



# Sisters of the Academy Institute NEWSLETTER

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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 needs 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 interactive.

## Highlights and Reflections from Boot Camp 2005

### REMEMBER THE BOOT CAMP

SOTA hosted its first Research Boot Camp and Symposium at Auburn University one year ago, May 15-22, 2005. The Boot Camp, our "signature event", was specifically designed to bring together senior scholars, junior scholars, and doctoral students to develop research skills, to nurture relationships, and to provide support. The week long Boot Camp and Symposium (BC&S) was an overwhelming success!

This issue of the newsletter is dedicated to our first cohort of Boot Camp participants. It has been more than a year, and we want to share how the Boot Camp was beneficial for them and to see how they have progressed in their programs.

### TESTIMONIALS

The Boot Camp was successful at accomplishing so many things for the seven participants. They have accomplished some great things since their participation in the BC&S. They responded to the following question: "What significant successes have you accomplished during your doctoral program since your participation in the Research Boot Camp?"

"I was able to successfully complete a literature review and write my dissertation proposal."

"I am at the dissertation proposal stage currently, with a tentatively planned defense for June 2006. I attended my first AERA this past April 2006, and met several leading scholars in my area of research. From those conversations, I coordinated a proposal submitted May 2006 on my area of research involving a member of my dissertation committee and several leading scholars with whom he works for another national conference in November 2006."

"I got accepted into a doctoral program and now working to clean up my first three chapters of my dissertation."

"I passed my qualifying examinations and was promoted from doctoral student to doctoral candidate; my critical writing and reading skills have significantly improved; I presented my first graduate level conference paper; I was able to focus more keenly on my areas of research interest and specialization."

"I've successfully defended my comprehensive exams. While it has changed slightly, the boot camp gave me an excellent start on my dissertation prospectus. I was able to clearly define my research questions and was advised to use Black Feminism as a theoretical framework for my topic. This theory has worked very well for me."

"A Dean's Award sponsored by the Dean of the Graduate school as well as being chosen as one of 25 graduate students as a 2005 Future Scholar, also currently going over ideas with my doctoral committee on ways to turn my dissertation into a book."

"I successfully defended oral and written comprehensive exams. I am preparing to defend my proposal next month. I am awaiting IRB approval. I have received renewal of 2 fellowships (NIMH, Rosalynn Carter Caregiving Fellowship) and received a new fellowship from Hartford Foundation as a Pre-dissertation Fellow. I am in the process of applying for part two of this fellowship which is over \$40,000 for dissertation support."

### BOOT CAMP SUCCESS

From the reflections and testimonial from the BC&S participants, we conclude that our "signature event" was a success. We are very proud of our first cohort and await future updates on their progress. With their success, we look forward to working with our second cohort of participants in 2007! Until then, meet our first cohort on the next couple of pages.

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## Meet our First Boot Camp and Symposium Cohort 2005

SOTA would like to introduce you to our first cohort of participants from the 2005 Boot Camp. The Seven were inducted into SOTA at the luncheon and given a SOTA pin. These intelligent and motivated sisters have diverse interests. Their research interests cover areas from adult learning to social work. SOTA is very proud of their accomplishments as most of them are near completion of their dissertations and will graduate soon. Below are the mini bios of our first cohort—their tentative dissertation titles, anticipated date of graduation, program/department of study at their respective universities, and finally their words of encouragement to get them through the process.

### Angela Danyell Allen



"An Evaluation of the Community Impact of Community-University Engagement Scholarship". Higher, Adult, and Lifelong Education Program, Department of Educational Administration, College of Education. Michigan State University, Spring/Summer 2007.

*"When I dare to be powerful— to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid."* - Audre Lorde

### Marta A. Holliday

Department of English and Literary Studies. The University of Iowa, 2010. *"Go change the world!"*

### Chamara J. Kwakye

University of Urbana-Champaign, Educational Policy Studies, History of Education

### Karen Lynch

University of Georgia, School of Social Work

## Updates and Upcoming Events

### Journal of Thought

Articles for the special issue of the journal, co-edited by SOTA members, is advancing. Authors were notified this summer of their manuscript acceptance and feedback for revisions. When the special edition of the journal is published, SOTA will let you know.

