

| † ' / ~ ) \$ ' -

**S**SS, spring is in the air! We took a successful trip to Atlanta, Georgia last month to end February with a visited five colleges, took in the historical landmarks, absorbed a wealth of information, and had a great time! Thank you students and staff for an awesome fun-filled and educational experience.



It is March, and it is history month. During this month we remember women who have been trailblazers in the fight for women's health, safety, and equality. Think about the women who have come in and out of your life over the years. Take a moment this month to appreciate those women.

We all know that dynamic women have been helping causes all over the world, in our hometowns and in our individual homes. Remember these women this month by doing service within your community, at your school, in your neighborhood and within your organizations.

You could also donate to a global cause such as homeless and abuse shelters, Haiti disaster relief and AIDS or cancer research to name a few. While helping others in need, you are building strong character for yourself.

One of the goals of SSS is to aid students in becoming good citizens in society. For

information on where to volunteer, visit your nearest Red Cross or Salvation Army or stop in to see us in the Dawson Hall Annex. We will point you in the right direction. Spread the sunshine this spring. See you soon!

Mrs. Ruby Stewart

is also Women's History Month

**THE LUCK O' THE IRISH**



TO KEEP YOUR GRADES UP

SIGN UP FOR

**TUTORING**

TODAY!



OVERCOMING ADVERSITY: RONICIA OTEY

Mark W. Worthen

At a very young age, Ronicia Otey was diagnosed with sickle cell SS, and from then on, she was in and out of the hospital for four years, and, even with her diagnosis, the doctor could not completely understand the problem. As the years went on, the pain from her illness became more and more severe, but occurred less often.

Ronicia's mother graduated college, but had her while still young. They both grew up quickly. The pair moved from house to house and from place to place - often to shelters - so her mother could keep her in the hospital.

When Ronicia was 13, doctors discovered she also suffered from asthma, pulmonary hypertension, sarcoidosis and a heart murmur. Because of these various illnesses, she underwent some sort of treatment almost constantly.

By the age of 15, Ronicia's condition deteriorate (a condition known as ABS necrosis), due to the steroid treatments for her other difficulties, and she began to require transfusions - sometimes quite frequently - and over the following few years, she had several surgeries and several long-term hospitalizations.

By 16, she'd had three near-death experiences. She has had four strokes, had her gall bladder and tonsils removed and has been through six major surgeries.

Between hospitalizations and illness flareups, Ronicia studied - persevering until she managed not only to complete high school, but an internship at Washington University and several college credit courses as well. Though she was in the ICU one month before

she was scheduled to walk for graduation, and also two weeks prior to attending college, she graduated high school in the fall of 2007 and walked with the class of 2008.

Before coming to Lincoln, she took two semesters at St. Louis Community College in Florissant Valley. After that, she decided to try going to college further away from her comfort zone. When she arrived here, she became part of Student Support Services, to get help making it through the first year of being away from home.

I G ] W \_ ` what I have and not who I am try not to let it define me or cripple me as a person

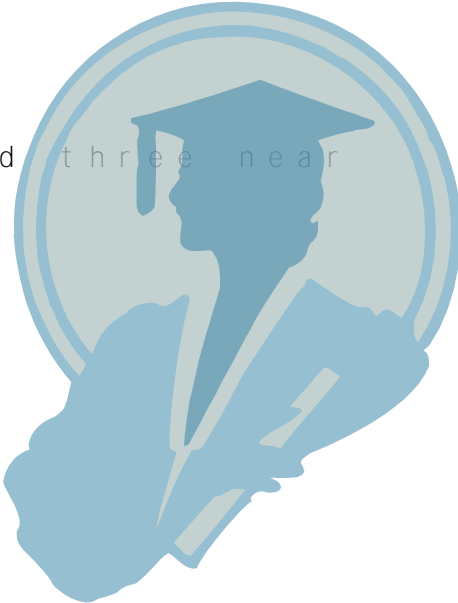
She is now starting to realize that she can do this.

