

SOUTHERN *Gazette*

*Happy
New Year*

2018

Advancing
the **ΔΣΘ**
Sisterhood
EMBRACE • EMPOWER • ENGAGE

Greetings 2018



to the Sensational and always Dynamic Sorors of the Southern Region.

During the 2016-2017 sorority year, we traveled more than 10,000 miles by car and plane to witness the remarkable events hosted by various chapters throughout the region. These #blackgirlmagic moments are the legacies that end up on the pages of a chapter's history books and some become a part of the amazing history that is Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

These history-making moments were evident during the 53rd National Convention when more than 30 alumnae and collegiate chapters chose to share a portion of their chapter's events in the pages of the Convention Gazette titled "A Southern Region Royal Flush."

On the pages of the convention gazette we were reminded of how extremely powerful we are as Deltas. For that reason, we are happy and proud to share the 2017 Winter Edition of the Southern Gazette! These 32 pages of articles and photos highlight the collective power of Black Women!

Therefore sorors, we encourage you to take a few moments to read the pages of the Winter Gazette and realize like we do, Deltas have the power to change the world! Happy Reading!



Inside This New Year Edition

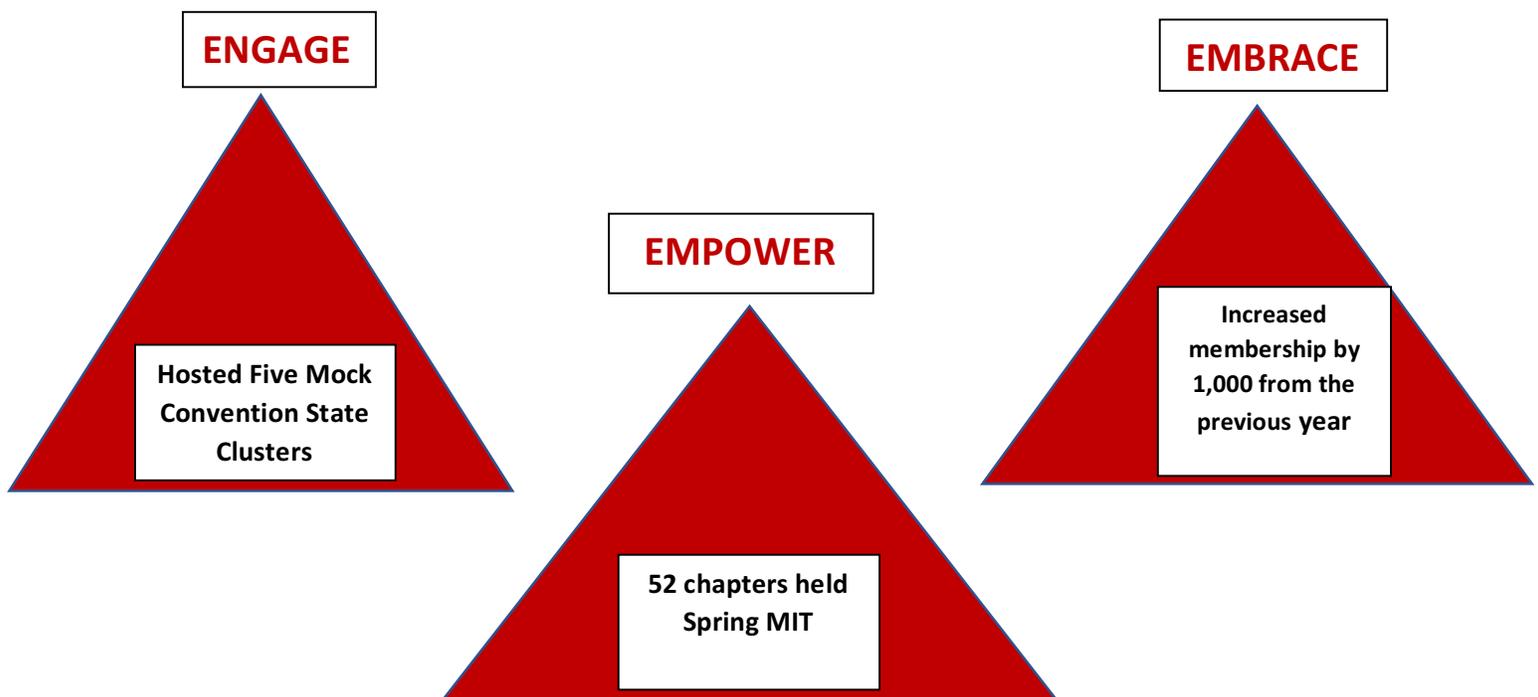
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The Southern Region – A Recap of our Dynamic Year 2016-2017

2016-2017 was an extremely successful year for the Southern Region and it gives Soror Shotwell and I great pleasure to share with you some of the many accomplishments we had during the year.

The Southern Region which holds the distinction of being the largest region within the sorority is comprised of the States of Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, the Bahamas, and Tennessee! There are one hundred and eighty-seven active chapters; Fifty-seven of those active chapters are collegiate and one hundred and thirty are alumnae. Because women seek membership in Delta more than any other sorority within the National Pan Hellenic Council, 52 chapters held Spring Membership Intake activities. There were 4,700 applications with 1,000 being approved for membership.



The region's accomplishments in communications focused on providing consistency in messaging. Those messages included:

- Development and Launch of the EMPOWERment Calls and Webinars
- Distribution of the Southern Informer, our weekly newsletter
- Developing lines of communication with members at large who reside in the region
- Increased presence on social media through an official and active Instagram Page, a new regional website and consistent posting to the region's Facebook page.

Our leadership development accomplishments were:

- Launch of the Southern Region Leadership Institute with its Inaugural Class of 22 sorors; See page 10
- Execution of Southern Leadership Summits

All in all sorors, we've accomplished so much during the 2016-2017 sorority year, and we will continue to do more. We thank you for your continued support of our vision for the region, and we look forward to sharing more details of the successes in the weeks and months to come.



BIRMINGHAM Alumnae Chapter Educational Development AMBASSADOR SPONSORSHIP



For over 10 years, the **Birmingham Alumnae Chapter** has served as the Adopt-A-School partner for Green Acres Middle School. After supporting the school through hundreds of volunteer hours and sending donations, the curriculum specialist made a special request to support the school's Ambassadors.

The chapter gladly agreed to donate money to purchase twelve (12) blazers for the school's Ambassadors. Students are named Ambassadors to represent the school, but to also boost their self-esteem, high moral standards and enhance scholastic achievement.

"Even today, I can already see that we are impacting the lives of future doctors, lawyers, and educators right here at Green Acres," said Matilda Merriweather, president of Birmingham Alumnae Chapter.

Making the presentation to the principal, Dr. Willie Goldsmith, was President Matilda Merriweather and Dr. Rosalyn Childress, Chair of Educational Development. The principal of the school in turn presented the check to Mrs. Monica Brimage, Curriculum Specialist.

Birmingham Alumnae has also been asked to mentor female students after members were involved in a successful COLLEGE and CAREER EXPLOSION at the school, sharing their various careers with the students.

"Supporting young people is vital to educational success in our community," Merriweather said. Programs where students in the community see leaders in the community will yield positive results.

The partnership has evolved through the years and continues to grow. Green Acres' Band has performed at the chapter's "Christmas on Meadow Lane" program and sorors donate school supplies and money for student programs as needed.



American Cancer Society -Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk



The **Brevard Alumnae Chapter** of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc, as well as the Melbourne Palm Bay Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, participated in the MSABC walk which was held on October 28, 2017, in Viera, Florida. This event was spearheaded by the Physical and Mental Health Committee.

To date the team, Deltas of Brevard: Family and Friends, has raised a total of \$3,275.00. The team will accept donations until December 31, 2017.

The walk was well attended with 8,000 walkers, and raised \$238,000.00.



Clarksville Alumnae Chapter Supports Anti-Bullying

The **Clarksville Alumnae Chapter** participated in an anti-bullying rally for Christopher Miller at Austin Peay State University's Fortera Stadium on September 30, 2017.

As a 14-year-old student with Autism, Miller suffered the abuse of bullying and as a way out, attempted suicide on two separate occasions. Since then, not only has he overcome these challenges, but has even gone on to start the 'Defend and be a Friend Club' to promote anti-bullying efforts.

Christopher, who created an alter-ego known as Captain Spectrum to be a superhero for other kids with autism, led September's Anti-Bullying rally. The women of the Clarksville Alumnae Chapter were eager to help him reach his goal of forming a



2000 person puzzle spelling STOP BULLYING, in the hopes of breaking the Guinness world record.

