



# PHI BETA SIGMA **Our Cause** *online*



Eastern Region Electronic Newsletter

Winter 2008/2009

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## Sigma House Dedication at Susquehanna University

**SELINGROVE, PA** - The Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, a traditionally black fraternity, has dedicated its new house on the campus of Susquehanna University.

"This event is particularly important to the university as it attempts to embrace the ideals of diversity on our campus and will provide the men of Phi Beta Sigma with a home away from home, a place of scholarship, fellowship and brotherhood," said Chris Markle, director of admissions and a graduate member of the fraternity.

The ribbon cutting ceremony on Nov. 22, as well as the presentation of Greek letters that were hung on the outside of the house, was attended by the fraternity's International President Paul Griffin. The new home of the fraternity at 312 University Ave. has been occupied since fall 2007 by the Multicultural House.

Phi Beta Sigma was chartered at Susquehanna in March with support from the Office of Multicultural Affairs. A traditionally black sorority, Sigma Gamma Rho, was opened a year ago.



Brothers attend ceremony

George Livingston, president of the local chapter of the fraternity, said the opening was very important for Susquehanna and its students. "It's already a big deal that we were chartered here at Susquehanna earlier this year," he told The Crusader, Susquehanna's student newspaper. "Now we



will be one of just two schools on the entire coast to have this fraternity house on their campus.” The fraternity has more than 500 chapters in the United States, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia. Although its roots are African American, Phi Beta Sigma is open to men of all races, religions, classes and national origin.

*\*This article appeared on the Susquehanna University website; <http://www.susqu.edu/>*



## REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S ADDRESS



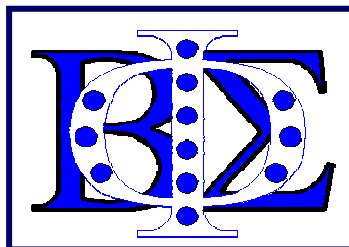
### Greetings Brothers of the Mighty Eastern Region,

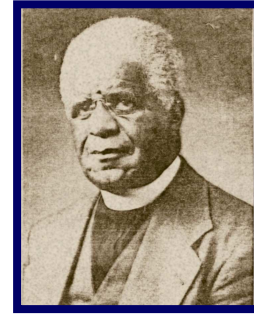
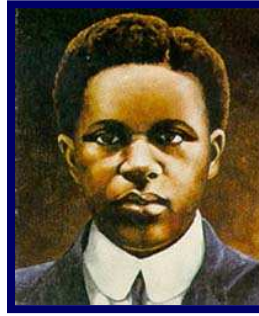
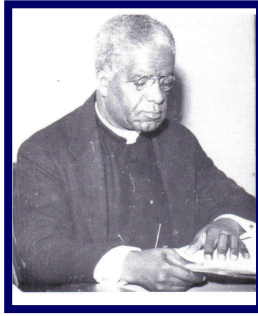
Welcome to the second edition of the Eastern Region's electronic newsletter, *Our Cause*. I would like to thank those brothers who took the time to write and/or submit articles, stories and pictures for this edition. I am excited about the direction of the Eastern Region as we prepare to enter a new year. As you review the articles and events taking place in the Region, it is my hope that you will also come away excited about Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

As we celebrate the holiday season across the Region with family, friends and Sigma brothers, on behalf of the entire Eastern Regional Board, I would like to wish all my Sigma family a safe, enjoyable and blessed Holiday Season and Happy New Year.

*“From Western Plains to Eastern Hills”*, I encourage all men of Sigma to rejoice in the blessings of the season and embrace the renewed spirit of a new year.

**Fraternally,**  
**Bro. Darryl T. Williams**  
**24<sup>th</sup> Eastern Regional Director**





## Coming Home to New England

**HARTFORD, CT** - During the 2006 Eastern Regional Conference, in New Brunswick, NJ, the brothers of Delta Pi Sigma Chapter (*Hartford, CT*) were granted hosting duties for the 2012 Eastern Regional Conference. New England will host the Conference for the first time since 1982.

New England holds the distinction of being an important part of our history, as it is the birthplace of Honorable Founder Leonard F. Morse. Following several years of dismal numbers the area has recently been enjoying a rebirth. Through the hard work of both brothers and chapters the area has enjoyed an increase in new membership and reactivation. The Region acknowledged this growth with a show of support by granting hosting duties to the area. The brothers and chapters will work hard to make 2012 a conference the Fraternity will not soon forget.



**Delta Pi Sigma Bros.  
Enjoy Boat Cruise**

The 2012 conference will be a joint effort between all chapters in the New England area. The Committee will do their best to showcase all the area has to offer to all in attendance. They will work to ensure attendees enjoy themselves and are comfortable while in New England.

In an effort to ensure a successful and enjoyable conference a committee has been charged to begin the process of planning for 2012. The first major task on the agenda will be to raise the necessary funds to finance the conference. With this in mind the Committee held its first fundraising event on Saturday, October 18, 2008. The *Elegance* Boat Cruise was an overwhelming success. The event was a three hour affair taking patrons up the Connecticut River for a night of music and fun. All in attendance had a wonderful time as they enjoyed a live jazz band, Love Joy Jazz Ensemble, on one deck and HOT 93.7 FM's own DJ Craig G on the top deck. The night's activities included door prizes, giveaways and a raffle of his and her designer watches worth more than \$1,000.00.

The brothers wish to extend thanks to all who supported this event and look forward to your patronage for our future events.

