

# Delta Newsletter



Fall 2008

## Dr. Louise A. Rice Ends Term with Charge: "Be Good to Delta"

By Erica Donerson

**D**ressed in her regal robe, the 23rd National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. approached the podium at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida. There to give her farewell address, Louise A. Rice, Ph.D. greeted the dynamic Delta women gathered in the assembly and urged them to "Be good to Delta."

Dating back to her time as a member of Gamma Tau Chapter at Tuskegee University, Dr. Rice has been good to Delta. Throughout the last four years, she has guided the Sorority as its National President. Dr. Rice traveled the globe spreading her message of *One Mission, One Sisterhood: Empowering Communities through Committed Service*. She has transformed her words into actions by volunteering her time and talents for countless causes. Gender inequality, genocide in Darfur, health issues that affect women of African descent, equality in education and poverty—are just some of the issues discussed by Dr. Rice at chapter events, on the beaches of Jamaica and Bermuda, on the steps of the U.S. Capitol, and in the halls of the United Nations.

"We have so many shining examples of sorors who have been good to Delta" she said during her convention remarks. "When you are good to Delta, your dedication inspires others...When you are good to Delta, you embrace each soror—new school and old school—with a spirit of fellowship...When you are good to Delta, you seek justice for the underserved."

The 23rd National President said, "As Deltas, we have been entrusted with a legacy that calls each of us to greatness. Don't you feel it? I feel it every time I encounter a chapter president who proudly talks about the programs and projects that her chapter members are implementing in the name of Delta. I feel it every time I meet a dynamic and together collegiate soror who is on the move—on her way to greatness."

Dr. Rice highlighted the accomplishments of the Sorority's Founders, honorary member Mary McLeod Bethune, Sorors Cora Braynon, Catherine R. Cooper, Oleta L. Crain, Barbara Curtis, Val B. Demings, Joan Higginbotham, the Honorable Patrice Hinnant, former Congresswoman Carrie Meek, Rev. Ella Pearson Mitchell, Betty Penn, Eula Dean Roby, Kathleen Wright, as well as Zeta Epsilon and Rho Chapters. Each of these women and chapters cited have been good to Delta.

While addressing the assembly, Dr. Rice also recognized the members of Delta Sigma Theta for their role in making the organization phenomenal and for their support of the executive committee and executive board. Always humble, she said, "We did our best to be good to Delta." Dr. Rice reflected on the Sorority's National Education Symposium which was held in New Orleans and the donation of desperately needed water tanks to the Machachos School District in Kenya. She also spoke about how Delta provided funding for underground water wells in Ghana and micro-loans to help women in developing countries establish their own businesses. She praised sorors for embracing new initiatives, including Delta GEMS and financial fortitude, and for reclaiming more than 5,000 sorors in 2008. Dr. Rice also acknowledged their participation in the American Heart Association's Red Dress Campaign and Dr. Ian Smith's 50 Million Pound Weight Loss Challenge.

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## In a Land Called Perfect

By Ashley Allison

**A**s Cynthia M. A. Butler-McIntyre processed down the aisle at the closing banquet during the 49th National Convention of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. she anticipated her opportunity to lead the sisterhood. Soror Butler-McIntyre was installed as the 24th National President of the Sorority and immediately made a "Call to Order".

"Sorors all of our meetings begin with a Call to Order," Soror Butler-McIntyre said. "We must look at the things in our sisterhood that are not right and call them to order."

Soror Butler-McIntyre's call to order has officially begun and she has set her vision for the 2008-10 biennium. Since her election she has appointed the chairs and members of the Sorority's standing committees, commissions and task forces.

In order for the call to order to be effective, Soror Butler-McIntyre described how she envisions Delta Sigma Theta to the newly appointed national executive board and national committee members at the National Committee Meetings held in September. "I imagine Delta in a land called perfect," Soror Butler-McIntyre said. "Imagine collegiate sorors looking out for their sorors' daughter as she leaves her on a new college campus. Imagine when something needs to be done on a college campus or in the community and college administrators and city officials call on the Deltas."

Soror Butler-McIntyre's charge for Delta in the land called perfect touches on internal and external issues. "Imagine Protocol and Traditions working with Ritual and Ceremonies to teach sorors," Soror Butler-McIntyre said. "Imagine every Delta not only having a copy of the constitution and bylaws but knowing how to use it and how to change it."

Each National President of the Sorority leaves behind a legacy—her signature programs that change lives. "I have ideas about new programs, but I also want to enhance the excellent programs that have already been established under past National Presidents."

Soror Butler-McIntyre believes Delta has done a great job working with female youth. "We are seeing our first set of Shabazz girls graduate and they are making us proud. But as they move forward in their lives, who will be their life partners? Sorors, we cannot forget about our boys."

Focusing on the boys provides an opportunity for the Sorority to collaborate. "We can work with Alphas, Kappas, Omegas, 100 Black Men, and other organizations doing similar work to have a greater impact."



PHOTO BY W. LASHEA MORRIS



PHOTO BY W. LASHEA MORRIS

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# Who Would Have Ever Thought?

By Ashley Allison

**“W**ho would have ever thought?” asked Soror Cynthia M. A. Butler-McIntyre after being elected 24th National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. at the 49th National Convention in Orlando, Florida.

Soror Butler-McIntyre, a personnel administrator for all classified employment for the Jefferson Parish Public School System in Louisiana, ran uncontested and received a unanimous vote of more than 800 delegates.

After serving as the national first vice president, Southwest regional director and holding other positions throughout the Sorority on the local, regional and national levels, Soror Butler-McIntyre was installed by civil rights legend and 10th National President, Dr. Dorothy I. Height.

Later that evening, Soror Butler-McIntyre greeted sorors as they visited her suite at the National Convention and began to tell the story about her quest to Delta and how she became “Number 24.”

“I remember I used to see the Deltas walking on the campus of Dillard University, the Beta Gamma Chapter,” said Soror Butler-McIntyre as her eyes, shoulders, and overall presence perk up with chapter pride. “I was so impressed by them. So when we started on line there were 32 of us. Each day one-by-one they would drop off. I never could figure out why we lost those girls until I realized, God had a special plan for the number 24.”

As she has traveled around the country speaking at Founders Day events, Soror Butler-McIntyre often tells the story of how she received her line name. “In my chapter, when you are the youngest on the line you receive the title ‘Baby’ in front of whatever name the big sisters give you,” she said. “Sure enough I was the youngest. And if you know me, I cry about everything, so I became Baby Teardrop.”



PHOTO BY SHARON FARMER

A native of New Orleans, Soror Butler-McIntyre is a victor of Hurricane Katrina. “We were at the Farwest Regional Conference and they announced we needed to leave,” she reflected. “I had made arrangements to meet my husband in Birmingham, Alabama. As we sat on the dais at the closing ceremony, the room was silent and prayers were sent up.”

Katrina placed Soror Butler-McIntyre in the arms of sorors in Alabama. She said her husband has always been impressed by Deltas, but the love shown to them after Katrina gave him a new perspective on the sisterhood. “When he saw how each night we had a hearty meal and someplace to comfortably lay our heads, he really understood why I love Delta and each of my sisters. And he also knew how much they love me.”

Soror Butler-McIntyre said she returned to New Orleans after Katrina because she loves her city.

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## Newly Elected Officers

### **Paulette Walker, Ph.D.** *National First Vice President*



Dr. Paulette Walker has been a member of Delta Sigma Theta for more than 40 years and has held several leadership positions since her initiation into the illustrious sisterhood in October 1966 through the Epsilon Epsilon Chapter of Michigan State University.

Dr. Walker said she is both honored and humbled by her recent election. “It’s always an honor when you are elected by your peers,” she said. “That says that they believe in you and they support you. It also means they have great expectations of you. I am absolutely ecstatic!”

