

ABWHE PHILADELPHIA NEWSLETTER



ASSOCIATION OF BLACK WOMEN IN HIGHER EDUCATION, INC.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Tiffenia Archie, Ph.D.

The Association of Black Women in Higher Education (ABWHE) – Philadelphia Chapter completed another great year of activities. As has been our tradition, our final

recruitment event for the year was our Annual Garden Party. Now in its 4th year, the theme for this year's event was on Sankofa and the



speaker discussed our youth and how important it is to teach them the cultural traditions of our ancestors. That thought made me think of just how much our ancestors sacrificed on our behalf and how there are current attempts to undo some of that sacrifice. I am thinking

specifically of the new voter ID laws which will infringe on people's right to vote...especially people in our community. It is apropos then that ABWHE-National is

focusing their efforts on voting and getting the word out about how the voter ID laws will impact people. The Philadelphia chapter will follow suit so we will begin thinking about ways to partner with other organizations to

get the word out so that people are not disenfranchised on Election Day. We owe it to those who have paved the way for us. We welcome any and all ideas so please feel free to email us at abwhephila@gmail.com.

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Navigating the Doctoral Process

Tiffenia Archie, Ph.D.
President, ABWHE Philadelphia



I love graduations. They are absolutely, positively my favorite celebrations. I love them more than birthdays, holidays, baby showers, and weddings. I love middle school graduations all the way to graduate school graduations. The Pomp and Circumstance song brings tears of joy to my eyes. Since I work on a college campus not only do we have our own graduation but we also are the locale for the graduations of many local high schools. So I frequently get to bask in the joy of graduation...often with complete strangers.

It might seem unfathomable then that I nearly missed my graduation for my doctorate degree and that it was the one graduation I did not want to celebrate. My doctoral degree process started great but ended not so great. While I did persevere and finish, the toll it took on me made me want to forget the entire thing. But I did participate in the graduation mainly because my parents made me...even as a 32 year-old. As the first in my family to complete a doctoral degree, my parents said I was not going to be allowed to deny them, my siblings, aunts and uncles the job of celebrating my accomplishment. They also reminded me of the many people who were in my corner and gave me support, guidance, and advice along the way. I know many of our ABWHE Sisters are in graduate school completing doctorates or thinking about entering a program. So, I thought I'd share some of what others shared with me and what I learned along the way.

Plan ahead. I had a colleague who very early in her doctoral program decided what she wanted to do her research on. She made it a point to write every paper in every class on a topic that she could later use for her dissertation. It did not matter how divergent the class and topic were, she made it work. Of course things shifted and changed, but she had a good foundation and much to draw on.

Choose your committee wisely. Your committee is critical. Committees make or break dissertations so make sure your committee is well crafted. You might even need a Venn diagram to determine the best grouping of individuals. I languished under a committee that did not work well together. I moved at lightening pace once I got a committee together that did.

View it as a job. Dedicate a few hours a day to working on your dissertation. I completed my dissertation while working a demanding full-time job in higher education administration. So, of course, a full-time job in higher education administration meant a 50-hour work week rather than a 40-hour one. I viewed my dissertation as a part-time job and I worked on it every night for at least 2 hours...no matter what time I got home or how tired I was.

Form/join a dissertation support group and/or a writing group. I was part of a dissertation support/writing group and we really helped each other to stay focused and to work through hurdles and obstacles. Even when we moved and were in different cities and states we continued to block out time when we were all writing at the same time. We were apart but our energy kept us connected.

Always keep something with you to jot things down. My most profound moments were usually when I was lying in bed at night...fabulous ideas and words would come to mind and even though I always said I'd remember when I got up...I never did. So I started sleeping with paper and pencil and whenever anything wonderful came to mind...I'd write it down. Soon I was carrying paper and pencil with me everywhere and some of my most profound revelations came while riding the subway. This is much easier in the day of smart phones. When I was writing my dissertation...we didn't have smart phones...we had beepers and pagers.

Take time for you. Writing a dissertation is a grueling process with a lot of hurdles and obstacles. A former professor of mine likened it to a sorority or fraternity...you had to prove you had the wherewithal to be a part of the club. But the only way to survive the process is to take time for you. That might mean a movie, play, or a day at the spa. It might mean time at the church or mosque or a night of bowling. Whatever the case, if you don't take time to unwind it will become overwhelming...and the ones who finish the program are not always the ones who are academically the most gifted but they are the ones who manage to find balance and harmony in the process.