While the rally fell short of beating the record, Valecia Largin, the President of the chapter says the chapter was proud to participate and hopes the efforts of the more than 100 community participants has served to raise awareness of the impact of bullying and our responsibility to our youth. This was the first of many local efforts planned by CAC's Social Action Committee to engage and inform the local public on important social topics impacting our youth and communities as a whole.





ANNUAL WORLD AIDS DAY AWARENESS WALK

Walking the Extra Mile to Spread the Word
Against HIV/AIDS



Saturday, December 2nd
Frank G. Lumpkin Jr. Center
Columbus State University
Registration opens at 9:30 AM

Walk starts at 10 AM. Event ends at Noon.

- Open to the Public
- Give Aways and Games
- DJ with Music
- Free HIV and Hepatitis C Rapid Testing
- Donations Accepted to Support Local Ryan White Program



SPONSORED BY DELTA LIFE DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, NEW HORIZONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND THE WOMEN OF WORTH PROGRAM, AMERIGROUP, THETA PHI CHAPTER, COLUMBUS, (GA) ALUMNAE, and COLUMBUS METROPOLITAN ALUMNAE of the DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC,



The chapters of Theta Phi, Columbus State, Columbus (GA) Alumnae and Columbus Metropolitan collaborated with community partners for a World Aids Walk and Free Testing. We tested 50.

Community: Delta Life Development Foundation, New Horizons Behavioral Health And The Women Of Worth Program, Amerigroup, Chi Eta Phi Sorority (Nurses and Student Nurses).

Daytona Beach Alumnae Chapter Delta Red Carpet Event

One of **Daytona Beach Alumnae Chapter's** most striking Red Carpet Events was the movie, MARSHALL. With all Deltas dressed in red attire, joined by family and friends, a group of forty-four turned the movie theater into a "*Sea of Red*" as they watched the young lawyer, Thurgood Marshall, take on an early case in his career. The students in the group were truly inspired by a young lawyer who later became the first African American Supreme Court Justice.



As an added bonus, one of the patrons at the theater that evening was a woman, originally from Bridgeport, Connecticut, who was fortunate enough to have attended the actual trial and watched as it all unfolded. She shared a small glimpse of history with some of us as we exited the theater, telling us about the emotion filled courtroom, and stating it is something she remembers well. Her memory of the trial that helped change the course of the civil rights movement is one experience she will always cherish. The sorors, hearing her talk with excitement in her voice, appreciated her brief account of history in the making.

It was a true transgenerational experience, teaching the children and young adults about the injustices of the Jim Crow laws, and reminding our own Delta Dears of the struggles of that era. MARSHALL was an excellent choice for our first Red Carpet Event for the sororal year.

A 40 year legacy with Reading Is Fundamental



As the **Fort Valley Alumnae Chapter** gets ready to celebrate 75 years of public service on June 2nd, 2018, the sorority will highlight one of its premiere educational literacy activities, the DST Reading Is Fundamental Program which has served over 5K students in kindergarten through fifth grades since its existence in 1978. The sorority has given away approximately 150K books to children in Crawford, Macon, Peach and Taylor Counties.

In 1978, the sorority submitted a proposal to the United States Department of Education to fund a reading motivational program where the DOE would pay 75% of the cost of the books and the sorority would pay 25%. The project was funded and the sorority chose to serve schools with 80% free lunch children in Peach County serving kindergarten through third grades. As the program progressed, all of the sorority's service areas as listed above were included and grade levels expanded to fourth and fifth grades.

Key to reading readiness is a motivational program required by RIF that made children excited about selecting new low cost paperback books that they could take home and start their own personal libraries. During the 40 years of providing books, some of the motivational activities have included: An egg drop class activity from a utility truck; the class with the fewest number of broken eggs receiving the most books. College students reading books dressed as Miss SuperRif and Mr. SuperRif in tights and capes. Fraternity and sorority members, dressed in their paraphernalia, reading books to students prior to book selection. The famous R2D2 robot from the original Star Wars movie visiting each class to discuss books and reading. A helicopter hovering over Hunt Elementary in Peach County as a Vietnam veteran repelling down a rope to prove that he was the ultimate Mr. SuperRif. Of course, other characters were and still are being used to motivate children such as Minnie Mouse, Dino for Barney, and Thing One and Thing Two.



The Fort Valley Alumnae Chapter continues to impact children, their parents and teachers through its reading motivation and literacy program. The chapter adopts the Rif philosophy that every child deserves an opportunity to own books, to learn how to read books and to obtain the fundamental building blocks to achieve their highest potential.



Gadsden County Florida Alumnae Chapter Sorors Displays Their 2017-18 Theme: **ALL HANDS ON DELTA**

The **Gadsden County Florida Alumnae Chapter** posted pink ribbons around the Downtown Courthouse Square in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The month-long celebration also included pinning ribbons on students and fans at Gadsden High School Annual Homecoming Game as well as participating in a thirty-five mile walk with the local Sheriff's Department.

The Chapter members continued their mission with a Roundtable Lunch with the County Supervisor of Election to discuss voter registration. Their topics for discussion included 1) Teaching the community about making informed decisions; 2) How to mobilize the African American community; 3) How to analyze news and social media outlets to determine if it is "fake", and Voting Rights.



With teamwork...

there is nothing that we as a chapter could not do to ensure the people of the Virgin Islands were not forgotten.

Delise Davis and Sherna Parson, native Virgin Islanders, conveyed this motto as they spearheaded the **Gwinnet County Alumnae Chapter's (GCAC) Operation Rebuild USVI Hurricane Relief Drive** on September 23rd.

A collaborative partnership with the non-profit organizations ADAPT and Operation Rebuild USVI, the GCAC drive aided in the collection and provision of:

- nonperishable food
- clothing
- medical supplies
- non-moisture trapping products
- toiletries
- personal hygiene products
- water
- cleaning supplies
- tarps
- educational supplies
- monetary donations
- and other items of immediate need

Spending over seven hours together, a sense of euphoria and enthusiasm swept through the collection site as sorors and volunteers tirelessly worked together to perform this worthy and humanitarian service. Monetary donations were used to purchase items such as solar powered items and watered resistant sealant. Our final tally of all items collected was over 7,000 lbs. of relief aid, completely filling a 15 ft. U-Haul truck!

All items were delivered to Operation Rebuild USVI for transport and shipping to the Virgin Islands and successfully received by another non-profit organization, Family Resource Center in the



OPERATION REBUILD VIRGIN ISLANDS
Strong

Sorors of GCAC Gwinnet County Alumnae Chapter Relief Drive
SUPPLIES COLLECTED WILL GO TO FAMILIES AFFECTED MOST

09.23.17
10am - 3pm | Saturday

Life Storage Facility (Lawrenceville)
875 Marathon Pkwy
Lawrenceville, GA 30046

Items Needed

- BATTERIES (SIZES C/D)
- BATTERY OPERATED RADIO
- BATTERY OPERATED FAN
- PAPERWARE
- BABY FORMULA/DIAPERS/FOOD/BOTTLES/WIPES
- DEPENDS DIAPERS
- NON-PERISHABLE FOOD
- INSECT REPELLANT
- SUNSCREEN
- HEAVY DUTY RAIN PROOF TARPS
- PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS (TOOTHPASTE, MOUTHWASH, DEODORANT, TOOTHBRUSH, COMB, BRUSH, SHAMPOO, SOAP)
- WATER
- UNDERGARMENTS
- A/D OINTMENT
- NEOSPORIN
- TYLENOL
- ALEVE
- MOTRIN
- TAMPONS/PADS | ADULT WIPES
- HAND SANITIZER

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER
JANELLE K SARAUW
UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

Virgin Islands. Who in turn, distributed the items to displaced families and senior citizens in St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John.

Billed as a Gwinnet County hurricane relief drive, the day was a huge success and everyone who donated items and/or gave their time and skills were proud to have been a part of something that made a difference, giving people hope and providing an opportunity for people to work together as a collective towards the common goal and selfless goal of serving people of the global community.



We sent out the call and the GCAC sorors of DST showed up and showed out!

Greenville (MS) Alumnae Chapter

of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. donated personal hygiene supplies to the Emergency Shelter at WWISCAA. The Emergency Shelter provides food and/or shelter assistance to individuals in danger of becoming homeless because of mortgage foreclosure, eviction notice, and other emergencies. Also provides employment training, job counseling, food and clothing bank, and other needed services to homeless families.



Front row (L to R): Duana Johnson- Chairperson, Seville Bell-WWISCAA Shelter Manager, Netty R. Seard-President. Second row: (L to R) Committee members: Latisha Russel, Felica Winters-Johnson, Gloria McCray, Alice Gaston, Bynarozelle Mitchell.