Dr. Walker received her Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics education in 1969 from Michigan State University. She received both her Master of Arts degree in guidance and counseling and Doctor of Education degree from the University of Michigan. Dr. Walker is currently employed as the director of undergraduate programs and internship at the University of South Florida.

### **Mia S. Smith** *National Second Vice President*



Soror Mia S. Smith was initiated into Delta Sigma Theta on April 21, 2007 through the Tau Rho Chapter of the University of Miami. Soror Smith said her motivation to serve as national second vice president came from several places. “My motivation came from wanting to continue our legacy,” she said, “wanting to give collegiates another strong leader, and wanting to effect some type of change so that we can step up our game and change the way we are perceived.”

A Chicago native, Soror Smith is currently enrolled at the University of Miami where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in communications with an emphasis on motion pictures and production.

### **Beverly Evans Smith** *National Secretary*



Soror Beverly Evans Smith, the newly elected national secretary of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, was initiated through the Epsilon Omicron Chapter of Bowling Green State University on October 21, 1967. Soror Smith has held several leadership positions in the Sorority, including her time as executive director from 1988-1990.

“I am humbled by my election from a group of excellent candidates,” said Soror Smith, “and excited about the opportunity to use my experiences and God-given talents in service to our sisterhood on the national level.”

In her professional life, Soror Smith is currently the executive director for stewardship and development at the Technical College System of Georgia. She is also the principle and co-owner, with her husband, of The HR Group, Inc. Soror Smith has almost 30 years of experience in the areas of strategic planning; organizational effectiveness and restructure; human resources; financial management; non-profit organization leadership; and university administration.

### **Carolyn E. Lewis** *National Treasurer*



Soror Carolyn E. Lewis was initiated into Delta Sigma Theta through the Gamma Alpha Chapter of Xavier University in New Orleans on April 3, 1971. She has held numerous positions on the local, regional and national levels of the Sorority including member and chair of the National Finance Committee.

Soror Lewis is committed to uplifting the ideals and goals of Delta Sigma Theta by using her expertise in finance and management to promote the continued growth of the Sorority fiscally and programmatically.

She holds a master’s degree in business administration and a Bachelor of Arts degree. Soror Lewis is currently employed as a senior manager/local taxpayer advocate for the Department of Treasury, Internal Revenue Service in Louisiana.

PHOTOS BY SHARON FARMER

## Delta Newsletter Fall 2008

### *Publisher*

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Cynthia M. A. Butler-McIntyre  
*National President*



Paulette Walker, Ph. D.  
*National First Vice President*

Mia S. Smith  
*National Second Vice President*

Beverly S. Smith  
*National Secretary*

Carolyn E. Lewis  
*National Treasurer*

Ashley Allison  
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*Director, Programs and Public Relations*

Ashley Chaney  
*Publications and Public Relations Specialist*

LaKeisha Scott  
*Publications and Public Relations Specialist*



# A Service of Many Faiths

By Tia Mitchell

The morning featured leaders of various faiths and denominations as well as several musical selections from the National Convention Choir. Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, National Chaplain gave a message that focused on the themes of faith and service during the Ecumenical Service held during the 49th National Convention.

"What would you do if you could not fail?" she asked the audience after informing them her base text was Joshua 15:12-13. Would you start that business? Plan that church? Launch your magazine? Get out of debt? The answer starts in the mind, said Bishop McKenzie, the first elected female bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Some people have a can't-do mind, meaning they tell themselves they can't achieve their goals. Bishop McKenzie said a positive mindset is the key. "In the can-do mind, all things are possible."

Bishop McKenzie reminded the audience of many men and women throughout history who exhibited can-do minds. Beginning in the Old Testament, she referenced Esther, Noah and Jeremiah. Then she moved to the days of slavery and the Civil Rights Movement, evoking the "can-do minds" of Harriet Tubman, Mary McLeod Bethune and Martin Luther King, Jr.

She named dozens of people from all walks of life who stepped out on faith and overcame obstacles to reach their goals, including many members of Delta Sigma Theta.

"Soror Wilma Rudolph's can-do mind took her from a child who could barely walk to an Olympic gold medal," Bishop McKenzie said. She reminded the audience that Soror Shirley Chisholm faced sexism and racism during her run for the White House. "Slap hands with your neighbor and say thank God for a can-do mind," she said as the room roared with applause.

Bishop McKenzie preached that sometimes people have to fight to get or keep their blessings. They have to avoid disobedience and disbelief, which are the hallmarks of a can't-do mind. She asked the audience to consider the things holding them back from pursuing their dream. Was it their



PHOTO BY W. LASHEA MORRIS  
National Chaplain Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie inspires the crowd.



PHOTO BY W. LASHEA MORRIS  
Rev. Charles E. Goodman, Imam Mohmed Musri, Rev. Donald A. Sterling, and Rabbi Jonathan Siger as they begin the Service of Many Faiths.

own mind or someone else's?

She told the audience to "shake down fears and scatter them like stars in the sky." Trust God and don't worry because if he promised it, he will deliver. She ended her message by asking the audience to sing a well-known hymn with her, "I Will Trust in the Lord."

At the end of the service, more than 70 sorors who are members of the clergy stood at the front of the hall and welcomed anyone who wanted to give their life to Christ or needed prayer.

and respond to the cries of the afflicted. "That service is proof of faith," he said.

## Words of Hope

Imam Mohmed Musri from the Islamic Society of Central Florida said, "We hope for a better world... We need hope that our homes will be returned to stations of prayer." The Imam insisted it is possible. "With your help, we expect to fulfill this expectation of a better world."

## Words of Love

Rev. Donald A. Sterling of New All Saints Roman Catholic Church in Baltimore, Maryland, discussed how to love thy neighbor. "If we have a healthy self-respect, we are more likely to hold our neighbor in high esteem," he said. "None of us can love another person, even God, until we first know that we are loved. We are to love without question, without condition, without limit."

## Words of Peace

Right Rev. Carol J. Gallagher, an Episcopal Bishop from Lyndhurst, New Jersey was unable to attend due to an emergency, but penned a letter that was read aloud. Rev. Gallagher, a Cherokee Indian, referenced the third chapter of the book of James, which ends with this verse: "Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness." She wrote that peace is a gift from God that is learned by practicing it on others.

## Hands Across Faith

Rev. Charles E. Goodman, pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church in Augusta, Georgia, tasked listeners to "dream beyond your relations, achieve beyond your capacity, trust beyond your worst circumstances and live beyond the expectations of others." Dr. Louise A. Rice, 23rd National President, is a member of Tabernacle Baptist Church. ▲

## A Celebration of Faith

During the *Service of Many Faiths*, representatives from various religions led a responsive reading titled "The Interfaith Litany." It encouraged participants to honor all faiths and realize their collective purpose and common goals. After each line, the audience addressed God by a different title, asking him to "grant us peace and unity in your spirit." Afterward, each religious leader spoke. Highlights of the service were:

### Words of Faith

Rabbi Jonathan Siger, executive director for the Central Florida Hillel Foundation, explained faith as a concept that doesn't require blind trust or suspending logic. "We don't need to believe in spite of everything," he said, "we believe because of everything." Rabbi Siger said people of faith must also be people of service. Believers must follow God's commands to feed the hungry, clothe the naked



PHOTO BY W. LASHEA MORRIS

The National Convention Choir sings songs of praise.



# Regional Sisterhood Luncheons

## CENTRAL REGION

### Sisterhood Luncheon

The theme for the Charismatic and Courageous Central Region's Sisterhood Luncheon was, "Caring Women Meeting the Challenge for Constructive Change." To commemorate the event, Sorors wore their white Central Region shawls and pins.

