

SOUTHERN

2018 Regional Conference Edition

Gazette



46th Southern Regional Conference

Regional Director: Sandra K. Horton
Regional Representative: Jessica Shotwell



Greetings to the ever Sensational, Strong, Stylish Sorors of the Dynamic Southern Region!

Thank you for what has truly been a remarkable sorority year! We have heard and witnessed some truly amazing events including our Statewide Clusters and Founders Day events as well as our Delta Days at the State Capitals. Because of your continuous hard work and dedication to improve your service areas, the Southern Region continues to make history within our sorority.

Southern Region sorors are indeed the Movers and Shakers and true symbols of Delta Excellence! That is why we are excited to meet and greet each of you as we celebrate our accomplishments during the 46th Southern Regional Conference in Nashville, TN.

This year's regional conference theme is **"Moving to the Rhythm of Delta's Beat"**, and we invite you to begin your celebration by moving through the pages of the 2018 Regional Conference Gazette.

This Gazette spotlights some of the phenomenal work done by chapters and individual sorors. It also provides you an overview of everything you have in store during the regional conference so take some time to review the pages. Again sorors, thank you for all you have done for our communities and the region as a whole and on behalf of the Regional Leadership Team, we Welcome you to the 46th Southern Regional Conference!

Violets and Pearls,

Sandy and Jessica





The Brevard County Alumnae Chapter

hosted its 50th Anniversary Signature Gala on March 10, 2018 at the Radisson at-the-Port, in Cape Canaveral, Florida. The ballroom for the Black-tie Gala was elegantly adorned in a sea of red and white complete with all of the bells and whistles. Sorority members were attired in their exquisite red formals with their escorts complementing them in their tuxedos. The Chapter rolled out the red carpet for over 275 guests, honorees and sorors. The theme for the celebration: "Crimson and Creme: A Golden Spectacular". As promised, the evening was filled with elegance and pageantry.

The Gala commemorated the Chapter's past 50 years of service in Brevard County. In 1968, eighteen young Delta graduates converged in Brevard County from across the nation. Because their love for Delta was so emblazoned in their hearts, their mission was to initiate a chapter in Brevard County. As a result of this, the Brevard Area Alumnae Chapter (now known as the **Brevard County Alumnae Chapter**) was chartered on February 10, 1968 by these 18 young visionary women, who were also determined to increase social and service consciousness in Brevard County. Since the Chapter's inception, more than \$200,000 has been awarded in academic scholarships to the brightest and most deserving students in the north and central Brevard communities, as well as providing local support to community projects and organizations.

The Chapter President, Soror Marian T. Jackson, gave a warm appreciation to the guests on behalf of the Chapter for their attendance in helping to commemorate the grand occasion. Soror Jackson also thanked the Charter members who, through vision and sacrifice, provided the Chapter with a legacy that will never be forgotten and for paving the way for the Chapter to continue standing a half-century later. Soror Kimberlyn B. Carter, mistress of ceremony, presented and introduced the chapter members as D.E.L.T.A.S. The acronym stands for Dynamic, Energetic, Lovely, Tenacious, Assertive and Sensational divas. The ladies made a majestic entrance to Andra Day's "Rise Up", performed by Karen Griffin and the renowned Reflections band.

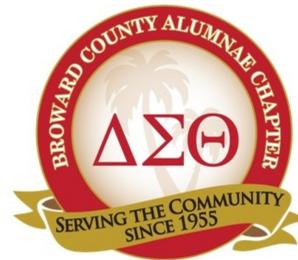
Following the spectacular entry of the members, the highpoint of the evening was the presentation of Charter Members in attendance: Sorors Barbara Croskey, Chartering President of Brevard Area Alumnae Chapter, initiated in 1959 at Beta Alpha Chapter of Florida A & M University in Tallahassee, Florida, escorted by her daughter, Ms. Carol Croskey; Soror Elaine Young, initiated in 1956 at Delta Alpha Chapter of Bethune-Cookman University (formerly Bethune-Cookman College) in Daytona Beach, Florida, escorted by her cousin, Mr. Frank Youngblood.

The following charter members sent regrets for not attending: Soror Theresa A. Brown, initiated in 1958 at Alpha Chi Chapter of Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee, in attendance in her place: her children and their families; Soror Doris Corbett, initiated in 1961 at Alpha Zeta Chapter of Talladega College in Talladega, Alabama; and Soror Natalie Jerkins, initiated in 1951 at Gamma Chapter of Cheyney University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The charter members were presented a dozen red roses and a pashmina wrap embellished with the inscription: "Charter Member"; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Brevard County Alumnae Chapter; February 10, 1968. As a special tribute to the charter members, all sisters of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., convened on the dance floor and serenaded them with the Delta Sweetheart Song. Also, Soror Robin F. Haynes paid a tribute to the charter members with the poem by Ms. Pearl Cleage, "We Speak Your Names".

Special greetings were received from Soror T. Elaine Johnson, North Florida State Coordinator of the Southern Region of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and former Brevard County Alumnae Chapter President. Soror Johnson commended the chapter for its service to the community and accolades for its accomplishments.

A historic view of the Chapter's accomplishments over the last 50 years was presented via slideshow presentation during the dinner. Sorors Bettye Bryant and Theresa Brown, along with the Golden Celebration committee, worked tirelessly to ensure that the Gala was a stellar evening.



Broward County Alumnae Chapter

of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Awards Over \$30,000 in Scholarships to Broward County Students!

Broward County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. recently awarded over \$30,000 in scholarships to Broward County seniors at their 40th Annual "In Pursuit of Excellence" Academic Awards and Scholarships May Week Ceremony held on Sunday, May 6, 2018 at Parkway Middle School of the Arts Auditorium.

