

VOLUME TWELVE

Northwestern University Doctoral Candidate Selected as Vivian A. Ware Research Fellow

The Delta Research and Educational Foundation and its Center for Research on African American Women (The Center) selected Zinga A. Fraser, a doctoral candidate in African American Studies at Northwestern University, as the 2009-10 Vivian A. Ware Research Fellow. Fraser's outstanding academic record, scholarly achievements, and her dissertation research coupled with her professional experience secured her selection as the Ware Research Fellow. Her selection represents the second



Zinga A. Fraser

time the Fellowship has been awarded.

"I am honored to receive the Ware Fellowship because it honors Vivian Ware's legacy of academic excellence and scholarship. It also highlights the groundbreaking work and dedication of The Center, to not only cultivate and empower future African American women scholars but also supports research that has a transformative impact on women of color and their families," stated Fraser. As the Ware Fellow, she will

(Continued on page 2)

Delta Foundation Co-Sponsors Ida Event in Memphis March 12-13

The Delta Research and Educational Foundation (The Delta Foundation), the Shelby County (TN) Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and the Women's Foundation For A Greater Memphis are co-sponsoring a weekend celebration, commemorating the life of Ida B. Wells on March 12-13 in Memphis, TN. The weekend gathering entitled, "Remembering the Legacy of Ida B. Wells: A Call for Service and

Social Action" is an outcome of the Foundation's National Reading Circle (NRC), and is being held in Memphis, a city where Ida lived for many years.

The Ida Weekend in Memphis will include a heritage tour on Saturday, March 13 taking participants to historic sites that the noted anti-lynching crusader frequented. On Saturday afternoon, Paula J. Giddings will give an author's talk at the Germantown Performing Arts

(Continued on page 2)



New York Metro Deltas with Honorary Member Sheryl Lee Ralph (seated) at Founders Day celebration.

New York Metro Chapters Support Clean Water Project for Haiti

At the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Founders Day celebration of New York Metropolitan Area Chapters hosted by Nassau County Alumnae Chapter, charitable giving was the order of the day. Pamela Washington, chapter president of Nassau Alumnae reports that an appeal to Founders Day guests was made on behalf of the Clean Water Project for Haitian Relief. She stated that with an attendance of 582 Deltas, the appeal was answered with contributions totaling \$6,265.

At the 21st Annual Delta Days in the Nation's Capital conference, New York area Delta leaders presented the Clean Water donation to the Delta Research and Educational Foundation representatives. The Grand Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. has asked Delta chapters to support the Clean Water

Project with contributions to The Delta Foundation.

At the Founders Day celebration, Rosia Blackwell-Lawrence, New York (downstate) state coordinator, offered a message of hope when asking Deltas to give generously to rebuild Haiti. The keynote event address was given by actress Sheryl Lee Ralph, honorary member of the Sorority.

Madeliene H. Dobbins, director and chief administrative officer of The Delta Foundation, encourages Delta chapters and individuals to support Haitian Relief by contributing to the Clean Water Project. She adds that all contributions to The Delta Foundation for this effort are tax-deductible with 100 percent of the contribution benefiting those in need; contributions are tax-deductible for the 2009 tax year.

Greetings from the President

Dear Supporters of The Delta Foundation:

We are off to a tremendous start in this New Year! Thanks to you, our loyal supporters, we have made significant inroads with increasing our donor base and enhancing our research and educational projects. During Delta Sigma Theta's regional conferences last year, we set a new record: more conference participants visited our informational booth resulting in the largest total of contributions ever received during a regional conference cycle.

We also launched a new initiative, the National Reading Circle which was enthusiastically embraced by women of all ages from collegiate Deltas to seasoned Sorority members. Our inaugural book selection is *IDA: A Sword Among Lions* by Paula J. Giddings.



Dr. Alison J. Harmon

We are pleased to collaborate with the Sorority's National Arts and Letters Commission to educate readers about the incomparable life of Ida B. Wells, one of the world's original Black women political activists who was committed to uplifting our race and improving the lives of others through her crusade for justice. We extend heartfelt appreciation to Paula for creating a masterpiece biography on such a deserving

woman, and for traveling to five regional conferences to share insight on this renaissance woman. Thank you for taking the journey with us; keep reading and determine how you will move your reading circle towards making a difference through service.

