

# *Sisters of the Academy Institute*

## **NEWSLETTER**

### *SOTA Leadership Team 2006-08*

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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.

### **Exciting Times for SOTA**

Sisters of the Academy Institute has many exciting endeavors and projects that will benefit the organization and membership in many ways. This edition of the Newsletter will highlight two projects. We encourage our members to become actively involved in these projects for their success and yours.

#### **SOTA Writing Retreat**

We invite you to participate in our upcoming Writing Retreat that will be held Thursday, April 10 to Sunday, April 13, 2008 at Western Connecticut State University in Danbury, CT. The purpose of this inaugural event is to assist participants with writing endeavors—including dissertations, manuscripts, reports, or book chapters. The Writing Retreat is in response to membership feedback to provide professional development opportunities.

Based on participants' research interests, you will be placed in writing circles that will consist of 3-4 other women. With the support of a facilitator, participants will have the responsibility of creating draft documents for publication as a group, or producing an individual project. During the weekend, participants will continue or complete their writing projects with the support and motivation of their writing circle members and all other symposium attendees. We are expecting our Writing Retreat to be a "process and product driven weekend with a networking twist."

We invite individuals who need motivation, support, or writing space for current projects; writing teams who want the space, time, and support to advance a current joint project; and administrators and faculty who are interested in collaborative research opportunities. This writing symposium will provide the space and resources to assist you in your scholarly endeavors.

On the SOTA website, you will find information about our host institution, Western Connecticut State University, and the application for this event.

For specific details or questions regarding the SOTA Writing Retreat, contact Dr. Anna L. Green, [anna.green08@yahoo.com](mailto:anna.green08@yahoo.com).

#### **Journal Special Volume**

The journal "Black Women, Gender & Families: A Black Women's Studies Journal" has accepted our proposal to do a special issue on empirical and conceptual articles that addresses issues pertinent to black girls and young women of African descent. "Emerging Issues of Black Girls and Young Women" is the proposed theme of the special volume.

We would like to thank authors/researchers who submitted abstracts, and we offer our congratulations to those who were encouraged to submit a full manuscript for further consideration in the journal.

We received exciting news that the editor, Dr. Jennifer Hamer, would like SOTA to do a series of 2 special volumes. We will keep everyone updated on the progress of this project.

For specific details or questions regarding the Journal Project, contact the Editorial Team: Dr. Denise Davis-Maye, [davisd4@auburn.edu](mailto:davisd4@auburn.edu); Dr. Felicia M. Moore, [moorefe@tc.columbia.edu](mailto:moorefe@tc.columbia.edu); or Dr. Dannielle Joy Davis, [djdavis@uta.edu](mailto:djdavis@uta.edu).

#### **Newsletter Editor Comments**

In this ACTIVITIES and SUCCESS issue of the Newsletter, we encourage all of you to become actively involved in SOTA. We highlight our accomplishments and advancements as an organization, and we urge you to toot your own horn to let us know what you are doing.

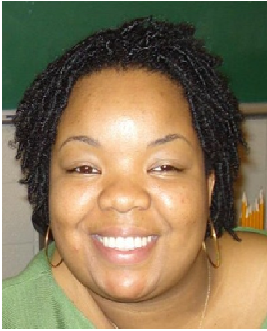
For story ideas, entries, or information about the Newsletter, contact the Newsletter Editor, Dr. Felicia M. Moore, [moorefe@tc.columbia.edu](mailto:moorefe@tc.columbia.edu).

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## **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. We highlight the accomplishments of LaShawnda Lindsay.



LaShawnda Lindsay is a doctoral student in the Educational Psychology and Special Education Department at Georgia State University. LaShawnda completed required coursework for a graduate certificate in Women Studies and recently passed her comprehensive examination. LaShawnda is currently working on her dissertation proposal entitled, “*Family Influences on the Academic Performance of African American Girls with Positive Racial and Gender identities.*” Her general research interests are the psychosocial development and academic outcomes of African American female adolescents and culturally responsive mentoring. In addition to teaching, LaShawnda’s long-term objective is to develop effective mentoring programs for African American female adolescents. In preparation for her future career in academia, LaShawnda has presented at numerous professional conferences, such as the Association of Black Psychologists, Georgia Association of Teacher Educators, National Council of Black Child Development, and the American Educational Research Association. LaShawnda also participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sisters of the Academy Research Boot Camp. Her motto is: *Write the vision and make it plain. Hab. 2:2*

## **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, [morefe@tc.columbia.edu](mailto:morefe@tc.columbia.edu), to be included in the SOTA Sister Success section.