The Central Region's Heritage and Archives Committee produced a booklet, *Walking Through Time with the Central Region*, highlighting the region over the years. The booklet was given to all chapter presidents and members of the national executive committee. In addition, there was a slide show presentation featuring past and present regional directors, regional representatives, chapters, charter members, and sorors working throughout the region. This presentation was distributed to every soror on DVD.

The luncheon was blessed with praise dancers and musical renditions by the Delta Denverettes. The Central Region also honored all 50 year members.

**Frankie Muse Freeman Social Action Award**  
Soror Gloria Tanner, *Denver Alumnae*

**Central Region Coat Drive Award**  
Iowa City Cedar Rapids Alumnae  
Epsilon Psi

**Membership Services Scrapbook Award**  
1st Place - Leavenworth Alumnae  
2nd Place - St. Louis Alumnae  
3rd Place - Lawton Alumnae  
Loving Cup - Kappa Alpha

**Collegiate Academic Excellence Award**  
Rho Delta

**Outstanding Chapter of the Year Award**  
Zeta Zeta



PHOTO BY AMY GENAO  
Dr. Louise A. Rice, 23rd National President, visits with the Central Region sorors at their luncheon.

## EASTERN REGION

### Sisterhood Luncheon

Sorors of the Eastern Region rose to their feet as the Regional Leadership Team entered, cheering and dancing along to "Just Fine," by Mary J. Blige.

The luncheon was packed with sorors donning stylish variations of white, accented by gold, reflecting the region's theme "Honoring a Legacy of Excellence." It was a sight to behold as legends from all over the world gathered to celebrate the achievements and successes of the region.

Soror Wendy J. Johnson, Eastern regional director, and Soror Candice Williams, Eastern regional representative, began the luncheon by commending sorors for their commitment to the region's theme, "Embracing the Commitment with Energy, Education, and Empowerment." They reminded sorors of their ability to create change, especially

in such an important and historic election year. These greetings were followed by the inspirational and empowering words of past National Presidents, Dr. Dorothy I. Height and Gwendolyn E. Boyd, followed by the national chaplain, Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie.

As sorors dined and fellowshiped, the program, complete with slide shows, entertainment and awards, continued. Legends and legends in the making made their way to the stage, including vocalists, Sorors Tanee Johnson Bowman and Anitra Durand-Allen, who offered moving melodies. Soror Yorri Berry shared an original poem titled, "I Am Legend."

Awards were presented in four categories: Energy, Education, Empowerment and Excellence. Energy awards celebrated and honored sorors and chapters who actively promoted the ideals and programs of the sisterhood while also being a model and example for others. The Education awards recognized chapters who implemented outstanding educational programs and acknowledged the collegiate soror with the highest GPA. The Empowerment awards honored sorors who displayed marked diligence in executing national and regional programs and initiatives. The Excellence awards applauded sorors and chapters with outstanding leadership and commitment to the communities they serve who also demonstrate focus on chapter management and internal development.

#### ENERGY AWARDS:

**Love My Sisters Day**  
Nassau Alumnae  
Queens Alumnae  
Suffolk County Alumnae  
Xi Gamma  
Omicron Alpha  
Pi Delta  
Pi Rho  
Pi Sigma  
Pi Tau

#### 50 Million Pound Challenge

Suffolk County Alumnae  
Nassau Alumnae

#### Delta Dear of the Year

Soror Joanna Marie Thompson Smith, *Prince George's County Alumnae*

#### Project ACE Chapter-to-Chapter

Pi Rho and Nassau Alumnae

#### Project ACE State Award

New York Metropolitan Area Chapters

#### Advisor of the Year

Soror Terri Johnson, *Beta Iota Chapter Advisor*

#### EDUCATION AWARDS:

#### Regional Day of Service Award

Nassau Alumnae  
Pi Rho  
Pi Sigma  
Pi Tau  
Xi Gamma

#### Academic Excellence Award

Gamma

#### EMPOWERMENT AWARDS:

#### Collegiate Chapter Financial Fortitude

Omicron Alpha

#### Alumnae Chapter Financial Fortitude

East Kings County Alumnae

#### Social Action Award

Alpha Gamma

#### Technology

Queens Alumnae

#### Strengthening Our Sisterhood

Gamma  
Potomac Valley Alumnae

#### EXCELLENCE AWARDS:

#### Excellence in Leadership

Soror Chakeria Harris, *Gamma*

#### Collegiate Chapter of the Year

Rho

#### Alumnae Chapter of the Year

Fort Washington Alumnae



PHOTO BY W. LASHEA MORRIS  
Sorors on the Eastern Regional Sisterhood Luncheon dais celebrate.

## FARWEST REGION

### Sisterhood Luncheon

When the west coast sounds boomed through the speakers for the processional, everyone knew they were in the luncheon for the Fabulous Farwest Region. With the theme of, "Healthy, Wealthy, Wise—Delta Style!" the luncheon featured gift baskets full of healthy treats, financial tips and wise quotes. The dais included Farwest Regional Director Tressa L. Williams, Regional Representative Monica M. Burns, 17th National President Mona H. Bailey and honorary member Sheryl Lee Ralph.

Attendees enjoyed a slide show, played throughout the luncheon, with before and after photos of sorors who have taken on the Healthy Lifestyle Challenge by getting fit and losing extra weight. The slide show also included chapter events throughout the region which touched on the theme of "Healthy, Wealthy and Wise".

#### Minerva Award (Highest GPA)

Upsilon

#### Project ACE Award

Pi Psi  
Monterey Peninsula Alumnae

#### Collegiate Member of the Year

Soror Dominique Miller, *Lambda Xi*

#### Chapter of the Year

Lambda Xi

#### Collegiate Advisor of the Year

Soror Erika Walker, *Kappa Chapter Advisor*

#### Newsletter Award

San Francisco Peninsula Alumnae

#### Membership Services (Reclamation)

Century City Alumnae

#### Social Action

Okinawa Alumnae, *Republic of Korea Alumnae and Tokyo Alumnae for collaboration on Project DST (Delta Support for Troops)*

#### Sisterhood Award

Tokyo Alumnae

#### Exemplary Program Award for GEMS and Academy

San Diego Alumnae

#### Regional Director's Chapter of the Year

Century City Alumnae

#### Above and Beyond Awards

Soror Petrina Ferguson, *Regional Secretary*  
Soror Libra White, *Regional Journalist*



# Regional Sisterhood Luncheons



PHOTO PROVIDED BY FARWEST REGION

Farwest Regional Director Tressa L. Williams and Farwest Regional Representative Monica M. Burns with Project ACE Award recipients.

## MIDWEST REGION

### Sisterhood Luncheon

The Mighty Midwest Region was celebrated with flair at the region's sisterhood luncheon during the 49th National Convention in Orlando. Under the leadership of Midwest Regional Director Octavia G. Matthews and Regional Representative Leah E. Endalkatchew, sorors of the Midwest were greeted and treated to a magical afternoon.

Themed, "The Magic of the Mighty Midwest," inspired by Disney, the luncheon was pure Midwest Region magic! Mistress of ceremonies, Rev. Alise Barrymore, opened the program by introducing the dais which included 21st National President Marcia L. Fudge, Esq., honorary member Rae Lewis Thornton, national committee members, seven past Midwest regional directors, state coordinators and facilitators and members of the Midwest Leadership Team. The dais wore Delta red.

The enchanting luncheon included memorable greetings brought by the late Soror Stephanie Tubbs Jones, a promotional visit by a Disney executive, a captivating year in review pictorial of sorors working in the region, songs and a sing-a-long lead by the talented Midwest Regional Choir, regional award presentations and a charge by Soror Matthews to continue to be, "On The Move" in the Mighty Midwest.

