

# *Sisters of the Academy Institute*

## **NEWSLETTER**

### **SOTA Leadership Team 2006-08**

President

**Tamara Bertrand Jones, Ph.D.**

Past President

**Kimberly L. King-Jupiter, Ph.D.**

President Elect

**Denise Davis-Maye, Ph.D.**

Secretary & Marketing

**Felicia M. Moore, Ph.D.**

Website Manager

**Cheryl Seales, Ph.D.**

Membership

**Anna L. Green, Ph.D.**

Finance & Resource Development

**LeKita V. Scott, Ph.D.**

Research and Grants

**Dannielle Davis, Ph.D.**

Professional Development

**Melanie Hayden, M.Ed.**

Community Outreach

**Teronda McNeil-Hueitt, Ph.D.**

Research

**Fay Cobb-Payton, Ph.D.**

Boot Camp Lead Researchers

**Linda Tillman, Ph.D.**

**Kassie Freeman, Ph.D.**

Coordinator of Office Operation

**Devona L. Foster, M.Ed.**

Legislative Affairs

Position Open

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### **Scholarship Through Collaboration**

When Sisters of the Academy (SOTA) Institute was formed, we set definite goals that would drive and propel us toward longevity and respect in the academy. One of those goals was to develop and encourage a research focus for Black women in the academy. In every regard, our voices, presence, intellect and scholarship need to be addressed and supported within and by the academy. With that, SOTA's research agenda highlights Black women as graduate students, tenured and non-tenured professors, and professionals through scholarship and collaboration. In keeping with the mission of SOTA, "To produce collaborative scholarship among Black women in higher education", the purpose of this newsletter is to keep you informed, interested, and engaged.

### **Service to SOTA Comes in Many Ways**

SOTA has an impressive agenda this year under the leadership of the President, Dr. Tamara Bertrand Jones.

#### **Presidential Address**

As Sisters of the Academy, we are working hard to continue the legacy begun by those who came before us. In doing so, many challenges face us on our journey, including increasing the numbers of graduate and professional students, as well as faculty members and administrators of African descent, providing resources that will enhance the likelihood of academic and career success of current faculty members and administrators, and developing a network of emerging scholars of African descent. These are all aspects of the Academy that SOTA seeks to impact.

The Leadership Team works throughout the year to ensure a smooth execution of SOTA's projects, developing new ideas for membership and recruitment and operating the Institute on a daily basis. Needless to say, we can't do it all. There are many exciting things we want to do as an organization and we need your help.

For example, the upcoming Research Boot Camp, which will be held on the beautiful campus of Auburn University, is a prime opportunity to get involved in SOTA and to make your mark. This intensive week of professional development and learning will be August 5-12, 2007. To make our "signature event" the best ever, your academic expertise and talents are needed to help shape the career of a new scholar and to build your professional knowledge.

Specifically, there are a number of Boot Camp committees that you can choose to work on. We welcome your active participation in planning and implementing the Boot Camp and initiating other SOTA programs as active members on these committees.

Additionally, there will be opportunities to attend the Boot Camp as an intern. The SOTA Boot Camp Intern Program is for masters and first year doctoral students who have not taken preliminary or comprehensive exams. The Interns will serve as "teaching assistants" for our Senior scholars involved in the Boot Camp or will gain experiences in the logistics and administration of the Boot Camp. The deadline for submission of applications is March 26. You may contact me, or the SOTA office, or any member of the leadership team for an application.

Our next leadership team meeting will be held March 15-18 at Auburn. We will take time to discuss your ideas and will share them with the general body in future correspondence.

The leadership team has had many conversations about moving the organization in more active ways, getting you more involved in SOTA, and taking our roles seriously in accomplishing our mission and goals. We will inform you of professional activities and other information vital to your growth as a professional.

Finally, I urge you to take an active part in SOTA as an organization which is developed for you. As the Boot Camp approaches, we welcome your time and energies—intellectually and physically. SOTA will be what YOU make it.

Feel free to contact me at [tbertrand@fsu.edu](mailto:tbertrand@fsu.edu) with ideas, suggestions, or comments.

#### **Newsletter Editor Comments**

In this SERVICE and SUCCESS issue of the Newsletter, we encourage all of you to become actively involved in SOTA. We highlight our accomplishments and urge you to toot your own horn to let us know what you are doing. The spring Newsletter will focus on the SIGNATURE EVENT.