Many dedicated parents applauded with pride as they watched their sons and daughters who maintained cumulative grade point averages (GPA) of 3.0 or higher received awards. Students who maintained cumulative GPA of 4.0 or higher were recognized and received an additional medallion for their academic excellence. The academic scholarships to aid students' tuitions to varied colleges and universities comprised the monetary awards in addition to the funded book awards.

On Saturday, May 5, 2018, the sorority also presented awards to the ninth, tenth and eleventh grade students who had maintained academic excellence with a minimum 3.0 GPA. In addition, the Chapter presented a Career and College Fair as well as a College Prep Workshop for the students and parents at the Kathleen C. Wright Education and Life Development Center (Delta House) in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Fourteen colleges and universities were in attendance; Bethune Cookman University, Broward College, Florida Atlantic University, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Florida Memorial University, Florida State University, Hampton University, Howard University, Morehouse College, Spelman College, Tuskegee University, Tennessee State University, University of Central Florida and University of Florida participated and were represented by alumni and/or recruitment counselors.

There was also a panel discussion by recent graduates of several of the universities. The students and parents really appreciated hearing the panelist address issues in which many students are interested, such as financial aid, budgets, dormitory life and study groups.

One of the most enjoyable segments of the Saturday program was an exciting, interactive speech by Darrell Hardge, a motivational speaker, author, and the "Edu-tainer". Mr. Hardge excited the students and approximately 50 parents in attendance as he presented his stimulating words of wisdom.

The ladies of the Broward County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Sorority, Inc. congratulates the scholarship recipients, academic scholars and the entire Class of 2018.



JUSTICE AND JAIL DAY

Today's heightened political and civic environment has seen a reemergence in community activism related to criminal justice reform. This heightened awareness has also taken on greater prominence with powerful movements like Black Lives Matter. However, far too often, our youth have expressed negative views of the police and law enforcement officials. As a way to dispel myths and false perceptions while also seeking to encourage a lens of civic engagement, the **Decatur Alumnae (GA) Chapter's Political Awareness & Involvement Committee** organized a student-oriented "Justice and Jail Day" on Saturday, February 10, 2018 in partnership with the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office, Jail and Magistrate Court.

During this nearly six-hour visit, 35 middle and high school students from the chapter's Delta Academy, GEMS, and EMBODI programs participated in an in-depth, hands-on look at the criminal justice system. Divided into two groups, students rotated between DeKalb County's courthouse and jail complexes. The courthouse visit began with a 'Court 101' session led by four Magistrate Court judges, followed by a livestream view of an arrested man's initial court appearance. This was a unique chance for the judges to demonstrate the first step within the criminal court process after an initial police arrest. During the county jail visit, students had an upfront view of the inmate processing area, holding cells, medical clinic, and an inmate jail cell. After the tour rotations, the DeKalb Sheriff's Office provided a complimentary buffet lunch in their staff library, which concluded with remarks by a tenured African-American female county jail leader, Deputy Sheriff Kizer.

After lunch, the combined group toured the courthouse facility, judge's offices, courtrooms, and a live demonstration on how court officers apply hand and ankle cuffs to defendants. Then, Soror Berryl A. Anderson (DeKalb County Chief Magistrate Court Judge) and Decatur Alumnae Chapter Soror Nora Polk (DeKalb County Magistrate Court Judge) introduced students to the court system and the various roles within a courtroom. Afterwards, the students engaged in a Q&A session with the judges before participating in a mock trial.

The goal of "Justice and Jail Day" was to expose students to the realities of the criminal justice system, both as a defendant and an inmate. The day also highlighted the important fact that there are professionals within the judicial system who truly want young people to succeed and make sound life choices. The participating Sheriff's Office and courthouse officials freely gave their time and resources to provide evidence of their commitment to our County's youth.

This event could not have been timelier given the increased national student activism and civic engagement with the issues surrounding race, gang violence, school safety, gun reform and mental health awareness resulting from the unfortunate shooting in Parkland, Florida. As the students and chaperones left the "Justice and Jail Day" experience, they took with them a better understanding of how the criminal justice system operates and an even better appreciation for how the system engages the communities it serves.



MAYOR OF OLIVE BRANCH SIGNS

Go Red Proclamation

The **DeSoto County (MS) Alumnae Chapter** commemorated Delta's 105 years of Sisterhood, Scholarship, and Service with a weekend of Founders Day activities.

Through the initiative and leadership of DCAC Project 13, DeSoto County (MS) Alumnae Chapter members worked collaboratively with the Mayor of Olive Branch, MS to Proclaim Friday, February 2, 2018 "Go Red for Women Day". The proclamation which stressed the importance of women's health, encouraged the City employees, residents, and business owners to not only wear red to but to know and understand productive heart health. On Friday, February 2, 2018 when Sorors, family, friends and community members began their day in a glow of red. The glow was achieved when chapter members and constituents were asked to replace their regular porch/house lights with red bulbs. Inquiries, potential and realized, about the red bulbs gave individuals an opportunity to further explain the women's health initiative.

That evening, DCAC hosted a Reception with the theme "The Matter of the Heart is..." which focused on Women's Heart Health. Special invitations were extended to sorors as a part of the chapter's reclamation effort. Sorors enjoyed heart healthy foods, heart-warming fellowship, and heard several health alerts explaining the facts and myths of Heart Disease. An open Founders Day program was held Saturday, February 3, 2018, at Brown Missionary Baptist Church. The keynote speaker was Soror Sandra K. Horton, Southern Regional Director, and her theme was "Advancing the Sisterhood: Empower, Embrace, Engage".

Pictured above: Sandra K. Horton (Regional Director), Patricia Alexander (posing as the Heart), member of DeSoto County (MS) Alumnae Chapter, and a picture of the Proclamation on the easel.

