

The
PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY, INC.
CRESCENT

Magazine

The Passing
of a Sigma
Pioneer

Bro. Eugene
Edgerson of
the Harlem
Globetrotters

L.A.
Conclave
Review

SPECIAL
REPORT:
A Sigma
Responds to
the Hurricane
KATRINA
Aftermath

THE
POWER
of
ONE



SIGMA UNITED
FOR NEXT
LEVEL SERVICE

32nd International President
The Honorable Paul L. Griffin, Jr.

WINTER 2005

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The PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY, INC. CRESCENT Magazine

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Hon. Bro. Paul L. Griffin, Jr.
32nd International President

To My Sigma Brothers:

We are happy to present the 2005 winter edition of The Crescent Magazine. It is truly an exciting issue filled with news and information you will value. Our rich 91-year legacy of "Culture for Service and Service for Humanity" continues, presented throughout the following pages. The Crescent Magazine is our official organ and provides an opportunity to show the world all about Phi Beta Sigma. It is expository of our mission and our programs. It is inspirational to our members to be of greater service. Our brothers, sisters, friends, family, corporate supporters and the general public learn more about us through each edition.



As we propel this administration's theme, "The Power of ONE: Sigma United for Next Level Service", we are positive you will personally answer the call to get more involved in your community and your Fraternity through our International programs of Education, Social Action, and Bigger and Better Business. Congratulations to our Chapters on the excellent program activities reported, only a handful of which are featured in this edition.

Please join me in thanking Brother Ron Lewis for accepting the task of Editor-In-Chief of The Crescent. He and his team have done a superb job in publishing their first edition. Again, we rely on you to join with the Crescent staff in providing stories of interest and documenting service projects and achievements of note. Let us make sure the activities of every Region is properly represented and covered.

In nine short years, we will be celebrating 100 years of service to humanity. Let us march on toward this milestone with renewed commitment, confident that our next 100 years will be even more successful than our first. Enjoy this edition of The Crescent Magazine and be always mindful that we are proud men of Phi Beta Sigma, constantly working to give back and make this world a better place where all can achieve to their full potential.

Fraternally,

Paul L. Griffin, Jr.
32nd International President

Bro. Donald Jemison
International Executive Director

My Brothers in Sigma,

Thank you for your continued support to the headquarters staff and me within the past year. This support has led us as an organization to accomplish much this past year.



The reported chapter activities featured in this Crescent Magazine will allow our members and friends the opportunity to read about the many great programs our chapters across the nation and abroad are participating in on the college campuses and in our communities. This publication will allow all brothers an opportunity to see the many good things our fraternity is doing to help our communities.

Our Conclave in Los Angeles 2005 gave us the opportunity to welcome in a new administration, as Brother Paul L. Griffin, Jr. became our 32nd International President. Congratulations to Brother Griffin as he assumes his role as the International President of our wondrous band. We also welcome into our fraternity our first six platinum life members and our first three sapphire life members.

My prayers go out to the families and friends of the victims of the recent hurricanes in the Gulf Coast and Southern Regions of our fraternity. As families rebuild their lives from these tragedies, let us be a beacon of hope and financial support to our brothers, their families and the communities in which we serve.

As we move into 2006, we must continue our efforts to grow in our Brotherhood and to remain a beacon of light for our community and the world.

Fraternally,

Bro. Donald J. Jemison
International Executive Director

Bro. Ron Lewis
Editor-In-Chief

Greetings Brothers,

I hope this letter finds each of you in the best physical, emotional and spiritual well-being imaginable. It's an exciting time to be a Sigma. With the new administration firmly in place each of you should feel a sense of excitement that as Sigma men we have charted a new course towards greatness.



I want to begin with a word of thanks to our new president Bro. Paul L. Griffin, Jr., for the confidence he has placed in me to be the new Editor-In-Chief of The Crescent Magazine. He was very forthright with me in spelling out his vision for Phi Beta Sigma and I was confident that, if he deemed me worthy, I could carry forth that vision in the form of a print publication that will make Sigma proud. The challenges before me notwithstanding, my confidence is buoyed by the many expressions of congratulations and pledges of support from brothers all across the nation. I have always held to the adage the whole is greater than the sum of its part. With that in mind, I will be relying on the many diverse talents and experiences of the brothers to contribute to the continued growth and success of The Crescent.

This first issue is a post Conclave issue. I want to personally thank the brothers who worked hard to make this first issue possible. We hope you enjoy it. The theme for the next issue will highlight Education. You won't want to miss it. Over time, The Crescent Magazine will evolve and each brother will play a measurable role in shaping its future. Together, we can accomplish much.

Warmest Fraternal Regards,

Bro. Ron Lewis
Editor-In-Chief
The Crescent Magazine



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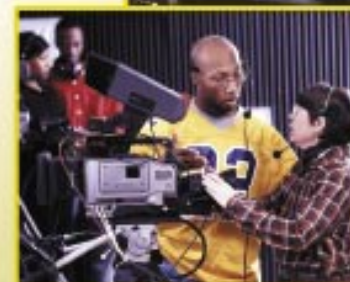
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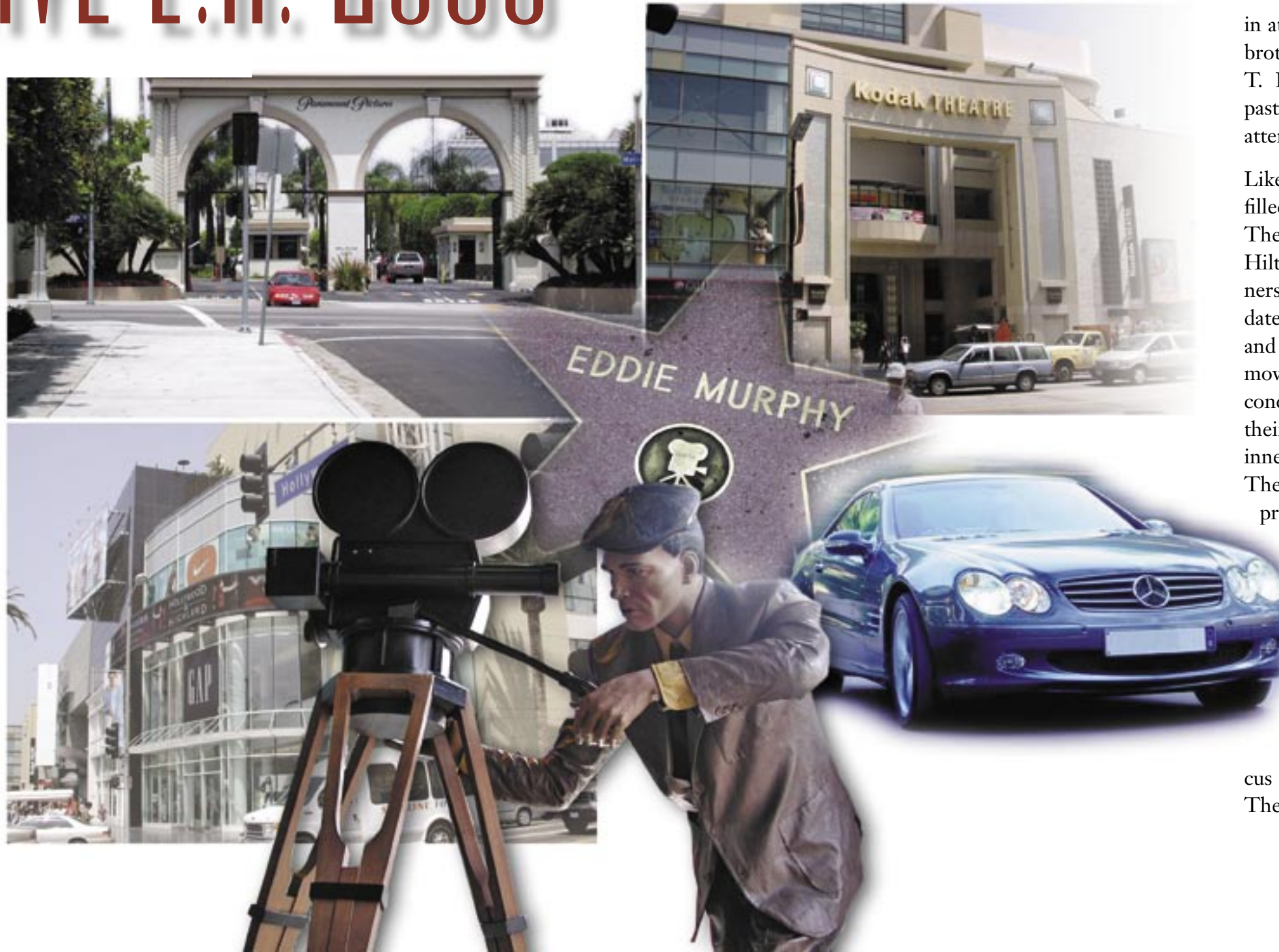
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CONCLAVE L.A. 2005

A REVIEW

The men of Sigma were called to Los Angeles, California to celebrate 91 years of “Culture for Service and Service for Humanity”. This would be our first gathering on the west coast since San Francisco in 1978. Sigma men from across these United States, and from as far away as Japan, answered the call to be in the Los Angeles area. In attendance were regular members, life members, distinguished service members, past and present officers from all segments of the Fraternity. The time had come to unite as one and recommit to the Founders’ vision. It was a time to reflect on our rich past, evaluate the present and plan for our future. Five of our past presidents, Honorable Brothers R. O. Sutton, Demetrius C. Newton, Esq., Carter D. Womack, William E. Stanley, Jr. and Peter M. Adams, Esq., were



in attendance to fellowship with the brothers. Honorable Brothers James T. Floyd and Moses McClendon, past presidents, were unable to attend and were missed by all.

