

SPRING / SUMMER CENTENNIAL EDITION

The

PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY, INC.

CRESCENT

Magazine

A Century of 'Culture for Service and Service for Humanity'



SPRING/SUMMER 2014

A portrait of Derica W. Rice, a Black man with a short beard and mustache, smiling. He is wearing a dark pinstripe suit, a white shirt, and a striped tie. The background is blurred with warm, colorful lights.

Derica W. Rice
Executive Vice President,
Global Services and
Chief Financial Officer,
Eli Lilly and Company

Started at Eli Lilly and Company in 1990

Salutatorian of his high school class,
first in his family to attend college

Executive sponsor, Organization of
Latinos at Lilly

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A stronger sense of purpose.

My mom was the smartest person I have ever known. She raised the seven of us on her own after my dad died when I was only 11. We never had much money, but I realize now that because of things she taught us, we were rich. I carry her wisdom with me throughout my daily work.

I also watched my mom struggle with diabetes. Thanks in part to Lilly, I shared 25 years with her that otherwise would not have been possible. And now I have the opportunity to do the same for other people.

Once, in a VA hospital, I was approached by a Vietnam veteran. He told me how his life was transformed by our medicines. And that's when it clicked for me—the REAL impact of what we do here and the dramatic effect we have on people's lives. After that meeting, I had an even stronger sense of purpose. Lilly's done so much for my family and for many others. And I hope the work I am doing today will help my three children overcome some of the challenges they might face tomorrow.

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1959 Conclave

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An international Sigma reflects on the state of Sigma.

BY BRO. TORIAN A. RICHARDSON



Greetings, my brothers of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.,

Welcome to the Spring-Summer 2014 issue of *The Crescent*. In this our Centennial year, we continue to bask in the glory of 100 years of continuous service to communities around the world. On January 9, 2014, the announcement of Phi Beta Sigma's 100th birthday was heard loud and clear around the world! Our voice was heard, our brand was seen and the nation took notice as we broke every social media record held by a Black-Greek letter organization. In this issue, we offer you an instant replay of each key moment of our Centennial Founders Weekend Celebration.

This installment of our official organ also continues with our mission to pay homage to great men of achievement, past and present. Since Sigma's inception, our membership scroll has been lined with accomplished leaders making profound handprints on society – in and out of the organization. In this issue, I invite you to read about the historic achievements of such Sigma greats as Bro. Dr. Ivorite L. Scruggs, Bro. Abraham M. Walker and Bro. Dr. Thomas Wyatt Turner. In contemporary times, Sigma Brothers Victor Jerome Glover, NASA Astronaut Candidate, Gregory Lorjuste, Special Assistant & Principal Deputy Director of Scheduling for President Barack Obama, and Honorable Dr. Anthony Samad, author, historian and educator make us proud they wear the letters of Phi Beta Sigma. Read their incredible stories. This feature does not end with these esteemed brothers. Flip through the pages and discover other Sigma Men, such as Brothers Charlie Strong and Claude Humphrey, making an impact in the sports arena, and such academic achievers as Brothers Patrick McKeithen, Ryan Gammon and Daniel Crudup. Rounding out the diverse circle of leaders, Sigma Brothers Montinique Cager, Ron Davis, Albert Elam, Gerald Grant, Dr. Bennie Harris, and Frank Nichols, cover the areas of business, law enforcement, education and philanthropy.

The members of Phi Beta Sigma represent our strongest and most valuable resource. During our Centennial year and beyond, Phi Beta Sigma's goal is to function as one fraternity working together to transform our communities. This issue highlights the works of our regions and several chapters that are making a difference with unique projects and programs tailored to their communities.

Lastly, I'm excited for you to read about the new and future works of the fraternity. Phi Beta Sigma recently signed a historic partnership agreement with the United States Fish & Wildlife Service to engage urban youth in outdoor recreation and STEM education. Not only does this initiative commemorate the contribution of Sigma Brother Dr. George Washington Carver; it promotes the conservation of North American wildlife and their habitats. Read all about it; engage your Sigma Beta Clubs and "Let's Move Outside!"

The transformation continues!

JONATHAN A. MASON, SR.
34th International President



Greetings Brothers in Sigma,

I hope that you all have been well and are continuing to speed our cause on its way in your respective regions. As we draw nearer to our Centennial Celebration it is time to gather strength and energy to assemble in D.C. and show Washington how a true brotherhood celebrates its rich legacy. When I think about what is required of a Sigma man as we approach the next six months to close out the year, I think of "unbridled creativity." We are a fraternity that has the best graphic designers (shout out to Brand 1914), businessmen, politicians, and educators. We are a fraternity of diverse college educated men. With this concept of creativity, we enact it in our everyday lives no matter how small or big to solve a business problem, life issue, and/or teaching a lesson to our mentees and students. We cater to the needs of those around us, creatively carrying out the vision that is Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. This, my brothers, is a beautiful thing. As we all converge in DC to celebrate 100 years of service for humanity, I will do my best to reach out to you. In turn I ask you reach out to me and let us converse about the creativity of our fraternity. Together we will make it known to the world that in our 100th year, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. did it the best in 2014.

"In hoc signo vinces" (In this sign you will conquer).

BRO. PROFIT IDOWU 2nd Vice President



Greetings Brothers,

This is an exciting time to be a Sigma. On behalf of the Crescent Team I extend thanks to the men of Sigma for their support and submissions. We are honored to serve our wondrous band at this moment in time. The vision established by our beloved Founders; Abram Langston Taylor, Leonard Francis Morse and Charles Ignatius Brown, at Howard University in 1914 continues to flourish 100 years later. Our rich history tells a story of men dedicated to "Culture for Service and Service for Humanity".

In these pages we take a moment to reflect on Sigma men whose shoulders we stand on as we celebrate this monumental milestone. These men helped to plot the course we continue to build upon in an effort to speed our cause on its way. We are forever grateful for their dedication, sacrifices, vision, guidance and inspiration. We also use these pages to introduce you to Sigma men impacting campuses, communities and the business world on a global scale. These men are ensuring our rich history of service continues into the next century of Sigma. We hope you enjoy their inspiring stories.

Brothers, this is our time. It is important to reflect on our past and prepare for our future as we celebrate the moment. As we navigate through the next century of Sigma... Let's make it count.

March on . . . March On

TODD LEBON Editor-In-Chief



Centennial Reflections!

2014 is a year of personal reflection for every member, potential member and affiliate of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. Our organization has accomplished a task not seen by many. We have enjoyed 100 years of prosperity and commitment from those who chose to be members of the greatest Fraternity known to man. The Sigma year of 2014 will provide time for personal reflections. In this context, the term reflection could mean what one remembers about past occurrences; it could be a thought, a memory or a significant personal moment. In a different context, the term reflection could also be defined as what is being seen on

you, from you and through you.

As good Sigma Men, we define our own reflections and personal descriptions. Truly, as we reflect on our entire Sigma life, we discover that we want our experience to mean so much to everyone else. We want the entire world to see that we emulate our motto, "Culture for Service and Service for Humanity". This is reflected by the outcomes obtained through the Fraternity's most important aspect, our international programs. We also want the world to see that all Men of Sigma espouse character traits that allow us to be known as the "best that one has to offer others". It is a perfect reflection of the Fraternity's value system. Finally, because we are the sum of all things that we chose to be, our reflection is that we are our Brothers' keeper. A perfect keeper of the flame!

This edition of our Crescent magazine offers a reflection of the Fraternity's ongoing Centennial year. We see Brothers believing in the Fraternity's system, we see Brothers achieving in the name of Sigma and we see Men of Sigma receiving what has been promised to them after the 100 years of Brotherhood, Scholarship and Service evidenced by the Fraternity. Yes, it is a Centennial year for Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity and that makes it a new day for Sigma. Every day in this year is our day!

Reflection: all things associated with being a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. It is our year! It is our time to shine! And once we truly shine, then the world reflects off of our beautiful image.

Congratulations, Sigma!!!

HONORABLE BRO. DARYL A. ANDERSON
International Executive Director

DR. I. L. SCRUGGS

From the Oral History of Bro. George W. Nelson

BRO. KEVIN CHRISTIAN

One of my most profound Sigma Mentors and teachers was the late great Bro. George W. Nelson (Uncle G). Brother Nelson often took young brothers under his wing and mentored them with countless stories on African-American history, his personal and professional history, and, most of all, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. Bro. Nelson was made in the spring of 1939, at Zeta Alpha Chapter (Tennessee State University). After serving in the United States Army during World War II, Bro. Nelson landed in Buffalo, New York. As a young Sigma brother, he could not have landed in a better place. He ended up living next to the Honorable Dr. Ivorite L. Scruggs.

Bro. Nelson spoke often and fondly of Dr. Scruggs. He always referred to Dr. Scruggs as “one of our pearls,” and would often tell Sigma brothers that if it were not for the brilliance of Dr. Scruggs, Phi Beta Sigma would not be a leading fraternity that it is today. Bro. Nelson would always gather Sigma brothers in his home or at chapter meetings and offer little known historical facts about our great charter member. One day, Bro. Nelson shared with us, that Dr. Scruggs always did a light jog up and down steps, he never walked steps. Bro. Nelson said Dr. Scruggs said it was good for the heart and circulation. Dr. Scruggs was also known for wearing argyle socks and driving a Packard. Bro. Nelson would always provide oral history from his time as Dr. Scruggs’ neighbor and tell us that he was providing us this information for our own “edification.”

Dr. Scruggs was a prominent member of Buffalo’s African-American Society and a man who gave of his money, resources and time. Dr. Scruggs was a highly regarded member of the Republican Party, which a number of our prominent and early brothers were also members.

Bro. Nelson noted that one of the tenants of Theta

Sigma Chapter (Buffalo, NY) was to make sure that all new brothers who landed in the Buffalo area purchased a home. Home ownership and education were two important and essential factors that Dr. Scruggs put at the front of the Theta Sigma agenda and in the

minds of young brothers. Dr. Scruggs was known for his collaborative spirit, his openness to new ideas, and for making sure he attended the Sigma Conclaves. Bro. Nelson would always say, “I do not think Scruggs ever missed a Conclave.”

Dr. Scruggs and his wife Soror Ruth Tappe Scruggs were staunch supporters of education. Although they had no children of their own, Bro. Nelson often talked about their relentless support to make sure that local students and family members had the opportunity to go to college. Bro. Nelson shared that Dr. Scruggs had an adopted niece that he put through both undergraduate and medical school.

Each year, Dr. Scruggs would take the entire Theta Sigma Chapter to his beach home in Lackawanna, New York, for a weekend of brotherhood, family time, rest and relaxation. Bro. Nelson said it was the chapter event of the year and Dr. and Mrs. Scruggs made sure that all felt welcomed and had fun.

Bro. Nelson would always tell us that Dr. Scruggs was the consummate gentleman who was committed to giving to those less fortunate. Whether it was related to Sigma or real life, Dr. Scruggs always gave of his time and made sure that he offered a kind word and encouragement.

Through the teachings of Bro. Nelson the spirit of Dr. Scruggs lives on. Uncle G, SIGMA thanks you for your gleaming light, and for always providing an insight on one of the greatest names in Sigma, Hon. Dr. Ivorite Lorimer Scruggs, our charter member and our pearl.



Portrait of a Gentleman: Abraham McCartney Walker

June 6, 1886 - September 25, 1952

BY BRO. CRAIG ARTHUR

Phi Beta Sigma's first initiate, Bro. Abraham McCartney Walker, was born in rural Northumberland County, Virginia roughly 20 years after the end of slavery. He was one of 13 children.

After receiving his primary education in the local Northumberland schools, he attended the Wayland Academy of Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia. Upon completing his studies at Union, he returned to Northumberland County to teach. Next, he headed to Washington, DC to attend Howard University and earned an A.B. with a Teachers' Diploma in Education and Cum Laude honors. While attending Howard, Bro. Walker was President of the Class of 1916, a member of the Dean's Advisory Board, President of the Pestalozzi-Froebel Society, Associate Editor and later Editor-in-Chief of the Howard University Journal, Vice President and then President of Phi Beta Sigma's Alpha Chapter, Charter Member of the Stylus, and Chairman of the Class Year Book Board. According to oral history passed down in his family, Bro. Walker was offered the opportunity to become Phi Beta Sigma's thirteenth charter member. However, since he believed so deeply in the fledgling organization and hoped so greatly for it succeed, he opted to be a member of the first initiation class instead. Along with thirteen other men, Bro. Walker was initiated on Monday, May 4th, 1914 on the outskirts of Howard's campus at 2226 Sixth Street NW. His senior class yearbook quote is still applicable today: "Wot's the use of argifying."

Shortly after graduation, Bro. Walker accepted the principal position at Caroline Training School in Bowling Green, Virginia. He received a Masters of Arts degree from Columbia University after leaving the Caroline Training School. The Christiansburg Institute, a school that was born the same year as he, was his next employer. He served as the Institute's

principal from 1926 until 1941. While living in what was then Cambria, Virginia, Bro. Walker was an extremely engaged member of the community. He taught Sunday School every week in a one room church and often opened his home, adjacent to the Institute on Scattergood Drive, to visitors and locals alike. According to first-hand accounts, he was loved by both the young and aged and was said to have been gentle, modest, and soft-spoken.



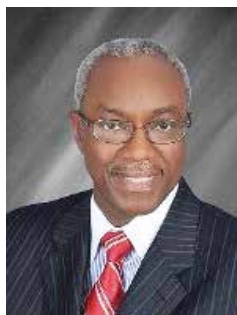
His final post was Peabody High School in Petersburg, VA, the oldest high school for African Americans in Virginia. He served as principal from 1941 until his sudden death from a heart attack in 1952. During his tenure at Peabody, he oversaw the construction of a new facility. He was a member of the Gilfried Baptist Church and our Alpha Kappa Sigma Chapter while in Petersburg. Funeral services were held both at Gilfried Baptist Church and at Macedonia Baptist Church in Avalon where he is interred.

Bro. Walker and his wife, Hauzie, had one daughter. Floretta Yvonne Walker Hoard attended Howard University just like her father and was a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. From the union between Floretta and her husband, Bro. Walker was blessed with three grandchildren. The Fraternity reconnected with Bro. Walker's family in 2010 thanks to A Celebration of History II: The Tenth Anniversary of the Sigma Museum in Jacksonville, Florida. Dr. Adrienne Walker Hoard, an accomplished artist, member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and now head of the Black Studies program at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, brought greetings and shared stories on behalf of the Walker family. The highlight of the event for many brothers was viewing her grandfather's fraternity pin.

Without question, Bro. Walker's life is yet another in the many of exhibitions of "the worth of example" from which all Sigma men can learn immensely.

Investing in Our Future

Gerald and Jennifer Grant Create \$1 Million Endowment at FIU



Bro. Gerald Grant, Jr. is the Branch Director of Financial Planning of AXA Advisors' South Florida Branch. Prior to joining AXA Advisors he was Branch Vice President and Cluster Manager for Citibank and Branch Manager with Great Western Bank. While with Great Western Bank he was named

"Branch Manager of the Year" for two consecutive terms. He was also named "Banker of the Year" by the Miami-Dade County Urban Bankers Association and past recipient of the Community Service Award for AXA Advisor's Miami/Ft. Lauderdale Branch.

Bro. Grant washed dishes for \$2 an hour while in high school and held down two jobs in college. He knows firsthand the struggles students often face trying to pay for tuition. When he was president of the FIU Alumni Association (1995-1996) he often talked with his wife, Jennifer, about ways they might be able to assist students in paying for their education. It was not only important to come up with the right idea, but it also had to be the right time.

In late 2013 they decided the time was right and they created a \$1 million endowment to put business students through college. "There are many brilliant students who simply do not have the income to pay for tuition, and that is who Jennifer and I want to help through this endowment," Bro. Grant said. The Gerald C. Grant Jr. and Jennifer Adger Grant Scholarship Fund will provide full tuition for eligible FIU College of Business undergraduates. Students will be required to maintain high GPAs and will have access to tutoring and career counseling, two things that Grant said helped him through school. Their gift is

the largest to date from a black alumnus.

"It's a good feeling, but it is more about leading by example than about the amount of the gift," he said. "If 10 people come together and each gave \$100,000 that has the same impact as one person giving \$1 million. My hope is to increase the awareness of how important it is to give back to the university."

Bro. Grant continues to be an active member of the South Florida Community, serving on the Board



of Trustees for Florida International University (FIU), the Board of Directors of the United Way of Miami-Dade and is a member of the Orange Bowl Committee. He is a past president of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors and the FIU Alumni Association.

Grant earned a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Business Administration from FIU. He holds numerous Financial Industry Regulatory Authority Securities Registrations and is insurance licensed. He is a member of the Theta Rho Sigma Chapter (Miami, FL). He is the author of *Bold Moves to Creating Financial Wealth*.



From Sigma Betas to Sigma Men

By Bro. Anthony Springer, Jr.