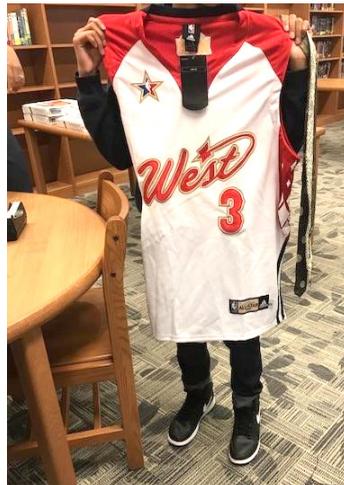
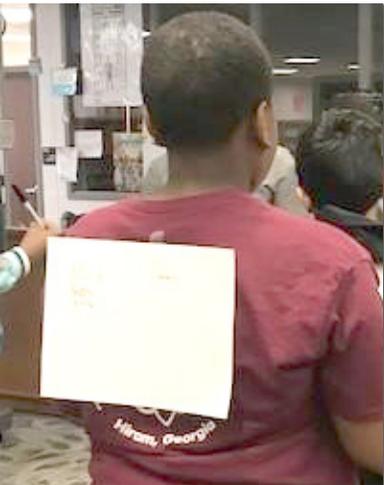
THINKING AND WORKING OUT OF THE BOX: A WINNING APPROACH FOR THE EMBODI INITIATIVE IN DOUGLAS COUNTY

For years, the Educational Development Initiatives of the **Douglas Carroll Paulding Counties Alumnae Chapter** of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. have all been successful, except for one: EMBODI. While Delta Gems and Delta Academy continually grew with volunteers and female students each year, EMBODI struggled to recruit and retain male students, despite sincere recruitment efforts. When only one or two male students showed up at their initial EMBODI meetings, Co-Chairs Chauntis Jenkins Floyd and Carmilla Hilton knew that they had to break the cycle of poor attendance and think out of the box to



expose students in the community to this great Delta mentorship program. "From the beginning, we were told by some that EMBODI could not grow in this service area because we were competing with other male organized mentorship programs such as Kappa League and sport activities typically held on the weekend. We knew that we had to do something different," stated Soror Floyd.

Soror Floyd and Soror Hilton decided that if parents would not bring their young men to them once a month, they would go directly to the students after school. They approached Mr. Gordon, a teacher and coach of the basketball team at Chestnut Log Middle School and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity about his students participating in EMBODI. He immediately identified entrepreneurship as a topic of interest to his students. After consistent and "pleasantly persistent" follow up by the Co-Chairs, a special relationship with the school and EMBODI began to blossom. Attendance grew from one or two students each month to 22 students, EMBODI's highest attendance to date.



Two recent EMBODI sessions exemplify the success of their "out of the box" strategy with EMBODI students. For example, on February 22, 2018, Mr. Fred O'Neal, of Kappa Alpha Psi gave an intriguing presentation on How to Become an Entrepreneur. He told Soror Floyd that he expected that the students would just listen. However, the young men in attendance consistently asked questions. He was pleasantly surprised and used their enthusiasm to foster interactive discussions that allowed students to address issues such as: 1) How to start a business at their age; 2) How to select a business partner; 3) How to select a business name; and 4) How to manage their money. Luckily, Mr. O'Neal is a successful financial advisor with Edward Jones and a well known business leader in West Georgia, so he was very well equipped to answer all of these pressing questions.

On March 28, 2018, Mr. George Fishburne, of Omega Psi Phi, gave a captivating presentation on Manners, Attire and Social Media: What Every Young Man Should Know. Mr. Fishburne, a talented educator, prepared a visually stimulating power point presentation and had

the students participate in a number of confidence building activities that got them out of their seats. For instance, the young men transitioned to a team building exercise that demonstrated that although everyone has differences, they could accomplish anything, if they worked together. After this task, the young men viewed the engaging power point presentation on attire and hygiene entitled, Boys to Men. The final task was learning how to wear a tie. Mr. Fishburne personally donated ties for each student just in time for Easter. Additionally, he challenged the students to take notes during the session so that their name could be drawn from a hat to receive the grand prize – an autographed Miami Heat jersey. The final EMBODI program entitled, A Young Man's Guide to Staying Out of Trouble with the Law, is scheduled on April 18, 2018 and will feature Attorney Chris Leopold as the guest speaker. Soror Floyd and Soror Hilton anticipate that this program will be well received by the students and staff at Chestnut Log Middle School and a fitting end to EMBODI's transformative year.

Soror Floyd and Soror Hilton credit turning the EMBODI program around on the following important actions: 1) Thinking outside the box and not accepting the traditional way your program has always been done in the past if it is not working; 2) Working directly with teachers to identify topics of interest to students and those that fit within your education curriculum; 3) Targeting a captive audience for recruits (sports program or after school program); 4) Requiring guest speakers to include ice breakers, visually appealing power point presentations and role playing activities that engage students and get them out of their seats; 5) Recognizing that your approach for males may be different and more challenging than with females; and last but not least 6) Don't be afraid to approach your Chapter leaders with new and fresh ideas. Their support is crucial to you stepping out of the box and remaining successful. Soror Floyd and Soror Hilton believe that Deltas' must always reach higher when working with young men: "When thinking out of the box, we must bring creativity, imagination, motivation and the excitement of possibilities to young men. Our extra effort has allowed us to touch the lives of these students by providing mentorship and guidance so that they can become productive young men one day."

See the #WeAreOraLee ad on page 2 of the February 2018 issue



We have the capacity to save the lives of cancer patients. With our revolutionary technology, we can. With your help, we will.

Be one of the 300,000 supporters we need to donate at least \$100 or \$10/month to reach our \$30 million goal to cover the costs of clinical trials and FDA approval.

300,000 supporters x \$100 = \$30 million

Make your tax-deductible donation today of at least \$100 or \$10 a month, and "Become a Fundraiser" to help us reach 300,000 people by setting up your own personalized donation page. Text **ORA** to **71777** to start supporting today!

