



**SREB-STATE
DOCTORAL
SCHOLARS
PROGRAM**

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The SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program presents

The Doctoral Chat

March 2010

DIRECTOR'S CHAIR



Dr. Ansley Abraham
Director,
Doctoral Scholars Program

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and that your new year is off to a productive and great start! Despite the slow economy, the Doctoral Scholars Program is expected to reach two key milestones in 2010. First, if we are fortunate enough to have an entering class of at least 47 scholars, the program will reach the 1,000 mark in scholars supported to

pursue a Ph.D. Second, the program will celebrate its 500th Ph.D. graduate — by June. Both of these remarkable achievements represent the hard work and dedication of scholars and the commitment of SREB states and institutions.

As we reach new heights, many graduates have asked how they can help give back to the program. I asked them to be patient and let them know that a plan was in the works. Well, finally I am happy to announce that plan, which includes three initiatives:

Initiative I: A special Dissertation Year Award sponsored by program graduates will be created. This award will be given special status/promotion within the program. A committee of program graduates will determine who is to be selected for the award. The cost per year: \$21,500 (\$20,000 stipend; \$1,000 Institute; and \$500 academic support).

Initiative II: Program graduates will have an opportunity to support the Doctoral Scholars Program's Professional Development Matching Fund (PDMF). The PDMF provides supplemental support for scholars to present their research, papers and posters at professional meetings. The PDMF has no revenue stream that regularly replenishes or allows for expansion of support. With a steady income stream, it would be possible to expand opportunities for professional development. The cost per year: \$10,000.

Initiative III: Program graduates will have an opportunity to support an annual Service Grant Award (SGA). In the spirit of helping and encouraging program graduates to give back to the next generation, the SGA will provide small incentive grants to support projects that graduates are involved in or to help them to start new initiatives. Graduates will compete for support by submitting short proposals that will be evaluated and ranked by a committee of program graduates. Initially, two proposals per year (\$2,500 each) will be funded. The cost per year: \$5,000.

The total cost of these initiatives for one year is \$36,500. If every graduate were responsible



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DIRECTOR'S CHAIR *(continued)*

for raising \$100/year through personal, family, employer matching and other contributions, that would **raise income to \$50,000**. This would be more than enough to fund the proposed initiatives, as well as new projects. It is reasonable to expect **every** SREB program graduate to pledge — **and give** — **at least \$100 per year**, and more if you can afford it. That works out to \$0.27/day, \$1.92/week or \$8.33/month. Every penny of every dollar donated goes back to scholars, not to administrative costs. We can do this — we should do this! It's time!

We are already off to a good start. At the 2009 Institute, with a \$1,000 donation, program graduates from Louisiana State University issued a challenge to graduates from other SREB states and institutions to match or beat their contribution. Scholars and program supporters in Alabama immediately took up the challenge and within a week raised \$955 — with more to come.

Georgia scholars also are organizing to mount their effort. These challenges and responses represent the kind of enthusiasm that will help us reach our goal. Whether you get involved by contributing as part of a group effort or you contribute individually, the point is to make a commitment to giving every year. The great news is that all contributions are tax-deductible. I know scholars are committed to giving back and investing in the future, so we look forward to celebrating 100 percent participation from program graduates.

We have matured as a program to a point where we can afford to help ourselves. It is just a matter of doing it. I have written my check, and I challenge you to do the same!



DISTINGUISHED AWARD

Congratulations to the SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program for being selected to receive the 2010 John Hope Franklin Award from *Diverse: Issues In Higher Education* magazine. Past recipients have included Dr. Clifton Wharton, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Dr. Maya Angelou, Dr. William Friday and Dr. Johnetta B. Cole, just to name a few. Dr. John Hope Franklin was “a celebrated scholar and activist who chronicled the experiences of African-Americans, forcing America to recognize black history as American history,” according to *Diverse's* 25th Anniversary Edition, June 11, 2009.

