

# Leading the Class

*From Ph.D. Graduate to Tenured Faculty*

**SREB**

Doctoral Scholars  
Program

June 2015

**BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT** • VANESSA BRANTLEY •

DEACUE FIELDS • VENESSA FUNCHES • KRISTENA GAYLOR •  
JILL HOUGH • CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON • KIMBERLY JOHNSON •  
SHAWN LONG • ROCHELLE PARKS-YANCY • CYNTHIA TAYLOR •

**EDUCATION** • DENISE NATASHA BREWLEY • JOE LOTT •

SELINA MIRELES • LURIA STUBBLEFIELD • **ENGINEERING** •  
EDWARD BROWN • ARSENIO CACERES • HUDSON JACKSON •  
WILBUR WALTERS • **HEALTH PROFESSIONS** • EDWARD BELL •  
SHIRLEATHA LEE • TERRA NWOBILOR • PATRICIA SHELTON •

**HUMANITIES** • THOMAS BYNUM • KENDRIC COLEMAN •

EARNEST COX • ERIC HAIRSTON • WANDA JACKSON •  
LOIS LUCAS • PRESTON MCKEVER-FLOYD • KIMBERLY MOFFITT •  
URAINA PACK • MIRIAM RIVERA-HOKANSON •

DAWN STINCHCOMB • ROSA MARIA STOOPS • WALTER SWAN •  
LA TONYA TAYLOR • ARTRESS WHITE • KARSONYA WHITEHEAD •  
JOHN YOUNGBLOOD • JENNIFER YOUNG TAIT • **MATH** •

MICHELLE FOSTER • LATONYA GARNER • TASHA INNISS •

NOLAN MCMURRAY • CARL PETTIS • FRANK ROGERS •  
SHAWANDA THOMAS • SIMON THUO • **SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY** •  
BRENDA ALLEN • DAVID ARRINGTON • HAROLD BLANCO •

# Leading the Class

Two milestones mark the journey for most college and university faculty: completing the Ph.D. and earning tenure.

The SREB-Doctoral Scholars Program (DSP) was established more than 20 years ago to increase the number of minority scholars who earn the Ph.D. and to address the need for a more diverse college faculty. The success of the program's graduates in obtaining their first faculty positions has led to an expansion of academic, personal, and motivational support and services for these young professionals. From the start, program leaders focused on supporting scholars in making long-term contributions in higher education, which meant helping prepare them to earn tenure. To maintain viable careers as professors, scholars are judged by their peers on their abilities to generate external funding, demonstrate high-quality teaching, write and publish original research, and provide service in their academic and other communities.

This publication showcases: *graduates of the DSP program who have taken faculty positions*. It lists all 106 tenured faculty that the program can document and highlights eight examples of career achievements of these scholars.

**Tenure** *\'ten-yər\* **noun:**  
An essential career milestone that professors must achieve to stay in the classroom.

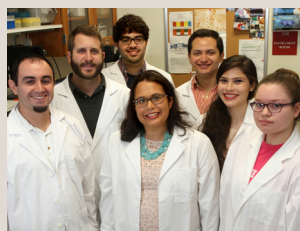
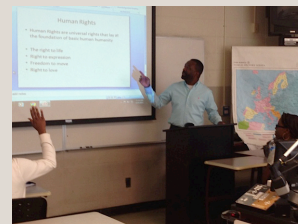
# SREB Tenured Faculty Leading the Class

## Thomas Bynum, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

**Dr. Thomas Bynum** is an associate professor and director of African-American Studies at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU). His teaching and research center on activism, civil rights and African-American history. He has served on several panels and presented at many conferences and universities across the Southeast. Dr. Bynum serves on the Minority Dissertation Fellowship Committee at MTSU, which selects qualified doctoral candidates and promotes diversity on campus. He is also the vice president of the Black Faculty and Staff Association at MTSU, which brings together faculty of color to discuss campus diversity issues. He credits DSP with helping him to complete his research and dissertation when he was a scholar and for also enhancing his marketability for his current position at MTSU. Dr. Bynum serves on several dissertation committees of minority students as a mentor, and each year, he takes students on a field trip to national historic civil rights sites. In 2013, Dr. Bynum published his first book, *NAACP Youth and the Fight for Black Freedom, 1936-1965*, and is currently working on a second.