Like most Conclaves, the air was filled with buzz about the candidates. The lobby area of the Sheraton and Hilton hotels were dressed with banners asking for the vote. The candidates did their best to court chapters and brothers with influence. The move was on to win the vote. For conclave neophytes, this would be their first opportunity to witness the inner workings of the Fraternity. They would experience the political process up close.

Tuesday and Wednesday were travel days for many brothers as they arrived in town for the start of business on Thursday. The first two days were filled with public and private receptions, committee meetings and regional caucus sessions for those arriving early. The fraternity received greetings

from National Pan-Hellenic Council member organizations locally and nationally at a reception held in our honor and the public meeting. We listened to our collegiate oratorical and debate competitors

Omega Chapter. We followed this solemn ceremony with a Rededication oath. The brothers present pledged to uphold the high ideals of the Fraternity and carry on the dream of our Founders. With hearts and



Brothers settle in for the beginning of the first business session. Photo by Stepshows.com

who represented chapters from the various regions across the country.

We began Thursday morning by remembering our deceased brothers during the Omega Ceremony. Brothers crowded the Grand Ballroom to participate. The names of those called would now join the Founders and other brothers to be formally inducted into the

souls filled with fond memories and a sense of commitment to the future, it was now time to take care of the business of Sigma.

Our 31st International President, Hon. Arthur R. Thomas called Business Session I to order. This was followed by greetings from the Conclave Committee and the host chapter. Our International Execu-



Executive Director Bro. Donald Jemison addresses the brothers at the opening of the first business session. Photo by Stepshows.com

tive Director, Bro. Donald J. Jemison, presented the first credentials report and the adoption of the minutes of Conclave 2003.

The Nominating Committee was first to present their report. After nominations from the floor, a motion was made to cast one vote for all unopposed offices. This resulted in the election of brothers Scherod Barnes, John White, John Turner and Jimmy Hammock for the offices of Director of Bigger and Better Business, Director of Social Action, Legal Counsel and Treasurer, respectively.

The Election Committee

presented their report that focused on the procedure delegates would follow for voting. Business session I ended and delegates were off to cast their vote and attend other scheduled activities and committee meetings.

Business Session II opened with a report from the Auditing Committee, which was followed by the Treasurer's Report.

The time had arrived for the State of the Fraternity Address.



Brothers Daryl Anderson, Hon. Peter Adams, Esq., Jonathan Mason, Hon. William Stanley, Jr., Daniel Tann and Scherod Barnes at the second business session. Photo by Stepshows.com

President Thomas began by thanking the membership for their support during his 2 terms. He went on to give an address reviewing his goals and

accomplishments. Thomas announced a personal pledge of \$10,000.00 to the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund. He encouraged all chapters and brothers to make donations to the Fraternity's endowments.

As a show of appreciation to the past presidents, Thomas presented each with a "presidential" blazer matching the one he was wearing. The blazers had the name and presidential number of each past president. Each past president

blazers.

The Distinguished Service Chapter Committee presented the General Board with the names of those brothers to be considered for induction into the DSC. The Body approved seven brothers who were asked to step forward and be recognized. The 2005 DSC inductees are: Brothers Lynard Carter (Theta Beta Sigma), Ronald H. Carter (Phi Beta Sigma), William Hayslett (Eta Beta Sigma), Sidney Moshette, Jr. (Kappa Beta Sigma), Winford L. Rose (Eta Sigma), Arthur R. Thomas, Esq. (Omicron Beta Sigma) and Dr. Kevin R. West (Chi Sigma). The Body received these brothers with heart-felt applause.

As the polls closed for the day, brothers and guests started to prepare for the anticipated Miss International Phi Beta Sigma Pageant. The young ladies represented themselves and the regions with style and sophistication. The long day of meetings and events ended with the high energy Phi Beta Sigma International Step Team Competition and Dance.



President Thomas addresses the brotherhood with his State of the Fraternity Address. Photo by Stepshows.com



Outgoing International President Hon. Bro. Arthur Thomas is joined by past presidents Hon. R.O. Sutton, Hon. Demetrius Newton, Esq., Hon. Carter Womack, Hon. William Stanley and Hon. Peters Adams, Esq. Photo by Stepshows.com

The Brotherhood Breakfast was at the top of the morning on Friday. Brothers Decatur and Wade Morse, the son and grandson of Founder Leonard F. Morse were in attendance. The brothers received them warmly and thanked them for providing an important link to our beloved Founders. Several chapters and brothers were recognized during the breakfast for their achievements in various areas while we enjoyed a wonderful meal and good fellowship. The remainder of the morning and early afternoon were filled with workshops on a variety of topics such as personal finances, home ownership, building better chapters



President Thomas presents past president Hon. William E. Stanley with his presidential blazer while Hon. R.O. Sutton enjoys a good laugh. Photo by Stepshows.com

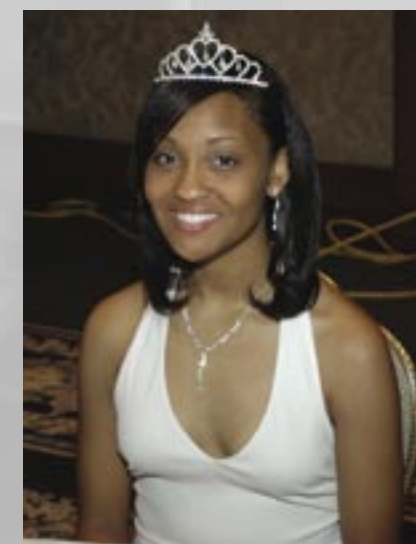
and technology, just to name a few.

As Business Session III was called to order, brothers were eager to hear the outcome of the elections. But first, we were given the final Credentials Report from Bro. Jemison. Now, it was time to hear from the Elections Committee. The brothers who were elected to join Bros. Barnes, White, Turner and Hammock as officers on the new General Board of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. were as follows: Paul L. Griffin, Jr. (Presi-



Hon. Arthur Thomas and the Miss Phi Beta Sigma Pageant Court. Photo by Stepshows.com

Former Miss Phi Beta Sigma Nythea Campbell passes the torch to the newly crowned Miss Phi Beta Sigma Adrienne Foster of Columbus, GA. Photos by Stepshows.com



dent), Sidney W. McCray (1st V.P.), Brandon J. Wallace (2nd V.P.) and Michael W. Hines (Director of Education). The



Bros. Decatur and Wade Morse, the son and grandson of Founder Leonard F. Morse. Photo by Stepshows.com

Body applauded the newly elected officers. At this time, their opponents stepped to the microphone to pledge their support, in a spirit of BROTHERHOOD and UNITY.

The Resolutions Committee presented several resolutions to the Body during their report. Three resolutions were passed. The first was to recognize the Urban League of Los Angeles for their support and another to extend appreciation for the host chapter. Lastly, there was a resolution introduced to renounce the actions of the

U.S. government in Iraq. The Body decided to vote down this resolution.



Outgoing President Bro. Arthur Thomas congratulates President-Elect Bro. Paul L. Griffin, Jr. Photo by Stepshows.com

The Collegiate Affairs Committee presented their report. Their major focus was on increased communication between collegiate and alumni brothers, increased services from the International Headquarters, and a stronger voice and more representation on the General Board. Business Session III ended and brothers exited the session to prepare

for The African American Male Image Awards Banquet and the All Greek Step Show that concluded the day.

Business Session IV closed out the working portion of Conclave 2005. Brothers would hear from the Law and Revision, Grievance and Time and Place Committees. The Law and Revision Committee had a number of amendment proposals. A few that were approved were as follows: Formal establishment of an International Historian, inclusion of collegiate members on the DSC Committee, creation of associate members on campuses without a charter and/or chapter and increased presence of collegiate brothers on special committees.