#### STATE CHAPTERS OF THE YEAR:

##### Illinois

Waukegan Alumnae  
Kappa Zeta

##### Indiana

Indianapolis Alumnae  
Chi

##### Kentucky

Louisville Alumnae  
Mu Epsilon

##### Ohio

Cincinnati Alumnae  
Epsilon Omicron

##### Michigan

Inkster Alumnae  
Delta Beta

##### Minnesota

Minneapolis-St. Paul Alumnae  
Nu Epsilon

##### West Virginia

Eastern Panhandle Alumnae  
Theta Omega

##### Wisconsin

Milwaukee Alumnae  
Kappa Eta  
Lambda Alpha  
Sigma Upsilon  
Zeta Xi

#### Midwest Region Social Action Award

Gary Alumnae  
Mu Epsilon

#### National Social Action Commission Action Award

Columbus Alumnae Chapter

#### DELTA HOMEOWNERSHIP CHALLENGE REGIONAL AWARDS:

##### Chapter of the Year

Greater Cleveland Alumnae

##### Honorable Mention

Joliet Area South Suburban Alumnae

##### Soror of the Year

Soror Carolyn Ray, Cleveland Alumnae Chapter

#### MIDWEST REGION PROJECT ACE AWARD WINNERS:

##### Chapter to Chapter Award

Mu Theta and Joliet Area South Suburban Alumnae

##### Sister to Sister Award

Soror Brandie McKinney, Kappa Zeta  
Soror Sarahjini Nunn, Springfield-Decatur Alumnae



PHOTO BY SHARON FARMER

Midwest Regional Director Octavia Matthews and Midwest Regional Representative Leah Endalkatchew at the Midwest Regional Sisterhood Luncheon.

## SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION

### Sisterhood Luncheon

What a beautiful sight, as sorors of the Sensational South Atlantic Region filed into the D.I.V.A. Sisterhood Luncheon during the 49th National Convention. Donned in white attire, white gloves and sunglasses, sorors awaited the processional with anticipation. The sorors rose to their feet to receive the Sorority's esteemed leaders, past and present, as they danced their way into the luncheon to Mary J. Blige's "Just Fine." Attendees were cheering the past and present leaders of the region during the entire processional. The tone was officially set as Regional Director Linda R. Wilson and Regional Representative Tarryn Lael Simmons warmly welcomed everyone.

Dr. Bertha Maxwell Roddey, 20th National President, offered greetings to the assembly along with state coordinators of the region. During lunch there was a slide show presentation that highlighted various programs and activities throughout the South Atlantic Region.

#### DEDICATED AND DISTINGUISHED DELTA (D<sup>3</sup>) AWARDS:

##### Delta Dear of the Year

Soror Hattie Gordon Davis, Columbia (SC) Alumnae

##### Collegiate Soror of the Year

Soror Kia Harvey, Alpha Lambda

##### Collegiate Chapter of the Year

Mu Omicron

##### Alumnae Soror of the Year

Soror Deirdre P.White, Fredericksburg Area Alumnae

#### Alumnae Chapter of the Year

Fairfax County Alumnae

#### Advisor of the Year

Soror Sandra S. Gibson, Xi Rho Chapter Advisor

#### EXEMPLARY PROGRAM AWARDS:

##### Five-Point Programmatic Thrust

Winston-Salem Alumnae for "Mathematic Leadership Academy"

##### Arts & Letters

Florence Alumnae for "Youthful Expressions"

##### Social Action

Charlotte Alumnae for "Sisters on the Square"

#### SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

##### Exemplary Regional Initiative Support

Greensboro Alumnae

##### North Carolina Delta Days

Raleigh Alumnae

##### Devoted Service on National Committees

Dr. Wanda Goins Brockington, co-chair, Commission on Arts and Letters

Soror Mary Bennett Sutton, chair, Nominating Committee  
Dr. Pamela Ross, co-chair, Program Planning and Development



PHOTO BY W. LASHEA MORRIS

South Atlantic Regional Director Linda R. Wilson and South Atlantic Regional Representative Tarryn Lael Simmons in their white sunglasses.

## SOUTHERN REGION

### Sisterhood Luncheon

The Southern Region's Sisterhood Luncheon was truly an "inspirational" sensation filled with elegance. The celebration began as the members of the dais "strutted" down the center aisle, entering the luncheon to the upbeat tune of "Back in DST Again," composed by Sorors Tamara Cofield and Orbra Porter, chair and co-chair of the region's Arts and Letters Committee. The members of the dais, led by the Southern Regional Director Christine M. Nixon and Acting Southern Regional Representative Rebecca St. Fleur, included the Southern Region's past and present officers, as well as the current state coordinators and facilitators. The sorors of the Southern region were honored to have in the procession the 19th National President, Dr. Yvonne Kennedy and honorary chair of the National Social Action Commission, Soror Alexis Herman.

Soror Stephanie Moore, chair of the region's Membership Services Committee, served as mistress of ceremony. Florida State Coordinators Kelly Bailey and Andrea Pelt-Thornton, and the Greater Orlando hostess chapter presidents extended inspirational greetings, and Soror Nixon, emphasized her motto of, "You, Me, and DST... *Hand in Hand, TOGETHER We Can!*" She highlighted the goals and achievements of the region and encouraged sorors to remain dedicated in carrying out the mission of the beloved sisterhood. Sorors were also treated to a skit, "Personali-TEAS" to get them relaxed and rejuvenated.



# Regional Sisterhood Luncheons

The 23rd National President, Dr. Louise Rice, was presented with a portrait of herself from the Dynamic Southern Region, skillfully and beautiful painted by Soror Nanette Wells-Brooks. The luncheon attendees were blessed to have the late Soror Stephanie Tubbs Jones grace the dais and share her own inspirational words of love to the Southern Region.

With tremendous excitement and anticipation in the air, the Southern Region's Awards and Recognition Committee, adorned in glamorous red gowns, gave chapter award winners the "red carpet treatment"... much like receiving Delta Emmys! The sisterhood luncheon drew to a successful close with an ensemble, led by Soror Lula Mitchell, singing the inspirational song, "Never Would Have Made It." Before sorors departed, they participated in an Inspirational DS<sup>T</sup>ea Sisterhood Exchange. They presented gifts to each other to serve as lasting memories of a wonderful afternoon and sisterly expressions of Delta love.

## THE STELLAR COMMUNICATOR AWARDS:

### Technology

West Palm Beach Alumnae

### Newsletter

West Palm Beach Alumnae  
Mu Rho

### Website

Henry County Alumnae

### Advisor of the Year

Soror Shirley H. Hardin, *Theta Tau Chapter Advisor*  
Soror Laureate A. Scott, *Beta Alpha Chapter Advisor*  
Soror Danette Hall, *Gamma Tau Chapter Advisor*

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICES AWARDS:

### Physical and Mental Health

Beta Alpha  
Central North Alabama Alumnae

### Educational Development

Mu Rho  
Tuscaloosa Alumnae

### Arts and Letters

Alpha Chi  
Decatur Alumnae

### International Awareness

Omicron Xi  
East Point College Park Alumnae

### Political Awareness

Beta Alpha  
Decatur Alumnae

### Social Action

Marietta Roswell Alumnae

### Economic Development

Atlanta Alumnae

## CHERISHED PEARL AWARDS:

### Delta Dear of the Year

Soror Joyce Jones, *Marietta Roswell Alumnae*

### Alumnae Soror of the Year

Soror Brenda C. Haywood, *Marietta Roswell Alumnae*

### Collegiate Soror of the Year

Soror Traneil Clark, *Gamma Tau*

### Christ Centered Commitment (C3) Award

Soror Cassandra W. Conway, *Montgomery Alumnae*

### Reclamation Award

Douglas-Carroll-Paulding Counties Alumnae

### Stellar Chapter of the Year

Omicron Xi  
Memphis Alumnae



PHOTO BY AMY GENAO  
*Southern Regional Director Christine Nixon presents Dr. Rice with a portrait of herself painted by Soror Nanette Wells-Brooks.*

## SOUTHWEST REGION

### Sisterhood Luncheon

The receipt of multiple commendations highlighted the Blazing Southwest Regional Luncheon at the 49th National Convention. In response to the 23rd National President's mission and the regional director's theme, chapters garnered special accolades for their quality implementation of Delta's Five-Point Programmatic Thrust. Southwest Regional Director Gwendolyn K. Grant and Southwest Regional Representative Brittany Bass presided at the sisterhood gathering of more than 1,500.

