Elected and Appointed Regional Officers and Positions

Cheryl W. Turner
23rd Southern Regional Director

Manica Pierrette
22nd Southern Regional Representative

Sandra K. Horton
Member, National Scholarship and Standards Committee

Vernandi R. Greene
Member, National Nominating Committee

Deidre K. Perry
Chair, Regional Nominating Committee

Katryna Lowery Ellis
Member, Regional Nominating Committee

Terri M. Hall, Ed.S.
Member, Regional Nominating Committee

Deborah Robinson Herring
Member, Regional Nominating Committee

Janaé Ebony Steele
Collegiate Member, Regional Nominating Committee

Denise Griffin
Regional Secretary

Daphne Higgins
Assistant Secretary

Janae Pitts Murdock
Regional Chaplain

Kanika McKerson
Regional Journalist

Stephanie Maxwell
Assistant Journalist

Kathryn V. Stanley
Assistant Journalist

C.M. Lewis
Regional Compliance Officer

Rosalind Short
Regional Emergency Response Coordinator

Jeanella Fuller Pendleton
Regional Program Planning Chair

Donna Bowman
Regional Social Action Chair

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The Southern Gazette is the publication of the Southern Region of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. For submission guidelines please refer to page 29.
Greetings to our Sisters of the Southern Region,

It is with great honor and enthusiasm that Soror Turner and I present to you the inaugural edition of the Southern Gazette under our 2011-2014 triennium term. Since our election at the 43rd Southern Regional Conference, we have been given the opportunity to meet Sorors from all 7 of the regions that encompass our sorority and we cannot express the appreciation and gratitude we feel for the love and support that has been shown to us as Southern Regional Director & Representative. While the journey has just begun, we promise to continue to fulfill our responsibilities and will continue to strive for excellence.

In this edition we highlight moments from the State Fireside Chats, the Regional Leadership Team Meeting, and chapter gatherings during the fall season. It was a true pleasure meeting and gathering with the chapter presidents and advisors of the region in the fall, and we are even more excited to meet the remaining members of the 211 chapters that make up the Dynamic Southern Region during our Spring State Cluster and Founders Day Cycle. We look forward to the opportunity to fellowship with you all in these meetings.

We thank you for your love and support and hope you enjoy this inaugural edition of the Southern Gazette. May we all be blessed and continue the work of our beloved sorority.

Sisterly love and blessings,

Cheryl Turner
Southern Regional Director

Manica Pierrette
Southern Regional Representative

Calendar of Events

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>February 4 - 7, 2012</td>
<td>Delta Days at the Nation's Capitol</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
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<td>February 17 - 19, 2012</td>
<td>Florida Statewide Cluster</td>
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<td>Georgia Statewide Founders Day and Cluster, Delta Days at the State Capital</td>
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<td>Tennessee Statewide Founders Day and Cluster</td>
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<td>April 12 - 15, 2012</td>
<td>The Hortense G. Canady International Women’s Conference</td>
<td>San Juan, Puerto Rico</td>
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<td>April 19, 2012</td>
<td>Alabama Delta Days at the Capital</td>
<td>Montgomery, Alabama</td>
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Believing that communication is most effective when personal connections are made and relationships built, the Southern Region has taken a page out of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s book, by hosting a series of Fireside Chats in each state in the region. Similar in purpose to radio broadcasts that came directly into American homes in Roosevelt’s era, Soror Turner established the Southern Region’s fireside chats as day-long meetings in intimate settings to foster a sense of personal connection among chapter presidents and advisors and to discuss important information with chapter leadership.

The first in the series of Fireside Chats, held on October 15, 2011, was hosted by the Meridian (MS) Alumnae Chapter. The approximately 50 sorors who attended included chapter presidents, advisors and presenters. After dining and enjoying fellowship, the Regional Director shared with sorors an overview of her vision for the region. Sorors spent the remainder of the day receiving information on topics such as preparing communications for Delta, risk management, MIT highlights and procedures. One session aptly titled, “There’s an App for That,” provided a thought-provoking overview of all that can be found in the Delta doctrine. In addition, sorors received specific information on the requirements for nonprofit and charitable organization to register with the secretary of state’s office.