In 1950, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. became the first Greek-lettered organization to develop a youth auxiliary group. Under the direction of Dr. Parlette L. Moore, the Sigma Beta Club was founded to help young boys focus on the principles of Culture, Athletics, Social and Educational development. The Las Vegas Sigma Beta Club celebrates its 25th Anniversary this year. What follows is the story of hundreds of young men who became brothers, better men and lifelong friends. This is the story of the Las Vegas Sigma Beta Club.

More than twenty years after becoming a member of our wondrous band, Bro. Chris Rice found himself full circle at the 2014 Southern Region conference. While celebrating the Centennial, Bro. Rice met up with Bro. Danny Childs, the Sigma that introduced the then high school-aged Rice to Sigma. Unknown to Bro. Childs, Bro. Rice was wearing an accessory that cemented their bond many years ago: cufflinks.

In 1989, Bros. Childs and Greg Sandifer started the Las Vegas Sigma Beta Club. Rice was one of the Club's earliest members, joining in 1990. His fondness for cufflinks goes back to his senior prom. After putting on his tuxedo, Rice struggled to put on his cufflinks. With his mother out of town and no father in the picture, Rice turned to Bro. Childs for help. "My mother was away on vacation," Rice recalled. "I went to Danny's house and he helped me."

The Sigma Beta Club was the first youth auxiliary in Las Vegas, noted Bro. Marcus Smith. The initial members were a small group of friends who attended two high schools. "It was new and fresh, but we were just hanging out before we organized the group," he stated. And then, as if on cue, he motions to Bro. Rice: "Chris was always in the group and asked if they let white people in."

Bro. Rice pledged in the summer of 1992 at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. In 1993, he became co-advisor of the Las Vegas Sigma Beta Club, before taking over full-time in 1995. As Sin City began a slow expansion, so did the youth auxiliary scene. The Sigma Beta Club was now joined by multiple fraternity and sorority sponsored youth groups. The bubbling subculture gave kids another outlet to make a name for themselves through stepping. The notoriety brought new members to the house that Sigma built.

Adrian Hunt, came to the Sigma Beta Club for the stepping, but stayed for the life lessons. "I'm getting my hair cut and all I hear is girls going crazy on a step show tape," he said. "Stepping was an attraction and I wanted to be down. Coming from the neighborhood I came from, I didn't know anything else but basketball. The guys around me were up to no good. Joining the Sigma Beta Club opened up so many doors, exposing me to careers I didn't know existed. The Sigma Beta Club saved my life. I could have been a product of my environment."

Others, like Rodell Dew, also found more value from the club than the hand claps that made teen girls swoon. "One of my cousins took me to my first step show and that's where I met some of the Betas. Girls everywhere. That's what drove me to the Sigma Beta Club, but I found out later that stepping wasn't my role. I told my cousin, 'Man, I'm going to be a Sigma Beta. Just tell me what I have to do.'"

The annual high school step shows were a boon for the city's youth groups. With more kids wanting to be a part of something, the show outgrew its origins in high school gyms. At its peak, it was hosted at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and rivaled any college step show of its time with more than 2,000 in attendance.

In the late nineties, the Sigma Beta Club had more than 100 members at 14 high schools in the Las Vegas Valley. "I remember so many times we'd have people in the parking lot," Donnell Thomas said with a smile. "Not because they didn't want to be in the meeting, but because they couldn't get in. We had that many people. We couldn't bring any more people in because of the fire codes."

With growing interest in the club, Bro. Rice tightened membership requirements. Aspirants were required to attend all meetings prior to initiation, write an essay on a famous Sigma, do community service and learn the history of the Club. "I did everything I could to cut kids by adding requirements for membership," Rice added. "They wouldn't leave."

Even at the peak of its popularity, the Sigma Beta Club was more than a social gathering. Members were exposed to different college and career paths, community service and leadership roles. At one point, the Club exposed members to life lessons through literature, reading Niccolo Machiavelli's *The Prince* and Og Mandino's *The Greatest Miracle in the World*. Even extra-curricular activities were tied to scholarship. A coveted spot on the Sigma Beta Club Step Team hinged on maintaining good grades.

"We wanted so bad to impress Chris," Thomas said. "He hardly ever smiled. He used to say 'good job' but that would be it. No chest bumping or none of that. He was never high or low, he was right in the middle. Not knowing all along he was proud of all of us."

In the Club's 25-year history, more than 400 young men passed through the club, via membership. If one spends enough time in Las Vegas, echoes of the Club's motto, "The next generation of leaders, accepting responsibility and loving the challenge," are ever present in the midst of the bright lights of the world-famous Vegas Strip. Former Sigma Betas can be found running businesses or safeguarding the city through law enforcement.

And for a handful of men like Bros. Rice and Smith, the Sigma Beta Club was a precursor to Phi Beta Sigma. Today, Hunt, Dew and Thomas are also Sigma men. Bro. Rice, who stepped down as the Club's advisor in 2002, estimates that more than 40

kids from the Las Vegas Sigma Beta Club have gone on to become Sigma men.

"It's a proud moment," he said of watching a former Sigma Beta become a Sigma. "That somebody saw what you did and thought enough of it to want to do it too. As an adviser, there's no prouder moment."

Talk to enough former Sigma Betas who became Sigmas and a familiar pattern emerges: the early seeds of Brotherhood, Scholarship and Service sewn blossomed into life changers or life savers.

"Danny Childs and Greg Sandifer" Bro. Smith said. "Those guys pretty much changed our lives because they showed us something different. All I knew was sports."

"Sigma Beta helped me see a totally bigger picture," Bro. Thomas said. "It switched my whole frame of mind from handling business to being somewhere on time. Simple things like that. I can say two things saved my life: My mother and the Sigma Beta Club."

A broader sense of responsibility was also instilled. When Bro. Rice learned he was to become a young father, he wasn't nervous, despite not being raised by his biological father. He had the examples of his Sigma Beta advisers as a blue print. "I saw so many Sigmas handle business because of the Sigma Beta Club. When I learned I was going to be a father, I said 'I know what I need to do.' I was watching the guys before me."

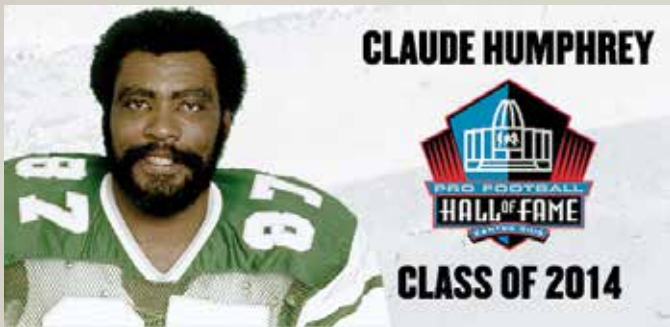
Bro. Rice modeled the same behavior he saw, frequently bringing his young sons to Sigma Beta Club meetings. Years later, when other former Sigma Betas began to have families of their own, they pointed to Rice's example as a model.

"These kids watch," Bro. Hunt said. "I remember Chris had his sons with him at the meeting. Now I bring my son to Sigma Beta meetings. That advisor role is so crucial. The kids are watching. We watched."

Today, the Club is back to a handful of members, which allows the Las Vegas brothers more time to invest in individual members. While the 100 member days may never return, the bonds created and the examples set will last a lifetime.

"I've been gone from Vegas for 11 years," said Bro. Rice. "I still talk to somebody at least once a month from the Beta Club."

Bro. Claude Humphrey Inducted Into the 2014 Hall of Fame Class



Bro. Claude Humphrey is a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame Class of 2014. A three time All-American defensive tackle at Tennessee State University, Bro. Humphrey was coached by the legendary John Merritt.

Drafted by the Atlanta Falcons as the third pick in the first round of the 1968 NFL Draft, he quickly adapted his unique collegiate skill set to the NFL game. Voted Rookie of the Year in 1968 he went on to play for eleven seasons with the Atlanta Falcons before retiring. Coach Dick Vermeil, of the Philadelphia Eagles, would bring him out of retirement to play for three more seasons. During the 1980 season

Bro. Humphrey recorded 14 ½ sacks in helping to lead the Philadelphia Eagles to face the Oakland Raiders in the Super Bowl. The Eagles lost but Bro. Humphrey performed diligently.

Bro. Humphrey's career statistics were unparalleled by the time he retired in 1981. He was officially credited with 126 ½ sacks, which placed him among the top five all-time upon retirement. His career statistics reads as such: First Team All Pro five times (1971 thru 74 and 1977) Second Team All Pro three times (1969, 1970 and 1976). In addition to being a 2014 Hall of Fame inductee, Bro. Humphrey is also a member of the Georgia Hall of Fame and the Tennessee Hall of Fame. Tennessee State University retired his number and inducted him into their Hall of Fame, as did Lester High School. He also has the distinction of being a member of the Atlanta Falcons Ring of Honor.

Bro. Humphrey became a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. through the Zeta Alpha Chapter at Tennessee State University.

By Bro. Tyrone Williams

University of Texas Hires First African-American Head Football Coach



Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. is pleased to congratulate Bro. Charlie Strong on becoming the new head football coach at the University of Texas. Bro. Strong is the first African-American to coach any men's team

at Texas as well as the only African-American head coach in the Big 12. He joins the Texas staff after four seasons as head football coach at the University of Louisville where he guided the Cardinals to a 37-15 record and three bowl wins in a four year span.

Since 2009, Texas has not played for a national

championship or won the Big 12 title leading to the exit of Coach Mack Brown. Bro. Strong was hired to bring a wealth of experience as well as a mental and physical toughness to a University of Texas program that has been sorely lacking for several years.

Bro. Strong was initiated into Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. through the Iota Pi Chapter at the University of Central Arkansas. Bro. Strong began his coaching career as a graduate assistant at the University of Florida in 1984. He has spent the majority of his career as a defensive assistant in the highly competitive Southeastern Conference (SEC) with stops at Florida, Ole Miss, and South Carolina as well as serving as defensive line coach at the University of Notre Dame from 1995-1998.

By Bro. David McGinnis



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My Moment with Phi Beta Sigma History... A Reflection

BRO. WILLIAM B. "NIKKI" COVINGTON



As each of us prepares to celebrate the Centennial of this great organization, I am sure we have taken a few moments - maybe even several moments to reflect on our lives as Sigma men, and what Phi Beta Sigma has meant to us.

I have been reflecting on the great achievements of this fraternity, the great accomplishments of its men, and the great moments I have had as a member. I have long believed that joining Phi Beta Sigma was my destiny - even before I understood why. Whatever the reason each of us accepted membership, and continues to work for "our cause", one underlying reason has to be - the men of Sigma who have crossed our paths. In this Centennial year, I wanted to share with my brothers, one of my most meaningful and significant reflections.

In 1976, my sophomore year, one of those men of Sigma crossed my path. Before being introduced to him, I was told that he was the first African American to receive a Ph.D. from Cornell University, he had an association with the founders of the NAACP, he was a pioneer for the rights of black Catholics, he had an association with Phi Beta Sigma, and he was coming to live with his niece (a Zeta) who was a very close family friend. I thought what impressive accomplishments. I was introduced to a distinguished gentleman who was 99 years of age, blind, and very frail. I was introduced to Dr. Thomas Wyatt Turner.

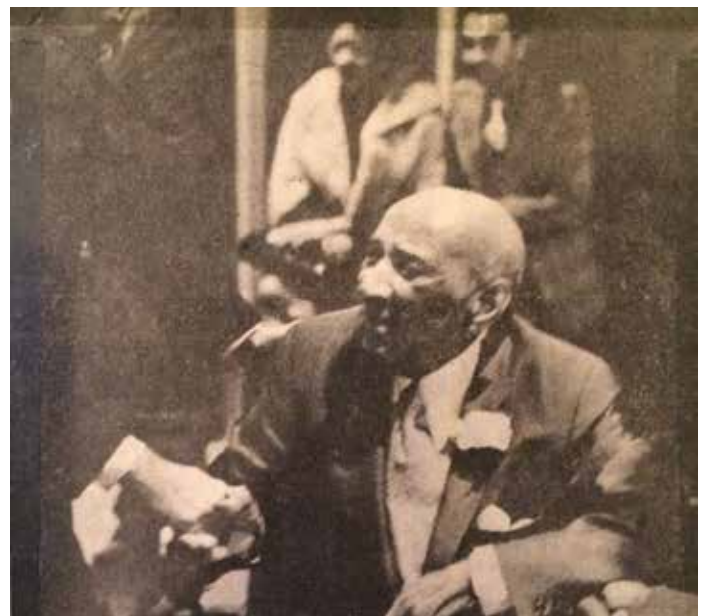
Upon meeting him, imagine my excitement in realizing that the gentleman I just met was the same Dr. Thomas Wyatt Turner mentioned as part of the early history of Phi Beta Sigma. Now, it seems the

history I learned the year before during my process was much more real than just reciting names and dates from our history.

Over the next two years, before his passing, I would visit with him when I was home on break from school. Because of his diminished health, I never wanted to over-stay my welcome, but he was always so accommodating. I recall visiting with him about four or five times, and each visit was brief. He would sit-up in his bed, shake my hand, and always made me feel welcome - as though I knew him all my life. He was as happy to have me visit I think, as certainly I was to visit with him.

Here are my impressions and reflections of the times I spent with one of the most memorable men I have ever met - time spent not nearly long enough.

I remember Dr. Turner's mind and memory were



The above image of Dr. Turner was taken on the occasion of his 100th birthday celebration

so extremely clear. I was so impressed with the clarity in which he spoke – speaking very logically and succinctly, especially at his age. Another distinct impression is that he was continually learning. He would spend part of his day listening to recordings of books, works of literature – and in those days, on phonographic records. His niece would routinely check out the records from the library. I was impressed with the fact that he still cared about learning and absorbing knowledge.

When I asked Dr. Turner about our Founders, I learned that he only knew Founder Morse. He said Brother Morse would come by his office from time to time and discuss issues of the day and fraternity matters. He said Brother Morse was a very nice young man and a very good student. That comment gave me such a favorable impression of Founder Morse that I had to believe Founders Taylor and Brown were of like kind. I don't remember every detail of Dr. Turner's comments, but after my visit, I felt as though I had taken a trip back 60 years in history, to the time of our founding, and witnessed a small glimpse in the life of Founder Morse.

Dr. Turner told me that he was afforded an opportunity to join another fraternal organization before he was invited to join Phi Beta Sigma. He respectfully declined that invitation, because the organization was not the right fit for him. When asked to be one of the first honorary members of Phi Beta Sigma, Dr. Turner was honored. He accepted because of his association with Founder Morse, and support of the principles of this fraternity.

Brothers Dr. Alain Leroy Locke, Dr. Edward Porter Davis, Professor Thomas Montgomery Gregory, and Dr. Turner's lives have been documented a number

of times, including the Fall 1978 issue of the *The Crescent*, The Spring 2010 issue of *Our Cause* – the Eastern Region's publication, and several sources found on the web. The life accomplishments of these first four honorary members are impactful and truly immeasurable. Can you imagine, and just think about it – what kind of men our founders and early members must have been, to not only invite for membership, but also have acceptance from these great men?

Dr. Turner was recognized by the 1976 Conclave in Memphis, and mandated that the Eastern Region as the Fraternity's agent would honor Dr. Turner at its next Regional Conference, April 2, 1977; one month after Dr. Turner became a centurion. I was not able to attend either of these great Sigma events, but was able to attend Dr. Turner's 100th birthday celebration, March 20, 1977. Dr. Turner was extremely gracious as he received numerous well-wishers. I was just happy and honored to share in a celebration of 100 years of his life – as special to me then, as this 100th year anniversary of our great fraternity is now.

I learned of Dr. Turner's passing in the spring semester of my senior year, and disappointed that I could not attend his home-going services. I did learn that he had a very wonderful service and now rests in a cemetery on the campus of Hampton University, not far from the Science building that bears his name.

Dr. Thomas Wyatt Turner - a man who embodied "Culture For Service and Service For Humanity" in his everyday life, and through his accomplishments in brotherhood, scholarship, and service. As great as he was to his universities, his science, and his people – he was just "Uncle Tommy" to me. I will always remember when my path crossed the path of this great man of Sigma.

Phi Beta Sigma Partners with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

BY BRO. GERALD SMITH

Phi Beta Sigma was located for many years in the New York area prior to purchasing its first headquarters building in Washington, DC in the mid-1970s. There was a sentimental reason to locate our headquarters in Washington because Howard University (the place of Phi Beta Sigma's birth) is located in Washington, DC. Another, and perhaps a more significant reason for location in Washington, was because our federal government is centered in Washington DC. Many of those who made the initial decision recognized that an orga-



Executive Director Daryl Anderson, Deputy Director Steve Ballard, Sigma-Beta Club Foundation President Atty. Arthur Thomas, Director Dan Ashe, Sigma President Jonathan A. Mason, Sr., Noemi Perez and Kevin Davis

nization deeply dedicated to public service should be in a place where public service programs are structured and funded.

