Joann Loveless, 22nd International Grand Basileus
"Purposed For Service: Reaching Inward, Upward & Outward!"
one day...
all babies will be born healthy.

Help moms have healthy pregnancies and give hope to the families of babies born too soon or sick. Join more than a million people walking in their communities across America.

As Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. increases its focus on Project Reassurance for the next two years and reunites with the March of Dimes to support these efforts, all chapters, members, philos, rhoers, families and friends are asked to join us in actively supporting the 2009 Walk for Babies across the nation.
Be sure to use the hyperlink below to register your 2009 participation with the Sigma Gamma Rho Team. Choose an existing chapter sub-team or create your own chapter sub-team. See www.marchforbabies.org/sigmagammarho

If you encounter problems in signing up, contact Gwen Carmon, GCarmon@marchofdimes.com or call (252) 355-3151

the walk starts at marchforbabies.org
The official organ of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., founded at Butler University, Indianapolis, Indiana, November 12, 1922.

International Headquarters
1000 Southhill Drive, Suite 200
Cary, North Carolina 27513-8628
Telephone: 888/747-1922
Fax: 919/678-9721
www.sgrho1922.org
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., EST

Joann Loveless
International Grand Basileus

Cynthia Horner
International Editor-in-Chief

Rachel Morris
Executive Director

Contributing Writers
Brigitte Cook
Barbara L. Eikner
LaTisha Gholston
W. Jeanine Daughtery

Design
Powell Graphics & Communication, Inc.

Printer
Progressive Business Solutions

The AURORA is published three times a year. All materials for publication should be addressed to the attention of The AURORA at the International Headquarters or sent electronically to theauroramag@sgrho1922.org. The Editor assumes no responsibility for unsolicited photographs or manuscripts. Such documents, if to be returned, must be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope. All Rights Reserved. Postage paid to Raleigh, (North Carolina) Postmaster.

Deadlines:
Fall-Winter July 15
Winter-Spring November 15
Spring-Summer March 15

Table of Contents

DEPARTMENTS
International Grand Basileus Speaks 4
Directory of Officers 5
A Word From the Editor 6
Greetings From The Executive Director 8
Beacon of Light 9
Let's Give ‘Em Props 12
In The News 15
Meet Executive Director Rachel Morris 16
Dollars & Sense 17
From Him: Ed Gordon 19
The Rebuttal 21
Officer Essentials Workshop 22
50 Million Pound Challenge 23
52nd International Boule in Pictures 24
H? It's All About Me 29
The Aurora Covers The Presidential Inauguration 31
Message From 2nd Grand Anti-Basileus 34
Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Forms The Leadership Academy 35
Depression On Campus 36
United Nations Feature: Emmanuel Jal Raps In The Name of Peace 39
The Blue And Gold Carpet: Sigma Gamma Rho On The Go! 41
Sister's Keeper 42
Undergraduate Pulse 44
At Your Service 49
Alumnae on the Move 51
Affiliate News 57
Omega Rho 59
Certified Vendors Listing 63
Submission Guidelines 64
Upcoming Features

PRESERVING OUR LEGACY:
Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. …
Yesterday, Today, Forever!

LEADERSHIP:
Sorors Share Pearls of Wisdom

Exciting New Features:
THE BLUE AND GOLD CARPET
SIGMA SORORS SHINE:
Career Stories From Women On The Move
BEAUTIFUL BRIDES:
Peek Inside Their Wedding Albums
THE INNER YOU:
Self Expression From Our Artistic Readers

DON’T MISS THE AURORA!
For more information regarding submissions of any of these features, please contact the editor at theauroramag@sgrho1922.org.
Wishes to thank our sponsors:

Color Me Beautiful
Converse
Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center
Detroit Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau
Fourteen Karat Plus, Inc.
HRH Kirklin & Company, Inc.
Herff Jones, Inc.
Hyatt
Johnson & Johnson
Liberty Mutual Insurance
Macy’s
Motorola, Inc.
North America Group CGISS
Quaker Oats, Tropicana and Gatorade
ReMax Supreme Properties
State Farm Insurance
The Charleston Group
UBS Financial Services
Westinghouse Electric Company
The greatest and most memorable leaders in our history are those who made their mark as **servants** – people who dedicated their lives to improving the overall plight of a people rather than just uplifting themselves. Some of these that come to mind are Martin Luther King, Mahatma Gandhi, Mother Teresa, John F. Kennedy, Nelson Mandela and of course the greatest example, Jesus Christ.

Our seven illustrious founders believed in and followed a similar model of servant leadership in their creation of an organization focused on building leaders who are both anchored in and constant examples of “Greater Service, Greater Progress.”

It should therefore come as no surprise to you that this officer would select as our sisterhood’s 2008-2010 international biennium theme, **Purpose for Service**: Reaching Inward, Upward and Outward, which simply means

- Serving ourselves to enable us to walk the talk and set the proper example
- Serving our God, regardless of whom that might be, as our faith in a supreme being provides us the strength to serve despite hardships and setbacks
- Serving the greater community and the world to remain forever true to the core principles of our original founding

It is our hope that you embrace this theme both in thought and action to ensure that our circle of sisters retains its legacy of leadership, with a focus not as much on individual or collective celebrity success, as on the mark of service that we leave. If at the end of our tour as leaders, we’ve only uplifted ourselves, our legacy will be hollow and our victory empty.

Accept the leadership mindset mantra as espoused by John F. Kennedy to “Ask not what your country [or chapter or sorority or community or world] can do for you – ask what you can do for your country.” For that is where true leadership begins.

Always in Your Service,

Soror Joann Loveless
22nd International Grand Basileus

Greetings from the International Grand Basileus
Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated
International Board of Directors 2008–2010

INTERNATIONAL GRAND BASILEUS
Joann Loveless
Greensburg, PA
Northeast Region

INTERNATIONAL GRAND TAMIOCHUS
Barbara L. Eikner
Tulsa, OK
Southwest Region

INTERNATIONAL FIRST GRAND ANTI-BASILEUS
Bonita Herring
University Park, IL
Central Region

INTERNATIONAL EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, THE AURORA
Cynthia M. Horner
Edison, NJ
Northeast Region

INTERNATIONAL GRAND GRAMMATEUS
Chantay Canty Alexander
Houston, TX
Southwest Region

INTERNATIONAL GRAND EPISTOLEUS
W. Jeanine Daugherty
Chicago, IL
Central Region

INTERNATIONAL SECOND GRAND ANTI-BASILEUS
Nina Nunlee
Hamtramck, MI
Central Region

INTERNATIONAL GRAND ANTI-GRAMMATEUS
Tiffany Hightower
Chicago, IL
Central Region

INTERNATIONAL GRAND ANTI-BASILEUS
Brenda Canty
Baton Rouge, LA
Southwest Region

INTERNATIONAL GRAND ANTI-GRAMMATEUS
Nina Nunlee
Hamtramck, MI
Central Region

INTERNATIONAL LEGAL ADVISOR
Karyn A. Thomas, Esq
Plano, TX • Central Region

INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARIAN
Frances Jackson, Ph.D., R.N.
Detroit, MI • Central Region

NATIONAL PHILO COORDINATOR
Dr. Wanda L. Nelson
Austin, TX • Southwest Region

NATIONAL RHOEER COORDINATOR
Sharrone Usher
Bronx, NY • Northeast Region

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM COORDINATOR
Brigitte Cook
Oakland, CA • Western Region

INTERNATIONAL SERGEANT AT ARMS
Karen Y. Williams
Pearland, TX • Southwest Region

UNDERGRADUATE CHAPTER COORDINATORS
CENTRAL REGION
Pamela Lee
Chicago, IL

NORTHEAST REGION
Linette Caroselli
Prospect Park, NJ

SOUTHEAST REGION
Kay M. McKinney-White
Madison, TN

SOUTHWEST REGION
Henry Etta O’Neal
Carrollton, TX

WESTERN REGION
Denise Trimble Smith
Tucson, AZ

YOUTH SERVICES COORDINATORS
CENTRAL REGION
Vacant

NORTHEAST REGION
Joi Hayes
Baltimore, MD

SOUTHEAST REGION
Jaleisa Turner
Florence, SC

SOUTHWEST REGION
Christine Hill
Arlington, TX

WESTERN REGION
Briana Marshall
Long Beach, CA

CORPORATE LIAISON
Carolyn Williams
Washington, DC
Northeast Region

BOULE CHAPLAIN
Joyce Hatney
Augusta, GA
Southeast Region

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF PAST GRAND BASILEI
Cleo S. Higgins, Ph.D., 10th
Jacksonville, FL
Southeast Region

Annie L. Lawrence-Brown, R.N., Ed.D., 13th
Chicago, IL
Central Region

Evelyn H. Hood, 14th
Atlanta, GA
Southeast Region

Katie Kinnard White, Ph.D., 17th
Brentwood, TN
Southeast Region

Dr. Mynora J. Bryant, 21st
Silver Springs, MD
Northeast Region

CORPORATE LIAISON
Rachel Morris
International Corporate Headquarters
1000 Southhill Drive Ste 200
Cary, NC 27513-8630

Winter/Spring 2009 • The Aurora
Dear Sorors,

It is my honor to introduce myself as your new Editor-in-Chief of The Aurora Magazine. I have been a faithful reader of The Aurora since the late 80’s. It was during that time that I became an honorary member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Having fallen in love with the magazine upon sight, it was my dream to put my own stamp on the publication. My dream became a reality at our recent Boule. My nomination from the floor by one of my fellow Kappa Sigma chapter members, Inez B. Vanable, the Executive Consultant to the Northeast Region, was an esteemed honor in itself. The ensuing election process was a very surreal experience, one that has had an indelible impact on my life.

Serving as Editor-in-Chief of The Aurora is a natural fit for me as I have been a professional journalist for years. Many sorors grew up reading many of my articles during my long-running stint at Right On! Magazine. As one of the icons in magazine publishing I have received many honors for my work, and have written thousands of stories on such prominent people as The Jacksons, Prince, New Edition, Stevie Wonder, and countless others. For the past two years, I have served as an editor for Hip-Hop Weekly, a popular, award-winning bi-weekly entertainment magazine. As a celebrity journalist, I have spent years putting the stars in people’s eyes, so it’s only fitting that it’s Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.’s turn to shine.

I plan to utilize my expertise as a journalist and editor to streamline some of the operations regarding The Aurora as well as to provide content reflecting the diversity in our organization. Please see the submissions guideline page for additional information so that together, we can efficiently produce this wonderful publication. You will be able to communicate with me through blogs and e-mail communication, so please, don’t hesitate to contact me. Please join me in thanking Rasheeda Hakeem-Liberty for her faithful service and dedication as the former editor-in-chief of The Aurora.

This issue combines editorial from the past two seasons to give the magazine a more timely appearance. We hope that you enjoy your reading experience, and please look forward to many more literary surprises in the coming months.

Sisterly yours,

Cynthia Horner
Thank You For Your Vision
And Your Service

This page is dedicated with love to:

Dr. Mynora J. Bryant
21st International Grand Basileus
Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

“My philosophy is that when all is said and done, and you have given the best that is within you, you will be remembered not by what you have, not by who you are, but by your deeds.”
I would like to express what an honor and a privilege it is to serve the organization as executive director of our International Corporate Headquarters. In this position, I will strive to continue in the footsteps of our great founders and, true to their vision, embrace the principles of “Greater Service, Greater Progress.” I am committed to providing our membership with the utmost service and dedication, in order to ensure the bright future of our illustrious organization.

As the world evolves and transforms we must strive to meet adversity in an ever-changing society. In the current economy, it is important that the culture and strategy of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. are centered on innovation. Through teamwork, tenacity, flexibility and creativity, our sisterhood will achieve greater heights. Translating these values into action will provide a wealth of knowledge and support for our great sorority.

As we continue our transition as a new administration and move into the 2009-2010 fiscal year, teamwork will be ever more important. Our International Corporate Headquarters’ staff is committed to providing excellent customer service and working to assist the membership, in keeping with the international biennium theme set by our international grand basileus, *Purposed for Service: Reaching Inward, Upward & Outward.*

Sisterly,

*Rachel E. Morris*
“HOLD FAST THAT WHICH IS GOOD”

We are a generation of people who seek the best things life has to offer. We want our children to have more opportunities than given to us. We seek the highest paying jobs, even though we have to work limitless hours to keep them. While diamonds, platinum jewelry, gold, furs, expensive luxury cars, lavish homes and limitless charge cards are appealing, we do not need to ruin our name, health, credit or families by seeking superficial things we cannot afford.

Some of us think a good job, beautiful home, sports car, stocks, bonds and money are the best things in life, but these things are dispensable. Some believe a good life involves having a spouse or companion, eating our favorite ice cream, sitting in front of a fireplace, sipping a cup of hot chocolate, receiving flowers, perfume and candy and/or dancing to a favorite song. Some are happy sitting by the pool, exercising, enjoying a picnic or the company of your friends and sorors. All these things are special things that allow us to feel loved. However, the most valuable thing God has to offer is God’s love. God’s love goes beyond mere material possessions. God has proven his love by giving us his son Jesus. From the beginning of time, God has shown us love.

God made provisions for each of us from the beginning of time. In Genesis 1, the first book of The Bible, God gives us examples to live by. Genesis 1:1 says, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” God created the heavens and the earth by speaking them into existence and that was good. God proved that other things could be spoken and caused to manifest in our lives. God said, “Let there be light” and there was light, which also was good. He called the light day and the darkness night. God said, “Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, let it divide the waters from the waters. God called the firmament Heaven.” God spoke every good thing into existence, from the beginning, including: dry lands, which He called the earth; grass; herb yielding seed; fish; and fowl of the air. He created man and woman, in his own image, and gave us dominion over the earth. We can do as God did. He spoke good things.

We, too, need to speak good things, because our future depends upon it. The Bible says the tongue is a “two-edge sword” that cannot be tamed. It speaks both good and bad. It can bless The Lord and also utter negative words. If you speak negative things, negative things will occupy your life. Those
things that you confess, or meditate on, whether good or bad, are the things that will come to pass in your life. God gives good things, such as, true love, forgiveness, peace, joy, and mercy. God fulfills all of his promises and his word never changes. The Bible tells us in Matthew 6:33 to “Seek first the kingdom of heaven and all these things shall be added unto you.” The things for which we work so hard can be added to us by God, if we just give him first place in our hearts.

God desires that we have some of the things that we desire. However, if God gave us all of our desires, we would have no need for him. When we put God first, we can have other things. God is good and loves us. One who loves gives of him or herself. Our seven extraordinary founders of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated, gave us a strong, proud legacy. They worked diligently at Butler University as early as 1922 and imagined a sisterhood that was not a carbon copy of other Greek lettered organizations. They wanted something far more important than wearing an emblem and colors. They desired to make a difference in this world by educating the masses and helping those in need. They wanted a strong bond that could not be broken, even by death. Our Founders were tenacious ladies, full of love, harmony, and true sisterhood, who left a road map that we can follow. Our Founders trusted God and included Him in their plans. God ordered their steps years ago and the principles of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., lives within us to this day. “Hold fast that which is good.”