The Georgia Fireside Chat, held on November 12, 2011 in Fort Valley, Georgia was also a rousing success. Sorors commented that they felt energized, enjoyed being able to engage in a less formal setting and that the region continues to have [fireside chats], perhaps even closer to the beginning of the sororal year.

“The sessions were well-received and generated lively dialogue. We are pleased to be able to offer this opportunity for our chapter presidents and advisors to come together throughout the region,” remarked Soror Turner.
After 21 years of dedicated service, Dr. Paulette Walker, the National First Vice President of our great sisterhood, recently retired from her post at the College of Education at the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida.

Soror Walker’s retirement was marked at a luncheon in her honor attended by family, friends, sorors and co-workers on August 16, 2011. Attendees expressed their love and appreciation through reflections, video, poetry, dance, and song in a multi-media presentation titled, “Journey to Retirement,” which highlighted the major aspects of Soror Walker’s life: church, family, career and sorority.

Other guests reflected on Soror Walker’s life including her mother, Mrs. Helen Felton and Soror Joanell Lawson. Sorors Tanika Walton and Mallory Davis performed creative dances, and Soror Leslie Brown made a presentation to Soror Walker on behalf of the Tampa Alumnae Chapter. Soror Walker was especially humbled by the expressions of love and appreciation shared by her coworkers saying, “You never know the impact you have on others. Family is supposed to love you in spite of who you are, but others do not have to. You never know the impact you have on others. Family is supposed to love you in spite of who you are, but others do not have to.”

Perhaps the biggest highlight of the event was the presence of National President Cynthia Butler-McIntyre who came to surprise Soror Walker. Prior to her election as National First Vice President, Soror Walker served as Southern Regional Director as well as president of the Tampa Alumnae Chapter.

When asked to share words of wisdom for sorors and others who see retirement in their future Soror Walker advised: enjoy the journey toward retirement, create great memories for yourself and those with whom you come in contact and prepare financially so you can afford to retire. Her final bit of advice? Enjoy life by not taking yourself too seriously.

Executive Director of HER Faith Ministries, said Lois Gilder, former Southern Regional Director. “As women of faith and service, we understand that when women and their families are empowered, our communities are stronger, healthier and more productive.”

Sorors took the theme “A Sisterhood Called to Serve: Transforming Lives, Impacting Communities” to heart, when they converged in Memphis for the 43rd Southern Regional Conference in June. The sorority collected funds in support of HER Faith Ministries, Inc., an organization that provides spiritual guidance, outreach support and basic human service to families in need. HER Faith Ministries operates three fully-furnished houses for homeless women and children in the Memphis community.

“At a time when so many women and children are being negatively impacted by the economic downturn, this generous gift from the Deltas is so extremely needed,” said the Rev. Elaine Sanford.

Have you seen the new website?

Scan the QR code with your smartphone to view the sorority’s new website.
In Loving Memory
Soror Thelma M. Carver Cobb
Past Southern Regional Director
1956-1960

The Hortense G. Canady
International Women's Conference
Secrets
Breaking the Culture of Silence
April 12 – 15, 2012
For more information:
http://thewomengather.com/
Teach, Prepare, Perform, Present!

Music is the Universal Language
Now Ain’t I A Woman?  Harlem Renaissance
The World is Alive with the Sound of Music
A-Men
A picture is worth a thousand words
A-Men
Mommy Sing Me a Melody
Take the A Train
In Search of Sisterhood
Phildanco

Cameos of the arts and art forms surely flooded your mind as you read through the list above. The Arts and Letters Commission was established by Delta to enhance the quality of life by presenting creative expressions in the performing arts, visual arts and literary genre. We have developed a plan and are anxiously waiting for each chapter to share with us by way of survey their plan of action. Furthermore, we are searching for those sorors who are talented, semi-talented or want to be involved in any way, to share on the same survey, their wish to be involved in this journey of further development of the mission of this committee.

We are working hard to develop plans for training chapters in “How To” put on an Arts and Letters event, as well as develop methods of spotlighting Deltas who are musicians, visual artists, writers, actors and dancers.