GREENWOOD ITTA BENA ALUMNAE CHAPTER



On October 21, 2017, **Greenwood-ITTA BENA Alumnae Chapter** held a Breast Cancer initiative event on the campus of Mississippi Valley State University during the homecoming game and tailgating. Members passed out breast cancer literature, goodies, and water.



Greenwood-ITTA BENA Alumnae Chapter in collaboration with the Diabetes Education Center of Greenwood Leflore Hospital hosted the 2nd Annual Diabetes Awareness Health Fair on November 3, 2017. The public was invited to take part in free diabetic screenings and education with the Deltas in Greenwood.





GRIFFIN AREA ALUMNAE CHAPTER SUPPORTS BACKPACK FOOD FOR KIDS' PROGRAM

The **Griffin Area Alumnae Chapter**, volunteers for the Backpack Food for Kids' Program. Sorors help to bag non-perishable food for local elementary school children at Five Loaves Two Fish Food Pantry. The program tackles food insecurity by providing students with food for the weekend. The backpack program currently serves two hundred forty-five students each week during the school year. The program is sponsored by the Spalding Collaborative, UGA-Griffin, and the Griffin-Spalding County School System. The program partners with the local businesses and organizations, Griffin Area Alumnae Chapter has been a part of the program since its inception in 2013.

With the 2017-18 school year in full swing, so is the Backpack Food for Kids Program. Teachers and administrators provide the names of students they suspect have very little to eat between the end of school Friday and the beginning of school Monday. The food is given to the students in an inconspicuous way, so as not to cause attention or embarrassment for the student. The students receive a backpack every week that school is in session. The program currently serves six local elementary schools; these include Anne Street, Atkinson, Moore, Jackson Road, Beaverbrook, and Cowan Road. The schools are in economically challenged areas of the county. Each backpack contains two meals that the elementary school children can handle by themselves during the weekend.

The Sorors of Griffin Area Alumnae Chapter has volunteered diligently every Thursday at Five Loaves Two Fish Food Pantry to pack bags. The chapter was recently featured in the Griffin Collaborative Newsletter for its continued commitment to the program. Griffin Area Alumnae Chapter is proud of the work that it does to impact the lives of the students in its service area.

HUNTSVILLE ALUMNAE.....

TAKING SOCIAL ACTION WHERE IT COUNTS



CO-SPONSORS HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR



The **Huntsville Alumnae Chapter** (AL) of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is #owningIt when it comes to Social Action! The committee, chaired by Sorors Trudy Spearman and Dwanetta Reed, has been organizing efforts to “take social action where it counts” by reaching out to our youth.



The Social Action Committee began by organizing a Power Hour-Voter Empowerment Education at the local Mae Jemison High School in Huntsville, AL. In addition, members of the Huntsville Alumnae and Omicron Gamma Chapters teamed up during the Jemison vs. Lee football game at Milton Frank Stadium and successfully registered 31 students to vote. The event was so successful that it captured the attention Devyn Keith, City Councilman District 1 - Madison County who stopped by to greet the sorors! The efforts continue as the committee spearhead efforts during the football games at Buckhorn High School and the Huntsville High School basketball games.

Special thanks to Jemison Principal, Dr. Lynette Alexander, and the Huntsville Alumnae Social Action Committee for “taking social action where it counts!”



The **Huntsville Alumnae Chapter** (AL) of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. teamed with 100 Black Men of Huntsville, Ashakiran, The Links, Inc., and Calhoun Community College to co-sponsor the 17th Annual North Alabama Health and Wellness Fair.

Over 500 attendees engaged in the New Balance Walk and health fair featuring medical screenings, vaccinations, healthy living seminars, health vendors, HIV testing, glucose, cholesterol, prostate screenings, as well as door prizes. Sorors were very instrumental in presenting invaluable information on the Affordable Care Act.

In addition, the Huntsville Alumnae Chapter sponsored the 4th annual My Cry in the Dark Mental Health Forum. For the adults, the mental health forum featured topics such as Dementia and Those Who are Caretakers, and Brother We Love You, a session to educate males about issues specific to them regarding mental illness, recognizing problems and what to do when a problem is detected. Topics regarding depression and bullying were presented for the youth in attendance. This event, open and free to public, proved to be a great success!



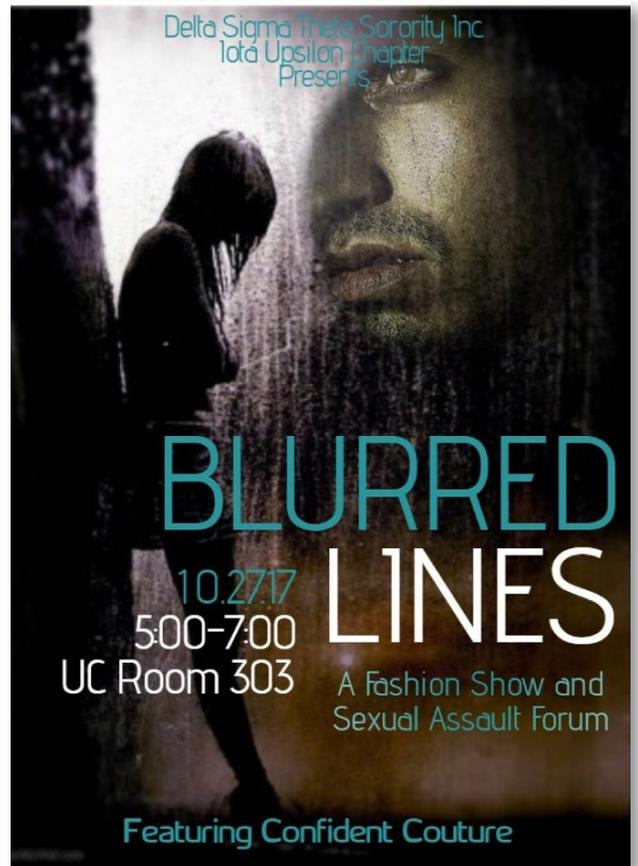
APSU'S IOTA UPSILON CHAPTER uses Delta Week to shine a light on sexual violence and assault

The newest members of the **Iota Upsilon Chapter** had their Delta Week during the week of October 23 – 27, 2017, at Austin Peay State University (APSU). The theme for the entire week focused on awareness of sexual violence and assault. Not only did the week's creative agenda of events shine a light on this controversial topic, but the chapter was able to collect supplies and donations for the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, known as RAINN. RAINN is the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization and the leading authority in the subject.

The week kicked off with an I BELIEVE YOU table where chapter members provided students and faculty and campus visitors with information about the RAINN organization, their services and how we can all help. Donations were collected to contribute to this worthy cause. Day two began with Bake for a Change, a bake sale where all proceeds benefited the RAINN organization. Later that

evening, the Trap Karaoke event provided a safe, positive forum for everyone to come together and enjoy watching fellow students showcase their karaoke skills in the popular “trap music” genre. Wednesday’s Community Service Day was spent volunteering at a local school, Burt Elementary. Some chapter members read to the kids, while others played games, proctored tests, and even escorted the kids to their buses. The students were excited about the visit and were very responsive and eager to participate in the day’s activities. Sorors had a great time bonding with the kids and look forward to future opportunities to partner with local schools. Thursday night, Sorors hosted Delta Café, a poetry night where spoken word and visual arts performers from APSU and the greater Nashville community showcased their talents. The week concluded with Blurred Lines, a sexual assault forum and fashion show, featuring the students of Confident Couture, the modeling club on campus. The forum began with a fashion show, exploring stereotypes of the different types of people that would supposedly be prone to attract sexual assaults. After the fashion show, a panel, composed of a campus police officer, the dean of students, a current female APSU student, and a political science professor, answered sexual assault related questions.

This year’s Delta Week activities enlightened participants on the importance of sexual violence and assault, while contributing to the outreach efforts of the RAINN organization. The ladies of the Iota Upsilon chapter see this successful initiative as a kickoff to a strong sororal year serving the APSU campus and surrounding community!



Jacksonville Alumnae Hosts a Night of Laughs~

CRIMSON AND CREAM CLEAN COMEDY EXPLOSION

by Pernelphone Coleman



Delta’s Crimson and Cream Clean Comedy Explosion was the first fundraiser event of the year. The comedy show was a hilarious success! The ambiance was set with crimson décor and lighting, VIP tables and auditorium seating, gourmet snack boxes and a photo area. The venue was staged perfectly for a fun-filled spectacular evening.

