

Creating Possibilities Then & NOW! DREF: Celebrating 50 Years of Giving

The Delta Research and Educational Foundation (DREF) launched its 50th Anniversary year commemoration on March 4, 2017 at the Seventh Annual Stephanie Tubbs Jones (STJ) Social Justice Institute Forum presented during “Delta Days in the Nation’s Capital,”

sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (DST). A special video message announcing the Foundation’s Golden Anniversary was created by actress Daphne Maxwell Reid, an Honorary

Delta member, and shown at the STJ Forum. DREF President Carolyn E. Lewis stated: “This year’s forum takes us back to our beginning...our founding mission: to support African American women and girls as we address the topic: *Empowering Black Women and Girls*.”

The 2017 STJ Forum was moderated by Zinga A. Fraser, Ph.D., a former DREF Vivian A. Ware Research Fellow and assistant professor in Africana Studies at

Brooklyn College. The panelists addressing the forum topic: *Empowering Black Women and Girls* included Black women leaders who covered subjects from educational development, leadership, civic engagement to public policy issues. The panelists included Kristen Wells-Lewis,



Delta National President Paulette C. Walker congratulates STJ Forum panelists (L-R) Dr. Fraser, National President Walker, DREF President Lewis, Congresswoman Clarke, and UVA Student Aryn Frazier. PHOTO BY BRYANT SENGHOR

the founder of Unapologetic, Inc. and immediate past DST Southwest Regional Representative; Aryn Frazier, a 2017 Rhodes Scholar and 4th year student at the University of Virginia; Mary Howard-Hamilton, Ed.D., professor at Indiana State University and member of the DREF Sister Scholars Advisory Council; Nakisha Lewis, a co-founder of the #SHEWOKE Committee; and the Honorable Yvette Clarke (D-NY), representative of the 9th congressional district.

On the occasion of kicking off its 50th anniversary, DREF President Lewis expressed that the Foundation will fortify
(Continued on page 2)

DREF Anniversary Concert in Vegas: Kim Jordan Performs Tribute to Gil Scott-Heron

Catch the Spirit of DREF’s Golden Anniversary. Get your tickets to enjoy the soul-stirring, multi-media tribute to the music icon and spoken word genius Gil-Scott-Heron as performed by award-winning pianist, arranger and composer Kim Jordan and Compa-



Kim Jordan

ny. Ms. Jordan served as musical director of the Gil Scott-Heron Band for many years. The concert, presented in commemoration of DREF’s 50th Anniversary, will be held on Monday, August 7th at 8:00 p.m. at the Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas, NV. Actress Suzanne Douglas will be the mistress of ceremonies for the evening.



Suzanne Douglas

Subscription is \$50 per person and tickets can be purchased at the DREF ticket counter in the Exhibit Trade Show Hall at the 53rd National Convention of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. or via the DREF website www.deltafoundation.net.

Help DREF Win Major Funds in Macy’s Shop for a Cause Charity Challenge

DREF is participating in the 2017 *Macy’s Shop for a Cause Charity Challenge*, where participating organizations can compete to win up to \$300,000. Macy’s has teamed up with CrowdRise to give U.S. based 501 (c)(3) organizations the opportunity to compete to win \$300,000 in cash prizes. The *Macy’s Charity Chal-*

lenge began July 11 and will run through August 9, 2017 at 1:59 p.m. Eastern Time. Make your a donation to DREF as a part of the Macy’s Challenge. The charity that raises the most via online donations through CrowdRise, wins the grand prize of \$100,000 or other prize money based on the amount raised.

In appreciation for your donation, you will receive an exclusive savings pass to shop at Macy’s during the annual *Shop for a Cause* event on August 10-13. To support DREF in winning Macy’s Charity Challenge funds, make your online donation by visiting www.deltafoundation.net.

Greetings from the DREF President

Dear DREF Supporters:

I extend warm greetings of enthusiasm and gratitude to you on the occasion of our Foundation's 50th anniversary. It is a very exciting time for DREF as we recognize our Golden Anniversary throughout 2017. We are enthusiastic about moving forward as we build on our past 50 years, excited about *Creating More Possibilities and Improving Lives* of African American women and their families.

Fifty years ago, when DREF was established in 1967, there was a tremendous need for Black women to help each other, to empower each other, and to uplift their families and the communities where they lived. Racial tension was high and the Civil Rights Movement was at its peak seeking justice and equality for all. Schools continued to be mostly segregated in many American cities even though the Brown vs. Board of Education decision was rendered by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1954 ending segregation in public schools. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (DST) was there...in the community to assist individuals and families with improving their circumstances. The visionary and iconic leadership of Dr. Geraldine P. Woods,



Carolyn E. Lewis
PHOTO BY SHARON C. FARMER

13th National President of DST, led the Grand Chapter in voting affirmatively at the 31st National Convention to establish a non-profit, 501 (c)(3) organization to be named, the Delta Research and Educational Foundation. Having a non-profit organization like DREF created a vehicle for the Sorority to expand its resources—receiving charitable donations that would benefit Educational Development and other charitable programming.