## Veronica Martinez-Acosta, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

University of Incarnate Word, San Antonio, Texas

**Dr. Veronica Martinez-Acosta** is an associate professor of biology at the University of the Incarnate Word. Her research interests include molecular mechanisms governing neural regeneration and wound healing and the role of stem cell populations in these regenerative processes. Her research has been supported by grants from the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, and Support of Mentors and their Students in the Neurosciences. Recently, she co-hosted the 118th meeting of the Texas Academy of Science. This meeting showcases STEM research to undergraduates and graduates at universities in Texas. She is the advisor for the University of Incarnate Word Biology Club, which showcases seminars on-campus and conducts service projects off-campus. To combat the misinformation that was spreading among the San Antonio community about the Ebola virus, she and a colleague organized televised discussions with the community to ease fears about the virus. Dr. Acosta believes that being a part of a network of students and faculty at the Institute on Teaching and Mentoring provided her a much needed boost in her confidence as she pursued her graduate career.



**Deacue Fields, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor  
Auburn University, Alabama

**Dr. Deacue Fields** is the department chair in the College of Agriculture at Auburn University. He has used his education and professional experiences in agricultural economics to conduct an economic impact analysis for agriculture in Alabama. The results from that study have been widely used by Alabama government officials. His research has been supported by the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, Alabama Agriculture Business Council, the Alabama Nursery and Landscape Association, and the United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture. In a recent study that examined the attributes that chefs viewed as important in purchasing products from local producers, he found they preferred dealing with a relatively small number of producers of natural products over processed products. Dr. Fields is co-founder of a mentoring program for graduate students and young professionals interested in agriculture. He has provided advice and mentorship to a number of students, including one who went on to be selected as a Marshall Scholar and Rhodes Scholar Finalist.



**Kimberly R. Moffitt, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor  
University of Maryland Baltimore County

When asked to describe how the SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program helped her pursue tenure, **Dr. Kimberly Moffitt** remarked, “Hands down it was the camaraderie among the fellows across the region and the country. The Institute always served as a reminder that the Ph.D. journey was possible.” Dr. Moffitt’s research focuses on mediated representations of marginalized groups, as well as the politicized nature of black hair and the body. Using her skills in media studies and communication, Dr. Moffitt serves as a regular guest and guest host on a local radio show in the Baltimore area to inform listeners about her research; she has published three co-edited volumes. She is a founding parent and serves on the trustee board of an all-male liberal arts, college preparatory charter school for fourth- and 12th-graders. Her current research explores the black physical form in Disney television programming. She offers workshops on female minority physical appearance politics as it relates to bullying among middle grades girls. In her role of serving as a mentor, she believes that once students understand why they desire particular goals, it makes the journey more interesting, exciting and fulfilling.



# SREB Tenured Faculty Leading the Class (continued)

## Christopher K. Johnson, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

University of North Florida, Jacksonville, Florida

**Dr. Christopher Johnson** is an associate professor in the economics and geography department at the University of North Florida. Dr. Johnson's research interests include the economics of poverty, income distribution and income inequalities among races. With funding from the University of North Florida Office of Community Based Learning, Dr. Johnson and a team of students created an organic garden at a non-profit agency, which serves the homeless and economically disadvantaged population in Jacksonville, Florida. He was appointed as the chair of the economics and geography department and was named the associate dean for the Coggin College of Business. One of his mentees is a DSP scholar who is pursuing a graduate degree in economics. When asked to describe his experience with the Doctoral Scholars Program, Dr. Johnson replied, "While the financial support was indeed critical to the pursuit and completion of my doctoral degree, the mentoring efforts through the annual Institute were tremendously beneficial in helping me make the transition from graduate school to tenure-track faculty."



## Rosa Maria Stoops, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

University of Montevallo, Alabama

**Dr. Maria Stoops** is an associate professor of French and Spanish at the University of Montevallo. She has been a presenter at conferences nationally and internationally, including Brazil, Canada, Italy and Spain. She developed the Directed Study Abroad Program for students to study in Madrid and Paris. A native speaker of Spanish, she has near-native proficiency in English, French and Italian and advanced proficiency in Portuguese. She uses her language skills as an academic adviser for foreign language students and as an interpreter and translator intern for an agency, which helps people dealing with catastrophic events, accidents and other issues. She credits her extensive publishing record to advice she received at the Institute on Teaching and Mentoring: "Begin publishing early as an assistant professor." As a mentor to undergraduate students, she helps them conduct research and present their findings in undergraduate research sessions. Dr. Stoops intends to publish a book about Miguel de Cervantes, the Spanish novelist who authored Don Quixote..



