



**SREB-STATE
DOCTORAL
SCHOLARS
PROGRAM**

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The SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program presents

The Doctoral Chat

May 2012

DIRECTOR'S CHAIR



Dr. Ansley Abraham
Director,
Doctoral Scholars Program

I hope everyone is well and enjoying the spring. The Doctoral Scholars Program (DSP) staff is working hard to improve existing services and create new opportunities, despite the less-than-robust economies in SREB states. First, the bad news: Maryland and New Jersey dropped participation in the DSP last year, and several states

cut participation. The good news: Most SREB states held firm in their support of the program.

A brief reminder about the "Giving Back Campaign," established last winter for program graduates and scholars to give back to the program that helped you succeed. **THANK YOU** to those scholars who stepped up.

"C'mon, people" to the rest of you who need to contribute. We need your support! The goal of the campaign was \$50,000, and we are currently at \$22,853. With all of our new graduates looking for ways to help, this is an easy way to help that benefits current as well as program graduates. If you are a program graduate, you are asked to make a commitment to contribute \$100 per year. Learn more about giving back by clicking on the "Contributions" link (<http://www.sreb.org/page/1492/contributions.html>) on our site.

The DSP is pleased to announce that it is establishing a group Facebook page. The idea here is for DSP staff,

scholars and graduates to chat, post questions and get answers from our community. Hope you will enjoy. Let us know what you think.

Be on the lookout this spring for the release of a new promotional video about the DSP that features program graduates describing their experiences with the program. The video will leave you smiling and with a lump in your throat. Let me offer a special thanks to program graduates Brenda Allen, Kamau Bobb, Natasha Satcher, Omar Sims, Tiffany Palanco-Katz, Tiffany Aholou and Jairus Matthews for rearranging their schedules to assist us in the making of this inspiring film. I hope your reaction is the same as mine and that you will find venues in which to use/show the video and promote our program. If your families have ever wondered about what the DSP is all about, have them watch this video.

We also are pleased to announce that the online Scholar Directory has undergone a major overhaul. The new directory is now up and running. It's better-looking, user friendly and has more functionality. It will help us track your progress and will allow you to view and update your own contact, academic and institutional information. The system also will also allow you to upload your CV, photo and professional links. Since the directory also is used extensively by institutions to recruit prospective scholars for academic positions, the new directory is searchable, using multiple criteria.

Ansley A. Abraham

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I wanted to take a moment to let you know that Doctoral Scholars Program graduate and SREB employee **Dr. Laura Haynes** is leaving her position as coordinator of Programs and Scholar Services.

I am sure you will agree that it has been a wonderful experience working with Dr. Haynes, who became a part of the SREB family in 1996 as a doctoral fellow at Louisiana State University, where she received her Ph.D. in English. Her relationship with SREB came full circle in 2008 when she was hired as a Doctoral Scholars Program staff member.

Dr. Haynes is now transitioning to a new position as the program director of Assessment and Retention in the Office of Graduate Studies at Clark Atlanta University in Georgia. Please help me congratulate her on her new endeavor.

CAREER NEWS

The Doctoral Scholars Program is pleased to announce, acknowledge and congratulate program graduates who recently reported earning tenure and promotions. These scholars are:

David Arrington, Troy University, Dothan Campus
Vanessa Brantley, Cheyney University
Edward Brown, Rochester Institute of Technology
Randolph Burnside, Southern Illinois University
Arsenio Caceres, University of Puerto Rico
Betty Chapman, North Carolina A&T State University
Kendric Coleman, Southern University
Jessica Decuir, North Carolina State University
Bertha Ealey, Mississippi Valley State University
Venessa Funches, Auburn University at Montgomery
Murrell Godfrey, University of Mississippi
Eric Hairston, Elon University
Dana Harmon, The University of West Alabama
Kimberly Johnson, Auburn University at Montgomery
Tori Kearns, East Georgia College-Statesboro
Eva Lawrence, Guilford College
Stephanie Lusk, North Carolina A&T State University
Victor Mbarika, Southern University, Baton Rouge
Preston Mckeever-Floyd, Coastal Carolina University
Nolan McMurray, University of North Carolina at Wilmington
Sonya Murphy-Erby, University of Arkansas
Terra Nwobilor, University of Memphis
Carl Pettis, Alabama State University
Shari Robinson, University of Florida
P Rodriguez, Indiana University, South Bend
Natasha Satcher, University of West Alabama
Ranjit Singh, University of Mary Washington
Dawn Stinchcomb, Purdue University
Rosa Maria Stoops, University of Montevallo
Randall Swain, Eastern Kentucky University
Artress White, Carson-Newman College
James Wright, Chattanooga State University