Sisters of the Academy Institute ~ 4036 Haley Center ~ Auburn, AL 36849-5221

334.844.3087 (Phone) ~ 334.844.3072 (Fax) ~ [sotains@auburn.edu](mailto:sotains@auburn.edu) (E-mail) ~ [www.sistersoftheacademy.org](http://www.sistersoftheacademy.org) (Website)

## **SOTA Outstanding Achievement Recognition**

We are an amazing organization with talent and expertise representing many academic fields and administrative positions. For this reason, SOTA wants to highlight on a regular basis outstanding achievement. The criteria for nomination includes being a grant recipient, publishing a journal article, book chapter, or book, doing a conference presentation, as well as making a major contribution to academia, the African American community, SOTA, or your profession. There will be 4 awards per year. Awardees will automatically be nominated for the SISTER OF THE YEAR Award, which will be presented at the Boot Camp in August 2007. The SISTER OF THE YEAR will be selected by the leadership team. You may nominate a SOTA member or yourself for SOTA Outstanding Achievement Recognition Award. Submit your nominations to Devona at [sotains@auburn.edu](mailto:sotains@auburn.edu).

For our first SOTA Outstanding Achievement Recognition, we highlight the accomplishments of Dr. Cheryl Seals.



*Dr. Cheryl Seals* is an assistant professor at Auburn University. Her areas of expertise are human computer interaction, user interface design/evaluation and educational technologies. Cheryl is being highlighted for her success in grant writing for the academic year 2006. Dr. Seals worked in collaboration with many groups. From her diligent work, she has won five grants with the largest being in excess of \$200k from the National Science Foundation. The NSF has identified a national problem of dwindling technology workforce and created several grants to address this issue. The "BPC STARS Alliance" grant was awarded to broaden participation in computing with activities for bridging, retention, recruitment and leadership.

## **SOTA Sister Success**

SOTA is very proud of the work that our members are doing professionally and academically. In the Newsletter we will highlight our accomplishments and successes. Don't be shy; we want to know what you have done and are doing! If you something to share—professional, academic and personal—please send your information to Felicia, [moorefe@tc.columbia.edu](mailto:moorefe@tc.columbia.edu), to be included in the SOTA Sister Success section.

- ◆ *Dr. Kimberly L. King-Jupiter* accepted an administrative position as Director of Outreach Planning and Faculty Engagement, Auburn University.
- ◆ *Dr. Felicia M. Moore*, Teachers College, was appointed to the Equity Committee of the Association of Science Teacher Education, 2007-2010.
- ◆ *Janell Catlin*, doctoral candidate, Teachers College, will present her research on middle school students' motivation in science at the National Association of Research in Science Teaching International Conference in New Orleans, April 15-18.
- ◆ *Dr. Felicia M. Moore*, will present her research on diversity, equity and social justice in science teacher education at the National Association of Research in Science Teaching International Conference in New Orleans, April 15-18.
- ◆ *Kaye Thompson-Rogers*, doctoral student, North Carolina Central University, defended and passed her dissertation proposal.



## **Updates and Upcoming Events**

### **April 9-13, 2007 / AERA Conference, Chicago, IL**

During the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, SOTA will have a Meet & Greet. Details of this will be on the website.

### **August 5-12, 2007 / SOTA Research Boot Camp, Auburn, AL**

Planning for our 2007 Research Boot Camp is underway. We are creating brochures, developing registration materials, securing speakers, planning professional development events, scheduling activities, and updating our website. There are many opportunities to get involved.

### **November 1-4, 2007 / Writing Symposium & Writing Circles**

Think about submitting a proposal for a workshop or research paper presentation or help with planning this mixture of a conference and symposium format to promote scholarship and interaction among SOTA members.

## Survey Results



The general membership responded to an on-line survey asking for input on how SOTA can better serve you. The highlights from the survey are below:

1. *Networking and Mentoring* were the most common needs that you had and the two primary reasons for joining SOTA.
2. The *Bi-annual Research Boot Camp and Writing Circles* were activities you wanted as a means to increase participation in SOTA on a more regular basis.
3. You want an *Annual Membership Meeting* to meet and get to know sisters. We took this suggestion seriously and are planning research and professional development training workshops to take place during the Fall 2007 just for our members.
4. You want more *Professional Development and Training Opportunities*. We will post tips, sources, and resources on the website, making them accessible only for membership through log-in and passwords. Some of these resources will be lists of journals for manuscript submission and a database of membership research interests. Our webmaster is working on how to make these resources member-only accessible.