The Time and Place Committee included a presentation from the 2007 Conclave host chapter Beta Rho Sigma. The chapter had representatives in the exhibit area promoting Charlotte and the upcoming Conclave. The brothers from Charlotte, NC had an exciting presentation promoting our next Conclave city. They look forward to brothers and their

families visiting the city to take advantage of their hospitality.

The final evening of our stay in Los Angeles, CA would end with the President's Pinning Ceremony and Installation of Officers followed by the Grand Orchid Ball.

The Conclave ended as usual, with a renewed spirit and commitment to move the fraternity forward. After a long week of fellowship, fun, networking and planning we departed to deliver the message back to our chapters. Now, it is on to Charlotte.



Bros. Quentin Goodwin, John Reaves and Edison McCrea of Beta Rho Sigma Chapter in Charlotte, NC were on hand to promote Conclave 2007. Photo by Bro. Ron Lewis

Sigma/Zeta Connection

IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, ZETA PHI BETA AND Phi Beta Sigma hosted the first ever joint Illinois State Leadership Conference "It's A Family Affair" in September 2005 on the campus of Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois. The auxiliary groups of both organizations were also present: Amicae, Sigma Betas, Archonettes, Amicettes, & Pearlettes.

Over 200 were in attendance. Highlights of the conference: the statewide service project to a domestic violence shelter, joint workshops, Awards Luncheon, past Grand Basileus Jylla Moore Foster served as a workshop presenter as well as the National First Anti Vice President Kim Sawyer. Workshops were co-facilitated by Zetas and Sigmas.



PHI BETA SIGMA HONORS IT'S 17TH INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

If an International Presidents roll call occurred, the first response of "present" would come from the Honorable Brother Roswell O. Sutton, the 17th International President (1960-62). After Brother Sutton, the next answer would come

from Brother Demetrius Newton, the 24th International President (1981-84). Brother Sutton, at age 85, is the senior life member, and the senior Distinguished Service Chapter member of the Fraternity and he doesn't miss a beat when it comes to being very active in Sigma. Brother Sutton's commitment to his profession of finance, the military, community service, and his church have earned him the adoration of Atlantans and Sigma Brothers throughout the world.



On November 12, 2005, Phi Beta Sigma held a historic gala to honor Brother Sutton at the Atlanta Hilton Hotel. Nearly 400 Brothers, family, friends, and church members from 20 states attended this formal dinner affair. This was the first time in history that the Fraternity came together for the sole purpose to specifically honor one Brother. President Paul L. Griffin, Jr., on behalf of the General Board, bestowed upon Brother Sutton the high honor of President Emeritus of Phi Beta Sigma. Honorable Brother Demetrius Newton pinned Brother Sutton with a customized diamond adorned President Emeritus pin.

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THE POWER OF ONE

Sigma
United
For
Next
Level
Service



PASSING THE TORCH TO #32

2005-2007 Theme: “The Power of ONE: Sigma United for Next Level Service”

With foresight and commitment, The Honorable Brother A. Langston Taylor, International President #1, proclaimed,

“Phi Beta Sigma, a Fraternity that is ever striving to build itself up, internally and externally, on the broad principles of Love, Service and Scholarship, and doing this work it is rapidly

forging to the front as a vital factor in the life about it.”

So, indeed, it has been, since 1914. And, the torch of leadership has once again been passed.

At Conclave 2005, held in Los Angeles, California, Brother Paul L. Griffin, Jr. became the 32nd International President of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. To some, this Sigma Brother emerged on the national scene very quickly, but those who know Paul, realize that he has been serving Sigma faithfully for over 30 years. So, just who is our newest President, resoundingly elected by Sigma men worldwide, this past summer?

Brother Paul L. Griffin, Jr., a native of New Orleans, Louisiana, hails from DeSoto, Texas, a suburb of Dallas, Texas, where he resides with his wife, Belinda and their younger daughter, Shannon. Their older daughter, Ashley, is in her sophomore year, at President Griffin’s alma mater, Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas. There, Bro. Griffin also obtained his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees, in 1979 and 1983, respectively. It was also at TSU that Bro. Griffin became a proud member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., through Beta Delta Chapter, in 1975.

Professionally, Paul serves as Vice President, Director of Urban Initiatives for the School Division of Houghton Mifflin Company. The Company is an international publisher of textbooks, assessments, instructional technology and other educational materials (pre-kindergarten through college), and is based in Boston, Massachusetts. Paul has been employed with Houghton Mifflin

for ten years. He has national responsibility to help develop and implement successful strategies to market and sell the company’s products to large urban school districts, located in major cities across the country. He brings a strong business acumen, knowledge of major urban centers, an outstanding history of service to his Fraternity and his community, a dedication to scholarship and opportunities for individual advancement through quality education and a love of people. He is an effective team-builder and leader, who brings much energy, excitement and commitment to the responsibilities of International President, the chief executive officer of Phi Beta Sigma, Fraternity, Inc.

In Phi Beta Sigma, Paul is a Gold Life Member of the Fraternity and a platinum Life Member of the Gulf Coast Region. He has served the Fraternity in office at the local, regional and national levels. Locally, he has served as President of the Omicron Sigma Chapter, Dallas, Texas and is currently an active member of Iota Mu Sigma Chapter, based in Arlington, Texas. On the regional level, he has served as an elected officer for twelve consecutive years, and is the 8th Gulf Coast Regional Director. Nationally, he served as an appointed officer at the pleasure of three International Presidents. Paul’s first internationally elected position is the office of International President, which is a historic event in itself in modern times.

Paul has been generous with his time outside of the Fraternity as well. He has served on the board of directors of community service organizations, including the Sickle Cell Anemia Foun-

ation of Houston, Neighborhood Centers, Inc., Acres Home Community Development Corporation, S.H.A.P.E. Community Center and the advisory board of the Riverside Health Center. He is a dues-paying member of the Bethesda Lodge #168 MWP HGL of Texas.

Brother Griffin is an honored professional in Nationwide Register’s of Who’s Who in Executives and Businesses (2001-02) and has been listed as a member of Who’s Who in Executives and Professionals (2006-07).

Brother Griffin believes that success as an organization is no accident. He acknowledges the accomplishments of the past; but is convinced that a well-developed and embraced plan is critical to long-term success and optimal results. To enable others to achieve to their full potential, Sigma must also maximize its potential. In the words of President Griffin:

“As we position SIGMA under THE POWER OF ONE theme, it is critical that we have a well-defined, working strategic plan. Our blue ribbon commission will be comprised of brothers, professionals and experts that will be assembled to help develop our strategic plan for the future, with an integrated, effective infrastructure. We will be positioned to move Sigma forward in a manner that makes our Founders proud.”

At its November, 2005 meeting, the General Board endorsed and funded the development of the strategic plan and the initiatives presented by President Griffin, as together the national and regional leaders embraced “The Power of ONE: Sigma United for Next Level Service”.



OUR HISTORY

Thanks to the efforts of Brothers Mark 'Mallet' Pacich, Kevin Christian, Linden Houston and others, our rich history lives on in

the form of the photos that will be featured here. The staff of

The Crescent Magazine is excited about presenting this new feature. Each issue will profile a rare photo or artifact from the museum's archive along with a brief history of the item. Our hope is that by sharing these photos we can begin to rebuild a connection to our great and illustrious past. Enjoy!

1925 Basketball Team
Kappa Chapter • Meharry Medical College



BOOK REVIEW:

RAC(E)ING TO THE RIGHT

Selected Essays of George S. Schuyler by Dr. Jeffrey B. Leak

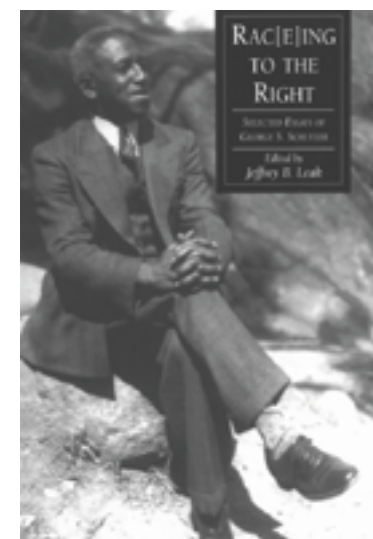
From the 1920s to the 1970s, George S. Schuyler was one of the country's most prolific--and controversial--observers of African American life. As journalist, socialist, novelist, right-wing conservative, and, finally, political outcast, his thought was rife with insight and contradiction. Until now, only Schuyler's fiction has found its way back into print. *Rac(e)ing to the Right* is the first collection of his political and cultural criticism.

The essays gathered by Jeffrey Leak encompass three key periods of Schuyler's development. The first section follows his literary evolution in the 1920s and 1930s, during which time he deserted the U.S. Army and briefly became a member of the Socialist Party. Part II reveals his shift toward political conservatism in response to World War II and the perceived threat of Communism. Part III covers the civil rights movement of the 1960s--an era that

prompted some of his most extreme and volatile critiques of black leadership and liberal ideology. The book includes many essays that are not well known as well as pieces that have never before been published. One notable example is the first printed transcript of Schuyler's 1961 debate on the Black Muslims with Malcolm X, James Baldwin, and C. Eric Lincoln.