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 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!

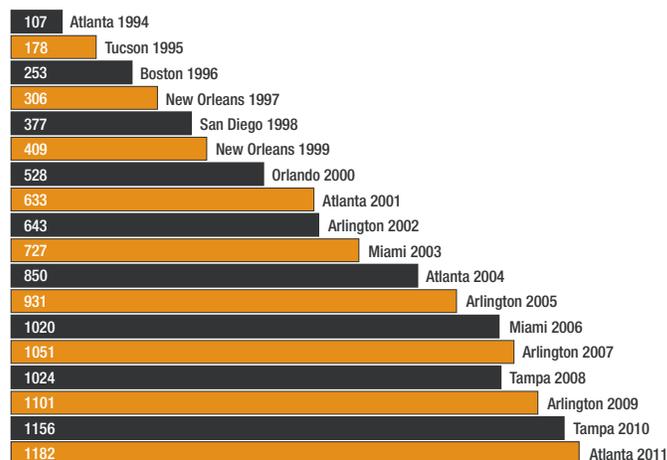
HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 18TH ANNUAL INSTITUTE IN ATLANTA

The 2011 Institute, with 1,182 attendees (and 1,253 registrants), was the most well-attended Institute in conference history.

Participants at the Institute were as follows: 291 SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program scholars, faculty and mentors; 221 AGEP/SBE doctoral scholars, directors and faculty; 20 Junior Faculty participants (Note: Six Junior Faculty participants were counted in other groups, including AGEP, Sloan and SREB.); 97 McNair scholars and directors; 147 Sloan scholars and directors; 58 Gates Millennium scholars and staff; 43 Bridges scholars and faculty mentors; 17 FASEB (Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology) scholars and board members; 17 New England scholars and faculty; plus 61 presenters, 149 recruiters, 46 guests and 15 staff.

The 2011 Institute offered more than 50 breakout and plenary sessions. Overall, 52 percent of attendees completed the post-Institute evaluations. Attendees rated

Institute on Teaching and Mentoring 18-Year Attendance Chart



the Institute a 4.6 on a 5-point Likert scale. Faculty mentors from AGEP, Bridges, Sloan and SREB gave the overall Institute a 4.7 rating.



SAVE THE DATE!!!

Join us this fall for the next Institute in Tampa, Florida, at the Marriott Waterside. Save the dates: **October 25-28, 2012**. If you have any questions, please e-mail Audra Jackson, Institute coordinator, at audra.jackson@sreb.org.

PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Drs. Dana K. Harmon and **Armon Perry** authored two articles. “Fathers’ Unaccounted Contributions: Paternal Involvement and Maternal Stress” was published in *Families in Society*, Vol. 92, in 2011. Their second article, “Perry Resident Black Fathers’ Involvement: A Comparative Analysis of Married and Unwed, Cohabiting Fathers,” appeared in *Journal of Family Issues*.

An article written by **Dr. Damien Larkin** and others was published earlier this year in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, the number four-ranked medical journal in impact. “Culturally Appropriate Storytelling to Improve Blood Pressure: A Randomized Trial” was a collaborative project in which he conducted a randomized trial with African-American hypertensive patients. You can find an abstract for the article here: <http://www.annals.org/content/154/2/77>. The article received national press, with an article in *The New York Times* as well as at Time.com.