**T. Le Bon**



# Eastern Region Concludes State Conference Season

**EASTERN REGION** - The Tri-state (Delaware/DC/Maryland) Area Meeting, held on November 15, concluded the 2008 Eastern Region State Meetings Schedule. The schedule kicked off back in September on the campus of Virginia State University, in Petersburg, VA. That was the site of the Virginia/West Virginia State Meeting. This meeting set the tone for the state meeting schedule. Brothers in attendance participated in workshops and received presentations from Regional Board members. These meetings provided an opportunity for board members to dialogue with the brothers and chapters in the Region and to answer any questions that they might have. It was also a chance to fellowship with the brothers within the Region.

At the state meetings brothers received presentations from our 24<sup>th</sup> Eastern Regional Director, Hon. Darryl Williams, Vice Director, Leonard Lockhart and our Associate Director, Dennis Donaldson. Presentations were well received and the interaction was both spirited and beneficial to all in attendance. Board members shared information pertaining to programs and activities on the regional and national levels. Brothers were given an opportunity to ask questions and to share their thoughts on a number of issues. Information was also shared concerning the 2009 Eastern Region Leadership Retreat. The Retreat will be on the campus of Howard University, April 24 – 25, 2009. More details on the Retreat will be forthcoming.

For many state meeting attendees this was their initial introduction to the Sigma Wellness brand. The Sigma Wellness brand encompasses our three national programs; Social Action, Education and Bigger and Better Business, under one umbrella. Sigma Wellness is an opportunity to create some symmetry between our national programs. The three regional program directors presented the information jointly with the assistance of a power point presentation. During their presentations they linked the three national programs while also touching on the key programs within their respective areas.

After participating in their respective state meetings brothers were charged to share the information with their chapters. Brothers left the meetings well informed and motivated to return to their respective communities ready to serve.

**T. Le Bon**



**CONGRATULATIONS TO  
PRESIDENT ELECT OBAMA  
AND THE OBAMA FAMILY**

## Lambda Lambda Sigma Chapter presents the



### 6th Annual James Bodley, Sr. Memorial Golf Classic

Mercer Oaks  
Golf Course  
West Windsor, NJ

Monday, July 13, 2009

"A legacy of generosity and commitment"



[www.bodleygolfclassic.com](http://www.bodleygolfclassic.com)

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## Beta Beta Nu Chapter Raises Money for Charity

**LEXINGTON, VA** - On Friday, October 3, 2008, the Beta Beta Nu Chapter (Washington & Lee University, Lexington, VA) hosted their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual "Dance-a-Thon". The event was cosponsored by the campus' chapter of the Pi Beta Phi Sorority. The rules are simple; the last couple dancing wins an all-expense-paid trip to the school's annual formal, "Fancy Dress". Local businesses also donated gift cards for event participants.

Students are invited to register to compete in the event, purchase commemorative t-shirts and enjoy concessions in an effort to raise funds. All proceeds from the event are donated to the March of Dimes and Rockbridge County's literacy programs. This year's event raised approximately \$1,400 for charity. The first two events have raised a total of \$3,500. When asked about his vision for the future of the "Dance-a-Thon" event, Bro. Chris Rucker (BBN Chapter President) stated, "We're going to try to make this event bigger and better every year."

C. Arthur



# Project Feed Me

**SYRACUSE, NY** – The brothers of Theta Xi Chapter, Syracuse University, have partnered with “Project Feed Me” in an effort to assist those less fortunate. Through their combined efforts they held the “Defend Your Honor Basketball Tournament”. This tournament was a charity event developed to raise funds for “Project Feed Me”.

“Project Feed Me” is an organization with a goal of eradicating hunger while also encouraging community service among our youth. The project works with local and national resources in an effort to distribute food to those in need. Through their giving they also strive to promote healthy living and nutrition. Their initial goal is to make an impact in the Harlem, New York area. Providing Thanksgiving turkeys to area families was one of their main initiatives for this holiday season.



The basketball tournament was held in Archbold Gymnasium on the Syracuse University campus. There was live entertainment, refreshments were served and designer t-shirts were available for sale. The cost of the tournament was one dollar for general admission, and there was a ten dollar fee for all tournament participants. A grand prize was awarded to the tournament champion.

Project Feed Me . . . “Act locally, Think Globally”

*\* For more information visit them on the web @ [www.projectfeedme.org](http://www.projectfeedme.org)*

**K. Zanders**

**PLEASE VISIT US  
ON THE WEB**



## An Expression of Brotherly Love

**PHILADELPHIA, PA** – On Saturday, October 11, 2008 Nu Sigma Chapter took center stage at the Renaissance Airport Hotel in Philadelphia for their 2008 Presidents’ Ball. This event was the return of a long absent tradition for the Chapter and the Fraternity. The theme of the event was “Honoring Decades of Dedicated and Demonstrated Leadership.” In all 20 out of the 32 Presidents, both living and in the Omega Chapter, were honored for their untiring dedication of service in perpetuating the Nu Sigma presence in Philadelphia since 1922.

Those in attendance received welcome addresses from Brother Howard “Sid” Lucas (Chapter President), Soror Kimberly Smith-Tann (Atlantic Regional Director of ZΦB Sorority, Incorporated) and Honorable Brother Darryl T. Williams (Eastern Regional Director). The event’s Special Guest Speaker was the Honorable Brother Paul L. Griffin, our 32<sup>nd</sup> International President.

In addition to the live band, tempting even the flat-footed to get onto the dance floor, brothers were afforded an opportunity to participate in the centennial activities.