Over 200 deltas and guests attended the show. They enjoyed the “clean comedy” and antics of four Jacksonville comedians: Funnybone, Jenn Weeks, Terry





Harris and Lady AJ. To entertain the guests in between acts, music was provided by DJ King Ron. With each comedian, the audience was treated to comical expressions of words of wisdom, the oddity of family relationships, everyday mistakes and life experiences. Everyone was ecstatic with laughter, that roared throughout the evening.

To sum up the evening, as said best by Charles Dickens, "There is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humor". A great time was had by all.



JCAC Member Named NPHC Outstanding Alumni Council President

Dr. LaToya R. Bishop, President, National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) -Birmingham Chapter, received the 2017 NPHC Outstanding Alumni Council President of the Year. LaToya has done a wonderful job in making sure the 12 financial chapters in the Birmingham area are informed with monthly newsletters and Facebook posts of all occurring events and has made sure the chapter is solvent with their funds. In 2016, the chapter was able to distribute seven (7) five hundred-dollar (\$500.00) scholarships to students in the Birmingham/Hoover Metropolitan area and even more in 2017. The distribution of the 7 scholarships was a first for the Birmingham chapter.

LaToya participates in mostly all area events when her schedule permits and has often been "the one" that everyone looks for at various event happenings, because they know she will be there.

LaToya has provided a spirit of togetherness and harmony among all the NPHC chapters in the Birmingham area. She not only encourages the delegates to the chapter to attend and support all Divine 9 organizational events and activities but also members of other organizations as well. Dr. LaToya R. Bishop is a member of the Jefferson County Alumnae Chapter where she serves as the 1st Vice President and Chair of Membership Services.



l-r : National President Beverly E. Smith, Dr. LaToya R. Bishop, Immediate Past National President Dr. Paulette C. Walker



On October 14, 2017, the **LaGrange Alumnae Chapter** answered the Social Action call to Support HBCUs Initiative. The LaGrange Alumnae Chapter GEMS (Growing Empowering Myself Successfully) and EMBODI (Empowering Males to Build Opportunities for Developing Independence) attended open house on the campus of The Fort Valley State University.

Seventeen participants were in attendance in age from 13- 17 years. The young ladies and men enjoyed the opportunities to tour the campus, to listen to Deans of Colleges and Schools, and interact with their peers. Each presenter was engaging and many participants continued dialogue through lunch. Excitement was in the air as the GEMS and EMBODI attended the Fort Valley State University football game against Lane College. Many of the participants were grateful and appreciative of the time spent on campus and to the LaGrange Alumnae Chapter for giving them an opportunity to see new heights.



The **Laurel (MS) Alumnae Chapter**, in partnership with S.T.E.M. Discoveries, LLC, hosted a workshop for middle and high school students to discover the power of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (S.T.E.M.). With approximately 40 students in attendance, they received hands-on experience of what computer and forensic scientists do on the job. The students used computers to program video games and solved a mock crime scene using mystery clues, evidence and a little chemistry. The students left the workshop with a new found appreciation of S.T.E.M., as well as enhanced skills of critical thinking, problem solving, and teamwork.



"If you want to improve the organization, you have to improve yourself and the organization gets pulled up with you" – Indra Nooyi – CEO Pepsi Co.

In 2016, the Southern Regional Leadership team under the direction and guidance of Regional Director, Sandra K. Horton and Regional Representative, Jessica Shotwell set out to develop a program that would inspire and encourage sorors to pursue and be prepared for leadership positions within the Southern Region. The mission of the Southern Region Leadership Institute (SRLI) is to empower its participants with personal and professional leadership skills through structured involvement that inspires Courage, Collaboration and Confidence in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc

In August of 2017, after months of planning and weeks of packet reviews and interviews the 22 Inaugural SRLI Class participants were selected. These sorors are trailblazers who have demonstrated significant leadership potential within Delta and their chosen professions. These ladies have a true "Heart for the Region." Committee Chair, Soror Amaris Johnson shared, "Leadership development is critical to the success of any organization. Under the guidance of National Leadership Academy, the Sorority has programs that operate at the Collegiate, Chapter and National level through Leadership Delta, L.E.A.D, and Delta Fellows. The missing pillar was a program with specific emphasis at the region level, which SRLI seeks to fulfill. Participants are guided through a series of development activities that build Confidence, Collaboration and Courage, all of which are critical competencies needed for successful leadership in Delta. The committee is thrilled to lead this effort on behalf the Regional Director and Regional Representative and look forward to the great things in store for these ladies in their Delta and Professional careers!"

The program curriculum includes a development plan spanning the sorority year, which is intended to enhance the long-term development of the selected participants. These sorors are also paired with Delta mentors who continue to refine their leadership skills. Some of the other curriculum highlights includes:

- Roundtable Discussions with Past/Present Regional/National Leadership
- In-depth discussions and development plans with subject matter experts in the areas of our Five-Point Programmatic Thrust
- Special Invites and Participation to Regional Leadership Team Only events and webinars

When asked about their participation in the program here are a few comments from members of the inaugural class:

▶ "It is a blessing to be able to utilize her gifts and talents to advance the region and that is why when she received "that call" from Soror Horton stating that she had been selected for the Southern Region Leadership Institute, it felt like "that call" that she answered several years ago." "Thus far, SRLI has been an amazing journey of support, empowerment, and growth. My cohort will be more effective and well-prepared leaders because of our participation. I'm clutching my pearls and enjoying the ride!" – Velicia Lowe- Warner Robbins Alumnae

▶ "Loving every moment! To say this is an awesome program is an understatement! Surrounded by the best. Inspired by the best. Learning from the best...and the best is still yet to come!" – *Shameka Jones – St. Petersburg Alumnae*

▶ "Even though this program is designed to build future Delta leaders, I can use the skills in other areas of my life. I look forward to continuing my work in Delta and repaying the Regional Director and Representative, program Co-Chairs and committee, mentors, and my Cohort sisters for the support they infused into me through service to the Sorority." *Janae Johnson – Stone Mountain-Lithonia Chapter*

Sorors of the Southern Region, we are beyond excited to have this program as part of our regional initiatives and look forward to seeing the contributions of these ladies for years to come. Please join us in congratulating the 2017-2018 Southern Region Leadership Institute Inaugural Class!

SRLI Committee Members

Chair, Amaris Johnson Gadsden County (FL) Alumnae
 Co-Chair, Manica Pierrette, Douglas-Carroll-Paulding Alumnae
 Member (AL) Veronica Brown - Selma Alumnae
 Member (FL) Kimberly D. Coward – Broward County Alumnae
 Member (TN) Sandra Cannon – Knoxville Alumnae
 Member (TN) Pamela Owens – Rutherford County Alumnae
 Member (MS) Sharonda Y. Turner – Jackson (MS) Alumnae
 Member (TN) Aliyah Sheffield – Nashville Alumnae

Committee Support Members:

Tina Fernandez (Tampa Alumnae)
 Yvonne Mitchell (Jacksonville Alumnae)



SRLI Committee Participants



Alisa Summerville
Birmingham Alumnae



Andrea Hampton
Orlando Alumnae



Bridget Harris
East Point/
College Park Alumnae



Brittany McDermott
East Point/
College Park Alumnae



Demetra L. Daniels
Henry County Alumnae



Demica Sanders
Jefferson County Alumnae



Hyla Plummer
Melbourne-Palm Bay
Alumnae



Isis N. Williams
Orlando Alumnae



Janae Johnson
Stone Mountain-Lithonia
Alumnae



Lisa Simon
Douglas-Carroll-Paulding
Counties Alumnae



Machelles Shelby Kyles
Clinton (MS) Alumnae



Michelle Nelson-Hawkins
Columbus (GA) Metropolitan
Alumnae



Nyree M. Washington
Dade County Alumnae



Robyn Lawrence
Jacksonville (FL) Alumnae



Dr. Shameka S. Jones
St. Petersburg Alumnae



Shavone J. Smith
Stone Mountain-Lithonia
Alumnae



Stephanie Love Newman
Tuskegee Alumnae



Susan D. Vanderbilt
Rutherford County Alumnae



Tawanika D. McKinney
Jackson Tennessee Alumnae



Velicia Y. Lowe
Warner Robins Alumnae



V. Renae Crutches
Henry County Alumnae



Vicki Carew
Douglas-Carroll-Paulding
Counties Alumnae



Madison County Alumnae Chapter (MCAC) conducted a Voter Registration Drive on Sunday, Oct. 8th at 3:30 pm in the low voter area in Canton, MS. MCAC chapter members walked from house to house knocking on doors and made it convenient for residents to register to vote. The intent was to get more residents registered to vote, to educate them on the voting process, and to encourage them to exercise their right to vote. MCAC, in partnership with the local and a collegiate chapter of the NAACP, registered over 30 residents

Madison County Alumnae Chapter (MCAC) conducted a Voter Registration Drive on Sunday, Oct. 8th at 3:30 pm in the low voter area in Canton, MS. MCAC chapter members walked from house to house knocking on doors and made it convenient for residents to register to vote. The intent was to get more residents registered to vote, to educate them on the voting process, and to encourage them to exercise their right to vote. MCAC, in partnership with the local and a collegiate chapter of the NAACP, registered over 30 residents.

