

VOLUME TWENTY

DREF Celebrates Golden Anniversary in 2017

The Delta Research and Educational Foundation (DREF) will commemorate its golden anniversary with a yearlong celebration of activities in 2017, employing the theme: “*Creating Possibilities Then & NOW! DREF: Celebrating 50 Years of Giving.*”

Founded in 1967, DREF was established by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. as a 501 (c) (3) organization to conduct charitable and educational programming to empower African American women and their families.

Dr. Geraldine P. Woods, the Sorority’s 13th National President, led DST in taking action at the 29th National Convention held in Cincinnati to create DREF.

Carolyn E. Lewis, current president of the DREF Board of Directors, lauded the visionary leadership of Dr. Woods, the 1967 DST Executive and the Grand

Chapter for establishing DREF as an entity to increase charitable giving to benefit the Sorority’s public service impact. She also expressed profound gratitude for the women who have served as DREF President throughout its 50-year

history as well the board members, staff, donors and volunteers who have been instrumental in maintaining the mission of DREF.

During its golden anniversary year, DREF President Lewis stated that 2017 will be a major year of giving with the intent of awarding 50 special

scholarships to students and increasing the number of Community Empowerment Grants. DREF will also present a festive evening of entertainment at the 53rd National Convention of DST on Monday, August 7, 2017. Visit the DREF website to get more details on DREF’s 50th Anniversary celebration year.



Giving Tuesday: A Great Day for DREF

DREF supporters created a successful day of philanthropy for the Foundation on Giving Tuesday, November 29, 2016. On this special day, designated on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving to support your favorite charity, nearly \$20,000 was contributed to DREF. Much appreciation is extended to DREF donors for making *Giving Tuesday* a great day for DREF.

More than 100 DREF donors supporting *Giving Tuesday* received the donation incentive items. Donations between the amounts of \$30 to \$90 or more received copies of the Foundation’s scholarly publication—*PHILLIS: The Journal for Research on African American Women* and/or the commemorative poster of the Delta Teacher Efficacy Campaign. If you did not receive your incentive item, kindly contact DREF office.

Giving Tuesday was started in 2012 by the 92nd Street Y and the United Nations as a response to commercialization and consumerism in the post-Thanksgiving season (Black Friday and Cyber Monday); it is a movement to create an international day of giving at the beginning of the Christmas holiday season to increase resources for charitable causes.

Theater Parties in New York and Baltimore Benefit DREF

Bringing great theater and DREF supporters together in December 2017 resulted in two fundraisers for the Foundation which raised approximately \$6,300 collectively. DREF Board members Pat Hurlock and Suzanne Brown Peters coordinated a theater party for the August Wilson play “Jitney” on December 29th at the Manhattan Theatre Club/ Samuel J. Friedman Theatre in New York City. Approximately 100 DREF supporters attended the “Jitney” performance,



DREF Board Member Pat Hurlock (right) welcomes Brianna Dutton (second from right), chapter president of Kappa Lambda (Syracuse University) and other Delta members to theater party. PHOTO BY JAENIQUE HURLOCK

directed by Ruben Santiago-Hudson. The second theater party was coordinated by DREF Program Director Deborah Peaks Coleman at Baltimore’s Center Stage on December 15th for “Les Liaisons Dangereuses” (Dangerous Liaisons) starring Suzanne Douglas, a major DREF supporter and Honorary Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. “Les Liaisons” was directed by Spelman graduate Hana S. Sharif.

President's Message

Dear DREF Supporter:

On this, the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Delta Research and Educational Foundation, I say thank you for being instrumental in helping us reach this milestone year. This year, DREF will celebrate its golden anniversary, and we are indeed excited about it! Excited because it gives us a prime opportunity to move our Foundation to the next level—increasing our level of charitable giving to empower African American women and their families.



Carolyn E. Lewis

PHOTO BY SHARON C. FARMER

During this golden anniversary year, we aim to award more scholarships than ever before. Each year we manage more than 200 charitable funds for Delta chapters which include numerous scholarship awards. Yet, for this milestone year, we will increase the number of scholarships awarded directly from DREF. Inclusive of our named scholarships, such as the Eula Dean Roby Scholarship, the Oleta Crain Scholarship, the Mentoring Keys Scholarship, the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Internship, our

scholarship awards will be given to a total of 50 students.

Currently, DREF is pursuing a strong research agenda to examine topics pertinent to African American women. Congratulations to the Sister Scholars Advisory Council on coordinating this effort lead by Dr. Tchicaya Robertson, DREF Board member and member of the Joliet Area South Suburban Alumnae Chapter. Last fall, the first research project, resulting in an infographics presentation, was released on “Black Women and Activism;” read about the findings in Program Notes on page 3 of this newsletter. The Sister Scholars are currently preparing the second research survey which will consider gun violence and its impact on African American women and girls.