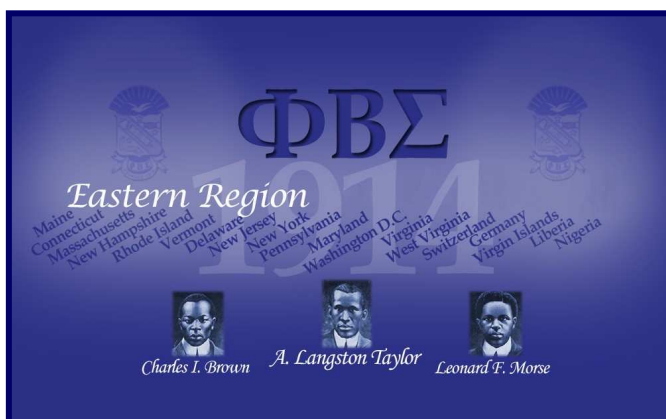
Brother Marco McMillan (International Executive Director) and Brother Wayne Green (Director of Business Development) assisted those wishing to sign the Centennial Book. The Centennial Committee Chairs, Brothers Carter Womack (27<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> International President), Peter Adams (30<sup>th</sup> International President) and William Stanley (28<sup>th</sup> International President) encouraged brothers to both sign the book and purchase the Centennial Pin.

All award recipients received a plaque bestowing upon them the distinction of "Living Legend." Centennial Pins were also presented to many of the award recipients as an additional expression of gratitude.

The event also served as the re-introduction of the Dennis White Memorial Scholarship Fund, which will award book and/or tuition scholarships to local high school students.

The Chapter would like to extend heart felt congratulations to Brother Shirl Gilbert, II, Ph.D., and his committee on a successful event. Their hard work and dedication has restored the Ball to its rightful place as a premier event in Philadelphia, the Region and the Fraternity.

**B. Brown**



## "My Brothers Keeper"

**BALTIMORE, MD** - Over 50 students gathered at Morgan State University on Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> for the first installment of "My Brother's Keeper". The program was developed by Bro. William Powell, International Director of Education. The program is designed to create an engaging, interactive and educational environment affording collegiate students an opportunity to learn from and dialogue with mentors in various fields. Mentors provide guidance; assistance and real world know how to program participants. The objective is to provide and edge which will help the students as they develop their professional and life journeys.



**Bro. Director Powell speaks to the students**

The day consisted of the following conversations:

**How to Get a Government Job** by Jennifer Jones (U S Office of the Inspector General)

**Telling the Truth** by Bro. Orlando Lilly (Baltimore County Police Department)

**Creating an Alternative Plan for Success** by Bro. Dr. Michael Zollicoffer

**Etiquette 101** by Bro. William Powell (Morgan State University)

**Making Your Resume Work for You** by Bro. Brandon R. Brown (BRB Consulting)

**Home Ownership** by Mr. Jerryl Bethea (Keller Williams Realty Center)

**Don't Mess With Your Credit** by Reginald Ray.



Eric Turner, a junior at Morgan State, said, "This is the first time that an African American male has impacted my life." When asked how he would sum up the day, Brother Powell said, "It was a fantastic day!"

Due the overwhelming response resulting from the initial event there is another program currently under development. Brothers interested in participating should contact Brother Powell at (717) 434-9516

**B. Brown**



## **Chapter Supports Local Business**

**HARTFORD, CT** – The Brothers of Delta Pi Sigma Chapter will gather for their Blue N White Holiday Party at CITRA Restaurant & Bar in Hartford on December 11, 2008. This is an annual event for the chapter which is always held at a local minority owned restaurant/facility. It is an opportunity to bring brothers and their families together to celebrate the season, while also supporting and promoting a minority owned business.

Brothers and Sorors from across the state, and the New England area, are invited to come out and share the evening with the Chapter. Fellowship among the chapters in the area has played a major role in the strong bond that exists between the brothers and chapters in the New England.

Supporting local minority businesses is not reserved for the holidays. The Chapter holds family gatherings at local minority businesses on a quarterly basis. The idea for the gatherings was introduced a few years ago in an effort to increase the involvement of those chapter members with families. At that time the chapter made a conscious effort to plan more activities which were family friendly. These gatherings are one way the Chapter was able to achieve that goal. Delta Pi Sigma Chapter is always working to develop more events which will involve our families.

**T. Le Bon**

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

**to the  
Beta Beta Chi Chapter  
at Wesleyan University**



Beta Beta Chi Chapter and brothers from the New England area gather to celebrate during the Chartering Ceremony at the campus on November 15, 2008.







# SIGMA ON CAMPUS



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## Greetings to the Chapters and Brothers of the Eastern Region!

History will record 2008 as trying times for many of our brothers, as well as our fellow Americans. We have experienced the collapse of our economy and a number of financial institutions, the rise of tuition rates and the rate of unemployment, as well as facing several other challenges.

The 2008 presidential election saw a substantial increase in voter participation as many of our younger voters, at one time disinterested in the process, were motivated to step up and get involved. This participation resulted in the historic election of Sen. Barack Obama to be the 44<sup>th</sup> President of these United States. As we approach the dawn of a new year it seems a mustard seed of hope has been planted in many of us.

I encourage my brothers, sorors, and fellow citizens to build upon the increasing spirit of hope as we move forward. We are entering a new era requiring a collective commitment and effort to bring about necessary change in this country and on the global stage. Let us use the holiday season as a springboard in that effort.

In closing, I wish to extend seasons' greetings to all facets of our diverse fraternity as well as the other eight National Pan-Hellenic Council organizations. Best wishes for a blessed and successful new year of service to our communities.

### Happy Holidays

**Dennis G. Donaldson Jr.**

**Associate Eastern Regional Director**

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## Gamma Beta Alpha Chapter: On the Move

**SELINGROVE, PA** – It has been less than a years since the chartering of Gamma Beta Alpha Chapter on the campus of Susquehanna University. However, the men of Sigma have hit the ground running, both on campus and in the local community. The Chapter is working hard to spread the vision of our beloved Founders to the area. With the support of the newly chartered graduate chapter (Xi Psi Sigma) and the University the chapter is in good hands.

