

APADS' Higher Ground

Newsletter of the Association of Pan-African Doctoral Scholars

June 2007

A Message from the President

Deirdre Yvette Sermons, Psy.D.

Well wishes to you,



WOW! The year has come to a close and I must say that we have had a very successful one at that. We started the year off with a bang in celebration of twenty-five (25) years of existence. We held our Annual Luncheon at USC's Town and Gown in November 2006. Our speaker, Dr. Michael Conner, was outstanding and our Master of Ceremonies, Steve Rambo, kept us motivated.

We followed this with a wonderful holiday celebration at our Winter Social. Our own Dr. Linda Smith-Gaston hosted this event at her home. The house was beautifully decorated and very festive for the holidays.

For African American Heritage Month some of the members went to Lucy Florence Cultural Center in Leimert Park to experience Ella Joyce in her one woman play honoring Rosa Parks. It was awesome and very educational. Ms. Joyce dynamically portrayed the truth behind the legend of Rosa Parks. What a way to celebrate our heritage!

We were very privileged to celebrate Women's History Month by hosting our first Women's History Tea in March 2007. Two of our very own members, Drs. Doris Woods and Josephine Yelder shared wonderful insights about themselves. Dr. Woods shared with the process of publishing her book based on her research and Dr. Yelder shared her career path. The celebration gave APADS an opportunity to gain a little more insight into the greatness that we have in our midst. Let us keep this going!

APADS' next activity was our Annual Colloquium. Dr. Linda Dianne Petteway has done an excellent job with our associates and her effective organizational skills were indeed highlighted during the colloquium. Five Associates' presented at the Colloquium: Zahra Ahmed, MSW and Doctoral Candidate, Larry R. Hygh, Jr., MA and Doctoral Candidate, Jacquelyn Troup, MA, Anjanette Wells, MA and Doctoral Candidate and Stephanie White, MA and Doctoral Candidate. They were grateful to receive the input from the

APADS Members and guests that were present.

Our culminating activity was a time to acknowledge our graduates. This year we had five associates to crossover to member status. We are proud to now call them: Dr. Giovanna Brasfield, Dr. Larry Hygh, Jr., Dr. Linda Dianne Petteway, Dr. Anthony Samaad, and Dr. Narcisa Skeete. On behalf of APADS, please know that we are ever so proud of you all. Two of our founders were present at the culminating ceremony and shared the following:

Dr. Nelle Becker-Slaton, Co-Founder, reminded the graduates of their original charge as Associates and that was to return to give back to the remaining Associates.

Dr. Sandra Cox, Co-Founder, encouraged the graduates to continue in their research because it is up to us to continue in the research efforts for us and by us.

I must take this time to commend the Board for being very active and keeping APADS on task. Our Membership Chairperson is updating up our mailing list. Our Newsletter Editor is keeping us informed. Our Planning Chairperson has kept us organized. Our Historian is maintaining a pictorial record of our activities. Our Treasurer is keeping up with our financial statements. Our Graduate sponsor is keeping the Associates focused. Our Webmaster keeps our website current. Dr. Nelle Becker-Slaton secured the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority House located at 2516 Ellendale Place, Los Angeles, CA 90008 as our new meeting location. These are just a few of the many remarkable accomplishments from our board. Our pledge is to continue to serve to the best of our ability. The board is scheduling a planning retreat during July 2007 to chart the course for next year. I know that our ancestors are proud of the work that we have done this year. Next year we shall continue with our theme: Sankofa: The wisdom to learn from the past to build the future. Our goal is to simply continue to learn.

Have a wonderful summer. We will see you in the fall!

Peace and rich blessings,

Dr. Dee

APADS Calendar & Announcements

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

September 15, 2007

AKA House

2516 Ellendale Place—Los Angeles, CA 90008

2:00 PM—4:00 PM

APADS NEW MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 882252

Los Angeles, CA 90009



APADS MEMBER MAKES HISTORY

Dr. Giovanna Brasfield is Awarded Two Doctorate Degrees from the University of La Verne and plans to make a difference in Compton

History was made this past weekend during the celebration of the University of La Verne's 115th Commencement Ceremonies when Giovanna Brasfield received two doctoral degrees simultaneously. Dr. Brasfield was awarded both the Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) and Doctor of Public Administration (D.P.A) degrees at the weekend celebrations. "This is truly an historic occasion for the University", declared ULV President Steve Morgan. "Never before has a student earned two doctoral degrees from the University of La Verne, let alone at the same time. Dr. Brasfield is a remarkable student and we are very proud of her achievement", Morgan said.

Brasfield was also recognized the prior week at the African American Graduation for her commitment to education and her ability to endure two challenging programs. "She has been a motivation for us all. She set her goals, developed a plan of action, and worked hard to achieve it. That is what we need as a role model for our people both young and old", states a member of the University of La Verne's Black Alumni Association.

These endeavors among many other efforts in which Brasfield have spearheaded have placed her as one of the women who are 30 and under to watch. "I have worked so hard to complete these two degrees not just for me, but for the past, the present and the future of my race", states Brasfield.