CONGRATULATIONS



Dr. Tonyatta Hairston was named Young Optometrist of the Year by the Mississippi Optometric Association. Dr. Hairston, owner and CEO of EnVision Eye Care and Optical Boutique of Jackson, Mississippi, also was named the Helen St. Clair Young Doctor of Optometry of the Year by the association. It presents the award annually to recognize significant contributions to the profession of optometry and the general public.

Dr. Jennifer Ellis just signed an appointment letter for an assistant professor position in the School of Education at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. She will teach instructional/education technology courses as well as STEM education courses that relate to enhancing STEM curriculum through effective use of educational technology.

Dr. Albert Jiminez received the Public Understanding Incentive Award. It allowed him to present research on the project that won the award at the American Educational Research Association annual meeting. "I wanted to let you know that this research was well received and because of this I have been contacted by 15-20 researchers and practitioners around the country. I could not have been able to accomplish all of this without your help," he said.

Adele Norris has successfully defended her dissertation, which was accepted with minor revisions by her dissertation committee. Dr. Norris' work is a very important contribution to interdisciplinary public policy scholarship.

Dr. Katherine Perez-Rivera just completed teaching "Infant/Toddler Mental Health" to 13 migrant Head Start workers in her position as an adjunct professor at Cumberland County College in Vineland, New Jersey. The class was taught in both English and Spanish.

COLLEGE HONORS FIVE WITH ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois, celebrated the 175th anniversary of its founding with the presentation of Alumni Achievement Awards at Founders Day Convocation on February 17. Receiving the 2012 Young Alumni

Achievement Award was SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program grad **Dr. Norman Golar** (2002), assistant professor of English and chair of the English department at Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. In addition, he is the father of a new baby girl, Sara Patricia Golar.



Pictured here are Norman Golar (left) and other representatives of Knox College

OTHER SCHOLAR NEWS

SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program scholar **Gina McCaskill**, a doctoral student at the University of Alabama, was honored as the recipient of the Recognition of Contribution to Scholarship by a Ph.D. Student award at the 2012 School of Social Work Honors Day Program on Friday, April 6.

Please don't forget to submit your accomplishments, publications, personal milestones, etc., to audra.jackson@sreb.org.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Doctoral Scholars Program's Regional Advisory Committee met on January 26-27, 2012, at the Renaissance Concourse Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia. The committee is comprised of representatives from each of the participating states in the program. The committee provided updates on their state's policies and issues that impact the program. Dr. Ansley Abraham provided information on the status of the program, including financial data, the new electronic profile reports, the new online directory, AGEP and Sloan grant reports, the Junior Faculty Conference and the 2011 Institute.

Representatives attending the meeting and pictured here with SREB staff were: Marie Hamilton, assistant dean, Louisiana State University, The Graduate School; Betty Dandridge Johnson, assistant executive director for Academic Affairs, Tennessee Higher Education Commission; Paul Mohr, director of Special Programs, Alabama Commission on Higher Education; Laura Haynes, student services coordinator, DSP (former SREB staff member); Audra P. Jackson, Institute coordinator, DSP; Phil Axelrod, assistant coordinator of Financial Aid, Arkansas Department of Higher Education; Rana Johnson, chief diversity officer, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education; Tammy Wright, accounting assistant, DSP; William Arnold, director for Access, Diversity and Equity, Tennessee Board of Regents; Joan Lord, vice president, Education Policies, SREB; Daniel Crockett, director of Student and Educational Services, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission; Nicole Schimmel, administrative assistant, DSP; Bob Belle, AGEP director, DSP; Walter Jacobs, senior consultant, DSP; Ken Durgans, assistant chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis; Felita Williams, assistant vice chancellor for Academic Planning, Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia; Donald Cole, assistant provost and assistant chancellor of Multicultural Affairs, University of Mississippi; and Ansley Abraham, director, DSP.



DOCTORAL SCHOLAR ACCOLADES

The SREB-State Doctoral Scholar Program received recognition from the American Society for Public Administration, which selected the program for its Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Exemplary Practices award at its national meeting in March 2012 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Pictured are Dr. Ansley Abraham and Erik Bergurd, president, American Society for Public Administration.