The Delta Book Mark is an initiative of the Arts and Letters Commission. You have received information on the current event, and we urge you to participate by buying, supporting and reading some of the current titles. In the end, we are all involved in Arts and Letters.

Turn up the enthusiasm and be ready to come along with us on the Arts and Letters train to success in the Southern Region! We are ready to Retrain, Reclaim and Retrain every Delta in the Southern Region to help us meet the goal of strong Arts and Letters programs in every chapter.

The members of the regional committee are Soror Lady Shivers Tucker, Huntsville (AL) Alumnae Chapter, Chair; Soror Betty Jean Hill-Underwood, Birmingham Alumnae representing Alabama; Soror Maisie Reddy, Tampa Alumnae representing Florida; Soror Maxcine Burnette, Atlanta Alumnae Chapter, Chair; Soror Laurie Lawson, Clinton (MS) Alumnae representing Mississippi; Soror Maya Lee, Memphis Alumnae representing Tennessee; and Soror Michelle Gibson, Zeta Psi-University of Georgia collegiate representative.

In response to Soror National President, Cynthia M.A. Bulter-McIntyre’s announcement of the Sorority’s support of DreamWorks, The Help, chapters throughout our region hosted red carpet events to view the film, which sheds light on the experiences of African American maids in segregated Mississippi.

The Lake Oconee (GA) Area Alumnae Chapter in cooperation with the Lake Oconee Spotlight Theater hosted a special showing. Attended by chapter members, families and friends, the ticket costs included unlimited popcorn and soft drinks. After the movie, chapter members and guests held a discussion over lunch. Mississippi Gulf Coast Alumnae Chapter sorors also attended a showing of The Help on opening weekend. Sorors spoke candidly about the emotions they felt when watching the film, which hit so close to home.

“...The movie stirred all kinds of emotions,” stated Soror Carla J. Evers. “I was pushed back in my seat several times as my fore-sisters cries were drawn from the depths of my soul.”

Soror Sharon Fairley added, “I laughed, cried, and said ‘Aha!’”

The Help features three Deltas: Cicely Tyson, Aunjanue Ellis and Flo Roach. The Help is the fourth feature film supported under the Project ART: Actively Redefining Together initiative. Past Delta Red Carpet feature films include Bishop T.D. Jakes’ Not Easily Broken, The Providence Effect, and Disney’s The Princess and The Frog.
The goal of the Southern Region’s Conflict Resolution/Positive Solutions Committee is to help resolve conflicts for chapters and/or members and to conduct investigations concerning violations of Delta Sigma Theta’s Code of Conduct. Using the Sorority’s Nine Cardinal Virtues, the committee promotes active listening and constructive feedback skills to effectively resolve conflict among individuals as well as within chapters. Since the beginning of this sororal year, the committee has already brought positive change within a number of chapters. The committee, chaired by Soror Carshena L. Bailey, consists of a state representative and one collegiate representative. The other members of the committee are listed below:

- Alabama State Conflict Resolution/Positive Solutions Coordinator – Vanessa Dickens
- Florida State Conflict Resolution/Positive Solutions Coordinator – Rodericka Webb-Wilkinson
- Georgia State Conflict Resolution/Positive Solutions Coordinator – Carol D. Carter
- Mississippi State Conflict Resolution/Positive Solutions Coordinator – Monique Montgomery
- Tennessee State Conflict Resolution/Positive Solutions Coordinator – Charlotte Freeman
- Collegiate Representative – Miya Warfield

Members of the committee are available to train chapters in managing conflict. Chapters are encouraged to contact the Regional Director, Conflict Resolution/Positive Solutions Chair, or the State Conflict Resolution/Positive Solutions Coordinator to schedule chapter trainings.
Voter registration and political agendas took center stage as members of the Zeta Phi Chapter at Georgia State University hosted a program entitled “The Time is Now.” The program, held a week before the General Election in November, served to inform the youngest and hardest voting demographic to reach. The panel included members from the Young Democratic Society, Fulton County Government Voters Education, Office of the Dean of Students, Senior Records Coordinator, Curtain Law Firm, National Black Law Students Association and the Student Judicial Board. They presented facts about the election and recent voting-numbers on a peer-to-peer level. The attendees were challenged to be leaders, register to vote and encourage their classmates to vote as well. Following this program, members of the Zeta Phi Chapter helped out with voter registration drives around the city of Atlanta.