God is good and He has given us His most valuable gift of love, Jesus. He has given us a very special gift of sisterhood that has helped to make us better. Contrary to the world’s way of thinking, we are to seek God first and good things will be added unto us. 1 Thessalonians 5:22 advises us to “Abstain from all appearances of evil.” Speak and meditate on positive things in order to have the kind of life that you desire. God wants to bless you on earth, so choose this day whom you will serve. God will never leave you alone. Wherever you are God is also. Obey the Word of God, because God’s way is best. “Hold fast that which is good.”
refrigerator for five days. It would not be our choice meal. Some of us do not like leftovers or damaged goods, yet we expect God to accept the things that we do not want. We give others our time, talents and possessions, but we are thrifty when it comes to giving God that which belongs to Him. God wants us to honor Him with our first fruits (life, time, talents, and tithe), so that He can bless us more abundantly.

From the beginning of time, God has given us His Word and examples by which to live. In Genesis 1:26, God gave us dominion over the fish, fowl, cattle, earth, and every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. He did not give us dominion over human beings. God created a companion for everyone and everything, but not for Himself. God is our Heavenly Father. Like parents, God loves, guides, and nurtures us. For His devotion and kindness, He receives no compensation and very few acknowledgements. He asks us to love, honor, trust, and obey Him.

No matter the situation, we should always confide in God. God tells us to “Cast all our cares (anxieties, concerns) on Him, for He cares for us” (1 Peter 5:7). The Message Bible tells us in that same passage to “Stay with God, do not quit and take heart.” We need to stop meditating on our problems, and rely on God’s Word. When we try to handle a God-sized problem, we usually make the situation worse. We need to go to our quiet place so that we can hear God. Be still, meditate on God’s Word, and allow God to reveal His plan, at the appointed time.

There is so much more to learn about our Redeemer, through the situations we face. Stop worrying about people, places, or things and depend upon God to lead you through each trial. Matthew 11:29 tells us that God is meek and in Him we can rest, because His burdens are light. God is sovereign and is well able to make any situation work out for good. Be still. Listen for God’s “still, small voice.” Know that God is love, omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, and is always victorious. He is waiting patiently on you to honor him with your life, time, talents, and tithe. Everyone needs to be still and know that God is God and He is to be exalted above all others.

Soror Vivian Johnson, Ed. D. is the daughter of the late Mr. John and Soror Janie J. Johnson Jr. She is an educator who received a Bachelor of Music Education from Henderson State University; Master of Secondary Education and a Doctorate of Educational Administration from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Her goal in life is to serve God with her whole heart and help others fulfill their dreams. She is a member of Christway Missionary Baptist Church, immediate past Boule Chaplain, Chaplain of Theta Sigma Chapter (Little Rock, Arkansas) and a Life Member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.
Soror Nneka Beauford  
(Gamma Sigma, Houston, TX)  
Received her Master of Arts in Humanities—Images from University of Houston – Clear Lake!

Soror Doris L. Brown  
(Delta Sigma, Chicago, IL)  
Completing her first year as the Management Support Director (MSD) for Chicago Public Schools-Area 3 Instruction Office, Soror Brown manages 21 Chicago Public Schools in the north and south Austin community. As the MSD, Soror Brown provides support in the areas of CPS policy and procedure, student discipline, safety and security concerns, summer school, parent concerns, Local School Council elections, professional development, and other day-to-day operations. Soror Brown works closely with the Area 3 Instruction Officer (AIO) in the supervision and the administration of all 21 schools.

Soror Mildred Mae Bynum  
(Denton, TX)  
When Mildred Mae Bynum was accepted into the Ph.D program in Higher Education at the University of North Texas (UNT) located in the City of Denton, she relocated from Minnesota to Texas in pursuit of her educational studies. She also accepted a position as Coordinator in the UNT Office of New Student Programs, focusing on the UNT transfer student population and transitional programming. Soror Johnson has also taken on the role as advisor for the UNT chapter of Tau Sigma, the academic national honor society for transfer students. She was awarded the Academic Achievement Scholarship for the Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 semesters, which is renewable for Fall 2009.

Soror Bridget Calhoun  
(Eta Sigma Sigma, Greenville, SC)  
Received her Associate Degree in Health Sciences – Physical Therapy Assistance from Greenville Technical College. Soror Calhoun is currently working at Advantage Rehabilitation Systems while still operating her Austin Accounting & Tax Services business, which she founded in 2000.

Soror Keisha Cohen  
(Eta Xi Sigma, Oak Lawn, IL)  
Received her Master of Health Science Degree with a concentration in addiction studies from Governors State University. Soror Cohen’s ultimate career goal is to design and implement prevention programs surrounding substance abuse and sexually transmitted infectious diseases in an urban academic setting.

Soror Tonya N. Foster  
(Eta Sigma Sigma, Greenville, SC)  
Received her Master of Education in educational leadership from Converse College in Spartanburg, SC. In addition to receiving “Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers” recognition for three years in a row, Soror Foster also received an award from the SC Cheerleader Coaches Association for 10 years of dedicated service.

Soror Kelita Johnson  
(Beta Omega Sigma, Shreveport, LA)  
Soror Kelita Johnson received a Master of Arts Degree in Student Personnel Services - Student Affairs Administration from Northwestern State University, in Natchitoches, Louisiana. She is a member of Beta Omega Sigma Chapter Graduate Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., in Shreveport, LA.

Soror Sharonda Johnson  
(Charlotte, NC)  
UNC Charlotte student Sharonda Latrice Johnson received the National Science Foundation award for graduate study and research. She will be able to pursue research in nanoscale science in the university’s chemistry department. The
$120,000 three-year award includes $30,000 per year for personal expenses and $10,000 a year for educational expenses. “This is a very competitive scholarship,” Johnson comments. “I was told there was a 10 percent chance of success when I applied, so I wasn't really expecting it. It is really a weight off my shoulders because funding for research is hard to come by, and this is a project I really wanted to work on.” Soror Johnson plans to research the similarities between man-made nanoparticles and naturally occurring nanoparticles and possibly how the man-made variety can affect science. Soror Johnson is working toward receiving a doctoral degree in Nanoscale Science.

**Soror Zandra Johnson**  
*(Eta Sigma Sigma, Greenville, SC)*

She is recognized by the Greenville YWCA as a “Woman of Achievement” and received the YWCA Dream Achiever Award. Soror Johnson has made herself into a strong business woman and community leader, including her work with the Junior League of Greenville, Urban League of the Upstate, United Way Young Philanthropists Council, Girl Scouts Mountains to Midlands, the South Carolina Women Lawyers Association Board of Directors, the Federal Bar Association and the Donald James Sampson Bar Association.

**Soror Helana Myatt**  
*(Gamma Sigma, Houston, TX)*

Received her Master of Arts in counseling from Prairie View A & M University!

**Soror Wanda L. Nelson**  
*(Alpha Kappa Sigma, Austin, TX)*

Honored with a lifetime achievement award presented by the Black Faculty & Staff Association at the University of Texas, Dr. Nelson is the founding president of the organization. Currently she serves as the associate vice president for Pre-College Youth Development Programs and Student Diversity Initiatives in the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement. Additionally, she is the chartering advisor for Mu Upsilon Chapter at UT in 1992, and has served as faculty advisor for other student groups on campus, and is currently the National Philo Coordinator. Soror Nelson was lauded for her work to empower students, faculty, and staff and facilitate their successful academic and career pursuits.

**Soror Christina N. Outlay**  
*(Eta Xi Sigma, Oak Lawn, IL)*

Received her doctorate in management information systems from the University of Illinois at Chicago in June 2008. Soror Outlay is a full-time faculty instructor at DePaul University, College of Commerce, effective September 1, 2008 in the department of Accountancy and Management Information Systems. Soror Outlay is the DePaul faculty advisor to the undergrad chapter Xi Lambda at DePaul University, which was also her undergrad chapter. Soror Outlay also has a MS in Information Systems, BA in Psychology (both from DePaul University) and Project Management Professional industry certification. Soror Outlay has spent the last 11 years working in corporate IT project management, and now is switching to a full-time academic career.

**Soror DaOsha Pack**  
*(Eta Sigma Sigma, Greenville, SC)*

Graduated with a Master of Education in higher education administration. Soror Pack is the site coordinator of Undergraduate Student Services at Troy University-Augusta, the second largest site of Troy University Global Campus.

**Soror Patricia Stewart**  
*(Eta Xi Sigma, Oak Lawn, IL)*

Recognized by Chicago Public Schools for the “Gotcha! Going Above and Beyond Award”. Soror Patricia Stewart was nominated by her colleagues at Richard T. Crane Technical High School for doing good deeds and going beyond her normal job.
responsibilities. Soror Patricia Stewart is a teacher and also the chairperson for the English Department.

**Soror Sydney Stewart**  
(Eta Xi Sigma, Oak Lawn, IL)

Chosen to be the community leader for March 2008 by the Black McDonald’s Operators Association, Soror Stewart’s nomination is for a six-month long campaign that highlights African-American people in different categories who have made a difference in their community. Soror Sydney Stewart is the assistant principal over Curriculum and Instruction at Richard T. Crane Tech Prep High School. Soror Stewart has a reputation for being a positive person who has a wealth of knowledge and is respected by her staff and students, who would do “Anything” for her. Soror Stewart’s academic and professional accomplishments have been highlighted on a local radio station and BMOA website.

**Soror Claudia Thomas**  
(Eta Xi Sigma, Oak Lawn, IL)

Enrolled at the DePaul University Graduate School of Public Service. Soror Thomas is majoring in public service with a concentration in metropolitan planning and urban affairs. Soror Thomas took part in many community service incentives and studied in New Orleans and Ireland. Her work in New Orleans included developing strategic planning concepts and tools to aid public and nonprofit organizations to achieve organizational goals. Furthermore, her continued service focused on processes and techniques of analyzing and designing public policies. In addition, Soror Thomas spent two summers at All Hallows College, Dublin, with an international student body taught by faculty from DePaul University and All Hallows. Soror Thomas attended classes that explored management and strategy in nonprofit nongovernmental, health care, social service, association, education, government, and arts organization management.

**Soror Tabitha Washington**  
(International member, Tallahassee, FL)

Accepted the position as Reference Librarian through the Gadsden County Board of Commissioners. Through this position Soror Washington will oversee reference services for three branch libraries, in three cities throughout Gadsden County, Florida.

**Soror Tiffany Washington**  
(Beta Pi Sigma, Durham, NC)

Soror Washington is in her 2nd year of the Ph.D. Social Work program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where her research focus is Health & Aging. She recently completed the Summer Training on Aging Research Topics – Mental Health Program where she conducted a research project examining perceived health competence among older adults in the south. She is a recipient of the 2008 Hartford Doctoral Fellows Pre-Dissertation Award Program in aging research.

---

**7 Degrees of Sigma**

I am serene.  
But a true revolutionary  
My face shows exultance and power.  
Intelligence is my forte.  
My strength is in the alluvian  
While my beauty vogues above others.  
I transcend above those who seek to bring me down ...  
I am a degree that can be compared to none other  
I am Sigma

*Soror April Blanding*
An Evening with Sigma Jewels

Submitted by Mae Eva Wesley

Sigma Gamma Rho held interviews at the Auburn Avenue Research Library with three jewels of the sisterhood. Soror Mary Lyons interviewed these sorors. The sorority is fortunate to be in the presence of its trailblazers. They are as follows:

- Past Grand Basileus Evelyn H. Hood
- Past Chapter Basileus, Annette Hampton
- Current Tamiochus, Racyne Wyatt

These sorors are a valuable resource and a source to empower the sisterhood. This event was a rare opportunity for the undergraduates to hear words of wisdom from the results of knowledge well preserved. With 50 years of service, these sorors were well qualified to speak on matters of vital significance to younger members.

Yet another accomplishment, Past Grand Basileus Evelyn H. Hood’s portrait is displayed in the Hall of Fame at Clark Atlanta University.

During an interview, Past Grand Basileus Evelyn Hood (top left); Past Basileus Annette Hampton (top right) and Tamichous Racyne Wyatt (bottom right) share their Sigma stories.
MEET RACHEL MORRIS
NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated’s new executive director is Rachel Morris who assumed the position formerly held by Jennifer Jones. Rachel E. Morris grew up in Surry County, Virginia and has lived in Raleigh, North Carolina since 1998. She graduated from Saint Augustine’s College in May 2001 with a BS in Computer Science. She completed her master’s degree in business management from Strayer University in 2005. Prior to becoming the Executive Director for Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated, she worked at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Rachel became a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. on March 22, 1998 at Saint Augustine’s College via Nu chapter. She has been an active member of Beta Lambda Sigma, the Raleigh Alumnae chapter, since graduating in 2001. On the local level she has held the offices of basileus, first anti-basileus, anti-grammateus and parliamentarian. She also has served as the co-chair for the Achievement and Awards Committee for the Northeast Region.

Her research interests include schooling and the racial achievement gap, racial and ethnic economic inequality, and colorism. In her spare time, she likes to spend time with her husband Willie and their two-year-old daughter, Madison, and enjoys cooking delicious, tasty meals.

Soror Morris comments on her position, “I am honored to be trusted with such a prestigious position within the organization’s headquarters.”

DON’T LET INTERESTED YOUNG WOMEN, PHILOS, & RHOERS SETTLE FOR PASS AROUNDS!
Give them this form to get their own personal, home-delivered copy of the AURORA Magazine

☐ Yes! Send me the next three issues of the AURORA magazine for $25.00

* $20 subscription fee applies to orders of 5 or more paid at the same time.

Please Print

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Check the appropriate category:
☐ Rhoer  ☐ Philo  ☐ Inactive Soror  ☐ Membership Candidate  ☐ Other

Mail with your cashier’s check/money order to:
Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.  •  Attn: AURORA Magazine 1000 Southhill Dr., Suite 200  •  Cary, NC 27513-8628

Subscription will begin 4-6 weeks after receipt of payment
What’s Love Got to Do With It?

Love is in the air and so is wedding bliss. Many sorors are planning everything from color and style of bridesmaid dresses, selecting catering services, purchasing floral arrangements, designing honeymoon ventures and all the other activities associated with a wedding and marriage.

As you plan your big day or assist your daughter in hers, don’t underestimate the importance of ensuring that your new life is secure by protecting your financial assets that you have accumulated before the night he asked the question of a lifetime.

This is not the man’s job. Like your commitment to each other, this is a joint venture.

The need for women to be open-minded and well-versed in financial management is the subject matter of many financial authors.

I have developed seven steps that should make this life change a little easier:

1. Don’t Be Afraid to Discuss Money Before the Wedding Day.

Women have been placed in a very precarious position that makes us uncomfortable to initiating discussions on managing household expenses, how we develop a savings plan, establishing beneficiaries, making out wills, etc., with our future spouse. However, we are more educated now than our great-grandmothers were in money matters. We should be true partners. Thus, assist in and even review all financial matters of the future household.

My sister, if you know you are marrying a man who does not have the skills to manage and ensure a strong financial foundation, have good credit or is willing to let you be an equal partner in such matters, now is the time to stop and think it over.