We can save lives and change the way cancer is treated. Together, #WeAreOraLee.

February 4, 2018 is World Cancer Day ... we can save lives and change the way cancer is treated. Together.

WeAreOraLee.org
@DrHadiyahGreen & @WeAreOraLee
Partnerships & Sponsorships Available

Founder, Dr. Hadiyah-Nicole Green
Ora Lee Smith Cancer Research Foundation

The Ora Lee Smith Cancer Research Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization named after our founder's late aunt who raised her and inspired the vision to save lives and change the way cancer is treated. All donations are tax-deductible and 100% of the proceeds benefit the translation of Dr. Green's cancer research from the laboratory into hospitals.

blackenterprise

Hadiyah-Nicole Green

The physicist, who specializes in targeted cancer therapeutics, was awarded a \$1.1 million grant in 2016 to develop her patent-pending procedure that uses lasers to target cancer cells as an alternative to chemotherapy and radiation.

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blackenterprise Black Enterprise's list of 25 Black Women Changing the World!

#8: Hadiyah-Nicole Green: After losing both the aunt and uncle who raised her to cancer, she's working to change the way the disease is treated and reduce the suffering of

ESSENCE

STEM'S NEW GUARD

15 WOMEN WHO ARE PAVING THE WAY AND PAYING IT FORWARD

BY MARGOITA K. HARRIS

After *Hidden Figures* hit movie theaters in late 2016, conversations about the reality Black women featured in the Oscar-nominated film multiplied. We were captivated by the story of these STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) stars. We took it to the big screen. There's significant underrepresentation: *Hidden Figures* depicts only two Black women in STEM careers. We need to tell our girls that they can do math.

According to the National Science Foundation, White males comprise nearly one-third of the U.S. population but make up half of the science and engineering worlds.

Hadiyah-Nicole Green
Physicist

After Green lost her aunt and uncle to cancer when she was young, fighting the disease became her life's work. In 2015 she was awarded a \$11 million grant to develop a cancer treatment using lasers and nanoparticles. It's said to eliminate the devastating side effects associated with such cancer treatments as radiation and chemotherapy.

While n up in mu isler is study black holes that galaxies. When she's giving inspiratc her organization, cating to make ST traditionally m

On April 21, 2018, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, **Greenwood-Itta Bena Alumnae Chapter** in conjunction with Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, Beta Rho and Beta Theta Chapters presented a workshop "Preparing Our Sons for Manhood". The topic for discussion included "Bullying, Dress for Success, Violence/School Shooting/Gang Activity, Personal Hygiene, and Know Your Rights".

The men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity served as facilitators for the sessions. The young men were separated into two groups (11-13 and 14-17) in an effort to curtail some of the reluctance to participate. Our younger group jumped right in and interacted from beginning to end whereas the older group needed a short warm-up period. The facilitators were great with the guys. They made them feel comfortable enough to open up about their concerns. The consensus of everybody present seemed to be that this was a much needed workshop and that we should have more.

The participation was overwhelming. It was amazing to see how the young men responded to the facilitators during the sessions. We are looking forward to a great year and a number of exciting, informative, and fun activities with the young men. Hopefully our numbers will increase!

The chairperson and committee members for this EMBODI initiative are Sorors:

Earnestine W. Epps, Chairperson

Paulette C. Palmer, Co-Chairperson

Donna Murry, Co-Chairperson

Carolyn McGee

Pauline Pearson-Stamps

Cassandra Hart, President

Greenwood-Itta Bena Alumnae Chapter



Gwinnett County Alumnae Celebrates *15th Anniversary*

The **Gwinnett County Alumnae Chapter** celebrated 15 years of service with a sold-out, two-day celebration at the beautiful Tractside 550 in Lawrenceville, GA. The chapter kicked off the celebration with a private soror only event on Thursday, March 8 followed by a public celebration on Saturday, March 10. During the celebration GCAC acknowledged charter members, past presidents and notable accomplishments of the chapter and its members.

To further commemorate the anniversary, the chapter established a 6-month partnership with Families First, a non-profit agency in Gwinnett County that assists children and families with solutions that aim to improve child well-being and self-sufficiency. As part of the partnership, GCAC conducted a series of personal and professional development workshops for young ladies aging out of foster care. Workshop topics included communication, resume writing, dressing for success and dealing with conflict. In addition, GCAC sponsored a career fair designed to help the young ladies secure employment after leaving the foster care system.

The anniversary celebration culminated with sorors worshipping together at Holy Bethel COGIC on Sunday, March 11, 2018. At the worship service, Holy Bethel COGIC presented GCAC with the 2018 Community Impact Award for outstanding community service.

GCAC also received public acknowledgement and proclamations from the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners and the city of Lawrenceville for 15 years of stellar service to Gwinnett County.





The **Jacksonville (FL) Alumnae Chapter** of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was pleased to host a GRAVESITE UNVEILING SERVICE for our beloved Founder Winona Cargile Alexander on Saturday, June 9, 2018 at 11:00 AM. The service was held at Evergreen Cemetery, located on Jacksonville's northside.

"Preserving The Legacy" was a celebration of love and paid tribute to Founder Alexander by unveiling a new gravesite marker which identifies her as one of the twenty-two Founders of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

Jacksonville Alumnae was extremely honored with the attendance of Southern Regional Director Sandra K. Horton, National Chair of Heritage & Archives Geraldine West Hudley, and the North Florida State Representative Elaine Johnson. Their presence made this momentous occasion even more noteworthy.

Founder Alexander's only surviving son, James Alexander Sr., her grandchildren, great grandchildren, and other family members were also in attendance to celebrate her legacy.