“The Time is Now” has been honored by the Georgia State University community for its service and activism. The program received the Outstanding Leadership Award at the Royal Flame Awards. This program was also recognized at the Image Awards hosted by the Georgia State University chapter of the NAACP, as well as the Greek Awards hosted by Student Life and Leadership.

Iota Tau Works Effortlessly Conducting Over 20 Programs

During the fall semester, the Iota Tau Chapter at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) worked tirelessly to uphold the sorority’s Five-Point Progammatic Thrust. The chapter collectively participated in more than 20 programs and community service events that served MTSU and the Murfreesboro-Rutherford County area. The chapter participated in a panel discussion entitled Defining Your Womanhood in conjunction with Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. It focused on the reality of domestic violence. The program concluded with a discussion with the daughter of one of the women featured in the film.

Zeta Phi Reaches Beyond the Status Quo to Say The Time Is Now

The Zeta Phi Chapter helped out with voter registration drives around the city of Atlanta. The chapter participated in the national event, Make a Difference Day, which brings several organizations together to serve the greater community. One of the year’s biggest events held in collaboration with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. was the Pink and Violet Social. The event designed to increase awareness about domestic violence and breast cancer, featured a guest speaker who experienced a severe case of domestic violence. Said one chapter member, “Her story left a lasting impression on our hearts.”

Delta Holds Title of Miss Black Tennessee USA

Soror Natalie C. Newbill, a member of the Tau Nu Chapter at Belmont University in Nashville, TN holds the title of Miss Black Tennessee USA. A native of Milan, Tennessee, Soror Newbill, a junior nursing major, is a resident assistant, and also serves as secretary of the Black Student Association. Off campus, Soror Newbill volunteers at the Martha O’Bryan Center tutoring at-risk kindergarteners in reading and math. This summer, Soror Newbill will compete nationally in the Miss Black USA Pageant, which promotes education and leadership by providing scholarships opportunities to its winners. Newbill’s platform, designed to help raise self-esteem among adolescents, is “BE at Risk.”

Theta Tau Events Bring Awareness and Make A Difference

The Theta Tau Chapter at Valdosta State University sponsored a series of forums designed to bring awareness to the campus about important social issues and to serve others. Topics explored during the forums included defensive driving, female genital mutilation, sex trafficking, sexual health, and sexually transmitted diseases. During the forums, the chapter collected items such as school supplies, feminine products, and canned foods to donate to organizations serving people in need.

The chapter also assisted two single-parent families with food for Thanksgiving and taught them to increase awareness about domestic violence and breast cancer. The program received the Outstanding Leadership Award at the Royal Flame Awards. This program was also recognized at the Image Awards hosted by the Georgia State University chapter of the NAACP, as well as the Greek Awards hosted by Student Life and Leadership.

Soror Newbill, a junior nursing major, is a resident assistant, and also serves as secretary of the Black Student Association. Off campus, Soror Newbill volunteers at the Martha O’Bryan Center tutoring at-risk kindergarteners in reading and math. This summer, Soror Newbill will compete nationally in the Miss Black USA Pageant, which promotes education and leadership by providing scholarships opportunities to its winners. Newbill’s platform, designed to help raise self-esteem among adolescents, is “BE at Risk.”

Many people consider the word risk to have a negative connotation. However, I am taking the word ’risk’ and giving it a whole new meaning. This is something that I have a

continued on page 17
Soror Ashley Betts Voted Miss Southern Mississippi

Soror is Royalty at Jackson State University

Delta Holds the Highest Student Position at Tougaloo College

SGA President continued from page 18

Miss Black TN continued from page 17
NAACP Honors Chapter as Outstanding Community Servants

On October 22, 2011, the Decatur (GA) Alumnae Chapter received the Patricia C. Jones Community Service Award from the NAACP DeKalb County Branch. The award, named in honor of the NAACP DeKalb County Branch’s first female president, is presented yearly during the NAACP Freedom Fund Award Banquet to individuals or organizations that have made exceptional contributions, services, and/or leadership to the local community. The chapter was given this prestigious award for engaging in outstanding community service in the past year, including voter registration drives, homeless outreach support, Delta Academy/G.E.M.S. programs, scholarship program, and back to school supply drive.

