

The Doctoral Chat

March 2014

■ Director's Chair



Happy New Year! As we settle into 2014 and back into our routines, I want to take a moment and recognize all the recent Ph.D. graduates. You did it, and I am so proud of you! By the time you receive this newsletter, more

than 700 of our graduates will have completed their doctoral programs. Congratulations to all the new graduates; we could not be more proud!

As many of you complete your degrees, receive promotions, publish research and books, and reach other milestones, please keep us informed. We are interested in staying abreast of your career developments and accomplishments.

You can stay in touch a few ways. Send us an e-mail or log in to the online Scholar Directory [here](#). Once you log in, you can update your contact information, employment information and more. We also encourage you to pick up the phone; we are pleased to hear from you. One of us on staff is always here to listen, to help with whatever issues you may be facing, and to provide an ear for you to share good news so that we can brag on you!

Be sure to tell your colleagues about us. The Doctoral Scholars Program (DSP) is currently accepting applications for the 2014-15 fellowship. Applications are due to our office by March 31, 2014. Let your peers know about this great opportunity; even

Giving Back Campaign Near: April 30, 2014

To date, the Doctoral Scholars Program has raised **\$36,100 for the Giving Back Campaign!** We have been afforded the opportunity to raise \$100,000 for our Professional Development fund, but we are \$13,900 short of our \$50,000 matching goal that must be met by April 30.

We cannot afford to let this opportunity pass us by! Please give today! To learn more about the Giving Back Campaign, [click here](#).



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fill them in on your experience in the program. We anticipate that a minimum of 60 new scholars will enter the program this year. While most SREB states will hold firm on their support, some states are experiencing budget cuts.

Also, we are proud to announce that five institutions have joined the program: Ball State University, the University of Tulsa, Indiana University, Indiana University-Purdue University

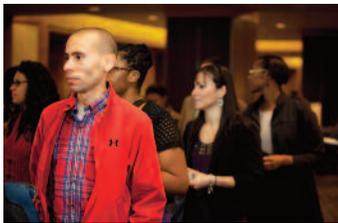
Indianapolis and North Dakota State University. We welcome these universities that have brought on institutionally funded scholars.

Have a great semester, and I look forward to hearing from you in the near future and seeing you at the Institute on Teaching and Mentoring in Atlanta from October 30 through November 2, 2014!



■ Highlights From the 20th Annual Institute

The 2013 Institute on Teaching and Mentoring was memorable and marked the 20th annual gathering. This year, over 1,000 scholars, faculty mentors, recruiters and guests attended the meeting, keeping the institute the largest gathering of minority doctoral graduates in the nation.



Registration



2013 Graduates



Mentors of the Year



Institute attendees

If you attended this year's meeting, you celebrated with us as we honored DSP founder Dr. Abraham with a special gift to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the institute. Abraham's wife, Linda, and son, Ansley, joined in the celebration as we honored Dr. Abraham. The portrait in the photo was commissioned as a gift to Dr. Abraham during the institute.

If you are interested in submitting institute proposals and requests, you can do so [here](#). Also available at this site are 2013 presenter handouts.



The portrait was commissioned from artist Henry Pernell Johnson. Johnson is a foundations studies professor at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, Georgia.

■ Save the Date!

The 2014 institute will be held at the **Omni Hotel** in **Atlanta** from October 30 through November 2. For more information about attending the institute, visit the Institute on Teaching and Mentoring website [here](#).



■ The Institute on Teaching and Mentoring in the News!



The institute is making headlines! Stacey Patton of the *Chronicle of Higher Education* attended the institute and wrote specifically about one session, “Solo Success: How to Thrive in Graduate School When You’re the Only ___ in Your Department.” During the session, presenter Kerry Ann Rockquemore, discussed the obstacles minority doctoral students face on the path to the Ph.D. You can view the article [here](#).

The institute also received coverage in the September/October 2013 issue of *INSIGHT Into Diversity*. Click on the image to the left to view the full article starting on page 30.

■ Graduate Career News

Correction: Dr. Soria Colomer (GA) was awarded the Outstanding Dissertation Award from the Bilingual Education Research SIG of the American Educational Research Association. This information is a correction from the last edition.