Volunteer of the Year: Soror Sandra Pelham

Melbourne-Palm Bay Alumnae Chapter is pleased to announce that Soror Pelham was named Florida Today's Volunteer of the Year on November 16, 2017. She is a committed volunteer who facilitates many activities and programs the Melbourne and Palm Bay communities. She currently co-chairs the Black Heritage Calendar Fest and Hostess and Amenities Committees.



CREATING LEADERS

Aspiring in Scholarship & Service

Do you have C.L.A.S.S.?

Over one hundred students, forty parents, thirty members of the **Montgomery (AL) Alumnae Chapter** of Delta Sigma Theta, Sorority Inc., representatives from the Divine Nine and other local organizations did on Saturday, October 7, 2017 on the campus of Auburn University in Montgomery, AL. This was the 5th Annual Leadership Conference sponsored by the Montgomery (AL) Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Sorority, Inc., the theme was, "We Are All In: Serve, Soar, & Succeed." There were four informative and interactive sessions that reinforced the theme of the conference.

SERVE

"Litty for Activism" Civic Responsibility Session was led by Kynasha Brown. The students received an overview of the importance of participating in the democratic process and becoming an informed, productive member of society.

How May I Serve You? Cathey Hendricks facilitated the discussion of the importance of volunteering and community serve. The culminating activity for this session was a service project that will impact the community locally and abroad.

SOAR

Black Girl Magic is a term used to illustrate the universal awesomeness of black woman as explained by presenters Acquanetta McCants Pinkard and Melvetta Leach-Peck. Students were encouraged to unlock their "magic" and instructed how to use their "magic" to advance and achieve their goals.

Black Boys Rock was led by a panelist of male presenters. Michael Briddell, Dr. Carl Pettis, Anwar Shahid and Robert Thomas explored with the students the steps to take to successfully transform from being black boys to becoming black men. Students left this session empowered and armed with the "I can achieve anything" attitude.

SUCCEED

How Does Success Look? This character building and goal setting session for high school students was led by two dynamic young presenters. Marcus Handy and Alivia Payne facilitated an interactive session that provided real life examples of what it really takes to be successful.

Setting Goals for Success Session was designed for middle school students. Hillary Claiborn shared with then the concept of setting goals and the benefits from goal setting. Students actively participated in activities to identify areas of priority and began the process of developing SMART (Specific Measurable Attainable Relevant Time-Based) goals.

P.E.A.C.E.
WORKSHOP

Raising Children in Today's Environment Session was designed for parents and guardians to have an open dialogue with professionals in the areas of education, counseling and law. Robyn F. Lindsey, Dr. Sheila Austin, Sandy K. Johnson and Jaffe Pickett, Esq. provided interactive passion filled discussions on current issues and the potential impact on their children's ability to succeed.

From the Invocation by Jamie Thomas - EMBODI, Greetings by Cassandra E. Brown – Chapter President, Introduction of the Speaker by Malaysha Smith – Delta GEM, Charge by Azzie Taylor (State of Alabama Deputy Attorney General) – Conference Speaker, Recognitions by Catrina R. Waters (C.L.A.S.S. Co-Coordinator) to the closing remarks by Cassandra E. Brown an informative, enjoyable, impactful experience was had by all involved. But, it is not too late for you to have C.L.A.S.S. We look forward to seeing you at the 6th Annual Leadership Conference in 2018.



MARIETTA-ROSWELL Launches Financial Literacy Empowerment Series



Supporting economic development through financial empowerment is the goal of **Marietta-Roswell Alumnae Chapter's (MRAC)** initiative entitled, Wealth Building, Entrepreneurship and Financial Literacy. The initiative is meant to broaden awareness, impart education, and provide resources to community citizens and chapter members in critical areas such as saving for emergencies, new home purchase or tuition; develop and maintain good credit; eliminating debt; and investment strategies to create passive income towards generational wealth. With a premise of, "taking it to the streets" this unique approach collaborates with local libraries, community rooms and churches in Cobb, Cherokee and North Fulton Counties. The monthly, 2nd Tuesday series takes place simultaneously in three counties, October through June and embraces our National Financial Fortitude platform with an overall mission to decrease the gap between wealth and poverty; and to providing a blueprint for financial independence. Additionally, the Financial Literacy Hour of Power is held twice during the sororal year on Saturdays in six local coffee houses within the MRAC service area. The multiple locations and days is an attempt to blanket our entire service with activity.

The chapter researched the issue and best options to approach the topic. The Huffington Post accurately documented the challenge facing our target audience. African-Americans garner only 1.4% of the country's top household incomes with a net worth of 1.2 million compared to 96.1% of white families with a net worth of 8.3 million. Likewise, a paper by the Institute for Assets and Social Policy at Brandeis University entitled, The Racial Wealth Gap- Why Policy Matters, determined in 2011, the median White household had \$111,146 in wealth holdings, compared to just \$7,113 for the median Black household and \$8,348 for the median Latino household. Armed with this information, Marietta-Roswell set a course to provide ordinary citizens with valuable information in various locations during hours of high traffic. With a vision to collaborate, the

Economic Development Committee partners with the Social Action Committee for legislation and policy information; local organizations such as Women in Insurance and with Financial Services; and financial advisors from Mass Mutual in the local Atlanta area.

Since the kick-off in October 2017, participation has been outstanding, and the series well received. The gradual increase in attendance is attributed to word-of-mouth, strategic marketing and a social media blitz. Chapter members have also stepped up to assist with logistics and other volunteer needs. It is the chapter's hope to partner these efforts with our annual Spring Community Economic Empowerment Summit to create real impact that will swing the pendulum of imbalance in the favor of the black community.

Marietta-Roswell Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. PRESENTS Financial Management Workshops

Not Enough Money? Always running Out? WE CAN'T GIVE YOU MORE \$\$\$ BUT WE CAN TEACH YOU HOW TO:

- Earn more money \$\$\$
- Save more for emergencies, home purchase, vacations, and college tuition.
- Invest to have your money make money while you sleep (passive income).
- Develop and maintain good credit for more buying power.
- Protect all your valuables including your cash.

This event is FREE and open to the public.

Who: Adults ages 21-35+
When: 2nd Tuesday of each month starting October 2017 through June 2018
Where: Sessions will be held at the following locations:
 Cherokee - Rose Creek Library 4476 Towne Lake Pkwy. Woodstock, GA 30189, 6:30 pm
 Cobb - Switzer (Central) Library 266 Roswell St. SE Marietta, GA 30060, 7:00 pm
 N. Fulton - 1 Concourse Pkwy. Rm. 140 Atlanta, GA 30328, 7:00 pm

Session Topics:

- Oct 10- Setting Financial Goals
- Nov 14- Budget Building
- Dec 12- Taking Control of Debt
- Jan 9- Protecting Your Home
- Feb 13- Life Insurance Products
- Mar 13- Investment Basics
- Apr 10- College Planning
- May 8- Planning for Retirement
- Jun 12- Retirement Readiness

For more information:
 Facebook: DSTMRAC
 Register at Eventbrite
 Website: www.dstmrac.com



The Dr. Betty Shabazz Delta Academy of **Nashville Alumnae Chapter** focuses on the total development of the program participants by utilizing the Sorority's Five Point Programmatic Thrust as the building block for learning. The unofficial motto of the Academy is "operating in a spirit of excellence." Academics, service learning, self-love and teamwork are all required and expected of the mentees and are a crucial part in making the motto a reality.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and what better way to indoctrinate the participants on the power of giving than to provide a little hope to those in for the fight of their lives. Sunday, October 22, 2017, 23 members of the Delta Academy visited the American Cancer Society's Hope Lodge of Nashville. The Hope Lodge provides housing free of charge on a first-come, first served basis to cancer patients and a caregiver during their course of treatment. The Lodge not only reduces the financial burden, but also provides a much needed supportive environment especially for those far away from home.

