



**SREB-STATE
DOCTORAL
SCHOLARS
PROGRAM**

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The SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program presents

The Doctoral Chat

Summer 2008

DIRECTOR'S CHAIR



Dr. Ansley Abraham
Director, Doctoral
Scholars Program

One thing I've learned is that change is inevitable. Among the changes you should notice are the name and look of the newsletter. Our "new look" newsletter is called *The Doctoral Chat* and will take on a more contemporary appearance. We will continue to strive to inform, enlighten and inspire our readers. The Doctoral Scholars Program remains culturally and socially current and relevant, and we will continue to work hard to keep you up to date.

You are the backbone of this program, and we could not do all that we do without each and every one of you on board. We are getting back on task so that we can keep in touch consistently by continuing to publish this newsletter just for you.

It is a great time to be part of the Doctoral Scholars Program, and you will continue to benefit from the changes that we are making in our staff, program and our services to you. In terms of staffing, gone are Robbie Ouzts, Melissa Courtney and Vinicius Reeves. Their dedication and commitment over the last five years are greatly appreciated.

I am very pleased to announce the addition of five new staff members who recently joined the DSP team. First, we have added Dr. Laura Haynes as the new Coordinator of Program and Scholar Services. She is a dynamic addition to our team and is even a Doctoral Scholars Program graduate from LSU. As a program graduate, she is familiar with and sensitive to scholar needs and will help with any concerns you might have. She is also a former professor at Clark Atlanta University, so she's been on both sides. Working along with Laura, our second new staff member is our Accounting Assistant, Tammy Wright. Tammy is an extremely diligent, hard-working, customer service focused individual. Tammy has been with SREB for a couple of

years in another capacity and is a seasoned professional who knows her stuff! She is the person who will make sure your stipend is sent to you in a timely manner each month.

Please keep her informed of any and all changes so that you can get your funding.

Our third new staff member is Celia Worley, Administrative Assistant. As a recent graduate of Agnes Scott College, she is extremely excited to be working with us and brings a young and energetic spirit to the team. The fourth new staff member is Audra P. Jackson. She is the new Institute Coordinator. Audra brings years of experience in event planning and marketing. She is diligently planning this year's Compact for Faculty Diversity **Institute on Teaching and Mentoring, which will be held at the Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel in Tampa, Florida, October 23–26.** Just like in past years, Audra will be sending out invitations in August to attend the Institute.

Please welcome the fifth and final new staff member on the Doctoral Scholars team, Nicole Schimmel. Nicole works part time and is a second-year student from Georgia State University. She helps us with just about everything.

Well, with that said, let me continue by saying congratulations to all of you who are that much closer to receiving your doctoral degrees and to those of you who are just beginning: Be inspired, uplifted and remain focused, because this too shall pass! As you embark upon more challenges while going through the program, please keep the lines of communication open with me and the staff. It is imperative to inform all of us of any changes in your e-mail address, home address, cell phone number, etc. We want you to succeed, but it takes **you** to help us to help you. Remember, we are with you to the end of this journey.

I thank you all for continuing to make the Doctoral Scholars Program a success and continuing to make me proud. As I said before, I could not do any of this without you! I look forward to seeing many of you in Tampa in October!

Ansley A. Abraham

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.
- 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/taking less than nine hours/units. This includes audits/independent study or anything that is not a regular class. You **MUST** advise SREB if you are taking or teaching a course over the Web.
- You **MUST NOT** be employed under any circumstances outside the department, part time or full time. Any employment in the department must be reported and approved.
- You **MUST** report any additional funds received 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 held.

- Grades may 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...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 processing 222 new scholar applications for the 2008-2009 academic year. 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!

SCHOLAR NEWS & NOTES

DSP Celebrates Our 400th Graduate



Dr. Teresa Terrell, an Alabama-supported scholar, recently became the Doctoral Scholars Program's 400th Ph.D. graduate. Dr. Terrell earned her degree from Vanderbilt University in the Department of Sociology, where she focused on urban poverty and how leadership and social networks

impact inner-city civic participation. Currently, Dr. Terrell is teaching in the Sociology Department at the University of Alabama-Huntsville.

Become our next DSP star and send us updates of your accomplishments so we can include you in our newsletter. E-mail information to Audra P. Jackson at audra.jackson@sreb.org.

AGEP Receives Another Grant

In September 2007, we received notification from the National Science Foundation (NSF) that SREB was awarded a grant to continue supporting the SREB-AGEP Doctoral Scholars Program for the next five years. This grant will allow the Doctoral Scholars Program at SREB to continue supporting the attendance of AGEP Scholars from all of the NSF/AGEP programs at the Compact for Faculty Diversity Institute on Teaching and Mentoring. Robert (Bob) Belle is the Director of the SREB-AGEP Doctoral Scholars Program. With this announcement, he said, "We are excited about the opportunity to continue working with the AGEP programs around the country to help a select number of their scholars attend the largest gathering of minority students seeking a Ph.D. and planning a career in postsecondary education."

Since the inception of the program in 2003, more than 900 AGEP scholars, 75 faculty/directors and 20 AGEP graduates have attended the Institute. Belle added, "The attendance of AGEP scholars at the Institute has been a value-added component experience for the AGEP scholars and other scholars. We are looking forward to their participation in future Institutes."