**Armon Perry, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor  
University of Louisville, Kentucky

**Dr. Armon Perry** is an associate professor in the Kent School of Social Work at the University of Louisville. His research centers on intrapersonal, interpersonal and external factors that influence men's involvement in the lives of their children and families. The findings from one project, *African American Men's Attitude Toward Marriage* resulted in five peer-reviewed journal articles and two book chapters. His current research project, *Promoting Paternal Participation in Healthy Start Programming*, aims to provide resources to engage fathers in a Louisville, Kentucky health and wellness program — which in turn, will help to promote the growth and development of mothers and children. His research has been funded by the National Center for Marriage and Family Research and the University of Louisville Office for Community Engagement. Dr. Perry is concerned with student learning and feedback, and provides time for his students during class to brief him on their progress. Because of his attendance at the Institute, Dr. Perry was able to develop relationships with peers in other disciplines that turned into collaborations.



**Adriane B. Randolph, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor  
Kennesaw State University, Georgia

**Dr. Adriane B. Randolph** is the founder and executive director of the BrainLab and an associate professor of information systems in the Michael J. Coles College of Business at Kennesaw State University. Her research focuses on brain-computer interface systems. Her research — which targets people with severe motor disabilities such as ALS, cerebral palsy and stroke — has gained tremendous interest and sparked new funding partnerships for her research. She has published several refereed papers, book chapters and manuscripts. Dr. Randolph has been featured as a speaker for several events sponsored by the *Atlanta Business Chronicle*. She has been recognized as one of “40 Under 40” Young Professionals on the Rise by the *Atlanta Business Chronicle*, and as a person who is “transforming the world” in *Entrepreneur* magazine. Dr. Randolph serves as an adviser to many students who are seeking their doctorates, and she mentors undergraduates in developing their research skills. Her goal is to turn BrainLab into a research center which can expand the research, and as a result, help many more people who have brain disorders.



# SREB Tenured Faculty Leading the Class

## Alabama

Dr. Brenda Allen, Urban Forestry, Auburn University  
Dr. David Arrington, Chemistry, Troy University, Dothan Campus  
Dr. Deacue Fields, Agricultural Economics, Auburn University  
Dr. Michelle Foster, Applied Mathematics, Alabama State University  
Dr. Venessa Funches, Retail Marketing, Auburn University  
Dr. Dana Harmon, Social Work, University of West Alabama  
Dr. Kimberly Johnson, Organizational Analysis, Auburn University  
Dr. Carl Pettis, Discrete Mathematics, Athens State University  
Dr. Frank Rogers, Applied Mathematics, University of West Alabama  
Dr. Natasha Satcher, Human Performance, University of West Alabama  
Dr. Rosa Maria Stoops, Romance Languages, University of Montevallo  
Dr. Shawanda Thomas, Mathematics, Lawson State Community College  
Dr. Annice Yarber, Sociology, Auburn University

## Arkansas

Dr. Earnest Cox, English Composition, University of Arkansas at Little Rock  
Dr. Meagan Jordan, Public Administration, University of Arkansas at Little Rock  
Dr. Loretta Mcgregor, Experimental Psychology, Arkansas State University  
Dr. Sonya Murphy-Erby, Human Development, University of Arkansas  
Dr. Cynthia Taylor, Accounting, University of Arkansas at Little Rock  
Dr. Jessie Walker, Computer Science, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

## Florida

Dr. Christopher Johnson, Economics, University of North Florida  
Dr. Shari Robinson, Counseling Psychology, University of Florida  
Dr. Thomas Snowden, Microbiology, Florida Memorial College  
Dr. Simon Thuo, Applied Mathematics, Florida A&M University

## Georgia

Dr. Denise Natasha Brewley, Mathematics, Georgia Gwinnett College  
Dr. Tasha Inniss, Applied Mathematics, Spelman College  
Dr. Tori Kearns, School Psychology, East Georgia State College  
Dr. Pamela Leggett-Robinson, Chemistry, Georgia Perimeter College  
Dr. Nolan McMurray, Mathematics, Gordon State College  
Dr. Adriane Randolph, Information Systems, Kennesaw State University  
Dr. Veronica Womack, Political Science, Georgia College & State University  
Dr. James Wright, Sociology, Dalton State College

## Kentucky

Dr. Brenda Hosley, Medical Sociology, Eastern Kentucky University  
Dr. Armon Perry, Social Work, University of Louisville  
Dr. Randall Swain, Political Science, Eastern Kentucky University

