

# SISTERMENTORS

Promoting Education Among Women and Girls of Color

Summer 2006

A Newsletter for Donors and Friends of SistersMentors

## From the Executive Director

Dear Donors and Friends:

Welcome to our third summer newsletter. Something good happens at SisterMentors every day and we always want to share that good news with you. Thank you for your strong, continuing support of SisterMentors.

This newsletter reports on some of the activities your donations have funded during the past school year, including a three day college visit to Douglass College, Rutgers University. For the first time, girls learned about women's colleges and women's struggle for equal rights.

Thanks to continuing generous support from one of our donors, Christine Boehm, 25 girls participated in a social skills and etiquette workshop in May. As she did last year, Ms. Fannie Allen, of the prestigious Allen Etiquette Institute, led the workshop.

SisterMentors also continues to make major contributions to increasing the number of women of color Ph.Ds. We helped three more women to get doctorates this past school year. SisterMentors has now helped 25 women of color to get doctorates.

This September, SisterMentors will mark its ninth anniversary with a celebration and fundraiser. The event will kick off our activities as we make our joyous journey toward our tenth anniversary in September, 2007.

We will give you a further report on SisterMentors activities in our fall newsletter, so keep an eye out. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any reason. I can be reached at [director@sistermentors.org](mailto:director@sistermentors.org) or 202-775-6846.

In the meantime, have a wonderful summer!

Shireen K. Lewis, Ph.D.



## Girls' Three Day Visit to Douglass College, Rutgers University

"It was an experience of a lifetime," said one of the 25 girls who went in April on SisterMentors' visit to Douglass College (Douglass), Rutgers University. Girls in eighth through eleventh grades from Alexandria, Virginia and Prince George's County, Maryland, spent three days at Douglass where they stayed at the university inn, attended classes, and interacted with women undergraduates. Girls also listened to presentations on admissions, financial aid and taking the right classes in high school.

The girls were awed by this woman's college which emphasizes women's leadership and is part of a larger research university. The highlights of the trip included a session with Carmen Twillie Ambar, Dean of Douglass College. Girls also heard from child psychologist, Dr. Sylvia Rimm, a Douglass alumnae, who spoke about her experiences growing up in the U.S. when, because of their gender, women did not have the opportunities that exist today. Many of the girls were surprised to learn about this period in women's history.

## SisterMentors Reaches Another Milestone with 25 Ph.Ds.

This past year, Koritha Mitchell, Jan Tyson and Losang Rabgey continued SisterMentors' push to increase the number of women of color doctorates. SisterMentors has now helped 25 women of color

to get doctorates. Koritha Mitchell received her doctorate in English from the University of Maryland, College Park. Jan Tyson earned her doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Fordham University in New York and Losang Rabgey obtained her doctorate in Cultural Anthropology from the University of London, England.

### **Social Skills and Etiquette Workshop**

Thanks to generous support from one of our donors, Christine Boehm, 25 SisterMentors girls were treated in May to a workshop on social skills and etiquette. Like last year, Ms. Fannie Allen, of the prestigious Allen Etiquette Institute, led the workshop. Thanks to their commitment to supporting youth, the workshop was held at the upscale Jefferson Hotel, just blocks away from the White House. Girls were taught social skills including telephone and email etiquette. Girls were also treated to a four-course meal where they learned the etiquette of fine dining.

### **Book Party and Silent Auction Fundraiser for SisterMentors**

Thanks to all of you who supported the book party and silent auction fundraiser for SisterMentors in June. The event was a success. We raised \$2,325 from the auction. The party for Dr. Shireen Lewis' new book, *Race, Culture, and Identity*, was a treat.

The silent auction included: hand made jewelry; art from Mali, West Africa; art from New York photographer, Jeffrey Rothstein; and gift certificates for health and wellness services. We would like to thank everyone who donated items, including Michael Link, Nancy Jarrrels, Janet Davis, Jeffrey Rothstein, Codou Diaw, Fannie Allen,

**EDUSEED/SISTERMENTORS**  
**1666 K Street, N.W., Suite 700**  
**Washington, D.C. 20006**  
**[www.sistermentors.org](http://www.sistermentors.org)**  
**Promoting Education Among Women and Girls of Color**

Addie Green, Kangbai Konaté, Gail Messier, Eileen King, Laura Daughtery, Montana Cole, and Paula Boyd of Microsoft.

Special thanks to EduSeed Board member, Claudia Cantarella, for helping to make the silent auction a success.

### **A Big THANK YOU!!!**

Thank you to all our wonderful individual donors for your continuing support. We would also like to thank the following individuals, businesses and foundations: Linda Orr, Tracy Gary, Jean Beard, Christiana Lewis, Reverend Sylvia Sumter of Unity of Washington, D.C., Jerry Taylor and Nancy Bryant Foundation, Crowell & Moring Foundation, Saks Incorporated Foundation, the Falcon Fund, Pegah Ghausbeigui of the Jefferson Hotel, Whole Foods Market, and Politics & Prose Bookstore.

Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers: Dawn Nelson, Wendy Demming, Anjanette Milladge, Felicia Johnson, Mary Helen Coleman, Rachel Nee, Robbie Ross Tisch and Mabel Rivera. Special thanks to Anonymous for her donation of a SisterMentors banner through Adriane Williams.

### **Thank You to Sullivan & Worcester!!!**

Special thanks to Sullivan & Worcester for generously donating office space to EduSeed. Thanks for this valuable support, and everything else you do for EduSeed and SisterMentors!

### **Please Join Us at Our Ninth Anniversary Celebration and Fundraiser**

On Saturday, September 30, 2006, SisterMentors will mark its ninth anniversary with a celebration and fundraiser. This event will also kick off events leading up to our tenth anniversary in September, 2007. Please mark your calendar and come meet SisterMentors women and girls.