For more than a decade our headquarters and our officers played an integral part in the various congressional and White House briefings and meetings which helped to design public policy. And then, over the next two decades, our participation dwindled. On April 23, 2014, under the leadership of our current International President, Jonathan A. Mason, Sr., the relationship between Phi Beta Sigma and the federal government was reestablished in the form of an historic Memorandum of Understanding with the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service. This Memorandum of Understanding was orchestrated by Brother Kevin Davis (Iota Nu Sigma/Chicago, IL) and Noemi Perez of the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service and signed by Brother Mason and Dan Ashe, the Director of the Fish & Wildlife Service.

The signing of the MOU took on a more special importance when the decision was made to dedicate the signing of the MOU to the life of Brother Dr. George Washington Carver. Brother Dr. Carver, who joined Phi Beta Sigma in 1918 through the Gamma Sigma Chapter, was a world-renowned agricultural and industrial chemist whose expansive career is often diminished by calling Brother Carver the "peanut man"; when, in fact, Brother Carver developed in excess of three hundred products from plant sources in areas ranging from cosmetics, dyes, paints, plastics, gasoline, to nitroglycerin.

Director Ashe's remarks expressed his joy that his agency and Phi Beta Sigma were formally joining their efforts. Director Ashe spoke so glowingly about Phi Beta Sigma that our International President Mason openly invited Director Ashe to become a member of our wondrous band. In his prepared remarks, President Mason indicated that Sigma is not focused or resting on our past achievements; but, instead, we are moving to contribute to the future – and the future particularly of our young people. Departing from his prepared remarks, President Mason spoke extemporaneously and passionately about our young people, many of whom he indicated "live in brick cities, have never gone ten miles from their [immediate] neighborhood; and [who must be taught and shown] that food comes from the ground [rather than] from a box". He hailed the MOU as a first step in organizing programs to take young people from the inner city to the country areas where they can interact with fish, wildlife and agriculture – and where they can come to appreciate the life and work of Brother Dr. Carver.

Attending this important and historic ceremony with President Mason were Brothers Jean B. Lamothe, International Director of Education; Past Sigma President & Current Sigma-Beta Foundation President, Brother Atty. Arthur Thomas; Past Executive Directors, Gerald D. Smith (#2) and Donald Jemison (#4), Current Executive Director Daryl Anderson, Deputy Director Steve Ballard, Kevin Davis and about a dozen members of Phi Beta Sigma.



Turning 100

The Centennial Founders Weekend
January 9 – 12, 2014

By Brothers Steve E. Ballard & Dr. Kent Poindexter



*Sigmas from all over the diaspora gathered in Washington, DC
to commemorate 100 years of “Culture for Service and Service
for Humanity”*



January 9, 1914 is the day that the world changed for three visionary college men and nine carefully chosen classmates, who bonded together on a new journey. This journey would introduce them to a world within a world. Their vision of a brotherhood predicated on the precepts of true brotherhood, scholastic achievement and service to their communities began at Howard University, and took off at a speed and tenacity, which may have even surprised these men! Their vision has encouraged and produced generations of like-minded college educated men who have promised to embrace these principles.

Ten decades later Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated, celebrates one century of service to communities around the world. This special birthday, which is being celebrated for the whole year, started at the stroke of midnight on January 9, 2014 at its birthplace of Howard University, Washington, DC. The days immediately following the Centennial Birthday of Sigma were an unforgettable three days of excitement, euphoria and magical moments.

PREPARING FOR THE GREAT CELEBRATION

Long before January 9, 2014, the wheels were in motion to make our 100th Year celebration a fantastic event. A Pre-Founders Day Media Tour was already in motion thanks to Brother Ron

Carter of The Carter Agency. Phi Beta Sigma's contracted public relations agency coordinated a string of television and radio interviews for Brother Jonathan A. Mason, Sr., International President. On Wednesday, January 8th at 6:00pm, President Mason did a radio interview to promote the Centennial Founders' Day Celebration, before heading to the MSNBC Studios in New York City to appear on Politics Nation with

As the countdown to 12:01 a.m. moved closer, brothers gathered in the New York Marriott Marquis Hotel to toast the historic moment. At the stroke of midnight, cell phones and electronic media were ablaze, to capture the moment when over 1,000 Sigma Men descended on the campus of Howard University, the birthplace of our Fraternity. In the hours that followed, congratulatory proclamations



Brothers assemble in Rockefeller Center in New York for the "TODAY Show"

Sigma Brother Rev. Al Sharpton. Honorable Brother Dr. Anthony Samad led a video production crew shadowing President Mason's every move, to eventually develop into a documentary of the yearlong Centennial Celebration. During that same time, Honorable Brother Carter D. Womack, Centennial Co-Chair also sat down with radio host Guy Lambert (Radio One) to talk about the significance of this momentous occasion and the upcoming celebration.

from every state in the union were sent to the Fraternity's International Headquarters, along with congratulatory letters from the organizations of The National Pan Hellenic Council. The Alphas, AKAs, Kappas, Omegas and Deltas all welcomed the Sigmas to the Century Club.

Sleep would become an afterthought, as over 250 Sigma Brothers gathered at 6:00am at the New York Hilton Hotel in midtown Manhattan, to prepare for a grand march to the NBC

Studios in Rockefeller Center Plaza. Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity made its presence known in full regalia on The TODAY Show to share the news of its 100th Year Celebration! What began as a scheduled 2-3 minute promotion turned into a Sigma showcase. Even though the winter wind chills were cutting on the plaza, the spirit and high energy of the Sigma Brothers, on and off camera, changed the course of the show. Phi Beta Sigma was featured during every station break on the show's broadcast that day.

The most exciting moment came when President Jonathan Mason was interviewed by Sigma Brother Al Roker, the national weather anchor for The TODAY Show. President Mason presented Brother Roker with his very own Sigma jacket, which turned into a special moment, as Brother Roker eagerly sported his new frat jacket for the world audience. At the close of the broadcast the Sigma tour disbanded, while a large group of brothers jetted to New York City's Penn Station, en route to the Nation's Capital.

During the afternoon of the celebration, Brother Jeffery Sneed, Western Regional Director joined an audience packed with Sigma Brothers and Zeta Sisters on the daytime talk show The Talk. Sheryl Underwood, program host and past Grand Basileus of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, gave a special "shout out" to honor Phi Beta Sigma's Centennial Founders Day. Steve Harvey, host of The Steve Harvey



Past international presidents assist President Mason in laying a wreath at the future location of the Memorial Monument



Brothers on the Steve Harvey Show



Brothers gather around wreath

Show also recognized Phi Beta Sigma's special day, as a large contingent of Sigma members joined the audience on that day.

Media research reported that the Fraternity's social media reach hits broke all records! Phi Beta Sigma was in full view, not only to the nation, but to the world. The Global Founders' Day Celebration had begun and Phi Beta Sigma's 100th Birthday Party was off to a record-breaking start.

THE WORLD-WIDE FOUNDERS' DAY CELEBRATION

On this special day, Sigma

men worldwide represented their Fraternity in numerous ways, sporting blue and white to let the world know that it was their special day. At the gym, on the job, on their campuses and even for those retired and just enjoying the day, the charge was to let everybody know that this was our day! Brothers all across the country shared their pride, even driving around their cities with the Centennial Car Flag.

As the clock struck 1:00 pm (Eastern Standard Time), brothers were encouraged to participate in a Worldwide Three Minutes of Remembrance. Every Phi Beta

Sigma member paused for three minutes in memory of our beloved Founders Abram Langston Taylor, Leonard Francis Morse and Charles Ignatius Brown. At that very moment, President Mason and fraternity leaders were traveling by train to Washington, DC. He gathered the group of brothers on the train and called on them to link hands in the isle and gave a heartfelt prayer of thanks for the three visionary Founders and their tenacity in carrying out the charge of establishing a new organization, which would have a positive, lasting mark on the world.

January 9th also kicked off the Unified Sigma Days of Service. The ensuing days would see Sigma chapters unified across the country in providing service to their respective communities and campuses. The special service efforts included canned food drives and collecting coats for the needy, as well as feeding the homeless. Chapters around the world performed service projects, to honor the memory of the Founders. Three of the Fraternity's regions hosted their conferences simultaneously, during which service projects were also sponsored. The Unified Sigma Days of Service took place all four days of the weekend celebration.

Moments after the Worldwide Three Minutes of Remembrance, at 1:14 p.m. Phi Beta Sigma members paid homage to the three Founding Fathers in the observance of the Founders Wreath Laying ceremony at three key historic locations dedicated

to the illustrious men. Brothers gathered in Memphis, Tennessee, the birthplace of Honorable Brother A. Langston Taylor, "The Greatest Name in Sigma" at the

The hallowed halls of Howard University house countless stories of times gone past. If walls could talk, the historic treasures of Phi Beta Sigma which they shared



Howard University President Dr. Wayne A.I. Frederick (3rd from left) joins the men of Sigma at the Memorial Monument Groundbreaking Ceremony



Historical Marker on Beale Street, the site where Honorable Founder Taylor first shared the idea of establishing a new fraternity for men of color. Brothers also gathered in Jacksonville, Florida, at the gravesite of Honorable Brother Leonard F. Morse. The third gathering of brothers took place in Manhattan, Kansas at Kansas State University, home of Delta Chapter, which was founded by Honorable Brother Charles I. Brown.

THE MEMORIAL MONUMENT GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

would be moving and inspiring! It is with this in mind that the Fraternity decided to pay homage to its legacy by developing a monument which would provide lasting memories of a great institution, on the sacred grounds upon which it began. Howard University's top brass, along with the men of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity and the ladies of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority came together to break ground for the Memorial Monument, honoring the founding of the now International Fraternity at Howard.

The ceremony took place on the university's Lower Quadrangle, with rows of Sigma men on the grounds and hillside. This solemn event was led by Hon. Bro. Carter D. Womack. Brother Rev. Christopher V. Brown, International Chaplain, delivered the opening prayer. Remarks and greetings were shared by Hon. Bro. Peter M. Adams, Centennial Co-Chair. Others participating in the event were Brother Michael Cristal, First Vice President, Profit Idowu, Second

Howard University offered the most complimentary remarks about Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity and expressed his disappointment for not having his son present to witness such a gathering of men.

Soror Mary Breaux Wright, International Grand Basileus of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., addressed the crowd in her typical inspiring manner. Perhaps the most significant moment of the afternoon came from President Jonathan A. Mason. Moved by the sight of the impressive crowd,

of inspiration. Also joining the group of distinguished celebrants were Hon. Bro. William E. Stanley, Jr., Centennial Co-Chair, Hon. Bro. Arthur R. Thomas, and Hon. Bro. Paul L. Griffin, Jr. At the close of the program, President Mason moved to the site where the new monument will be erected, flanked by the past national presidents, to make the ceremonial first dig as the cameras flashed to record the occasion. The afternoon closed with the men of Sigma encircling the entire lower quad,



President Jonathan A. Mason, Sr. with Soror Mary Breaux Wright, International Grand Basileus of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. (to President Mason's immediate left) along with members of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. General Board

Vice President, Leonard Lockhart, Eastern Regional Director, and Derrick Simmons, Alpha Chapter President. Dr. Wayne A. I. Frederick, Interim President of

President Mason took the liberty of panning the audience with his own camera to record the view and the special moment, after which he provided powerful words

linking arms and singing the Fraternity's Hymn, led by Brother Gerald Smith, past International Executive Director and alumnus of Howard University.

A REDEDICATION TO THE VISION

As the sun began to set on a full day of celebration, Sigma Men returned to Howard University's campus to continue the daylong series of events. The Eastern Region held its Opening Ceremony at the Blackburn Student Center Ballroom. Before joining the members of the region and visiting brothers, President Mason stopped by WHUR 93.6 FM, the Howard University radio station. In his radio message, the President amped up the listening audience by sharing the legacy of Phi Beta Sigma and letting them know about the upcoming Founders' Week Gala.

At 9:14 pm, President Mason delivered the Founders Day Presidential Message to Phi Beta Sigma members who logged onto the internet around the world. After the Presidential Message, brothers from coast to coast came together to participate in the observance of formal Rededication Ceremonies, to pay homage to the beloved Founders and the legacy of the Fraternity.

The global observance of this Centennial Founders' Day closed out with a Presidential Reception at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, DC, site July Centennial Celebration.

DAY TWO OF THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

On Friday, January 10th, The

Unified Sigma Days of Service continued with chapters honoring their commitment to service, the cornerstone of Phi Beta Sigma's mission. Even in the midst of celebrating its 100th birthday, President Mason continued to work, encouraging brothers to celebrate this major milestone in the life of the Fraternity. With three regions holding their regional conferences in conjunction with the Centennial Founders' Celebration, President Mason took to the skies to give



Bros. Profit Idowu (2nd Vice President), Jonathan A. Mason, Sr. (President) and Micheal Cristal (1st Vice President) join newly inducted Bro. Harry Belafonte

his "State of the Fraternity" report. In one day, Brother Mason participated in business sessions for the Southern and Southwestern Regional conferences. He was back in Washington, DC by nightfall, to lead the ongoing celebration in his second Presidential Reception, hosted with the Eastern Region.

THE CENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY GRAND FINALE

Saturday January 11th, 2014 was the culmination of what had been a three-day celebration of the 100th birthday of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity. The world was learning more about this very special organization, through national websites, Facebook, Instagram and online bloggers, all of which reflected the passion and energy of this momentous occasion. Many were amazed at the ongoing

media attention afforded Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity; it was almost overwhelming!

The day began with President Mason joining our sisters of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. as Grand Basileus Wright convened their National Executive Board Meeting. Hundreds of Zeta sisters traveled

to Washington, DC to share this memorable occasion in the history of their Brothers. President Mason presented special gifts on the behalf of the Fraternity to Grand Basileus Wright and Zeta Phi Beta, to honor our unique status as constitutionally-bound brother and sister organizations.

In the rush of news, members of Sigma learned that stage, screen and civil rights icon Harry Belafonte would be joining the ranks of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity,

post celebration, that Brother Belafonte was sincerely honored and excited to become a part of our “Wondrous Band” of Sigma. But the big celebration was still yet to come, as crowds gathered for the “Stony the Road We Trod” Centennial Gala.

The Centennial Founders’ Day Gala would be historical, becoming the first-ever event simulcast to all regions of the fraternity. The Eastern Region in Washington, DC served as the

Four Seasons (Greensboro, NC/ Southeastern Region); Doubletree Memphis Downtown (Memphis, TN/Southwestern Region); and the 333 Live (Los Angeles, CA/ Western Region).

Over 1,200 Sigma Men and guests gathered at the Renaissance Hotel Downtown Washington to honor some of our nation’s most revered Civil Rights Leaders. Joining the fraternity in this celebration were the National Executive Board and Past Grand Basileis of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority and the Council of Presidents of the National Pan Hellenic Council, Inc. Flashing lights abounded as brothers and sisters in their finest evening wear, walked the blue carpet for their five minutes with the paparazzi before entering the Grand Ballroom.

Brother Malik Yoba, actor, was the host for the evening. With charisma, humor and timely delivery, Brother Yoba carried the program in great style. The local audience and simulcast viewers were treated to a video greeting by Brother William “Bill” Clinton, 42nd President of the United States. The historic simulcast included a visual roll call of the regions. Viewers were taken to each regional gathering to see how others around the nation were celebrating the Centennial. At the roll call’s end, a spontaneous and rousing applause erupted in celebration of this unprecedented event.

As Brother Harry Belafonte



Bro. Congressman John Lewis greets Bro. Malik Yoba

Inc. as an Honorary Member. Journalists and media outlets rushed to cover the exciting news. Brother Belafonte’s honorary membership induction ceremony was held at the Renaissance Hotel Downtown in Washington, DC. It was obvious to those members participating and guests congratulating him at the

prime site for the celebration. The other six gala celebrations took place simultaneously at: Tinley Park Holiday Inn Convention Center (Chicago area/Great Lakes Region); the Hilton-Forth Worth (Forth Worth, TX/Gulf Coast Region); Rosen Plaza Hotel (Orlando, FL/Southern Region); Sheraton Greensboro Hotel at

took the stage to deliver the keynote address, he flashed his Phi Beta Sigma Pin and threw up the Sigma hand sign. The crowd erupted with laughter and excitement. Brother Belafonte's moving plea to eradicate domestic violence and cruelty to women around the world resonated with the men of Phi Beta Sigma. He charged the brotherhood to join him and his commitment to ensure that it becomes a national initiative. In response, President Mason assured him that Phi Beta Sigma would take up the fight and stand with him in these efforts.

"March on, march on ye mighty host, nor think the journey done, nor of the future deeds to boast, 'til we've the victory won."

Six of America's most celebrated leaders received the Fraternity's Civil Rights Legend Award. They were Reverend Brother Al Sharpton, Founder/President of National Action Network, Brother Edolphus Towns, former United States Congressman from New York, Reverend C. T. Vivian, former President Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Clayola Brown, President of The A. Philip Randolph Institute, Hank Thomas, Original Freedom Fighter, and Elisabeth Williams Omilami, President of Hosea Feed the Hungry & Homeless. The atmosphere of the evening was one of pride, reverence and emotion as each recipient spoke of how humbling it was to be honored for doing what came to them naturally.