## Louisiana

Dr. Kendric Coleman, Literature, Southern University  
Dr. Wanda Jackson, American History, Southern University  
Dr. Chanika Jones, Criminal Sociology, Southern University  
Dr. Victor Mbarika, Information Systems, Southern University  
Dr. Luria Stubblefield, Educational Leadership, Southern University

## Maryland

Dr. Samuel Brown, Public Policy, University of Baltimore  
Dr. Kimberly Moffitt, Africana Studies, University of Maryland, Baltimore  
Dr. Karsonya Whitehead, Sociolinguistics, Loyola University Maryland

## Mississippi

Dr. Bertha Ealey, Psychology, Mississippi Valley State University  
Dr. Latonya Garner, Mathematics, Mississippi Valley State University  
Dr. Kristena Gaylor, Business Management, Belhaven College  
Dr. Murrell Godfrey, Biochemistry, University of Mississippi  
Dr. Byron Orey, Urban Politics, Jackson State University  
Dr. Wilbur Walters, Materials Engineering, Jackson State University  
Dr. Voletta Williams, Environmental Sciences, Alcorn State University

## North Carolina

Dr. Betty Chapman, Information Technology, North Carolina A&T  
Dr. Jessica Decuir-Gunby, Psychology, North Carolina State  
Dr. Alexandria Graves, Environmental Sciences, North Carolina State  
Dr. Eric Hairston, American Literature, Elon University  
Dr. Alice Johnson, Information Systems, North Carolina A&T  
Dr. Eva Lawrence, Clinical Psychology, Guilford College  
Dr. Shawn Long, Communication, University of North Carolina  
Dr. Stephanie Lusk, Rehabilitation Counseling, North Carolina A&T  
Dr. Patricia Shelton, Nursing, North Carolina A&T  
Dr. Walter Swan, Voice Performance, Elizabeth City State University

## Oklahoma

Dr. Luz-Eugenia Cox-Fuenzalida, Psychology, University of Oklahoma  
Dr. Jill Hough, Strategy Management, University of Tulsa  
Dr. Kent Smith, Zoology, Oklahoma State University

## South Carolina

Dr. Preston Mckever-Floyd, Philosophy, Coastal Carolina University



## Tennessee

Dr. Thomas Bynum, History, Middle Tennessee State University  
Dr. Paul DeLaLuz, Organic Chemistry, Lee University  
Dr. Shirleatha Lee, Nursing, University of Memphis  
Dr. Tina Lee, Criminal Justice, University of Tennessee at Martin  
Dr. Terra Nwobilor, Nutritional Sciences, University of Memphis  
Dr. Artress White, African American Rhetoric, Carson-Newman College

## Texas

Dr. Edward Bell, Pharmaceuticals, Texas Southern University  
Dr. Jamilia Blake, School Psychology, Texas A&M University  
Dr. Francisco Guajardo, Education, University of Texas-Pan American  
Dr. Veronica Martinez-Acosta, Biology, University of the Incarnate Word  
Dr. Selina Mireles, Mathematics Education, Texas State University  
Dr. Rochelle Parks-Yancy, Management, Texas Southern University  
Dr. Jesus Tanguma, Psychology, University of Texas-Pan American

## Virginia

Dr. Deidre Gibson, Marine Science, Hampton University  
Dr. Ranjit Singh, Politics, University of Mary Washington

## West Virginia

Dr. Harold Blanco, Instructional Technology, Marshall University  
Dr. Lois Lucas, American History, West Virginia State University

## Out-of-Region Tenured Graduates

### Australia

Dr. Eva Kimonis, Psychology, University of New South Wales

### California

Dr. Victor Carmona, Biology, Loyola Marymount University  
Dr. Thomas Washington, Social Work, California State University

### Connecticut

Dr. Hudson Jackson, Engineering, United States Coast Guard Academy

### Illinois

Dr. Randolph Burnside, Political Science, Southern Illinois University  
Dr. Jason Ong, Psychology, Rush University Medical Center  
Dr. LaShonda Stewart, Public Administration, Southern Illinois University  
Dr. Christopher Whitt, Political Science, Augustana College

## Indiana

Dr. Theodore Randall, Anthropology, Indiana University South Bend  
Dr. Dennis Rodriguez, Psychology, Indiana University South Bend  
Dr. Dawn Stinchcomb, Spanish Literature, Purdue University