PUBLISHED ARTICLES

An SREB graduate, **Annice D. Yarber**, associate professor of sociology at Auburn University at Montgomery, Montgomery, Alabama, has co-written and published *Focus on Single-Parent Families: Past, Present, and Future*. It is available on the ABC-CLIO Web site. ABC-CLIO is an award-winning publisher of reference works, academic and general interest books, digital resources, and professional development publications and programs for librarians and educators. For more information, see: <http://www.abc-clio.com/visitortools/productSheet/preview.aspx?productid=111717&version=UK>.

SREB graduate **Edward Brown**, assistant professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering, Rochester Institute of Technology, is developing more intelligent robotic orthotics that utilize human bio-physical and bio-physiological information. His work is being published nationally in *Black Enterprise, Masters Of Innovation*. Read more about it at: <http://www.blackenterprise.com/magazine/2009/03/01/masters-of-innovation>.

IMPORTANT THINGS FOR CURRENT SCHOLARS TO REMEMBER

Scholar Responsibilities

- Notify the Doctoral Scholars Program *immediately* regarding any change in contact information, enrollment, employment or academic status. E-mail tammy.wright@sreb.org.
- Send in a grade report or dissertation progress report each semester to Tammy Wright.
- Maintain full-time enrollment for ALL semesters while being actively funded.
- Attend the annual Institute on Teaching and Mentoring each fall. If you have any questions, e-mail Audra Jackson, Institute coordinator, at audra.jackson@sreb.org
- Get your Ph.D. and join the professoriate!

REMEMBER, SCHOLARS:

Update and keep your online Scholar Directory listing current. To access the Scholar Directory, the Scholar Support Discussion Board and other great things to help you on your journey, go to www.sreb.org and click on the Doctoral Scholars link under “Programs.”

Other Guidelines

- You **MUST** advise SREB if you are not a full-time student. Also notify SREB if you are doing an audit, independent study or research hours.
- You **MUST NOT** be employed under any circumstances outside the department, part time or full time, without notifying SREB. Any employment in the department must be reported and approved.
- You **MUST** report any additional funds earned while receiving program support, including scholarships, fellowships, assistantships, grants or other monies, regardless of when you receive the funds.

****Grades and Dissertation Updates****

This is just a reminder that grades are due each term. In the last newsletter, we advised all scholars that only two e-mail requests for grades and dissertation updates will be sent before stipends are withheld.

- Grades should be e-mailed each term.
- Grades should include your term GPA and overall GPA.
- If you take research hours or dissertation hours that are pass/fail, you must send a short narrative.
- Dissertation scholars should submit a short narrative outlining your progress this term and plans for the next term. Any hardships or breakthroughs, presentations, etc., that are noteworthy also should be included. Please include your anticipated final defense date in your narrative.

Remember that when you defend your dissertation and the committee signs off, we consider you a program graduate. We understand that sometimes the committee will sign off even with changes to be made ... but if you get the signatures, we consider you a completer. Please contact SREB as soon as you defend or have a scheduled date. This is very important as we keep a calendar, and your specific defense date and time are posted on this calendar. This allows us to track your progress, and it is very exciting for us to see the calendar covered with defense dates.

We are happy to report that approximately 300 potential applicants have logged in to our online application center. Early each spring semester in January, please refer new qualified candidates to apply for our doctoral scholars fellowship, awarded at the beginning of each fall semester. We expect to see all new scholars at this year's Institute!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 16TH ANNUAL INSTITUTE IN ARLINGTON

The 2009 Institute on Teaching and Mentoring, with 1,101 attendees (and 1,140 registrations), was the best-attended Institute in conference history. Registration included: 323 SREB-State Doctoral Scholars, faculty and mentors; 262 AGEP/SBE doctoral scholars, directors and faculty; 87 McNair scholars and directors; 116 Sloan scholars and directors; 63 Gates Millennium scholars and staff; 30 Bridges scholars and faculty mentors; 24 New England scholars and faculty; 64 presenters, 137 recruiters, 14 guests and 20 staff.

The conference also had the overall highest rating of 4.7 on evaluations, as well as the most graduates with 53. In addition, we enjoyed the first Cyber Café, sponsored by Apple Inc. We are very grateful for this partnership and send our sincere thanks to James Kelley and the entire Apple organization.