While I am speaking specifically of the dissertation process, these hints are helpful in navigating through higher education no matter what your stage in graduate study or what job you hold. To be successful you have to plan, surround yourself with good supportive people, and take time for you. I hope that as we head into the 2012-2013 year, others will also share their words of wisdom as the more we know, the more empowered we are.

Writing from Margin to Center: Black Women, Social Networks, and Publishing in Academia



Dr. Siobhan Brooks King, an African American lesbian feminist sociologist, known for her work with African American women in the sex worker industry, presented at the March 24th ABWHE Philadelphia Professional development and quarterly meeting. Although Dr. Brooks King holds a B.A. in women's studies from San Francisco State University, and a Ph.D. in sociology from New

School University in New York, she described her educational experience as "non-traditional." Her dissertation was on racial stratification of women in the dance industry. She finished in eight years and received a post-doctorate. Dr. Brooks King submitted her dissertation in a contest, and to her surprise it got published as a book. Her dissertation was awarded the "first book award" from the University of Illinois. She was published even before graduate school.

She shared her insights and experiences in navigating the culture and politics of graduate school, and what she calls the "hidden-agenda". Even though she described her course work as "easy to do," she explained that "navigating the culture was hard."

Dr. Brooks King gave several examples of the "hidden-agenda". She described a racial divide in her graduate program. The professors would have events at their home and black students would not attend. She warned that academia can be very segregated. Few people of color got Teaching Assistants (TA) fellowships. More white men and white women got TA fellowships. It also seemed that in TA programs, students of color did not receive training in teaching or writing a syllabus. As a graduate student she taught several classes while writing her dissertation. In grad school she did not know to look for grants and fellowships.

She shared that publishing opportunities were outside of her program. But Dr. Brooks King recommends that you publish within your program of study, even explore the possibility of publishing with a professor in your program.

According to Dr. Brooks King, connecting with a mentor while in graduate school is imperative. It was a mentor who introduced her to the chair of the women's studies department which led to teaching opportunities. You can get mentorship inside or outside of your home school. You are supposed to be mentored in graduate school. "It is assumed that black women do not need mentoring. But we do need mentoring." It would be ideal to have another black woman as a mentor. Even though it is "necessary" to have a mentor, Dr. Brooks King warns us to "be careful of who is in our network. Academia can be cut-throat. People steal other people's ideas."

When applying to post-doctorate programs and submitting proposals, she advised that the “application packages should have all published materials.” Joining a writing group which reviewed her writing was helpful. Also, letters of recommendations are really important. Identify, people who are familiar with your work and have them write strong letters of recommendation.

Dr. Brooks King admitted she made mistakes in graduate school. However, do not fear. “Graduate school is a good place to make mistakes because as a graduate student there are not a lot of consequences yet. Use mistakes as teaching moments.”

She closed the presentation about successfully navigating graduate school and seeing the “hidden-agenda”, by sharing some sage advice:

- Stay current in your field and construct a literature review.
- Pay attention to article and book editors; research and reference editors.
- It is important to be selective about the type of journal you want to submit a publication to. Academia is about prestige. Research the acceptance rate of journals.
- Create a proposal to write a special issue in a journal.
- While in graduate school, co-author with another person. After graduate school, become a single author.
- When you convert your dissertation into a book, you do not need as much evidence. You shift from graduate to scholar. For example, cut out references and put in footnotes.
- Find venues to grow professionally. Go to conferences and attend job talks. Going to conferences in your field is a good way to meet people.
- Seek avenues to publish or present at conferences.
- Take full advantage of being a graduate student.
- Take a post-doctorate position, they provide opportunities to write.

Unlocking the Mystery – The Why Behind the Buy

*“A bargain is something you can't use at a price you can't resist.”
“Whether you think you can or you think you can't – you're right.”
“Beware of all enterprise that requires new clothes!”
“We need to know why we do what we do in order to change what we do.”*

With such insightful quotes on the board and the title *Unlocking the Mystery – The Why Behind the Buy*, it was not a mystery, but an understanding that the workshop would be informative and enlightening as we explored how we make decisions about spending money. At the Professional Development and Quarterly



Meeting on June 20th, presenter Joy McManus, former Program Manager for *FinanciallyHers* guided us on an exploration of our spending habits. McManus opened the discussion with the definition of intentional. She defined intention as “with purpose; a plan; mean to do it and you stand behind it.” We were advised to “think of the intentions” when it comes to money management. We also discussed what we learned and observed about money when growing up.

