

From Western Plains

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Tokyo grad chapter welcomes new set of officers.

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COLLEGIATE CORNER

Read how Lambda Xi's Bro.

Quandraco Flippen-Thompson is 'doing everything possible' to make community service a priority on his campus.

Remember to set your calendars for the 2009 Western Region Leadership Conference in Las Vegas on March 6-7

And check out the conference event page on Facebook

Sigma Spotlight:

Bro. Ron Carter

By Bro. Martin Ricard

When Bro. Ron Carter assumed the role of Western Regional director in 1996, it wasn't promised that the job would be easy.

His predecessor, Bro. Benny Harris, had just left the state after launching a highly successful leadership program for black men under his administration. But the region was deep in debt after losing \$3,000 at a previous regional conference.

It was Bro. Carter's responsibility to get things in order.

After three years of serving in the region's highest post, he accomplished just that—and then some. By the time Bro. Carter finished his last term in 1999, the region had \$15,000 to its name.

To this day, that feat remains one of Bro. Carter's greatest achievements in the Western Region, and it speaks to his years of showing leadership when it counts.

We recently interviewed Bro. Carter on his experience being regional director.

From Western Plains: What would you say has been your legacy in the Western Region?

Ron Carter: One of my legacies in the region has been that I brought back respect to the Western Region. I was also one of those fortunate regional directors who wasn't regional director first and

then sat on the national board. I was the national director of publicity before I became regional director. So once I started on the national board, brothers on the board already knew me, and so I was able to ask for a lot of payments from the national president, who was then Peter Adams. I was the type of regional director who guys knew had been around

and stayed around.

FWP: What is one of your earliest memories in the organization?

RC: I crossed Dec. 19, 1982, through Theta Upsilon at Cal State Fullerton. But, actually, when I first got on campus, they started recruiting me. The chapter president at the time and a brother who was one of the student body leaders approached me and invited me to a picnic, and



Carter

I didn't know anything about Phi Beta Sigma. So I showed up at the frat picnic in white shorts and a red shirt and a red and white bandana around my neck. But they didn't even say anything to me. They greeted me very warmly. And when they started talking to me, they saw I was a nice guy.

FWP: What would you say the fraternity has done for you?

RC: One of the things I can say is that the frat has been a blessing to me.

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MEMO FROM JAPAN: Tokyo grad chapter elects new officers

The Nu Eta Sigma chapter, based in Tokyo, Japan, recently elected its newest officers for the upcoming year.

With an online vote, the chapter selected the following brothers to its executive board:

- Bro. Samuel Green, pres.
- Bro. Terrell Bennett, VP
- Bro. Michael Showers, director of social action
- Bro. A. Carson, director of education
- Bro. Victor Brown, director of bigger and better business
- Bro. Edwin Jordan, secretary

In congratulating the officers, Bro. Chuck Bryant, the continental U.S. liaison for Japan, wrote: "I look forward to working with all of you in the future and learning how to better serve you in my new position. This will be 'Our Cause' to making our Chapter, and Region stronger than ever!!!"



EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Greetings Brothers of the Western Region:

What a year it has been! The fraternity is getting stronger. The region is steadily rebuilding itself. And we have a black president. Ah, it just feels good to say that. Doesn't it?

OK. Back to the message. I hope you enjoy this second issue of the new Western Regional newsletter as much as I enjoyed putting it together. What you will find, I hope, is knowledge from which you can learn something new about our mighty region. It isn't that

often when we can really find out about who that brother is in Arizona, or reflect on what kind of impact that chapter is making in California, or even take in how many accomplishments are coming out of this region--from Colorado to Japan, from Alaska to New Mexico. My goal with this newsletter is to find those stories and tell them so that our region gets the attention it deserves, which is something our regional director, Bro. Raphael Forbes, feels strongly about.

So far, with the help of Bro. Tracy Morris, our regional publicity director, and several other brothers, some of those stories have been told. I know there will be more great things ahead. And I look forward to hearing about them. So as all of us prepare to start a new year, I pray for strength as an organization and that we continue to make sure "our cause speeds nobly on its way."

G.O.M.A.B.

Bro. Martin Ricard
Editor-In-Chief

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Willie Bluit

New Membership Continuous Chairman

FROM PAGE 1

It helped me become a better person, and it helped me to—more than anything—learn how to do certain things, like speaking and being a leader. Like when I sat on the Altadena town council. I sat on the council with men much older than me. And they didn't know how to run meetings, but I did

because I knew Robert's Rules of Order. So the fraternity provides you with a platform from which you can grow in your career, because the opportunity is there.

Bro. Carter, 54, a native of Georgetown, Guyana, is currently the Life Members president on the international board. He is also a

member of the Distinguished Service Chapter, our fraternity's highest honor.

He is a member of the Phi Beta Sigma chapter in Los Angeles. He lives with his wife Veronica and his niece, Destiny, in Pasadena, where he owns and manages his own public relations firm, The Carter Agency.

NEWS SUBMISSIONS

Did your chapter recently hold an event worth noting?

Do you know a brother who just reached an important feat in his career?

Would you like to be the next featured collegiate brother in the newsletter?

Please send all submissions to:
Bro. Martin Ricard
mkriscard@gmail.com

or

Bro. Tracy Morris
tray5pbs@gmail.com

Collegiate Corner**Bro. Quandraco Flippen-Thompson**

Age: 20

University: Arizona State

Major: Sociology

Quandraco is one of the most promising young brothers that we have in the fraternity. I say that most of all because of the determination he has to live up to obligations and commitments.

Of course, Quandraco, who will be graduating this spring, has honored his commitment to scholarship by maintaining a 3.0 cumulative GPA while taking an average of 17 credits a semester—even with all of the other activities on his plate, including being treasurer of ASU's NAACP chapter.

As chapter president he has done well displaying the motivation to keep the chapter focused, headed in the right

direction, and very active in community service and philanthropy.

Dra wins over most anyone that he interacts with, as evidenced by what Greek Life Director Jennifer Stults said recently: "that Dra has done everything possible" on more than one occasion.

Arizona State Director Charles Ranson and past Western Regional Director Ernest Miller have both said they were highly

impressed with Quandraco at the last conclave in Charlotte, N.C., and spared no words in their praise of him. I am not alone in saying that Dra is a big part of the bright future of Phi Beta Sigma in Arizona.

--Bro. Efrain Velez Jr.



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