expresses her favorite part of being an RLC as well. She says that she tends to be somewhere between hands on and hands off. She will ask a lot of questions and encourages leaders to find their own style. She gives guidance as necessary, gives people the space to grow, develop, and mature as leaders. Her favorite part is talking with residents; learning their stories, hearing their voices, and helping them understand themselves in

Tosha Sampson-Choma, Advisor of the Year 2004-2005

relation to the world around them. Tosha says, *“My goal is to empower students to be the best they can be”*

“Tosha has such a warm personality and gentle spirit. I have never been afraid to ask her advice on anything-whether personal or staff related. She is always open to talk.”

Becca Larson, 5th floor RA

Admirable

We feel that Tosha is an *admirable* person in and out of the work setting. Tosha represents what most college girls aspire to be. It is obvious that she has achieved a balance in her life by being a full-time working woman and married mother. In September she gave birth to a baby boy named Kimathi Isaiah Ajani Choma and continued her ability to balance her professional and personal life. She has given residents a first hand look at time management and a good example to follow. Tosha also has many other roles that occupy her time such as spending time with her siblings, remaining active at Agape Family Church, as well as being a part-time student finishing her Ph. D work at the University of Nebraska.

“I really admire Tosha, she has become an strong role model in my life. She truly inspires me to achieve the same balance in my life and to be actively involved in numerous community activities.”

Amy Heyroth, Ford Hall Secretary



Conclusion

Tosha Sampson-Choma, Advisor of the Year 2004-2005

In conclusion, we feel that Tosha is especially deserving of this honor. We would like to recognize our advisor for her accomplishments that she has made through the 2004-05 academic year. We hope we have illustrated a portrait of how involved and committed she is to her responsibilities in and out of Ford Hall. Tosha Sampson-Choma is simply *talented, outstanding, service oriented, has an honest personality, and is also admirable.*