For over 35 years, the chapter has sponsored a number of exemplary community service initiatives designed to positively impact DeKalb County residents.

From Delta G.E.M.S. to Great Debaters

On November 5, 2011, the Tampa Alumnae Chapter hosted, Strengthening Our Future... Moving Our Kids, an obesity prevention and diabetes awareness community event at Tampa’s historic Howard W. Blake High School. Inspired by First Lady Michelle Obama’s “Let’s Move!” initiative, this event “spoke directly to the need for effective and engaging ways to combat obesity and diabetes,” noted the chapter’s Physical and Mental Health Committee Chair, Soror Khaliah Fleming. Tampa Alumnae engaged a number of community partners for the event including DELTA, Inc., the American Diabetes Association, Tampa Metropolitan YMCA, Moffitt Healthy Kidz, First Baptist Church of College Hill, Florida A&M University (FAMU) College of Pharmacy, SweetBay Supermarket, and Howard W. Blake High School.

More than 300 people attended the event including 75 sorors and more than 250 community guests. Participants were offered diabetes and nutrition education classes, health screenings, healthy food samples, line dancing, relay games, and community kickball.

In addition, more than 25 exhibitors and food vendors provided literature, healthy food samples, and many giveaways. Students from FAMU College of Pharmacy performed free cholesterol, blood pressure, and blood sugar screenings for nearly 50 participants. Topics for nutrition education classes included healthy lifestyle choices, diabetes prevention, and healthy and affordable food preparation tips.

A highlight of the event was a live cooking demonstration by celebrity chef, Charles Mattocks. Known as “The Poor Chef,” Mattocks prepared a curry chicken and brown rice dish, a meal which serves four for less than $7.00!

The event was broadcast live on Tampa’s Christian Radio Station, WTBN’s Community Conversations radio show hosted by Dr. B. Lee Green, Sean Dickerson, and Michael Dove. Chapter President, Soror Janette Spencer-Davis, Chapter President Janette Spencer-Davis, Charles “The Poor Chef” Mattocks, and Sharon Setahdien, Deputy County Administrator for Public Safety and Community Services. All dancers were scored Dynomite, Fantastic, or Phenomenal!
Candlelight Vigil Sheds Light on Domestic Violence

On October 25, the LaGrange Alumnae Chapter joined with other National Pan Hellenic organizations to participate in a annual public candlelight vigil and domestic violence awareness program. Participants held candles symbolizing 81 people who were murdered in the state of Georgia by a domestic partner within the last year. As each name was read the candles were blown out, representing lives cut short by interpersonal violence. The event, in its third year, was sponsored by Harmony House, a local domestic violence shelter and the Troup County Domestic Violence Task Force.

The chapter also donated 45 cell phones to the shelter, which the shelter recycles to earn income or refurbishes for use by victims for emergencies. According to the Georgia Commission on Family Violence, 850 Georgians have been killed in the past seven years because of domestic violence. The work of LaGrange Alumnae sheds light on this important issue and provides support to victims.

Chapter Answers the Call to Address Tennessee’s New Photo I.D.

The new year brings changes to Tennessee voters. As of January 1, all voters have to show government-issued photo identification to vote, after the 2011 Tennessee General Assembly passed legislation for the requirement. Nashville Alumnae collaborated with several community-based organizations to present four forums throughout the city to educate metropolitan Nashville, so they won’t be surprised by unanticipated requirements on Election Day. An educational presentation on the implications of the photo I.D. law was made to the chapter, prior to their November meeting.

Rev. Olivia Cloud, chapter president, introduced the forums, while Dr. Lorraine Green, Social Action chair, planned them. Experts and professionals presented by Soror Jamelah Terry, Delta Academy Chair, Soror April Nickerson, EMBODI Chair, discussed the importance of building up young males in our community. Huntsville (AL) Alumnae chapter president, Soror Jacqueline Wyse called the youth “our leaders of tomorrow.” President Wyse’s message also reminded the audience “that it takes a village to raise a child.”

