



**SREB-STATE
DOCTORAL
SCHOLARS
PROGRAM**

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The SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program presents

The Doctoral Chat

February 2009

DIRECTOR'S CHAIR



Dr. Ansley Abraham
Director,
Doctoral Scholars Program

Hope your new year and spring semester are off to a good start! I am amazed at how fast and how far we have come: Doctoral Scholars Program graduates are approaching 450 in total, an historic presidential election, and on the opposite end of the spectrum, economic conditions that currently rival — and may soon match — the Great

Depression. I am very pleased about how the previous year transpired for the program and remain optimistic about the direction of 2009. The Doctoral Scholars Program staff met with the program's Regional Advisory Committee at the end of January. The word from SREB states is that state budgets are tight and cuts are being made, but all states — so far — are planning to support the 2009 entering class of doctoral scholars. We are committed to continuing to provide our scholars and states with the same level of exemplary service we always have provided, and we will strive to improve our service as we continue the journey of increasing the number of minority Ph.D.s who seek college and university teaching positions.

One final piece of business from 2008: SREB hosted the 15th annual Compact for Faculty Diversity Institute on Teaching and Mentoring in Tampa, Florida, October 23-26. With 1,024 participants, this is still the largest

gathering of minority Ph.D. scholars seeking faculty careers in academia in America. If you were unable to join us in Tampa, mark your calendars to attend the 2009 Institute in Arlington, Virginia, October 22-25. It is a great opportunity to meet old and new colleagues, network and participate in professional development. Make your plans now!

Another gentle reminder to all scholars rotating out of SREB direct support in July 2009: **Immediately** contact your department/graduate school to make sure your funding and/or tuition are secure for fall 2009 and beyond. In hard economic times, you want to be at the front of the line when it is being determined who will receive support for the next academic year. Failure to act may result in not having support for 2009-10. If you are a currently funded scholar, make sure we have your grade reports and enrollment verification.

As one of the most successful fellowship programs in the country, we are wrapping up applications for fall 2009. If you have a friend or know someone in one of your classes you believe has the talent and drive to become a successful SREB doctoral scholar, please encourage him or her to apply now. The application deadline for this fall is March 6.

Stay in touch.

IMPORTANT THINGS FOR CURRENT SCHOLARS TO REMEMBER

Scholar Responsibilities

- Update and keep your online Scholar Directory listing current.
- Notify the Doctoral Scholars Program *immediately* regarding any change in contact information, enrollment, employment or academic status.
- 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.
- Get your Ph.D. and join the professoriate!

REMEMBER, SCHOLARS:

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.

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 more than 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 15TH ANNUAL INSTITUTE IN TAMPA

The 2008 Institute on Teaching and Mentoring, with **1,024 attendees (and 1,131 registrations)**, was a great success and amazing as always. To welcome us to Tampa, the University of South Florida co-hosted our opening reception. A *BIG THANK YOU* to Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Ralph Wilcox, Kofi Lomotey, Joan Holmes and the University of South Florida. We will see you again in 2010. Registration for the Institute was as follows: 267 SREB-State Doctoral Scholars and faculty mentors; 265 AGEP/SBE Doctoral Scholars, directors and faculty mentors; 88 McNair Scholars and directors; 134 Sloan Scholars and directors; 17 Gates Millen-

Join us this fall for the next Institute at the Marriott Crystal Gateway in Arlington, Virginia, October 22–25. If you have any questions, please e-mail Audra Jackson, Institute Coordinator, at audra.jackson@sreb.org.



nium Scholars Program Scholars and staff; 40 Bridges scholars and faculty mentors; 14 New England Scholars; 46 presenters, 109 recruiters, 31 guests and 13 staff. Participants enjoyed more

than 40 breakout and plenary sessions. Forty-one percent of attendees completed the post-Institute evaluations and rated the overall Institute a 4.6 on a five-point scale. Faculty mentors from AGEP, Bridges, Sloan and SREB gave the overall Institute a 4.7. The highlight of the awards program was honoring SREB's own Dr. Walt Jacobs, who received his Ph.D. from Clark Atlanta University and was the oldest graduate at the conference. His focus, perseverance and tenacity through the PhD process should be a testament to us all. This year's Institute received national attention in the following publications: *Inside Higher Ed*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, and *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*.