The Fraternity also honored Brother John E. Lewis, United States Congressman from Georgia, with The Phi Beta Sigma Centennial Lifetime Achievement Award. This presentation was followed by Mary Breaux Wright, Grand Basileus of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, who delivered the Centennial Charge to the Brotherhood. Soror Wright was powerful and inspirational, not just for members of the Fraternity, but to everyone who listened to her that evening. Members of other Black Greek letter organizations

were uplifted by her words and her delivery. Someone said "It was like going to church", as the crowds cheered and spoke back to her. When she finished, the Grand Basileus received an enthusiastic applause and spontaneous chants from Sigmas and Zetas in every venue watching that evening. President Mason "opened the doors" of the Blue and White Church in response to the powerful edict offered by the beloved soror.

The event would not be complete without Sigma brothers rising to share in a rendition of the Fraternity Hymn. As brothers from each region gathered in circles at their respective locations, they solemnly honored the memories of those who pushed for the establishment of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity. It was a moment filled with joy and emotion for each brother who stood in the circles, and those who shared in this great event with them. Journalists from The Washington Post were on hand recording this special moment, and featured it in the newspaper's next edition.

The weekend ended with a "Global Day of Prayer for Peace, Justice and our Youth", as chapters of Phi Beta Sigma closed out this part of the Centennial Founders' Celebration. Brothers joined with sisters of Zeta Phi Beta and their families, as well as NPHC members to worship, remember and to get some encouragement to carry on the greater cause for which they came to be. It was appropriate to end the weekend in prayer and thanksgiving, reminiscent of the founders, who likely shared many moments of silent reflection and joyful praise, as they saw their dream become reality. One can imagine that Honorable Founder Morse would have reminded the fledgling fraternity to "give thanks to God" for every victory in the founding of this brotherhood called Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.

One might guess that Honorable Bro. I.L. Scruggs had this day in mind when he penned the words, "March on, march on ye mighty host, nor think the journey done, nor of the future deeds to boast, 'til we've the victory won." The legacy of Sigma continues, as we continue the celebration of 100 years of brotherhood, scholarship and service!

"March On"

We **March On** as mighty hosts
Of deeds we've done, we shall not boast
For we understand that what matters most
Is that the journey's not yet done.

So We **March On**.

We **March On** nobly, without trumpets,
Without grandiose hype-
We **March On** without labels
We **March On** without stereotype.

We **March On**

With Brotherhood, with Scholarship, with Service

We **March On**

With Principle, with perspective, with purpose

WE...MARCH...ON

We...the Royal Blue,

The Pure White

We the

BLUE PHI – YOU KNOW –

That's right!

We **March On**

Turning civil wrongs into civil rights
Taking broken wings to higher heights

We **March On**

Without indecision, with no hesitation
Without regard for our status or our station

We . . . March . . . On

Too faithful to be fearful, too tested to lose track
For we know if we falter, we come thundering back

We **March On**

Through blue blood, sweat and tears
Through 100 God-Blessed years
Through three great men who formed the plan
That brought about the **SIGMA** man
WE MARCH ON!

Because our journey's not yet done

We will March . . .

Until, and even after - the victory is won.



By Bro. Eduardo Jackson
Zeta Chi Sigma Chapter



Cleveland City Council Honors Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Gamma Alpha Sigma Chapter

Bro. Mark Breault Neubauer

Although it was an extremely cold evening in downtown Cleveland on January 27, 2014 that could not dampen the spirits of the dozens of Brothers and Sorors gathered in the Cleveland City Council Chambers.

The brothers of Gamma Alpha Sigma Chapter were joined by the ladies of Zeta Phi Beta, family and friends to witness an unprecedented honor. On the occasion of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity's Centennial the Cleveland City Council were recognizing the organization for 100 years of service to humanity. This was an opportunity to acknowledge the impact the men of Sigma continue to have in the Greater Cleveland area.

But the honors did not end there. Also receiving recognition for their many contributions to the Greater Cleveland area were brothers:

- Honorable Judge Michael J. Ryan
- Tony Williams – Baliff, Cuyahoga County
- Wayne Dawson - News Anchor, WJW Fox
- Felton Thomas, Jr. – Director, Cleveland Public Library
- Darnell Brown – COO, City of Cleveland
- George C. Fraser – CEO, FraserNet, Inc.

- Marco Sommerville - Director of Planning and Urban Development, Akron
- Ronald V. Johnson, Jr. - VP and Associate Council, KeyCorp

Gamma Alpha Sigma Chapter President Percy Turner thanked council members Bros. Jeff Johnson and T.J. Dow on behalf of the Chapter for making the moment possible, and brothers filled the chamber with a hearty Blue Phi - You Know! Indeed.



(Pictured L to R are Bros. Frank Andrews, T.J. Dow, Mark Breault Neubauer, Woody Richmond, and Isaiah Lewis Jr.)

Zeta Alpha Sigma Launches Pioneering Educational Partnership

BRO. ROGER L. BARNES, CPA, MBA



One of the major missions of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. is the national support of education. Throughout the history of the Fraternity, education has been considered critical to the advancement of the human condition and improvement of mankind. Support of educational programs and initiatives is evidenced by

meeting with college administrators and finally achieving unanimous chapter support upon launch of the You Can Achieve program in April 2012. This program's development also follows years of dedicated work, by the Chapter, within the elementary and high schools of Howard County, Maryland. Now in its third year, the program has proven

The You Can Achieve Program and the Howard P.R.I.D.E. partnership provide highly, visible support of our fraternity motto and national programs.

serving the motto "Culture for Service and Service for Humanity".

Zeta Alpha Sigma Chapter launched a pioneering program called You Can Achieve to provide holistic development and educational support to students in Howard County, Maryland. The holistic educational support will cover elementary school through college. Under the vision of Roger Barnes, Chapter President, many months were spent preparing the Chapter by holding workshops, training sessions, establishing internal infrastructure and procedures,

successful and grown larger, with greater student participation.

The first major component of the You Can Achieve program is a first of its kind partnership with Howard P.R.I.D.E. of the highly regarded Howard Community College. The program is considered to be the first of its kind in the United States. On October 15, 2012, the Chapter and Howard Community College formally launched the partnership to support the development of male students at the college and improve the successful transition



of male students to higher levels of education. A highly successful reception was held to introduce the Howard P.R.I.D.E. / You Can Achieve partnership to the students and to the public. A formal program was conducted, with presentations by Dr. Kate Hetherington, President of Howard Community College, Bro. Barnes and Steven Freeman, Jr., Assistant Director of P.R.I.D.E. and Retention Specialist in Academic Support Services. The roll-out was well received and attended by many students and members of Zeta Alpha Sigma Chapter. Of all the Greek letter organizations, Phi Beta Sigma is at the forefront with this major pioneering program with nationwide implications. "It is our hope to generate such positive results, that this program will serve as a model for others," said Bro. Barnes.

The Howard P.R.I.D.E. program, which means Purpose, Respect, Initiative, Determination & Excellence, is a leadership program that encourages continued academic, professional, and personal development of minority male students. The program's premise is that providing students with academic and social support, increases the likelihood of student retention in school, graduation from the community college level and ultimately transferring to a four-year institution. The P.R.I.D.E. program is a direct result of the need to address declining retention and graduation rates of black males at the college. A review of best practices and numerous discussions, within the college, were the impetus for Howard P.R.I.D.E. Simultaneously, the Chapter had completed extensive preparation and chapter training as part of its You Can Achieve Program and was in search of a viable initial project to serve as the jewel of You Can Achieve. The two became a perfect match leading to the invitation from Howard Community College to the Zeta Alpha Sigma Chapter to partner. While the request and invitation could have been extended to any of the Greek Letter fraternities or other community organizations, it was extended to Zeta Alpha Sigma due to the Chapter's many years of demonstrated community involvement and academic support within the county. The You Can Achieve Program and the Howard P.R.I.D.E. partnership provide highly visible support of our fraternity motto and national programs.

This pioneering partnership will utilize the

numerous strengths of Zeta Alpha Sigma Chapter members to serve as positive role models, demonstrate examples of professional achievement and success, provide mentoring and life skills lessons, encourage and strengthen a focus on education. Members of the Chapter began support of the Howard P.R.I.D.E. program and partnership by participating in a Student Success Symposium and Black Male Summit. All of these events are part of the broader Howard P.R.I. D.E. program.

College President, Kate Hetherington and the Howard Community College staff were present, in force, at the partnership reception to introduce and honor the Zeta Alpha Sigma Chapter for its outstanding work with male students. Many members of the Chapter took time away from their busy work schedules to attend. The presence of so many chapter members served to demonstrate the Chapter's commitment to the community, education and personal development of young men. The response to the Chapter's excellent showing had a very strong impact among the college leadership and the many students present. As noted by Bro. Barnes, "Zeta Alpha Sigma's commitment to the national programs of Education, Social Action and Bigger and Better Business are all facets of this great effort." The excitement has been evident by the large student turnout and the enthusiastic participation by students. While the majority of the students expecting support are African-American, the expected benefits are so great; non-African-American students have also expressed interest in participating.

The purpose of the Chapter's broader You Can Achieve program is to expand the chapter capacity to positively influence county youth and maintain that support into adulthood. The support will be demonstrated by providing; (a) motivation to educational excellence, (b) positive role models, (c) expanded community service impact, (d) support the average student, who is likely in greater need of assistance, (e) increase college acceptance statistics among male students. Phi Beta Sigma also attended and provided encouragement during a Student Success Symposium sponsored by Howard Community College. The work of Phi Beta Sigma is well known publicly, from many years of work within the Howard County Public

School system. Zeta Alpha Sigma Chapter has been recognized by the school system for its dedicated support.

Additional features of the You Can Achieve program include, Zeta Alpha Sigma Chapter (a) maintaining a roster of capable chapter members as guest speakers and motivational speakers for school events, (b) providing life skills presentations, (c) providing opportunities for students to participate in community service projects to acquire the minimum hours required for graduation, (d) conducting financial literacy sessions, (e) providing awards for incremental academic progress, (f) providing training in entrepreneurship and basic business operations.

Partnering with Howard Community College will strengthen each of these objectives.

Aside from the lifetime benefits to the young men of the HOWARD P.R.I.D.E. partnership, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. gains numerous prospective new members as these men matriculate to four year colleges and universities.

On August 18, 2014, Bro. Barnes and the Zeta Alpha Sigma Chapter will be presented with the prestigious Trustees Award from Howard Community College for their vision and efforts to date. We congratulate the brothers of Zeta Alpha Sigma Chapter for leading the way in the area of service in Howard County Maryland.

SIGMAS MOVE



Bro. Dr. Bennie Harris named Senior Vice President of Morehouse School of Medicine

Bro. Dr. Bennie Harris has been named Senior Vice President of Institutional Advancement at Morehouse School of Medicine. Prior to accepting the position at Morehouse he served as Vice President of Development and Alumni Relations at Lipscomb University. Bro. Harris was also an adjunct professor in Lipscomb's College of Business and at Vanderbilt University's Peabody College.



Bro. Frank Nichols named the new Police Chief of Starkville, MS

Chief R. Frank Nichols began his law enforcement career with the Starkville (MS) Police Department in 1992. During his 22 year career with the Starkville Police Department Bro. Nichols has served in many operations and administrative capacities: patrol, DUI Officer, D.A.R.E. Officer, Investigator and S.W.A.T. Commander, Accreditation Manager, & Operations and Administrative Commander.



Bro. Ron Davis appointed new Director of the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)

Bro. Ron Davis was recently appointed the new Director of the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). The COPS Office is responsible for advancing community policing nationwide and supporting the community policing activities of state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies.

UNDERGRADUATE BROTHERS DOIN' WORK



Bro. Daniel Crudup
Winston-Salem State University
Student of the Year

Bro. Daniel Crudup was recently recognized as Winston-Salem State University (WSSU) Student of the Year. The award recognizes an outstanding senior who has demonstrated scholarship, good conduct and service to other WSSU students.

Bro. Crudup maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout his four years at WSSU. He was very active on campus serving as executive secretary of the Student Government Association, president of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, chair of "Ram Life Magazine", president of Rams go Green; an environmental campus task force, and also served as campus ambassador of the United Negro College Fund and Toyota Green.

Bro. Crudup was a resident advisor and worked at Touched by Angels Home Health Care. He was also actively involved in developing a recycling program in the residence halls and promoting green initiatives.



Hon. Patrick McKeithen
Florida A&M University, Student
Supreme Court Chief Justice

Bro. McKeithen is a senior majoring in Religion and Philosophy with a minor in History. Bro. McKeithen served as the Student Supreme Court Chief of the Student Government Association (SGA) at Florida A&M University (FAMU) for the 2013-2014 academic year. The Supreme Court Chief serves as Chief Administrative Officer of the Judicial System at FAMU. Supreme Court Justices assist in any situation involving infractions of rules, disciplinary problems, and issues amounting to constitutional controversies. Prior to serving as Chief he served for nearly three years as Associate Justice. Within his first year of service he garnered such awards as "Most Hardworking Justice" and "Most Outstanding New Justice", but his leadership capabilities go far beyond awards or even his work as a justice.

As a student leader, it has been his goal to serve the student body in every way possible while fulfilling FAMU's motto "Excellence with Caring".



Bro. Ryan Gammon
Tennessee State University
President's Volunteer Service Award

Bro. Ryan Gammon is a junior majoring in Criminal Justice at Tennessee State University. Bro. Gammon is well-known for his commitment to serve others.

Dr. Linda Guthrie is the Director of the Center for Service Learning and Civic Engagement on the campus. Bro. Gammon has worked with the Center on a number of projects. They were so impressed with his commitment to service they decided to nominate him for the President's Volunteer Service Award.

Bro. Gammon had no idea he was even nominated prior to receiving an envelope from the White House. He was both surprised and shocked to open the envelope to find a letter signed by President Barack Obama congratulating him on his President's Volunteer Service Award along with an award citation.

AN INTERVIEW WITH AN ASTRONAUT

BY BRO. GERALD SMITH

MANY OF US WALK AROUND MOST OF OUR DAYS WITH OUR MINDS IN the clouds. Brother Victor Glover not only has his mind in the clouds; he actually gets paid to do so. Brother Glover is a NASA Astronaut.

I was introduced to Brother Victor Jerome Glover II at the Philadelphia Conclave. I was immediately entranced by his demeanor and impressed by how down-to-earth and regular he seemed for one in one of the premier programs on this planet. Several months later, when it was suggested that one of the Crescent staff do an interview with Brother Glover, I jumped at the opportunity. I conducted the interview over several telephone interchanges. This is a reduction of what we discussed.

Brother Victor Glover was born in Pomona, California on April 30, 1976. He received his high school education at the Ontario High School and continued his college education at California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo. Following his college education where he began in a Mechanical Engineering program and graduated in General Engineering, Brother Glover entered the Navy. As we spoke about the main influences in his education, Brother Glover gave great weight to three of his teachers. In elementary school, Brother Glover was heavily influenced by a teacher named Mr. Hargrove, who taught math and ran several after school programs. Brother Glover

credits Mr. Hargrove with being the first to tell him that one day he would be a good engineer and giving him a dream to work toward. Brother Glover admits, with a smile that at the time the only knowledge that he had of what an engineer did was that he might one day drive a train. Later, in high school, two teachers who made a great impression on him were Mr. Robinson and Ms. Ikeda. Mr. Robinson taught math and Ms. Ikeda taught biology.

In math, while working on a problem between classes, Brother Glover thought that he had found a new formula to add numbers in a series. Upon showing “his” new formula to Mr. Robinson, Mr. Robinson showed him that a few pages further in the book;



Lieutenant Commander Victor J. Glover, Jr. USN

“his new” formula is already in the book. The benefit however was that when the class reached that place in the curricula, Mr. Robinson allowed Brother Glover to explain the concept to the class. Brother Glover credits Ms. Ikeda with almost shifting his emphasis



from math (physical science) to biology (life science). Brother Glover enjoyed Ms. Ikeda's class so much that he took it in the 11th grade and chose to retake the entire class again in his senior year because circumstances had forced him to miss a special field trip in his 11th grade year that was held at the end of the course each year. When Brother Glover speaks to young students today, he always stresses the need for math understanding and uses his life story to make young junior high school students see that decisions that they make at a young age (as he did in the eighth grade) can chart the path of their entire life.

Throughout our entire conversation, Brother Glover continually stressed the importance of all of those who taught him; mentored him; encouraged him and supported him as he moved through his learning process. He tells the story of how he was approached prior to college by military personnel who offered him a full ride at a military academy. Because of the somewhat negative bias in the community toward the military, Brother Glover turned them down and decided to pay for his own education. The tide turned when a college mentor (Craig Wallace), who Brother Glover respected, came to

class one day in his military uniform. Because of his respect for a man who had pushed him forward in his life, Brother Glover bombarded reserve Capt. Wallace with questions and was so moved by the responses that he actually joined the Navy while an undergraduate.