Money is not “just a number,” said McManus. It is not just “straight money and cents; money means different things to different people.” Members of the audiences shared their definitions of what money meant to them: “security, power, options, freedom, sustainability, and independence.” There are always “feelings and emotions” behind spending. Since it's such an emotional subject, “some parents find talking about money more difficult than sex,” explained McManus. She encouraged us to talk about money.

Emotion is a factor in when and how we spend. Spending can be a sense of relief or it can mimic an addiction. Spending money may even be a distraction. We were asked to explore our mindset, perception and beliefs about spending money. It has an impact on what we buy and when we buy. We often justify or rationalize spending by believing, “I deserve it or I work hard,” explained McManus.

We should always ask ourselves before a purchase, “Does this purchase match up with my goals?” Think before spending. “Ask yourself, why am I here? What is my goal? What is the why behind the buy?” McManus recommended that we consider putting a “post-it on our debit cards to remind us of our goals. As consumers, we should beware of going into a store and not knowing why we are there. “Stay anchored to your goals,” she warned.

Some of us are not in the driver's seat when we spend money. “We need to get in the driver's seat. How can we re-gain control? Be intentional in your everyday life. Think of this: Where am I now? Where do I want to go? How do I get there?”

An audience participant reminded us that “stores are trying to sell us something. Your money is just as important as their money.” McManus concurred, “We are lab rats. We are studied and are experiments. The goal of the store is to figure out how to get us to spend our money.” We should worry “about our bottom line. The stores do,” stated an audience member.

By the end of the presentation, audience members were eager to share some money management wisdom. Dr. Valerie Allen Dorsey suggested, “Count your pennies and the dollars will take care of themselves.” It was ABWHE sister Michelle Ray's money experience at an early age that gave us another perspective on the subject. She had to present to her dad her expenses for the month with justifications of each expense. Her dad would pay the bill, which was her allowance. However, she was not allowed to ask for more in the middle of the

month. "I had to think about what I put on the bill," she said. It seemed she learned how to be intentional and set goals at an early age.

McManus recommended the following Resources –

- Books by money expert Michelle Singletary, nationally syndicated columnist for *The Washington Post*
- *Financial Peace University*, a spiritually based curriculum that helps people become debt-free by Dave Ramsey
- *The Power of Habit* by Charles Duhigg

Sowing Seeds of Sankofa: Moving Forward and Reaching Back 4th Annual ABWHE-Philadelphia Garden Party



The theme of the ABWHE - Philadelphia's 4th Annual Garden Party, held on May 18th, was "Sowing Seeds of Sankofa: Moving Forward and Reaching Back." It featured guest speaker Maisha Sullivan-Ongoza, Director of the Philadelphia Chapter of *Say Yes to Education, Inc.*, a national, non-profit education foundation committed to dramatically increasing high school and college graduation rates for our nation's inner-city youth. Housed in 24 different schools, *Say Yes* promises a full college or vocational education to all students in the program.

In addressing the concept of Sankofa, Ms. Sullivan-Ongoza stated that, "Sankofa is how to make your culture a living resource." She continued, "There is a cultural void in our community. We have let our culture as African people, for example our culture of resistance, calcify." She advised us to be "intentional" and reach back to the practices of the ancestors. "Reach back into how we were spiritual people in harmony with all creations...be stewards and protectors of creation."

In her *Say Yes* program, Sankofa is practiced in small ways. "We make education part of the family culture." Scholarships are not just given to the participants in the program, but to the participants' siblings and parents. In fact, three parents graduated from the Community College of Philadelphia and two from LaSalle University this year. Social parenting is promoted in *Say Yes*. Parents "look out for each others' children" and are expected to share educational resources with one another.

Ms. Sullivan-Ongoza advised the audience to provide youth with alternatives to dealing with loss other than responding by exhibiting negative behavior such as violence or graffiti; to

find other cultural ways to deal with loss such as practicing libations. It is a “culture specific way to honor ancestors” and she encouraged us to teach youth how to honor and remember ancestors.