## Kenya

Dr. George Ogendi, Environmental Sciences, Egerton University

## Michigan

Dr. Jennifer Young Tait, English Fiction, Hope College

## Minnesota

Dr. Miriam Rivera-Hokanson, Romance Languages, Bemidji State University

## New York

Dr. Edward Brown, Engineering, Rochester Institute of Technology  
Dr. Robert Osgood, Biology, Rochester Institute of Technology  
Dr. Sherrie Proctor, Psychology, Queens College, City University of New York  
Dr. Paul Shipman, Zoology, Rochester Institute of Technology  
Dr. John Youngblood, Communications, State University of New York

## Pennsylvania

Dr. Kimberly Adams, Political Science, East Stroudsburg University  
Dr. Vanessa Brantley, Consumer Science, Cheyney University  
Dr. Scott Graves, School Psychology, Duquesne University  
Dr. Uraina Pack, English, Clarion University  
Dr. La Tonya Taylor, History, West Chester University

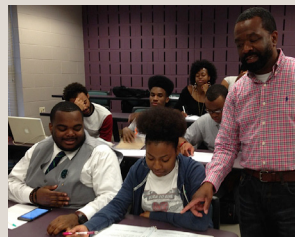
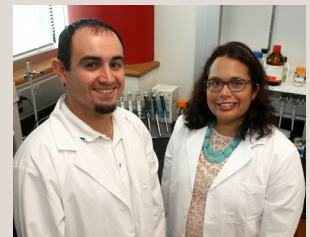
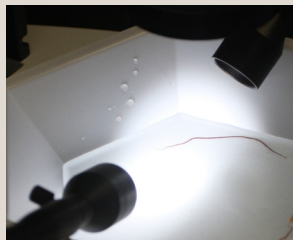
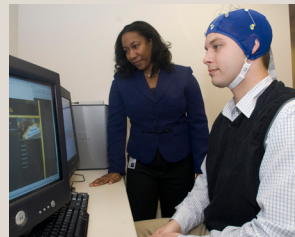
## Puerto Rico

Dr. Arsenio Caceres, Mechanical Engineering, University of Puerto Rico

## Washington

Dr. Joe Lott, Educational Leadership, University of Washington

# Leading In and Outside the Classroom



One Hundred Six Tenured Faculty and Counting . . .

VICTOR CARMONA • BETTY CHAPMAN • PAUL DELALUZ •  
DEIDRE GIBSON • MURRELL GODFREY • ALEXANDRIA GRAVES •  
FRANCISCO GUAJARDO • ALICE JOHNSON •  
PAMELA LEGGETT-ROBINSON • VERONICA MARTINEZ-ACOSTA •  
VICTOR MBARIKA • GEORGE OGENDI • ROBERT OSGOOD •  
ADRIANE RANDOLPH • PAUL SHIPMAN • KENT SMITH •  
THOMAS SNOWDEN • JESSIE WALKER • VOLETTA WILLIAMS •  
**SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE** • KIMBERLY ADAMS •  
JAMILIA BLAKE • SAMUEL BROWN • RANDOLPH BURNSIDE •  
LUZ-EUGENIA COX-FUENZALIDA • JESSICA DECUIR-GUNBY •  
BERTHA EALEY • SCOTT GRAVES • DANA HARMON •  
BRENDA HOSLEY • CHANIKA JONES • MEAGAN JORDAN •  
TORI KEARNS • EVA KIMONIS • EVA LAWRENCE • TINA LEE •  
STEPHANIE LUSK • LORETTA MCGREGOR • SONYA MURPHY-ERBY •  
JASON ONG • BYRON OREY • ARMON PERRY •  
SHERRIE PROCTOR • THEODORE RANDALL • SHARI ROBINSON •  
DENNIS RODRIGUEZ • NATASHA SATCHER • RANJIT SINGH •  
LASHONDA STEWART • RANDALL SWAIN • JESUS TANGUMA •  
THOMAS WASHINGTON • CHRISTOPHER WHITT •  
VERONICA WOMACK • JAMES WRIGHT • ANNICE YARBER

# SREB

Southern Regional Education Board  
592 10th St., N.W.  
Atlanta, GA 30318-5776  
(404) 875-9211

**SREB.org**

June 2015 (15E03)

This report was developed by Chanell Turner, SREB Publications and Programming Assistant, Dr. Bob Belle, Associate Director of the SREB-State Scholars Program and AGEP, and Dr. Ansley Abraham, Director of the SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program.