I invite you to visit our DREF website (www.deltafoundation.net) often this year as we share updates and special features regarding our 50th anniversary. In March in observation of Women's History month, we will launch the presentation of histor-

ical vignettes on DREF. We have interesting and memorable narratives to share on the how the mission of DREF has been upheld and the individuals who have made it happen. Be sure to visit our Facebook page on “Throwback Thursday,” when we will share a heritage note and photo.

Embrace the enthusiasm and join us in “*Creating Possibilities Then & NOW!*” DREF: Celebrating 50 Years of Giving.”

Sincerely yours,

Carolyn E. Lewis
President
DREF Board of Directors

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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Delta Research and Educational
Foundation @DREF_1967

#DREF

Welcome to the New DREF Diplomats

DREF is pleased to announce that 22 persons have volunteered to serve as a DREF Diplomat.

Welcome to the following DREF supporters who have signed on to be a DREF Diplomat!

- 1) Angela M. Artis
- 2) Patricia A. Baines-Lake
- 3) Sonja Baker
- 4) Teresa A. Bingman
- 5) Carla Brown
- 6) Bridget Carter
- 7) Faye Reese Clark
- 8) Gwendolyn Crump
- 9) Gloria Hardimon-Tobin
- 10) Alison J. Harmon
- 11) June P. Jenkins
- 12) Karen King
- 13) Kelly A. Knight
- 14) Rosia Blackwell Lawrence
- 15) Wanda Lipscomb
- 16) Marcella Maxwell
- 17) Denise Maybank

- 18) Marilyn Moore
- 19) Joe Ann Oatis
- 20) Lori Adams Simon
- 21) Pearl G. Thomas
- 22) Loretta Tillery

The goal is to recruit at least 50 DREF Diplomats during this golden anniversary year. The DREF Diplomat is an individual committed to the mission and ideas of the Foundation, and who is willing to represent DREF, through fund development with a tax deductible commitment of no less than \$1,000 annually. Patricia W. Lattimore, CEO of DREF, explains that the DREF Diplomate may contribute the annual donation from personal funds or raise the funds via direct solicitation of others. Training, giving incentives and recognition will be offered periodically to DREF Diplomats. Persons interested in becoming a DREF Diplomat should contact plattimore@deltafoundation.net or any DREF Board member.

**Scholarship/Internship/
Community Empowerment
Grant Deadline is March 21,
2017**

The application process for educational, scholarship, internship, and Community Empowerment Grant opportunities opened the week of November 14, 2016 and closes on March 21, 2017 (deadline date). Please visit the DREF website (www.deltafoundation.net) to learn more details and guidelines about the following opportunities:

- 2017 Stephanie Tubbs Jones Summer Internship (for collegiates)
- Eula Dean Roby Scholarship (for education majors)
- Oleta L. Crain Scholarship (for high school girls from Oklahoma, Colorado, and Missouri)
- Mentoring Keys Scholarship (for business majors attending an HBCU and has home residence in KeyBank state)
- 2017-18 Community Empowerment Grants

For more information or questions, please email dpcoleman@deltafoundation.net

**Application Deadline for
Scholarships And Grants
is March 21, 2017**

**DREF Sister Scholars
Conduct Research on Black
Women and Activism**

The first research project, resulting in an infographic report, was conducted last year by the Sister Scholars Advisory Council of the DREF Center for Research on African American Women. The report was a survey on “Black Women and Activism.” The infographic report was released shortly before the 2016 General Election and highlighted the following findings:

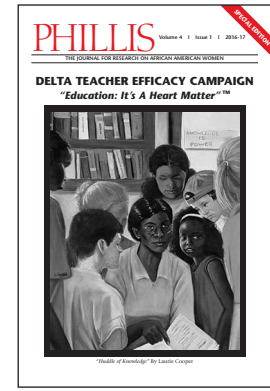
- the potential for impactful messaging for civic engagement utilizing hashtag campaigns,
- the high percentage of apathetic low income voters who believe their vote really does not matter.
- the low percentage of African American women who donate to political campaigns.

The demographics validated the theory that a hashtag strategy can be an effective tool in social activism when it comes to mobilizing/motivating Black women and millennials.

**2016-17 Special DTEC
Edition of PHILLIS Journal
Still Available**

The 2016-17 edition of *PHILLIS: The Journal for Research on African Ameri-*

can Women, published by DREF, focuses on the Delta Teacher Efficacy Campaign and features scholarly essays on teacher efficacy as it relates to student achievement, culturally responsive teaching, urban education, and pedagogy, and justice. The special edition also reports the activities and outcomes of the DTEC project and



other topics. Sister Scholar Advisory Council Member Mary Howard-Hamilton, Ed.D., and Kandace G. Hinton, Ph.D. both faculty members of Indiana State University and members of Bloomington (IN) Alumnae Chapter served

as co-editors of the DTEC special edition. Copies of the DTEC edition can be acquired when making a minimum donation of \$50 to DREF. A commemorative poster displaying the cover of the special DTEC edition of *PHILLIS* is also available for a donation of \$30.

