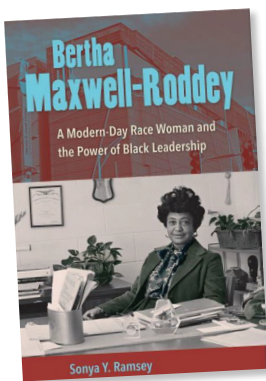


VOLUME TWENTY-TWO

## National Reading Circle Selects Biography on DST Past National President Bertha Maxwell-Roddey as 2023 Book Selection

The National Reading Circle sponsored by DREF announces its 2023 book selection: *Bertha Maxwell-Roddey: A Modern-Day Race Woman and the Power of Black Leadership* by Sonya Ramsey, Ph.D. Coordinated by the DREF Sister Scholars Advisory Council, the National Reading Circle invites individuals from throughout the nation to join the Circle by reading the biography of Dr. Maxwell-Roddey, who served as the 20th National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. from 1992-96. Prior to becoming DST national president, Dr. Maxwell-Roddey, a resident of Charlotte, NC, held numerous leadership positions in the Sorority and other national organizations as well as in the state of North Carolina as a trailblazing community activist, pioneering educator, and visionary leader in civic engagement.

The Sister Scholars Advisory Council will convene a national, virtual book



discussion on the biography on June 10, 2023, which is the 93rd birthday of Dr. Maxwell-Roddey. To register for the book discussion, please log onto EventBrite.

The book discussion will feature remarks by the author. Get your copy of the book from your favorite bookseller or directly from the University Press of Florida.

The author, Dr. Ramsey, is an associate professor at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where she is also the director of the Women's and Gender Studies

Program. A Delta member, she has also written several historical works, including *Reading, Writing, and Segregation: A Century of Black Women*. She is a native of Nashville, TN and is a graduate of Howard University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. For more information, contact the DREF Director of Programs at [arogers@deltafoundation.net](mailto:arogers@deltafoundation.net).

## 55 Years Strong: Preserving Our Legacy through Research April 17-22

The DREF Research Matters for All of Us initiative recognizes the milestone anniversary of the Foundation by presenting a week-long awareness program April 17-22, 2023 entitled "55 Years Strong: Preserving Our Legacy through Research." The activities will feature Pop-Up Clinics,



DREF Board President Renee L. Harper (left) and Dr. Kay Williams Dawson, DREF Research Matters Program Manager, invite you to attend "Preserving Our Legacy through Research."

## DREF Commemorates 55th Anniversary this Program Year

During the 2022-23 fiscal year, the Delta Research and Educational Foundation (DREF) reached its 55th anniversary having been established by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in August 1967. The current DREF program and develop-



ment agenda have centered around the commemoration of its milestone year with a social media campaign scheduled for spring and summer to share historical notes about the Foundation, presentation of special programming events, and

social media campaigns, and special events highlighted with educational presentations and cultural and entertainment performances to create awareness about the need and importance for African Americans to participate in biomedical research. The multi-day awareness campaign will culminate on Saturday, April 22 from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) with a virtual Pop-Up Clinic showcasing all of the Program's citywide coordinators. This will be the first time

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# Greetings from the DREF Board President

Dear DREF Supporter:

It's been a rewarding milestone year for DREF as we make tremendous inroads in programming and development. As we recognize the Foundation's anniversary throughout this fiscal year, we are employing our current theme "Aligning Advocacy and Action: 55 Years of Creating Possibilities...Improving Lives." Our current program endeavors are aligned with advocacy for wellness in several areas that will benefit and improves the lives of African American women and our families. DREF is advocating physical health and wellness as well as financial wellness in communities throughout America.



Renee L. Harper

We have collaborated with the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Foundation to conduct outreach for Project IMPACT: Diabetes Prevention, enrolling hundreds of African Americans to improve their health by eliminating their pre-diabetes status. The DREF Research Matters for *All of Us* program has realized continued success as it educates African Americans throughout the nation on the importance of biomedical research as a gamechanger for achieving health and wellness. This program year marks the

sixth year that DREF has been involved with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as a National Community Engagement Partner for the *All of Us* Research Program's One in a Million Campaign. I am very pleased and excited to share that

the DREF Sister Scholars Advisory Council is embarking on a new research project that will focus on mental health and wellness. In addition to aligning DREF programming with physical and mental health, the Foundation will launch a new initiative this year entitled "Empowering

Families through Financial Literacy." We extend appreciation to Toyota Motor North America for awarding a program grant to DREF to create and implement the financial literacy initiative.