2. Prenuptial Agreement is not a Bad Idea.

If you have substantial assets going into the marriage be sure to protect yourself and assets by getting a prenuptial agreement. This process is not for the rich and famous or for well known celebrities. It is just a fact that many of us will marry men with more, less or equal assets and it is also a fact that we should protect the assets we have accumulated before marriage. Many men and women are intimidated by this process, but it will save a lot of heartache and headache as time goes by. If the man or even if you are not willing to sign a prenuptial, you may want to think and pray a little longer before the big day.

3. Pay for Wedding Day Expenses Upfront

If you can pull off a Star Jones Event, great! If not, pay for everything before you go on the honeymoon. Weddings funded on credit cards are an indication that you have started a new life living above your means. In addition, things will get worst before they get better. Weddings are not to impress people who don’t care about you or make you look like you have money that you really don’t have. It is a sacred time and should have the focus of love and spirit. Pay all expenses upfront or wait until you can afford the kind of wedding you want.
4. Health is Important
A complete physical exam for both you and your future partner is important. Not because it may be required for a marriage license but because knowing if there are any health, mental, physical or emotional problems, will ensure no surprise medical expenses early in the relationship that may cripple the household financial foundation. Share the results with each other and know your medical professionals.

5. Children, Ex-wives and Others
If children are involved, minors or adults, be sure that issues such as child support, alimony, visiting rights and heir property are discussed and finalized. Many sorors may be getting married for the second time or may be marrying someone who is widowed, divorced or single with children. Ask all of the right questions upfront so that you will know the flow of funds from and into your household.

6. Be Honest
With any financial issue, be honest. Tell the Truth. With the availability of information on the internet and other resources, bad credit, criminal records, etc. will come back to haunt you, just when you least expect it (like at the closing of your first home!).

7. Until Death Do You Part
May your love last forever.

---

**Saving for Retirement?**

**What you should know …**

After retirement some of us dream about traveling. Others look forward to reading books, visiting grandkids and/or tending to gardens; nonetheless there's one thing that unites our retirement dreams: the need for money. Simply put, retirement is expensive. Experts estimate that you'll need about 70 percent of your pre-retirement income to maintain your standard of living when you stop working. For someone who makes $50,000, that's $35,000 a year that will be needed to maintain their current lifestyle (Kevin Reston, February 2006). When the Employee Benefit Research Institute polled retirees, 55 percent of them said they needed an annual income equivalent to 95 percent of their pre-retirement earnings (www.ebri.org, 2006). If you expect money to come from the government, you're in for a disappointment. These days, Social Security typically replaces 40 percent of pre-retirement income, according to the National Academy of Social Insurance, a nonpartisan policy group. This means that it is up to you to save. Below are a few retirement saving tips:

1. **Save as much as you can as early as you can**
   Though it's never too late to start, the sooner you begin saving, the more time your money has to grow. Start by saving 5-10% every pay period. Those gains compounded with the previous years' gains are the best way to accumulate wealth.

2. **Set realistic saving goals**
   Project your retirement expenses based on your needs. Things to consider are: health needs, financial loans, travel plans, and property taxes. Then calculate how much you must save to supplement Social Security and other sources of retirement income.

3. **A 401(k) is one of the easiest and best ways to save for retirement**
   Contributing money to a 401(k) gives you an immediate tax deduction, tax-deferred growth on your savings.

4. **An IRA also can give your savings a tax-advantaged boost**
   Like a 401(k), IRAs offer huge tax breaks. There are two types: a traditional IRA offers tax-deferred growth, meaning you pay taxes on your investment gains only when you make withdrawals, and, if you qualify, your contributions may be deductible; a Roth IRA, by contrast, doesn't allow for deductible contributions but offers tax-free growth, meaning you owe no tax when time to collect your money.

5. **Make tax efficient withdrawals**
   Once you're retired, your assets can last several more years if you draw on money from taxable accounts (i.e. 401-K) first and let tax-advantaged accounts compound for as long as possible.

6. **Working part-time in retirement**

---

Submitted by Adriene Hobdy-Lambert
Alpha Eta Sigma Chapter, Philadelphia, PA

Barbara L. Eikner, EVP of Trabar Communications LLC and spent over 30 years in banking and finance.
Life Member 522 of Alpha Xi Sigma Tulsa, Oklahoma
AWARD-WINNING JOURNALIST ED GORDON FINDS A WAY TO FORGE A BOND BETWEEN FATHERS AND DAUGHTERS WITH HIS NEW INITIATIVE!

By Cynthia Horner

THE AURORA: How did you decide to create your initiative, Daddy's Promise?

ED GORDON: It came about as a result of an article that I had written that was published in Essence Magazine about two years ago. I had written an article about my relationship with my daughter and after it was published, I was out with Taylor (my daughter) and we were shopping for a dress and a woman saw us and ran up to us and said, "the article is true; I am heartened to see you all out in public." I was grateful for the response and decided to take my idea to the next level.

THE AURORA: What is the significance of Daddy's Promise?

ED GORDON: We want to do the right thing for our daughters. There's a pledge on the website that you can download. We also have a national photo album, and we are asking people to upload their favorite photos. We have had Will Downing lend his song, "Beautiful To Me" to use as a theme song. Celebrities Ludacris, Terrence Howard and Gabrielle Union are involved as well. We are encouraging people to submit photos to the website. It's fun to see pictures and images across the country that we rarely see. We are seeing vintage pictures from 1969, someone sent something in from 1973 and her father was at her birthday party. People don't understand the importance of an image. If you think about a romantic evening, most of us didn't learn that at home; we learned that at the movies. And you internalize and it's the same thing here and that's why we wanted to have Black men and their daughters on the website. We want to show that we all are not absent.

THE AURORA: Have you heard from people who aren't great fathers? This initiative should give them incentive.

ED GORDON: Some have said that people have told them about our initiative. When I have interviewed men, they have said that they do not know what to do with their daughters. They'll say things like, "I know how to play basketball or baseball with a boy, but didn't know what to do with a girl." One man said he would take his daughter to the movies, but after an hour and a half, he wouldn't know what to do with her. Hopefully, men will now start getting to know and love their daughters. As my brother told me, "no woman will ever love you the way your daughter does. Not your mama, not your wife, your favorite girlfriend ... This girl will love you in a different way." We men need to be more than the big muscle or the man who peels off a dollar or two when she wants to go shopping. We are finding women who say they want to remain a nurturing force, but they say, "in spite of all of my accomplishments, I have had a void because my father was not
there.” Many of those women were encouraged that this relationship can be real.

**THE AURORA:** I didn’t know until I was grown and learned the background of others, that everyone didn’t have the same kind of dad that I am fortunate enough to have.

**ED GORDON:** It’s funny. We see life through our prism and a lot of people didn’t know that people thought *The Cosby Show* was fantasy. There are a lot of good men who didn’t have that kind of life will tell you that, “I made decisions oftentimes that were not the best, but that’s what I saw in my household.” We know the initiative will not change the world immediately, but we want to raise the dialogue and get things going.

**THE AURORA:** What are some of the ways that Daddy’s Promise can bridge the gap between fathers and daughters?

**ED GORDON:** One of the things I didn’t want to do is bite off more than we can chew. We want to raise the level of conversation and attention and we will do age appropriate events and small things like commit to going out with their daughters. We want men to take their daughter to lunch, whether she’s three or 33. We have joined forces with 100 Black Men for certain partnerships. We’re suggesting to men to find a little girl who doesn’t have a father in her life, and mentor her so that she can see what a father-daughter relationship can and should be. These are the things we want to implement. Another important point is that we say “fathers,” but it’s not always a blood father that has the most impact in your life. It could be a father figure that has an impact on your life.

**THE AURORA:** We know that you have reached out to President Barack Obama who has an outstanding relationship with his children.

**ED GORDON:** I have been working with his team on this as well. This is the first time in recent years that we have had a figure who has expressed such a strong, loving image.

**THE AURORA:** What about your family? Did you have a loving relationship with females in your family?

**ED GORDON:** I didn’t have any sisters and my dad passed away when I was 11, but I had a close-knit extended family. My family, my neighborhood, we were very close and I still talk to my old friends and their kids are like my kids, which is why I can get behind this initiative with passion. I see how it’s made a difference in my life. I wanted to pass that onto my daughter.

**THE AURORA:** How does your daughter feel?

**ED GORDON:** She’s grown up with me, and she’s used to the attention, but she has lent advice. It’s a collaborative effort to pull her in wherever she can.

**EDITOR’S NOTE:**
Award-winning broadcast journalist, Ed Gordon, the host of Our World With Black Enterprise, created Daddy’s Promise, an initiative designed to focus the attention of the African-American community on the positive relationship that can and should exist between fathers and daughters. Through a national campaign and a series of community engagements, including a father/daughter dance that will take place during summer 2009, the initiative will encourage fathers to be actively involved in their daughters’ lives. The movement gives this relationship a voice and creates a nationwide conversation with African-American families, ultimately celebrating fathers and father figures.

**Daddy’s Promise** includes a symbolic component that will encourage men to sign a pledge and make a public acknowledgment of love and support for their daughters. It also consists of principles and guidelines to assist in fostering positive relationships between fathers and daughters.

The Father/Daughter relationship has a significant impact on the many ways social and familial bonds are formed and the way girls grow up to be strong, confident women. To that end, **Daddy’s Promise** is a sustainable program that:

1. Encourages African-American fathers to take greater interest in their daughters’ lives,
2. Builds self-esteem in young girls and teaches them to be productive citizens,
3. Salutes the importance of the father’s role in the full development in his daughter’s life and the tremendous impact he has in shaping her,
4. Creates dialogue among families as a first step in establishing healthy relationships between girls and the men who help raise them—fathers, grandfathers, father figures and mentors, thereby strengthening African-American families as a whole.
Sisterly Thoughts on Education

by Nicolla Tebao

How to survive life’s questions and challenges is an act of education. The act is not acquired from classroom learning; however, its seeds should be facilitative in changing the behavior of closed-mindedness to evolve into broad-mindedness. Transformations occur in time, but more importantly with the experience of learning how to become an equalizer of balancing challenges.

“Missed-Education” is an issue rampant in our society that is often a precursor of missed opportunity. Missed-Education is a term created for this article in order to see the relationship in its acronym “M.E.” Missed Education does not exempt M.E. because knowledge acquired and not passed along to another person continues to deepen the scars that feed into the vicious cycle of ill-preparedness for society. Missed-Education continues to occur for several reasons: living life through the lens of someone else, economic hardship, misguidance, mounded up disappointments, as well as not practicing the opportunity to think critically from one situation to the next. Critical thinking is the tool to enable good decisions in determining the best course of action, as Sorors in pledging our life, best efforts, and cooperation we need to restore faith, hope, and trust in sowing and harvesting the seeds of education.

In sowing and harvesting the seeds of education, one may start by asking questions: What does education mean? How is it defined? Who defines it? What could one do to help meet challenges of global responsibility and tolerance toward education? How does one make their presence as a model of education to be examined or followed? Education holds the key to meeting the demands of improving civilization. When one has been Missed-Educated this is an indication our society is going to be forever in trouble. The aforementioned statement does not necessarily mean that everyone must follow the same model because objectively education must allow people the freedom to know how to balance life circumstances. Life circumstances are the opponent that one either win or fail at by just giving up on the challenge.

Education goes beyond classroom walls; therefore, teachers should be as diverse in their style of guiding every student of every age because the heart of education is the relationship between the teacher and the student. Synergistically, teacher and pupil relationships carry young people throughout life, and older people to their wise days; therefore, greatness resides in teachers who are unselfish in their desires for their students to surpass them. Allowing others to achieve their objectives eradicates the labeling of Missed-Education and propels one to be fearless like a lion or lioness.

Grooming one to act courageously takes building their level of confidence with education. As sorors we have the responsibility of building our children, husbands, relatives and friends’ courage to battle against the powerful and the arrogant officials of society, which in most cases are those who look down on minorities with contempt. Education builds inner strength, courage, and confidence to move from one experience to the other with fierceness to handle any crisis that begs to interfere with the successes to be achieved.

Experienced successes enable education to act as an agent in creating distinguishable fine character in dissolving the issues of being a victim of “Missed-Educated (M.E.).” Healthy attitudes are one of the roots that stem from education because it helps one to resolve seeing situations in the best light while keeping elements of reality firmly focused. In all, one of the challenges we must conquer is being a participant of recreating the damages of Missed-Education to practice in actively engaging in our promise to society of ultimately performing “Greater Service, Greater Progress.”

Nicolla Tebao
Sigma Gamma Rho Hosts International 2009 Officer Essentials Training at St. John’s University

Leadership: One Vision, One Path, One Sisterhood

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. will host its first International Officer Essentials Training (OET) at St. John’s University, Queens, New York on July 17 and 18, 2009. This workshop is the first of its kind to bring the leadership of the organization from around the world, both graduate and undergraduate, to learn the key skills and expectations based on their current role and to ensure that the leadership team moves forward with one vision, one path and consistently as one sisterhood.

22nd International Grand Basileus Joann Loveless established this training to ensure that as the organization grows its ability to serve and remain an integral part of the community is expanded and sustained. This can only be done when the leadership is on the same page, resulting in organizational cohesiveness.

“We can no longer afford to operate siloed and segmented,” explains Loveless, “divided by geography and region/chapter idiosyncracies that have nothing to do with nor does anything to further the mission and vision of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc.”

The OET Planning Committee is chaired by Soror Myrtle I. Turner and co-chaired by Soror Alyce Boyd-Stewart with St. John’s University assistant dean of Student Life and director of Residence Life, Soror Anilsa Nunez serving as the logistics coordinator. Hosts for the weekend will be members of the Rho Iota and Rho Xi chapters, assisted by the NYC area alumnae chapters.

The 2009 Officer Essential Training is open to all undergraduate and graduate international and regional board members, chapter basilei, anti-basilei, grammatei, tamiochi, philo advisors, Rhoer Club advisors, legal advisors and hearing panel volunteers.

Training tracks are in development to meet the specific needs of each of the categories of participants invited. General sessions will address those leadership attributes and challenges relevant to all attendees as members of the Sigma Gamma Rho Leadership Team.

Registration will begin April 1 and end on May 15. There will be no onsite registration for this meeting. Registration materials are being sent to all chapters and members-at-large. Questions should be directed to Soror Rachel Morris, executive director.
Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority’s partnership with State Farm and the 50 Million Pound Challenge was formed to assist first our membership and the community at large, in reducing their risks of becoming yet another early death statistic.

We began by encouraging sorors, philos, family members and friends to sign-up to join Challenge teams. We applaud all those who answered the call by signing up, but the real benefit comes from the next step – actively utilizing the diet, nutrition and exercise tips and charting your progress on the 50 Million Pound Challenge website.
We have now established a new Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. National Team and are asking all sorors, philos, family and friends to join. If you have already signed up on a team, we are encouraging you to also join the National team (there is no problem with your being part of more than one team – as a matter of fact, it is expected!) which will offer us increased statistical leverage.