**New Fundraising Incentives
Debut at DDNC**

In recognition of DREF’s 50th anniversary, several new incentives have been designed to share with DREF supporters. Stop by the DREF display at Delta Days in the Nation’s Capital on March 4-5 and make your donation; you will have a choice of the following incentives: 50th anniversary commemorative luggage tag, purse charm, or tote bag on wheels. The purse charm and tote bag have been designed by the award-winning handbag designer Yanique Moore, who is also a member of the DREF Board of Directors and member of Prince George’s County Alumnae Chapter of DST.

Copies of the current and past issues of the *PHILLIS Journal* will also be avail-

able as incentives. Donations can be made via cash, check, or credit card; donations of \$100 or more will receive an acknowledgement letter. All donations to DREF are a tax deductible gift.

**Memorial Donations
honoring Jerilynn Reid**

Jerilynn Reid, the immediate past president of Baltimore County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. passed on February 7, 2017. At her request, she asked that contributions be made in her honor to the Delta Research and Educational Foundation. As chapter president of BCAC from 2012-2016, Jeri (as she was fondly called) worked closely with DREF; the chapter maintains two charitable funds at the Foundation. Jeri was initiated into DST at the Kappa Phi

Chapter (University of Maryland at College Park) in 1976.

Donations honoring Ms. Reid can be mailed to DREF or made online at www.deltafoundation.net.



Maryland and DC Deltas supported the DREF theater party for “Les Liaisons Dangereuses” at Baltimore’s Center Stage; Jerilynn Reid (front left) is pictured with Delta members including Suzanne Douglas (center) who performed a leading role in the play.

DREF Grantee Baltimore Alumnae Hosts Conference for Girls

The Baltimore Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. received a 2016-17 Community Empowerment Grant to support its annual M.A.D. (Making A Difference) Conference, a signature event within its award-winning Delta Academy and Delta GEMS youth programs. The Conference aims to motivate young ladies between the ages of 11-17 to make better choices earlier in life that not only shape their future, but make a difference in the world.



Conference participants and a few Delta members are pictured at the 2016 M.A.D. Conference sponsored by Baltimore Alumnae.
PHOTO BY ROBILYN HEATH

The M.A.D. Conference held last fiscal year engaged the theme: "Full S.T.E.A.M

Ahead," and focused on careers in science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics. Nearly 125 girls

participated in the conference, including girls enrolled in other local Delta chapter's youth programs. The one-day conference has presented workshop topics on the following subjects: self-esteem, money habits, social media, bullying, healthy eating, and S.T.E.A.M. activities. The young ladies participating heard a keynote address by The Honorable Collette D. Honorable, Commissioner, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Monica Watkins is chapter president of Baltimore Alumnae.

DTEC Offers CEU for Educators

Starting this spring, the Delta Teacher Efficacy Campaign (DTEC) is offering a Continuing Education Unit (CEU) E-course for educators: teachers, counselors, administrators and other key stakeholders in education. DTEC supports teachers seeking educational opportunities to enhance their effectiveness in understanding and serving underserved and underprepared students. The framework of DTEC is supported by the Delta Research Educational Foundation (DREF) and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (DST), and consists of a three-pronged approach: (1) training for teachers, (2) conducting advocacy sessions for communities, and (3) publishing scholarly research on teacher efficacy and student achievement.

This blended E-course will only focus on the training prong and is being offered via the DTEC Teacher Efficacy Academy. The E-course consists of a pre and post assessment, modules on teacher efficacy, culturally relevant teaching and learning, and stereotype threats and biases. Participants have two options: 1) to complete the four-week course online inclusive of all phases, or 2) to complete the four-week course online and complete the final phase at the 53rd National Convention of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in Las Vegas, NV in August 2017. All participants that choose to complete the final phase at the DST National Convention must be registered for the convention. These offerings are in collaboration with the University of Nevada at Las Vegas

(UNLV); the University will provide a certificate for persons completing all requirements and earning one CEU.

The E-course cohort dates are listed below. Registration information is forthcoming on the DREF website and on social media.

Cohort I – April 3 – 28, 2017
Cohort II – May 1 – 26, 2017
Cohort III – June 5 – June 30, 2017
Cohort IV – July 10 – August 4, 2017

Please contact Dr. Johni Cruse Craig (DTEC@deltafoundation.net) for any inquiries about this E-course offering or professional learning and development options for your school, district or organization.

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