The Institute received national attention in *Inside Higher Ed*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*.

SREB Scholars and Mentors 2009 Institute on Teaching and Mentoring, Arlington, VA



JOIN US IN TAMPA

The next Institute is in Tampa, Florida, at the Marriott Tampa Waterside Hotel, October 28-31. If you have any questions, e-mail Audra Jackson, Institute coordinator, at audra.jackson@sreb.org.

WE HAVE A NEW LOOK

Please check out SREB's new Web site at www.sreb.org. Our entire organization recently enhanced our Internet presence, so stop by and see our more modern look.



SCHOLAR NEWS

Dr. Teresa Terrell was highlighted in the University of Alabama's newsletter as a graduate of the SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program. Dr. Terrell is currently a sociology professor at the University of Alabama in Huntsville.



Congratulations are in order for SREB scholar **Jessica Pincham**, a University of Alabama graduate, who gave birth to a baby boy named Eli (not pictured), and for SREB graduate **Jennifer Fabre**, assistant professor at Louisiana State University's Health Center, who gave birth to a baby boy named Jeremiah (shown).

Cicely Washington's abstract was accepted for an oral presentation and granted one of the Young Investigator Awards for the XI International Symposium on Respiratory Viral Infections.

Ruby Stevens, a doctoral scholar in educational psychology at the University of Kentucky, successfully presented her dissertation — making her ABD!

University of Alabama SREB Scholars start an SREB student organization



The Alabama SREB Student Organization held its first gathering at Snow Hinton Park in Alabama. Forty University of Alabama SREB scholars, their guests, and graduate school staff and administration gathered for a spring barbeque. Pictured are guests and students with the dean of the Graduate School, Dr. David A. Francko (front row, first left). The president of the student organization, Gina McCaskill (front row, center), was just accepted into the prestigious Frederick Douglass Scholars program. The director of the program, Dr. Latonya Thames-Taylor, is also an SREB program graduate.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Doctoral Scholars Program's Regional Advisory Committee met at the Renaissance Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia, January 29-30. Key topics discussed included state funding; the economic downturn and its impact on the Doctoral Scholars Program; program statistics; expanding services to scholars; and a presentation from special guest speaker Kerry Ann Rockquemore, associate professor, Department of Sociology, University of Illinois at Chicago. Her presentation focused on key elements from her book *The Black Academic's Guide to Winning Tenure — Without Losing Your Soul*. Here's an excerpt describing the book: "For an African American scholar, who may be the lone minority in a department, navigating the tenure minefield can be a particularly harrowing process. Kerry Ann Rockquemore and Tracey Laszloffy go beyond standard professional resources to serve up practical advice for black faculty intent on playing, and winning, the tenure game."



Advisory Committee Meeting members attending. (Front row, left to right) **Linda Noble**, assistant vice chancellor for Faculty Affairs, The University System of Georgia; **Betty Dandridge Johnson**, assistant executive director for Academic Affairs, Tennessee Higher Education Commission; **Paul B. Mohr**, senior director of Special Programs, Alabama Commission on Higher Education; **Melinda Vann**, associate director, Office of Grants, Maryland Higher Education Commission; and **Lisa Smith**, assistant coordinator in the Financial Aid Division, Arkansas Department of Higher Education. (Second row, left to right) **William Arnold**, director for Access, Diversity and Equity, Tennessee Board of Regents; **Ken Durgans**, assistant chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis; **Rana Johnson**, senior associate for Equal Educational Opportunities, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, **Donald R. Cole**, assistant provost and assistant to the chancellor, Multicultural Affairs, University of Mississippi; **Daniel Crockett**, director of Student and Educational Services, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission; **Kerry Davidson**, deputy commissioner for Sponsored Programs, Louisiana Board of Regents; **Sherron Jackson**, assistant vice president for Finance & Equal Opportunities, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education; **Pearl Pennington**, director of Student Affairs, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning; and **Ansley Abraham**, director, SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program, Southern Regional Education Board.