According to the U.S. Surgeon General report, obesity is responsible for at least 300,000 deaths every year and between the years 2007 and 2008 obesity rates increased for every state in the U.S.

Obesity has been linked to the onset of life-threatening ailments such as high blood pressure, diabetes, stroke, heart disease and the list goes on. It’s important that you know your body mass index (BMI), the ratio between your height and weight. Those with a BMI of 25 or above -- that’s someone, for example, who is 5-foot-4 and 145 pounds -- is considered overweight, according to the National Institutes of Health. Anyone with a body mass index of 30 or above -- such as someone who is 5-foot-6 and 186 pounds -- is considered obese. The 50 Million Pound Challenge website includes an automated BMI calculator for your use. Check it out!

This year’s round of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. regional conferences will offer attendees tools, tips and advice to help you on your way. But we first need you to commit to the Challenge:

- **If you have not done so yet, go to the 50 Million Pound Challenge website** (http://www.50millionpounds.com) and join the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority National Team. It’s completely free, with nothing to buy.

- Embrace and consistently practice new behaviors for proper diet, nutrition and exercise. It’s okay to take baby steps as long as you continue to move forward.

- If you’ve already joined a team, please go back to the 50 MPC website and sign up for the Sigma Gamma Rho Inc. National Team and chart your progress frequently. Set a goal and show that you’re working to achieve it. Your written gradual successes will strengthen you and encourage others on our National team. Of the more than 4,000 sorors, philos, family and friends who have signed up for Sigma Gamma Rho teams, less that 25 percent have taken the time to record their progress. *This documentation is the evidence used to verify the strength of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority’s commitment to this partnership! So, update your progress TODAY!!*

- Encourage others you know to join the challenge, make the commitment and change their lives. Once you’ve “put on your proverbial oxygen mask” it’s then safe to help someone else. Also, walking the talk is a much more effective way to secure additional converts than just spreading the word.

Choose a longer and healthier life; be an active Sigma Gamma Rho Inc. National Team member of the 50 Million Pound Challenge.
Outgoing Grand Basileus Dr. Mynora J. Bryant once stated, “Mission, purpose, vision and sisterhood must be kept alive in our organization.” And the thousands of women who attended the week-long Boule, held in Detroit, Michigan at the Marriott Renaissance kept the mission, purpose, vision and sisterhood in mind as they convened in the Motor City. Beginning with Soror Mother Love’s enlightening forum on Living a Healthy Lifestyle with Diabetes, sorors, philos and rhoers learned various ways in which healthy living could be achieved from best-selling author/VH1 Celebrity Fit Club host Dr. Ian Smith who challenged attendees to shed pounds and shape up. R&B singers Raheem DeVaughn and Detroit’s own Kim Chase provided entertainment for a standing room only crowd one evening, while Martha Reeves from the legendary Motown act, Martha and The Vandellas, had fans “dancing in the streets.” Reeves, along with Maryann Lee, Caroliva Herron, Mennen Murray-Smith, Beverly Jenkins and Pat Johnson were inducted as honorary sorors during the Boule. Outgoing Grand Basileus Dr. Mynora J. Bryant turned the gavel over to Soror Joann Loveless, head of the Westinghouse Electric Company’s global Graphic Services and Identity Department, who was elected the 22nd International Grand Basileus. Soror Loveless commented, “I am indeed honored to have received such a tremendous vote of confidence and support from the membership to take the proverbial reigns of our international sisterhood. I will endeavor to strengthen the new leadership team through inclusiveness and accountability and build upon the strides made by the previous administration by ensuring continuity and expansion of our global community outreach and impact.” The 2010 Boule will shift to the West Coast, taking place in the golden state, California.
Sophia Atkins, International Sergeant at Arms; Ava Jackson, Rho Sigma; and Deanne Saffold Jennifer Carter, Tamichous, and Roschoune Franklin, WR UCC

Dr. Mynora Bryant, Joann Loveless, Thelma Johnson and the class of Cultured Pearls discuss Sigma “herstory.”

Mae Frances Fraizer presents Dr. Bryant with a commemorative cachet envelope bearing her likeness.

Dr. Mynora Bryant, Joann Loveless, Thelma Johnson and the class of Cultured Pearls discuss Sigma “herstory.”

Undergrads honor Dr. Mynora Bryant.

Sophia Atkins, International Sergeant at Arms; Ava Jackson, Rho Sigma; and Deanne Saffold
Dr. Ian Smith presents a check to Sigma Gamma Rho to Dr. Mynora Bryant and Lisa Cooper from State Farm and 50 Million Pound Challenge.

Past Grand Basileus, Dr. Mynora Bryant, pins new Grand Basileus Joann Loveless.

2008–2010 International Board of Directors

Sorors give the stamp of approval on Dr. Bryant’s commemorative cachet envelope.

Detroit singer Kim Chase meets neoclassic soul artist Raheem Devaughn who was the headliner at the Boule.

Jennifer Gunn, SE Syntaktes; Brenda Sloan Johnson, SW Syntaktes; Deborah Catchings-Smith, Central Syntaktes; and Griena Knight, SE UCC
Claudia Clark, Boule Hostess; Dr. Frances Jackson, International Parliamentarian; Jackie Moore, Rho Sigma Basileus

Past Grand Basileus Katie K. White shares a laugh with Grand Basileus Dr. Mynora Bryant.

Rev. Alecia Johnson and Vivian Johnson

Soror Joann Loveless presents an award to NE Region YSC Amneris Rodriguez.

Soror Martha Reeves presents a proclamation to Grand Basileus Mynora Bryant.

Miss International Rhoer 2008, Jessica Tucker

Soror Deborah Walsh (center) is honored by Dr. Bryant as Grand Epistoleus, Gwenette Parker, looks on.

Dr. Mynora Bryant and Past Grand Basileus Evelyn Hood with a Representative from Columbus middle schools
Teenage pregnancy is a nationwide problem that dramatically affects the lives of both the young mothers and the unborn children. While the rates have been declining, the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancies reports that about three in 10 teenage girls become pregnant at least once before age 20—an alarming statistic at best.

Project Reassurance, the signature community service program of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., was originally conceived as a partnership with the March of Dimes with the focus to educate pregnant teens and young mothers about the importance of pre- and post-natal care and increase their understanding of infant care and child development. Under the direction of our 22nd International Grand Basileus Joann Loveless, the Project Reassurance mission has evolved and now encompasses strategies to prevent teen pregnancy rather than just respond to it; a more proactive approach that enables us to address the problem in its totality. Grand Basileus Loveless has designated Project Reassurance, and the theme H³: It’s All About ME!—Healthy Choices, Healthy Living, Healthy Generations, as the primary community service focus area for the 2008-2010 biennium.

As a result, the 2009 Nationwide Youth Symposiums, which took place across the country on March 14, 2009, supported our Project Reassurance focus. The national agenda for this year’s symposium provided for forums through which our sorority and the community worked together in helping our young people cope with daily challenges, in hopes of reducing the chance of teen pregnancy. Understanding that low self-esteem is a prime precursor to teen pregnancy, Healthy Choices is the first target area...
for H³, and each chapter was encouraged to host workshops emphasizing the importance of self-love, a positive self-image and self-respect by selecting and addressing any three of the following topics:

- General self-esteem
- Peer pressure
- Abstinence
- Education (preparing for school, staying in school)
- Money management (Wee Savers basics)
- Safety and security (internet, selection of friends, traveling in groups of two or more)
- HIV/AIDS awareness
- Going green (environmental awareness)

To promote youth participation, a rap contest component has been added to Project Reassurance that will culminate at the 2010 Boule. Participants will compete by developing a rap in keeping with the Healthy Choices, Healthy Living, Healthy Generations theme. Chapters can contact our international headquarters office for details on this aspect of the program.

Chapters will continue collaborations with past sponsors such as the Shriners (Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles Mystic Shrine, Inc) and incorporate information from organizations and programs with similar foci. A list of possible partner organizations and information resources were distributed to chapters in October in preparation for this year’s Youth Symposium.

Proper diet and exercise is also a vital component of Healthy Choices geared toward guiding parents and their children in reducing obesity that can lead to low self esteem and teenage pregnancy as well as shorten life expectancy. Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. will utilize the tools available through its continued partnership with State Farm and Dr. Ian Smith in the 50 Million Pound Challenge to accomplish this aspect of H³: It’s All About Me.

Be on the lookout for details regarding Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc.’s renewed and re-energized Project Reassurance partnership with the March of Dimes and a new partnership with the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancies as part of the H³ focus for Project Reassurance.
Barack Obama was elected the 44th President of the United States on November 4, 2008, and sworn in on January 20, 2009.

Yes, He Did!
Barack Obama Becomes 44th President of The United States

His story is the American story — values from the heartland, a middle-class upbringing in a strong family, hard work and education as the means of getting ahead, and the conviction that a life so blessed should be lived in service to others.

Barack Obama was elected the 44th President of the United States on November 4, 2008, and sworn in on January 20, 2009.

President Obama and his wife, Michelle, are the proud parents of two daughters, Malia, 10, and Sasha, 7. Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. and its official publication, The Aurora, were proud to be part of the historical occasion.
The Belles Of The Balls!

President Barack Obama hosted a Youth Inaugural Ball, five Regional Inaugural balls, and a ball for his Home States of Illinois and Hawaii. The Aurora was on the Washington, D.C. scene to bring highlights from some of the most fabulous events earmarking this special moment in history. Both Grand Basileus Joann Loveless and Executive Director Rachel Morris attended some of the key galas, along with many of the members of the National Pan-Hellenic Council.

Grand Basileus Joann Loveless, husband Glenn Loveless (first from left) and Executive Director Rachel Morris pose with Kenneth T. Whalum Jr., brother of famed gospel artist Kirk Whalum.

Grand Basileus Joann Loveless offers remarks and support for the Unity Political Action Committee efforts spearheaded by Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

Zeta Phi Beta Grand Basileus Sheryl Underwood and Grand Basileus Joann Loveless with comedian, Oscar award winning actor and singer Jamie Foxx.

MC Lyte (Soror Lana Moorer) was one of the celebrity authors included in the NCNW Inaugural Week Book Signing. Soror Moorer was promoting her inspirational work, Just My Take.
Red, White, Blue and ... Gold!

Grand Basileus Joann Loveless and Executive Director Rachel Morris were red carpet ready when they flew into Washington, D.C. to join the millions who took part in the Inaugural festivities for President Barack Obama and The First Lady, Michelle Obama. It was bitter cold, but the thought of being in the hottest spot of the world during the Inauguration festivities was enough to keep anyone warm. Decked out in their finery, Grand Basileus Joann Loveless and Executive Director Rachel Morris looked picture perfect as they attended a variety of events.
Welcome back Sorors to another year!

As your new Second Grand Anti-Basileus, I have been working hard to come up with ideas to fit Grand Basileus Loveless’ theme of “Purposed for Service: Reaching Inward, Outward, and Upward.” In keeping with this theme, I have decided to have us focus on service inward by Linking Sisterhood through Service Bridging the Gap between undergraduates and graduates. I have noticed a large separation between the two, and feel that as a unit we need to unite as one. By aiding our sisters, both young and old, we can continue with the legacy of our Founders. Not only will we show “Greater Service, Greater Progress” in our community, but within our phenomenal sisterhood.

My personal project for the undergraduates is pen pal letters with our Cultured Pearls. Our Cultured Pearls have valuable information about our sorority that the undergraduates need to receive. The Cultured Pearls can not only give us valuable information, but guidance. In return we can give them our outlook for the future, a listening ear, and a “little” sisterhood.

I also think that it is important to focus on our established National Service Initiatives. As undergads, we should seek the importance of focusing on these programs that give ample time for us to focus on our studies and for visibility on the national scope while continuing to maintain our individual community impact. Operation BigBookBag can be done in a number of different ways. Donation boxes, tutoring, and college prep talks are just some ways that make it easier for your chapter. And with the newly established look of Project Reassurance, we can use this initiative to incorporate the graduate chapters as well.

I encourage everyone, both undergrad and grad, to look forward to a brighter future and stronger bond for the sorority. With everyone’s help, I believe that we will be able to continue to build a greater Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.
The Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Leadership Academy is a systematic approach for training members who aspire to Sorority leadership positions and the attendant responsibilities. Born from the vision and developed under the watchful eye of Soror Alyce Boyd-Stewart, and with a Management Team consisting of 16 sorors throughout the Northeast Region, the Leadership Academy began its initial pilot training program January, 2009, which is scheduled to occur during an 18-month period.

The mission of the Sigma Gamma Rho Leadership Academy is to establish a cadre of well-trained and prepared future sorority leaders. Training and developmental projects have been designed to ensure that sorors selected to participate in the Leadership Academy will complete their tenure of skills to perform as Sorority leaders in a manner consistent with the philosophy on which the sorority was founded. Included in the training modules are activities designed to train, educate, and mentor sorors in good standing in areas such as, but limited to:

- The Sorority’s historical purpose as reflected in its national motto, “Greater Service, Greater Progress”
- The Sorority’s constitution, by-laws, policies, and procedures
- Administrative and managerial directives on all levels
- Federal, state, and local laws as they may apply to the various sorority programs and activities

Enrollees may be active undergraduate or graduate sorors affiliated with a chapter or members-at-large. Each enrollee must be financially active, in good standing on the local, regional, and international levels, maintain current TORCH certification, and maintain compliance with the criteria throughout the Leadership Academy tenure.

Upon successful completion of the Leadership Academy, each graduate will be assigned Special Ambassador Status as the Sorority’s exemplary future leaders. They will be afforded the opportunity to assist with and contribute to such tasks as recruitment, training other sorors in the proper protocol and procedures of the sorority, ensuring that the information disseminated about and within the sorority is factual and puts the sorority in its best light. They will have involvement in special public relations programs and activities, and other similar high profile assignments.

Sorors who are interested in participating in this most intense yet rewarding Academy, should contact Soror Alyce Boyd-Stewart (aboyd-stewart@nc.rr.com) or Syntaktes Deborah Walsh (deborah.walsh@verizon.net).
College life is hard. As much as we want to believe the experience to be the stereotypical wild, freewheeling, independent time of our lives, the reality is it’s a lot of work—hard work. Sometimes, the demands, anxiety, and responsibilities of pursuing higher education become too much to handle, easily plunging you into depression with no clue what to do about it. I can relate.

When I was a college student, I strutted around campus always sporting what I today call my “game face.” You know, that “everything’s alright with me” look that you show the world even though you feel the complete opposite inside. I never headed to class without my mask. Instead, I hid my pain, behaving as if nothing was wrong. I was a model student, though dying inside, and nobody knew it but me. When I think back and remember the young woman wearing that mask, I know it wasn’t the real me. She was seriously in denial, and I do not mean the river in Egypt.

Since then, for more than 30 years, I had no idea that I needed help sorting out my feelings, or how to ask for it. When I collapsed in a meltdown that had been building up in me since my college years, that had me balled up in bed unable to get out for days, I finally got treatment and my breakdown became a breakthrough. You or someone you know might be in or headed toward a similar predicament. It doesn’t have to be that way.
WHAT’S GOING ON?