Another example of Sankofa is the naming ceremony. Naming ceremonies are meaningful and naming a child is not an individual act, but a family practice. She also implored the audience to give names that have meaning.

“How do you reach back? Reach back by starting small.” Ms. Sullivan-Ongoza encouraged us to start by creating cultural practices in our own families by thinking of “the old ways of how our grandmothers and aunties did things” and bringing them back.

Ms. Sullivan-Ongoza advised us to control our resources and external forces and start cultural practices in an informal way and people will gravitate as it is acceptable to “redirect our children.”

In an expression of Sankofa, ABWHE Philadelphia Chapter, reached back and asked two gifted young women to share their talents at the Garden Party. Ciara Lucas, an 11th grade honor student at Strath Haven High School, sang a cappella Esperanza Spalding's “Black Gold” to open the event. The lyrics sang to our African American heritage of endurance and strength. Her soft, beautiful voice was well received. After Sullivan-Ongoza's presentation, Kendall Faith Allen, an 11th grade theater major at the Philadelphia High School for the Creative and Performing Arts, authored and recited a moving poetry tribute honoring her memories of the love and affection she received from her grandparents as a child. Both performances were met with standing ovations!

The evening was capped off with a silent auction which raised over \$150 for the organization.

For the over 50 women in attendance who gathered to dine and network with one another, it was a spiritually uplifting evening.

A Documentary Screening - “Dark Girls”

ABWHE sisters joined sisters from Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Rho Theta Omega Chapter on March 13th at Tower Theater in Upper Darby for a viewing of the documentary “Dark Girls.” Two years in the making, the film explored the biases and indignities dark-skinned Black American women face because of the hue of their skin. Through interviews, dark-skinned women revealed their painful experiences and emotional scars. The documentary trailer was featured in the ABWHE Philadelphia conference *The Politics of Hue: Race, Racism, and Social Identity* part of the “Sisters, Can We Talk?” series in fall 2011.



A Night at the Theater

On February 3rd several sisters from the Philadelphia Chapter, with family and friends, enjoyed an evening at the Plays and Players Theater for a performance of August Wilson's critically acclaimed drama- "Joe Turner's Come and Gone." Prior to the start of the play, ABWHE's own Dr. Marcella McCoy-Deh, led a discussion on the themes addressed in the play. She described how Wilson chronicled the everyday struggles of African-Americans living in a boardinghouse in Pittsburgh in 1911 and highlighted the themes of African traditions and culture weaved in the play. This was both a social and fundraising event for the organization.

ABWHE SISTER NEWS

Nicole Bailey was promoted to Student Services Coordinator for the Offices of Student Financial Aid and the University Registrar at Thomas Jefferson University. Prior to this position she was working at the Office of Pre-Professional Health Studies (OPPHS) at Temple University.

Karima Bouchenafa was inducted into the Bucks County, PA, chapter of The Links, Incorporated.



Lauren Bullock and her husband recently gave birth to a happy, healthy baby boy, Braylon Joseph. He was born 5lbs, 6oz on Feb. 10, 2012. He was a month early, but has remained relatively healthy. In addition, she accepted a new position as the Program Director for Leadership Development at Temple University- Main Campus.

Zupenda M. Davis, MPH, MCHES, DrPH(c) successfully passed her doctoral dissertation proposal defense on Thursday, May 24, 2012. Her dissertation is titled "African American Heterosexual Men's Experiences of Emotionally & Sexually Intimate Relationships with Women: Implications for Sexual Risk & Protective Behaviors."

Since then she conducted HIV-related presentations at the following programs/conferences:

June 12, 2012- Biomedical HIV Prevention Update, Philadelphia, PA

June 14, 2012- Philadelphia FIGHT's Prevention and Outreach Summit, Philadelphia, PA

In August Zupenda will be presenting at the 3rd Annual Pennsylvania Ryan White All Parts Summit in Harrisburg, PA. In October she will be presenting 140th American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA.



Dawn T. Sanders-Jordan received two scholarships over the past three months. One was a scholarship from the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, \$1,500 for Continuing Education; the second was a \$10,000 scholarship from the GlaxoSmithKline Opportunity Scholarship. Both of these scholarships will go towards the completion of her Bachelor's degree in ECE/Elementary Education. She also passed her Praxis I Exam; so it is onto the next one!