The Academy members put on their uniform including a pink breast cancer awareness bandana, pulled out their dinner options form and became hostesses for the day. The girls were in full character as they greeted the guest, introduced themselves, took the orders and delivered the selections of beverages, desserts, vegetables, meats and dinner rolls prepared by the culinary genius of the mentors and presented beautifully. These adorable little "waitresses" made sure the guest had everything they needed. Upon completing their shifts, the girls sat down and had dinner with their clientele. The dinner conversations were a huge highlight. The mentees actually formed relationships with those they served and the guest loved their company! The residents lingered until the very end talking, laughing and mingling. There was even a private dance lesson session. Now a senior is able to Whip Nae-Nae and Dab! The members of the Delta Academy gained skills that will benefit them throughout their lives. Customer service, communication, detail orientation, and giving of oneself were all a part of the lesson of the day.

Bringing the day to a close was the surprise gift give-away. Facts about Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and the Delta Academy were shared during introductions. The guest was quizzed and if they answered correctly, they received an award for their efforts. The American Cancer Society's Hope Lodge of Nashville residents and staff were beyond grateful to The Dr. Betty Shabazz Delta Academy of Nashville Alumnae Chapter for spending the day with them.

The giving did not stop there! Hope Lodge made it known that they were in need of toilet tissue donations. The donations would offset the operating expenses of the facility and its guest. Nashville Alumnae Chapter members responded overwhelmingly! The donations were plentiful! A luggage cart filled with tissue paper was delivered to the Hope Lodge on Sunday, October 22nd in addition to souvenirs cheering the guest on to VICTORY!

HOPE LODGE VISIT

SORORITY DONATES OVER 70 SUITS TO PACE

As a part of its community service initiatives, the **Nassau, Bahamas Alumnae Chapter (NBAC)** of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated donated over 70 business suits, blazers and dresses to the students at PACE Foundation. The results from a drive which began this past summer, the sorority members also presented the school for teen mothers with donations of jewelry and seven pairs of shoes. While addressing the young women, the sorority women acknowledged that while life may hit you hard, it's how you react that defines you. The chapter's president, Tara Johnson, said "You always have an opportunity to steer your life in any direction. Keep dreaming and achieving no matter what."

The local chapter played a pivotal role in building a foundation for the PACE program to become what it is today by advocating for and mentoring the first class of young mothers into adulthood. The Chapter also started a business course for the teen mothers, some of whom are professionals and productive citizens in their communities. PACE is an intervention program that offers basic education, while teaching young women how to care for themselves and their babies, including protecting themselves from sexually transmitted diseases and infections, birth control and offers psychological support. For the most part, PACE provides the only means in which a teen mom can re-enroll into high school and earn a diploma. "Women have left this, and similar programs, and went on to graduate from college and become doctors, business professionals and so on. (So) keep moving forward," Johnson said. She also encouraged the young women to "reach back" after they've benefitted from the program. Principal, Jackie Knowles thanked the membership for the gift and challenged them to return to the school to assist with resume writing and job placement for the young ladies.

The Nassau, Bahamas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was chartered by 19 college educated Bahamian women on December 29, 1979. From 1971 until 1979, some 34 women met to establish the graduate chapter, setting the course for great work on the island of New Providence. Currently, the chapter has 52 active members.



OAK RIDGE ALUMNAE CHAPTER

of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Continues Its Legacy of Making the Knoxville Area Susan G. Komen Race for Cure Personal

On October 21, 2017, World's Fair Park was transformed into a sea of pink and white with a few exceptions as thousands participated in the annual Knoxville area Race for the Cure to benefit Susan G. Komen Foundation's breast cancer research initiatives. One of these exceptions was the Oak Ridge Alumnae Chapter (ORAC) "Delta Sister Girl Warriors" team who wore Sorority paraphernalia. This was the twelfth year that the Delta Sister Girl Warriors team participated with twelve sorors registered for the race.

Statistics show 1 in 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer during their lifetime. For the ORAC sorors – it's PERSONAL and that resonates with the entire chapter as there are several breast cancer survivors in the chapter. Breast cancer awareness is part of ORAC's physical and mental health initiative. ORAC promotes early detection and sister support. The Race for the Cure provided a time to celebrate survivorship of ORAC members, family, and friends while raising consciousness and funds to support the fight against breast cancer.



RUTHERFORD COUNTY ALUMNAE CHAPTER is

Delta Busy!

Rutherford County Alumnae Chapter members participated in several outreach activities and events in October and November that kept us Delta Busy and focused on advancing the principles of our Five-Point Programmatic Thrust.

INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT

RCAC dutifully collected books in October and November for school aged kids in Cartagena, Columbia to establish a library at the Alex Rocha Youth Center. The center is located in one of the most impoverished communities in Cartagena and serves as a safe haven for children. More than 600 books were collected and will support the initiative to teach the English language to Spanish speaking children. Chapter members met on November 18th at the home of Soror Susan Vanderbilt to place words of encouragement and empowerment inside each book.

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

In support of Breast Cancer Awareness in October, the Physical and Mental Health committee teamed with the American Cancer Society and the Making Strides against Breast Cancer Walk event. The initial fundraising goal of \$500 was met and exceeded by \$400 as RCAC sorors made monetary pledges and challenged others to support. Soror Carolyn Cox (Committee Chair) was joined by several other RCAC members on the day of the walk (October 23rd) to represent pledges in action. Great job raising \$900 in funds and awareness in the fight against breast cancer.

For Diabetes Awareness in November, RCAC members wore the color blue to chapter meeting as a visual call to action for support and education about the disease.

POLITICAL AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT

On November 3rd, the Social Action Committee had good turn out from RCAC members who volunteered to set up a voter registration table during Quinn's Mercantile- Sip, Shop & Stroll in Murfreesboro. Eight citizens of Rutherford County registered to vote and their forms were submitted to the Voting Commission on the next business day.

Additionally, on November 6th, RCAC joined Iota Tau sorors and hundreds of MTSU students, alumni and faculty in a peaceful demonstration of community support for diversity and unity in the days following the white lives matter rally held in Middle Tennessee. Participants of all races, sex, and political affiliation linked hands to form a human chain of solidarity and equality against unjust discrimination and intimidation.

RCAC's own Violet Cox-Wingo was a key factor in negotiating with the local AMC theater to offer a special screening of the movie about the first African American Supreme Court Justice - "Marshall" in Murfreesboro on November 18th. The movie screening was well supported by RCAC and members of other sororities, fraternities and the local NAACP.



The Stone Mountain-Lithonia Alumnae Chapter (SM-LAC)

of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, has continued to amplify the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), and the value that it can bring to our young African-American students. Specifically, SM-LAC is concerned with decreasing the disproportionality of a white, male-dominated STEM culture, while also creating opportunities for a diverse STEM labor force. By collaborating with Georgia Piedmont Technical College (GPTC), the Educational Development's STEMfest Sub-Committee formed a partnership that is committed to exposing young African-American students to STEM – and more importantly – giving them opportunities to explore STEM-related concepts. On Saturday, September 30, 2017, SM-LAC did just that by hosting its 4th Annual STEMfest at Redan High School in Stone Mountain, Georgia.

STEMfest, a highly anticipated event in the Stone Mountain-Lithonia community, generated huge excitement right from the start as it kicked off with a stellar performance by Redan High School's ROTC program. A mad science experiment followed, and was



conducted by SM-LAC's very own First Vice President, a representative from GPTC, and a young STEMer chosen from the audience. With over 380 students from more than 85 elementary, middle, and high schools in DeKalb, Fulton, Gwinnett, Rockdale, Newton, and Henry counties; the Atlanta Public School System; private and home schools, alike, the halls of Redan High School were electrified and illuminated as the youth engaged in a student-centered learning environment, filled with questioning, problem solving, collaboration, and hands-on activities throughout the day.

SM-LAC credits the success of STEMfest to the hard work and dedication of the STEM subcommittee and over 45 volunteers from SM-LAC, members of the DeKalb Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha, GPTC, and Redan High School. The chapter also gives special thanks to Gold Sponsor Fintek Consulting, Sunny Delight Beverages Company, Zaxby's, Papa John's Pizza, Kroger, Publix, and Ingles for their financial and in-kind donations. Lastly, SM-LAC credits the 15 STEM professionals, who presented 12 engaging workshops; the 50 STEM professionals, who manned 20 booths/exhibits; and the STEM subject-matter experts from the following companies: Coca-Cola, International Paper, Georgia Power, T-Mobile, Georgia Piedmont Technical College, Georgia Tech, Morehouse School of Medicine, Georgia Gwinnett College, Spelman College, Fernbank, Get Stemulated, DATES Academy, Angels N Tech, iLLUSiONÀGE Productions, YELL Academy, and Pharaoh Conclave.