Members of the procession entered the luncheon to Mary J. Blige's "Just Fine," dressed in red or red and white scarves attached to their clothing by specially designed Southwest Region pins. Showing spirit and flair, each participant checked her appearance in hand-held mirrors. Honorary member Alice Hammond greeted sorors in attendance.

Holding true to the luncheon theme "Building Communities through Legacies of Service," Soror Grant acknowledged more than 13 chapters that received regional service legacy awards for exhibiting effective leadership in the development of programmatic and signature programs. Soror Bass honored all collegiate sorors who earned 3.0 GPA's or higher and attended national convention. Overall, 350 sorors across the region had a 3.0 or higher. Past Regional Directors Dr. Gloria Bryant-Banks, Morlin McCoy, Maxine Cormier and Dr. Marvette Thomas recognized the Delta Dears who received the "Legacy" awards. Sorors Lauren Gray and Lauren Hughes honored collegiate chapter advisors with "Advocacy" badges. The talented Southwest Region Ensemble provided the musical entertainment.

## REGIONAL DELTA CHALLENGE AWARDS WINNERS:

**Regional Exemplary Leadership Award**  
Soror Mamy Hall, *Baton Rouge Delta Alumnae*

### Regional Chapter Implementation Award

Bay Area-Houston Alumnae  
Houston Alumnae  
Galveston Alumnae  
Suburban Houston-Fort Bend Alumnae

### Delta GEMS/Delta Academy & Project ACE

Houston Alumnae  
Metropolitan Dallas Alumnae  
North Harris County Alumnae

### Educational Development Award

Baton Rouge Sigma Alumnae  
Bayou LaFourche Alumnae  
Pine Bluff Alumnae  
Delta Eta  
Eta Lambda

### Economic Development Award

Dallas Alumnae

## International Awareness and Involvement Award

Fort Worth Alumnae  
Little Rock Alumnae

## Physical and Mental Health Award

Denton County Alumnae  
Jamaica Alumnae  
Lambda Theta  
West Memphis Alumnae

## Membership Services Sisterhood Month Activities Awards

Little Rock Alumnae  
Baton Rouge Delta Alumnae  
Bay Area Houston Alumnae

## SOCIAL ACTION AWARDS:

### Exemplary Social Action Program

Austin Alumnae  
San Antonio Alumnae  
North Dallas Suburban Alumnae

### Social Action 911 Rapid Response Award

North Dallas Suburban Alumnae  
Suburban Houston-Fort Bend Alumnae  
New Orleans Alumnae

### Social Action Collegiate Commendation Award

Epsilon Chi

## Recognition of "3.0" Club members

Soror Korbi Orr, *Alpha Kappa*  
Soror Sharde'l Mattox, *Alpha Kappa*  
Soror Brittany Beard, *Alpha Tau*  
Soror Adele Brown, *Alpha Tau*  
Soror Megan Bone, *Alpha Tau*  
Soror Aria Williams, *Alpha Tau*  
Soror Beth Workenoh, *Alpha Tau*  
Soror Brittany Bass, *Alpha Tau*  
Soror Cassandra Hunter, *Delta Eta*  
Soror Krystal Pree, *Delta Eta*  
Soror Chasiti Brown, *Eta Delta*  
Soror Kailey George, *Eta Delta*  
Soror Brittany Allison, *Gamma Alpha*  
Soror Randal Harris, *Gamma Alpha*  
Soror Camiel Irving, *Gamma Alpha*  
Soror Javonne Patterson, *Gamma Alpha*  
Soror LaQuisha Thomas, *Gamma Alpha*  
Soror Adrienne Walls, *Gamma Alpha*  
Soror Miyaka Griffith, *Iota Omega*  
Soror Rena Iglehart, *Iota Omega*  
Soror Jessica Paradez, *Iota Omega*  
Soror LaTasha Watson, *Lambda Chi*  
Soror Rapheal Peoples, *Mu Kappa*  
Soror Terreca Taylor, *Mu Tau*  
Soror Almorcean Hall, *Nu Iota*  
Soror Ashleigh Perry, *Rho Eta*  
Soror Jennifer Moore, *Rho Eta*  
Soror Jessica Moore, *Rho Eta*  
Soror Constance Fleming, *Rho Eta*  
Soror Danielle Jones, *Rho Psi*  
Soror Samantha Green, *Sigma Phi*  
Soror LaDonna Smalley, *Theta Kappa*  
Soror Shaquala Ford, *Theta Nu*  
Soror Kiandra Gildon, *Theta Nu*  
Soror Denadra Haltom, *Theta Nu*  
Soror Fatisha Brown, *Theta Zeta*  
Soror Jilliam Hawkins, *Theta Zeta*



PHOTO BY AMY GENAO  
*Sorors on the dais of the Southwest Regional Sisterhood Luncheon celebrate.*

Compiled by Corliss Baugh, Faune Neal Evans, Selicia S. Hughes Judge, Ashley Lewis, Sandra Lucado, Libra White, Candice Williams and Verna Wright



# Premier Service Awards Presented at 49th National Convention Public Meeting

By Candi Mundon

In continuing its commitment to service, and celebrating the achievements of African-Americans, Delta Sigma Theta held a Public Meeting during the 49th National Convention in Orlando, Florida.

Focusing on the theme "Eyes on Our Youth," more than 7,000 sorors, community leaders, members of the National Pan Hellenic Council and guests gathered to discuss the current state of the nation's youth, and to recognize civic and community leaders for their outstanding commitment to service.

Dr. Julia Hare, noted lecturer and founder of The Black Think Tank, was the keynote speaker. Hare spoke on the education of Black children, the strengthening of the Black family and the need for innovative education policy at all levels of government. With her use of informative statistics, thought provoking dialogue and unique humor, Hare effectively displayed why she was named one of Ebony magazine's "150 Most Influential African-Americans."

Following Hare's address was the presentation of Delta Sigma Theta's premiere public service and social action awards. While many awards were bestowed, Dr. Thelma Daley, distinguished educator, humanitarian and 16th National President of Delta Sigma Theta, was presented with the Sorority's highest honor, The Mary Church Terrell Award.

In addition to the Sorority's traditional awards, Dr. Louise A. Rice, 23rd National President, gave special recognition to Soror Ingrid Saunders



Dr. Louise A. Rice and Soror Cynthia M. A. Butler-McIntyre present Dr. Thelma Thomas Daley with the Mary Church Terrell Award, the Sorority's highest honor.

PHOTO BY SHARON FARMER

Jones, senior vice president and chair of the Coca Cola Foundation, and Soror Deborah Elam, chief diversity officer of General Electric, for their continued commitment to encouraging and inspiring collegiate sorors.

The Sorority also made a presentation to the Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial Project in the amount of \$135,000.

Darryl Matthews, Vice Chair of the Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial Foundation and Immediate Past National President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. accepted the contribution.