The day of celebration ended with a portrait donation and reception at the historic Ritz Theatre and Museum in downtown Jacksonville. The chapter is blessed to assist in recognizing Founder Alexander and hope that this occasion added to the rich history and legacy of our beloved Sorority.





Sisterhood Luncheon

THEME: "Moving to the Rhythm of Delta's Beat"

Presiding

Sandra K. Horton, *Southern Regional Director, Marietta-Roswell Alumnae*
Jessica M. Shotwell, *Southern Regional Representative, Memphis Alumnae*

Processional

Invocation

Rev. Jaye Lynn Peabody-Smith, *Southern Regional Chaplain, Stone Mountain/Lithonia Alumnae*

Introduction of the Dais

Jessica M. Shotwell, *Southern Regional Representative, Memphis Alumnae*

Greetings

Cheryl A. Hickmon, *National First Vice President and
Chair, National Scholarship and Standards Committee, Hartford Alumnae*
Beverly Evans Smith, *National President, Marietta-Roswell Alumnae*

Welcome

Necole Jones, *Tennessee State Coordinator, Shelby Co. (TN) Alumnae*

LUNCH

Introductions of 2017-18 Cohort class – Southern Region Leadership Institute

Presenters: Amaris Johnson, *Chair, Regional Leadership Institute, Gadsden County (FL) Alumnae*
Manica Pierrette, *Co-Chair, Regional Leadership Institute, Douglass-Carroll Paulding Counties Alumnae*

Awards and Recognitions Part I

Vernetta Dickerson, *Chair, Regional Awards and Recognitions Committee, Birmingham Alumnae*
Michelle Alford, *Member, Regional Awards and Recognition Committee, Nashville Alumnae*
Shery Poitier, *Member, Regional Awards and Recognition Committee, Grand Bahamas Alumnae*
Gwendolyn Whitelaw, *Chair, Regional Membership Services Committee, Jackson TN Alumnae*
Sherna Parson, *Co-Chair, Regional Membership Services Committee, Gwinnett County Alumnae*
Cynthia Hardy, *Chair, Regional Program Planning & Development Committee, Henry County Alumnae*
Tammy Sneed, *Member, Regional Program Planning and Development Committee*

- Alumnae of the Year
- Arts and Letters Program of the Year
 - Chapter of the Year
 - Distinguished Service
- Highest of Five Attainment
 - May Week Honors
 - Newsletter of the Year
- Technology Program of the Year
 - Website of the Year
- Distinguished Violet Reclamation Award

Entertainment

Awards and Recognitions Part II

Announcements

Tanya Mitchell Cobb, *Regional Secretary, Henry County Alumnae*

Recessional

Jessica Shotwell



Soror Jessica Shotwell, the 2017 graduate of Middle Tennessee State University is an undeniable force! Since her groundbreaking run from the regional conference floor in 2016, Soror Shotwell has proven to be just what the region needed to move to the next level. From the beginning of her term as Regional Representative, she established several goals for the region; all of which she has achieved! Her main goal, however, has been to increase collegiate involvement throughout the region, and she did just that!

As Regional Representative, Soror Shotwell worked closely with the Regional Director to ensure the voice of collegiate sorors was heard. In addition, she was instrumental with ensuring that collegiate voices were a permanent fixture at the Delta Table. She was able to accomplish that through several initiatives. In 2017, Soror Shotwell Chair and hosted the first ever Collegiate Leadership Retreat in Birmingham, Alabama where more than 100 collegiate Chapter Presidents attended. In addition, she worked closely with collegiate sorors during the 2018 Georgia State Cluster and Founders Day Weekend to assist in raising more than \$13,000 to Paine College in August Georgia.

She authored many articles within the region's weekly communique- the Southern Informer, and she travelled more than 5,000 miles to meet and greet sorors throughout the country and the region. She also maintained constant contact with the sorority's 2nd Vice President, and she presented words of encouragement and inspiration during several sorority events including Delta Days, State Clusters, Regional Conferences and National Convention.

She is a remarkable Delta Woman and a symbol of everything that Delta women are and will continue to be- a Force that will not be denied! Soror Shotwell, for your days, weeks and months of committed service and dedication to the members of the Dynamic Southern Region, we say thank you for a JOB WELL DONE!





POETRY SLAM BROUGHT FORTH NEW TALENT

The **Lake Oconee Area Alumnae Chapter** of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. hosted their inaugural Poetry Slam at the Perk Avenue Café in Madison. Many of the performers, including Madisonians, hailed from Atlanta and South Carolina to deliver their artistic talents in poetry and spoken word. The sorority's Arts & Letters Committee spearheaded the event which rendered a full house of poetry lovers. The show opened with Arts & Letters Chair, Shanta King, welcoming and introducing the show's master of ceremonies, Dichotomy...a well-known dualistic Poetic, Writer and Spoken Word artist out of Atlanta and judges pulled from the crowd. The performers were J. Katrice, Marcus G. Taylor, Lisa Rivers Green, Moody Black, Reginald Sweet, Zaid Sewer, Donnie Ellington and DeVeata Williams. The acts were dramatic, provocative, witty, and educational which brought forth mixed emotions from the crowd. Winners who won monetary awards were -3rd Place: J. Katrice from Atlanta, 2nd Place: Moody Black from Greenville, SC and 1st place: Reginald Sweet from Albany, GA. Many are looking forward to the next Poetry Slam which promises to be even better staircasing new and aspiring poets.



THE REACH FOR HEIGHT LEGACY LUNCHEON

REACHING THE HEIGHT LEGACY OF SERVICE: SETTING GOALS AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Height is a high place or the most intense part or period of something. It is the highest point, crowning moment, peak, acme, zenith, apogee, pinnacle and/or climax. These definitions describe the Montgomery (AL) Alumnae Chapter's Reach for Height Legacy Luncheon that was held on Saturday, May 5, 2018 beginning at 11:00 a.m. with a Silent Auction at the RSA Activity Center.