### *Promotions*

*Dr. Denise Davis-Maye*, Auburn University, has been granted Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor. She acknowledges that the first Boot Camp contributed greatly to this accomplishment.

### *Publications*

*Dr. Felicia M. Moore*, Teachers College: Publications: Moore, F.M. (2007). Teachers’ coping strategies for teaching science in a “low performing” school district. *Journal of Science Teacher Education*, 18(5), 773-794; and Moore, F.M. (2007). Language in science education as a gatekeeper to learning, teaching, and professional development. *Journal of Science Teacher Education*, 18(2), 319-343.

### *Conferences*

*Dr. Janell N. Catlin*, Teachers College: National Association for Research in Science Teaching (Baltimore, MD, April 2008)



## **Reminders, Updates and Upcoming Events**

### **Reminder**

SOTA membership dues are PAST DUE. Please send check or money order to: 4036 Haley Center, Auburn, AL 36849-5221.

If you are interested in joining a SOTA committee, contact the leadership team member for more information. We appreciate your service to SOTA.

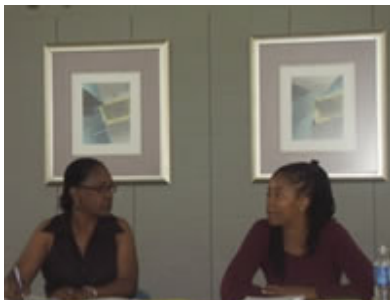
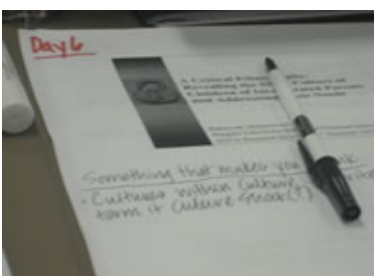
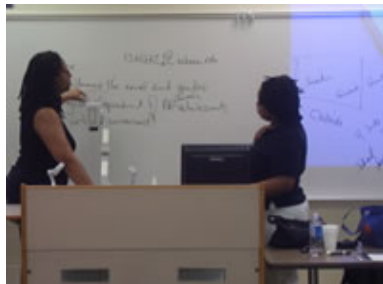
### **March 24-28, 2008 / AERA Conference, New York, NY**

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

### **April 10-13, 2008/ SOTA Writing Retreat, Danbury, CT**

Application information for this “*process and product driven weekend with a networking twist*” can be obtained on the website.

**Boot Camp 2007: A Collection of Pictorial Memories**



SOTA MISSION STATEMENT & PURPOSE

To facilitate the success of Black women in the Academy

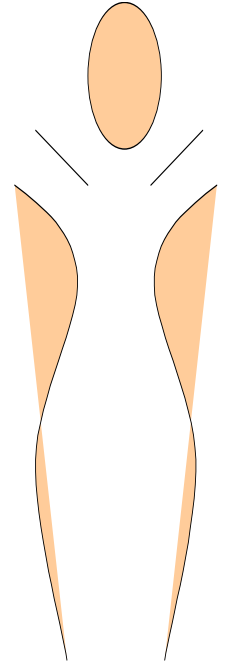
To create an educational network of Black women in higher education in order to foster success in the areas of teaching, scholarly inquiry and service to the community

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.green08@yahoo.com](mailto:anna.green08@yahoo.com)



Print copies of the SOTA Newsletter to share with colleagues, professionals, students, and friends. If you have suggestions, stories, or information for the SOTA NEWSLETTER, contact Dr. Felicia M. Moore at [moorefe@tc.columbia.edu](mailto:moorefe@tc.columbia.edu).

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