Tina Sloan Green, along with 19 other African American women with various connections to athletics, met at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture for a private event regarding the 40th anniversary of Title IX of the Education Amendments becoming law. On June 23, 1972, President Richard M. Nixon signed into law the statute known as Title IX, which declared, "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance." Tina, the co-founder and president of the Black Women in Sports Foundation (based in Philadelphia), was the first Black head coach in women's college lacrosse, at Temple University, from 1973 to 1992. She was awarded the Bigger Picture Award for Alliance of Women Coaches National Huddle in Atlanta, GA.

In spring 2012 **Trish Williams** defended her proposal at the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education. She's working toward her Ed.D in Higher Education Management. The title of her dissertation is: "In Response to Lloyd: The Impact of McCarthyism at Three Private Black Institutions in Georgia."



COMMITTEES & CHAIRS

- **Advisory Board, Michelle D. Ray, Chair- mray@abwhe.org**
- **Chapter Development, Isabel Sampson-Mapp, Chair- sammapp@pobox.upenn.edu**
- **Executive Committee, Dr. Tiffenia Archie, Chair- tarchie@temple.edu**
- **Historic Preservation, Michelle D. Ray, Chair- mray@abwhe.org**
- **Programs and Conferences, Dr. Doreen Loury, Chair- louryd@arcadia.edu**
- **Publicity and Publications, Suzanne Felix, Chair- spiceisland03@gmail.com**
- **Recognition and Support, Gloria Gay, Chair**
- **Resource Development and Financial Affairs, Sheila McMillan, Chair- sam84@drexel.edu**

ABWHE MISSION

ABWHE has been an advocate for and celebrant of the accomplishments of Black women in higher education for more than two decades.

Please join us in supporting and empowering sister scholars, staff, and students to secure our presence and prosperity for generations to come. Black women in the higher education community need a variety of resources and networks to foster their professional development and advocate for their presence and prosperity in the academy. To help meet that need, in 1978 thirteen visionary women met in Albany, New York, to found the Association of Black Women in Higher Education, Inc. (ABWHE).

Today, ABWHE has seven chapters nationwide. Since its inception, ABWHE has served as a forum for developing strategies to improve the quality of education of Black people, with particular emphasis on encouraging Black youth to take full advantage of available educational opportunities. ABWHE is committed to aiding Black women in the academy to fulfil their own aspirations, as well as encouraging Black youth to pursue their education.

The Association of Black Women in Higher Education is a national membership organization whose mission is to:

- promote the intellectual growth and educational development of Black women in higher education,
- seek to eliminate racism, sexism, classism, and other social barriers that hinder Black women in higher education from achieving their human potential,
- communicate the history, personal and professional achievements and contributions of Black women in higher education in order to help preserve the presence of Blacks in higher education,
- provide academic and social mentoring for Black youth in order to insure a future generation of Blacks in higher education, and
- utilize our talents, strengths, and expertise to advance a vision of social justice.

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2011 – 2013

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ABWHE

"Lifting As We Climb"

Submission Deadlines

- The ABWHE Philadelphia Chapter Newsletter will be published twice a year: August and January.
- Articles are due to the Publicity and Publications Committee on July 1 and December 1.
- For additional information or to make a submission, contact Zupenda Davis: zupenda.abwhe@gmail.com or Suzanne Felix, Publicity and Publications Chair: spiceisland03@gmail.com

Calendar of Events

Friday, September 14, 2012

Professional Development & Quarterly Meeting

Temple University 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 3, 2012

Pre-Debate Roundtable Discussion

Venue TBD 6:30 – 10:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 12, 2012

Professional Development & Quarterly Meeting

Drexel University 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Friday, March 22, 2013

Professional Development & Quarterly Meeting

Philadelphia University 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Friday, April 26, 2013

5th Annual Garden Party

Arcadia University 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 12, 2013

Professional Development & Quarterly Meeting

University of Pennsylvania 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

JOIN ABWHE Philadelphia Chapter!

Contact Isabel Sampson-Mapp:

sammapp@pobox.upenn.edu

Save These Dates!

**ABWHE Signature Event
October 3, 2012**

**5th Annual Garden Party
Friday, April 26, 2013**

FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO REGISTER, CONTACT US AT ABWHEPHILA@GMAIL.COM!