The members of the **Montgomery (AL) Alumnae Chapter** along with one hundred and forty community supporters including; three scholarship recipients, eighteen Delta Academy participants, twenty-six Delta GEMS and ten young men representing EMBODI celebrated the legacy of Dr. Dorothy Irene Height, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., 10th National President. This event also honored four women from the Montgomery area for outstanding achievements in Civil Rights, Social Work, Leadership and Citizenship as well as Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Signature Programs and Academic Scholarship Recipients.

Josephine Bolling McCall, Chair of Arts and Letters presided over the program which began at 12:00 noon. Valvier Bright a member of the Arts and Letter Committee welcomed chapter members, honorees, scholarship recipients, Delta's Signature Program participants, parents, community partners and other guests. Greetings were presented by Little Miss Crème 2017, Jayla A'miya Myles. A spirit-filled invocation was delivered by Robyn Lindsey, EMBODI Chair. Teumbay Barnes a member of the Arts and Letters Committee provided the occasion.

R. MaChea' Jones, 1st Vice President presented the following Sankofa Awards; Citizenship to Alethea Ross, Civil Rights to Vera Harris, Leadership to Diane Thomas and Social Work to Tonya Barkum. Recognitions were presented to Delta Academy participants by Rodonna Shannon and Sheral Ware Co-Chairs. Felissa Clemons and Angel Garrett, Co-Chairs of Delta GEMS recognized their participants including a special presentation for three of the program's graduating seniors. Seniors Jasmine Know, Jakaylan Ivery and Jasmine Armstrong presented inspirational speeches focused on Growth, Empowerment and Leadership respectively titled, "A Delta GEMS Trilogy."

On behalf of the Scholarship Committee Fannie Harris presented three new recipients, Jasmine Armstrong, Myles Beasley and Nicole Jackson, with a one thousand dollar renewable academic scholarship. In addition, the 2017-2018 recipients which include Diamond Alexander, Jalyn Bowen, Kayla Edwards, Maya Henderson, Jasmine Johnson, Audriana Osborne, Maya Perry,

"I am the product of many whose lives have touched mine, from the famous, distinguished, and powerful to the little known and the poor."

- Dorothy Height, *Open Wide The Freedom Gates: A Memoir*



Shalynda Pettway, Skylar Rugley and Jayla Thomas were also recognized for their continuous achievements.

Cassandra E. Brown, President delivered closing remarks and thanked Luncheon Co-Coordinator Valvier Bright and Jimmetta Gourline as well as Ferlisa Dotson, Silent Auction Administrator and other program participants for an excellent event. In addition, deeply felt words of appreciation were given to all those in attendance, especially to the parents of Delta Academy, Delta GEMS and EMBODI members. Recognitions were also given to the many community supporters and partners that contribute to Delta's Signature Programs. These partners include; Alabama Secretary of State, American Cancer Society, Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, Auburn University at Montgomery, Carver Elementary Arts and Magnet School, Equal Justice Initiative, Family Sunshine Center, Fortitude Foundation, Montgomery Area Council on Aging, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, Montgomery Public Schools, National Pan-Hellenic Council of Central Alabama and Salvation Army. If you were not able to attend this event mark your calendars for next year. We look forward to seeing you there as we continue to be "Committed to Impactful Service".



DELTA SIGMA THETA CHAPTER SERVED COMMUNITY WITH HEALTHY FAMILY DAY ON 5/19/18

The Minerva Foundation of Tennessee, Inc., in conjunction with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., **Nashville Alumnae Chapter**, hosted their annual Healthy Family Day (HFD). This event took place on Saturday, May 19, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Rose Park Middle Magnet School in Nashville, TN.

HFD offered a wide variety of services and fun activities for the entire family. Included in the day's events were breast cancer awareness activities and a special area designated to spotlight this disease. A Survivors' Parade recognized over 24 all-cancer survivors with love. Mr. James Shaw Jr., the hero and survivor who grabbed a gun from the Waffle House shooter last month saving many lives, graciously accepted our invite to become the First Grand Marshal of the parade. All participants were so excited to meet him and thank him for making a difference. There were over 50 vendors and community participants including over 100 adults and 25 kids. One-hundred thirty Deltas were present and 50 volunteers helped make the event a huge success. HFD offered several fitness classes to get participants moving to increase their heart rate! Several healthy vendors were on hand to provide free blood pressure, dental, kidney and glucose level screenings. The NAC Emergency Response Team also provided life-saving information at the event.

The Church at Avenue South returned this year and sponsored the mobile dental unit to provide free dental extractions. A candidate for an extraction last year received life-saving detection last year, and he returned this year to have another tooth extracted. This kind of detection was important since state insurance programs do not provide this kind of care.

We also recognized and awarded the top 5 winners for the Biggest Loser program held during our grant initiative from October thru May. This was funded by a \$10k grant we received last June by the TN Department of Health to bring awareness to reducing breast cancer incidence rates among African-Americans women ages 18 and older.



Another participant, Sherita Majors, a volunteer stylist who has participated in our other event, "When You Look Good, You Feel Better" pampering event has recently been diagnosed with cancer was able to connect with resources that can assist during her cancer fight. One such vendor was The Heimerdinger Foundation which provides free cooked organic meals to cancer patients. These meals are delivered to patients and their families at no cost to them for a period of time where their appetites may be diminished and provides one less thing for them to think about.

During the presentation to James Shaw, Jr, the Grand Marshall of the Survivor Parade, President of the Minerva Foundation, Olivia Cloud commended the Waffle House hero. She used his now infamous words "Your gonna have to get this kill" to explain how the cancer survivors' could be encouraged to continue to fight this dreadful disease with that same mantra. Her presentation to Mr. James Shaw, Jr. and those words to the Survivor Parade participants brought tears to many of the survivors' eyes.