The recently established Sister Scholars Advisory Council to the Foundation's

Center for Research on African American Women is assisting us as we focus on and research the impact and issues of African American women and their families throughout the world. The Council serves as the Editorial Review Committee for the Foundation's scholarly journal which has been renamed *Phillis* in honor of Phillis Wheatley the first African American woman to publish in America. Look for our premiere issue of *Phillis* this coming summer as it will be devoted to the topic: "Black Women and Trauma."

On March 12-13, all roads lead to Memphis, Tennessee, a city that Ida once called home. *Meet me in Memphis*, where we will commemorate the life and legacy of Ida B. Wells. Looking forward to sharing this memorable occasion with you.

Sincerely yours,
Alison J. Harmon, Ed.D.
President

Vivian A. Ware Research Fellow

(Continued from page 1)

conduct original research on Black Women elected officials and guide The Center in establishing an archive on Black Women in Politics.

A native of New York City, Fraser earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Temple University and successfully completed graduate studies at Columbia University where she received a Master of Arts degree in African American Studies. As a Ph.D. candidate in African American Studies at Northwestern University (Evan-

ston, IL), her area of specialization is race, politics, and culture. Her dissertation is a comparative study of Congresswomen Barbara Jordan and Shirley Chisholm. Fraser's expected graduation date is 2011.

While attending Temple University, she became a member of the Delta Sorority through Epsilon Delta Chapter. The year-long Ware Research Fellowship was made possible by an endowment fund established by Lt. Colonel (Ret) Ivan Ware in memory of his late wife, Vivian A. Ware, an educator, community activist, and member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's Montgomery County (MD) Alumnae Chapter.

Delta Foundation Co-Sponsors Ida Event

(Continued from page 1)

Centre. Subscriptions required for the weekend celebration with proceeds benefiting the sponsoring organizations. For more information, please call or email Deborah Peaks Coleman, Program Officer, 202-347-1337 (Ext. 228); dpcoleman@deltafoundation.net; to reserve tickets, visit www.deltafoundation.net.

The National Reading Circle was launched during the summer of 2009 at the DST Southern Regional Conference, featuring as its premiere book selection, *IDA: A Sword Among Lions* by award-winning author, Paula J. Giddings.

REMEMBERING THE LEGACY
OF

IDA B. WELLS

A Call for Service and Social Action

And the Women Gathered...

**A WEEKEND CELEBRATION IN
MEMPHIS, TN * MARCH 12-13, 2010**

presented by the

Delta Research and Educational Foundation
Shelby County (TN) Alumnae Chapter of
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Women's Foundation For a Greater Memphis

Call 202-347-1337 for more information.

The **FRONT PAGE** is published by the Delta Research and Educational Foundation several times a year to report news and information about its programs, activities, and fund raising efforts. The publication is distributed nationally to donors, partners, and supporters of the Foundation; circulation typically totals 2,500 per issue. The office is located at 1703 New Hampshire Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20009; 202-347-1337.

www.deltafoundation.net

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**Delta Research and
Educational Foundation:
Creating Possibilities...
Improving Lives**

**The Delta Foundation
CFC Number is 11213**

Foundation Awards First Oleta L. Crain Scholarships

The Delta Foundation awarded the first Oleta Lawanda Crain Scholarships to two college bound freshman at the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's Central Regional Conference held last summer in Omaha, Nebraska. As stipulated by the scholarship



Oleta L. Crain Scholarship recipients: In front Jillian Lynum (left) and Breanna McElroy.

award, the recipients were female residents of the Central Region who were entering their freshman year in college. A scholarship award of \$3,000 was awarded to Breanna McElroy from Colorado who is now attending Lincoln University in Missouri, and to Jillian Lynum of Missouri who is enrolled at Bennett College in North Carolina.

The next application period for the Crain Scholarship is fiscal year 2010-11, with the award being made at the 2011 Central Regional Conference.

It's A Wrap: Cultures of Giving Fund Raising Initiative

The Cultures of Giving Fund Raising Initiative which focused on raising funds for Delta's programs and projects to create social change in communities worldwide officially ended in December 2009. The Foundation received a Cultures of Giving (COG) grant award from Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to train women of color to effectively raise funds for their programs and projects. Over the past two years, nearly 2,000 members and non-Delta members received the training. As per the grant award, the Foundation extended training to other non-profit women's organizations. COG training was provided to the Links, Inc. and the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) during the second phase.

Appreciation to all trainees who participated in the final evaluation survey conducted by the consulting firm and congratulations to the winners of the incentives offered for completing the evaluation. The winners are Charlotte H. Wooten, member of Triangle Park Chapter of The Links, Inc; Carole Wilson, chapter president Annapolis Alumnae Chapter of Delta, and Jessica Robinson, Crab Feast Co-Chair of Baltimore County Alumnae Chapter of Delta.