STEMfest was a smashing success, and SM-LAC is already planning for next year!



Long before "Black Girl Magic" described the amazing feats of African-American women, there was Soror Carrie Elizabeth Wimbish. As a pioneer in Florida government, she served as the first African-American elected to St. Petersburg's City Council. As an attorney, she fought for equal rights in education through the Pinellas County Board of Public Instruction. She received her bachelor's degree from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), Florida's only historically black university. Though her degree was in education, Wimbish's exposure to racial harassment and discrimination inspired her to get involved in politics and activism.

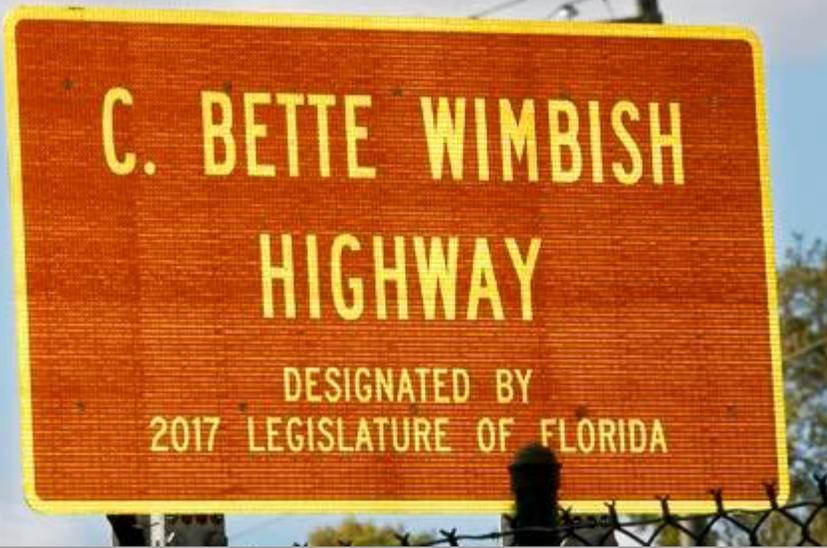
She later received her law degree from FAMU's law school, and returned to work at a St. Petersburg family law firm. She was the first black female attorney in Pinellas, and only the third black female attorney in the entire state. Later, she was also elected to St. Petersburg City Council, where she eventually became vice-mayor. She represented the spirit of perseverance and triumph that inspires a new generation of black women

who strive to achieve. Her life of service was memorialized through Senate Bill 368 - designating a portion of I-375 as the "C. Bette Wimbish Highway."

The city of St. Petersburg, along with State Senator Darryl Rouson, and David Gwynn, District Seven Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation, hosted an unveiling of the C. Bette Wimbish Interstate 375 highway designation this month. The public was invited to join Mayor Rick Kriseman for the festivities on Sunday, October 29th. St. Petersburg Chapter of DST sponsored a luncheon reception in her honor, chaired by Nikki Gaskin-Capehart, Social Action Chairperson and Director of Urban Affairs, Mayor's Office for the City of St. Petersburg.

Said Mayor Rick Kriseman: "How do you honor someone who blazed trails and opened new paths for women and African Americans in Pinellas County? With a road, of course! The city is honored to recognize Mrs. Wimbish, also the first female and first African American elected





to St. Petersburg City Council, who carved her own path to success. What a fitting tribute to rename I-375, a six-lane federal roadway that serves as a grand entrance ramp, bringing people from near and far directly into downtown St. Petersburg.”

Soror Wimbush was a member of many notable organizations during her lifetime such as National Council of Negro Women, the NAACP, the Links, and the National Bar Association. As a member of Delta Sigma Theta, she was a charter member and once served as its President.

Although, Soror Wimbush died in 2009 at the age of 85, her legacy as a trailblazer will live on through generations of people she influenced and with a stretch of highways in her honor!!! Indeed, Black Girls Do Rock!!!!

The Tampa Alumnae Chapter Parties with a Purpose!

On December 3, 2017, The Membership Services Committee of the **Tampa Alumnae Chapter** hosted their annual Holiday Social. The event was free and welcomed more than 70 sorors and their guests. In the spirit of giving, all were asked to bring an unwrapped gift for a boy or girl to be donated to Metropolitan Ministries, a charitable organization with a primary focus on providing support for homeless families in our service area. Prayerfully the gifts will make the holiday season a little brighter for those that have been affected by Hurricane Irma, Hurricane Maria, and life’s setbacks. The Tampa Alumnae Chapter was proud to be a “Beacon of Hope” and ecstatic to provide almost 100 toys for underprivileged and at risk youth in our community.





Sorors seated from left to right: Dr. Joni Howard-Skipper, Cheryl Stone, Sharon Anderson, Chinetha Kyles. Standing back row left: Dr. Junita Hoskins, Sandra Long Weaver, Cassandra Miles Zenon Cynthia Hardy, and Debra Love

Tennessee State University

Celebrating the 40th anniversary of their induction into Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. at Tennessee State University was more than having a good time for eight Sorors who remain active in the sorority. It was also a time of reflection and giving back for the women who crossed into the Alpha Chi chapter of DST. All had worked on *The Meter*, the student newspaper at the university, during their undergraduate years. And for the first time, *The Meter* held a reception to welcome back alumni who had worked on the paper. The event was held on Oct. 13 during the university's 105th homecoming celebration. The Sorors had heeded the call of Shelton Tucker, who had been the Editor-in-Chief of the paper during the 1970s. He was also their Delta sweetheart.

The women met with the current staff and their advisor, Sandra Long Weaver, chapter journalist for the Nashville Alumnae chapter of DST. They told stories about their work on the paper, their challenges with the administration and how important the newspaper was to them and the college campus. They also shared that what they learned while working on the paper has served them well throughout their careers. The sorors were joined by at least 20 others including men who had been part of *The Meter* family. They discussed what it was like to gather news and produce a newspaper before the digital age. Even though none of them went into the newspaper business, learning how to conduct interviews and how to write well are skills they continued to hone after leaving TSU. Each Soror shared a story with the current students and encouraged them to keep going even though it may be difficult at times. It will pay off for you later in life, they said. All left the reception promising to come back next year.



Shelton Tucker-Meter Editor (1978-1980)



Tuscaloosa Alumnae Responds to Call for Hurricane Harvey Relief

The citizens of Tuscaloosa, Alabama will forever remember April 27, 2011 when a Category 4 tornado ripped through the state and changed their lives forever. Remembering the expressions of care that came from throughout the country during their time of need, the members of the Tuscaloosa Alumnae Chapter (TAC) of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. were determined to respond in support of Houston.

Shortly after Hurricane Harvey made landfall, TAC's Delta Emergency Response Team began planning a response to relieve efforts in partnership with Beulah Baptist Church (Tuscaloosa, AL). From Thursday, September 14 through Friday, September 22, TAC and Beulah Baptist Church collected gift cards and usable goods such as blankets and first aid kits from sorors, church members, and citizens throughout Tuscaloosa.

As a result of their efforts, more than 8,000 pounds of useful goods were collected! TAC and Beulah Baptist Church organized the goods and loaded the delivery truck. On October 5, after coordinating the delivery logistics with

the Houston Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the donations were sent to Houston. The donations and gift cards were graciously accepted by the Houston Metropolitan Alumnae Chapter and, to date, have already been distributed and are being used by the citizens of Texas.

Warner Robins Alumnae Chapter (WRAC) promotes

"Anti-Bullying Awareness Month"

The Warner Robins Alumnae Chapter (WRAC) of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. collaborated with Mr. Willie "Freight Train" Raines, Owner of Reclaiming Ground, Inc. for a Combat Bullying Tour stop in Bleckley County on Friday, October 20, 2017. Assemblies were held for the elementary, middle, and high school. Approximately 1,600 students attended throughout the day. Using interactive discussions, feats of strength, and positive affirmations, Mr. Raines focused on educating children and school administrators on the cause and effects of bullying.

On Wednesday, October 25, Mr. Raines facilitated assemblies for sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students at Thomson Middle School. DJ Smooth, radio personality, enhanced the energy of the events by incorporating popular musical selections. After each assembly on the Tour, the WRAC presented students with arm bands stating, "Bullying Stops with Me and Combat Bullying." Surveys were also provided to Thomson Middle School students. Delta Research and Educational Foundation, Inc. (DREF), a major sponsor of the Bleckley County Tour, awarded the WRAC a grant during Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.'s 53rd National Convention which was held this summer in Las Vegas, Nevada. Arm band sponsors included Harvest Builders Church and Merrit Johnson Agency.