The Public Meeting, while poignant and inspiring, served as a reminder of the Sorority's commitment to promote academic excellence; provide scholarships; support the underserved; educate and stimulate participation in the establishment of positive public policy; and to highlight issues and develop solutions for the various issues plaguing communities. ▲

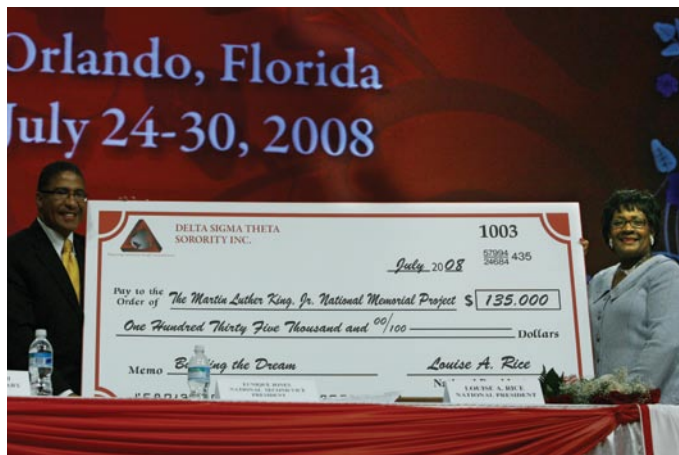


PHOTO BY SHARON FARMER

Dr. Louise A. Rice presents Darryl Matthews with a \$135,000 contribution to the Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial Project.

## Who Would Have Thought?

Continued from page 2

"I've always been in New Orleans. In fact, I will do as many Founders Day speeches as my schedule permits, but I will not book anything during Mardi Gras," she said with her contagious smile. "Oh yeah, I love Mardi Gras. I never missed one before Katrina. But New Orleans is coming back and I'm going to be there for the rest of the celebrations."

As Soror Butler-McIntyre prepared for her entrance into the national presidency of Delta Sigma Theta, she took time to meet with her predecessors. "Each of the past National Presidents has so much to offer," she said. "They know so much about life and Delta. I need their wisdom to make Delta grow. I want to build on their legacy."

Anyone who has ever heard the 24th National

President speak, knows she gets her style from traditional Baptist preachers. "Speaking to people for me is natural," she said. "I don't ever have to sit down and think about what my topics will be. God always gives me a sign to guide my messages. I pay attention to what he is trying to tell me to tell others, and I listen to him."

Since being elected as National President, one of Soror Butler-McIntyre's first acts was to bring remarks at the memorial service of Soror Stephanie Tubbs Jones. "What a Delta and what a woman," said Soror Butler-McIntyre of the late congresswoman. "I never thought this would be the first way I addressed the Grand Chapter and the public. Her passing was an unfortunate loss for everyone." Soror Butler-McIntyre looked up and shook her head, "Who would have ever thought?" ▲

## PUBLIC MEETING AWARDS

### DELTA AWARD RECIPIENTS:

#### The Mary Church Terrell Award

Dr. Thelma T. Daley, vice chair, National Council of Negro Women and 16th National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

#### The Patricia Roberts Harris Medallion for Excellence in Government Service

Denise L. Nappier, the first African-American woman elected to serve as a State Treasurer in the United States (Connecticut)

#### The Althea T.L. Simmons Social Action Award

Soror Melanie L. Campbell, CEO and executive director, National Coalition on Black Civic Participation

#### The African Violet Award for Extraordinary Contributions to Collegiate Sorors

Soror Deborah Elam, vice president and chief diversity officer, General Electric

Soror Ingrid Saunders Jones, vice president and chairperson of The Coca-Cola Foundation, The Coca Cola Company

### OTHER AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND CONTRIBUTIONS:

#### The Distinguished Professor Endowed Chair Award

Langston University, Langston, Oklahoma

#### The "Eyes on Our Youth" Scholarship

Bennett College, Greensboro, North Carolina  
Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Alabama

#### Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial Project

\$135,000 contribution presented to Darryl Matthews, vice chair, The Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial Project



# Social Action Luncheon Celebrates Delta's Commitment to Effecting Change

By Ashley Chaney

**M**ore than 5,000 attendees at the Social Action Luncheon during the 49th National Convention were reminded that without action, there can be no change.

The Honorable Marcia Fudge, 21st National President of Delta Sigma Theta and then co-chair of the National Social Action Commission, presided over the luncheon. Soror Fudge spoke on how social action and Delta Sigma Theta go hand in hand. She gave a reminder that dating back to the Sorority's first public service act in 1913, Delta's commitment to promoting leadership, advocacy, and empowerment to effect social change and public policy has been unwavering.

Soror Julianne Malveaux, honorary co-chair of the National Social Action Commission and Bennett College president, introduced the keynote speaker. The keynote address was given by Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, University Professor at Georgetown University. Dyson is a highly acclaimed author, scholar, commentator, hip hop sociologist, and ordained minister.

Using old school melodies intertwined with his intellectually packed rhetoric, Dyson had attendees laughing and contemplating simultaneously. Praising the accomplishments of Dr. Dorothy I. Height, 10th National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and Soror Paula Giddings, author of *Ida, A Sword Among Lions: Ida B. Wells and the Campaign Against Lynching*, Dyson reflected on how social action has shaped Delta Sigma Theta.

He reminded participants that social action was critical to the founding of Delta Sigma Theta in 1913 and is at the very heart of Delta's being. Dyson spoke about declining literacy rates in inner city schools and reinforced the need for Delta's assistance in mentoring the hip-hop generation.



PHOTO BY AMY GENAO

Keynote speaker, Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, is surrounded by past National Presidents, immediate past second vice president and social action commissioners at the Social Action Luncheon.

Awards were presented to recognize chapters with exemplary social action programs or projects. Chapters were selected based on the project or activity's alignment with the National Social Action Commission's theme, "Race and Poverty" with specific attention given to education, economics and healthcare.

Soror Danielle Moore, social action commissioner and poet, rendered a captivating spoken word piece composed especially for the event. Following Soror Moore's poetic charge, a musical melody was offered by Soror Marcia Butler Holt, co-chair of the Commission on Arts and Letters. Soror Butler Holt was accompanied by Soror Kim Jordan, also a member of the Commission on Arts and Letters.

Dr. Louise A. Rice, 23rd National President, gave closing remarks and reminded participants that in these historic times, there is much work to be done. Sorors were charged to continue working and to keep social action programs in the forefront of their chapter's agenda. ▲

#### National Social Action Award Recipients

St. Louis Alumnae, *Central Region*  
 South Jersey Alumnae, *Eastern Region*  
 Century City Alumnae, *Farwest Region*  
 Columbus Alumnae, *Midwest Region*  
 Spartanburg Alumnae, *South Atlantic Region*  
 East Point/College Park Alumnae, *Southern Region*  
 Houston Metropolitan Alumnae, *Southwest Region*  
 Lambda Psi, *Outstanding Collegiate Chapter*

Additional reporting by Mabel Murray and Lorraine Offer.

## Delta Sigma Theta Gears up for 2008 Presidential Election

By Ashley Allison

**O**n November 4, 2008 history will be made. Registered voters will pull a lever, press send or even mail off ballots early to cast their vote for the President of the United States of America.

For the first time in history, either an African-American will hold the highest position in the land as commander in chief or a female will hold the second highest position as vice president.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. approaches the 2008 presidential election as a non-partisan organization empowering the African-American community. "Seeing these two candidates is validation for all that we have stood for since our inception," said Patricia Lattimore, co-chair of the National Social Action Commission. "Delta has been in the forefront not only for nondiscrimination but for equality and opportunity. Delta has been on the right course and we will continue to move forward."

However, as the Social Action Commission gears up for the excitement this historical race is gener-

ating, they are not losing sight of the pressing issues at hand. "We need to look beyond the rhetoric and closely examine where candidates stand on issues that affect the communities we serve; health care, quality education, economic principles that takes into account people from all income levels," said Soror Lattimore. "Delta will continue to focus on the country's lack of tolerance for disparate groups and challenge ethnic violence."