On behalf of the DREF Board of Directors, I extend sincere appreciation to you for being our steadfast supporters. You are our greatest asset and we are grateful and pleased to share our journey of charitable and educational programming with each of you.

Sincere regards,  
Renee L. Harper  
DREF Board President

## 55 Years Strong

(Continued from page 1)

that the 12 citywide coordinators have presented a nationwide collaborative outreach event.

Dr. Kay Williams Dawson, the DREF Research Matters Program Manager, explained that the multi-day program will be a "full court press" engaging all of the citywide coordinators, the HBCU partners, the Calling 22+ Researchers, volunteers in the 12 designated cities and the DREF staff to inform and enroll individuals in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) *All of Us* Research Program's *One in A Million Campaign*.

On April 19, the HBCU partners will host a virtual event that includes past stu-

dent ambassadors of the R.A.P. (Research Accelerates Possibilities) Program.

The HBCU partners include Bennett College, Cohoma Community College, Fayetteville State University, Jackson State University, Lincoln University of Pennsylvania, St. Augustine's University, Tougaloo College, and Winston-Salem State University. The DREF citywide coordinators are located in the following cities: Atlanta, Baton Rouge, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Detroit, Houston, Miami, Milwaukee, New Orleans, New York, and Shreveport. Individuals and families in African American communities throughout the nation are invited to attend to learn how they can impact their health and wellness through research. To register, please use this link: <https://bit.ly/NATDREFWEEK>

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](http://www.deltafoundation.net)

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**DREF CFC NUMBER IS 11213**



**Antoinette M. Rogers, Ph.D. Selected as DREF Program Director**



*Dr. Antoinette M. Rogers*

Antoinette M. Rogers, Ph.D. joined the DREF staff as the new Director of Programs on January 9, 2023. A native of Richmond, VA, she was previously employed with the Virginia Education Association, where she worked as director and manager of the Office of Teaching and Learning. She has served on the faculty at the University of Richmond, Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia Union University and the University of Mary Washington. She was initiated into Delta Sigma Theta Sorority’s Richmond Alumnae Chapter in 1992. Currently, she serves as co-chair of the Chapter’s Arts and Letters Committee.

Dr. Rogers holds an undergraduate degree in Early Childhood/Elementary Education from Hampton University and a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction and the Doctor of Philosophy in Instructional Leadership from Virginia Commonwealth University. Her hobbies include studying Black History, gardening, listening to music, singing and cooking. She is a founding member of The Light Community Church, established in 2010 in Henrico County, VA.

**Tashi M. Brown Returns as Program Associate**



*Tashi M. Brown*

Also joining the Program staff is Tashi M. Brown, who was the former Program Associate at DREF from 2019 until 2021. She returned to DREF as Program Associate on January 17, 2023 with

the primary responsibility of facilitating the Charitable Engagement Service for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Chapters in the Southern and Southwest Regions. Ms. Brown will also assist with overall program development for the Foundation. For 12 years, Tashi worked in workforce relations for the federal government.

Ms. Brown was initiated into Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.’s Federal City Alumnae Chapter in 2020. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Norfolk State University in Norfolk, VA and a Master of Science in Negotiations and Conflict Management from the University of Baltimore.

**Bowie State University Student Receives 2022-23 Ruby Dee Scholarship**



*L-R: Francine Breakfield, Dawn Belton, and L.D. Wells at Ruby Dee Scholarship presentation*

Ms. Dawn Belton, a theater arts major at Bowie State University was awarded the 2022-23 Ruby Dee Legacy of Sisterhood Scholarship for the Arts. The scholarship was presented at a luncheon event held on March 3, 2023 on the BSU campus. Ms. Belton, the fourth student to receive the Dee Scholarship, is currently the reigning “Miss Bowie State University,” and she is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She received the \$1,000 merit-based scholarship which is awarded annually to a deserving African American female student majoring in an arts related discipline.

The creators of the Dee Scholarship, Drs. Francene Breakfield and L.D. Wells of Georgia, acknowledged support of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Eastern Region Arts and Letters Committee for raising approximately \$10,000 during a special event fundraiser last spring to benefit the Dee Scholarship.