Because African American experience is more often than not associated with liberalism and the left, the idea of a black conservative strikes many as an anomaly. Schuyler's writings, however, force us to broaden and rethink our political and cultural conceptions. At times misguided, at times prophetic, his work expands our understanding of black intellectual thought in the twentieth century.

Jeffrey B. Leak, Ph.D is an assistant professor of English and African American Studies at The University of North Carolina at Charlotte



R.O. Sutton Gala (continued from page 15)

The successful gala was co-chaired by the 27th and 29th International President Carter D. Womack and the 28th International President William E. Stanley, Jr. Other International Presidents in attendance were: Hon. James T. Floyd, 25th, Hon. Peter M. Adams, 30th, and Hon. Arthur Thomas, 31st. It was an honor to have the widows of our 21st International President, Hon. John E. Westberry and 22nd International President, Hon. Richard M. Ballard, Jr. to celebrate with us—Maxine Westberry and Christine Ballard respectively. Also in attendance were the

Grand Basileus Barbara Moore of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority and Georgia Congressman Brother John Lewis.

In addition to the high honor bestowed upon Brother Sutton from the Fraternity, he was also presented the Phoenix Award from the Mayor's Office of the City of Atlanta. He also received an award on behalf of the Southern Region, from Regional Director Calvin Glover and was presented with two round-trip tickets compliments of Air Tran Airlines and other gifts and awards.

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THE LIFE AND TIMES OF BRO. SHERIDAN SETTLER



BY BRO. KEVIN CHRISTIAN

Sheridan H. Settler was born September 18, 1903 in Council Grove, Kansas. He was an only child who was orphaned at the age of 3. Born on a farm in Kansas that geographically marks the beginning of the Santa Fe Trail, which was a vital route in the settling of the West. Settler's hometown of Council Grove was only 40 miles way from Fort Riley, Kansas. The Settler family held a contract with the United States Army to supply hay for the horses of the famous Buffalo Soldiers who were stationed at the fort. From an early age, Sheridan would be involved with this and the many other farming efforts that the family was engaged in. It was a point of pride for him to have such intimate contact with the Buffalo Soldiers. After all, these were the brave black men who protected white settlers from being massacred by Comanches and Apaches. These were also the men who charged San Juan Hill in Cuba ahead of Teddy Roosevelt and The Rough Riders. Their gallantry brought America victory against the Spanish, and changed the course of history.

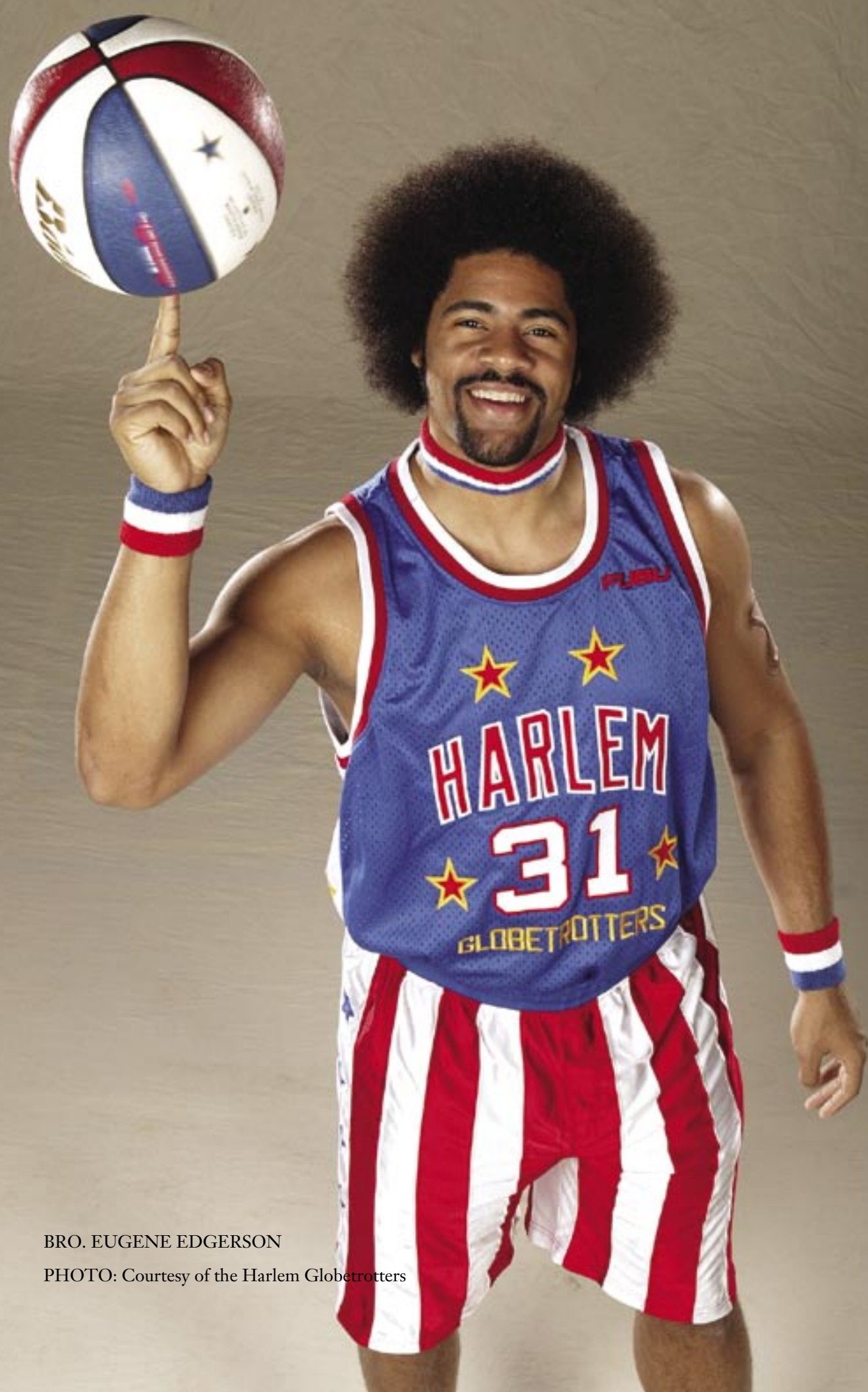
In 1922, Sheridan set off for Kansas State Agricultural College; a predominately white institu-

tion with 1,500 students, of which only about 30 were black. These young men of color formed a tight bond. Many of them became members of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., which was the first chapter of the organization to find a place on a mixed race campus.

To give you an idea of what Kansas State was like in 1922, the author quotes a passage from Bro. Louis Edwin Fry, Sr. who joined Sigma with Bro. Settler in 1922:

"No white teacher had ever taught me. No white student had ever sat in class with me. No white person had ever visited my home or played with me. This was going to be both challenging and frightening. Were white people smarter than we, or did circumstances make it seem so? Did white people have the same problems that we had? I didn't know, I really did not know, and this was going to be my chance to find out. So early in September 1922, with only a little more than my fees in my pocket, but with high hopes, I arrived in Manhattan, Kansas and was delivered to the fraternity house (Phi Beta Sigma) on Colorado Street. I found that the college was about a mile and a quarter away. I was a

continued on page 28



BRO. EUGENE EDGERSON

PHOTO: Courtesy of the Harlem Globetrotters

Red WHITE & BLUE Φ!

CRESCENT MAGAZINE REPORTER BROTHER KEVIN CHRISTIAN RECENTLY HAD AN opportunity to sit down with Brother Eugene Edgeron of the World-renown Harlem Globetrotters. Brother Edgeron had just completed a tour in Asia and had returned to the United States when we caught up with him.

CM: When and where were you initiated into Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.?

Bro. Edgeron: I was initiated into Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. on April 18th, 1998, through the Alpha Alpha Epsilon Chapter at the University of Arizona. I pledged 7 weeks, 6 hours, 55 minutes, and 48 seconds.

CM: Are you active in the frat now? If so, what chapter are you a member of, and if not, which chapter were you a member of last?

Bro. Edgeron: Truthfully, I am not as active in the frat as I would like to be. Being a Harlem Globetrotter requires me to travel all over the world 9 months out of the year. However, when I can, I help out Kappa Lambda Sigma which is the grad chapter here in Tucson, Arizona. I am actually one of the charter members of the chapter. Recently, we initiated our first member into the chapter. It's been a while since I have initiated a new brother into the fraternity, so I was excited to do

so. Also, when I am in town, I check on the undergraduate brothers at my undergraduate chapter. They (the undergrads) update me on their personal lives and on the state of the chapter. We go out, eat, play video games, watch wrestling, talk, hang out with Sorors, shoot baskets and lift weights.