### October 3-8, 2006 / Brothers of the Academy (BOTA) Think Tank and SOTA Symposium, Atlanta, GA

Preparation for the BOTA Think Tank is progressing. SOTA is planning professional development workshops that will focus on the Career Trajectory; applying for graduate school, preparing for doctoral education, developing as junior faculty, and securing tenure. For general information and registration forms for the Think Tank, visit the BOTA website at:

[www.brothersoftheacademy.org](http://www.brothersoftheacademy.org). View the Program at a Glance at [www.brothersoftheacademy.org/ThinkTank2006](http://www.brothersoftheacademy.org/ThinkTank2006)

### 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. Look for more information in the future as we continue working on our "signature event."

## A Testimonial from a Senior Scholar Participant

The first SOTA Boot Camp and Symposium was filled with excitement as we all benefited from the wisdom and knowledge of our senior sisters in the academy. At our fireside chat and our luncheon, Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings and Dr. Geneva Gay shared with us their personal stories of triumph, success, and hope as black women in the academy. We also learned from the personal stories of two of our very own SOTA Sisters. The words and stories they shared with us were inspiring, uplifting, and encouraging—all the elements that made our “signature event” worthwhile and valuable, even beyond academic development

Here are some reflections from Dr. Ladson-Billings on her participation in the Boot Camp and Symposium:

I went to the Research Symposium to do a Fireside Chat and participate on a panel on mentoring with Geneva Gay and two SOTA members—Kimberley King Jupiter and Denise Davis-Maye. What I experienced there was a small but deeply committed group of young sisters helping each other with their research programs, publications, career paths, and mentoring relationships.

She sent out a call to other Black women in the academy to support SOTA’s efforts:

... SOTA needs you. Most of us do plenty of mentoring and supporting young scholars at our own institutions. However, there are so many young Black women trying to do this work without any support. The request I am making of you is not only about helping young sisters in the academy. It is also about building institutions. As I survey where we are in the U.S. and world education scene I think I can accurately say that we are losing ground. The current focus on other groups because of their demographic ascendancy makes it harder for us to get our issues on the table. I am not suggesting that others don’t have needs but historically Black people (and Black women, in particular) have worked hard to create more just and equitable spaces for everyone and in the process we have forgotten about our own specific concerns. SOTA is an important opportunity for us to participate in an organization, like the clothing manufacture FUBU is “for us and by us.” Also, I encourage you to contact other Sister Friends to join SOTA.”

We sincerely thank Dr. Ladson-Billings, our Sister in the Academy, for her time, wisdom, energy and support of SOTA!

### Linda F. Samuel

"The Role of Religious/Spiritual Coping Among Informal Caregivers of Older Adults". Social Work. Clark Atlanta University & Gerontology, Institute of Gerontology. University of Georgia, May 2007.

*"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me".*

### JaNae M. Taylor

University of Georgia, Counseling Psychology

### Kaye Thompson-Rogers



"Factors that Contribute to Parental Satisfaction of Early College High School Programs." Jackson State University, 2007.

*"Knowledge is better than riches." — Cameroonian Proverb*

## ***Acknowledgements***

***Sisters of the Academy would like to thank our sponsors, Auburn University, the Media Center support staff, and everyone who participated in front and behind the scenes to make the 2005 Boot Camp and Symposium an event to remember.***

SOTA is currently planning the 2007 Boot Camp and Symposium. Further information will be in the Winter Newsletter.

*SOTA MISSION STATEMENT & PURPOSE*

To facilitate the success of Black women in the Academy

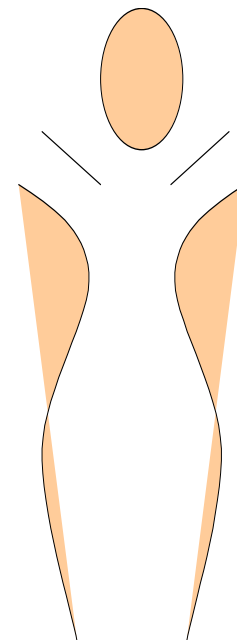
To create an educational network of Black women in higher education in order to foster success in the areas of teaching, scholarly inquiry and service to the community

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: [Anna.Green@famuedu](mailto:Anna.Green@famuedu)



The SOTA Newsletter is published three times: Winter (December/January), Spring (April/May), and Fall (August/September). 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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