Farwest Region Establishes Scholarship Fund

Under the direction of Farwest Regional Director LaVerne Gray Davis, Ed.D., the Farwest Region of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority has established the "Miss Farwest HBCU Scholar," a scholarship fund for graduating high school seniors who will attend a Historically Black College or University. Dr. Davis, a former member of The Delta Foundation's board of directors, has charged the region with raising \$30,000 by its 2011 Regional Conference.

The Farwest Region scholarship is being managed by The Delta Foundation, with all contributions being tax-deductible. Delta alumnae chapters in the region are asked to contribute \$500 and the collegiate chapters are asked to donate \$200. The Farwest Regional scholarship is being coordinated by two Delta members of Solano Valley (CA) Alumnae Chapter: Rosalyn Earl and Sarah Chapman. For more information visit the region's website (www.thedstfarwestregion.org)

Foundation presents Panel Discussion on Ida B. Wells at Delta Days in the Nation's Capital

At the 21st Annual Delta Days in the Nation's Capital, the Delta Research and Educational Foundation and its Center for Research on African Women (The Center) presented a panel discussion entitled: "Daughters of Ida: A Panel on Ida B. Wells' Legacy of Political Activism." The program held on Sunday, February 7th supports programming related to The Center's National Reading Circle which features the book selection, *IDA: A Sword Among Lions* by Paula J. Giddings.

The invited panelists included several members of The Center's Sister Scholars

Advisory Council (SSAC): Dr. Elizabeth Clark-Lewis of Howard University, Paula J. Giddings of Smith College, and Dr. Cynthia Neverdon-Morton of Coppin State University. Other invited panelists were Zinga A. Fraser, the 2009-10 Vivian A. Ware Fellow and doctoral candidate at Northwestern University, Dr. Trichita Chestnut of the National Archives and Records Administration, and Dr. Ida Jones of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center at Howard University.

Foundation Director Presents at Women Moving Millions Event

Madeliene H. Dobbins, director and chief administrative officer of The Delta Foundation, was a panelist at the Women Moving Millions event held in Washington, D.C. on November 17, 2009. She made a presentation on domestic research, sharing information about research initiatives of the Foundation's Center for Research on African American Women. "Women Moving Millions" is an initiative of the Women's Funding Network (WFN) that mobilizes million dollar contributions from women to end the feminization of poverty. Approximately 73 million women from around the world have each contributed \$1 million dollars to organizations that are members of (WFN) as part of the Women Moving Millions campaign.

SAVE THE DATE
APRIL 29, 2010

Celebrate
Duke Ellington's Birthday
with The Delta Foundation
at the historic Lincoln Theater
in Washington, DC
featuring the hit musical
"Sophisticated Ladies"
starring Maurice Hines

Proceeds to benefit The Delta Foundation and its work with The Center for Research on African American Women
 202-347-1337

Director's Memorandum

TO: Supporters of The Delta Foundation

FROM: Madeliene H. Dobbins, Esq.
*Director and Chief
Administrative Officer*

I would like to begin this memorandum with four important words: **Thank You Very Much!** On behalf of the Delta Research and Educational Foundation (The Delta Foundation), I extend sincere appreciation for your support. This fiscal year (2009-10), we have issued the call, asking you to support the Annual Fund. You are answering, and we are grateful. Please continue to send your contributions using the special mailer that we sent to you or go online (www.deltafoundation.net) to make your



Madeliene H. Dobbins, Esq.

contribution. Remember, it is never too late to *create possibilities and improve lives.*

Your generous donations have enabled us to award more program grants this year. During this economically challenging climate, program grants are very significant in helping empower women, their families, and communities to weather the economic decline. Last year, one of our program grants was awarded to Franklin-Tri County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for an employment training program. The chapter sponsored a training program to teach the skills needed to become a home health aide—a job opportunity that exists in its community. Again, your contributions made this grant and others possible, and allows us to continue our daily operations.

Currently, we are supporting the Sorority's appeal for aid to Haiti by receiving your donations for the Clean Water Project. Additionally, we are accepting your donations to the Mary Church Terrell Home Landmark Restoration Project.

As we "grow The Delta Foundation," more womanpower is needed, leading us to engage more volunteers. If you live in the Washington, DC-Maryland-Virginia area and are interested in volunteering at the Foundation, please contact our office at 202-347-1337.

Best wishes.



Delta Research and Educational Foundation

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