Lincoln University was only one of her choices. After weighing her options between here, going to New York on a full ride scholarship or to Tennessee State on a basketball scholarship, she chose Lincoln and has been using scholarships and loans to pay for it.

She often travels and speaks about living with sickle cell, educating the public regarding the disease and those who have it. She has given talks in Kansas City, Columbia, Springfield, Washington (Missouri) and several other locales. She will be giving presentations at Lincoln as well.

"Sickle cell forms shaped cells in the body, causing extreme pain and putting a lot of limitations on what you can do," she says. "The pain can occur anywhere in the body. But," she goes on to say, "sickle cell I have, and not who I am. I try not to let it define me or cripple me as a person."

Ronicia's main goal right now is to graduate from Lincoln.





STUDENT BIRTHDAYS  
MARCH



Reedus, Alexandria	1
Brown, Alexander	2
Dickson, Raymon	3
Clark, Tranice	4
Ibe, Cynthia	5
Eleby, Michael	6
Smith, Antwoine	9
Martin, Cara	11
Haynes, Denita	12
Jackson, Martika	13
Brown, Patricia	14
Beard, Andrea	16
Bledsoe, Dominic	17
Robinson, Chanai	20
Schauf, Courtney	20
Juarez, Christian	24
Moore, Denisha	24
Hollingsworth, Brooke	25
McElroy, Breanna	25
Martin, Xavier	27
Eaton, Kevin	30
Howlett, Markesha	30
Harris, Jamond	31



FIELD TRIP TO ATLANTA

The mission of Student Support Services is to retain and graduate its program participants through tutoring in most core courses, one-on-one success coaching, workshops and exposure to cultural activities, such as travel and exposure to the fine arts.

To keep with this objective this semester, 25 Student Support Students and Mrs. Ruby Stewart, Director of SSS, traveled to Atlanta, Georgia from February 18 through the 21, 2010. We had a wonderful Spring Trip.



Many of our students do not have the opportunity to travel out of their own surroundings. This trip offered many different experiences such as visiting the birth place of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other national historic sites. We were also able to drive by the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum. The students were very interested in visiting other HBCU colleges and universities such as Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, Emory University and Spelman College. We also drove through Georgia State University and Georgia Institute of Technology.

In addition to all of these places, the students got to enjoy lunch in the Underground Atlanta Food Court. They got to tour the Inside CNN Atlanta Studio and enjoy lunch at the CNN Center Food Court. They visited the African American Panoramic Experience Museum and visited the Atlanta Centennial Olympic Park and ate dinner at the Hard Rock Café in Atlanta.

The students also got to travel on a chartered tour bus and stayed at a very nice hotel. This trip was all-inclusive. It didn't cost money.

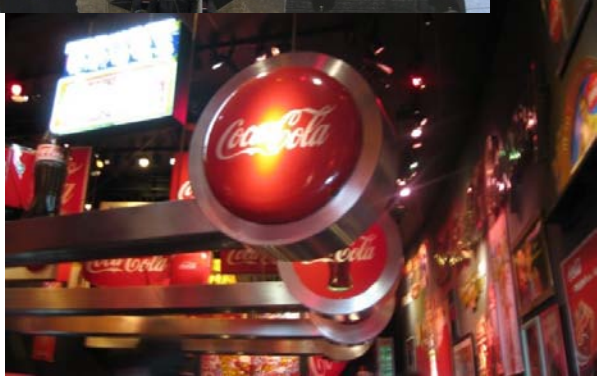
It was a great learning and cultural experience for all who attended. We are looking forward to more trips like this in the future!





THE SIGHTS OF ATLANTA

Photos by Antwaun Davis, SSS Participant





# TWO STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

## Joyce Waller

Joyce first enrolled at Lincoln after graduating high school in 2005. She stayed for two semesters until she was forced to return to Chicago to work. She spent many hours working, squeezing in local classes when she could.