By the way, I AM A LIFE MEMBER, and my Life Member card is with me at all times.

CM: You won an NCAA National Championship in basketball with the Arizona Wildcats? What lessons did you learn from that experience and coach Lute Olson?

Bro. Edgeron: Unexpectedly, my first year in college we won the 1997 NCAA Championship. That was one of my best basketball experiences ever! During my last year in college we returned to the NCAA Championship game but lost to Duke. I'm very proud to have been a part of Arizona basketball. To date, playing basketball under legendary coach Lute Olson is the best thing to have happened

to me in my basketball career. The only thing I see that could be better is my Harlem Globetrotter experience. Time will tell!

Coach Olson is the best coach I've ever played for. He was able to get the maximum effort out of me every game. I was never spoon fed by him. Frankly, I felt he was harder on me than any of my teammates during my collegiate stint. There were times in practice where I would outwork and outplay teammates who played my position but come game time they still played more minutes or played ahead of me. I didn't let my emotions or anger get the best of me. Instead I persevered. I found out quickly that life isn't fair.

Coach Olson knows the X's and O's and is a great teacher of the game. Not only did he teach me the fundamentals of the game of basketball but he taught me the fundamentals of surviving the professional world. His program promotes family and not the individual.

CM: What or who inspired you to become a Phi Beta Sigma Man? What are some fond memories of your early Sigma experience?

Bro. Edgeron: Meeting the brothers of Sigma on my college



Members of Alpha Alpha Epsilon chapter at the University of Arizona in 1998

campus, observing them and getting to know them, inspired me to become a Phi Beta Sigma Man. I admired the diversity of each brother. I thought it was pretty cool to see an African American, Caucasian, African American and Puerto Rican mix, Puerto Rican, Haitian, African American/Filipino mix, and Panamanian take care of business and have the same love

for an organization. To me, beauty is in different colors, one love and hard work. Because of the brother's enthusiasm, hard work, professionalism and my in-depth research on Sigma, I concluded that I wanted to be a Sigma Man! Simply, it was my

choice and it has proven to be the right choice!

CM: I once read that you majored in Early Childhood Education and that you taught Elementary School after you graduated from Arizona. Could you elaborate on this experience, and is this your dream?

Bro. Edgeron: I got my B.A. in Elementary Education and my M.A. in Teaching and Teacher Education. The only teaching experience I have is when I did my student teaching in a Kindergarten classroom here in Tucson. This occurred when I red shirted my would be senior year. Most athletes red

shirt their first year in college. This may be due to them not being physically ready for college-level competition or they may simply want to get on the right track academically.

To each his own! I decided to red shirt my senior year because of a very grueling teaching schedule. After educating and keeping 20 five and six year olds on task, there was no way I'd have the necessary energy to perform at a high level on the basketball court. So basketball took a back seat. A "student athlete" is a student first, right? I never expected to get all the publicity I got after taking the stance I took.

CM: How tall are you? And how long have you been playing basketball?

Bro. Edgeron: I'm 6'7" and 255lbs. I have been playing organized basketball since the age of 8.

CM: You are now a member of the world-renown Harlem Globetrotters. How did that happen, and discuss your experience and what it is like to

work for such a world famous organization?

Bro. Edgerson: The Globetrotter's Scout Chad Groth gave me the opportunity to try out for the Globetrotters. First, I was invited to a 3 day mini camp in Phoenix, AZ. There were 2 practices each day. No tricks were involved or taught. Straight 5 on 5, conditioning drills and lots of shooting. I survived the mini camp and was invited to training camp a couple of weeks later. Training camp consisted of 2 grueling weeks of two a day practices in the mountains of Prescott, AZ.

CM: When you see a frat brother or soror in your travels or in the airport, do you give them love?

Brother Edgerson: I always give love to any Frat or Soror I meet. Frat will always get gripped and Sorors will always get hugged. No matter where I go, both Frat and Sorors welcome me with open arms and I do the same. I'm very honored and proud to be part of the Blue and White Family!

CM: How many line brothers did you have and do you remember your line names?

Bro. Edgerson: There were four of us on my line. I was #1 (the Ace). We were called:

CRITICAL CONDITION.

#1 Stevie Wonder (Eugene Edgerson)

#2 Director's Cut (Carlton Allen)

#3 Stone Face (Jason Cobb)

#4 Milli Vanilli (Kwaku Adeigbola)

CM: Who are some of your mentors, both professionally and personally? Why?

Bro. Edgerson: I would definitely say my mother who is very outspoken and hard working. Second, is Coach Olson who is very professional and knows how to teach the game of basketball. He taught me how to play basketball the correct way. And Mannie Jackson, former majority owner of the Harlem Globetrotters, a business genius!

CM: What are some of the things that you like to do outside of work?

Bro. Edgerson: I like to do yard work, work out (lift weights and conditioning) and stay in shape, get better at my ball tricks, read, play video games, watch wrestling, meet new people, pray, give thanks to God and spend time with my son and girlfriend.

CM: You wore an Afro (bush) before the Afro came back in style. Was there a reason for that, and do you still wear your hair in an Afro?

Bro. Edgerson: I've been growing my hair out since 1998. It came about because two of my college teammates said my basketball game resembled that of an old school type of player. In honor of the old school players I transformed my image and it has stuck with me. With my hair growing into an afro, my knee pads, long socks, older version sneakers and occasional elbow pads, a unique college basketball player was born. I played with a bunch of superstars

but it was my blue collar work on the court that stood out. I brought a sense of toughness to a supposedly "finesse" team. I love my afro because when I comb it out or blow it out, it suites me and my style. Nothing is wrong with being different. I could be like thousands of other guys and wear cornrows all the time but then I wouldn't be me. My afro has become my signature and fans all over the world know me or remember me because of the hair.

The Crescent also caught up with Bro. Reggie Banks who was Bro. Edgerson's Dean back at Arizona. We asked Bro. Banks to share a few thoughts about Bro. Edgerson as a Sigma at the University of Arizona. Here's what he had to say:

Bro. Banks: Bro. Edgerson's interest in Sigma was definitely a surprise to us. The chapter at the University of Arizona had fallen on hard times and was coming out of a period of low membership. Being a black athlete at the predominantly white university, Bro. Edgerson was already placed on a pedestal. To this day, Gene is a

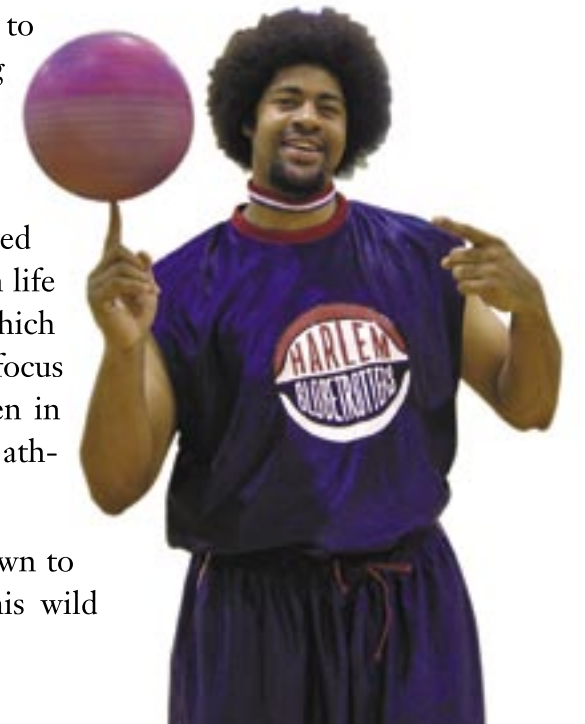
celebrity in the city of Tucson. It has always been encouraging to see the value he placed on being a part of the frat, despite his notoriety.

Bro. Gene has always been socially conscious and having a strong sense of right from wrong. He never expected any special treatment. Everything his line brothers did, he did. Despite his busy schedule, Gene always made time to go to local schools with the chapter and read to kids as part of the Social Action program, Sigma Storytime. You can't imagine the impact he had on those kids. I admire Gene the most for his commitment to education and being smart enough to go back to school and earn his Master's in Education. He wanted a solid foundation in life after athletics, which reflects a vision and focus that is not often seen in today's professional athletes.

Bro. Edgerson is down to earth, but he has his wild

side. For the most part though, Gene is just a country boy out of Louisiana. He is humble, blunt, funny and cool. I'm proud that he stands tall (literally and figuratively) as my Sigma Brother.

