Chancellor's Graduate Fellowship 25th Anniversary Celebration and Alumni Reunion

Prepared by Andrea Bolivar

*10/14/2016*

**Key Note Address**

-**Introduction by Dr. Early:**

Before introducing Dr. Perry, Professor Early spoke about the importance and impact of the Chancellor’s Graduate Fellowship Program, providing a brief overview of the history of the program and the annual conference in particular. Invoking the spirit of the Chancellor’s Graduate Fellowship Program, Professor Early encouraged current fellows not to “hide in the shadows when you can be the light.” He then introduced Professor Perry as a model of a scholar who has truly made a difference in the lives of People of Color and other underrepresented individuals via the professoriate.

-**Keynote Address by Dr. Perry:**

In the beginning of her moving keynote address, “Looking for Lorraine: Gifts of the Hidden Hansberry”, Dr. Perry shared that Lorraine Hansberry has been a “guide and gospel for her.” Foreshadowing her forthcoming biography of Lorraine Hansberry for Beacon Press, Professor Perry discussed the foundational ways in which Hansberry is significant to contemporary American Culture. More specifically, she explored Hansberry as a critical figure for conceptualizing race, gender, sexual orientation, and global politics.

**Panel Discussion** (moderated by Professor Adrienne Davis, featuring: Professors Imani Perry, Rafia Zafar, Keona Ervin, and Bertin Louis, Jr.)

The panel, in the style of a round-table discussion, further engaged with themes from Dr. Imani Perry’s impressive keynote speech. Each panelist brought expertise from their respective disciplines. Topics covered included Black inheritances, Black protest traditions, and “the marketability of the Black self.” After a rich conversation between panelists, Professor Davis opened the discussion up to audience members, who raised thought-provoking questions about how to improve academic institutions and a number of other important issues.

*10/15/2016*

10:00-10:45 a.m.

**Alumni Presentation**— “Leveraging the Ph.D.: A Career in Higher Education Administration”

Randy Glean, Ph.D.

After breakfast, Dr. Glean bestowed fellows and alumni with advice in response to a number of questions from Dean Notaro. Professor Glean provided specific advice based on his own personal journey as well as more general feedback about how to impact institutions as an education administrator. He reminded students not to “underestimate what you can do to
bridge gaps” nor “how much each of us, as Chancellor’s Fellows alumni, can make change within an institution.”

11:00-11:45 a.m.
Alumni Presentation--"PhD WORLD Skills"
Shakir James, Ph.D.
Dr. James described his own academic and professional trajectory as a student, engineer, professor, and entrepreneur. He gave a presentation on how to take skills learned as a graduate student at Wash U and apply them across different areas. Or, as he also stated, “How to take your PhD world skills and make the world yours.” In the presentation he explicated a concept he created called “PhD WORLD Skills.” “World” is an acronym that stands for: write, organization, resell, learn, die (the latter actually refers to determination).

12:15-1:00 p.m.
“Navigating the Job Market”
Ernest Gonzalez, Ph.D. Social Work
Professor Gonzalez drew from his experiences as a doctoral candidate on the job market, an advisor of graduate students on the market, and a member of faculty search committees. His interactive presentation contained guidance for students at each stage of the doctoral program, even first years who erroneously think that preparing for the job market is not something they should be thinking about yet. First, Dr. Gonzalez facilitated a discussion on what it means to be an “emerging scholar.” Second, he shared tools and skills for navigating the application process. And lastly, he spoke about what makes a “good fit” between a scholar and an institution, especially considering the added challenges of being a faculty of Color.

1:00-1:45 p.m.
“Preparing for Tenure”
Henrika McCoy, Ph.D.
Professor McCoy, who recently earned tenure herself, gave a thorough presentation that included helpful instruction for each year on the tenure clock. She started with the very first year of the tenure track. She moved through pre and post-3rd year review, and covered the last year before tenure. Furthermore, Dr. McCoy included what to do once the tenure packet has been submitted. In conclusion, she emphasized the importance of celebrating the whole process. In the Q&A, attendees discussed how to balance tenure requirements with the desire to do extra work to support students of Color on campus.

2:00-3:00 p.m.
Panel Discussion: Post Tenure: “What to Do with All That Free Time?”
- Gerry Downes, Ph.D. Neurosciences, Associate Professor, Biology, University of Amherst-Massachusetts
- Gary Hoover, Ph.D. Economics, University of Oklahoma, Professor and Department Chair
The two panelists imparted knowledge gained from their respective experiences. Dr. Hoover addressed how to prepare for life post-tenure when also interested in pursuing a position in administration as well as how to plan for promotion to full professor. Dr. Downes spoke about the challenges of securing grant funding to support his lab after he was granted tenure and his plans for being promoted to full professor. In response to questions from the participants, both professors explained how to keep your research program on track, how to manage service and work responsibilities post-tenure, and how to negotiate a fair salary.

3:00-4:00 p.m.
Tips for Success for Current Fellows: Jon Jackson and Keona Ervin

During this lively group discussion, both Professor Jackson and Professor Ervin shared tips and advice for current fellows. Professor Jackson offered a sciences perspective, while Professor Ervin represented a more humanistic standpoint. Alumni in the audience eagerly contributed to the discussion, adding their own unique feedback, and current fellows asked questions. Amongst several significant issues, we discussed how to make the most out of moments of transition, uncertainty, and ambiguity that arise at various points in the academic journey.

4:00-5:00 p.m.
Alumni Dialogue
Facilitator: Frances Henderson, Ph.D. Political Science

Current students, alumni, and administration openly reflected on how to best leverage the Chancellor’s Fellow network. A considerable portion of the discussion was dedicated to deepening the relationships between current fellows and alumni. A few alumni enthusiastically volunteered to spearhead mentoring and networking efforts moving forward, both regionally and nationally.