We have a proud and enduring heritage at DREF, giving us the base to continue building meaningful opportunities, whether in research or education to benefit our constituents. We have you, our faithful supporters and key stakeholders, who have helped us reach this important milestone. Thank you for being an integral part of the DREF journey, and we welcome your continued involvement.

I extend profound gratitude to the past and present leadership and membership of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for their steadfast support of DREF throughout its 50-year history. We salute DST National President Paulette C. Walker for her unwavering support of DREF. We also offer our deep appreciation to individuals who have served as members of the DREF Board of Directors and on the DREF staff, then and now. A special note of thanks is offered to Mr. Larry P. Suarez, president of Fourteen Karat Plus, Inc. for serving on the DREF Board since 2005, providing exceptional service as our treasurer for multiple years, and being a major donor. His tenure as treasurer ended on June 30, 2017, and he

was re-elected to the board. We congratulate Renee L. Harper as the newly elected DREF treasurer and extend a hearty welcome to the newly elected DREF board members, effective July 1, 2017: Rev. Dr. Michele V. Hagens, real estate developer of Washington, DC; and Nikisha Horn, M.B.A., a chemist (research and development) of Illinois. ▲ 2017

Get ready, we are going to “turn up” to magnify our charitable and educational programming, enabling us to help more African American women and their families as we enter our next fifty years.

Cheers to DREF,
Carolyn E. Lewis
President



Empowering Black Women and Girls at 2017 STJ Forum: Pictured L-R : DREF President Lewis with Dr. Zinga Fraser, Nakisha Lewis, Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, Aryn Frazier, Kristen Wells-Lewis, Dr. Mary Howard-Hamilton, and DREF CEO Patricia W. Lattimore PHOTO BY BRYANT SENGHOR

Celebrating 50 Years

(Continued from page 1)

its commitment to African American women and their families by collaborating with other organizations that share similar goals and objectives. She looks forward to collaborating with the Congressional Caucus on Black Women and Girls, which was established in 2016 by three African American women in the U.S. Congress to advance issues and legislation important

to the welfare of women and girls of African descent. The Congressional Caucus on Black Women and Girls was inspired by the #SHEWOKE Committee which is composed of seven Black women activists who are advocates for empowering Black women. Congresswoman Clarke along with Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ) and Congresswoman Robin Kelly (D-IL) are the three congresswomen who established the Caucus on Black Women and Girls.

The **FRONT PAGE** is published periodically by the Delta Research and Educational Foundation (DREF) to report news and information about its programs, activities, and fundraising efforts. The newsletter is distributed nationally to donors, partners, and supporters of the Foundation. DREF is located at 1703 New Hampshire Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20009; 202-347-1337; www.deltafoundation.net

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PROGRAM NOTES

Golden Anniversary Scholarship Awards

In observance of its Golden Anniversary, the Delta Research and Educational Foundation will award a \$1,000 scholarship to 50 students. Nearly 200 applications were received, making the selection process extremely competitive. DREF President Carolyn E. Lewis stated that this is indeed a golden opportunity to support the educational endeavors of African American students. She also extends congratulations to the Golden Anniversary Award recipients. The listing of students receiving the \$1,000 scholarship award can be found on the DREF website (www.deltafoundation.net); the actual award will be made to the student's institution of enrollment for the 2017-18 academic year. The application process was open to female and male students as well as undergraduate and graduate students.

2017 STJ Summer Intern: Taylor Dent

Taylor Dent, a 2017 graduate of the University of Illinois-Springfield, was selected as the 2017 Stephanie Tubbs

Jones Summer Intern. She was assigned to intern in the office of the newly elected Congresswoman Val Demings (D-FL), who is also a member of Delta. The nine week internship is presented by DREF in collaboration with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation.



Taylor Dent

Ms. Dent majored in sociology/anthropology and elementary education, and she has career aspirations to work in education in urban areas. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and was an active member of the Upsilon Rho Chapter, having been a charter member and serving as first vice president. Her collegiate activities also included being the founder and president of Girls Talk and an event coordinator at the Black Student Union. Prior to beginning the STJ Summer Internship, Ms. Dent interned as a committee clerk in the Illinois House of Representatives in Springfield, IL

The STJ internship is named in honor of the late Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs

Jones (D-OH) and is made possible by a generous donation from the Hillary and Bill Clinton Family Foundation and the Hagans Foundation.