Brothers can contact Bro. Edgerson via email at e_edgerson@hotmail.com or visit the Harlem Globetrotters website at www.harlemglobetrotters.com. Make sure you check out Bro. Edgerson when he comes to your city or town.



continued from page 21

little disturbed by the lack of quality housing for black students, but it was explained to me that no more than 20 or 30 black students were in the college and there were hardly 200 black people in Manhattan (whose population was 22,000). At that time there were no dormitories.” ~ excerpts from Louis Edwin Fry, Sr. – *His Life and His Architecture*

After receiving his Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture in 1926, Settler began a career trek across the country that would last until 1954, when he finally planted roots at Tuskegee Institute (now known as Tuskegee University) and remained there until his retirement in 1968 as Professor Emeritus of Agriculture.

Before returning to Alabama, Bro. Settler served as Director of Agriculture at Langston University in Oklahoma from 1942 to 1954. He also taught at Prairie View A&M University in Texas and Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri. In 1934 he graduated from Kansas State again, where he earned his Master’s Degree in Animal Husbandry.

During his long career, he became known among his students as “The Walking Professor.” Bro. Settler didn’t care much for cars, so he walked everywhere he needed or wanted to go. His friends and family say he lived a clean and simple life. No drinking or smoking and plenty of exercise. He raised his food organically—no chemicals. And he shared his fruits and vegetables with his neighbors.

The great Bro. Dr. George Washington Carver

once told a writer, “I learned what I know by watching and loving everything.” Such a man was Sheridan Settler. So it comes as no surprise that these two men of science and agriculture worked so closely and so well together during their years at Tuskegee Institute. Sheridan Settler and George Washington Carver entered one another’s lives in the late 1920s and worked together at Tuskegee Institute until the early 1930s.

In a 2003 interview for Montgomery Living Magazine, Bro. Settler recounted: “At the time, I was working for Tuskegee Institute I oversaw a newly developed slaughtering program, helped in swine research and I was in charge of the pasture grasses. The grazing program is where I had a lot of contact with Dr. Carver. When we got a break here and there, we would sit and talk about the Creator. That’s almost always how he referred to God. He said that the Creator was all around us, and that it was our job as human beings to discover it, be aware of it, and to work through all our faculties, including science, to interpret God’s language.”

Bro. Settler was deeply devoted to young people and dedicated a lot of his time trying to interest them in the land, agriculture, nature, and improving human conditions. “I guess I’ll keep at it until I drop. Dr. Carver did it, so I suppose I need to keep trying, too.”

Thanks to an outstanding woman at Kansas State University, Ms. Pat Patton, we were able to find Bro. Sheridan Settler alive at age 100 in



Pictures of Bro. Settler at the age of 100 in Tuskegee, Alabama



Pictures of the Delta Chapter house at 1020 Colorado Street as it appeared in the 1920s and as it appeared in 2004.

Tuskegee, Alabama. Ms. Patton said that Bro. Settler talked fondly about the Sigma House and the House Mother. When asked if he knew Founder Charles I. Brown, Settler said, “Yes, he was the small dark skin fellow who came down from Topeka to help us.”

Word of Bro. Settler’s discovery spread like wild fire throughout Sigma. His nursing home was inundated with cards, letters, and visits from brothers and sorors in the Alabama area. His son, Dr. Sheridan Settler remarked “my father has truly enjoyed his new found relationship with his fraternity, he is so proud of this.”

On August 23, 2005, at age 101, Bro. Settler quietly ended his journey. Prior to his passing, he was the oldest known living Sigma. His life was rich, full and inspiring.

In one of the few times the author spoke to Bro.

Settler about his early Sigma days, Bro. Settler fondly remembered his line brother, Bro. Louis Edwin Fry, Sr. Bro. Frye went on to become a noted architect and professor at Howard University. Reminiscing some 80 years ago, the author uses a passage from Bro. Frye’s autobiography *His Life and His Architecture*:

“I had plenty of time to spend at the fraternity house on Colorado Street. It was the Phi Beta Sigma House, as I may have told you, and we had about 10 members and five pledges. The Zeta Phi Beta Sorority also had a house with about six members and two pledges. We were proud of the fact that we had the highest grade point average of any of the fraternities.”

This article was reprinted with the permission of Dr. Sheridan Settler and the Settler Family and the excerpts from Louis Frye’s autobiography were reprinted with permission from Louis Frye, Jr. as a tribute to their fathers, both great men of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. The author would like to thank the late Bro. Sheridan Settler, Dr. Sheridan Settler, Louis Frye, Jr., Kansas State University research librarians Ms. Pat Patton and Ms. Cindy Von Elling, Bro. Linden Houston, Bro. Willard Hutt, Bro. Todd LeBon, Bro. Mark Pacich, and Bro. Ron Lewis for their support and encouragement.



the. Katrina debacle

I WAS HEADED TO NEW ORLEANS AS A FREEDOM Rider in May of 1961. It would've been my first visit, but we were arrested in Jackson, Miss., and never made it. In happier times, though, I have been able to visit New Orleans over the years. It's one of my favorite cities, one of the great Southern cities. The people are friendly, warm, helpful. In the old part of the city, there's so much history when you walk down Canal Street or Royal. One of my favorite places is a shop on Royal, where they have lots of art posters by African-

American artists. After Katrina, there's a loss of the music, the restaurants and the character in addition to the unbelievable loss of lives. Maybe we will never know the number of people who have been lost.

It's very painful for me to watch and read about what is happening. I have a sense of righteous indignation. I think all Americans should rise up and speak out. It's not like 9/11 that just happened. We saw this in the making. The media told us for days this storm was

SPECIAL
COMMENTARY
BY BRO.
CONGRESSMAN
JOHN LEWIS

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coming, and for years people have been telling us we need to do something to prepare. It took us so many days to make the full force of the government available afterward.

In 1957, during the crisis in Little Rock, President Dwight Eisenhower—maybe he was

still haven't had the passionate statement that should be made by officials in this administration.

It's so glaring that the great majority of people crying out for help are poor, they're black. There's a whole segment of society that's being left behind.

We're not a Third World country. This is an embarrassment. It's a shame. It's a national disgrace.

reluctant, maybe he had some reservations, but he put the full force of the government behind the decision to desegregate Central High. During the Freedom Rides, President John Kennedy didn't hesitate to federalize the National Guard and put the whole city of Montgomery under martial law. It's baffling to me that we didn't have the ability or the will to do something much earlier. We

When you tell people to evacuate, these people didn't have any way to leave. They didn't have any cars, any SUVs.

It's so strange that when we have something like this happening, the president gets two ex-presidents—his father and Bill Clinton—to raise money. What they propose to do is good, and I appreciate all the work the private sector and

the faith-based community are doing. But when we get ready to go to war, we don't go around soliciting resources with a bucket or an offering plate. We have the courage to come before Congress and debate the issue, authorize money. That's what we need to do here. By next year we'll have spent \$400 billion to \$500 billion in Afghanistan and Iraq. That money could be used to help rebuild the lives of people. If we fail to act as a nation, I don't think history will be kind to us.

WE'VE GOT TO DO MORE THAN THE \$10 BILLION that Congress appropriated. We need a massive Marshall-type plan to rebuild New Orleans. But in rebuilding we should see this as an opportunity to rebuild urban America. New Orleans could be a model. There must be a commitment of billions and billions of dollars—maybe \$50 billion to \$100 billion. I think even in other urban centers, there are people who are just barely existing. We sing the song "Hope is on the

way," but it's taking a long time before hope arrives. It becomes very discouraging where you see people dying—children, the elderly, the sick—the lack of food and water. I've cried a lot of tears the past few days as I watched television—to see somebody lying dead outside the convention center. I went to Somalia in 1992 and I saw little babies dying before my eyes. This reminded me of Somalia. But this is America. We're not a Third World country. This is an embarrassment. It's a shame. It's a national disgrace.



Bro. Congressman John Lewis represents the 5th District in the state of Georgia. This article originally appeared in Newsweek. It was reprinted with permission from Congressman Lewis and his office.



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NU UPSILON, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HONORED AS THE WESTERN REGION'S COLLEGIATE CHAPTER OF THE YEAR



Bro. Theo Fowles, Bro. Trey Wallker (Kappa Alpha Chapter), Bro. Jace Hall (Kappa Alpha Chapter), and Bro. Jay Armant, Nu Upsilon Chapter (current) president.

At Phi Beta Sigma's 56th Western Regional Conference, in Denver, CO, March 10-13, the Western Region crowned Nu Upsilon as the 2004-2005 Collegiate Chapter of the Year. This was the second time in the last three years that the Nu Upsilon Chapter was awarded this prestigious honor. While the chapter consists of only two undergraduate members, it tallied an extensive list of service projects throughout the year, including volunteering at USC's Spirits in Action games for students with mental disabilities, facilitating a bone marrow registry table to encourage bone marrow donation,

and serving food on Thanksgiving Day at the St. Francis Center homeless shelter. The Nu Upsilon chapter also collaborated with other organizations and fraternity chapters in order to best serve its community. These partnerships included a joint English tutoring project for non-native speakers with Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., the Jordan Downs Project Toy Drive with Theta Alpha Sigma Chapter, and participation in The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life Cancer Walk-A-Thon.