Come November, Brasfield plans to use these two accomplishments to further expand her goal of providing additional educational opportunities and exposure to the children within the City of Compton by running for a seat on the Compton School Board of Trustees. "It is evident by Giovanna's passion and vision that the knowledge she has acquired through these two doctoral degrees are only stepping stones for her in terms of what she will give back to the community. Her understanding of people and organizations will complement her ability to address issues of injustice in all areas of society" states Daniel Loera, Director, University of La Verne's Office of Multicultural Services.

2006/2008

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Nelle F. Becker-Slaton, PhD
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(2004-2006)

Associate Spotlight

Jacquelyn Troup has been a professor of sociology at Cerritos College sixteen (16) years. During her tenure there, she developed and offered classes in Serial Homicide, Crime and Punishment, Women and Crime, and War, Terrorism, and Comparative Genocide in addition to the standard courses in Introductory Sociology, Social Problems, Race and Ethnic Relations, and Cultural Diversity.

In 1998, Ms. Troup began doctoral work in Cultural Studies at Claremont Graduate University. By 2001, she realized that neither Cultural Studies nor Claremont Graduate University were the scholastic fit for her budding interest in serial homicide. She sent applications to various University of California campuses to start beginning her doctoral work again. She was accepted by UC Riverside, but back surgery and a three-year convalescence prevented her from commuting to Riverside. Then she read about Capella University and its doctoral program in criminal justice. She attended an information session in spring 2004 in Long Beach, and by the fall, Ms. Troup started the online doctoral program at Capella. This time, the match between the student and program was a good one.

Capella's rigorous, but unconventional program, provided skills that boosted Ms Troup's confidence as scholar. A professor recommended her to participate in the Oxford University Roundtable where she gave her first paper entitled "In Search of Hegemonic Masculinity in the Serial Sexual Predation of Non-Normative Males: Profiles of Wayne Williams, Charles Ng, and Eileen Wouronos" on March 29, 2006.

Ms. Troup anticipates taking her comprehensive exams later this year, and will take a year-long sabbatical in 2008-2009 to research and write her dissertation—"The Implementation and Evaluation of Troupee's Groupies - a Scholastic Book Club in California State Prisons."

Congratulations

Congratulations and best wishes to Dr. Larry Hygh Jr. Dr. Hygh defended his dissertation on June 8, 2007.

New Associate Member

We welcome Valarie Little of Pepperdine University to Associate Membership. Valarie recently attended our Annual Colloquium; she actively participated with the audience, by presenting well thought out, challenging questions. We look forward to getting to know Valarie and to assisting her with her research project.

CONGRATS APADS 2006-2007 GRADUATES

Dr. Giovanna Brasfield
Dr. Larry Hygh, Jr.
Dr. Linda Dianne Petteway
Dr. Anthony Samaad
Dr. Narcisa Skeete

Scholarships Awarded

In keeping with the mission of APADS, to foster, maintain, and promote Associates involved in active research, we are pleased to extend congratulations to the following Scholarship awardees:

Zahra Ahmed, MSW Nelle Becker-Slaton Scholarship
Anjanette Well, LCSW Marion Maddox Scholarship
Stephanie White, MA Marion Maddox Scholarship

Critical Friends

Critical Friends have been assigned to all Associates. If you have questions please contact Dr. Petteway, Graduate Sponsor for clarification.

Colloquium

The Annual Colloquium was a success! A heartfelt thank you is extended to the Executive Board and to the Membership for making this years Colloquium a success. This year we were fortunate to have the following presentations:

Zahra Ahmed, MSW and Doctoral Candidate

Increasing Access with Decreasing Success: A Comparative Analysis of Diversity Policies in Higher Education
University of California, Irvine

Larry R. Hygh, Jr., MA and Doctoral Candidate

A Qualitative Leadership Study of the Four Female African-American Bishops of the United Methodist Church
Pepperdine University

Jacquelyn Troup, MA

The Implementation and Evaluation of Troupee's Groupies: A Scholarly Book Club in California Correctional Facilities
Capella University

Anjanette Wells, MA and Doctoral Candidate

Low-income Minority Cancer Patients Who Drop-out of Depression Treatment: Patient and Provider Perspectives
University of Southern California

Stephanie White, MA and Doctoral Candidate

Cultural Competence: Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities in American Health Care Systems
Argosy University

OUR 2007-2008 APADS ASSOCIATES

Zahra Ahmed
Vera Bruce
Linda Cooper
Paula Du Bois
Melissa Edmundson
Marcia Hernandez
Jackie Troop

Chris Hickey, Sr.
Larry Hygh, Jr.
Patrick Jefferson
Jaymie Lothridge
Typhanye Penniman
Mona Johnson
Algena Weaver

Sharron Peterson
Angila Romious
Colette Street
Anjanette Wells
Stephanie White
Yvette Willock
Valerie Little

Do you want to become a member or renew your membership?
For more information about APADS or to obtain a membership
application go to www.apads.org or contact
Carolyn Monroe, Membership Chairperson, at crecking@cs.com

Remember **APADS** [501 (C) 3 Non-profit Org.]
for your **End-of-the-year Tax Contributions.**
Please make checks payable to: **"APADS"**
and send to: **P.O. Box 882252 – Los Angeles, CA 90009**

-Remember APADS New Meeting Location-

THE AKA HOUSE LOCATED AT
2516 ELLENDALE PLACE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90008

APADS' HIGHER GROUND

P.O. BOX 882252 – LOS ANGELES, CA 90009

*Congrats
to Our's Grads!*