One day, she decided to return to Lincoln to "finish what I started where I started it." In February of 2009, she moved back to Jefferson City for summer classes. That fall, she applied for the nursing program. As a "caring, compassionate person with an aptitude for science and social studies, a nurse was all she ever wanted to do.

After improving her grades by working hard and getting tutoring at SSS, she has just learned that she has been accepted into Lincoln's highly competitive nursing school for 2011! We congratulate her and wish her well.

Joyce states that she could have done it without taking advantage of services like SSS while studying, working and raising a child. "Get help from SSS," she says simply. "It's the



## Scott Chapman

Scott Chapman didn't start his academic success story. In high school, he leaned more towards sports and away from school matters, such that he only made it to ninth grade, and then went into the military.

Then he had the auto accident that changed his life. The violent collision threw him 60 feet through the air, causing injuries which left him with a metal bar in his leg and several deep neurophysiological issues. Everyday activities we take for granted, such as communicating with others and moving around, became work, difficult, intimidating chores to be performed just to get through the day.

Scott recounts one experience where some employees at a popular fast-food chain publically made fun of his disability, the way he talked, the way he moved.

While volunteering with the homeless, he began to get a new feeling, a sense of being a part of something bigger than himself. He was told that he could be someone special, smart not to go to college. "So he enrolled, acquiring a 3.25 average, but he had to stop in his studies because of the recurring seizures caused by his accident. It took about two years for him to stabilize, but he finally found a neurologist who was able to help him.

That feeling of being part of something larger returned, and he went back to college. It "kept him going" when he no longer wanted to continue persevering. But the encouragement of his caseworker, Elizabeth Ferguson Watts, and a personal challenge from Governor Jay Nixon to keep a 4.0 average helped him keep his motivation as well.

He says he likes to help his fellow students, and one of his most interesting personal discoveries was that helping others study increases his understanding of the area. She advises new freshmen: "The best thing you can do is ask questions. You can do it. It's not enough with it and more confidence."

This last semester, he came to Student Support Services frustrated with a statistics class. He states that several listening ears at SSS as well as SSS tutor Jakub Michel helped him through a difficult time. He got an A in the class and a 3.786 cumulative GPA.

Scott believes in sharing the knowledge he has gained. "If you can't do something, what point is having it?"

We wish Scott every continued success in his endeavors and hope he continues to make SSS a part of his college career.



**TUTORS AT SSS**

The following tutors are available now!

MWALIMU CLARK  
history

SABRINA GLEESON  
mathematics

SHERRY JONES  
accounting and business

ANTONIO LEWIS  
political science

SARAH MAPLES  
English

DOMINIC MCGREGORY  
sciences

SALLY READER  
psychology

MARIA VASKO  
mathematics

STAN ONYEKWERE  
sociology

MARK WORTHEN  
English, Spanish

We hope to see you soon!

**SSS STAFF**

MRS. RUBY STEWART  
Director, SSS

MS. JAN CURTISS  
Intake Specialist

MS. TAMMY HARTLEY  
Administrative Assistant

MR. STAN ONYEKWERE  
Program Assistant

MR. MARK WORTHEN  
Learning Specialist

**SSS CALENDAR  
MARCH**

Upcoming Events in  
Student Support  
Services



*Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 11:00 a.m.*  
Workshop: Multimedia Presentations

*Thursday, March 4<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00 a.m.*  
Activity: Open Mike Day

*Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00 a.m.*  
Workshop: Wellness Workshop - Aids

*Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00 a.m.*  
Activity: Zumba

*Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00 a.m.*  
SPRING BREAK: No Workshop

*Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00 a.m.*  
SPRING BREAK: No Activity

*Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 11:00 a.m.*  
Workshop: Income Tax Preparation

*Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00 a.m.*  
Activity: Radio Station Tour

*Tuesday, March 30<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00 a.m.*  
Workshop: Stress Management