Mississippi Scholars Meet with the Commissioner of Higher Education

On May 15, doctoral candidates participating in the SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program enjoyed a reception in Jackson, Mississippi. Current and past program participants had the opportunity to mingle with Mississippi's graduate school deans and Commissioner of Higher Education Dr. Thomas C. Meredith. The evening was designed to highlight the Doctoral Scholars Program and bring the program's Mississippi stakeholders together. The Doctoral Scholars Program seeks to increase the representation of minorities in college faculty ranks by providing scholarships and networking opportunities to doctoral candidates. Commissioner Meredith delivered the evening's keynote address, after which the current scholars asked questions of past program participants. The evening concluded with personal testimonials from program stakeholders.

Story adapted from IHL *System Review*, Volume 3, Issue 19, Friday, May 23, 2008, edited by Jennifer Rogers



Pictured (left to right) are: Dr. Natasha Satcher, Dr. Teresa Taylor, Kari Copeland, Elizabeth Udemgba, Davida Crossley, Marcus Golden, April Butler Tanner, Dr. Thomas Meredith (Commissioner), Dr. Barbara Patrick, Daphne R. Chamberlain, Dr. Latonya Clay and Derrick Cherry.



Derrick Cherry, a doctoral candidate at Mississippi State University, shares his personal experience with the Doctoral Scholars Program, while program graduate and Jackson State University faculty member Dr. Teresa Taylor listens.

SREB HOSTS THE MOST SUCCESSFUL INSTITUTE IN ITS 15-YEAR HISTORY



DSP Scholars



Institute Attendees



Georgia State University Professor Roy Johnson (center) came all the way from a project in South Africa to celebrate the graduation of SREB scholars Adriane Randolph (left) and Nannette Napier (right). Both earned Ph.D.s in Computer Information Systems.

The 2007 Institute — with **1,051 attendees (and 1,109 registrations)** — was the largest Institute ever. Registration included:

- 279 SREB-State Doctoral Scholars and Faculty
- 245 SREB-AGEP Doctoral Scholars, Directors and Faculty Mentors
- 108 McNair Scholars and Directors
- 96 Sloan Scholars and Directors
- 36 Gates Millennium Program Scholars and Staff
- 52 Bridges Scholars and Faculty Mentors
- 5 New England Scholars
- 44 NSF Postdoctoral Fellows
- 48 Presenters
- 98 Recruiters
- 99 Guests and 13 Staff

Last year's Institute offered more than 40 breakout and plenary sessions. Forty-four percent of attendees (558) completed the post-Institute evaluations. Attendees rated the overall Institute a 4.6 on a 5-point scale. Faculty mentors from AGEP, Bridges, NEBHE, NSF Postdoctoral Fellows, Sloan and SREB gave the overall Institute a 4.7. Scholars from all programs rated the overall Institute a 4.6.

See You in October

This year's Compact for Faculty Diversity Institute on Teaching and Mentoring will be held at the Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel in Tampa, Florida, October 23–26. It is gearing up to be the biggest and best of all the Institutes. You will have the opportunity to network, be informed with useful and helpful panels, and mingle with your peers. Please don't miss this one-of-a-kind event. When you receive your registration material, please visit the Web site at www.instituteonteachingandmentoring.org.

Just like last year, all of your Institute expenses will be paid for by SREB in appreciation of all of your hard work with our program.



Don't miss out! Look for new registration packets in July for the 2008 Institute, October 23–26 in Tampa, Florida! Log on to www.instituteonteachingandmentoring.org for updates.

Meet Your DSP Team



Pictured (left to right) are:

Dr. Ansley Abraham	(404) 879-5573	ansley.abraham@sreb.org
Tammy Wright	(404) 879-5516	tammy.wright@sreb.org
Nicole Schimmel	(404) 879-5593	nicole.schimmel@sreb.org
Dr. Laura Haynes	(404) 879-5569	laura.haynes@sreb.org
Celia Worley	(404) 879-5565	celia.worley@sreb.org
Audra P. Jackson	(404) 879-5525	audra.jackson@sreb.org
Dr. Bob Belle	(404) 879-5568	bob.belle@sreb.org
<i>Unavailable for picture at press time:</i>		
Dr. Walt Jacobs	(404) 879-5547	walt.jacobs@sreb.org

"I look forward to helping all of our scholars and am excited to be a part of the DSP staff."

Celia Worley, Administrative Assistant
Doctoral Scholars Program

"I can't wait to meet all of our scholars at this year's Institute. It helps put a face with a name after all the planning."

Audra P. Jackson, Institute Coordinator
Doctoral Scholars Program

"As a DSP graduate and new staff member, I am excited about helping our scholars fulfill their dreams of earning the doctorate."

Dr. Laura Haynes
Coordinator, Program and Scholar Services

"All of our scholars are doing an awesome job in updating their information. Keep it coming and don't forget to check your junk mail folder. Sometimes things end up there, too!"

Tammy Wright, Accounting Assistant
Doctoral Scholars Program

SREB Southern Regional Education Board



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