Dr. Walter Jacobs at the 2008 Institute on Teaching and Mentoring

NEWSWORTHY

The Doctoral Scholars Program was highlighted in the online edition of *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* (August 21, 2008). The article mentioned the phenomenal job that the program is doing in helping underrepresented groups to attain their doctorates. In addition, the article mentioned the overall 90 percent retention rate. The program currently has 431 graduates.

Program Director Dr. Ansley Abraham's article "A Golden Opportunity" was published in the January 8, 2009, issue of *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*.

Congratulations to the University of Alabama for receiving the 2008 Council of Graduate Schools (CGS)/Peterson's Award for Promoting an Inclusive Graduate Community. This annual award recognizes innovative institutional programmatic efforts in the identification, recruitment, retention and graduation of minority graduate students. Our 63 doctoral scholar graduates from the University of Alabama should be congratulated and recognized as well!

SCHOLAR NEWS

SREB doctoral student **Tyler Olivier** gave a presentation at the Louisiana Professional Biologists association meeting in Lafayette, Louisiana, entitled “Juvenile swimming abilities in the smphiftomoud river shrimp *Macrobachium ohione*; implications for postlarval migration to the upper Mississippi-Ohio River system.” Olivier received an honorable mention in the student presentation awards.



Eva R. Kimonis will be starting an assistant professor position at the University of South Florida's Louis de la Parte's Florida Mental Health Institute, Department of Mental Health Law and Policy.

SREB doctoral scholar **Brian Carter** received a \$1,000 student travel award to help him present his paper "A Probabilistic Model for the Deployment of Sensors" at the IEEE Sensors Applications Symposium in New Orleans, February 17-19. He also received the Best Student Paper Award — 1st Place.

Dr. Jason C. Ong's study on insomnia was published in the recent Medscape Medical News at <http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/588351>. Dr. Ong is an SREB graduate and is currently employed at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois.

SREB graduate **Shawn D. Long**, graduate director, Communication Graduate Program, The University of North Carolina at Charlotte, was awarded tenure and promotion.



Congratulations to SREB graduate **Dr. T. Elon Dancy II** for his article entitled “Black Men on Campus: What the Media Do Not Show Us,” which was published in February's edition of *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*. Dr. Dancy is an assistant

professor of adult and higher education at the University of Oklahoma in Norman.

University of Memphis doctoral candidate **Darius Young** has been awarded a research fellowship by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. Young will conduct research at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture on his project “The Roving Dictator of the Lincoln Belt: The Life and Career of Robert R. Church Jr.”

La Tonya Thames Taylor was promoted to associate professor and elected assistant chair of the department of history at Westchester University in Westchester, Pennsylvania.



Former William & Mary graduate student **Jody Lynn Allen** was presented the Thatcher Prize at William & Mary's commencement ceremony on May 11. Created in honor of the 21st chancellor of the college, Margaret Thatcher, the award recognizes an outstanding student in graduate or professional study and takes into consideration scholarship, service and character. Source: <http://web.wm.edu/news/archive/index.php?id=8908>

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

A one-year fellowship is available for a doctoral candidate in business school who seeks a challenging environment while completing his or her dissertation and wants to gain teaching experience while receiving funds. Contact Dr. Norris White Gunby Jr, assistant professor – Business Administration, Elon University at (336) 278-5950.

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 and program statistics, expanding services to scholars, and a presentation from special guest speaker Bob Sowell from the Council of Graduate Schools.



Advisory Committee Meeting members attending: (Front row, left to right) **Philip Axelroth**, assistant coordinator of Financial Aid, Arkansas Department of Higher Education; **Paul B. Mohr**, senior director of Special Programs, Alabama Commission on Higher Education; **Marie M. Hamilton**, assistant dean, Louisiana State University, The Graduate School; and **Betty Dandridge Johnson**, assistant executive director for Academic Affairs, Tennessee Higher Education Commission. (Back row, left to right) **Pearl Pennington**, director of Student Affairs, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning; **Kerry Davidson**, deputy commissioner for Sponsored Programs, Louisiana Board of Regents; **Daniel Crockett**, director of Student and Educational Services, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission; **William Arnold**, director for Access, Diversity and Equity, Tennessee Board of Regents; **Linda Noble**, assistant vice chancellor for Faculty Affairs, The University System of Georgia; **Donald R. Cole**, assistant provost and assistant to the chancellor, Multicultural Affairs, University of Mississippi; and **Glenn Lang**, executive director, New Jersey Commission on Higher Education.

SREB Southern Regional Education Board



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