## Voter Registration/ Education Drive

Some of the activities and programs the Chapter has conducted this semester:

**Voter Education/Registration Drive** – The Chapter held a drive on the campus in an effort to assist, inform and motivate the campus community to participate in the historic presidential election last month. During the event they had registration forms, absentee ballot forms and other information to distribute to students. Through their efforts 563 people were registered within the Susquehanna community. The numbers are outstanding considering Susquehanna University is a campus of approximately 1,900 students.



**Food Drive** – The brothers conducted a food drive for the Chapter's "Help the Hunger" program. Through a partnership with Weis Supermarket the brothers received food donations to assist in their efforts. The food was distributed to the homeless and those less fortunate in the local area. The Chapter also volunteered time at a homeless shelter in Sunbury, PA as part of the program.

**Volunteer Work** – The chapter volunteered some time at a local senior citizens home. Brothers spent the day assisting and spending time with the residents. It was also an opportunity to assist a resident and her

## Food Drive



husband to move some furniture to their home.

The brothers of Gamma Beta Alpha Chapter take pride in providing these services and look forward to continuing these efforts, as well as expanding on them, in the future. With the assistance and support of Xi Psi Sigma Chapter the brothers hope to equate the name Phi Beta Sigma with community service on campus and in the Selinsgrove community.

**G. Livingston, Jr.  
J. Brown**



# Alpha Alpha Tau Chapter: Sleepout for the Homeless

**PROVIDENCE, RI** - On October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008 the brothers of the Alpha Alpha Tau Chapter participated in their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sleepout for the Homeless. The event took place on the campus of Johnson & Wales University. The brothers stayed outside from 7:00pm – 7:00am collecting monetary donations, canned and non perishable goods and clothing. The Chapter collected more than \$1,000 worth of money, clothing, and food donations during last year's sleepout.

This year our goal was to collect more donations than last year's event. Although that goal was not realized we did receive generous donations from the campus community. We believe the weather played a factor in the low number of supporters participating in this year's event. The area



has been experiencing lower than normal temperatures for this time of year.

What we did not sacrifice, however, was our reputation to give back to the community. "The Sigma Sleepout for the Homeless" event was not only about raising money, food, and clothing donations, but our attempt raise awareness of the homeless epidemic existing in this nation. During the event we heard constant complaints about the temperature, comfort level and how everyone wanted to sleep in their own bed, but the truth of the matter is we were outside by choice. The homeless do not have that option. They are outside for days, weeks, months and sometimes years. For many this situation will not change

anytime soon unless we do something about it.

The Chapter continues to explore ways to improve our sleepout program. We hope the exposure this event, and similar events conducted by chapters across the country, provides is a starting point in a nationwide fight against hunger and homelessness.

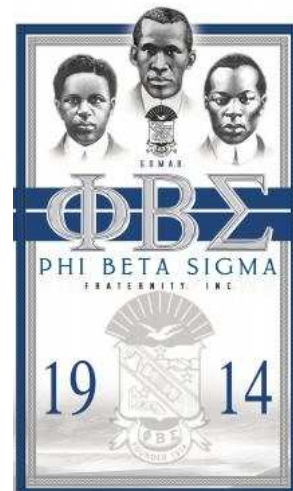


Homeless Shelter

We would like to thank all those who have made donations and/or participated in our sleepout events over the past two years. Your efforts go a long way in exposing the plight of the homeless to our community and providing assistance to those in need. We hope to see you at next year's event.

DO SOMETHING!!!

**D. Bryant**





# Beta Beta Psi Chapter Walks for the Cause

**AMHERST, MA** - Amherst a Better Chance (ABC) is a national residential high school program for talented and highly motivated African American, Latino, Asian, and Native American students. These students come from educationally underserved school districts to attend the program and take advantage of its college preparatory curriculum. Over the past 40 years the program has served over 100 students at Amherst Regional High School. Upon completion of the program graduates have gone on to attend more than 50 colleges and universities across the country.



**Bros. at the Fall Foliage Walk**

ABC Scholars come from local urban neighborhoods in Massachusetts, New York, and as far away as Ohio, Indiana, Arkansas and New Mexico. Scholars have an extended support system which includes; Amherst College tutors, ABC Board members, community mentors and ARHR faculty and staff. The students participate in daily sessions with their mentors; which helps to form lasting bonds. Bonds are also forged with the local community and host families through monthly weekend visits and additional enrichment activities.

The program receives a major portion of its funding from the annual Fall Foliage Walk. The brothers of Beta Beta Psi Chapter, University of Massachusetts @Amherst, viewed “the Walk” as an opportunity to get involved. This year’s walk was five kilometer and began and ended on the Town Common. The day’s activities included a concert, barbecue and other family activities. Over the last several years “the Walk” has raised over \$30,000.00 annually. These funds are used to maintain the ABC House, a residence where the scholars reside while in the program.

Following “the Walk” the Chapter had a desire to continue its involvement and support of the program. With the help of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Beta Pi Chapter, and a handful of volunteer UMass students they came out to help the ABC House with their spring cleaning. The ABC House was most appreciative and this initial volunteer effort helped to forge a lasting relationship between the ABC House and the brothers. The brothers hope to keep the partnership alive well into the future. This will afford them an opportunity to mentor the young men in the program and to give back to the community which has played a role in their growth and development as men.

**Bros., Sorors & Volunteers  
at the ABC House Clean Up**



*\*For more information on the ABC program please visit: [www.amherstabetterchance.org](http://www.amherstabetterchance.org)*

**N. Kirksey**



# International Leadership Summit

**NASHVILLE, TN** - Convened under the leadership of our 32<sup>nd</sup> International President, Hon. Paul L. Griffin, Jr., the International Leadership Summit took place on Saturday, August 16, 2008 at the Sheraton Music City in Nashville, Tennessee. The Leadership Summit was an opportunity to discuss the feasibility and probability of developing a Sigma Leadership Academy.