Though we fool ourselves into thinking that we can figure out how to cope with our feelings on our own, the truth is that ignoring it, engaging in destructive behavior, and not getting professional help can do some serious damage. Check out what’s going on at college campuses all over America:

- Suicide is the third leading cause of death among people under the age of 25, and the second leading cause of death among college students
- Nearly half of all college students report feeling so depressed at some point that they have trouble functioning
- 1 out of 4 young adults will experience a depressive episode by age 24
- 60% of students reported feeling things were hopeless one or more times during the last school year

Depression is nothing to play with. I know that sometimes you become so overloaded with assignments, extra-curricular activities, and jobs, that you probably reach the point where you think: “If I have to do one more paper, read one more book, or one more whatever, I’ll snap!” It’s not easy to juggle so many things at once and the effort can be overwhelming, if not mentally and physically exhausting. And many times, the demands of college are not the only things you’re dealing with. Several months ago I spoke at an event and openly discussed my personal battle with depression with a group of brilliant college students from various colleges around the nation. They were so inspired that many of them got beyond their trauma, their shame, and spoke, for the first time about their own despair and the challenges they’re up against: issues ranging from sexual abuse and promiscuity, poverty, parental neglect/abandonment, eating disorders, violence, crime, and drug and alcohol abuse. All it took was for one person to speak up, lifting the stigma, and then it became a pass the mic situation where everybody felt empowered and relieved to unload.

For black college students, there are additional factors that can trigger the onset of depression. Many students who attend predominantly white schools report feelings of social isolation, the pressure to “represent the race” at all times, to take on the personal mission of combating racial stereotypes; and oftentimes black male students speak about feeling the need to “adapt,” or diminish themselves in the presence of whites in order to appear less threatening to them. Add all this to the pressures of college studies and that’s a lot on one’s mind. No wonder the pot boils over. And as headlines constantly highlight the troubles of today’s youth the message is clear that so many of you are hurting. Acting out is a desperate way of screaming for help, as one suffers in what appears to be silence.

SPEAKING OUT

Here’s what a few young men and women I’ve met have shared about their experience with depression: “The fact that people had the courage to express themselves openly about problems or even relate to someone else in any kind of way offered deep cleansing and healing.”

“I was so afraid to share my story with you all and I’m sitting here crying just thinking about where I have come from and what is in store for me. My father was a molester and physically abusive. My mother didn’t have much so we had to split up amongst family members. I never went to a psychologist; I just kind of dealt with the cards that were handed to me. I am not very open about personal matters; I tend to keep it hidden so that everyone can see that I have it all together. But, I learned so much from your strong words and life changing stories. I feel I have a reference now to relate to women who have experienced and endured pain on another level and use it to build on their dreams.”

“When my depression got so bad that I stopped going to my classes, I told my professors I had the flu. When I stopped getting out of bed, I lied to my friends about what I had done that day. And when the anxiety got so bad that my heart began to hurt, I went to the doctor in search of anti-anxiety medication. She explained the high prevalence of anxiety and depression on college campuses in America and recommended that I go to counseling services. I wish I sought care sooner than I had, but I was embarrassed. Sadly, my embarrassment almost cost me my life. Going to school on a mostly white campus, I didn’t want to complete white stereotypes of a black woman: troubled. I also didn’t want to appear what is dreaded the most among many black circles, including my own: weak.”
I applaud all the young men and women who finally spoke out. This is a key first step. Unfortunately, many students feel embarrassed and are unaware of the resources available to help them.

In the instance of depression, silence is never golden. If you are feeling depressed, overwhelmed with school or burdened by other troubles, there is help. There are many resources ready and willing to help you through, but you have to step forward. As a survivor of depression myself, I know that admitting that you have a problem is very hard, but I encourage you to do just that so that you don't have to go on suffering, limping through each day. You don't have to feel embarrassed because you are not alone. So many of your peers are going through the same thing.

Depression is a problem that mental and emotional health professionals are trained to help you manage. If you have the means I encourage you to seek treatment. For help coping with school stresses or with bouts of depression, you can also reach out to a friend or family member and confide in them about how you honestly feel. In addition, check your campus for these resources:

- College transition programs
- Counseling, psychiatric and psychological services
- Dormitory director or assistant director
- Student organizations that promote cultural, religious, racial, or social unity
- A trusted professor or staff member
- Advising staff including deans, counselors, and student activities coordinators
- Mentors
- Spiritual, religious, or inter-faith groups

You don't have to pretend anymore; you don't have to maintain the façade of lies to yourself and others. As you move forward in your college studies and managing all your responsibilities, it will serve you well to remember to take good care of your inner self. That begins with facing your feelings and doing something about it whenever you feel yourself sinking. You have the power to remove your mask, to get the help you need to pick yourself up, and to allow your soul to breathe free. Yes, college is hard and life has its challenges, but I have all the faith in the world that you will make it through the fire and emerge, degree in hand, as a whole, healthy individual ready to take on the world.

---

Terrie M. Williams is a licensed clinical social worker with a B.A. in Psychology and Sociology from Brandeis University, and an M.S. in Social Work from Columbia University. She is the founder of The Terrie Williams Agency, one of America’s premier public relations and communications firms; and founder of The Stay Strong Foundation, which serves the nation’s urban youth. Terrie is also the best-selling author of four books, including her latest, entitled BLACK PAIN: It Just Looks Like We’re Not Hurting (Scribner). Today, she is committed to guiding people in deep emotional pain onto a path of healing so that they may live better lives as healthy and whole individuals. Ms. Williams has provided mentorship to some of our undergraduate sorors.
Emmanuel Jal was 8-years-old when he was handed an AK-47 and trained to fight. Today, the former child soldier from Sudan is considered one of the rising stars in the world music scene. The hip hop star shared stages with Alicia Keys, Moby and Annie Lennox and performed at Nelson Mandela’s 90th birthday celebrations in London last June. Through his music, he now aims to protect the childhood of others by sharing his experience, and what 300,000 boys and girls in more than 30 conflicts worldwide are still going through now.

Emmanuel was born in southern Sudan just before the region was split by a bloody civil war. Rebels of Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) battled for independence and control of the region’s lucrative oilfields. In Emmanuel’s village, children were taken away by the rebels and transferred to refugee camps in Ethiopia. But the camp was disguised as a school in front of aid agencies – instead of being fed and getting an education, they were taken away to the bush for military training.

For nearly five years, Emmanuel was a child soldier, and carried an AK-47 that was taller than he was. He was among thousands of young boys who fought the government forces by running through minefields. “Because we were lighter and could run fast, we had a better chance of surviving,” he said.

According to Radhika Coomaraswamy, UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, there has been an incredible rise in the amount of child soldiers since World War II. One of the reasons for the increase is the availability of lighter and easier-to-use weapons. “It only takes 40 minutes for a child to master an AK-47,” she said.

There is a variety of reasons why children are recruited as soldiers. Some are forcibly abducted; some are driven by poverty – joining armed groups as the only way to guarantee daily food and survival; others seek revenge for violence enacted against themselves and their families. But they are all exposed to extreme brutality that Emmanuel too, has witnessed.

When he was 13, Emmanuel managed to escape from the SPLA commanders. After three months of stumbling through the Sudanese bush, he reached safety and was adopted by British aid worker Emma McCune, who smuggled him to Kenya. Sadly, she tragically died in a car accident in Nairobi not long after adopting him. He grew up in Kenya and continued his studies with support...
of Emma’s friends. “I was lucky because I was rescued and educated,” he said. The last track on his latest album ‘Warchild’ is dedicated to Emma. In the lyrics, he wonders: “What would I be if Emma didn’t rescue me?”

Emmanuel started singing to help ease the pain of witnessing the unspeakable horrors and atrocities he had experienced. “I put my fight into the music,” he said, introducing himself at UN headquarters in New York. “Being a soldier when you’re that young – it will haunt you for the rest of your life.” Emmanuel still suffers from headaches and back pains and wakes up to the sound of helicopters in his nightmares. “But I don’t feel that when I’m singing. Music is a therapy to overcome,” he said.

Emmanuel campaigns for peace in Sudan and stopping the use of child soldiers around the world, addressing both cultural and political leaders. He came to the UN because he wants to make a difference, and urged UN diplomats to take action on the recruitment of children as soldiers. “It’s going to continue to happen if you don’t do something about it,” he concluded.

Editor’s Note: Emmanuel Jal’s book, WAR CHILD: A Child Soldier’s Story by Emmanuel Jal with Megan Lloyd Davies is now available through St. Martin’s Press.
THE BLUE AND GOLD CARPET
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.’s Inauguration of the 33rd General President Herman “Skip” Mason

On January 24, 2009 at high noon at the Martin Luther King, Jr. International Chapel on the campus of Morehouse College, in Atlanta, Herman “Skip” Miller was feted during the first public inauguration held by the fraternity. The Inaugural weekend, which was attended by members of the illustrious fraternity from around the world, was an exciting historical event. As Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity met to write “a new chapter in their second century of leadership and service,” there was a lot of pomp and circumstance during the weekend. Grand Basileus Joann Loveless made a special presentation during the Inaugural Dinner Gala.

The inauguration was attended by approximately 3,000 people, including members of the NPHC.

Sorors Shine During The Annual Congressional Black Caucus

The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc. (CBCF) bestowed Phoenix Awards upon the then Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois and five other distinguished individuals at the 38th Annual Legislative Conference (ALC) awards dinner, which was held in Washington, DC. Members of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., including the Grand Basileus Joann Loveless, attended various luncheons, workshops and an elegant reception hosted by the NPHC Council of Presidents.

The Aurora Editor-In-Chief Cynthia Horner and Kappa Sigma member LaQuita O. Henry were among the many sorors who took part in the festivities.
Dear Soror,
My child is gifted and has been getting in trouble lately for behavior. When I talk to my child about it, I am told it is because of boredom due to finishing class work before everyone else. I know my child is intelligent and do not want my child labeled as a behavior problem. What can I do to help?

Dear Sister,
First, I want to congratulate you for having an interest in your child’s education. Rest assured there are options available for you. Many students act-out when work becomes difficult, and, yes, there are instances when students become “restless” when work is not challenging enough. Many gifted students fall into the latter category. Request to meet with your child’s teacher. This lets the teacher know you are an interested and involved parent, and that you want to be a support to your child’s learning. Make some of the following suggestions:

• Increase your child’s assignments (For example, if other students have to do problems 1-10, your child may have to do 1-20).
• Allow your child to have a book of their choice; thus, when they finish work early, they can read quietly, and share what happened in their reading with the class or teacher.
• Allow your child to be a peer tutor. Pair your child with a lower functioning child and they can work on the assignment together. (Sometimes peers explain things to their peers in a way they understand).
• Allow your child to help with classroom responsibilities (i.e. sharpening pencils, passing out papers, returning supplies, etc.) when they complete work early.
• Check with teachers of lower grades to see if they have short tasks (10 minutes or so) that they could use a responsible student helper.

Also, once you meet with the teacher, you two may come up with other suggestions that may work better for the dynamics of that classroom. After you meet with the teacher, sit down with your child and explain the teacher’s concerns and your concerns. Share the solutions with your child and make an agreement with your child to give these solutions a try. Make sure you ask the teacher to report to you at least weekly on any progress made. You may have to meet again with your child also, to make adjustments or try other solutions. Be sure to make a “big deal” when your child does have a successful day or week, and praise your child accordingly.

Dear Soror,
My children just want to play video games. I really would like to see them read more because they can learn so much from books. Please advise.

Dear Sister,
The world of video games and technology is taking over. Yet, there are still opportunities to enjoy the world of literature. When you approach your kids, it’s like a marriage and sometimes you have to compromise. You have to form a dialogue with your children about your desire for them to have a balance with their reading activities and video game playing. To show them how serious you are, you have model this behavior and participate in daily reading with them at home. There are simple steps you can do to get this started in your home. First, take a trip with your children to your local library or bookstore and let each child select 1-2 books. Select a book for yourself as well. If you have a spouse or significant other, involve them too. Second, set aside time each evening (or a few days per week) that you will all devote to quiet reading time. Everyone in the house will read together, at the same time, for a specified period of time (at least 20-30 minutes). Next, each person will talk about what is going on in his or her book (i.e. who the characters are, what they are doing, what they like, their favorite illustration, etc.). You can have each person read aloud one page from his or her book. Be sure every member participates in the sharing. Then, keep track of how much time you read and discuss on a weekly basis and keep a chart of this information. Finally, let the children know that every minute devoted to reading and discussing will be matched for each child for time to play the game. Also, as an option, visit video game stores and allow the children to read articles and reviews on their favorite games and upcoming games. Make sure you read up on the games your children are playing to make sure they are age and content appropriate. Before you know it, you children may request more trips to the library and begin to pick up books on their own.

Soror LaTisha Gholston, Ed D. answers your questions. She is an Educator at the Special School District of St. Louis County. Soror Gholston is a member of Zeta Sigma in St. Louis, Missouri
Dear Sorors and Fraters,

We thank you for your support of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc. (NPHC) and wish you continued success in 2009.

We, the members of the Council of Presidents, invite you to save the date of May 29-30, 2009 and join us at our 2009 Greek Symposium, “E² the Power of 9” where we will debut the NPHC structure designed to strengthen the operational effectiveness of the Collegiate and Alumni Councils throughout the United States. For your use, we have enclosed the members of our Executive committee and National Leadership Councils with contact information.

Please contact our Executive Director should you have any questions. We look forward to a productive 2009 and your participation in the 2009 Greek Symposium.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. McKinzie
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Chairman
Herman Mason
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
Cynthia Butler-McIntyre
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Sheryl Underwood
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.
Larry Frasier
Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc.
Dwayne Murray
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.
Paul Griffin
Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.
Joann Loveless
Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.
Warren Lee
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Reference attachment will be discussed in each of the 2009 Regional Conferences.

National Headquarters
3951 Snapfinger Parkway – Suite 218, Decatur, Georgia 30035
Phone - (404) 592-6145 Fax - (404) 592-6129
www.nphchq.org – Website info@nphchq.org - Email
Beta
University of the District of Columbia, Washington, DC

The newly re-activated Beta chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. is located on the campus of the University of the District of Columbia in the nation's capital, Washington, DC. Since the induction of the Spring 2007 members, chapter Basileus, Leatha Graham and advisor, Shella Cherry have been major vessels in the foundation for great things that the Beta chapter has brought to the non-traditional campus of UDC.

The chapter conducted Sigma Week, which consisted of a series of informational events about the organization and the services in which are provided but most memorably, this past Sigma Week marked the very first Annual Spring Egg Hunt in which the chapter now hosts every year for the children enrolled in the UDC Child Development Center. They've also hosted several informational and social events which kicked-off the beginning of the Fall 2008 semester.

On November 19th the ladies spent the evening in the campus lobby giving away hot chocolate and cookies to students, faculty and prospective students as they celebrated the chapter's 58th year charter anniversary at UDC (formerly Miners Teacher's College). They also passed out chapter brochures and represented the organization at several on-campus Black Greek forums and Student Government events.