Delt Divas Walk It Out to Cure Diabetes

Sorors of the Rutherford County Alumnae Chapter put on their walking shoes for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation’s (JDRF) “Walk to Cure Diabetes” on October 8 at the Middle Tennessee Medical Center. Event planners allowed participants to follow the 1 mile Family Walk, or 3 mile Fitness Walk. The Rutherford County Alumnae Chapter raised more than $330, served as site volunteer support and joined in the walk. Sorors manned the registration tent, signed in volunteers and distributed food and drinks to participants and volunteers. The chapter was joined by sorors from the Iota Tau Chapter at Middle Tennessee State University. Family members, Jabberwock contestants and collegiate members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation is the worldwide leader in funding research to cure Type 1 diabetes, an auto-immune disease that strikes children and adults suddenly and lasts a lifetime. JDRF raised nearly $44,000 for research.

Lake Oconee Area Alumnae Chapter Volunteers at Local Health Fair

Sorors of the Lake Oconee Area Alumnae Chapter (GA) joined a host of community volunteers to support the Talaferso County Health Department’s Community Health Fair. Sorors registered prospective voters, distributed school supplies, provided health information and disseminated scholarship applications to high school seniors. Additionally, as a part of a campaign to fight childhood obesity, sorors sponsored a “fitness zone” to test children’s endurance in activities such as jump rope and hula-hoop.

A record number of more than 200 youth and parents joined the Huntsville (AL) Alumnae Chapter for its “Youth Initiative” kick off on September 24. Delta Academy, Delta G.E.M.S. and EMBODI youth showed up for an exciting afternoon of information-sharing. The “Parent-Child Information Session” served as an orientation for all of the groups. Soror Sherita Cummings, Delta G.E.M.S. Chair, provided information about the code of conduct, followed by a review of the operating guidelines presented by Soror Janelah Terry, Delta Academy Chair. Soror Leonard encouraged the youth and committee members to work toward progress in the community. President Wyse called the youth “our leaders of tomorrow.” President Wyse’s message also reminded the audience “that it takes a village to raise a child.”
Grand Bahama Alumnae Opens Dialogue About Domestic Violence

In recognition of Domestic Violence Month, the members of the Grand Bahama Alumnae Chapter teamed with Bellevue Business Depot Ltd. in the hopes to open a dialogue and an avenue for children to express their feelings by hosting an essay competition with the theme: “Domestic Violence – How It Impacts the Youth in their Overall Development.” Domestic violence essay chairperson Della Bridgewater states, “[Domestic violence] is a problem that exists but is seldom discussed; it’s necessary to engage our youth in this dialogue to find ways to break this vicious cycle of violence.” More than twenty five essays were submitted by local high schools. St. Paul’s Methodist College swept the competition nabbing 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in the competition with the winners. The winners were as follows: 1st Place – DeLexis Barnabie, 2nd Place – Kayla Lee, and 3rd Place – Yannick Lewis. First place winner, DeLexis Barnabie’s essay opened with this heart-wrenching poem:

“Help Me! Help Me!”
Mom screamed with fear
Her body shaken
And her eyes filled with tears.
My innocent mind
Could not comprehend
Why this misery
Wouldn’t come to an end
Dad doesn’t know it,
But the terror that night
Is a part of me now
And a part of my life.

As quietly as it came in it left, but victims suffering can know that in the deafening quiet a group of dedicated ladies and supportive businesses are ensuring domestic violence gets the attention it deserves.

Voters Get Ready For The Polls

Before McDuffie County, Georgia residents headed to the polls in November, the Thomson Alumnae Chapter co-hosted a forum for them to hear from the candidates on the ballot. WTHO-FM, WTWA-AM, The McDuffie Progress and The McDuffie Mirror also hosted the forum. Soror Gwendolyn Rountree of Augusta Alumnae and Donna Stillinger of WTHO-FM/WTWA-AM served as moderators.