Dr. Vivia Hill-Silcott (GA) was recently awarded the Outstanding Doctoral Student Award from the Georgia College Personnel Association.

Diverse Issues in Higher Education recently featured **Dr. T. Elon Dancy (LA)**. He also wrote an article “Black Men on Campus: What the Media Do Not Show Us” for the magazine. To read both articles, see: <http://diverseeducation.com/article/60198/> and <http://diverseeducation.com/article/12233/>.

Dr. Adriane Randolph (GA) was chosen to be a Google Glass Explorer. She was also approved for tenure and promoted to associate professor of Business Information Systems at Kennesaw State University.

Dr. Latasha Smith (AR) was awarded the 2013 Faculty of the Year in Scholarship at Central Baptist College. From May 2014 through July 2015, Latasha will work with NASA to provide research and education development.

Dr. Cheryl Swanier (AL) recently received the White House 2013 Champion of Change for Tech Inclusion award.

Dr. Roslyn Satchel (LA) successfully defended her dissertation last August.

Dr. Lakiea Bailey (GA) is currently a postdoctoral fellow at Georgia Regents University and is an adjunct professor at Paine College. Lakiea was also recently appointed to the Research Advisory Committee for the Foundation of Sickle Cell Disease Research.

Dr. Tina Thomas (AL) was awarded the National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant, which began last August.

Dr. Eric Ashley Hairston (VA) published his first book *The Ebony Column: Classics, Civilization, and the African American Reclamation of the West* in June 2013. The first book to appear in a new series, *Classicism in American Culture*, *The Ebony Column* passionately demonstrates how the myths, cultures and ideals of antiquity helped African-Americans reconceptualize their role in a Euro-American world. Eric is currently teaching at Elon University in North Carolina.

■ Graduate Career News (continued)

Dr. Gina McCaskill (AL) published an article “Teaching Note- An Exploration of Team-Based Learning and Social Work Education: A Natural Fit” on Taylor & Francis Online, a publisher of academic research since 1798.

Dr. Christopher Whitt (MD), an assistant professor at Augustana College in the Political Science Department, has been recommended for tenure and promotion, which will be decided in May.

Dr. Jennifer Bailey (GA) successfully defended her dissertation last November and subsequently began working as assistant professor at Babson College.

Dr. Tolecia Clark (MS) is working full-time as a chemistry instructor with Atlanta Technical College. Tolecia teaches general and organic chemistry in ATC’s new bioscience program.

Dr. Jennifer Wyse (VA) won the Outstanding Graduate Instructor and the Outstanding Graduate Research Award from the Sociology Department at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Dr. Kimberly Johnson (AL) has been promoted to assistant dean of the School of Business at Auburn University at Montgomery.

Dr. Vetrica Byrd (AL) hosted the Committee on the Status of Women in Computing Research’s Broadening Participation of Women and Underrepresented Groups in Visualization meeting. The two-day workshop was held in February at Clemson University.

Dr. Fatimah Castro (NJ) received the Community Service Award from the Johnson & Johnson Helping Our Neighbors with Our Resources Committee. Fatimah also recently began an educational consulting company called Beyond the Tenure Track. [Click here](#) for more information.

Dr. Cadavious Jones (AL) recently traveled to South Africa with Drs. Ash Abebe, Overtoun Jenda and Peter Johnson. While in Capetown, Cadavious participated in the South African Mathematical Sciences Association and the Masamu Advanced Study Institute and Workshop Series in Mathematical Sciences.

Bretford Griffin (AL) recently toured Russia with a fellow classmate. The Auburn University Office of International Studies coordinated the trip with Michurinsk State Agrarian Institute in Michurinsk, Russia. For a week, Griffin toured numerous horticultural and livestock enterprises in Tambov, a province in West Russia.

■ In Memoriam

Last May, **Dr. Jesse James Scott (MD)** passed away awaiting a liver transplant. He is survived by his partner, Michael Anderson. Jesse was a lecturer of African-American and African Studies at The Ohio State University. We miss him, and his efforts in the field of education were tremendous.



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 at 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 Nicole Schimmel at nicole.schimmel@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 tools 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 of 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, breakthroughs and presentations 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. Contacting us is very important as we 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. In January, please refer new qualified candidates to apply for the DSP fellowship, awarded at the beginning of each fall semester. We expect to see all new scholars at this year's institute!