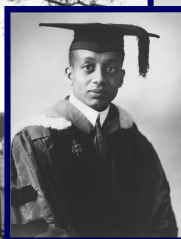
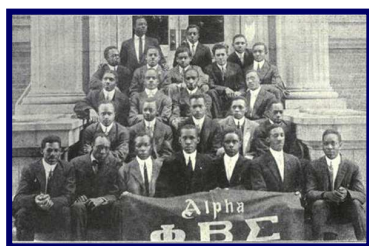
The event was coordinated by Brother Dr. Bennie Harris, Director of the Sigma Leadership Academy. The concept to develop a Leadership Academy was initially adopted at Conclave 2007 as a part of the Fraternity's new strategic plan. One of the Summit's objectives was to design and develop two of the Academy's twelve training modules for implementation in chapters and leadership programs

The summit consisted of presentations and conversation about the following topics:

- An overview of the Sigma Leadership Academy by Bro. Harris;
- Leadership: A Multi-Disciplinary and Multi-Dimensional Career Path by Bro. Tyrone Bledsoe, PhD.
- Effective Program Planning, Implementation and Measurement by Bro. John E. White
- Chapter Development and Effectiveness: Can You Do That? By Bro. Charles E. Talbert

The presentations were informative and encouraged participation and input from those in attendance. The brothers left the Summit with a better understanding of the Academy's goals and the potential impact it can have on the Fraternity and the communities we serve. A brainstorming committee will be created and convened to discuss the logistics and unfolding of the Academy and its various phases. Brother Griffin was on hand to present Certificates of Participation to all attendees.

**B. Brown**



**2009  
Eastern Region  
Leadership Conference  
Howard University**

**April 24 - 25**

**\* Details Coming Soon \*  
@**

**WWW.PBSEAST.ORG**

## Bro. Rev. Benjamin K. Watts Installed as Bishop

**NEW LONDON, CT** - Since being installed as pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church, back in 1986, Bro. Rev. Benjamin K. Watts has worked hard to grow the congregation and to increase the church's impact in the local community. The church has witnessed the completion of several projects to the church facility, the inclusion of additional worship services and development of several ministries and outreach programs. The building of the Shiloh Family Center, which houses a preschool, charter school and several community activities, is one of the major achievements under his guidance. Rev. Watts is a highly respected member of the local community and the church community.

Bro. Bishop Watts



On Saturday, October 18, 2008 Rev. Watts was recognized for his unyielding work and undying faith during his consecration ceremony as Bishop. The ceremony was part of a week of

events, including a banquet at the Mystic Marriott on Friday and concluding with Sunday services

Shiloh Baptist Church was filled with family, friends and well wishers there to celebrate with Rev. Watts. Congratulatory messages were sent from U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney, Gov. M. Jodi Rell, the attorney general, the lieutenant governor, and

proclamations from the mayors of New London and New Haven.

The consecration of a bishop is an occasion that does not occur often to a Baptist church, and this event was two years in the making. In order for the consecration to occur the move must be sanctioned by bishops from other churches and states. In his new role Bishop Watts will continue to serve as pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church, while also having the responsibility to oversee other congregations in the state.

“Already in the last few years, he has been assisting other churches with different issues they may have had, stated Yvonne Hall, associate minister at the church. It's not that he's a novice in the sense of experience. It's a new title for him, but he knows what he's doing, and he will do quite well in that area.”

The Rite of Ordination took place around noon. As part of the ceremony the bishops gather in a circle and lay hands on Rev. Watts to confer the title of bishop to him. Following more prayers, songs and rites, the new bishop was presented and walked around the church, greeting family and the congregation.

The Brothers of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity join the family, friends, the congregation and community in extending Congratulations to Bro. Bishop Benjamin K. Watts for a job well done.

**T. Le Bon**



## Omicron Theta Chapter Holds Black Greek Leadership Conference

**NEW HAVEN, CT** - On Wednesday, November 5, 2008 the brothers of Phi Beta Sigma, in partnership with the Southern Connecticut State University Greek Life Council, held the first annual Black Greek Leadership Conference. Keynote speaker for the conference was Rasheed Ali Cromwell, Esq. The conference was designed to enlighten the community of the rich history of community service of all National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) organizations.

The day's activities included a workshop titled *"The Gift and the Curse: Young Gifted and Overextended"*. The successful planning of any event requires vision, motivation, ambition and hard work, among other elements. The element often missing from the equation, during the planning and implementation stage, is focus. Student leaders recognize many problems within their community and often try to address them simultaneously. The result: an overworked, frustrated, ineffective and unfulfilled student leader. This workshop helps students minimize



**Members of NPHC Organizations**

obligations to maximize their performance. Students were given strategies to prioritize their obligations, decrease their commitments, and ultimately increase their overall impact as a student leader. While pursuing excellence, leaving a legacy and succeeding amidst adversity, student leaders must efficiently and effectively complete their personal leadership journey by minimizing distractions.

The conference day closed with a forum titled *"The Mis-Education of the Black Greek"*. This forum attempted to answer the question; what is a Black Greek lettered organization? Although Black Greek organizations have existed on American college campuses for over 100 years there are many in our communities that are unfamiliar with our work. This forum was an opportunity to address this fact and develop strategies for improving our exposure in the future. This presentation went a long way to dispel the myth that all we do is party and step. The forum examined three defining points in the evolution of the NPHC organizations. This was designed to give attendees a better understanding of our community involvement and the impact we have in communities worldwide.