The chapter recently held "Candy Kisses," a Valentine's Day fundraiser in which the ladies sold chocolate Hershey's Kisses in royal blue and gold bundles. The Beta chapter has several events scheduled up until the end of the Spring and anticipate the possible intake of new members.

Eta Beta
University of Maryland, College Park, MD

Continuing the Legacy

The elegant Eta Beta Chapter has been quite busy this semester implementing programs and service events for the campus and its surrounding community. Eta Beta currently has four members but this has not stopped their presence from being felt at the University of Maryland. On August 27th, the chapter welcomed the class of 2011 onto campus at the New Resident Orientation. Sorors Jaysree Roberts and Shawna Murray performed a poem entitled "Greater Sisterhood." Sorors Nyijiayah Williams and Awnya Frazier set up a table at the event to answer any questions the freshman had about Greek life and the college experience. Founders’ Week 2007 was also a great success. With the help of alumni, Eta Beta set up a large display case on campus announcing the celebration of the founding of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated. The week started off with an inspirational church service at Reid Temple in Glendale, Maryland. A special Founder's Day dinner was held with current and alumni members of the Eta Beta chapter. During the week the chapter put on a program entitled, "Accumulating and Managing Wealth," which stressed the importance of saving and being fiscally responsible. The Eta Beta Chapter also hosted "Deconstructing Tyrone". During the program, we discussed negative stereotypes that plague the African-American community. The book's author, Natalie Hopkinson, was able to attend the program and offer her extensive knowledge on the subject.
In addition to campus programs, the Eta Beta chapter has participated in many community service projects. The chapter’s signature program, K.E.E.N (Kids Enjoy Exercise Now) has given them an opportunity to work closely with children with developmental disabilities in the Maryland/DC area. Eta Beta has also been active in food banks and soup kitchens throughout Washington, D.C. On October 6th, the Eta Beta chapter formed an AIDS walk team and joined other sorors in the fight against HIV and AIDS. On November 16th, the chapter followed up on this initiative by offering free HIV testing on campus. They were glad to see so many students take advantage of this event and be pro-active about their health.

The members of Eta Beta shine through on personal levels as well. Soror Nyjiyyah Williams has been awarded an internship in marketing at WPGC 95.5. Soror Awnya Frazier is involved with the Pan-Hellenic Council at the University of Maryland. Soror Jaysree Roberts has recently been inducted into Psi Chi National Honor Society. Soror Shawna Murray is the current Vice President of the Black Student Union. The Eta Beta chapter strives to continue the legacy of excellence set by past chapter members through the implementation of programs and service initiatives that promote progress through service.

Submitted by: Jaysree Roberts

Gamma Theta
Montclair State University, Upper Montclair, NJ

Hattie McDaniel Breast Cancer Charity Dinner

The glorious and oh so glamorous Gamma Theta Chapter at Montclair State University has been doing extraordinary work on campus since its revival in the spring of 2006. Seven outstanding sorors, Soror Shontae Gray, Soror Micale Dort, Soror Antequa Anderson, Soror Shirley Demarais, Soror Beverly Adegbite, Soror Lauren Carter, and Soror Keisha Bloise honored legendary Soror Hattie McDaniel with a Breast Cancer Charity Dinner hosted with the NAACP. The dinner consisted of a full course meal served buffet style, poetry by local talent, praise dance performances, an astounding rendition of “Amazing Grace” sung by Soror Dort and the most special portion of the evening a motivational speech by guest speaker Soror Dianthe Dawn Martinez. The night, shared by students, faculty, and of course sorors was very moving and still has the campus community talking to this day. When given the chance to help out the community Gamma Theta is always first in line, this is why the seven young ladies worked diligently night and day to prepare this event and also to raise over $1000 to donate at the Annual Breast Cancer Walk at Military Park in Newark, New Jersey. Gamma Theta understands that there can only be Greater Progress if there is Greater Service! Expect great things from the Gamma Theta Chapter in the name of Sigma!

Contact: S. Denise Gray, Anti-Grammateus

Lambda Iota
James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA

Sigma Takes Campus by Storm

At James Madison University’s NAACP Image Awards, the Lambda Iota Chapter, consisting of eight electrifying women, Ashley Clarke, Victoria Gaines, Angel Brockenbrough, Jerrell
Green, Ashley Perry, Chervon Moore, Karla Smith, and Britnie Green, received the Organization Exceptional Impact Award. This is an award given by the Center for Multicultural Student Services (CMSS), each year to one organization for its impact, at JMU, compared to all other multicultural student organizations on campus. CMSS is a department of JMU catered to fulfilling the needs of minority students on the university’s predominately-white campus. CMSS consists of many student organizations whose purpose is to foster a positive impact on the JMU campus through outstanding programming and service. After its reactivation, the Lambda Iota chapter has been nothing short of outstanding on the campus of JMU. This was evident in the individual awards received as well. Basileus Ashley Clarke received the Sorority Member of the Year award, and Soror Karla Smith received the Blakey Award for her community service endeavors in the Harrisonburg community. The ladies of Lambda Iota have a host of events planned in the upcoming school year, and will continue to uphold the motto of “Greater Service, Greater Progress.”

Submitted by: Chervon Moore, Anti-Grammateus

Mu Alpha
UCLA, Los Angeles, CA

The Magnificent Mu Alpha Chapter

Mu Alpha Chapter at UCLA ended the sorority year with a bang! In March they inducted three neos; Kendra Arsenault, Vashti Johnson, and Tayla Ash. Their incoming Basileus, Adrianna Redd-King won Alpha Phi Alpha’s Miss Black and Gold Scholarship Pageant at the local, district, and regional level and she competed at their national convention. This was only the beginning of winnings for Mu Alpha. Six members of Mu Alpha; Kelli Ross, Kalina Flores, Colleen Grant, Ijeoma Arum, Sarah Yoon and Adrianna Redd-King along with two members of Gamma Kappa Chapter comprised the Pretty Poodle Step Team whom took home 1st place at both the Long Beach Step Show and UC Davis’ Stomp Fest. Mu Alpha’s greatest accomplishment for the year was still yet to come when Mu Alpha Chapter won the Western Region Chapter of the Year and Chapter with the Highest GPA among many other awards at Western Regionals. The school year ended with five of their members graduating; Kelli Ross, Kalina Flores, Colleen Grant, Ijeoma Arum, and Sarah Yoon who planned to transfer to Sigma Sigma Chapter. Colleen Grant will also be continuing her education at UCLA for a Masters in Education. Mu Alpha Chapter is looking forward to another successful year.

Contact: Rochelle Gunter, Epistoleus
**Omicron Nu**  
*Duke University, Durham, NC*

*A Successful Year at Duke University*

This year was an incredible year for the Omicron Nu Chapter at Duke University. The chapter held such programs as Women’s Self-Defense Workshop, Poodelicious Pampering and Dessert Night, Family Feud with Phi Beta Sigma, Back-to-School Ice Cream Social, Resume Writing and Interviewing Skills Workshop, and community service initiatives such as the March of Dimes, community service at the Ronald McDonald House, Habitat For Humanity, Operation BigBookBag, and much more. In March of 2008, the chapter inducted three new members, officially reactivating the chapter as Omicron Nu in place of Northeast Region at Duke University. The Chapter held its first charity ball in seven years entitled the 3rd Annual Blue Blaze Ball: A Cosmopolitan Affair, raising $800 for local non-profit Partners For Youth. Omicron Nu has been honored at the Greek Awards as the winner of both Most Improved Scholarship and Highest GPA in NPHC, as a result of their stellar 3.682 GPA for the fall semester of 2007, the highest of all 38 greek organizations on campus. Omicron Nu graduated two seniors in May of last year - Margaret Farquharson, chapter Basileus, who majored in Economics and Political Science who will be working at Edward Jones as a Financial Adviser and Carla Jordan-Detamore, chapter Anti-Basileus, who majored in Cultural Anthropology and recently received the NER Undergraduate Scholarship Award as well as Duke’s William J. Griffith University Service Award and will being teaching elementary school in Atlanta as part of Teach For America.

*Submitted by: Carla Jordan-Detamore*

**Gamma Zeta**  
*Indiana University - Purdue University, Indianapolis, IN*

*Somed Sigmas Can’t be Stopped!*

Fresh off the announcement of receiving Undergraduate Chapter of the Year for the 3rd consecutive Year at the Central Region Conference, Gamma Zeta Chapter never stalled in their Sigma Stride. With the recent recruitment of three new members the chapter burst through the summer continuing in their efforts of “Greater Service, Greater Progress” in preparation of the upcoming school year. With the school year in full bloom, Gamma Zeta exploded by hosting 12 events before November's Founders Celebration. Gamma Zeta Chapter started off the fall semester hosting National Project Operation Big Book Bag ensuring that needy students received the necessary school supplies for learning. Other events hosted by the chapter included the Walk for Juvenile Diabetes, Clean up Women; cleaning the parks of the Indianapolis community, the Annual Alpha Sigma Fun Fest, and the Rally to support the Jena, thus enabling the ladies of Gamma Zeta to show their care for social injustice. With the ball in full motion you can be assured that the Ladies of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc., Gamma Zeta Chapter will continue in their efforts of “Greater Service, Greater Progress” and we can't be stopped!
Theta
Clafin University, Orangeburg, SC

Continuing the Legacy

It has been a year since the reactivation of Theta Chapter at Claflin University. Theta has continued the legacy through Sisterhood, Scholarship, and Service. At the start of the 2008 school year, Theta has participated in the Annual Claflin University Phone-a-thon, the Orangeburg Kidney Walk, Relay for Life, the MLK Statehouse Walk and Rally, the Orangeburg Diabetes Walk, and the March of Dimes Rally and Walk with chapter members contributing over $400 for the charity. In keeping with the National Project of Buckle Up America, chapter members gave out lollipops and urged college students as well as the community to buckle up and not be a “dum dum.” Theta Members also distributed goody bags to incoming freshman that included school supplies, candy and tips on succeeding in college. Overall the chapter has served over 250 hours.

In March, Theta Chapter celebrated its one-year anniversary since reactivation. Sigma Week was successful as the chapter hosted a variety of events that included several educational forums, community service in the local area, and an on campus social. In addition five new members have joined the chapter and they are: Brittany Atkins (former Rhoer) from Indianapolis, IN, Bianca Bain from Trinidad and Tobago, Ashley Dye from Great Falls, SC, Runekia Greenlee from Pendleton, SC and Jaleisa Turner from Florence, SC. The Ladies of Theta are on the move towards “Greater Service, Greater Progress.”

Contact: Sharolyn Utley, Historian and Fleurette Washington, Advisor

THIS IS THE FIRST DAY OF MANY NEW UPCOMING EXPERIENCES:

– Being officially on your own;
– Seeking or beginning your new career;
– Planning a definitive future with that “man of your dreams;”
– Starting and raising a family;

and

JOINING YOUR LOCAL ALUMNAE CHAPTER OF SIGMA GAMMA RHO SORORITY INC.

Remember how your undergraduate sorors were always an integral part of your most joyous moments, as well as in finding solutions to some of your greatest problems? Membership in your local alumnae chapter will provide a whole new level of the same sisterly support and assistance. Are you moving to a new city or town? Need to know the real 4-1-1 on the company for which you have an interview or where the best and worst places are to live? Just moved and need to discover the real-deal shopping areas? Your local alumnae chapter is just waiting to welcome you and point you in the direction you need.

Contact Sigma Gamma Rho Headquarters, (888) 747-1922, for chapter names and contacts in your local area.
SPOTLIGHTING SORORS WHO HAVE SERVED OUR COUNTRY

SOROR REBECCA L. HATCHER is a staff sergeant who has been serving our country for nearly eight years. The information manager, who is a member of the Eta Omicron Sigma Chapter, lives by the motto: “I’ve come this far by faith.”

SOROR FRANCINE M. LEDOUX, retired lieutenant colonel, spent 25 years in active duty in the United States Army Nurses Corp. She retired in May 2004. She has served the United States in the capacity of Chief community health nurse, ITC, and is a member of the Iota Tau Sigma Chapter, having been inducted March 2008 at the Regional Conference. She lives by the motto: “Fitness for everyone.”

SOROR TANISHA D. MANNING, the past anti-basileus for the Delta Mu Sigma chapter in Orlando, Florida, was recently deployed to Iraq. Soror Manning, who was spotlighted in a previous issue of The Aurora, was awarded Central Florida’s Greek Award for Community Service. Soror Manning’s dedication in working with incarcerated youth included facilitating a class called “Real Talk” in addition to facilitating a literary workshop, “Poetic-Just Us.” Both the Brushing Journal and Rolling College’s online publication have published articles on Sgt. Manning’s efforts to serve the community. Sgt. Manning will spend the next year in Iraq as the Mortuary Affairs officer for the first Cavalry Division where her duties will include supervising and tracking all deceased soldiers and their personal effects. Following her return to the United States, she plans to enter law school.

EDITOR’S NOTE: We wish to pray for all sorors who are away from their loved ones while serving our country in its time of need.
It’s wrong
It’s prohibited
It’s unlawful

And it will not be tolerated by Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority. As outlined in the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Incorporated Policy on Hazing:

"... Any person who engages or participates in, encourages, aids or assists in hazing is in violation of the Sorority’s policy against hazing and subject to:

• Disciplinary action by the Sorority, including permanent expulsion and loss of privileges ...

• Criminal prosecution in accordance with local, state and federal criminal codes ..."
Alpha Rho Sigma
Waco, TX

Kites Galore

Many of Alpha Rho Sigma's service projects are enjoyable for all ages, and it was no different for numerous participants earlier this year. For nearly thirty years, members of Alpha Rho Sigma have included the Annual Kite Flying Project in its calendar of community events. It is an event that more than a few look forward to each year.

When the weather became nice, over 60 young boys and girls ages five to 13, and out for spring break, took part in the Kite Flying Project. The endeavor took place at the South Waco Recreational Center. Participating students, several members of Alpha Rho Sigma, and the staff of South Waco Recreational Center, of which Soror Crystal Anthony is Director of Recreation, eagerly took advantage of the brisk winds. A multitude of kites were launched for a morning of energy and fun.

Up, up, and away soared numerous kites on a beautiful, clear, windy, morning in our “City on the Brazos” River. As the crisp spring air kept kites galore successfully in the air, entertainment and pleasure were the key words for Sorors Crystal Anthony, Sammie Caldwell, Alta Heggins, Gwendolyn Lee, Verna M. Livingston, Edna Trotter, recreation staff, and energetic youngsters alike.

After the event, pleased young boys and girls were heard saying to several members of Alpha Rho Sigma, “See you next year, Sigma Gamma Rho folks!”

Contact: Edna D. Trotter, Epistoleus

Delta Sigma
Chicago, IL

A Blue Carpet Affair

Delta Sigma Chapter-Chicago Alumnae honored 11 community leaders who exemplify the sorority slogan “Greater Service, Greater Progress.” These leaders in service walked the “blue carpet” and were photographed while they received a prestigious Rhomania Torch Award.