■ The 2014 Regional Advisory Committee Meeting

DSP's Regional Advisory Committee met January 23-24, 2014 in Atlanta. Each year, committee members from each state convene to discuss policy, funding and an array of issues that impact the program. This year, the committee welcomed institutional representatives from North Dakota, the University of Tulsa, Indiana University, Ball State University and Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.



Representatives and SREB staff who attended the meeting: (front row, left-right) Lakesha Lester, staff; Tammy Wright, staff; Paul Mohr, Alabama; Betty Dandridge-Johnson, Tennessee; Lisa Smith, Arkansas; (second row, left-right) Rana Johnson, Kentucky; Charlene Alexander, Ball State University; Don Cole, University of Mississippi; Karen Dace, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis; Yolanda Treviño, Indiana University; Evie Myers, North Dakota State University; (third row, left-right) Janet Haggerty, University of Tulsa; Felita Williams, Georgia; Nicole Schimmel, staff; Ansley Abraham, staff; Walt Jacobs, staff; Dan Crockett, West Virginia.

Not pictured: Bob Belle, staff; Pearl Pennington, Mississippi

■ Helpful Links!

DSP hosts job postings at SREB.org. It is updated daily with new positions!

<http://home.sreb.org/dsp/zone/jobs/joblistings.aspx>

The Scholar Directory is a tool you can use to reach out to fellow scholars. The directory comes in handy for our recruiters who are seeking potential employees.

<http://dspdirectory.sreb.org/default.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f&AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>

The Chronicle of Higher Education has introduced Vitae. You may find this tool helpful; it was specifically developed for academe and features a free dossier service, a job search site and professional networking tools. http://chroniclevitae.com/?utm_source=vitae1&utm_medium=email&utm_content=cq1mvpsignup&utm_campaign=vitaeCW1

The Black Ph.D. Network is a website aimed for higher education, which offers helpful tools and a job search site. http://www.blackphdnetwork.com/?page=about_us

Please don't forget to submit your accomplishments, publications and personal milestones to nicole.schimmel@sreb.org.

■ State Spotlight: Kentucky

Dr. Rana Johnson, the Kentucky Regional Advisory representative from the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, showcased Kentucky DSP scholars at the January 28 Committee on Equal Opportunities meeting, where discussions took place in the General Assembly to fund additional doctoral scholars in Kentucky. Faculty and SREB scholars from the following attended the meeting: Eastern Kentucky University, Kentucky State University, the University of Kentucky, the University of Louisville and Western Kentucky University.

During the meeting, the Council on Postsecondary Education and its Committee on Equal Opportunities recognized and celebrated the accomplishments of the Doctoral Scholars Program. Derrick Graham, state representative and chair of the General Assembly House Education Committee, attended the meeting.



Representative Graham is pictured with DSP scholars from Kentucky.

Faculty and scholars in attendance include:

Dr. Randall Swain- Eastern Kentucky University Faculty
Dr. Rana Johnson- Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education Administrator
Dr. Charlie Collins- Kentucky State University Faculty
Dr. Shambra Mulder- Kentucky State University Faculty
Dr. Cynthia Shelton- Kentucky State University Faculty
Dr. Quentin Tyler- University of Kentucky Administrator
Dr. Armon Perry- University of Louisville Faculty
Dr. Mittie Carey- Western Kentucky University Faculty
Dr. Gregory Ellis-Griffith- Western Kentucky University Faculty
Dr. Tina Peterson- Western Kentucky University Faculty

Mr. William Bean – University of Kentucky Doctoral Scholar
Ms. La Datta Grimes– University of Kentucky Doctoral Scholar
Mr. Michael Mejia – University of Kentucky Doctoral Scholar
Ms. Aiesha Skinner– University of Kentucky Doctoral Scholar
Mr. Corrie Walton-Macaulay– University of Kentucky Doctoral Scholar (All But Dissertation)
Ms. Jelisa Clark- University of Louisville Doctoral Scholar
Ms. Dominique Jones University of Louisville Doctoral Scholar
Ms. Jamila Kareem -University of Louisville Doctoral Scholar
Mr. Charlos Thompson-University of Louisville Doctoral Scholar (All But Dissertation)

SREB

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