Overall, we re-evaluated our strategic plan for 2006-2008 to incorporate your needs and assess the growth of SOTA. We have made effective changes that hopefully reflect your needs, especially in planning for the Boot Camp in August and providing additional professional development activities such as the Writing Circle, professional development PowerPoint presentations on grant writing, tenure & promotion, manuscript writing, and information on securing funding from your institution to attend the Boot Camp. Also, many of you expressed interest in joining SOTA committees. Below we have committees for the Boot Camp. Simply contact the leadership team committee member(s) so that you can begin making valuable contributions to SOTA.

*We Welcome your input and service to SOTA!*



## Opportunities for Active Membership Service

SOTA is in the preliminary stages of planning the 2007 Boot Camp. We are very excited about this “signature event”, but we also need you to help make the event successful. There are many opportunities open for you to participate. Below are some of the committees created to ensure smooth operation of the Boot Camp. We hope at least one appeals to you.

- ◆ *Accommodations/Logistics*- Coordinate hotel and facilities at Auburn; transportation to/from airport for guest speakers and attendees (Devona, [sotains@auburn.edu](mailto:sotains@auburn.edu))
- ◆ *Curriculum*- Use survey and feedback forms to gather data from past participants on their insights of the program components (Denise, [david4@auburn.edu](mailto:david4@auburn.edu) & Kimberly, [kingki1@auburn.edu](mailto:kingki1@auburn.edu))
- ◆ *Evaluation*- Develop and coordinate evaluation of each session, participant progress, and overall Boot Camp (Tamara, [tbertrand@fsu.edu](mailto:tbertrand@fsu.edu))
- ◆ *Food and Beverage*- Coordinate meals and snacks; set-up and clean-up; need number attending (Cheryl, [sealscd@auburn.edu](mailto:sealscd@auburn.edu))
- ◆ *Health*- Responsible for fitness and exercise activities for Boot Camp participants (Dannielle, [djdavis@uta.edu](mailto:djdavis@uta.edu))
- ◆ *Hospitality*- Responsible for greeting and caring for guests and purchasing gifts (Melanie, [mhayden@vt.edu](mailto:mhayden@vt.edu))
- ◆ *Marketing & Recruitment*- Send out invitations, call for participation; create/send brochures to target doctoral students and junior faculty; create advertising examples or prototypes for membership to advertise event; contact Provosts of universities to sponsor or nominate a student or faculty member to attend; writing information and updating website (Anna, [drgreen29@hotmail.com](mailto:drgreen29@hotmail.com); Felicia, [moorefe@tc.columbia.edu](mailto:moorefe@tc.columbia.edu); Cheryl, [sealscd@auburn.edu](mailto:sealscd@auburn.edu))
- ◆ *Registration*- Collect applications from doctoral students and junior faculty for attending Boot Camp; set up registration table for conference and registration packets (Melanie, [mhayden@vt.edu](mailto:mhayden@vt.edu))

Contact the leadership team member of the committee you would like to help.

SOTA MISSION STATEMENT & PURPOSE

To facilitate the success of Black women in the Academy

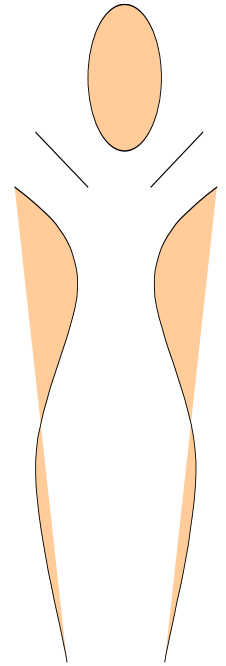
To create an educational network of Black women in higher education in order to foster success in the areas of teaching, scholarly inquiry and service to the community

To facilitate collaborative scholarship among Black women in higher education

To facilitate the development of relations to enhance members' professional development

*We WELCOME your input and service to SOTA!*

Contact Anna Green for Membership Information: [drgreen29@hotmail.com](mailto:drgreen29@hotmail.com)



The SOTA Newsletter is published three times: Winter (February/March), Spring (May/June), and Fall (September/October). Print copies and share with colleagues, professionals, students, and friends. If you have suggestions, stories, or information for the SOTA NEWSLETTER, contact Felicia M. Moore at [moorefe@tc.columbia.edu](mailto:moorefe@tc.columbia.edu).

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*Sisters of the Academy Institute*

4036 Haley Center

Auburn, AL 36849-5221

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