Because of his military connections, Brother Glover was able to use the Baccalaureate Degree Completion Program (BDCP) which is a ROTC type program for schools that do not have a regular ROTC program. From college, Brother Glover went into the Officer Candidate School (OCS), flight school where he learned to fly the F-18 aircraft and the Air Force test pilot school; although he was a Navy man. In terms of combat service, Brother Glover was deployed in 2004 on the John F. Kennedy in support of Iraqi Freedom and on the George Washington in support of activities in the Asian Pacific. Brother Glover also was detailed as a support aide to a U.S. Senator for a number of months. His most recent assignment is in the NASA Astronaut Program.

Brother Glover is married with four daughters. Two stories show his sensitivity and humor in terms of family matters. I asked Brother Glover whether or not he had ever wanted a son. With a smile and laughter in his voice, Brother Glover explained, “That’s how I got four daughters”. Having had to leave several times for months at a time, even with email and other modern technologies not available in the past, Brother Glover still had to answer the continual questions from his oldest daughter regarding why he had to leave. Brother Glover shared that he had simply explained to her that “daddy” had to go away for a while so that somebody else’s daddy or mommy could come home for a while. For the first time, Brother Glover reports that by linking himself to those around himself, his daughter seemed satisfied.

Toward the end of our session, Brother Glover spoke at length and very passionately about how he had gotten to his present point in life and the skills and traits that he wishes others would adopt to move to the top of their professions. Over and over, Brother Glover praises those who encouraged

him and pushed him to do his very best. Brother Glover also stressed the great importance of Sigmas and others establishing a personal relationship with young people. He illustrated this point by referencing his discomfort with the military until he actually met someone who he trusted who was in the military. Like many others, he had seen commercials touting various professions; but nothing clicked until he actually had personal contact with those in the military who he respected and trusted. Brother Glover stressed that all of us must realize that our lives are not simply for ourselves; but that we can influence others to do things that they might not recognize. Among the skills that each of us must develop are: (1) technical acumen; (2) learning to work cooperatively with others; (3) developing our personal skills as far as we can; and (4) recognizing that we must not just “be” at the table, but that we must “bring” something to the table. Brother Glover emphasized that the same skills used to produce first-class athletes are the same skills, if applied, that produces success in every other field of endeavor. This, Brother Glover indicated, is why business recruits division one (D1) athletes for sales and management.

In his closing remarks, Brother Glover stressed, once again, the need for Sigma men and all professional African-American men and women to



introduce young men and women to the possibilities of their future. In the latter part of our interview, I mentioned to Brother Glover that he, like me, is an Afro-centrist. In Afro-centrist cultural thinking, one sees culture as a system of shared beliefs, values, customs, behaviors and artifacts that the members of a society use to cope with their world and with one

another; and that are transmitted from generation to generation through learning. Brother Glover is truly an Afro-centric thinker and scholar of the first rank. He does not see African-Americans (or any other culture or ethnic group) as “superior”. Instead, he sees all cultures as having an equal chance as benefiting society through their achievements. That equality requires that all of the African-American ethnic groups do their very best, not just for African-Americans; but for the planet (like Dr. Charles Drew who figured out the Blood Plasma System that has saved millions of lives on the planet). According to Brother Glover, our Afro-centricity gives us both rights and responsibilities. We have the right to enjoy the benefits that our ancestors have given and provided for us and we have the responsibility to provide the same for those who follow us.

At the close of the interview, Brother Glover returned once more to the topic of what our responsibilities are as a member of Phi Beta Sigma. He stressed that we, who have pursued a professional career, must share our experiences with those who follow us. He lamented that 1 out of every 20 young Black men are in prison; and among them 1 out of every 10 young men are between the ages of twenty and forty – the age when you are supposed to be building your family and your career. Brother Glover again emphasized that we must get, and help others to get a solid foundation; develop personal skills; learn to work cooperatively with other people and expand our vocabulary.

I asked Brother Glover when he would blast off into space. He smiled once again and informed me that he, like thousands of others, spend the lion share of their time in training, testing and supporting NASA’s goals. He related that a space mission is probably far in the future; and that actually going into space was like winning the super bowl at the end of several winning seasons. But – Brother Glover shared, when and if the time comes, he will be prepared and ready.

Many of us walk around most of our days with our minds in the clouds. Brother Victor Glover not only has his mind in the clouds; he actually gets paid to do so. Brother Glover is a NASA Astronaut and a fine exemplar of a Brother of Phi Beta Sigma.

Brother Al Elam coaches a Danish university to its best case competition season in school history!

BY ALBERT ELAM



Bro. Elam, Agate Ose (Latvia), Brian Kamuk (Denmark), Boniface Molnar (Hungary), and Sakib Hameed (United Kingdom)

The International Business Academy (IBA) is one of seven business academies in Denmark where students can earn a two-year certificate, a Bachelor of Science degree, a Master of Science degree, or an MBA degree.

The IBA is located in Kolding, a small, safe, pretty, organized, clean, city of more than 90,000. The school has 1,239 students of which 671 are Danish students and 568 are foreign students representing over 18 countries. The

IBA offers programs in marketing, finance, web design, multi-media, and e-design and offers two very special opportunities, allowing students to graduate with a degree from a United Kingdom university. Most offered programs are in

English even though Danish is the mother tongue.

The aim of a business case competition is to reduce the gap between the worlds of academia and business where every participating student can improve their skills of solving real, complex business cases and delivering feasible solutions to management. The IBA undergraduate team of Agate Ose (from Latvia), Boniface Molnar (from Hungary), Brian Kamuk (from Denmark), and Sakib Hameed (from the United

Digital Transformation and Social Media. The key question of the competition focused on Deutsche Telekom, the German telecommunications company, and was “Regarding the corporate academic (further) education: How is Deutsche Telekom positioned in this field compared to companies/universities who occupy a leading role with their approach to this dimension?” The IBA’s opponents in the championship round of this competition were: a five-person team of MBA students from

and defended their strategic plan to a jury comprising of professional and academic experts. The 2014 finalists in London along with the IBA were: Avans University of Applied Sciences (Netherlands); Bishop’s University (Canada); Jiangxi University of Finance and Economics (China); John Molson School of Business, Concordia University (Canada); Leuven University College (Belgium); Lahti University of Applied Sciences (Finland); London South Bank University (UK); Satakunta



NIBS Finals in London, England: Agate Ose., Boniface Molnar, Sakib Hameed, Brian Kamuk.(seated) and Bro. Elam

Kingdom) did that in the three competitions they participated in by winning two and achieving second place in one. The IBA’s first victory came at the University to Business (U2B) Competition at the University of Applied Science in Cologne, Germany, February 12-14. The team captured a silver medal at the world championships in the Network of International Business Schools (NIBS) competition in London March 2-7 and they completed the season by winning the Aspire Case Camp (ACC) Competition at Aarhus University April 7-11 in Aarhus, Denmark.

The U2B topic this year was



Competition in Cologne, Germany: Boniface, Brian, Agate and Sakib with Dr. Ingo Dahm, Vice President of Strategy and Business Development, Deutsche Telekom

Maastricht School of Management, Netherlands, a four-person team of Bachelor students from Fontys University, Netherlands, a five-person team of MBA students from FEAA University, Romania and a four-person team of Bachelor students from Cologne Business School.

After the qualifying round in November 2013, the IBA was one of sixteen successful teams to compete in the NIBS finals in London. During the week’s competition, each team worked to come up with their best ideas and solutions for strategic business problems. The teams presented



ACC competition Aarhus, Denmark: Boniface, Agate and Brian, celebrating the news. (Sakib, not pictured as he had to return to Kolding prior to the ceremony.)

University of Applied Sciences (Finland); Shantou University (China); Southeast Missouri State University (USA); Sprott School of Business, Carleton University (Canada); Bill Greehey School of Business, St. Mary’s University (USA); University of Northern Iowa (USA); University of Prince Edward Island (Canada) and the University of Vermont School of Business Administration (USA).

The championship round began on Sunday with a social meeting of the teams and a drawing of numbers and thereby opponents. The IBA was happily surprised to learn that they had qualified as one

of the top four teams. There were four groups based on qualification rank (1-4; 5-8; 9-12; and 13-16) in the opening matches and each group had a team from first, second, third and fourth rank.

The IBA drew the number 1, which they considered a lucky number. The team's pleasure paled a little as the drawing continued and they found that they were up against Bishops and Carleton from Canada and St. Mary's from the USA. Traditionally, the competition is dominated by very strong teams from Canada and the USA with Bishops being the most successful team ever in the competition. It felt a bit as drawing Brazil, Germany and Spain in the soccer World Cup. The team did take comfort in the fact that they were the highest ranked team in the group, despite the frightening strength of the others.

The NIBS Case Competition is the first undergraduate worldwide case competition and the 2014 competition was the 19th edition. This was the IBA's eighth year participating and the fifth time qualifying for the championship round. The IBA's best finish prior to this was fifth place.

This year was the IBA's first year participating in the Aspire Case Camp competition, which consisted of some forty master-level and final-year bachelor teams. The week included the opportunity to solve three different management consulting cases including an extensive main case. The consulting cases presented by Quartz+Co and Deloitte Financial Advisory

Services; and the main case provided by Danske Commodities made the competition very realistic. Furthermore, Dansk Supermarked's Business Development Consultancies hosted an instructive workshop that introduced participants to Denmark's largest current business transformation. The IBA team's performance was magnificent; so much so that the founder of Danske Commodities, an independent, international trader of energy-related commodities, gave them all offers; a fitting ending for the work and development displayed by Sakib, Brian, Agate & Boniface. Brother Elam states, "This team really has the uncanny ability to reflect, interpret & apply quickly."

The IBA's success started with an internal competition open to all IBA students beginning on Monday, September 9, 2013. The 42 interested students in attendance received a detailed introduction to case competitions and a tryout case to prepare. Their individual qualifying case submissions of no more than 1500 words and of consultant quality were due a week later. The short time period tests commitment and ability to operate under pressure. The top eight students then presented their solutions on Friday, September 20. A meeting was held the following Friday with the eight students to announce the selection of the four member team. The initial team meeting happened on September 30 to establish their training schedule as there was only seven weeks to the first competition's

qualifying round. The process repeats each year to ensure the IBA's best and brightest have the opportunity to participate.

Relevancy to the undergraduate Brotherhood is that Brothers you should be interested in an international experience as part of your education portfolio by having a semester abroad. Your competition in the job market is arriving with a degree as you are, but also speaking several languages and having international experience to their credit. With the numerous opportunities available today, a resume/CV without the international aspect begs the question, "why not?" You can close this gap as the IBA is always looking to expand its network of partner universities for student exchanges.

Brother Elam is not only a professor in financial management and strategy specializing in international finance investment analysis at the IBA; he is also the Director, North American Partnerships. Therefore if you have a serious desire to close the cultural gap in your education, talk to the appropriate individual on your campus and contact Brother Elam at age@iba.dk.

Before entering academia, Brother Elam had a 23-year career in the United States Air Force achieving the rank of lieutenant colonel and owned & operated a small consulting firm for 27 years. Brother Elam is a life member and joined Sigma through the Epsilon Omicron Chapter at Ohio University on April 5, 1975.



Brother Lorjuste with President Bill Clinton and President Barack Obama in New York

Flatbush Brooklyn to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue

BY BRO. TODD LE BON

BRO. GREGORY LORJUSTE GREW UP AS ONE OF NINE SIBLINGS in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn, NY. His parents came to the United States from Haiti with hopes that their children could achieve the American Dream. Growing up their parents made sure their children were engaged in activities outside of school designed to introduce them to new experiences and keep them on the right path. Bro. Lorjuste was inspired by those who took the time to engage him and his siblings in activities they might not otherwise encounter. That inspiration led him to Rider University in Lawrence, New Jersey where he would

study to be a teacher. His goal was to work with kids in an urban community. He wanted to have the same positive impact on children as those who took the time to mentor him when he was young.

While he was in college, the education system in this country was going through a transition. The No Child Left Behind Act resulted in many school systems moving towards a “teaching to the test” method of education. Many teachers were focused on preparing their students to pass standardized tests. Opponents of this new method argue that focusing efforts on these tests limits the curriculum, while also

suppressing creative and abstract thinking skills. As graduation approached Bro. Lorjuste could no longer envision himself as a teacher in the current classroom environment and turned his focus elsewhere.

His desire to serve and mentor youth led him to the AmeriCorps. Working with AmeriCorps would allow him to work on a variety of projects, while also serving the underserved. This decision would change the course of his life in a way he could never have imagined. That young man from the streets of Flatbush is now part of a team responsible for the daily schedule of President Barack Obama. Bro. Lorjuste is currently the Special Assistant to the President & Principal Deputy Director of Scheduling.

Bro. Lorjuste sat down with The Crescent Magazine to share his story and give us a glimpse into his journey from Flatbush Brooklyn to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

The Crescent (CR): You majored in education at Rider University with plans to be a teacher. Growing up, who was the biggest influence in your life that inspired you to want to be a teacher?

Gregory Lorjuste (GL): Growing up, I had a few great teachers that made learning fun and took time to really teach students. Those teachers were part of why I decided I wanted to major in Education. The main reason I was inspired to teach was because I saw there was a lack of a male presence in the classroom. In all my formal education prior to college, I had maybe four male teachers, only two of whom were African American.

As the education system in this country shifted to “teaching for the test” it had a major impact on your decision to change your career path. You chose to forgo teaching and become an AmeriCorps Promise

Fellow. Please share the mission of AmeriCorps with our readers, and what you did while with the organization?

I had a tough final student teaching experience. It left me with doubts that I was ready to enter the classroom. That, along with all the changes that were happening inside the classrooms across the country led me to make the decision to forgo pursuing a teaching position right out of college. Aside from my love of working with disadvantaged students, working within urban communities was another passion of mine. The first mission of AmeriCorps is “Put the needs of local communities first.” I knew that at AmeriCorps, I would be able to work with so many important programs that focused on key areas that I was passionate about. I first served as a promise fellow for an emergency preparedness program; the primary focus of this program was to educate citizens of New Jersey on what to do and what not to do during floods, hurricanes and other disasters.

CR: What was the most rewarding aspect of work-



Brother Lorjuste with then Senator Barack Obama at DNC Headquarters 2006

ing with AmeriCorps?

GL: Each day I had the opportunity to work with great nonprofits, schools, and public agencies that were helping hundreds of people across the state of New Jersey on various programs focused on

education, juvenile justice, emergency preparedness and environmental issues. I would have to say the entire experience was rewarding and helped catapult me into areas of service and opportunity I never even thought possible.

CR: How did your time with the AmeriCorps help



Brother Lorjuste at Camp David

you as you moved on with your career in politics?

GL: Working with all the non-profits on the various issues basically showed me how important it was to have elected officials, both local and statewide, fighting for your causes. At the end of the day, that is why you vote them in. If it is not happening, it is up to you to change it. You cannot sit on the sidelines; you have to take an active role in picking and changing who is going to represent your voice in local, statewide and federal government.

CR: What led you to work on the gubernatorial campaign for New Jersey Senator Jon Corzine in 2005?

GL: Politics was not something normally discussed at home, so it was not until I went off to college that I started paying attention. I realized that it is important for everybody to exercise their right to vote. I volunteered a few times on campaigns during election season and when I graduated from college, I was ready to get real hands-on experience working on an important election so decided to take a leave

from AmeriCorps and join the gubernatorial campaign for then-senator Jon Corzine.

CR: How did your experience working on that first campaign influence your desire to make politics a possible career path?

GL: I worked as a field organizer during the Corzine governor's race. I learned early that a lot of the skills I acquired while working for AmeriCorps went hand in hand with field organizing. I spent much of my days talking to constituents about issues important to them and discussing the differences between the two candidates. To me, elections are about connecting with constituents on their level and making them feel that their voice is being heard. I worked in the city of Paterson, which is the third largest city in NJ. Everyday, I walked around neighborhoods just like the one I grew up in and was able

to play a small role in helping people decide on who they felt would lead the state better. I had such a great experience that when it was all over, I was ready for the next one.

CR: You first started working with President Obama through the "Yes We Can Hope Fund" campaign training program when he was still a Senator from Illinois. Only 10 candidates were selected to participate from around the country. Can you share the process of applying for this training program?

GL: I learned about the training program right after the Corzine race ended. It was perfect timing. I went back and forth on whether I should apply, I was afraid of rejection. But, before the deadline, I put in my application and prayed about it. A month later, I received a call for a phone interview and shortly after that; I received an acceptance letter to be part of the first program. I am so grateful to everybody that worked at Hopefund who saw something in me and gave me the opportunity to take part in the program. Now, there is a similar program called the Hope

Institute that the Democratic National Committee runs.

CR: What was your initial impression of President Obama when you first met him during the training program?

GL: When then-senator Obama met with us, it was never about him. He spent more time getting to know us and explaining why he felt this program was needed than he did talking about himself. I immediately felt that this was just the beginning for the then-senator. I knew that one day he should run for President, but did not know that it would happen as soon as it did.

CR: How has the training program helped you as you have moved on to other areas of politics?

GL: The program exposed me to all aspects of campaigning/politics. I was able to meet people that would later be mentors and friends that I can call on for anything even today. Before the program, I did not have a sense of direction. I knew I liked politics, but if someone were to ask in what aspect of politics I was most interested, I could not answer. Now I can.