Nearly 120 people in the audience and radio listeners heard Thomson Mayor Kenneth Usry and challenger Brink Bradshaw and incumbent City Councilman John Smalley and challenger James Taylor give their platforms and perspectives on various issues. McDuffie County School Superintendent Jim LeBrun presented facts and figures about the 1 cent Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (E-SPLOST).

Tampa Alumnae Making Strides and Making a Difference

The Tampa Alumnae Chapter has gone above and beyond in the battle against Breast Cancer. On October 22, sorors, family and friends converged on the St. Pete Times Forum in Hillsborough County, Florida and put on pink bras for the “Making Strides for Breast Cancer” walk. The chapter raised more than $3000 to be used for research and education toward the eradication of breast cancer. Tampa Alumnae had more than 50 sorors join the team and serve as volunteers and sponsors. A small group represented the sorority at the “Making Strides for Breast Cancer” walk in Pasco County, Florida. The chapter’s Delta G.E.M.S. were also involved, as they cheered from the sidelines. Even in pink, Deltas look good!

We Wear Pink Too!

On Saturday, October 29, sorors of the Tupelo (MS) Alumnae Chapter participated in the Komen North Mississippi Race For the Cure, an annual 5K race event to raise money for breast cancer awareness and education. Four thousand participants, including 20 Tupelo Alumnae sorors, converged on downtown Tupelo for the beginning of the three-mile race.

After the race several members of the chapter attended a Pink and Pampered Affair held at the White Hill Missionary Baptist Church. This event featured lunch, pedicures, guest speakers and door prizes.
Florida Chapters and American Cancer Society Renew Statewide Community Partnership to Fight Cancer

Since 2007, the Florida Chapters have joined the American Cancer Society (ACS), Florida Division in the fight against cancer. As part of the ongoing partnership, Florida sorors educate African American women about breast cancer and recruit volunteer drivers for the American Cancer Society’s Road to Recovery transportation program. Chapters also work with lawmakers at the state and national levels to impact public policy aimed at reducing cancer disparities in the black community. To date, through this partnership, sorors have:

- educated over 1,900 African American women in Florida about breast cancer.
- recruited volunteer drivers to take cancer patients to and from treatment.
- nominated sorors for leadership positions on American Cancer Society unit operating boards and promoted career opportunities to sorors.
- helped pass a $1 increase to Florida’s tobacco tax.
- raised funds to fight cancer through fundraising events like Relay For Life and Making Strides Against Breast Cancer.

As this partnership continues through 2013, Florida chapters will further their engagement with the American Cancer Society by hosting a Cancer Prevention Study-3 (CPS-3) enrollment site at a statewide meeting. This long-range research study will help ACS to better understand ways to prevent cancer.

One Florida soror has personally experienced the benefits of this on-going partnership. Once a volunteer with the Road to Recovery program, providing patients transportation to and from treatment, she later found herself needing similar support when she herself was diagnosed with breast cancer. “I am so proud of the Delta Sigma Theta and American Cancer Society partnership,” she said. “I have seen firsthand the impact our organizations can make together.”

Soror Promoted to Rank of Brigadier General

**Soror Margaret E. Barnes** was promoted to the rank of brigadier general during a ceremony held November 5, 2011, at the Mississippi War Memorial Museum auditorium in Jackson, Mississippi. The promotion ceremony was hosted by Major General Marcia Anderson, the first African-American female major general in the United States Army.

Honorably serving her country through military service for more than 30 years, Soror Barnes is a shining example of the results of hard work, fidelity and fortitude. She has served in numerous Army Reserve units both abroad and at home. Her military service includes a deployment to Kuwait as a part of Operation Iraqi Freedom and missions in Germany and Panama. Throughout her military career, Soror Barnes has been the recipient of several military awards and decorations, including the Army Achievement Medal, Army Commendation Medal with four oak-leaf clusters, Bronze Star Medal and Meritorious Service Medal with two oak-leaf clusters. Currently, Soror Barnes serves as the deputy commanding general of the United States Army Human Resources Command at Fort Knox, Ky.

Soror Barnes earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of Southern Mississippi and a master’s of public administration from the University of South Alabama. Additionally, she has an extensive military education, which includes a master’s of strategic studies from the United States Army War College.