The conference was well attended and students came away with a better understanding of the NPHC organization and the services we provide. It was also an excellent opportunity for student leaders to gain valuable skills to assist them as they move forward with the programmatic thrust of their respective organizations.

*For more information on Rasheed Ali Cromwell, Esq visit:*

<http://www.greatblackspeakers.com/speakerprofiles/rasheedalicromwell.htm>

**C. Shepard**

# All Roads Lead to New Orleans

**NEW JERSEY** - In April 2008 the State of New Jersey ushered in a new leadership team charged with the task of placing New Jersey at the forefront of the Eastern Region. The team includes State Director Bro. Julio A. Morgan and Area Deputy Directors (ADD) Bros. Anthony Stradford, Christopher Wilson, and Jonathan Scott.

During the summer months several conference calls were conducted in an effort to plan an agenda which would address important internal issues within the state. Several issues emerged from the calls which include, but are not limited to; educating brothers on conducting a proper Membership Intake Process (MIP), and forging a better bond between undergraduate and graduate brothers. The biggest initiative on the agenda for 2008 – 2009 will be to ensure all undergraduate chapters in the state are registered for the 2009 Conclave in New Orleans, LA.

"I wish this sort of planning on a state level was in place when I was an undergrad. Our Brotherhood is built on improving things for those coming behind you. I think this is a great example of that", stated Bro. Wilson. It is our belief that each chapter should have a voice, and we will work hard to make this a reality in New Jersey. One way to achieve this goal will be to register and participate in Conclave 2009. Attending the conference will afford us the opportunity to have our voices heard on the national stage. It is crucial for our undergraduate chapters to have a clear understanding of the political process within Sigma. Full participation in the process will give them the knowledge and tools necessary to make necessary changes in Sigma.

In order for the initiative to come to fruition, the state will host a series of fundraisers. All profits will be used to help pay for the Conclave 2009 registration of our undergraduate chapters. "If we can do our part to decrease the cost of Conclave registration, we have done a service for the Fraternity. In uncertain economic times we are fortunate to be in a position to provide assistance to our brothers, especially our undergraduates, by relieving some of the financial burden!" stated Bro. Morgan.



**NJ State Director and ADDs**

The fundraising initiative was kicked off with a state wide bowling party. The event took place on October 17, 2008 at Stelton Lanes in Piscataway, NJ. The event was sponsored by all undergraduate chapters in the state. The brothers and chapters were responsible for promoting and policing the party. They were successful on both fronts, but even more impressive was the means by which they chose to promote the event. Facebook was utilized as the only promotion tool for the event. This promotion method resulted in 180 people responding and attending the event. The chapters managed to raise \$1000 in profits. Bro. Dashun Cathcart of Mu Zeta chapter proclaimed, "Using the Bowling Party to fund undergraduate attendance at Conclave 2009



was an innovative and creative idea. We must extend thanks to the graduate chapters in the state of New Jersey, for their dedication in helping undergraduate brothers to grow in Sigma.”

The money raised from the bowling party will allow the state to register four (4) chapters for Conclave. “We believe registering all ten (10) chapters for Conclave is the easy part. The next hurdle will be getting them down to New Orleans.”, declared Bro. Scott. The total cost for Conclave can be very expensive when you factor in registration, lodging, travel and other related expenses. Several travel options have been discussed and are currently being reviewed. To save on hotel costs brother will be encouraged to double up.

Plans are being made for the next fundraising event, which should occur sometime during the winter months. The state plans to have every chapter registered by February 2009. Brothers and Chapters can make donations to the fund by contacting Bro. Julio Morgan at: [juliomorgan@yahoo.com](mailto:juliomorgan@yahoo.com).

**J. Morgan**

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## Reflections of a Survivor

**PHILADELPHIA, PA** - Earlier this year I received an e-mail from Bro. Robert Toomer informing me of a recent medical procedure to remove his prostate. The e-mail was surprising because I had no idea Bro. Toomer was having any health issues. During a chapter meeting a few months ago I asked Bro. Toomer to share his experience

with the brothers in his own words. He agreed to do so in an effort to encourage brothers to pay more attention to their health.

### **Bro. Toomer, in his own words:**

*I'm a cancer survivor. At age 40 I started getting a yearly physical. When I was 42 my doctor noticed my PSA levels were high for someone my age, so he referred me to an urologist. At age 44 it was determined that I had Stage1 prostate cancer. My urologist gave me a few options but the most important thing was to do my own research. There are many ways to treat prostate cancer, with pros and cons no matter which option you choose. I chose robotic surgery; (pros) least evasive, quick recover, (con) removal of your prostate. With this option if you are planning on having children you have to freeze some sperm.*

*During my research I was amazed to find out prostate cancer is very common and more importantly very treatable. The day of my surgery an operating room tech told me in the 8 months that she had been working I was only the 4th black male to have surgery and the youngest. Two of the young men who handled me during my stay asked me how I knew I had cancer and what were the symptoms. Strangely enough, I did not have any symptoms. I am a reasonably healthy man, I walk every day and workout twice a week. I don't have any other medical conditions. The point I'm trying to make is you can walk around with prostate cancer and*

*never know it. My father went over 15 years without getting a physical. After suffering a stroke and a stay in the hospital he found out he had prostate cancer stage 4 or 5, as well as other medical conditions.*

*Brothers you owe it to yourself and love ones to see your doctor on a regular basis. I'm a cancer survivor.*

*Bro Bob Toomer*

Brother Toomer's reflections hit me like a Ryan Howard homerun. My father's battle with prostate cancer created serious complications, coupled with other traditional aging ailments, until his passing several years ago. His approach to health issues was to say nothing until Mom noticed, not the most effective method. I often wonder how much more time I would have had with him if he had done something a bit earlier. My fraternal grandfather and my brothers have all been diagnosed with prostate cancer. Both brothers had to have their prostates removed. One brother has been suffering from surgical complications resulting from his procedure several years ago.