CR: When did you first start working for the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation (formerly known as the William J. Clinton Foundation), and what was your position while working with the Foundation?

GL: I began working at the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation in March of 2006. My first position was Scheduling Correspondence Assistant. My main role was to make initial decisions on what incoming-scheduling requests former President Clinton should consider. I worked closely with foundation senior advisors on responding to every single invitation former President Clinton received. I later became the Assistant Director of Scheduling, where I worked more on event logistics and planning.

CR: You joined Obama's first presidential campaign during the general election. You were part of the team that helped him win the state of Virginia, a first for a Democratic presidential candidate since 1964. How was the atmosphere for the Obama Campaign after that victory?

GL: Other than Barack Obama and the Obama Campaign, no one thought that winning the state of Virginia was possible. Everybody on the team came

in and made the decision to work in Virginia knowing that we were down in the polls and it would go down to the wire. When the state was finally called for Obama, the entire office felt a sense of pride and accomplishment. It was a lot of cheers and tears. We made history.

CR: Many have no idea of the daily schedule of a candidate and/or politician. To maintain his/her obligations requires a team they can trust to take care of the details and keep him/her on task. You have worked as a scheduler for a foundation, campaign, presidential inauguration and now for a sitting president; what is a typical day like?

GL: You realize early that as much as you plan, come up with various options, things come up that we have no control over. The biggest part of the job is realizing that you always have to be ready to adjust. Our department does not only look at President Barack Obama as the President, we also see him as a loving husband and a great father, so every day, as we plan out his schedule, we factor that in. As a scheduler, the main priority is to ensure that things go well for the President and also for the people with whom he is interacting. We work long days and nights, and a lot of weekends, but it is all worth it.

CR: What is the most gratifying part of your position as Special Assistant to the President & Principal Deputy Director of Scheduling?

GL: It is gratifying to be able to play a small part in shaping how people hear and interact with the president.

CR: Do you have any advice for our young readers interested in following in your footsteps?

GL: 10 years ago, if you would have asked me if I would be working at the White House, I would have said absolutely not. Never saw this coming based on my background. But, as I began to dream, I started to work harder at ensuring that it was not just a dream. I did not let anybody deter me and I developed a great support system led by my wife, Kimberly. Taped to my computer in my West Wing Office is the quote, "He who says he can and he who says he can't are both usually right." I believe if you find something that you are passionate about, put your all into it. Do not fear rejection or failure; remember that the journey itself is a huge accomplishment.



New Jersey Sigma Betas Visit the White House

By Bro. Chris Wilson



Sigma Betas enjoying lunch at the International Headquarters



Sigma Betas at the White House

The Sigma Beta Clubs (SBC) of Chi Sigma Chapter (Northern New Jersey), Lambda Lambda Sigma Chapter (Trenton) and Kappa Upsilon Sigma Chapter (Willingboro) organized a White House tour on Saturday, March 15th. Tour logistics were handled by Bro. Greg Lorjuste, Special Assistant to the President & Principal Deputy Director of Scheduling. The Clubs, totaling 70 young men, gathered near the White House grounds for the Secret Service led tour.

The Agents led the group through the East Wing of the Executive Mansion, detailing the rebuilding phases, and historic tidbits about former presidents, previous events and visitors. The majority of the tour was held in the East Room, the White House's largest room. It is normally used for receptions, press conferences, ceremonies, concerts and banquets. After the White House tour, club members had a lengthy question and answer session just a few feet away from the famous Lansdowne "George Washington" portrait, painted in 1797.

After the tour, the Clubs took a group picture in front of the White House before proceeding to the Phi Beta Sigma International Headquarters for lunch. Lunch was provided by the Fraternity. Joining the Clubs were Hon. Bro. Daryl Anderson (International Executive Director), Bros. Brandon Brown (Eastern Regional SBC Coordinator), Dr. Gerald Weatherspoon (Eastern Regional Director of Education) and Bro. James "J.R." Reeves (Eastern Regional Director of Social Action). Before the Clubs left, they were greeted by Hon. Bro. Peter Adams, Esq., Past International President.

On the ride home a few club members were asked to comment on the White House tour experience. Brandon Jenkins (5th Grade) said, "The best part of the White House was looking at all of the rooms, sites and décor." Corey Washington (11th Grade) added, "the tour of the White House has inspired me to pursue a career in Secret Service, so I can protect the President and enforce National Security."



New York Community Centennial Service Project

By Bro. Kevin Bracey



*Bro. Bracey talking to
NY1 Reporter*



*Brothers prepare items
for customers*



*Brothers assist customers
in selecting items*

On January 9, 2014, the 100th Anniversary of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Sigma men around the world took part in community service projects to commemorate the Fraternity's Centennial. Brothers from Epsilon Sigma Chapter (Harlem, NY) and Kappa Beta Sigma Chapter (Brooklyn, NY) volunteered at the New York Common Pantry, located at 8 E. 109th Street in East Harlem. The brothers split up into two groups, one group assisted the members of the community with placing their grocery orders via iPad tablets on the lower level, while the other group packed the orders for pickup on the first floor. Over 200 members were there to pick up groceries from the pantry. Members can choose from a number of items, such as; pasta, milk, bread, fresh fruit, fresh vegetables and canned goods.

Here is how the innovative process works, members of the pantry check in using a membership card and then wait on the lower level for their name to be called. Once called a volunteer assists them to place an order on an iPad. Each item is labeled with a picture above it. The member selects up to nine items on the iPad. Once the items are selected, the order is submitted and prints to the PC on the first floor. The member then goes to the first floor to pick up the items selected within fifteen minutes.

Brothers rotated duties throughout the morning and had a great time interacting with the community. NY1 News came down to film and interviewed a few members of the Fraternity. The interviews were broadcast on NY1 the entire weekend of Jan 10th-Jan 12th and appeared on the NY1 website (<http://www.ny1.com/>).



Brother Montinique Cager Receives White House Invitation for Local Business Leaders to Discuss Priorities with White House Officials



On March 13, 2014 small business owners were invited to the White House to brief Senior Administration officials on their priorities, including constructing a business environment conducive to job creation. The event was organized by Business Forward, a non-

profit organization focused on giving business leaders the chance to advise government officials in Washington on how to create jobs and accelerate the country's economic recovery.

in Winston-Salem, NC and a photography business. Those invited to attend these briefings are selected from suggestions by business leaders and local trade and business associations, as well as participants from past events.

During the briefing Administration officials gave an update on the economy and job creation. They also outlined several programs that encourage hiring and improve access to capital for small businesses. These programs include Small Business Administration loans and assistance from the International Trade Administration in helping small businesses sell their goods and services to new foreign customers.

Business leaders spoke about recent successes they have experienced, but also highlighted the need for immigration reform, increased workforce development programs, and more awareness of programs that provide support for small businesses.

"I was very honored to be invited to participate in the Business Council meeting. The fact the administration acknowledges and is soliciting ideas to help with business creation and sustainability is encouraging. What will be even better is to see those ideas in action and getting positive results," stated Bro. Cager.

"Business leaders bring a results-oriented approach to Washington that stands out"

Jim Doyle, Business Forward President

"Business leaders bring a results-oriented approach to Washington that stands out," said Jim Doyle, Business Forward President. "They don't agree with each other or the Administration on every point, but they expect solutions that create jobs and grow the economy."

Bro. Montinique Cager and his wife Pamela were among the fifty business leaders invited to participate. The Cagers are owners of For All Occasions Catering

The Comprehensive History Of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. (1914- 2013)



“Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the

teaching of biography and history”
- Carter G. Woodson

Knowledge of your history is an essential element of any nation, community, family or organization. As we celebrate 100 Years of service to humanity our rich history should be a major focus. Our Centennial is a time to celebrate and reflect on those events and brothers making the necessary sacrifices for us to reach this milestone in our history. These men built the foundation and it is our responsibility to continue to build and expand on that foundation.

As we move forward we have a responsibility to provide a resource for the next generation of Sigma men to use as a reference point as they plan for the future. Passing down a written history is one of the best methods to provide them with some of the necessary tools for future success. The need for a written history was first advocated by undergraduate brothers at the 1940 Conclave in Tuskegee, AL. In 1946 The Sigma Light was first published, and it included a section on history. Then in 1949 the Crescent published a special edition 104 page issue, which included an article reflecting on the first thirty-five years of the Fraternity's growth. At the time the article was the closest thing the Fraternity had

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to a history book. Dr. Lawrence D. Reddick was Editor of our national organ at the time.

Our first official history book, Our Cause Speeds On (OCSO), was published in 1957. OCSO was written by Bros. Dr. William Sherman Savage and Dr. Lawrence Dunbar Reddick, and covers the time from the Fraternity's inception through the mid 1950's. Bro. Savage was the head of the History Department at Lincoln University (MO), and also served as President of the Fraternity in 1920. Bro. Reddick was Chairman of the Department of History at Alabama State College. Prior to joining the faculty at Alabama State College he was Chief Librarian at Atlanta University, and served as the Curator of the Schomburg Collection of Negro Literature at the New York Public Library. Bro. Reddick served as Editor of The Crescent from 1935-1936 and 1949-1950.

There have been several reprints of the book over the years, but no comprehensive updates to OCSO. The Fraternity did publish a history book in 1970. However, it was not a complete history as much as it was a glimpse into major events occurring since the initial publishing of OCSO. The need for an updated history book has been a talking point among brothers for decades. As we approached our Centennial the desire to update OCSO

was a major talking point among the membership.

When President Jimmy Hammock shared the announcement about the History Book Project brothers were excited. The updated history book brothers had been requesting for so long was a step closer to reality.

BY. BRO. TODD LEBON

President Hammock assured the membership the book would be completed and ready for our Centennial. Hon. Bro. Dr. Anthony A. Samad was selected to take on the task of completing the project. President Hammock was confident that Bro. Samad; an accomplished author, columnist and educator, possessed both the experience and knowledge necessary to produce a book the Fraternity could cherish and be proud to call their own.

The book premiered at the 2013 Conclave in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Brothers attending the conference had an opportunity to purchase a copy of their updated history book. It was a long time coming and brothers were eager to get their hands on a copy. As we celebrate our first century of Sigma our story has been recorded for all future generations of Sigma men to enjoy.

The Crescent had an opportunity to sit down with Hon. Dr. Anthony A. Samad to share his experience laboring over this project in an effort to ensure our story will be told.

The Crescent (CR): In 2014 Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity celebrates 100 Years of Service for Humanity. Why is it important for us to update our history book now?

Hon. Bro. Dr. Anthony A. Samad (AS): Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity had not written a FORMAL history book in the entirety of its existence. Its last history documentation of any significant detail was called “an informal history,” and it was written 57 years ago. The 1970 effort was no more than a summary of the first history and brief recollections of Conclaves in the thirteen post-hence. The world has changed four times since the fraternity last wrote a history book. We needed to formalize the history of the first 100 years while many of the brothers of the last 100 years, those with the institutional memory, could contribute and help us interpret the footprint left behind. The 100 year mark is the definitive “break point” between the first century and the second century. The story of the second century will be markedly different than the story of the first century. The centuries should not be intertwined, as they represent distinct benchmarks. The first century, as the fraternity’s most significant benchmark of longevity and sustainability, should stand alone.

That’s why the time to update it was now.

CR: Take us back to the moment when Hon. Jimmy Hammock (33rd International President) asked you

to write an updated version of our history book. What went through your mind at that moment?

AS: First of all, I don’t believe enough credit is given to President Jimmy Hammock for what he did. Writing the history book had become 30 year political rhetoric since the mid-1980s. The politics of the organization wasn’t conducive to writing a history any earlier. People were afraid of how history would reflect on them and thus refused to address it. There seemed to be an unbridgeable divide in the fraternity that prohibited the book’s completion. For Jimmy Hammock, writing the history book was secondary to bringing the fraternity together. Nowhere in our fraternity’s history (and I looked for it) has a President selected his political opponent in the previous election to take on his major “legacy” project. The Centennial history book is Jimmy Hammock’s legacy—a permanent imprint on the fraternity’s existence forever. It most certainly will be a guide for future history books, as *Our Cause Speeds On* was a guide for the current update. Sigma’s history is one of—one regime change after another—and as a result, we generally ran the most popular brothers out of the fraternity (including one of our founders) and only half of the fraternity’s talent capacity at any given time. President Hammock changed all that, and President Mason is following suit. When our elections are over, we’re all brothers and you bring the best talent to the table. My talent was writing. As a scholar, publisher and professional writer, the assignment just happened to fit my wheelhouse. Could other brothers have written the history book? Absolutely. Could other brothers have written it the way I wrote, intertwining Sigma history into the history of American culture? Very few. That’s why I believe I was selected. President Hammock faced a lot of criticism for selecting me, but he stood by his decision and it made me trust him more. So the first thing that came to my mind was that the President trusted me to deliver this for him—and I was determined to do it. My entire focus during his administration went into making this happen.

CR: Researching early African-American history can be challenging. Were there any roadblocks you encountered while researching the early years of the Fraternity?

AS: Absolutely. As a Political Science and African American Studies professor, researching African American history was the easy part. Getting much of the early

history of the fraternity was a bit of a challenge—but we overcame it. The obstructionism was well known and discussed exhaustion, so there's no need to rehash it. Let's just say there were certainly opportunities to make the process easier. But when those opportunities didn't occur, we started "square one." I also had no intention of writing the entire book initially, the idea was to secure writers—but the response was slow, and those that did respond didn't submit writing samples that indicated they were professional writers. By the completion of the research phase, which was January, 2012, the writers were not in place and I had no choice but to lay the book out and block the time to write (50 hours a month, or 12 hours a week, until the book was complete). The obstructions were just temporary barriers, not necessarily a roadblock. It just extended the process. In reality, some barriers may have delayed the project, but it didn't stop the project from being completed.

CR: You had an opportunity to visit Howard University and view some of the items in their archives. Please share your experience as you saw these items for the first time, and had an opportunity to physically touch our history.

AS: I visited Howard University three times during the research phase of this project; twice alone and once with a videographer. The first time to see the Sigma archives. The second time to review the Howard University archives from 1910 to 1920. The third was to fill in any gaps we had in the research. It was quite overwhelming. The inclination was to read every document, every Crescent magazine, every correspondence. My first visit was an all day visit, and I didn't get past 1939. I knew then I would have to come back. The first 25 years of our fraternity is the most intriguing. I understand why our fraternity historians and archivists are so drawn to this period. It was a time of dramatic social and political change, for the fraternity, for African American culture and for our nation.

CR: Tell us a few of the biggest surprises about our rich history you discovered during your research.

AS: The biggest surprises—and most significant discoveries—were:

1. the President John Westberry archives; a literal complete collection of Crescent Magazines (1930s to the 1990s), Conclave Journals and Presidential correspondences that spanned six decades. The collection was

the single biggest contributor to the completion of the Centennial history book project. Most brothers did not even know it existed, and few had seen it. It was a huge discovery and required two trips to Nashville just to study it.

2. That the only African American (then Negro) to speak at the dedication of the Lincoln Monument was a Sigma man, Tuskegee President Brother Dr. Robert Russa Moton. His speech was pre-approved and censored by Chief Justice and Chair of the Lincoln Memorial Commission, (former President) William H. Taft.

3. That there was a ten year period, from 1925 to 1934, where all three founders were away from the Fraternity—at least on the national level. The 1925 Richmond Conclave represented the first significant transition for the Fraternity. Reading the histories of other black fraternities, it was unusual not to have the founders at the forefront at such a young stage in the organization's history.

4. The most significant social scholar of the 20th Century, Dr. W.E.B. DuBois, appealed to a Sigma man (and his former Dean at Fisk), Bro. Dr. Ambose Caviler, to help get what many consider to be the greatest work never published—DuBois' Black Encyclopedia project. While Bro. Dr. Caviler was the highest ranking black at the Department of Interior (which housed the office of Education) and expressed interest to get it done, the project never got funded nor published in its entirety.

5. The explanation article by Our Cause Speeds On Co-Author, Bro. Dr. William Sherman Savage in the Fall Edition of 1957 Crescent Magazine. Dr. Savage was asked to address what was perceived as shortcoming of the book, including the absence of an index. This was the last time Dr. Savage would be heard from, as he walked away from the fraternity after the book's publishing.

6. The discovery of the Von D. Mizell lawsuit filing papers that documented the longtime rumor of a major fraternity split in 1972. The discovery from the Oscar Morgan archives, verified the rumor and reality that the fraternity survived during yet another significant transition period. Dr. Mizell, the only fraternity member to return his DSC honor, started another organization—named it Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity of Florida and held a convention in Ft. Lauderdale at the same time our fraternity held its Conclave in Miami. The Honorable

Oscar Morgan, a former DSC President and at that time—a Mizell supporter, was one of several brothers that attended both conventions.

CR: In the book you take a unique approach in sharing our rich history with the reader. Why is it important to understand Sigma History within the shared African-American experience?