THETA ALPHA SIGMA: MAKING AN IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITY

Since its reactivation, Theta Alpha Sigma Chapter (Long Beach/Los Angeles) has made an impact in their community. The Chapter has made a conscious effort to stay active all year round by finding a balance between service projects and social functions. The Chapter has volunteered at a transition home for women and children, at the L.A. Watts Summer Games, at the L.A. Times Festival of Books, and has raised money for the American Cancer Society.

In October, chapter members volunteered at the Shriners Hospital in Los Angeles. The brothers brought candy for the children at the hospital and played Halloween games with them.



Bro. Rafael Matos (left), Western Region Secretary and Theta Alpha Sigma Chapter President, and Bro. Eddie Duchatelier (right), Chapter Social Chair, present Adriane McIntyre with her family's Thanksgiving basket.

LAMBDA PI CHAPTER, UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA HOSTS CAMPUS-WIDE CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY FOR HURRICANE KATRINA VICTIMS

The Lambda Pi Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. at the University of Central Oklahoma hosted a Campus-Wide Candlelight Ceremony, remembering those affected by Hurricane Katrina. Over 100 people participated in this ceremony, including City of Edmond Fire Department, the University of Central Oklahoma Ebony Gospel Choir, and other Sigma brothers from across the State of Oklahoma. The keynote speaker for this event was Mr. Scott Meacham, who serves as treasurer for the State of Oklahoma. The focus of speech was 'Oklahoma's Response



Bro. Jonathan C. Still, Lambda Pi chapter secretary with Mr. Scott Meacham, Treasurer for the State of Oklahoma. Candlelight Ceremony August 8, 2005 University of Central Oklahoma.

This past November, the Brothers of Theta Alpha Sigma delivered Thanksgiving Care-Baskets, which included turkey and dinner fixings, to four families in the Los Angeles area. The families were recommended by Brothers' personal contacts.

To follow up their November efforts, the Brothers organized a toy give-away in the Jordan Downs Housing Development, in the District of Watts, California. The Brothers fundraised and were able to provide toys for over



200 children living in the development.

Bro. Chris Manigault (left), Lambda Iota Chapter President, assists Bro. Willie Bluitt (right), Theta Alpha Sigma Chapter Secretary, with the check-in process.

DELTA NU CHAPTER SUPPORTS BAMM!

The brothers of Delta Nu Chapter supports Bust-A-Move Monday (BAMM)...an economic empowering ministry of the New Olivet Baptist Church in Memphis, TN. The goal of BAMM is to get the Black community to support African American businesses. Each 1st Monday of the month since June of 2001 the church selects an African American business to support. Since the inception of the ministry, the church has patronized 64 African American businesses.

Along with the BAMM events the church also sponsors an annual BAMM Economic Empowerment Conference. The keynote speaker has been Claude Anderson, author of *Powernomics*.

to Katrina.' Through this event, over \$250.00 was raised for Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts, and several boxes of clothes were donated. The Lambda Pi Chapter will continue to raise funds, and collect other forms of donations during its Sexual Awareness/Education Week, which will take place during September 18th-24th, 2005 at the University of Central Oklahoma.

TAU IOTA SIGMA, MEMPHIS, TN SPONSORS AFRICAN AMERICAN MALE IMAGE AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET

The Memphis Alumni Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. is sponsored their 11th Annual African American Male Image Awards Scholarship Banquet. The banquet was held on November 4th, 2005 at the Memphis Marriott Hotel.

The Image Awards are presented to individuals in the Memphis community who exhibit a sense of Brotherhood for all mankind, who have respect for Scholarship, and who are involved in community Service. These are the three ideals under which Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated were founded.

Past recipients include: Father George Clements, Civil Rights Activist; Tevin Campbell, Singer; John Lewis, United

States Congressman; Blair Underwood, Actor; Walter Turnbull, Director, Harlem Boys Choir; Herman Russell, President, H J Russell Construction; and Preston J. Edwards, Publisher, Black Collegian Magazine. The local awards recognize those who have made an impact on the local community in the areas of (1) Business, (2) Education, (3) Religion, (4) Corporate, (5) Arts, and (6) Community Service.

In Addition to the Image Awards described above, five \$1000 scholarships were also given to individuals who exemplify all of the ideals of the Fraternity, but who exemplify a great respect for Scholarship.

Through the support of our Founding Sponsor, Kroger, the Image Awards has provided \$36,000 in scholarships to young men.

ETA ALPHA SIGMA BROTHER PROVIDES RELIEF TO GULF COAST

Bro. Lezell Lowe of Eta Alpha Sigma chapter in Kentucky served as a volunteer on the Red Cross Disaster Relief Team. For two weeks, he was responsible for feeding, sheltering and providing other forms of assistance for those displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

When asked what prompted him to volunteer, Bro. Lowe says, "I saw people in need and I just felt compelled to volunteer my time. I also realized that a lot of the people affected by this tragedy look like me." He points out that those affected were grateful for all of the help they received, but says, "So many of them are African-Americans who will need the extra comfort provided by people who look like them."

Bro. Lowe has had a relationship with the Red Cross

since he was in college. "Though Sigma is my primary outlet for serving the community, the Red Cross has been another one of those outlets. It's one of the top organizations out there when you think of service to the community. They were one of the first on the scene in this disaster."

Bro. Lowe knows that the Gulf will recover from this disaster and will rebuild. The question is whether or not Black people will have a voice at the table. "There are going to be a lot of people trying to get into office as mayors and legislators," says Lowe. "We need to make sure that the interests of our people are protected as the region rebuilds."

KAPPA PSI CHAPTER UNIVERSITY OF IOWA SLEEPOUT FOR THE HOMELESS

The brothers of Kappa Psi braved temperatures that dipped to 41 degrees, to gather canned goods, clothing and money during their annual Sleepout for the Homeless.

Brothers were kept company throughout the night by members of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. as the two groups not only gathered large boxes of donations, but also educated the studios and the inebriated early morning downtown dwellers.

"It's a national program that we look forward to participating in," said brother Darren McDowell. "At any time we can be one paycheck away from the (homeless) people we see at the rec center and downtown."

"You don't realize it unless you are out here -- what the homeless go through every night. It makes you kind of sit back and think about what you have or what you take for granted sometimes," McDowell said.

BRO. LYNARD CARTER OF THETA BETA SIGMA IN NEW ORLEANS, LA INDUCTED INTO THE DSC

Lynard Carter is a native of Sardis, Mississippi, and a 1978 graduate of Jackson State University with a B.S. Degree in Construction Technology. After graduation Bro. Carter moved to New Orleans, LA and was employed with Shell Offshore, Inc. until 1990 where he served in various engineering positions. He is currently employed with the U.S. Department of the Interior as a Petroleum Engineer. Bro. Carter is a proud member of Second Free Mission Baptist Church in New Orleans, the NAACP, and a life member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. Brother Carter served as Co-Chairman of the Grievance Committee at the December 1976 National Conclave in Memphis, TN. He was elected as dean-of-pledgees in the spring of 1976, and served as vice president of the Chapter 1977/78.

After joining Theta Beta Sigma Chapter in New Orleans, LA. he held several offices, including secretary from 1980 to 1982. He was Vice President 1982/84, and President from 1987 thru 1988. While President of the Chapter, he was appointed Regional Treasurer in 1987, and served until 1988.

Brother Carter went on to become the State Director of Louisiana from 1988 to 1992 where he initiated the rewriting of the state constitution and maintained or increased membership for 4 consecutive years.

Brother Carter was elected Vice Director of the Gulf Coast Region in 1995, and went on to serve as Regional Director from 1996 to 1999. He was elected National Director of Bigger and Better Business at the 1999 Detroit Conclave, and served until 2001. Brother Carter was recently elected as Theta Beta Sigma Chapter Parliamentarian in December 2004. He was elected as the Gulf Coast Region Programs Foundation, Inc. President, and serves in that capacity from 1999 to present.

SAN ANTONIO, TX COMEDIAN ON THE RISE

Bro. Walter Campbell, a Sacramento, Calif., native stationed on San Antonio's Lackland Air Force Base, has been performing comedy since 1992. Campbell hosted last year's East Coast Step Show in Fayetteville, NC, which reached 8,000 fans.

Campbell gives his audiences clean comedy routines and mixes energy and charm to keep fans on the edge of their seats. He has worked with renowned

comedians such as Bruce Bruce, Sinbad, Somoore, Don "D.C." Curry and Zeta Phi Beta's own Sheryl Underwood.

PI RHO INTRODUCES "LUNCH ON A BUDGET"



Pi Rho chapter brothers prepare low cost lunch for the students of Georgia Southern University.