Due to my family health history I have been waiting for a similar diagnosis since the age of 25. I have also been doing what I can to try and prevent the news from coming. I eat well, workout several times a week and take my supplements faithfully. Fortunately I have never been in the hospital, but I do realize I can not run from genetics. My doctor and I talk regularly about my health and I have recently added an additional precaution, a prostate exam. This exam is highly recommended for men under 40 with a family history, and all men 50 or over.

Brother Toomer's email and words stirred my soul. Be your Brother's Keeper by making sure he stays on top of his health. Encourage your chapter to do a cancer awareness program with the local American Cancer Society. As the saying goes, "the life you save may be your own".

**R. Toomer with B. Brown**

## **CONGRATULATIONS to BRO. MIKE LONDON**



**and the**



## **NCAA Division I Champions**

Richmond (12-3) reached the NCAA Division I Football Championship game for the first time. The 12 victories are a school record for the Spiders. This is Bro. London's first season as Head Coach at the University.

# ΦΒΣ

## 2009 CONCLAVE NEW ORLEANS, LA



All That Jazz by Jonathon Romain

July 6 - 12, 2009  
Sheraton New Orleans Hotel

[www.pbs1914.org](http://www.pbs1914.org)

# Lambda Lambda Sigma Chapter Education Initiative

**TRENTON, NJ** - When the bell rings for dismissal at the end of the day, students in the city's school district head back to their homes.

But what finds them along the way, or the images they come home to, aren't always ideal. Gangs and drugs are prevalent in homes and on the streets.

A group of service fraternity and sorority alumni know that some ills creating challenges for Trenton students are left unaided by educators and parents alike, but they hope not for long.

The school board recently passed a resolution that will allow the members of the Mercer Regional Pan-Hellenic Council, representing seven different Greek organizations, to pilot a new program in two city schools to help students overcome

adversity and improve their lives. "We want these children to know there are people who look just like they do, but don't go on the streets or join a gang," said Jean Lamothe, Regional Director of Education of Phi Beta Sigma, which is part of the council. "They can achieve goals, they can go to college, and then can make a real difference in life."

The council's chairwoman, Gwendolyn Jennings, is also a principal at Wilson Elementary, a K-5 school that is participating in the nonprofit pilot program. Rivera Elementary, a K-8 school, also is included.

The Greek members will come into the schools from once to several times a month, and work one-on-one with students based on their age and gender. While one group will focus on raising self-esteem within girls, others will work on boosting character development in students of incarcerated parents. Additional themes include establishing healthy nutrition choices and fostering community service in the city.

Members from Phi Beta Sigma plan to create an organized club for boys in elementary and middle school, and to expose them to different role models within the male community. "We know that many of our students do not have a male role model at home, and it's something we all find is in need of improvement," said Jennings, a member of Zeta Phi Beta. "For our children to get exposure to successful males will be very beneficial."



**Gwendolyn Jennings (principal at Woodrow Wilson Elementary School), Soror Eunice Lewis, Bro. Jean Lamothe and Lisa Rich.**



Superintendent Rodney Lofton recently praised the initiative at a board meeting. "Changing this district will not be up to the superintendent alone," Lofton said. "Pan-Hellenic Council, your first steps will encourage others. I appreciate your work."

In essence, the program is about offering an alternative — a different option that emphasizes positive choices instead of violent or dangerous ones, said Eunice Samuels-Lewis, president of the local chapter of Zeta Phi Beta. "If you're going to join a group, shouldn't it be a positive one?" Samuels-Lewis said. "We want students to be motivated, energized and engaged in their selves and their futures. They can then make the right choices and get involved in their community."

But money is a key part of the program. Right now, the Mercer Regional Pan-Hellenic Council has raised enough money to fund the program next year, including more than \$20,000 for fingerprinting and background checks for all the volunteers who will work with the children. At a Cabaret Fundraiser Dinner later this month, Jennings said, they hope to pool more dollars to pay for future programs and events.

Additionally, businesses and other groups can donate funds or resources at any time, Lamothe said. "To have this program only run for one year really defeats the purpose," he said. "We're hoping that more people and organizations will want to join us and get involved. The point is that when we work together, we can accomplish more."

The council is hosting its Cabaret Fund-raiser Dinner on June 22 from 8 p.m. until 1 a.m. The event will take place at the Pennington Road Fire House in Ewing. Tickets are \$20.

For more information on the council, or to buy tickets to the Cabaret dinner, contact Jennings at (609) 656-4965.

**LISA RICH**  
**Trenton Times**



**2010**  
**Eastern Regional Conference**  
**Dover Downs Hotel & Casino**  
**Dover, DE**

**\* Details Coming Soon \***



## Founder's Day Events in the Region

### Delta Pi Sigma Chapter

Founder's Day Luncheon  
Vibz Uptown Restaurant  
3155 Main St. Hartford, CT  
January 10, 2009 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm  
\$25.00 / Children under 10 FREE  
[www.ctsigmas.org](http://www.ctsigmas.org)



### Eta Phi Sigma Chapter

Founder's Day Celebration  
The Hyatt (Vu Lounge)  
2 Exchange Place Jersey City, NJ  
January 9, 2009 8:00 pm - Until  
FREE  
Parking-\$10 w/receipt from The Vu Lounge  
\*for hotel reservations:  
201.469.1234 or to book online:  
[www.jerseycity.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels/index.jsp](http://www.jerseycity.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels/index.jsp)



### Kappa Upsilon Sigma Chapter

95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Founder's Day Celebration  
Crown Plaza Hotel  
Rte. 70 Cherry Hill, NJ  
January 10, 2009 9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
\$35.00 Breakfast Buffet  
Guest Speaker:  
Rev. Dr. Alyn E. Waller - Pastor  
Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church  
Philadelphia, PA  
For Tickets, Contact:  
Darryl Curtis 856 986-4096  
Alan Warner 609 351-1055  
Montez Smith 856 229-2530  
Keith West 609 760-3075



### Lambda Lambda Sigma Chapter

Rededication Ceremony  
The College of New Jersey  
Paul Loser Hall  
Ewing, New Jersey  
Commemorating 95 Years of  
Brotherhood, Scholarship, & Service  
January 5, 2009 7:00 pm  
Free

Attire: Dark suit, white/blue shirt, blue tie.