Deborah Peaks Coleman, DREF program director, (L) received the Hortense Golden Canady Torchbearer Award for Commitment and Service to the Community. The award was presented by Baltimore Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter at its March 2017 Founders Day and 30th Chapter Anniversary celebration. Pictured here, then Chapter President Joe Ann Oatis presents the award. Hortense Golden Canady was the 18th National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and she was a president of the DREF Board of Directors.

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Catch the Spirit of Giving... Feel the Power of \$50

Endless possibilities for major charitable and educational initiatives could be the result of support from individual Delta members and Delta chapters. You can be the powerful force that propels the Delta Research and Educational Foundation (DREF) into the future. Imagine 50,000 Deltas supporting DREF with a \$50 donation in recognition of the Foundation's 50th anniversary. *Catch the spirit of giving...feel the power of 50!* Achieving this goal could result in raising \$2.5 million—advancing our Foundation to a higher level of philanthropy and enabling DREF to significantly increase its charitable giving to African American women and their families. Donations to DREF support programming, scholarships, Community

Empowerment Grant-making, and operations. Make your donation at the DREF booth in the Exhibit Trade Show Hall at the 53rd National Convention, August 3-9, 2017 in Las Vegas, or contribute at www.deltafoundation.net, or you can mail your check to DREF, 1703 New Hampshire Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20009. *Thank you for catching the spirit... there is power in giving!*

Golden Anniversary Purse Charms Available

Remember DREF's 50th year by acquiring a DREF Golden Anniversary purse charm, designed by the award-winning handbag designer Yanique O. Moore, who is a



member of the DREF Board of Directors. For a donation of \$50 or more, you can receive a 50th anniversary purse charm, while supply lasts. All donations to DREF are tax deductible gifts.

Golden Anniversary Charms are available at the DREF Booth at the DST 53rd National Convention, or if inventory remains after convention, you can log onto the DREF website (www.deltafoundation.net) to acquire the beautiful, commemorative purse charm as your giving incentive item.

Special combo Donation Gifts @ reduced rates offered at DREF Booth at the 53rd National Convention

DTEC Leaders Receive Award

The Delta Teacher Efficacy Campaign (DTEC) presented at the Second Annual ROCK Conference in Orlando, FL. The ROCK conference is an annual convening of like-minded educators sharing, learning, and growing together hosted by Black Educators Rock, Inc. The DTEC session entitled: "Education: It's A Heart Matter!"[®] was presented by Dr. Martha S. Lue Stewart, DTEC National Advisory Council member; Latosha Guy, DTEC facilitator; and Dr. Johni Cruse Craig, DTEC Project Director. Attendees reflected on pivotal moments in their careers that led them to know that they



The DTEC presenters were surprised to receive the organization's Quartz Award: "This Stone is Most Helpful and Versatile...thank you for sharing your gift with your fellow educators and our organization." Pictured L-R: Ms. Guy, Dr. Stewart, and Dr. Craig

were a good teacher/leader. This reflective session further discussed teacher efficacy through the lens of culturally relevant teaching, implicit and explicit biases that lead to stereotypes, stereotype threats and interventions for the classroom, and the importance of shifting perspectives and mindsets as it relates to internal versus external factors.

Dr. Melissa Noland-Chester is the co-founder and CEO of Black Educators Rock, Inc. and the conference host was Roxy Hall; both educators are members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

DTEC Expands Outreach

DTEC is expanding its outreach through the Teacher Efficacy Academy (TEA), Education: It's A Heart Matter[®] E-Course, school partnerships and national, regional and local conference presentations. After three Cohorts in the summer of 2017, DTEC has now trained nearly 250 educators in 40 states. According to the E-Course participants, they experienced shifted mindsets and perspectives. Joe Ann Oatis, immediate past chapter president of Baltimore Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter participated and stated, "After taking this class, it has given me the ammunition that I need to become an advocate for teachers. Watching teachers being abused by parents and students, I am determined to communicate with the state superintendent, politi-

cians and the local school board to remind them of the issues and challenges that teachers have. We need a safer, healthier, better place for all." Darcell Dance, from Portland, OR stated, "This course helped me, as a school counselor, understand that bias and stereotypes (*that the teachers may not even be aware of*) are affecting the individual efficacy of teachers and ultimately student-teacher relationships". DTEC will partner with schools in the Houston, TX area for the 2017-2018 school year. Through this partnership, DTEC will provide an abbreviated TEA model with the school. This partnership will enhance the DTEC story as it will provide data at the student level. DTEC will present at the following conferences:

- Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference (CBCF) – 9/20/17 in Washington, DC
- 2017 Black Mental Health Symposium – 9/22/17 in Charlotte, NC
- National Pan-Hellenic Leadership Conference – 10/19-22/17 in Dallas, TX
- Learning Forward Conference – 12/2-6/17 in Orlando, FL.

Please share these opportunities for professional learning and development with educators.

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