The brothers of Pi Rho Chapter at Georgia Southern University introduced a new monthly program called, "Lunch on a College Budget."

Many college students are often short on cash and are always looking for a meal and a "hook-up." The brothers of Pi Rho chapter decided to give back to the GSU campus by providing a full lunch to the students for under \$1!

"We're just trying to give back to the students for their support of our programs and do something nice for the GSU students," Pi Rho Chapter's 2nd Vice President, Brother James Williams explained.

Word quickly spread throughout the campus and before the brothers knew it, the food line grew to wrap around the Rotunda. The students who purchased lunches were very appreciative and wanted to know how they could possibly profit from selling the food items for such a low price. The chapter had the answer: "Culture for Service, and Service for Humanity." No profit was intended, only service.

Pi Rho chapter set up a grill next to the Russell Union Rotunda. As the students approached, they noticed that the brothers were selling cheeseburgers, hotdogs, and sodas.

Students were amazed to see that burgers and hotdogs were only \$0.25 each. Combos, which consisted of either two hotdogs and a soda, or a cheeseburger, a hotdog, and a soda, were only \$1.00!

The brothers will continue this program throughout the Fall, Summer and Spring semesters.

SIGMAS EMERGE AS LEADERS IN THE BLACK GREEK COMMUNITY IN THE BAHAMAS

With the help of the National Panhellenic Council, Phi Beta Sigma has played an instrumental role in the quest to make a significant, social impact both through the NPHC, with brothers serving with joint programs such as the Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year Foundation, and through the programs of the local graduate chapter Delta Epsilon Sigma. In addition to sponsoring community service programs the focus has been to foster positive relationships with organizations such as the Bahamas Red Cross, the Children's Emergency Hostel, the Willamae Pratt Girl's Industrial School and Junior Achievers Bahamas.

2004 was a landmark year. Beta Beta Lambda chapter was chartered at The College of the Bahamas making it the first undergraduate chapter of any Greek organization in the Bahamas. At the graduate level, Sigmas permeate every facet of Bahamian society. Most notable among the brotherhood are: The Honorable Shane D Gibson - Member of Parliament and Minister of Housing and National Insurance; Rev. Antonio Beckford - Chaplain

for the House of Assembly; Rev. Enoch Backford - Former President of the National Baptist Convention; Nathaniel McKinney - Silver Medalist, 2005 IAAF World Outdoor Track and Field Championships and Bro. Raymond Winder - Immediate past president of the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce.

ETA SIGMA CHAPTER, RALEIGH, NC RECOGNIZES BRO. WINFORD L. ROSE ON HIS DSC INDUCTION



Brother Winford L. Rose was inducted to the Distinguished Service Chapter during Conclave Los Angeles, California. He is a member of Eta Sigma Chapter

in Raleigh and has served the Fraternity in several positions including regional treasurer and director of all three national programs at the regional level. He received his undergraduate degree in English with a minor in History from Livingstone College and has a Masters Degree in School Administration and Supervision from North Carolina Central University and a law certificate in Children With Special Needs. After teaching for nine years and serving as a middle school principal, he joined the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

KAPPA IOTA, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA NAMED COLLEGIATE CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AT THE 91ST INTERNATIONAL CONCLAVE IN LOS ANGELES, CA

Kappa Iota Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. at the University of South Carolina was honored with the Collegiate Chapter of the Year Award at the 91st International Conclave held in Los Angeles. This prestigious award is based on community service, social action, and “bigger and better” business. In addition, the men



Brothers Joe Bonivel, Travis Sheffield and Jonathan Thorpe of Kappa Iota Chapter, University of South Carolina.

of Kappa Iota were presented the Most Outstanding Collegiate Chapter Social Action Program for their work with the American Cancer Society and local initiatives such as Habitat for Humanity and Clean Carolina. Bro. Timothy J. Grant serves as the alumni advisor for the chapter.

According to Chapter President Travis Sheffield, a fifth year pharmacy student from Georgetown, South Carolina, “The brothers are really excited about this award. All of our hard work and dedication has paid off. This type of national recognition will give our chapter the incentive to strive for bigger and better things in the future. Our work is not done.”

BRO. WILLIE ODELL THOMAS FLEMING HONORED BY UPSILON BETA SIGMA AND THE TOWN OF SALISBURY, NC

Upsilon Beta Sigma Chapter in Salisbury, NC pays tribute to an outstanding member of our beloved Fraternity. Brother W. O. T Fleming has been a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. for 50+ years. His contributions are numerous as reflected in his most recent award. Bro. Fleming was presented the Key to



Bro. Fleming receiving the key to the city from Salisbury Mayor Susan Kluttz.

the City of Salisbury by Mayor Susan Kluttz on November 18, 2004 at the Grand Opening and Dedication Ceremony of FlemingHeights Apartments named in his honor. The apartment complex was developed by the Salisbury Housing Coalition, Inc. with the mission of building affordable housing for low and moderate income senior residents of Salisbury. Bro. Fleming was a member of the Housing Authority’s Board of Commissioners for 23 years and

Board Chairman for 15 of those years. He served longer than any other Chairman and Commissioner since the Authority’s creation in 1949.

Bro. Fleming’s lifelong achievements and dedicated community contributions were factors that led to him being chosen as the recipient of the Honorary Degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, Hood Theological Seminary, Salisbury, North Carolina on May 14 2005.

Bro. Fleming has always exhibited great qualities that make Sigma men proud to have him as a brother and friend. He is a mentor and true role model for the membership and the community. Bro. Fleming is the kind of example that many of us can learn from. In addition to his success as an educator, he is the embodiment of humbleness, leadership, and selflessness.

THETA SIGMA SPONSORS SIGMA BLUE & WHITE AWARDS BANQUET AND BALL

Theta Sigma chapter in Buffalo, NY jointly sponsored the Blue and White Picnic August 28, 2005, in Buffalo, New York with the Kappa Upsilon Zeta chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. A great outpouring of intra-state love and support, with Sigmas, Zetas and Sigma Beta Club members represented.

We re-established the Sigma Blue and White Awards Banquet and Ball in 2005. This major gala was held in the city of Buffalo. Superb food and beverages complimented a crowd of local celebs and honored guests. The complete back page of the leading Black newspaper for the city was dedicated to this event.

The awards recipients for the evening included 4 outstanding community leaders who would receive the

Bigger and Better Business, Social Action, Education, and the President’s Award. For the first time we recognized a member of Zeta Phi Beta as the recipient of our Social Action award. Charlene Strassner was honored for her on-going, dedicated work for so many organizations, but especially for her outstanding leadership as Basileus (President) of the Zeta graduate chapter in Buffalo, NY.

ALPHA ALPHA ALPHA, VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY HONORS THEIR FALLEN BRO. DAKARAI CARTER WITH “THE CARTER SHOW”

August 23, 2003 was a very tragic day for the Alpha Alpha Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. One of our fraternity brothers Dakarai Carter was shot and killed in his hometown of Baltimore, MD. Dakarai was a senior psychology major at Virginia State University who had just become a member of the Alpha Alpha Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma that spring of 2003. Dakarai was an outstanding brother who chaired the education committee. During his short tenure in the chapter, we noticed his devout interest in children and his commitment to serving our community. This is why we decided to hold the 1st Annual Carter Show.

We developed this talent show for high schools, boys and girls clubs, and churches to come and participate with intentions on getting our young African American youth motivated to attend college. We invited these groups to visit our campus earlier during the day so that they could experience the college atmosphere. The School of Business at Virginia State University also provided us with trophies, plaques, and refreshments for all of the kids and parents who participated. The event was held on April 30, 2005 and had over one hundred students participating from various high schools, boys and girls clubs and churches including our newly formed Sigma Beta Club from Dinwiddie High School. We also gave a scholarship to the high school senior who had the highest cumulative grade point average. The recipient of that award was Donald Timberlake. His overall G.P.A. was 3.7. He is also a member of Dinwiddie High School's Sigma Beta Club.

We were also blessed to have Dakarai's parents in attendance at the talent show. At the end of the show, his father was overcome with emotion when we presented him with Dakarai's membership certificate. It was an absolute honor for our chapter to chair this event. Our friend and frat brother

Dakarai Carter was a man that truly believed in Brotherhood, Scholarship, and Service.



Bro. William P. Bass presents Mr. Carter with Dakarai's membership certificate
Front Row from Left to Right: Bros. Michael Smallwood, Marcus Clark, Derrick Jennings, Mr. Carter (Dakarai's father), Bros. William P. Bass (Chairman of The Carter Show), Le'Gregg Harrison, Tyrone Hudson, Samuel Feika, and Dominic Carter. Back Row: Bros. Kalem Graham, Rodney Henry, Leonard Smith, Isaac Montgomery, James Perry, Avis Wyatt, and Phil Taylor.

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