As Delta continues in the fight for justice and equality through the Sorority's Five-Point Programmatic Thrust, the sisterhood places party affiliations aside. Regardless of its members' political preference, Delta Sigma Theta knows the importance of the vote and the power it has when used properly. From the organization's 22 Founders participating in the Women's Suffrage March in 1913, Delta finds itself 95 years later still working for the vote. "Delta realizes that voting is not only an inherent right, but a responsibility of every citizen," said Soror Lattimore.

The Social Action Commission is dedicated to ensuring everyone who is eligible has the opportunity to vote. "We are going to use our network of chapters throughout the country and the existing Delta initiatives for voter empowerment," said Soror Lattimore.

The Social Action Commission feels compelled to speak to members of Congress prior to elections, but Delta's involvement in the political realm has never been short sighted. For the last 19 years, the Sorority has hosted its legislative conference, Delta Days in the Nation's Capital. "The November election will tell us who is commander in chief, but in the real world the laws and governance are enacted by Congress and we need to be as vigilant in making our presence known to them as we are about electing our next president," said Soror Lattimore as the commission gears up for this election and issues which will follow. ▲





# A Tribute to Stephanie Tubbs Jones



“Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones was known as a cunning attorney, an effective legislator and a powerful advocate. In Delta Sigma Theta she was known for all of that, and so much more. We will remember our sister Stephanie as a compassionate friend with a genuine spirit; an awesome motivator with a giving heart; and a true patriot with a determined mind. To know Stephanie is to know the epitome of what Delta Sigma Theta is all about.”

—Soror Cynthia M. A. Butler-McIntyre,  
24th National President,  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



“She was the embodiment of the generosity that comes with grace; the fearlessness that comes with knowing what really matters. Now that she’s left us, we’ve all got to pick up some slack. We’ve all got some unfinished business to attend to; business of shaking things up and asking hard questions and insisting on hard truths. The business of embracing those who struggle and making their struggles our own. The business of refusing to settle for anything less than what’s right and what’s just and what’s fair.”

—Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL)  
U.S. Senate

“Her life teaches us that if we live with courage and allow God’s light to shine, we can travel further and higher than we ever dreamed; that we can achieve the seemingly unachievable; and that we can break glass ceilings and overcome barriers with grace and joy.”

—Rep. Tim Ryan (D-OH)  
U.S. Representative

“Whenever we would talk on the phone, she would end by saying, ‘Congressman, love you.’ and I’d say, ‘Love you too.’ She was a great congresswoman. She was a great friend. Goodnight Stephanie, I love you.”

—Louis Stokes  
Former U.S. Representative (D-OH) 1969-1999



“In her service as a judge, a prosecutor, a member of Congress, Stephanie

was time and again a first. The first woman, first African-American woman, first African-American, in so many ways. One of the many lessons that we can learn from all of her firsts is that we need not ever wait for permission to do that which has never been done before.”

—Governor Ted Strickland, Ohio

## A “Phenomenal Woman”

“I am sure Mervyn Sr. has already had to tell her she cannot organize heaven in just a week. The speaker of the heavenly assembly has already asked her to be the chair of the ethics committee, and whatever infinite amount of the love there is, that place of our final resting, it has been multiplied beyond measure by this woman whom we honor, celebrate and love. God bless you my friend.”

—Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY)  
U.S. Senate



“A warrior. A fighter. A justice woman who would take no prisoners. Intelligent. Believed what she believed through the spirit of God that we might build His kingdom here on earth. That was my sister, Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones.”

—Rep. Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (D-MI)  
Chair, Congressional Black Caucus



“She lived a life that was worth living. She made everyone know, and God set it up in a way that the world would know— her commitment and her sacrifice and her commitment to Him and the love that she gave to all of us.”

—Rep. Kendrick Meek (D-FL)  
Chair, Congressional Black Caucus Foundation

“I am the one who pinned her at her initiation into Delta Sigma Theta. She and I were friends. The most beautiful things about her were her smile, her loyalty and her strength to fight for people who needed help. She worked hard for the underdog. She worked hard in the search for fairness. She was a strong woman and she was such a joy... She stood for all of the principles of Delta Sigma Theta, with the core being sisterhood.”

—Soror Betty Pinkney  
Chief of Staff, Office of the Eleventh  
Congressional District of Ohio



Our soror and congresswoman departed this life suddenly on August 20, 2008.  
Her energy, enthusiasm and wisdom will be missed by sorors, family, friends and colleagues.

Compiled by Ella McNair and Ashley Chaney



## S \* I \* G \* N \* A \* T \* U \* R \* E      G \* A \* L \* A

## “Celebrating 35 Years in the Arts”

By Sandra A. Hill

In keeping with Delta Sigma Theta’s tradition of elegance and flair, the Signature Gala, held during the 49th National Convention in Orlando, Florida on July 28, was a signature event indeed.

From the tribute commemorating the 35th Anniversary of the Commission on Arts and Letters (CAL) presented by actor and author Hill Harper, the soul stirring sounds of teenage saxophone prodigy Bernard “B.K.” Jackson, the energetic performance by American Idol Fantasia Barrino, the smooth and classic tunes of Brian McKnight, to the appreciation and gratitude expressed by the award recipients who were honored at the event—the 2008 Signature Gala left sorors and friends alike with many memories to share as they participated in a celebration of the arts—Delta style!

This elegant event was hosted by 2004-2008 CAL co-chairs Marcia Butler Holt and Dr. Wanda Goins Brockington, honorary CAL co-chairs Suzzanne Douglas Cobb and Sheryl Lee Ralph. The gala celebrated the 35th anniversary of the commission.

Since its inception, the CAL has embraced its goal to stimulate interest and educate chapters in varied genres of art. The commission has taken on the charge to advance the Black experience through arts and letters while promoting the contributions of African-Americans in the arts—past and present. It was established during the administration of the 15th National President, Soror Lillian Pierce Benbow, under the leadership of founding chairperson, Dr. Jeanne L. Noble, 12th National President. From producing anti-substance abuse public service announcements to the re-mastering of “Roses & Revolutions,” CAL has been on the move in the arts community for more than three decades.



CAL members congratulate Bernard “B.K.” Jackson after his stellar performance.

PHOTO BY W. LASHEA MORRIS



The gala began with a *35 Year Tribute* presented by Hill Harper and a *Young Artist Renaissance* performance by B.K. Jackson, a 16-year-old saxophonist, who has been playing since the age of 10. B.K. has the talent of a musician with many more years of experience. His selections included familiar tunes by artists such as Kenny G., as well as the self composed, award-winning, “Saxy.” B.K.’s mother and manager, Regina Jackson Underwood, is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

The second performance of the evening was by the highly energetic Fantasia Barrino, 2004 American Idol winner. Fantasia immediately removed her shoes when she took the stage and then descended the stairs to rock with the crowd. Barrino demanded audience participation as she made her way through the aisles encouraging couples to get up and dance!

Brian McKnight, the gala’s headlining artist, wowed the predominantly female crowd of sorors and friends with his love ballads and hits such as *Anytime*, *Back At One*, *Love of My Life* and *One Last Cry*. During his second set, McKnight introduced his teenage sons—Brian Jr. (B.J.) and Cole Nicholas (Niko)—who are currently touring with

him. The younger McKnights showcased the musical talent they inherited from their father while performing two songs of their own.

Another one of the many highlights of the evening was the presentation of awards by CAL and the Information and Communications Committee.

*The Osceola Award* honors individuals who have achieved excellence as artists or institutions and patrons of arts and letters. CAL’s co-chairs and honorary co-chairs presented the award to the Sphinx Organization, a national arts organization focusing on youth development and diversity in classical music. They presented the *Keeper of the Flame Award* to Soror Laurel Tucker Duplessis, artist and curator and the *Emerging Artist Award* to Soror Stephanie Perry Moore, Christian fiction novelist.