She is a member of the Clinton (MS) Alumnae Chapter. She has served as the chapter’s vice president and the co-chair of the special projects committee. Soror Barnes was initiated and is a charter member of the Mu Nu Chapter at the University of Southern Mississippi.

Soror Johnnie C. Smith Celebrates the Release of Book

**Dr. Johnnie C. Smith**, vice-president of the Clarksville Alumnae Chapter, is celebrating the release of her book that is designed to assist at-risk school and college students excel in the classroom. “Succeed Indeed featuring Academic Boot Camp” vows to produce results with detailed instructions and easy steps to achieve optimal academic success.

Dr. Smith has more than 20 years of higher education experience in counseling, advising, consulting, organizational management, public speaking and troubleshooting. Currently, she serves as the Athletic Director for Academic Services at Tennessee State University (TSU).

Dr. Smith is an award winner of an Academic Achievement Banner, Favorite Facilitator Award, Woman of Distinction Education Award and speaker for a variety of community and educational events at the local, regional and national level. Most recently, she was named an Outstanding Alumna featured in the TSU National Alumni Association Alumni Outreach Magazine, and considered as a nominee for the 2012 NAACP Image Award. You can learn more about her book at www.drjohnnieabc.com.
The best part about an adventure is you never know what you’re going to get. In November 2011, as I was preparing my mind for the upcoming holidays I was offered the exciting opportunity to travel to China. In a matter of 72 hours, I decided this deal was too good to be true, and if I wanted to call myself a “[passport] stamp collector” I needed to jump on it. I called up my favorite girlfriend/line sister and asked her if she wanted to join me on a trip of a lifetime. She agreed, even with such short notice, and over the next three weeks we anxiously planned, packed, and giggled over the fact that we were going to China (of all places)! On December 5 the adventure began. We met up with four other ladies in New York City to voyage 16+ hours across the world to immerse ourselves in Chinese culture. Because four out of the six ladies were Deltas we decided that we would dub the trip as “Deltas Dotting the Globe” and that throughout our travels we’d make time to capture the adventure as sisters.

Over the course of eight days we visited Beijing, Shanghai, Suzhou, and Hangzhou, China. We toured ancient temples and palaces, learned to haggle in the shopping markets, and experienced the beauty of China’s most precious exports - pearls, jade, silk, and green tea. The pinnacle of our trip was our journey on the Great Wall of China.

Hand in hand with my sorors, I climbed for an hour realizing that with every step I took, every stair ascended, I was reliving the journey of so many travellers, many who gave their lives to protect what they cherished and believed in. The tenacity, diligence and wisdom required of the Chinese people to build such an wondrous structure reminds me of the bold stand that our 22 founders took in the 1900s to begin our beloved Sorority. Knowing that they had something very precious that needed to be protected and preserved, our 22 founders went on an adventure of their own, not knowing what was ahead, but persevering anyway. During my climb up the Wall, I stopped at certain points to marvel at the accomplishment. I felt a sense of purpose and motivation to stand on the backs of those who came before me.

Eight days is certainly not enough time to see all China has to offer, but this whirlwind tour opened my eyes to life’s comforts and allowed me to see the common bond of Delta’s sisterhood that spans all over the world. I feel so honored to have experienced China as a Delta, with Deltas, understanding my obligation to Delta’s legacy!

Guidelines for submitting articles to the newsletter

How To Submit Articles
• Submissions should be e-mailed to journalist@dstsouthernregion.com
• Articles should be attached as a Word document
• Word count in article should be between 250 - 500 words

How To Submit Photography
• Photos should be emailed as an attachment to journalist@dstsouthernregion.com in jpeg format
• Do not send photos embedded in a Word document
• When submitting a photo please include a caption, identifying everyone in the photo from left to right
• Photos need to be high resolution: 300 dpi or higher
• Do not send photos that are not in focus
• Consider action shots, not just posed photos

Do you have the "write" stuff?
The Southern Region needs you. We’re looking for chapter journalists, writers, and photographers who are willing to write articles and take pictures for the regional newsletter. If you’re interested, email journalist@dstsouthernregion.com.