

2015

Distinguished Alumnus



Herbert A. Exum, Ph.D.

Dr. Herbert A. Exum was born in Tarboro, NC as the first child of Savalius A. Exum, Jr. and May Bell Moten Exum. Herbert, his brother, Savalius Von Exum III (deceased) and his sister, Mary Michelle Exum (deceased) lived at 1114 East Baker Street in Tarboro until 1965 when his parents and siblings relocated to Goldsboro, NC. His parents allowed Herbert to remain in Tarboro with his grandparents Savalius A. Exum, Sr. and Mary Hortense Exum so that he could graduate from W. A. Pattillo High School, which he did in 1967 as the class valedictorian.

He began his undergraduate studies at Duke University in Durham, NC and later transferred to Federal City College (now the University of the District of Columbia) where he graduated with honors with a bachelors degree in Psychology in 1972. He continued his education at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Minnesota funded by an EPDA Fellowship. He completed both his masters and doctorate degrees at the University of Minnesota where he earned a MA in 1974 and a PhD in 1978 both in Counseling and Student Personnel Psychology. Dr. Exum then went on to accept academic positions at the University of Iowa followed by the University of Wisconsin before returning to North Carolina as Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies in the College of Education and Psychology at North Carolina State University (NCSU).

From 1984 to 1994 he served as Associate Dean at NCSU before returning to work as a full-time faculty member. Dr. Exum served as a Fulbright Professor of Education at the University of Joensuu in Finland in 1998-99. He joined the faculty of the Counselor Education Program at the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida in 2003. While at the University of South Florida, he was the Chair of the Department of Psychological and Social Foundations from 2005 to 2011. Currently, Dr. Exum is a tenured graduate Professor in the Department of Leadership, Counseling and Adult, Career and Higher Education at the University of South Florida.

Dr. Exum's overall research interests focus on theories and practices of counseling, psychotherapy, and cognitive development. His related interests include counselor education and supervision, community mental health, and psychological trauma. He has taught a variety of graduate courses in counseling and psychotherapy, and served as the major professor and thesis director for 45 PhD students and scores of Master's students. In addition, Dr. Exum has over 35 years of clinical experience in a variety of community-based social service organizations and agencies throughout the United States as well as in private practice. He is currently serving as a Diplomate of the American Psychotherapy Association. He is the author of two books, and numerous book chapters and articles.

Herbert is the husband of Obelia Johnson Exum, Head Graphic Designer at the North Carolina Museum of History located in Raleigh, NC and the father of Kamilah Imani Exum, an attorney now located in Chicago, Illinois; Bakari Akil Exum, a chef currently in Johnson City, Tennessee; and Ahmed Raphael Exum, a rising senior at Southeast Raleigh High School in Raleigh, North Carolina.