The black tie event entitled “A Blue Carpet Affair” took place at the Beverly Arts Center, a new cultural facility on the south side of Chicago. The evening began at 6:00 p.m. with an hors d’oeuvre and champagne reception. Following the food and fellowship, Soror Lucille Banks Jefferson gave a dramatic presentation of all awardees. She highlighted education, achievements, and community service. Leading the program was Chairman, Soror Tonia Dew and Soror Bonita Herring who acknowledged that these are men and women who “… have let their light shine in the greater Chicago area.” In addition to ten awardees in different areas, one awardee was selected to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award for her 36 years of educational leadership. A special monetary presentation was made to Delta Sigma Rhoers.

After the presentation of awards, attendees were treated to the sounds of local songstress Terisa Griffin. Griffin gave a soulful interpretation of such songs as “Guess Who I Saw Today” and “Purple Rain.” The evening ended with a dessert reception and fellowship with...
friends and members of other area chapters.

Contact: Jameelah Morgan, Epistoleus

**Delta Sigma**

Chicago, IL

**Delta Sigma’s Season of Giving**

Delta Sigma chapter has been very active with outreach projects. The “Season of Giving” began with the UNCF Walk-a-thon. This year was extra special because the chapter had the distinct opportunity to participate in the walk-a-thon as a joint effort with two sister chapters Eta Xi Sigma and Theta Chi Sigma. Sorors shared a tent and enjoyed real sisterhood together. The spirit of sharing continued with the Thanksgiving food donation to Matthew House which is a drop-in center for the homeless. Sorors donated over ten boxes of food for the Thanksgiving meals to be prepared. Delta Sigma concluded the year with two Christmas activities for sick children and senior citizens. Sorors delighted the patients, parents and staff of Stroger Children’s Hospital as they caroled through the corridors delivering gifts to the patients. The residents of Waterford Estates received a real treat as Delta Sigma celebrated Christmas with them. The chapter was pleasantly surprised to learn that one of the residents was Soror Ellen Harden. The residents were led in chair exercises and Christmas carols by Sorors Kirsten Alley and Bethel White. The group was also entertained by Mime performers, a praise dance team and members of the Young Adult Choir of the Victory Apostolic Church. A raffle and treat bag give away was also organized by Soror Bonita Herring, sorors and volunteers. Residents had an opportunity to win one of the many filled Christmas stockings donated by Delta Sigma chapter. At Delta Sigma, we are serious about living up to our motto “Greater Service, Greater Progress.”

Contact: Jameelah Morgan, Epistoleus

---

**Epsilon Alpha Sigma**

Opelousas, LA

**Keeping the Vision Alive**

The Epsilon Alpha Sigma Chapter presented the 6th Annual Little Miss/Master Pageant. The theme for the occasion was entitled “Looking Toward to the Future Through the Eyes of Our Youth.” Thirteen outstanding and talented boys and girls displayed their skills before a large audience of parents, sorors, well wishers and friends. Contestants eagerly and proudly made their way to the stage one-by-one as they modeled their casual, dressy and formal attire. Shantashia A. Adams, captured the title of Little Miss Sigma Gamma Rho. Other titles included: 1st Winner-up, Tamiyah L. Thomas; 2nd Winner-up, Jasmine Carmon; and 3rd Winner-up Destiny Tatmon. Winning the Little Master Sigma was Michael D. Guidry Jr. First Winner-up Jovon Zachery, 2nd Winner-up, Christopher Freeman, 3rd Winner-up Leo Danta Valyn.

Epsilon Alpha Sigma continues to uphold the motto: “Greater Service, Greater Progress.” They are also
beginning the sorority year with the induction of two new sorors and sixteen new rhoers. This chapter is definitely on the move as they prepare for the hosting of the 2009 Southwest Regional Conference.

Newly inducted sorors: Barbara Carey and Emma Guillory.


Epsilon Phi Sigma
Gretna, LA

Rebuilding New Orleans – One House at a Time

The sorors and rhoers of Epsilon Phi Sigma chapter joined forces with Habitat for Humanity in New Orleans. Sorors were given choices to work in the Muscian’s Village in the Ninth Ward or to assist with cleaning up a house that was being prepped for the new owners to receive keys that day. The day began with information being shared about the Habitat for Humanity program and how it works.

After assisting the volunteer contractors in the Musician Village with organizing scraps of wood,
painting, and cutting base boards, the group was invited to participate in the ceremony for the new home owner receiving her keys. After this ceremony, sorors and rhoers were invited to a wall-raising, which included writing prayers on the frame of the future home.

The sorors and rhoers took a quick lunch break and then continued assisting in the Musician’s Village.

Eta Omicron Sigma
Waldorf, MD

Making Strides in Southern Maryland

The sorors of Eta Omicron Sigma started the sorority year off ready to serve! Operation BigBookBag was held at the Wal-Mart in Clinton, Maryland. The donations were sent to the Charles County Public Schools as well as the Children’s Aid Society of Charles County. The ladies worked double time as half of the chapter participated in the USO care packaging for our troops at Ft. Belvoir, while the other half of the chapter represented the royal blue and gold by setting up an information booth at a fall festival. The chapter showed up in great strength at the AIDS Walk in Washington. The chapter inducted two Rhoers. A true Sigma’s work is never done but when it’s time to unwind the chapter takes place in a monthly social called Ruby Thursday’s at Friday’s which takes place on the last Friday of each month. Founder’s Week went off with a bang. It began with a dinner and sorors participated in a chapter church service. Staying true to Sigma spirit, the ladies delivered a plaque of recognition and appreciation to the Charles County Board of Education. The Sorors attended a Joint Chapter Church Service at Mt. Jezerel Baptist in Silver Spring, Maryland. The chapter will closed out Founder’s Week by aiding at the SHARE Food Warehouse once again showing that there is no greater selfless joy than serving the community.

Contact: Soror Jasmine Hillyer, Epistoleus

Eta Nu Sigma
Brooklyn & Queens, NY

Members of the chapter participated in the Brownsville Recreational Center’s annual Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration, where students learned and taught guests about Dr. Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks and the importance of ending discrimination. Sorors presented students and guests with tons of donated gifts and spoke about the history of our sorority and its legacy during the Civil Rights Movement.

As members of the Pan-Hellenic Council of Greater New York, Eta Nu Sigma continued to show support by participating in the C. Melvin Patrick Careers Conference. This year’s conference was held in Brooklyn at the Historic Boys and Girls High School. Sorors Fatima Kafele and Jewell Staley volunteered as panelists (on public relations and business topics respectively). Sorors also came out to volunteer by registering hundreds of parents, students, special guests and panelists. The council specifically relied on the Brooklyn and Queens chapters’ (of Pan-Hell) support to make this year’s Conference the best in memory.

The Seven Roses Legacy Foundation, the charitable arm of Eta Nu Sigma Chapter held its annual Gold Mother’s Day Scholarship Jazz Brunch at the Yale Club in Mid-town Manhattan. This year’s awardees include Sheila Joseph, Esq., founder of New York Preparatory Charter School, (www.eastnyprep.org); Ryan Mack, former securities trader turned financial planner and entrepreneur who works with local schools to teach students how to create a legacy of wealth in their family (http://www.optimumcapitalmanagement.com/about_us); and Soror Shola Akintobi, Soror of the Year for her extraordinary work as Marketing Chair of Eta Nu Sigma. Scholarships were given to two high school seniors, totaling $1,750. This year’s brunch proved to be another success with sold-out seats, and a live youth jazz band.

In July, the chapter partnered with the Queens Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. to present “Eleven Twenty-Two: Part One,” an after-work mix and mingle initiative to encourage voter registration. The social took place at one of Manhattan’s leading
after-work bar and lounges, right in the heart of Times Square. In addition to voter registration, benefits included outreach to Sorors looking for a Sigma home. “Last night was indicative of the class, sophistication, attention to detail and professionalism that led me to reactivate and join this chapter,” said one Soror; and “your chapter is amazing,” said a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. Eta Nu Sigma will continue its efforts to support and implement voter registration.

Contact: Soror Roshawn B. Boyce, Epistoleus

Gamma Sigma
Houston, TX

Gamma Sigma: The Legacy Continues

This spring has been a very busy season for the ladies of Gamma Sigma Chapter. Chartered on April 28, 1928, Gamma Sigma celebrated its anniversary this year in grand fashion. A luncheon was held at Brady’s Landing, overlooking Houston’s ship channel, and we created our own sea of blue and gold. Sorors young and old came out to be a part of this momentous occasion and the lavish buffet more than satisfied the 300+ guests. Sorors were honored for their years of service to the sorority and each soror was given an individual yellow tea rose. The crowning moment of the event was when all sorors joined pinkies to sing our hymn. In another exhibition of sisterhood, Gamma Sigma also held its first Sigma Picnic at MacGregor Park in June. Sorors each brought their own contributions by way of food and entertainment, and were able to just kick back, relax and enjoy one another’s company in the warm, Houston sun.

The chapter has also continued to serve the community at every opportunity. The American Cancer Society relay for life provided an occasion for sorors to get some exercise in for a good cause. Gamma Sigma came out and as usual, walked more laps than any other chapter as well as more than any other NPHC organization! They had a chance to catch up on what’s been going on in each other’s lives, and pay tribute to those who have won and lost the battles with cancer. Greater Service, Greater Progress!

Contact: Soror Nneka K. Beauford, Epistoleus

Sigma Sigma
Los Angeles, CA

Sigma Sigma Super Star

Soror LaRita Shelby, Radio Scope co-producer and personality, actress and jazz singer, starred in “Walk by Faith: The Runaway Bride,” presented by BlackChristianMovies.com. Soror Shelby plays the main character, Pamela Matthews. The leading lady in this film trusts that the Lord is directing every aspect of her life. The film, an official selection by the 2007 Hollywood Black Film Festival, premiered at the Music Hall 3 Laemmle Theater in Beverly Hills. Soror Shelby, not only acted as the lead character, she also co-wrote and sang the title track “Walk by Faith” in the film and she wore a lot of blue and gold in the movie. “Walk by Faith: the Runaway Bride” offers a message of encouragement and hope for single black females of all ages and is exclusively available at www.BlackChristianMovies.com, a division of Nu-Lite Entertainment. The soundtrack of original songs is available for purchases from MySpace. Com/RitaShelby.
Theta Zeta Sigma
Aurora, CO

Honoring Hattie McDaniel

The Theta Zeta Chapter held a Breast Cancer Workshop at the Aurora Public Library in Aurora, CO. Approximately 25 people, many of whom were Rhoers, attended the workshop, which was facilitated by Soror Diane Simpson. Presenters included Victoria Lindsay, Karen Ivy and Cherrelyn Napue. The four women, all of whom are breast cancer survivors, shared vital factual information as well as personal experiences. Participants were given such materials as Teens for the Cure and Breast Self-Exam Shower cards. They also went through a self-awareness exercise. This workshop was held in honor of Soror Hattie McDaniel who died from breast cancer in 1952.

Contact: Diane Simpson

Zeta Omicron Sigma
Bolingbrook, IL

Reaching Heights of Great Attainment

Since being reactivated in the Fall of 2006, Zeta Omicron Sigma alumnae chapter has been fully committed to serving Bolingbrook, IL and the surrounding communities. The chapter has been involved with such activities as the DHS toy drive, Bolingbrook’s annual food and clothing drive for Hesed House Ministries. The chapter donated $500 to Wayside Cross Ministries and annual volunteers for the NAACP Dupage County ACT-SO competition for African-American high school students. A few months ago, the chapter celebrated its 22nd charter anniversary by having a reunion picnic at Indiana Boundary Park in Bolingbrook, IL. “Reaching heights of great attainment” has been the chapter’s main goal as the members continue to strive for excellence in their local community.

Contact: Jerian Dixon, Basileus

LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD WOMEN ...
We are currently looking for active members of Sigma Gamma Rho to:

☞ Solicit and Follow Up with Advertisers
☞ Coordinate Special Sections (i.e. From Him, Dollars & Sense)
☞ Manage Features

If interested, please contact:
Soror Cynthia Horner at theauroramag@sgrho1922.org
Indicate in the subject line - “Editorial Assistance”
**ALPHA XI SIGMA RHOERS**
Tulsa, OK

*Alpha Xi Sigma Rhoers Make Special Presentation to Nikki Giovanni*

The African-American Resource Center of the Rudisill Regional Library in Tulsa, Oklahoma, presented the 2008 Sankofa Freedom Award to the renowned poet and educator, Nikki Giovanni.

The Alpha Xi Sigma Chapter Rhoer Club honored Ms. Giovanni and the audience with an original presentation entitled, *I Want to be a Woman Like You*. This poem was written by Rhoer Mykeisha Gardner and performed by Leah Phillips (Rhoer Club President), Rhoer Julie Edwards, Rhoer Dionna Beamon and Rhoer Mykeisha Gardner. 

Rhoer Advisors are Sorors Cletta Shumate Johnson, Charlotte Robinson and Mary P. Walker. Basileus of the chapter is Soror Wyvonne E. Marshall.

*Contact: Soror Barbara L. Eikner*

---

**ETA XI SIGMA RHOERS**
Oak Lawn, IL

*Scholarship and Service*

The Eta Xi Sigma Rhoer club was chosen the 2007 and 2008 Rhoer Club of the year for Central Region due to young ladies who truly work as “Sisters Forever”. Rhoer Taiesha Stroud graduated in the top of her class and has started college as a freshman at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana. Rhoer Taiesha Stroud was the recipient of a $1000 scholarship from Eta Xi Sigma Alumnae Chapter. In the upcoming school year, Rhoer Ashley Gonzalez, a National Girl Scouts of America Ambassador, will be a freshman at Northside College Preparatory Academy in Chicago, Illinois. Rhoer Kristian Calbert, daughter of Soror Dr. Christina Outlay, will be a freshman at Evergreen Park High in Evergreen Park, Illinois.

The Eta Xi Sigma Rhoer club continues to support community events such as the Youth Symposium, the March of Dimes March for the Babies Walkathon and the Y-Me Breast Cancer Walk proving that it is never too early to exercise “Greater Service, Greater Progress”. The hard work and dedication of these rhoers was recognized this year at the 52nd Boule in Detroit, Michigan wherein the club representing Central Region received the National Rhoer Club of the Year and National Rhoer Scrapbook of the Year awards.

*Contact: Soror Keisha S. Cohen, Rhoer Advisor*

---

**MU SIGMA RHOERS**
Baton Rouge, LA

*Mu Sigma Rhoers Elect New Officers*

The Mu Sigma Rhoer Club of Baton Rouge, Louisiana recently elected new officers for the year 2008-2009. The new officers are as follows: Alexis Gosserand (President), Ronnice’ Washington (Vice-President), Takara Turner (Recording Secretary), Keyosha Thompson (Corresponding Secretary), Endia Perkins (Treasurer), Carneeshia Fields (Sergeant at Arms and Parliamentarian), Jasmine Young (Chaplain), and Cori Bodley (Historian). During the 2008 Regional Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma, 12 young ladies represented the Mu Sigma Rhoer Club. Several Mu Sigma Rhoers made high achievements at the conference. Rhoer LaShantena Rounds was also elected as the 2008-2009 Southwest Regional Rhoer President. Also Rhoer Alexis Gosserand was elected as the regional vice-president and also selected as the Rhoer of the Year. Rhoer Jasmine Young was named Miss Rhoer for the Southwest region.
The Graduating senior for the year 2008-2009 was Riantae’ Freeman. She graduated from Scotlandville Magnet High School in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Ms. Freeman will be attending a local university. The Mu Sigma Rhoers are looking forward to a fun filled year and strive to always be number one.