The **West Palm Beach Alumnae Chapter's** EMBODI committee hosted its latest My Brothers and Me symposium on October 8, 2017. The main purpose of the symposiums is to bring male students in our community into contact with prominent local men of color in a safe, nurturing environment where the youth receive guidance, encouragement and the opportunity to initiate mentoring relationships with professional men from backgrounds similar to their own.

The October symposium was the manifestation of the requests voiced by the young men who attended the 2016 symposium which took place in January. We listened to their ideas and delivered a career-centered event at a local middle school. Fifty-three student participants of diverse ethnic backgrounds took the opportunity to learn from thirteen African-American male professionals and entrepreneurs from the local community representing a variety of careers including Architecture, Communication, Construction, Education, Engineering, Finance, Firefighting / Paramedics, Heating, Ventilation and Air conditioning (HVAC), Law Enforcement, Medicine, and information Technology.

Each of the professionals hosted his own career station at the venue. The young men selected their top four career interests and rotated to each of their selected career stations over the span of two and a half hours. The students asked the presenters candid questions about their occupations and gave rapt attention to the men's sage advice and personal observations in order to learn from their experiences.

Social Action Co-Chairs Elizabeth McBride and Lia Gaines hosted an additional station to provide voting information and register any 17- and 18-year-old student participants. And while the students were gathering knowledge from industry experts, their parents were participating in their own "Parenting Power" workshop led by our chaplain, Katrina Granger.

One of our cherished Delta D.E.A.R.S., retired educator Alma Horne, gave valuable tips on how the students could continue their research about their career interests, and a local African-American male attorney gave an inspirational speech to both the students and their parents.

This event was a great success. The young men departed the symposium with a backpack containing brochures about college readiness, literature from specific colleges and universities, a boxed lunch, ten of the community service hours required for graduation and, most importantly, valuable information and inspiration to help them with their life choices.

Chapter President Sharon Wood and EMBODI Co-Chair Sylvia Gibson received local television news coverage while at the event that should help increase attendance for next year's symposium, which will focus on health issues affecting men of color. The West Palm Beach Alumnae Chapter is grateful to Riviera Beach Councilman Terrance Davis for his sponsorship of the past two My Brothers and Me symposiums, the hardworking, dedicated members of the EMBODI and Social Action committees, all additional soror helpers and the volunteer presenters who brought this worthwhile endeavor to fruition.

2017 National Convention Awards

ADVISOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Advisor of the Year Award was presented to a current outstanding alumnae member who exemplifies the core values of the Sorority through her personal commitment to sisterhood, scholarship, and service. First place recognition was awarded to one alumnae member per state.

Denise Jones-Gregory, Sigma Eta, Samford University
Ty Maria Batts, Iota Tau, Middle Tennessee State University

Anastasia Brown, Upsilon Zeta, College of Bahamas

ALUMNAE MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Alumnae of the Year Award was presented to a current outstanding alumnae member who exemplifies the core values of the Sorority through her personal commitment to sisterhood, scholarship, and service. First place recognition was awarded to one alumnae member per state.

Elizabeth Levins, Mobile Alumnae
Marcia Samuel, Miami Alumnae
Lezley Webb, Memphis Alumnae

Ann Davis Jones, East Point / College Park Alumnae
Johnnie Coleman-Johnson, Vicksburg Alumnae

ARTS AND LETTER PROGRAM OF THE YEAR

The Arts and Letter Program of the Year recognizes innovative programmatic execution related to the arts. These awards were awarded to collegiate and alumnae chapters that have planned and executed programs that further the mission of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Nu Beta, Mississippi State University
Tau Rho, University of Miami
Mississippi Gulf Coast Alumnae
Hinesville Alumnae

Lambda Psi, University of Florida Gainesville
East Point/College Park Alumnae
Warner Robins Alumnae

ALUMNAE CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

The Alumnae Chapter of the Year was given to an outstanding alumnae chapter that has exhibited innovation and quality execution in the areas of internal development, programmatic delivery, community involvement, chapter management, and member involvement.

Jackson (MS) Alumnae
Warner Robins Alumnae

Clinton Alumnae
Melbourne/Palm Bay Alumnae

COLLEGIATE CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

The Collegiate Chapter of the Year was given to an outstanding collegiate chapter that has exhibited innovation and quality execution in the areas of internal development, programmatic delivery, community involvement, chapter management, and member involvement.

Gamma Tau, Tuskegee University
Mu Rho, Vanderbilt University

Iota Tau, Middle TN State University
Iota Sigma, Mercer University

COLLEGIATE DELTA WEEK

The Collegiate Delta Week recognized collegiate chapters for their dedication to the Five Point Programmatic Thrust: academic excellence, efforts to raise awareness on the importance of education, balanced lifestyles, professional goal setting, engagement in pressing societal issues and demonstrated ability to positively impact the local community and the student body.

Gamma Tau, Tuskegee University
Mu Rho, Vanderbilt University

Iota Tau, Middle Tennessee State University
Nu Tau, Georgia College and State University

COLLEGIATE MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Miriam Hammond, Gamma Tau, Tuskegee University

Adrielle Conner, Lambda Psi, University of Florida

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

The Distinguished Service Awards recognized innovative programmatic execution related to the Delta Sigma Theta's Five-Point Programmatic Thrusts. These awards will be awarded to collegiate and alumnae chapters that have planned and executed programs that further the mission of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. First place recognition will be awarded in each category size for chapters.

Economic Development

Iota Nu Citywide, Springhill College,
University of Mobile and
University of South Alabama
Sigma Eta, Samford University
Marietta-Roswell Alumnae
West Palm Beach Alumnae
Auburn Alumnae
Hinesville Alumnae

Educational Development

Mu Rho, Vanderbilt University
Iota Sigma, Mercer University
Columbus (GA) Alumnae
West Palm Beach Alumnae
Clarksville Alumnae
Grand Bahama Alumnae

International Awareness

Mu Rho, Vanderbilt University
Iota Sigma, Mercer University
East Point / College Park Alumnae
Dade County Alumnae
Warner Robins Alumnae
Holly Springs Marshall County Alumnae

Physical and Mental Health

Gamma Tau, Tuskegee University
Iota Tau, Middle Tennessee State University
Sigma Epsilon, Kennesaw State University
Kappa Epsilon, Florida State University
Nashville Alumnae
Hattiesburg Alumnae
Valdosta Alumnae
Hinesville Alumnae

Political Awareness and Involvement

Nu Beta, Mississippi State University
Iota Sigma, Mercer University
Broward County Alumnae
Madison County Alumnae
Auburn Alumnae
Holly Springs Marshall County Alumnae

HIGHEST OF FIVE ATTAINMENT AWARD

The Highest of Five Attainment Award recognizes the one most innovative programmatic execution related to Delta Sigma Theta's Five-Point Programmatic Thrusts of the chapter's choice. This award was awarded to one alumnae chapter in each of the Southern Region States and Bahamas. Because this award considers the "Best of the Best" chapter size is not be considered.

Central North Alabama Alumnae- Alabama (International Awareness)
Tampa Alumnae - Florida (Physical and Mental Health)
East Point/ College Park Alumnae - Georgia (International Awareness)
Madison County Alumnae - Mississippi (Economic Development)
Nashville Alumnae - Tennessee (Physical and Mental Health)

MAY WEEK HONORS AWARD

The May Week Honors Award recognized this national initiative that emphasize the importance of higher education and to highlight academic as well as professional achievement with particular emphasis on African American women. First place recognition will be awarded in each category size for chapters.

Memphis Alumnae
Valdosta Alumnae

Macon Alumnae
Hinesville Alumnae

NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR

Iota Lambda, University of Alabama Birmingham
Birmingham Alumnae
Central North (AL) Alumnae

Iota Tau, Middle Tennessee State University
Macon Alumnae

TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM OF THE YEAR

The Technology Program of the Year will be presented to a chapter that has continuously exemplified the core values of the Sorority by providing innovation and information through commitment to sisterhood, service, and scholarship. First place recognition will be awarded in each category size for chapters.

Shelby County (TN) Alumnae

Selma Alumnae

WEBSITE OF THE YEAR

The Website of the Year was presented to a chapter that has continuously exemplified the core values of the Sorority by providing innovation and information through commitment to sisterhood, service, and scholarship via the use of the chapter's website. First place recognition will be awarded in each category size for chapters.

Lambda Psi, University of Florida Gainesville
Selma Alumnae

Memphis Alumnae
Warner Robins Alumnae

Advancing
the
Sisterhood ΔΣΘ

EMBRACE ▲ EMPOWER ▲ ENGAGE