Soror Trudie Thomas, a 2-year breast cancer survivor stated, "Attending HFD was very exciting and emotional for me. The flag, pin, parade, networking and meeting Mr. Shaw made me feel so special." As a result, she is joining the NAC Physical & Mental Health Committee next year. This interaction has truly made an impact.



In December 2017, the Regional Awards and Recognition Committee chaired by Soror Vernetta Dickerson became extremely busy. The committee had the daunting task of selecting this year's 2018 Red Ribbon Award-winning Chapters.

Despite having hundreds of nominations, the committee was able to select this year's winners by using 100% rubric that involved Compliance, Quorum, Social Action Involvement, and the Five-Point Programmatic thrust.

The chapters selected were presented the coveted Red Ribbon Award during the 2018 State Clusters and Founders Day Sisterhood Luncheon.



And the winners were...

Alabama

Birmingham Alumnae
Huntsville Alumnae
Iota Lambda – University of Alabama at Birmingham
Jefferson County (AL) Alumnae
Mobile Alumnae
Montgomery (AL) Alumnae
Muscle Shoals Area Alumnae
Nu Omicron-University of Montevallo
Omicron Gamma – University of Alabama at Huntsville
Selma Alumnae
Tuscaloosa Alumnae

Bahamas

Grand Bahama Alumnae
Upsilon Zeta, University of the Bahamas

Florida

Brevard County Alumnae
Broward County Alumnae
Dade County Alumnae
Daytona Beach Alumnae
Gadsden County Florida Alumnae
Glades Alumnae
Lambda Psi, University of Florida-Gainesville
Melbourne-Palm Bay Alumnae
North Broward County Alumnae
Orlando Alumnae
South Broward Alumnae
St. Petersburg Alumnae

Georgia

Albany (GA) Alumnae
Athens Alumnae
Atlanta Alumnae
Atlanta Suburban Alumnae
Brunswick Alumnae
Columbus (GA) Alumnae
Columbus Metropolitan Alumnae
Decatur (GA) Alumnae
Douglas-Carroll-Paulding Counties Alumnae
East Point/College Park Alumnae
Fort Valley Alumnae
Greater Columbia County Alumnae
Gwinnett County Alumnae
Henry County Alumnae
Hinesville Alumnae
Iota Sigma, Mercer University
Kappa Delta, University of West Georgia
Macon Alumnae
Marietta-Roswell Alumnae
Milledgeville Alumnae
Mu Xi, Augusta State University
Nu Tau, Georgia College & State University
Omicron Xi, Emory University
Stone Mountain-Lithonia Alumnae
Tau Alpha, Armstrong State University
Thomasville Alumnae
Valdosta Alumnae
Warner Robins Alumnae
Zeta Psi, University of Georgia

Mississippi

Clarksdale Marks Alumnae
Clinton (MS) Alumnae
Columbus - Lowndes County Alumnae
Greenwood-Itta Bena Alumnae
Holly Springs Alumnae
Jackson (MS) Alumnae
Madison County (MS) Alumnae
Mississippi Gulf Coast Alumnae
Nu Beta, Mississippi State University
Oxford Alumnae
Tupelo Alumnae
Vicksburg Alumnae

Tennessee

Knoxville Alumnae
Memphis Alumnae
Nashville Alumnae
Shelby County (TN) Alumnae



Reactivated Renewed & Running the Yard

Written by Soror Stephanie M. Orr, Secondary Advisor

The **Theta Rho Chapter** of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was chartered on May 22, 1971 at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC). The chapter has always maintained a strong legacy of Sisterhood and Service to the campus. Our resilient Regional Director Soror Sandra K. Horton and her tenacious reactivation coordinators moved forward with reconstituting the Mighty Theta Rho Chapter. The local reactivation team members were the crème of the crop from the Chattanooga Alumnae Chapter. This amazing team guided the 31 Keepers of the RED F.L.A.M.E.S. (Fortuitous Leaders Ambitiously Motivate Every Soror) into our sisterhood of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (DST) on Friday, April 7, 2017. **#Reactivated**

Within less than 24 hours of the chapter's renewal, the new initiates of the Mighty Theta Rho were in attendance of their first TN State Cluster on Saturday, April 8, 2017. These new members participated as Jewels, a page and eager attendees. Their quest for knowledge of the sorority has been exhibited through contagious enthusiasm. **#Renewed**

The advisory team (Sorors Amy R. Davis, Stephanie M. Orr, Shenikia J. Sturnes, Alexia S. Phinizey and Wanda Gocher-Johnson) has successfully accommodated the fast pace calendar of the Mighty Theta Rho Chapter. The chapter and advisors have adopted the mantra Great in the '18 and are planning to be Divine in the '19 as well. One might pose the question, what service have they rendered for the campus or community? We are glad that you inquired. Theta Rho Chapter has diligently worked to ensure that their service has purpose. This was evident the economic-based session Real Life: College Edition (fiscal responsibility workshop) collaboration with UTC Financial Wellness Center. The educational symposiums (African-Americans vs. The Criminal Justice System/Hip-Hop Music: Effects on Women, Society and the African-American Community/Black in Corporate America); College Aspiration Day at Brainerd High School/Autism Awareness collaboration with the UTC Disability Resource Center/Etiquette for the Soul collaboration with UTC Career Center and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. were a breath of fresh air to the campus. International collaborations for Operation Christmas Child and World AIDS Day Program in partnership with Chattanooga CARES organization were also addressed. Because DST has historically sought to meet both the physical and political needs of its community, Mighty Theta Rho stepped up to do the same by participating in the Feed the Need meal preparation & distribution; produce distribution at Mt. Canaan Baptist Church; clothing drive collaboration with Sigma Chi Fraternity; volunteered at the IronMan Marathon; Voter registration at UTC campus; (M.L. King, Jr. Day of Service at Girls, Inc. along with Sigma Kappa Sorority. The accolades of current chapter members include but are not limited to: Soror Ricarnicea Johnson (UTC Outstanding Public Service by an Individual 2017); Soror Kalah Vance (UTC Homecoming Queen 2017); Soror Simone Edwards (National Conference on Race & Ethnicity in American Higher Education 2018 scholarship recipient); 2-time First place Stepshow winners (Chattanooga 2017/Nashville 2018) along with First runner-up in Memphis, TN in 2018; CanStructure (canned food drive 2018) most creative display winner. **#RunningTheYard**