Dinner & Beverages will be provided.

All are welcome!!!

**The Publicity Committee  
would like to thank the  
following people for  
their contributions**

### Susquehanna University

Lisa Rich  
Bro. J. Brown  
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Bro. K. Christian  
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Bro. R. Toomer  
Bro. K. Zanders





## State, Vice and Area Deputy Director Contact List

### DELAWARE & MD EASTERN SHORE

#### **State Director**

James Simmons  
[Jsimmons19@aol.com](mailto:Jsimmons19@aol.com)

#### **Area Deputy Directors**

Kurtis A. Thomas (MD)  
[Blueice\\_4@hotmail.com](mailto:Blueice_4@hotmail.com)

Dale Harris (DE)  
[dajharris@comcast.net](mailto:dajharris@comcast.net)

### DISTRICT of COLUMBIA

#### **State Director**

Arnold S. Austin, Jr.  
[Arnoldaustin@kw.com](mailto:Arnoldaustin@kw.com)

#### **Area Deputy Director**

Mohamed Kamara  
[Mo\\_beta\\_blu@hotmail.com](mailto:Mo_beta_blu@hotmail.com)

### MARYLAND

#### **State Director**

Kelly Fox  
[kellyfox1093@msn.com](mailto:kellyfox1093@msn.com)

#### **Area Deputy Director**

Barrington Redwood  
[b\\_redwood@hotmail.com](mailto:b_redwood@hotmail.com)

### NEW ENGLAND

#### **State Director**

Frank Larmond  
[gomob4@aol.com](mailto:gomob4@aol.com)

#### **Area Deputy Directors**

Marcus Daly (MA)  
[Marcusdaly19141@aol.com](mailto:Marcusdaly19141@aol.com)

Marlo D. Simon (CT)  
[mdsimon76@hotmail.com](mailto:mdsimon76@hotmail.com)

Darnell Bryant (RI)  
[dbryant519@yahoo.com](mailto:dbryant519@yahoo.com)

### NEW JERSEY

#### **State Director**

Julio Morgan  
[juliomorgan@yahoo.com](mailto:juliomorgan@yahoo.com)

#### **Area Deputy Directors**

Anthony Stradford (S / NJ)  
[anthonytstradford@msn.com](mailto:anthonytstradford@msn.com)

### NEW JERSEY(cont.)

**Area Deputy Directors**  
Christopher Wilson (C / NJ)  
[cwilson2@gmail.com](mailto:cwilson2@gmail.com)

Jonathan Scott (N / NJ)  
[jmscottnj@aol.com](mailto:jmscottnj@aol.com)

### NEW YORK

**State Director**  
Craig Collins  
[kingboot@hotmail.com](mailto:kingboot@hotmail.com)

**Area Deputy Directors**  
Clayton Steen (W / NY)  
[epsteen4@yahoo.com](mailto:epsteen4@yahoo.com)

Keith Zanders (C / NY)  
[kazander@syr.edu](mailto:kazander@syr.edu)

Kuyler Irvis (Capital Area)  
[blue\\_skin2@yahoo.com](mailto:blue_skin2@yahoo.com)

Rommel Cave (NYC)  
[dfoxcave@aol.com](mailto:dfoxcave@aol.com)

Leo McCray (LI)  
[predator1914@aol.com](mailto:predator1914@aol.com)

### PENNSYLVANIA

**State Director**  
Derrick Bowmer  
[Sigma\\_491@msn.com](mailto:Sigma_491@msn.com)

**Area Deputy Directors**  
Herbert Thompson (C / PA)  
[thombug@comcast.net](mailto:thombug@comcast.net)

John Leak (C / PA)  
[john55king38@aol.com](mailto:john55king38@aol.com)

Jason Brown (W / PA)  
[kamikaze\\_1914@hotmail.com](mailto:kamikaze_1914@hotmail.com)

Erin S. Hudson (E / PA)  
[hudsones@verizon.net](mailto:hudsones@verizon.net)

### VIRGINIA

**State Directors**  
Devon Henry  
[devonhenry1@yahoo.com](mailto:devonhenry1@yahoo.com)

**Area Deputy Directors**  
Derrick Jennings  
[denbigh\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:denbigh_2000@yahoo.com)

Artel Smith (N / VA)  
[artel.smith@gmail.com](mailto:artel.smith@gmail.com)

Caleb Butler (Hampton Roads)  
[cpbutler03@hotmail.com](mailto:cpbutler03@hotmail.com)

Occasio Gee (Tidewater Area)  
[occasio.gee@vabeachsigmas.org](mailto:occasio.gee@vabeachsigmas.org)

### WEST VIRGINIA

**State Director**  
Kenneth L. Daniel  
[kldaniel2001@aol.com](mailto:kldaniel2001@aol.com)



**Gerald Smith (Editor)**  
Craig Arthur  
Terrance Barker  
Brandon Brown  
Brad Leak  
Todd Le Bon  
Artel Smith  
Tyrone Williams