Contact: Shameka Johnson, Rhoer Advisor
Contact: Darce Dorsey, Rhoer Co-Advisor

ETA XI SIGMA PHILOS
Oak Lawn, IL

Serving with Style
The ladies of the Eta Xi Sigma Philo Affiliates walked with pride and honor to support the March of Dimes in the March for Babies walkathon. The Philo Affiliates joined the Eta Xi Sigma Rhoers and members of Eta Xi Sigma Alumnae chapter in raising over $1000 for this cause. The Eta Xi Sigma Philo Affiliates have demonstrated that as “friends of Sigma” their presence, participation and support of activities and sorority programs enhances the presence of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. in the community. The Eta Xi Sigma Philo Affiliates also contributed to the chapter’s Pre-Mother’s Day scholarship luncheon in support of the area high school scholarship recipients.

Soror Linda D. Brown, Philo Co-Advisor

GAMMA TAU SIGMA PHILOS
Long Beach, CA

Phenomenal Philo Chapter: Renewed and Ready to Serve
Five talented, energetic ladies were inducted into Gamma Tau Sigma Philo Chapter -- bringing their membership to thirteen. Philo activity focuses on assisting the graduate chapter with the national, regional and local programs of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. In addition, their community service projects for the Salvation Army, Compton Branch, included making and donating bags of toiletry items to be distributed with the Thanksgiving dinners, two clothing drives and a new underwear drive for distribution to their patrons. The Philos held very successful Stay-At-Home Tea and Bowling for Scholarship Fundraisers.

At the Western Regional Conference, Riverside, CA, Gamma Tau Sigma Philos were selected as Philo Chapter of the Year; President Beverly Mansker was selected Philo of the Year; Vice President Barbara Humphrey won the First Lady Pageant; and Soror Joysteen Toliver was selected Philo Advisor of the Year for 2008. The GTS Philo Chapter works hard to fulfill the Philo theme: “Striving to achieve the mark of excellence through sharing, caring and helping others.”

Contact: Joysteen V. Toliver, First Anti-Basileus, GTS Philo Advisor

Out of a Crowd of Millions
Out of a crowd of millions, I will emerge to be.
I am destined to be the star of every galaxy.
And when I arrive all eyes are on me.
More distinguished than any other, I am a rarity.
I am the first encounter of every kind,
So ethereal, dominating, and refined.
Suave, sexy, strong, and unmistakably envied
By all those who desire to belong to me.
But my complexity is too intense to see.
Yet, even I am amazed by my ability.
I am BAD from HEAD to TOE!
I am a woman of Sigma Gamma Rho.

Author Unknown
Sister Ernestine Toney Hall, 99, a member of Beta Omega Sigma Chapter transitioned to our Lord on April 27, 2008.

Soror Hall was a retired Caddo Parish Teacher. She participated in many civic and service organizations - the Allied Central Club, Las Fileles Social Club and the Retired Teachers Association.

She was a Charter member of Beta Omega Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., serving in various capacities including Tamiochus and Grammateus.

---

**Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.**

**Resolution**

**Soror Earnestine Toney Hall**

**Whereas:** Soror Earnestine Hall was a loyal member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., a charter member of Beta Omega Sigma Chapter of Shreveport, Louisiana

**Whereas:** Soror Hall was a notable Soror who gave fairly of her time and talents, chaired and served on many local committees to enhance the ideals of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc., and served as Tamiochus and Grammateus of her local chapter

**Whereas:** Our Heavenly Father who is too wise to err and too kind to be unjust, has called from labor to reward our Soror, therefore be it

**Resolved:** That the Southwest Region Executive Board of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., extends heartfelt sympathy to the members of her family, the members of Beta Omega Sigma Chapter, The Southwestern Region and her many friends and family in this hour of bereavement, and be it further

**Resolved:** That we draw strength and consolation in the knowledge that Soror Earnestine Hall rests in peace with other members of the Omega Rho Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., and is in the bosom of our Savior.

**Done This 3rd Day of May 2008.**
Soror Pauline Anderson  
Omega Rho - February 11, 2008

Soror Pauline McGowan Anderson, the daughter of Logan and Willie Dorothy Wiggins McGowan, was born December 2, 1908 in Jacksonville, Texas. Soror Anderson received her B.A. in Education from Texas College in Tyler, Texas. She did graduate work at Prairie View College, Samuel Huston College and the University of California, Berkeley. She taught elementary school in Jacksonville, TX for 16 years and in the Oakland Unified School District for 16 years.

Soror Anderson, a Cultured Pearl who remained active locally, nationally and regionally well into her 90s, was an inspiration to everyone who knew her. Her boundless energy and commitment to service in all aspects of her life was legendary. Although Soror Anderson was barely five feet tall, her influence and impact on the community was huge. As a member of Taylor Memorial Church she served on the Senior Usher Board, Adult Bible Class and as volunteer for Taylor’s Senior Center. She was also a fervent supporter of African American community servants, and was personally honored for her years of work and dedication by former Oakland Mayor Elihu Harris and Congresswoman Barbara Lee.

Soror Anderson entered Omega Rho Chapter on February 11, 2008 after 99 years of service, scholarship and sisterhood. Her sparkling smile and effervescent personality will be sorely missed.

Soror Hattie Mae Nichols Jackson  
Omega Rho - February 10, 2007

Soror Hattie Mae Nichols Jackson passed on Saturday, February 10, 2007. She passed away at age 52 from stomach cancer. Soror Jackson became a member in 1975 at Lamar University located in Beaumont, Texas. She leaves behind a husband and a daughter, Soror Allanda Nichols from Beta Pi Chapter.
WHEREAS Brenda Sloan Johnson was inducted into Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated on December 14, 1970, Alpha Lambda Chapter, and Life Member #252 of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated; and
WHEREAS Brenda Sloan Johnson was the 22nd Basileus of Gamma Sigma Alumnae Chapter; and
WHEREAS Brenda Sloan Johnson was the 18th Southwestern Regional Syntaktes having first been elected in 2006 and reelected in 2008; and
WHEREAS Soror Brenda Sloan Johnson served the members of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated, Southwestern Region, from 2004 to 2006 as the spirited Undergraduate Chapter Coordinator; and
WHEREAS Soror Brenda Sloan Johnson shared candid insight and experience while serving as a member of the International Board of Directors of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated from 2004 through 2008; and
WHEREAS Soror Brenda Sloan Johnson was a pioneer in the recognition of young mothers during the Southwestern Regional Conferences as a symbol of inspiration and hope; and
WHEREAS Soror Brenda Sloan Johnson guided the undergraduates, T.O.R.C.H. trainers, officers, Basilei, and other members of the Southwestern Region with her enthusiastic, spirited presentations; and
WHEREAS Soror Brenda Sloan Johnson infused a renewed effort in the newly-elected officers’ transition workshop; and
WHEREAS Soror Brenda Sloan Johnson collaborated with other Regional Syntakti to further the unification of our Sorority across regional boundaries, including but not limited to developing the “Protocol: The Nuts and Bolts” presentation and the Southwest Membership Handbook; and
WHEREAS under Soror Brenda Sloan Johnson’s leadership, the Southwestern Region unveiled and showcased a new regional Website; and
WHEREAS Soror Brenda Sloan Johnson’s lively spirit will forever be remembered through her characterizations and performances during the regional step shows; and
WHEREAS Soror Brenda Sloan Johnson’s steadfast, loyal friendship, integrity and sincerity in leading, strength in advocacy for those in need, and unwavering, to the end, dedication to the sisterhood moved and taught all who knew and worked with her;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the officers and members of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., Southwestern Region, recognize and celebrate the lifetime achievements of Syntaktes Brenda Sloan Johnson to her local chapter, the region, and the international body;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT we will honor the memory of Syntaktes Brenda Sloan Johnson by carrying on the vital work in which she so distinguished herself, especially in uplifting the spirits of our youth and providing continued training to our members. In doing so, the members of the Southwestern Region acknowledge that our efforts will be less than they would have been had we still her continued leadership and guidance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be preserved in the records of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated at its International Headquarters, in the records of the Southwestern Region, and that a copy is presented to her beloved son, Dae.

We hereby commit Soror Brenda Sloan Johnson to Omega Rho Chapter. Issued this 1st day of November 2008 by the officers and members of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated, Southwestern Region.
The AURORA is produced at least three times per sorority year for all financial members at the time of print. The publication is mailed over a 10-15 business day time span. The delivery of your publication is largely dependent upon your local post office.

To ensure the delivery of your publication:
◆ Make sure a change of address/information form has been properly filed with the Grand Grammateus and/or the International Headquarters with your current address. A remittance form sent by your chapter is not sufficient.
◆ Make sure that a forwarding address card has been filed with the United States Post Office when relocating.
◆ Remit dues and induction fees timely to be included in the database extract used for the mailing list.

If you have not received your publication, contact the International Headquarters and/or the Grand Grammateus to verify your mailing address and financial status.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vendor Name</th>
<th>Contact Info</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Autry Products              | Carolyn Autry  
3043 St. Stephens Rd.  
Whistler, AL 36612             |
| All sewn Up                 | Lady Bell  
3454-B Peach Orchard Rd.  
Augusta, GA 30906            |
| Aniya Gear                  | Adrianne Blue  
2306 Hillside Lane  
Carrollton, TX 75006         |
| Beyond Perfection Boutique  | CT Rockingham  
P O Box 4529  
Fairview Heights, IL 62208   |
| Big Boy Headgear, Inc.      | Joanne Kim  
1711 E. Gardena Blvd.  
Gardena, CA 90248            |
| Captivations                | Gloria Crayton  
160 O’Neil Circle  
Hercules, CA 94547           |
| Debi’s Ordinary People      | Deborah Mahdi  
6921 Nashville Rd.  
Lanham, MD 20706             |
| Elegance by Darshi          | Darshi Kahlon  
7705 Scenic River Lane  
Nashville, TN 37221          |
| ETL Enterprise              | Traci Graham  
5525 Lake Placid  
Dallas, TX 75232             |
| Greek Gift Baskets & More   | Karen Campbell  
234 Albany Dr.  
Hampton, VA 23666            |
| Greek Mystique, Inc.        | Phil Perry  
PO Box 443  
Antioch, TN 37011            |
| Greek Unlimited             | Sonja Williams-Graves  
428 Greenbriar Ave.  
Hampton, VA 23661            |
| Heavensent2U, LLC.          | Joseph Malbrue  
12111 Catalina Ave.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70814        |
| Heritage Connection         | Ronnie Shoultz  
100 Connecticut Ave.  
Lynchburg, VA 24502          |
| In Zone                     | Cleothis Spearman  
3662 W. Camp Wisdom Rd.  
Dallas, TX 75237             |
| Jenetta Jewels              | Jenetta Nelson  
808 Wesley Plantation Dr.  
Duluth, GA 30096             |
| Jostens, Inc.               | Elizabeth Lent  
148 E. Broadway  
Owatonna, MN 55060           |
| La’Verne’s Fashion & Gifts  | Marilyn LaVerne Carrier  
10829 Clearview Ave.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70811       |
| N 2 Greek                   | Glynetta Fletcher  
Michelle Refuge  
Sharon Refuge  
815 N. La Brea Ave., #425  
Inglewood, CA 90302          |
| Nana Hook                   | Wanda Smith  
8622 Trump Hill Rd.  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772    |
| Oh So Flyy                  | Diana Benson  
8104 Tapscott Court  
Pikesville, MD 21208         |
| Professional Sorors         | Marian Murphy  
2685 Bronsons Way  
Twinsburg, OH 44087         |
| The Greek Shop              | Joe & Linda Rivera  
426 Lansdowne Rd.  
Fayetteville, NC 28314      |
| The Yard                    | Robin Ray  
PO Box 2553  
Florissant, MO 63031        |
| Thrive RLJ, LLC.            | Repaunzel Jackson  
PO Box 611  
Severn, MD 21144            |
| Thomas Shemar, LLC.         | LaShana McGee  
4405 N 121 Terrace  
Kansas City, KS 66109       |
| Swain, Inc.                 | Ed Swain  
604 King Sword Court  
Mableton, GA 30126          |

Set Yourself Apart …
The AURORA is currently seeking website and/or e-mail address information for all vendors to increase your sales. Advertising opportunities are also available. Please contact the staff at theauroramag@sgrho1922.org.
SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- E-mail submissions directly to theauroramag@sgrho1922.org and cc cynthiamhorner@gmail.com
- Documents should be submitted using Microsoft Word and should contain full details, however, articles will be edited for clarity and brevity.
- Submissions for Alumnae on the Move, Undergraduate Pulse and Affiliates must be 250 words or less. Please do not send end of the year reports or newsletters.
- Please include contact name, chapter name, location, city and state. Undergraduate and Rhoer submissions should include name of school, city and state.
- Submissions should be written in reporter format.
- Indicate the chapter name in the subject line of all electronic submissions.
- All photography must be labeled and must include captions if there are multiple subjects in the photos.
- Only jpegs, prints or high resolution photography on CD's are accepted. Please do not send photo copies of pictures. We cannot guarantee that photos can be returned, so please do not send valuable artwork.
- Photos on CD’s and jpegs may be submitted at our regular photo pricing rates.

PHOTOS

- Photo Pricing is as follows:
  - Group Image - $25
  - Individual Image - $15
- Electronic Photos must be high resolution, 300 DPI
- When submitting photos, please submit a copy of the article along with a cashier’s check/money order to:
  Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.
  ATTN: The AURORA Magazine
  1000 Southhill Dr., Suite 200
  Cary, NC 27513-8628

DEADLINES

- November 15: Winter Issue
- March 15: Summer Issue
- July 15: Winter Issue

WANTED

- Feature Writers
- Regional News (from each Regional Epistoleus)
- Outstanding Undergraduate Nominations
- Sister’s Keeper Questions
- Book Reviews (preferably of soror writers)

If you are not currently receiving The Aurora, please verify your mailing address with International Headquarters and/or submit the form established by the Grand Grammateus.
WANT TO GET SMALLER?
START BY BEING PART OF SOMETHING HUGE.

The 50 Million Pound Challenge™ is big. And each day, as more people become aware of it and take part, it’s getting bigger. Which is why Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. is asking you to sign up for The Challenge, and to get your friends and family involved. We’ve already lost over two million pounds. But we can do better. Join the Sigma Gamma Rho team and challenge yourself now at 50millionpounds.com. The more each of us loses, the more we all gain.

Dr. Ian Smith
Sigma Gamma Rho supports …

Tom Joyner’s

“Take A Loved One to the Doctor Day”

April 7, 2009

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.
1000 Southhill Dr., Suite 200
Cary, North Carolina 27513-8628

Address correction requested