AS: I chose to write the book from the perspective, “Why does Sigma matter?” Here’s why; Black fraternities, at the turn of the 20th Century, were needed support systems for a relatively small number of black college men seeking to survive in a highly segregated nation. These organizations represented networks that offered not only academic support but professional support, and in many respects—protection, in helping these men make the transition from college to employment. By the end of the 20th Century, society was questioning the relevancy of fraternities in American society. In black America, the hazing and extreme behavior activity of black fraternities—in the last quarter of the century—caused many to wonder as to whether the black fraternity movement even mattered anymore. Meanwhile, the challenges and progress of the African American in the 20th Century were mind boggling as America went through the greatest social and cultural transition in its history. Many of the legendary figures that helped bring about this transition were Sigmas. It was important for me, as the author, to contextualize not only why Phi Beta Sigma mattered—but how Phi Beta Sigma mattered. By integrating the Fraternity’s existence across the many socio-political movements that occurred in the 20th Century and at the turn of the 21st Century, I thought it made our fraternity’s story richer and relevant in the societal scheme of things—without sacrificing many of the key brothers, key events and key moments that occurred over the past 100 years.

CR: What are some of the biggest omissions that did not make it into the book?

AS: The biggest content omission is the absence of a forward for the book. One was requested—it just didn’t come together. After 50 years, it was important to lay context of why history in Sigma was significant. We weren’t able to lay that context because the forward wasn’t written in time for the book’s publishing. Maybe there will be one in the next one.

I had hoped to locate the names of the first fourteen initiates beyond A.M. Walker. That was the biggest

historical fact omission. Significant time was put into that, but it didn’t come together in time. Another omission was the discovery of the first DSC pin—but I believed that was discovered after we had put the book to bed. In terms of history, I would have been good to get some of Demetrius Newton’s firsthand civil rights historical accounts in the book, as it related to representing and bailing out Martin Luther King, Jr. Several interviews of Brother Newton were cancelled due to health issues toward the end of his life. But it would have been good to get it in the book.

CR: Our Cause Speeds On, covered the years 1914-1956. Why did you decide to cover the years 1914-2013; and not pick up where Our Cause Speeds On left off?

AS: Actually Our Cause Speeds On (OCSO) covers from 1914 to the end of 1954, the first forty years of the fraternity. While OCSO has become the “Holy Grail” for a new generation of post-1980s Sigmas, and certainly is the footprint by which all future histories would—and should—follow, it had some major deficiencies, which Bro. Savage acknowledged. The major one was the absence of an index. We fixed that in the update.

You can tell when the inspiration was there for Bro. Dr. William S. Savage and when it wasn’t—as the project wore him down over time. First of all, the book took nearly 13 years to complete, then there were periods when support was given—and withdrawn—administration to administration. Circumstances dictated the book’s eventual reality. Bro. Dr. Lawrence D. Reddick was put with him—to get the book finished. It was a struggle, and in the end—not as appreciated as it should have been, as criticism of the book caused Dr. Savage to become inactive. Our Cause Speeds On was a controversial engagement because the scholars told it one way and politicians wanted it told a different way.

The first twenty five years of our history is written with nearly exact detail. But the detail falls off in the 1930s and 1940s, and by the time you get to the 1950s, there’s hardly any detail at all. The most barren periods of our history were the 1930s and 1940s. It was necessary to fill in some gaps in U.S. history—as well as Sigma history during that period. There were omissions and corrections that needed to be addressed. It was also important to present many of the documents and artifacts of the early years—that maybe weren’t significant at the forty year mark, but—are very significant at the 100 year mark.

Then there were the many people and faces lost to history that OCSO either doesn't mention-or barely mentions. We sought to give a face to the greatest names in Sigma, who served the Fraternity—beyond measure—in its early years. Lastly, other than the Phi Beta Sigma Journal, there are very few photos of early Crescent Magazines or other early archived documents that reflected the spirit of time in OCSO. So not “picking up” where OCSO “left off” would have still left our history incomplete because of the many things that were left out of OCSO. It was necessary to try to bridge the two books and make the 100 year history seamless. This could only be done by covering Sigma's total 100 year history, encompassing the earlier versions of the history.

CR: What is the key message you would like readers to take away after reading the book?

AS: The key message one should take away from that book was that Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity men were men of service, conscience and social action that affected America in a significant way. Sigma made history in more ways than just sustaining for 100 years. It made history by standing for its motto and living its creed. I would want the readers to take away that Phi Beta Sigma has been MORE than a brotherhood. It has been a cause whereby every generation of the 20th Century and the first decade of the 21st Century came to know us, for what we stood for—not what we stood by (and allowed to happen).

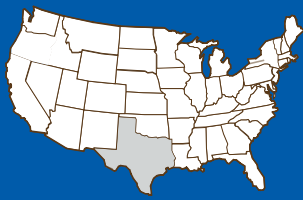
CR: When you look at the finished product what about the book makes you the proudest?

AS: What makes me proudest was that we were able to assemble and organize 14,000 pieces of information—Sigma history and American history—in a very coherent manner. Despite the challenges, we were able to acquire, digitize and place some 400 photographs of most of the significant figures in Sigma history. Many of the faces of these men who served Sigma—had been lost to history. What also made me proud was that every man that ever served Sigma as a National Officer or Regional Director is included in this book, as well as every life member. Lastly, I am proud to have produced and included a living visual history of Sigma, in the form of a DVD that chronicles, eternally, many of the faces that built the first 100 years—eight International Presidents and 24 fifty

year members. Video documentation is the historical art form of the future. What I would have given to see archival footage and hear insights of the Presidents living at the time of the 35th or 50th Anniversaries of the Fraternity? Or even the 75th Anniversary in 1989—which we certainly had the capacity to do. Now brothers in 2064 or 2114 will be able to hear and see those Presidents and longtime members living just prior to the Fraternity's centennial. The DVD has already proven its value as three members (Brothers Wesley Carter, Demetrius Newton and Sylvester Davis) recorded in 2011 at the Atlanta Conclave have gone on to the Omega Chapter—but we now have their images and voices in perpetuity. This was an enhancement to the written history book and required a degree of foresight to understand its truest benefit. I'm glad President Hammock and the General Board had the trust and foresight to include it as part of the project.

CR: The history book will be updated at some point in Sigma's future. Do you have any advice for the brother(s) that will take on the responsibility of following in your footsteps?

AS: The biggest piece of advice I would give to future authors is for the Fraternity not to wait nearly 60 years to do another history update. The longer the wait—the more complicated the task, as documents become harder to assemble, memories fade and talent disperses. I would advise authors/editors of future history books to understand the scope of the task. They are going to find that chronicling history isn't as easy as it looks. If it was, we'd have had a book every ten years. I believe that was a challenge for all four authors of the three history books written—they may have underestimated—on some various levels—the awesome scope of the task. I would advise them to know your talent, resources and capacity—archiving history is different than writing history. Lastly, develop a thick skin and be happy with whatever you produce. It's your effort that will make the book stand the test of time—long after the compliments and criticisms subside. If you did your best, that's all the brothers would want and could ask. Sigmas—for generations—will appreciate you for your contribution, effort and sacrifice that will be marked throughout the annals of time.



REGIONAL NEWS

Iota Mu Sigma Chapter

Dallas, Texas

By Bro. Zachary Thompson



The Iota Mu Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. was founded on December 1, 1986, in Arlington, Texas. The Charter Members included Brothers Joe Colbert, Ralph Holloway, Thomas Lewis, Edmond Moss, and the late Vincent Wilson. These men recognized a void in the community and founded the Chapter to both address the issues of the local community and serve as mentors to the community's youth.

After a brief period of inactivity, the Chapter was reactivated in 2001 by Brothers Andre Smith, Timothy Ammons, Chris Williams, Theo Ammons, and the late John Williams. The Iota Mu Sigma Chapter has a rich history of demonstrating Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity's legacy of Brotherhood, Scholarship, and Service in Arlington, Texas. The Chapter continues to work with the Theta Chi Chapter at the University of Texas at Arlington to speed our cause on its way.

Iota Mu Sigma Chapter members are committed to changing lives through service. Members of the Iota Mu Sigma Chapter include the 32nd International President Hon. Paul Griffin, Gulf Coast Regional Director Theo Ammons, Texas State Director Edmond Cordova and President Melvin Barnes.



Iota Mu Sigma Chapter receives a Centennial Resolution

As they approached our Centennial the Chapter was even more committed to better serving the community in an effort to add to the Chapter's rich legacy of service. Below are a few of the programs they have per-

formed in their quest to address the issues of the local community.

Project Vote

On November 10-11, 2013 the brothers of Iota Mu Sigma Chapter gathered at the Friendship West Baptist Church to fellowship with the church family and support the guest minister, Bro. Rev. Al Sharpton.

The Chapter was also there to conduct a Project Vote program in partnership with the Friendship West Baptist Church Social Action Ministry. Project Vote has been a priority for the Iota Mu Sigma Chapter. To prepare for Project Vote brothers participated in voter education training. This training is designed to assist them as they help to educate citizens about participating in the democratic process.

As part of the effort to register voters the Chapter provided informational materials to Dallas County citizens on the new voter ID law in Texas. Through their efforts 200 people were registered to vote.

Following the success of this event the Chapter is committed to expanding their efforts to help register new voters.

The brothers of Iota Mu Sigma Chapter were commended by Friendship West Baptist Church's Senior Pastor Frederick Haynes, Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price, and Texas State Senator Royce West for their Project Vote registration booth.

Holiday Celebration at Vogel Alcove



*Iota Mu Sigma Chapter at Friendship West Baptist Church with Bro. Rev. Al Sharpton.
Photo includes: 1st Vice President Thomas Lewis; 2nd Vice President Zachary Thompson;
32nd International President Hon. Paul Griffin; Gulf Coast Regional Director Theo Ammons,
and President Melvin Barnes*

The Christmas holiday season brings up thoughts of family and the spirit of giving. During the Christmas holiday season, the brothers of Iota Mu Sigma Chapter set a goal to provide a joyful holiday experience for those less fortunate. They chose Vogel Alcove as the perfect location to spread some holiday cheer. Vogel Alcove provides free childcare and case management for children and their families residing at local emergency shelters, domestic shelters, and housing programs. Vogel Alcove is the only free comprehensive early childhood education program in Dallas.

On Monday, December 16, 2013 brothers gathered at Vogel Alcove and provided toys and gift certificates for the children at Vogel Alcove. Donations made by the Chapter were valued over \$1,000.00.

Seeing the children sleeping peacefully at the childcare agency gave some brothers mixed emotions knowing later that evening many would be sleeping at a homeless shelter.

"As we thought back over the 100 years of Phi Beta Sigma, Fraternity, Inc., the men of Iota Mu Sigma could feel the founders smiling down on us for embodying the fraternity's motto: 'Culture for Service and Service for Humanity,'" stated Bro. Zachary Thompson. The Chapter left even more committed to increasing the amount of their donation next year for the children.

As they prepare for our Centennial Celebration, the men of Iota Mu Sigma continue to show the world that there is something special going on in Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. Our cause speeds on its way!

VITA Program

One of Phi Beta Sigma's key initiatives, under the Bigger and Better Business program, is the VITA Program. The VITA Program is an IRS-supported free income tax preparation program for qualifying families. The program is available to people who make \$52,000 or less and need assistance in preparing their tax returns. IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation, with electronic filing, to qualified individuals in local communities. Taxpayers are informed of special tax credits for which they qualify such as earned income tax credit, child tax credit, and credit for the elderly or the disabled. VITA sites are generally located at community and neighborhood centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls, and other convenient locations.

The Iota Mu Sigma Chapter was determined to answer the clarion call to participate with the VITA Program. On February 8, 2014 the Chapter received



VITA Program

VITA training from the United Way. United Way trained thirty brothers on the basics of the intake process and greeting for the VITA Program. After receiving the proper training the Chapter volunteered at the VITA location in Arlington, Texas. Brothers served as greeters and screeners helping to create a pleasant atmosphere for people visiting VITA. They also assisted by screening taxpayers to determine the type of assistance needed and confirmed the necessary documents to complete their tax returns.

Nearly 92,000 people volunteered to assist with the program and are making a difference during the 2013 filing season. Over 3.3 million returns have been prepared at thousands of tax sites nationwide. The Chapter also plans to assist with the VITA Program at the Ft. Worth location.

Iota Mu Sigma Chapter's Bigger and Better Business Committee is chaired by Bro. Chris Sarkissian. Through the Bigger and Better Business Program the brothers of Iota Mu Sigma Chapter put into practice the Fraternity's belief that improving the economic circumstances of minorities is a major factor towards improving the general welfare of society.

The Iota Mu Sigma Chapter will continue their efforts to uplift the community during our Centennial Year and beyond. In the coming months they



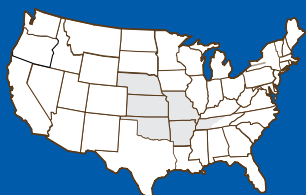
Holiday Party at Vogel Alcove



VITA training with the United Way

will collaborate with Dallas County Health and Human Services to provide air conditioning units to the elderly and low income residents. They will also work with their Sigma Beta Club to perform several community service projects, and continue their sponsorship of a Little League baseball team called the Blue Crescent. Iota Mu Sigma will remain a viable entity of the Arlington, Texas community and raise the bar for all service organizations in the area.

To contact the Chapter please visit their website at <http://iotamusigma.org/> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/IotaMuSigma>.



REGIONAL NEWS

New Leadership in the Southwestern Region

By Bro. Joshua A. Busby



*Bro. Joshua A. Busby
Southwestern Regional
Director*

March 27-30, 2014 the men of Sigma converged in Memphis, TN, home of our beloved founder Hon. Abram Langston Taylor, for the 62nd Annual Southwestern Regional Conference. Brothers from across the region gathered in The River City to culminate the end of one administration and the investiture of a new administration. Bro. TJ

Lewis, 20th Southwestern Regional Director, and his team served the Region with great prominence from 2010-2014.

In Memphis the Body elected a new administration to lead the Region over the next two years. The new board is a diverse group who brings a wealth of knowledge and strength to their respective positions. As we begin a new century of Sigma, the Region will profit thereby because of their skills, commitment and proven service to Sigma. Bro. Joshua A. Busby was elected overwhelmingly by the Body as our 21st Regional Director. Bro. Busby stated, "While I am the leader of the region, I know and believe that it is not all about me. It is about the brothers that are in the trenches working for Sigma on our campuses and in our communities."

The newly elected board includes:

- **Bro. Joshua A. Busby** (Regional Director): Bro. Busby became a member through the Beta Epsilon Chapter (Langston University). He is currently a member of the Delta Beta Sigma Chapter (Oklahoma City, OK). Bro. Busby is an Annual Giving Officer in the Office of Development at Langston University.

- **Bro. Michael L. Murry** (Vice Regional Director): Bro. Murry became a member through the Iota Pi Chapter (University of Central Arkansas). He currently is a member of the Lambda Gamma Sigma Chapter (Conway, AR). He is the Unit Manager of Cardiovascular ICU and Cardiac Telemetry Stepdown Unit at Baptist Health Medical Center in Little Rock, AR.

- **Bro. Alex L. Griffin** (Second Vice Regional Director): Bro. Griffin became a member through the Zeta Alpha Chapter (Tennessee State University). Bro. Griffin is currently majoring in Criminal Justice. Bro. Griffin is a Cadet in the Vanderbilt Army ROTC where he instructs and evaluates other Cadets.

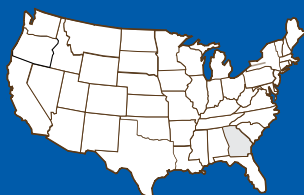
- **Bro. Michael Beverly, Jr.** (Treasurer): Bro. Beverly became a member through the Alpha Alpha Delta Chapter (University of Omaha-Nebraska). He is currently a member of Alpha Pi Sigma Chapter (Omaha, NE). Bro. Beverly is an Assistant Controller at TS Bank in Omaha.

- **Bro. Eric Wells** (Regional Secretary). Bro. Wells became a member through the Alpha Delta Sigma Chapter (Kansas City, MO) and is still active in that chapter.

The new administration plans to build a culture that will:

- Prepare our next generation of leaders
- Embrace the Sigma Beta Club
- Reinvest in the brotherhood
- Reinvigorate our membership development strategies
- Cultivate professional networking opportunities
- Strengthen the utilization of technology

"These things will take our region to the next level of service excellence. I look forward to continuing our path to greatness for not only the Southwestern Region but the fraternity as a whole," states Bro. Busby.



REGIONAL NEWS

Gamma Pi Sigma Chapter “Get Smart About Credit”

By Bro. Gregory L. Brown

Empowering communities through financial literacy is the drive in aiding many African Americans in understanding personal and household financial management. Many communities lack the understanding of financial literacy, which is why Phi Beta Sigma & Wells Fargo formed an international part-

nership. The goal of this partnership is to provide free financial education resources for kids, teens, adults, entrepreneurs, seniors and the military through Wells Fargo’s “Hands on Banking” Program.