**Thank You for Attending the National Education Symposium**

DREF presented its closing program for the Delta Teacher Efficacy Campaign & Teachers Advocating to lead Great change (DTEC-TAG) initiative at its

National Education Symposium held January 28, 2023 as a virtual conference. Thank you for attending the Symposium where noted leaders in education addressed the theme: “Analyzing the Future of Education... for US.” Important dialogue was shared by the panelists on topics such as “Critical Race Theory, Culturally Responsive Teaching, Book Bans, and Advanced Placement in African American Studies.

The DTEC-TAG Program was a part of the eight-year professional development initiative created for educators and made possible by funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. DREF Executive Director Karla M. Green extends sincere appreciation to the DTEC-TAG Equity Warriors Danielle Miles and Dr. Renata Hedrington Jones for coordinating the Symposium and all Equity Warriors for promoting it. Ms. Green also acknowledges DTEC-TAG Equity Warriors Tia Gilliam Wilson and Keishla Wylie for their roles in providing logistical support, the DREF staff Dr. Antoinette M. Rogers and Deanna Jackson for their input, and the panelists for their outstanding presentations.

**Empowering Families through Financial Literacy**



DREF will offer program grants to Delta chapters for a financial literacy initiative entitled “Empowering Families through Financial Literacy.” The financial literacy program will be launched in July 2023 at the 56th National Convention of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Chapters will apply to receive funding for a program grant that will inform and engage individuals on how to achieve financial goals. The newly designed financial literacy program will enable individuals/families to accomplish major goals: getting an education, purchasing an automobile, purchasing a home, and saving for retirement. The “Empowering Families through Financial Literacy” initiative is made possible by funding from Toyota Motor North America. For details, visit [www.deltafoundation.net](http://www.deltafoundation.net) after July 24, 2023.



## Mother's Day Roses & Violets Campaign Offered this Mother's Day

The annual DREF Mother's Day Roses & Violets Charitable Campaign will kick-off in Mid-April, giving you an opportunity to salute your mother while lending support to DREF. The Foundation is collaborating with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. to present this annual spring fund-



raiser. Get ready to honor or memorialize your mom with a special gift from DREF. Or you may want to recognize the mother figure in your life or reflect on the memory of your dearly beloved mom. Visit [www.deltafoundation.net](http://www.deltafoundation.net) to learn more about saluting your mom.

## New Pin for DREF Donors

Presenting the latest DREF giving incentive—a new pin that can be worn to reflect your support of the Delta Research and Educational Foundation (DREF). Don't delay, get your new pin today by contributing \$25 or more. You may scan the QR Code below to donate and the pin will be mailed to you. Or you may mail a check to the DREF Office, 1703 New Hampshire Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20009. DREF is a 501 (c)(3) organization and donations are tax-deductible.



## Pagesse Fonke is Senior Finance Director

Pagesse Fonke was hired as the Senior Finance Director at DREF, effective January 9, 2023. This marks the first time that DREF has hired a full-time Finance Director. Ms. Fonke has more than 10 years of accounting experience with her most

recent position being with the AARP Foundation; she worked there as a Staff Accountant. As the Senior Finance Director at DREF, she will be responsible for handling the accounting and coordinating the annual audit and tax filings. She will also manage accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, and several general accounting functions.

Ms. Fonke joined the AARP Foundation in 2016 as a Staff Accountant. She is a certified public accountant candidate and holds a Bachelor and a Master's Degree in Accounting and Information Technology from the University of Maryland Global Campus.

## Please Scan QR Code to Donate to DREF



## 55th Anniversary

(Continued from page 1)

implementation of fundraising campaigns that requests giving levels of "55."

The social media campaign will highlight leaders and major programs conducted throughout DREF's 55-year legacy, includ-

ing notables as Dr. Geraldine P. Woods, Delta's 13th National President who led the Grand Chapter in creating DREF; Frankie M. Freeman, Esq., 14th National President of DST who shepherded the non-profit organization in its formative years; and Sadie T.M. Alexander, Esq., Delta's First National President, who served as the Foundation's legal counsel

when it was established. Stay tuned for an informative and empowering heritage journey with DREF.

The DREF 55th Anniversary commemoration will culminate in the Midwest Region at the 56th National Convention of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. scheduled for July 2023 in Indianapolis, IN.

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