

# Doctoral Students in Action

## Dr. Mimi Johnson Pens New Book about Higher Education and Wins Outstanding Paper Award



**Dr. Mimi Evelyn Johnson**

**D**r. Mimi Evelyn Johnson (Cohort I, 2007 graduate), director of Institutional Research and Advancement at Trenholm State Technical College, recently penned a new book, *Managing Organizational Changes in an Educational Environment: A Case Study of the Merger of two Technical Colleges*, which is the result of her ELPL dissertation. The book discusses the state-mandated merger of a traditionally white two-year technical college with a historically black two-year technical college.

"I selected this specific topic because of the historical significance of the merger of the two technical colleges and its tremendous impact on workforce development and its influence on many lives in the two respective service areas," said Johnson.

In addition to her book publication, Johnson teamed up with Dr. Ken Scott, Trenholm Technical College colleague, at the 2008 Southeastern Association of Community Colleges Research Conference (SACCR) in St. Petersburg, FL, and presented a paper on the "Development of Strategic Leadership: A Model to Promote, Sustain, and Advance Institutional Significance." Johnson received the 2008 Outstanding Paper Award at this conference, where she shared her ideas with researchers, planners, analysts, deans, and others in the educational community. The Outstanding Paper Awards Committee of SACCR selects only three papers per year for awards. In addition to a handsome, framed certificate, Johnson received a cash stipend to represent SACCR in the Distinguished Paper Sessions at the 2009 Association for Institutional Research annual forum in Atlanta, GA. Her scholarly paper has also been selected to be published in the *Community College Journal of Research and Practice*.

Johnson said that ASU and the ELPL Doctoral Program helped her achieve her goals and can help other students obtain what they wish to accomplish.

"I encourage students to envision what they wish to accomplish and design a plan to achieve their goals," said Johnson. "I also encourage students to believe in themselves and never let anyone discourage them from chasing their dreams. We live in a very competitive and global society, and we must be ready. Education is empowerment; education is something that no one can take from us."

## Three ELPL Doctoral Students Become Founding Graduate Inductees of Alpha Chi Honor Society

**F**or the first time, the ASU Chapter of Alpha Chi inducted graduate students into the honorary society. The induction ceremony was held last October in the auditorium of the Buskey Health Sciences Building. Among the members of the graduate inaugural class were two former ELPL students, Dr. Floretta Dortch (Cohort III, 2008 graduate) and Dr. Danita Stapleton (Cohort IV, 2009 graduate), and ELPL doctoral candidate Jessie Frierson (Cohort VI).

"I was interested in becoming a member of Alpha Chi as an undergraduate," said Dortch. "I am honored to have the privilege of not only being a new member, but a founding graduate inductee."

Academic excellence and exemplary character earned 24 ASU inductees, 14 graduates and 10 undergraduate students, the honor of being inducted into the Alabama Eta Chapter of Alpha Chi honor society. Membership to Alpha Chi is limited to the top 10 percent of an institution's juniors, seniors, and graduate students.

"This is a special representation of the academic achievement that we strive for at ASU," said Dr. Karyn Scissum Gunn, ASU provost, as she thanked the inductees for "carrying the academic torch."



**Dr. Floretta Dortch (3rd from left), Jessie Frierson (4th from left), and Dr. Danita Stapleton (2nd from right)**