Welcome Sorors Southern Regional Director, Sandra Horton, joined Evette Jones, Chapter President, and the Sorors of the newly renamed Troup-Coweta Alumnae Chapter (formerly LaGrange Alumnae) as they welcomed their inaugural line, the 22 Forces of DSTinction, under the new chapter name on April 29, 2018. The newly initiated Sorors of the Troup-Coweta Alumnae Chapter were excited to be serving as they presented President Jones with a check in the amount of \$484.00 for a scholarship. The amount represented a contribution of \$22 from each new initiate.





Inaugural Dr. Dorothy I. Height's MAY WEEK TEA

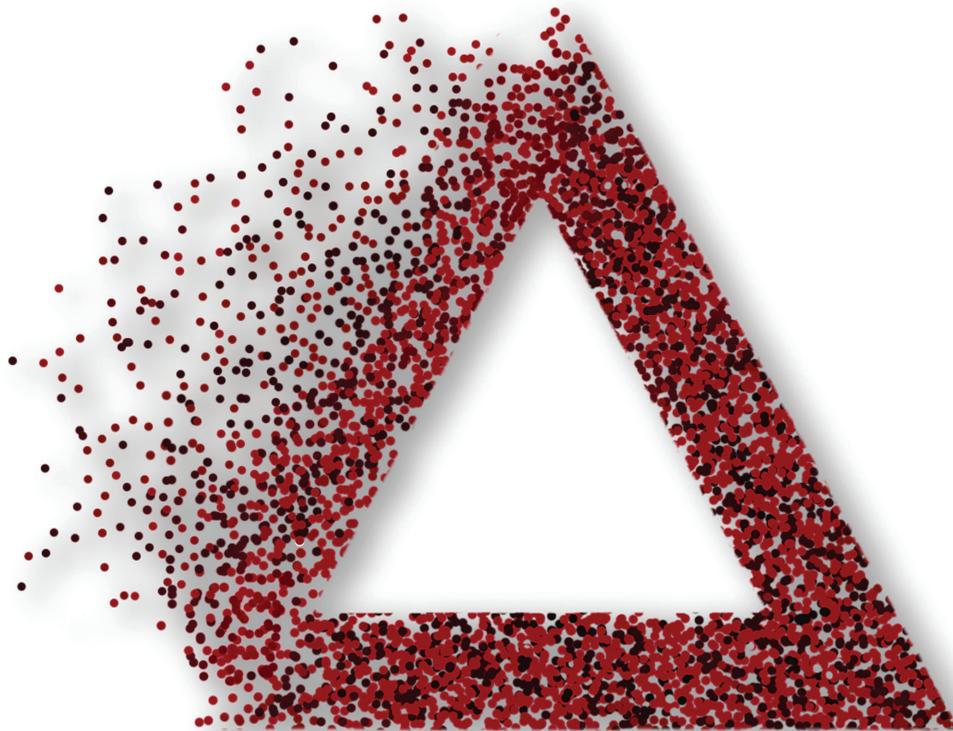
On Sunday, May 6, 2018, the **Warner Robins Alumnae Chapter (WRAC)** hosted their Inaugural Dr. Dorothy I. Height's May Week Tea to honor women from the Middle Georgia area who are trailblazers within their local communities. Most important, this year marked the 106th birthday of Dr. Dorothy I. Height, the 10th National President of our illustrious Sorority. The ladies of WRAC thought it was only fitting to honor women who made life-changing encounters in the lives of others just as Dr. Height. The guest speaker for this occasion was the Honorable Verda M. Colvin, a Superior Court Judge in the Macon Judicial Circuit (Macon-Bibb, Crawford and Peach Counties). Judge Colvin spoke on the importance of being an excellent leader as well as the responsibilities of a leader, which at times means knowing when to put family first.

Leadership Awards were presented in each area of the 5-Point Programmatic Thrust: (1) Economic Development - Fenika Miller, real estate professional, turned a passion to meet critical housing needs for economically distressed families; (2) Educational Development - Dr. Traci Jackson, principal, dedicated years of hard labor in creating a healthy environment for her students to learn and achieved the exemplary goals established by the teachers in her elementary school; (3) International Awareness and Involvement - Cheetara Cobb served as a host for families from other countries in her home; (4) Physical and Mental Health - Cherie White, coach, lead a high school softball team to earn championship awards, and she was chosen to be this school's 2017 teacher of the year; and (5) Political Awareness and Involvement - Robertiena Fletcher was chosen for her hard work as a civil rights activist in Americus Georgia.

Intertwining the live sounds of Saxophonist Damon Brown brought forth an appreciation of fine arts. The local community was united by the bringing together of women and young girls from all walks of life to pause, sip, and celebrate the accomplishments of each other. All age groups were represented comprising a community of Dears, Divas, Dolls, Teens, and Pre-Teens. We, as a chapter, exemplified our May Week Tea motto of Grab Your Hats, Grab Your Gloves, and Grab Your Girls for an afternoon of grace and elegance. Black Girl Magic was in full effect and our village was inspired to become greater leaders.



See you in
New Orleans Sorors!



JOY IN OUR SISTERHOOD • POWER IN OUR VOICE • SERVICE IN OUR HEART