Brothers of Gamma Pi Sigma Chapter and Sorors of Epsilon Tau Zeta Chapter with workshop attendees

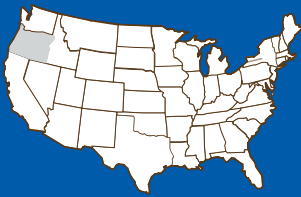
In an effort to assist in educating the underserved communities in the middle Georgia area, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. (Gamma Pi Sigma Chapter) and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. (Epsilon Tau Zeta Chapter) partnered with Wells Fargo to host a FREE financial education workshop entitled, “Getting Smart about Credit”. This free workshop was held on Thursday, November 14, 2013 from

5:30PM – 7:00PM at the Buck Melton Community Center. Mr. Foster Hurt II, a personal banker with Wells Fargo, facilitated the workshop and provided information on the “tips and tools” for educating yourself about credit. Mr. Hurt also shared with the workshop participants, the “5 C’s of Credit”: Credit History (establish, manage, maintain), Capacity (debt to income ratio), Collateral (assets to secure the debt), Capital (liquid assets, other sources of funds) and Conditions (economics and me). Participants were also provided handouts to educate themselves on managing your credit, how to establish credit and how to obtain copies of your credit report.

This free service project addresses the following initiatives for each organization: Phi Beta Sigma’s Project S.E.E.D. (Sigma Economic

Empowerment Development); and Zeta Phi Beta’s Financial Education Outreach.

The seminar flowed very well and there was great dialogue during the presentation. The collaborative organizations were excited to provide this free service to the community and are eager to host this event in the future. Bro. Don C. Andrews, Phi Beta Sigma Georgia State Director of Bigger & Better Business, was in attendance and looks forward to partnering with Wells Fargo at upcoming PBS Georgia State Conferences.



REGIONAL NEWS

Omicron Theta Sigma Chapter

Oregon



Making A Difference in the Pacific Northwest

BY BRO. BLAKE DYE



1st Row (left to right): Dominique Merriweather, Marc-Daniel Domond, Darrell Keyes, Blake Dye, Hon. John Lewis, Jason Stroman, Andrey Jackson, Lee Fleming 2nd Row: Aubre Dickson, Leslie Taylor

Omicron Theta Sigma Chapter (OTS) has been in celebration mode since the fall of 2013. With the Fraternity celebrating our Centennial and the Chapter reaching its fourth year milestone, the brotherhood is focused on raising visibility and expanding their presence in the community.

The Chapter is comprised of a mix of native Oregonians and brothers from other areas who have made Oregon their home. The common bond is recognizing the need to support a black community that is small in number and has a high need for men to serve as role models.

Mentoring Our Youth

One of the biggest passions among OTS members is serving as mentors. One year after the Chapter was founded; OTS Charter Members Bros. Aubre

Dickson and Marc-Daniel Domond partnered with a Portland alternative school to mentor young men through their “Step Up” program. Step Up works with students, at several area high schools and middle schools, identifying those that will likely need supplemental support to increase their likelihood of successful academic advancement leading to graduation. School administrators identified an ideal target group of 15-20 young black males with whom the brothers could establish a meaningful and ongoing mentorship program. Brothers

will work with these young men as they progress through their high school years. These young men have chosen to identify themselves as the “Young BlackMale Achievers”.

The initial focus was to establish rapport, build trust, develop relationships, and provide these young men access to positive black male role models that were accessible and identifiable. Unfortunately this was lacking in most of their personal lives. Meeting approximately every other week, the group discussions often initiate by identifying shared and differing experiences that shape our perspectives of what it means to be a black man in our local communities and the larger society. This frequently includes educating the young men on the multitudes of heroes and pioneers throughout history that have not only advanced our society in their respective fields, but who also looked just like them and thrived in spite of

the obstacles, constrictions and resistance they faced. In addition to building pride and positive identity, the group also explores, in depth, issues very specific to their developmental stage in life; such as bullying, peer pressure, health, academics, interpersonal relationships, family and social dynamics, problem-solving, personal finance, pursuing secondary education and career planning. To supplement and enhance the group's workshops, OTS also takes the young men on frequent field trips into the community, furthering their exposure and understanding of the topics explored in a real and tangible way. Such outings have included visiting historical exhibits, attending lectures at local universities by prominent figures in the socio-political world, visiting job-sites highlighting the possibilities available through journeyman/apprentice programs and vocational training, and attending special screenings of relevant documentaries such as *Bully*, *The Black Fatherhood Project*, and *An American Promise*.

The progress OTS has made with these men was recognized by Oregon State University. The University's administrators were so impressed with the program they felt partnering would provide the young men more incentive to graduate understanding admission to college could be a reality. The University collaborated with Bro. Lee Fleming to write and submit a successful grant application to fund the higher education connection portion of the program. The Chapter expects this will be the first of many successful grants awarded for their work with the community.

Celebrating Service

In January, OTS joined the Epsilon Epsilon Sigma Chapter (Seattle, WA) to hold the "Centennial Celebration of the Pacific Northwest" in SeaTac, WA. Both chapters have a statewide presence, and this event allowed members from both states to join with the sisters of Zeta Phi Beta, family and friends to celebrate our Centennial. Chapter Presidents Bros. Richard Johnson (EES) and Jason Stroman (OTS) are working hard to ensure the two chapters collaborate on events and programs to leverage our strengths

throughout the region. The chapters honored individual members for their dedicated service, presenting awards and showcasing the work these men have done on behalf of Sigma. The evening also included special words from Ms. Linda Morse, grand-daughter of Founder Leonard F. Morse. Her representation of the Morse family and gracious words were well received by attendees.

Later that month, Phi Beta Sigma was recognized for 100 years of service at the Fourth Annual Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Breakfast in Vancouver, WA. This event recognizes organizations and individuals in Southwest Washington and the Portland region for their social justice efforts. OTS was honored to be chosen and pulled off the surprise of the event as Bro. Congressman John Lewis joined the brothers as they marched into the hall, led by OTS President Jason Stroman. The event organizer was stunned and the sold-out crowd roared in excitement once they realized a Civil Rights icon was in their midst. The brothers took the stage to share the many contributions of Sigma men to the movement with those assembled; then leading everyone in the singing of *Lift Every Voice and Sing*. As the tears flowed, people were awed and brothers were appreciative of the warm welcome. The Mayor of Vancouver, along with a number of Clark County and State of Washington officials in attendance, personally thanked Bro. Lewis for his contribution to public service and how honored they were by his attendance. Later that weekend, OTS was a part of Portland's largest Martin Luther King celebration and Brother Blake Dye's speech was broadcast on television and radio.

The Power of Partnerships

As part of OTS's 4th Anniversary celebration, a professional mixer was held at a black managed establishment on Portland's waterfront. The event allowed attendees to fellowship and join us in celebrating our activities to date. The occasion also provided an opportunity for the Chapter to share our future plans to better serve our community.

The month of March opened with OTS collaborating with Noni Causey of "The Passage to Education"

program to sponsor and plan the inaugural Black Student Success Summit. The event hosted 300 high school and college students from across Oregon and Southwest Washington in a day long professional development conference on the campus of Portland Community College. Recent statistics have shown a wide disparity in rates of graduation between black students and their peers. The conference was designed to provide a direct intervention so students could identify resources available to complete their goals. The presenters talked with students concerning the problems they have recognized and explained how, with their input, changes can be made to improve educational outcomes. Conference presenters included the Deputy of Public Instruction for the State of Oregon as well as a number of education officials. Students were provided direct access to executive level black professions to hear how they can progress in their careers and understand the importance of degree completion.

The Chapter has formally partnered with iUrban Teen, a program founded by Deena Pierott and recently recognized by the White House for their

work in exposing and inspiring male youth of color to become tomorrow's technology leaders. The program has been hosting Teen Tech Summits and coding events nationally introducing Black, Hispanic and Native American males to careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) plus the Arts. OTS brothers have been providing program direction and will be mentoring at upcoming events in Seattle and Portland. When these programs are launched in Los Angeles, Charlotte and Detroit later this year, local Sigma chapters are encouraged to include their Sigma Betas to increase their access to these educationally beneficial events.

As we approach our Centennial Celebration, this band of brothers in Oregon has provided meaningful and impactful events that showcase the best of what Sigma offers the community. There are continued plans to partner with the Pi Alpha Zeta Chapter (Portland, OR) of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.; to reach students in Eugene, Salem and Portland in an effort to strengthen our presence and deliver community service statewide. Stay tuned for more, there is something special going in the Pacific Northwest.



OWN A PIECE OF SIGMA HISTORY

The Sigma Exchange has on sale a one of a kind original three painting set by artist Brother Will Watson. The price for the set of acrylic on canvas paintings is \$5,000 and are verified by the artist as the original artworks. Be the only Brother in Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity to own these paintings!

www.sigmaexchange.com



OUR

CULTURE

Comprehensive by Design

BY BRO. TORIAN A. RICHARDSON



Phi Beta Sigma is not the greatest fraternity; however it is the most comprehensive fraternal organization on earth. Additionally, Sigma men were never intended to represent a membership that comes off an assembly line because our fraternity was designed to be an omnibus organization. Allow me to elaborate

as to why this - our founders' vision - is as relevant and urgently necessary as ever.

The world is changing - fast. As cultured men we have heard that message before but over the past 15 years the rate of change has grown exponentially faster compared to any other snapshot of time in previous centuries. It is easy to become jaded by the idea of change; either because we become callus to the message or it can be difficult to find context in our local community. Make no mistake though, globalization is real and is shifting the fundamentals of everyday life. Let us look at how this affects one of Phi Beta Sigma's core principles - Scholarship. The convergence of "Education" and "Technology" is but one of the far-reaching changes happening right before our eyes. For example, if one is intellectually

curious enough, high quality education is one click away through Massively Open Online Courses (MOOC's). In 2014, a person can take credits earned in said MOOC's and apply them toward graduation from a top-tier research university i.e. Georgia Tech. Combine these advancements with mobile devices and the scale of education becomes infinite. Mobile technology and high speed internet has equalized access to information across the globe as humanity sits at the incubator stages of global learning and scholarship.

These fundamental changes present a great opportunity for Phi Beta Sigma. Sigma men must ponder how change can also further marginalize communities that are already excluded and without access.

What role is Phi Beta Sigma playing to provide balance to the underserved during this paradigm shift?

Are we driving programs (internationally and locally) and leading by example to thwart educational technology inequalities?

How will comprehensive change in higher education effect how Phi Beta Sigma defines a "chapter", should virtual chapters be an option?

What type of bachelor degree granting higher education institutions will we honor for membership i.e. a 100% virtual degree from online universities?

Those questions lead to an opportunity to address

complex challenges that are non-linear, and require visionary leadership from the men of Phi Beta Sigma. While addressing these opportunities we also should be mindful that our comprehensiveness does not come without additional hurdles. Our public image is an internal challenge we have to further promote. We live in an age of hyper-commercialization and it is difficult for some groups to digest that Phi Beta Sigma is not meant to fit in one category. It is hard to categorize us, we prefer it that way however diversity is a complex sell. Diversity requires the empathy of cultural intelligence and the rigor of social intelligence. Many times even the communities we serve desire to put us in a box and wonder why our members are not all “cut from the same fabric”. We have all heard the comments before, things like:

“Sigmas’ are...”

“Sigmas’ do not look like...”

“Sigmas’ do not act like...”

“I would have never guessed you were a Sigma”

For the “inclusive we” these statements further solidify the uniqueness and complexity of Phi Beta Sigma as a whole. I believe Founder Morse called it - dull. Just as the President of the United States of America presides over fifty States and not just one community or as there are many shades of color in the communities we serve, Phi Beta Sigma is also not standardized. Our diversity of thought, looks, race, and mannerisms are indicative of the world that we live in. Complex and diverse yet still connected with the intent to represent humanity. These are the attributes, which make Phi Beta Sigma the most

comprehensive fraternal order on earth.

I find it fitting that as mighty Phi Beta Sigma celebrates 100 years of our grand design and humanities tectonic plates are shifting we are awarded the ability to ponder upon serious questions that affect our comprehensive body for the next 100 years:

Is Phi Beta Sigma leading by example the drive for STEM [Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math] with our education programs, Sigma Beta Clubs, and organizational usage of mobile technology?

How will online learning affect our membership?

How do we diminish the technology gap within our own fraternity?

As the world moves away from an industrial-based economy to a creation-based economy, Phi Beta Sigma sits in the sweet spot for relevance, influence, and excellence for the next century, if we so choose. It is critical that Phi Beta Sigma lives up to the comprehensive culture of excellence our founders set forth. We must continue to challenge brothers - from elected officials to line brothers - to be relevant, influential, and command excellence in all endeavors. Embarking on the next 100 years, the most comprehensive fraternal organization’s reaffirmation to serve humanity is the light of the spirit of Phi Beta Sigma. Culture for Service, is rooted in our Culture of Excellence. Let us thunder back with higher expectations and tangible actions as we reaffirm our cause in Mighty Phi Beta Sigma.

Our cause speeds on its way...



Securing
the future
of our young
men of color!

I AM MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

DESTINATION LITTLE ROCK
JULY 15 - 19, 2015

CENTENNIAL SPECIAL REGISTRATION

July 16, 2014 - August 15, 2014

- Registered Centennial Attendees Receive Special Rate of \$300 Alumni, \$200 Collegiate, \$250 Guest
- DSC Members receive 50% Discount on Alumni Regular Registration Rate*
- Must be registered for the Centennial Celebration to receive this special.

**See Regular Registration Rates and Dates below*

EARLY DOVE REGISTRATION RATES

AUG 16, 2014 - OCT 31, 2014

ALUMNI \$400 COLLEGIATE \$250 GUEST \$300

REGULAR REGISTRATION RATES

NOV 1, 2014 - May 15, 2015

ALUMNI \$475 COLLEGIATE \$325 GUEST \$375

LATE REGISTRATION

MAY 16, 2015 - JUN 15, 2015

ALUMNI \$625 COLLEGIATE \$475 GUEST \$475



CONCLAVE 2015

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3 Statehouse Plaza, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Hotel Room Rate: \$129 per night

NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION

- 5 Month Payment Plan Available for Early Dove & Regular Registration Rates. The plan features an initial payment and 4 remaining monthly payments. A \$5 processing fee for each transaction will apply.

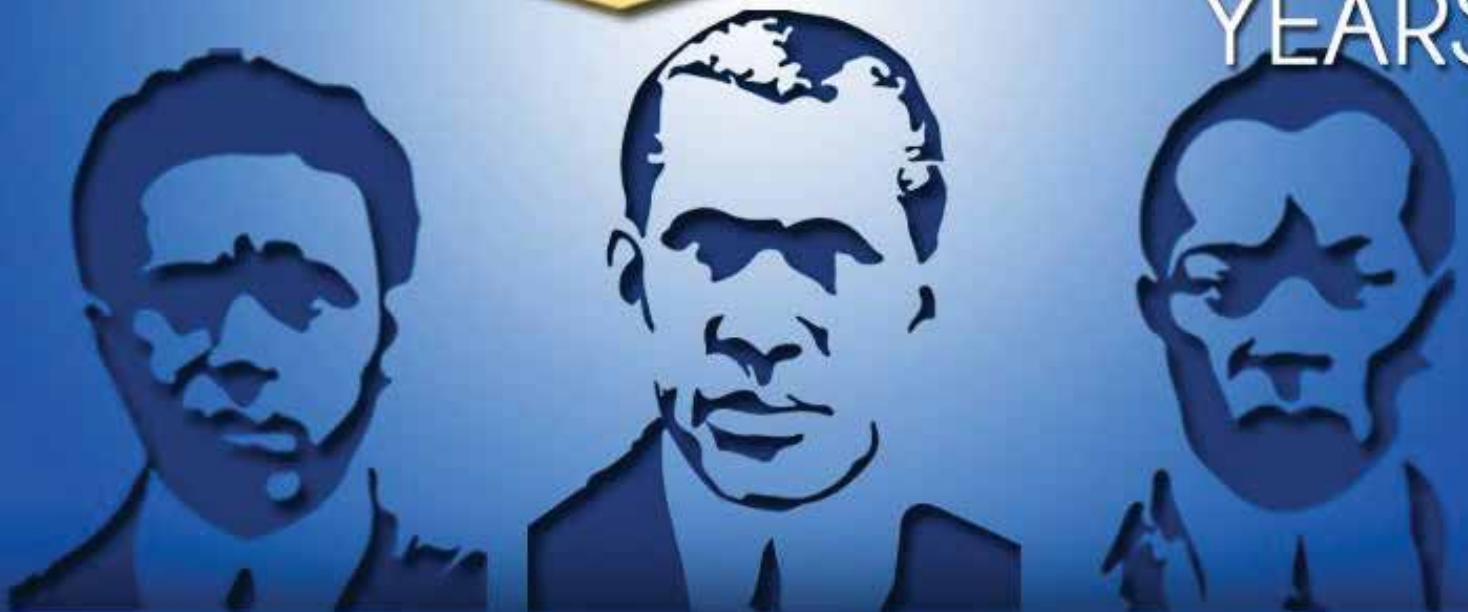
www.phibetasigma1914.org

CELEBRATING

1



YEARS



#PBS100 | Brotherhood | Scholarship | Service