*The Lillian Award*, a salute to outstanding national media individuals, was presented by the 2004-2008 Information and Communications Committee co-chairs Therese Griffin and Deborah Peaks Coleman. The 2008 recipients were Soror Mara Brock Akil, creator and executive producer of *Girlfriends* and *The Game*; and Lyne Pitts, vice president of strategic initiatives for NBC News. ▲



Marcia Butler-Holt, co-chair, CAL and Suzzanne Douglas Cobb, honorary co-chair, CAL

PHOTO BY W. LASHEA MORRIS



PHOTO BY W. LASHEA MORRIS

Dr. Louise A. Rice, 23rd National President, dancing with her son at the Signature Gala.



# And the Celebration Continues...

## Café 1.9.1.3



PHOTO BY AMY GENAO

Bern Nadette Stanis, featured author of Café 1.9.1.3, signing copies of her book "Situations 101: Relationships, The Good, The Bad...and The Ugly."

Spoken word, live jazz, best-selling authors and fruit smoothies were the highlights of this year's Café 1.9.1.3, otherwise known as the Literary Café. The featured authors for the event were Hill Harper, Soror Paula Giddings, Bern Nadette Stanis (Thelma from *Good Times*), S. James Guitard, and Lawrence Ross.

Each shared stories with the audience, made up of over 1,000 sorors and friends, about their individual projects and read passages from their books. A jazz jam session; featuring the Joe Johnson Band, Soror Marcia Butler Holt, and Soror Kim Jordan; soothed the crowd. Rashad "thaPoet" and Soror Danielle Moore embraced the art form of spoken word and moved participants with their politically charged rhythms.

Café 1.9.1.3 was yet another successful event celebrating the 35th Anniversary of the Commission on Arts and Letters.  $\blacktriangle$

—Compiled by Ashley Chaney

## Author's Pavilion



## Signature Gala



CeCe Winans



Fantasia



B.K. Jackson



Brian McKnight

## COMMISSION ON ARTS AND LETTERS AWARDS

### Osceola Award



Aaron Dworkin,  
Sphinx Organization

### Keeper of the Flame Award



Soror Laurel Tucker  
Duplessis

### Emerging Artist Award



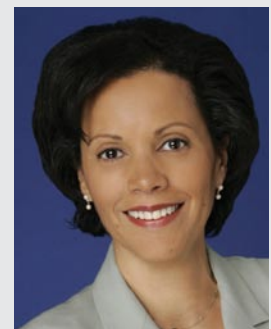
Soror Stephanie Perry  
Moore

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS AWARDS

### Lillian Award



Soror Mara Brock Akil



Lyne Pitts



# Delta Sigma Theta Named a Challenge Champion by The 50 Million Pound Challenge

By Princess Bethea

Sorority members have literally met the challenge given to them by Dr. Louise A. Rice, 23rd National President. Dr. Rice's signature physical and mental health initiative, *Healthy Lifestyle: The Total Woman: Mind, Body, and Spirit*, encouraged the Sorority's collaboration with *The 50 Million Pound Challenge* sponsored by Dr. Ian Smith and State Farm.

Dr. Smith was present at the convention urging sorors to become healthy by exercising and eating properly. Commonly called, *The Challenge*, sorors joined with others in the African-American com-

munity, by committing to improve their health and reverse the deadly effects of being overweight. Members of Delta Sigma Theta were present at all 14 of the celebrity kick-off events held nationwide.

During the convention, *The 50 Million Pound Challenge* set up a booth for sorors to participate in the initiative and continue on their way to a healthy lifestyle. This is certainly a win, but the fight is just beginning as the Sorority continues to encourage all its members to be champions of their own health and physical well-being. ▲



Dr. Ian Smith

## Plenary Sessions and Paraphernalia: A History of Delta's Vendors

By Ashley Chaney

During summer months sorors from all over the globe are packing their red suitcases and making their way through long airport lines. Whether for a national convention or a regional conference, sorors find their way to convention center halls and meeting rooms all over this great nation to handle the business of Delta.

Somehow, in between the plenary sessions, workshops, luncheons, banquets, and chapter and line reunions, sorors always find time to pay a visit to the many vendors that have traveled along with them throughout the years.

Whether they're stocking up on "crossing gifts" or finally splurging on that jacket, ring or purse they've been eyeing for quite some time, sorors often leave the renowned exhibit tradeshow with enough Delta paraphernalia to fill up that extra suitcase they brought along, just in case.

Jerome Swift, owner of Swift Incentives and a proud member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., knows this scene all too well. "My company has been at every national convention since 1969," he said of his long partnership with Delta Sigma Theta. "We have not missed one."



PHOTO BY AMY GENAO

Soror shopping at the tradeshow during the 49th National Convention.

In 1969, Swift and two of his business partners traveled from St. Louis to Baltimore in a car packed with hand-crafted Delta items for the Sorority's 30th National Convention. They had no business name and there was no exhibit tradeshow. They were just three determined young men looking to sell their custom made items to a larger market. So, they set up a table next to the registration area, with approval of course, and waited for the sorors to come.

And oh, did the sorors come! "At the convention we stayed in room 420," Swift said. Their phone rang so much that, "420 Specialties" became the standard greeting. "That's how we got the name," he said. Until 1979, Swift's company operated under the name of 420 Specialty Company.

Shukri A. Muhayman, owner of Shukri's Goldsmiths, says he also got his start in the vending business by working with Delta. "Delta was my introduction," he said. Muhayman came to Detroit in 1983 for the Sorority's 37th National Convention with small elephants and a few gold pieces to sell. It was there that he realized there were no vendors working with 14 karat gold. Muhayman returned to Washington, DC and started designing rings, pendants and pins bearing the Sorority's symbols. Since then he has developed a line of products especially for Delta Sigma Theta, including the Diamond Jubilee pin.

For both Swift and Muhayman, vending at Delta's national conventions and regional conferences is not just about making money. Swift started in



Photo, provided by Jerome Swift, owner of Swift Incentives, taken at the 1982 Midwest Regional Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio.

the business while he was still an undergraduate student at Harris Teacher's College in St. Louis and a new initiate of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. He said that his company has expanded to include clients such as Macy's, Bloomingdales, a few sports teams, and state and local government. Greek paraphernalia only makes up a small portion of his business, but he still enjoys coming to Delta events. "Some of these people I have known since they were undergrads," he said. "And now they are lawyers, doctors and professors. It's sort of like a meeting of the family—like a reunion."

Muhayman shares a similar sentiment. Even though he has expanded his business and has worked with the Egyptian government as a consultant on importing and exporting jewelry, he said he still looks forward to coming to Delta conventions and conferences. "I enjoy just meeting the Deltas and seeing the camaraderie," Muhayman said. "I actually gather enjoyment from meeting the folks. It's been a good relationship." ▲



# FIT FOR THE FIGHT: Collegiates Committed to Change

By Felicia Baker

**F**it, fight, committed and change! That was the charge given to sorors who attended the Collegiate Luncheon at the 49th National Convention in Orlando, Florida on July 26 where Lauren Lake delivered the keynote address.

Lake, a multi-talented lawyer, television host, entertainer and designer, focused on these four key points and equipped guests with the necessary tools for embarking on their journey as warriors. “Declare yourself a warrior for change,” said Lake, “and not another statistic.” She said that by doing this, you will define who you are and not what society says you are.

**Fit.** Lake said that everyone is a little out of shape physically, mentally, emotionally, or spiritually. Whatever the situation, Lake said you must be encouraged to adapt to a regime that will bring about change. Make a realistic plan that fits your lifestyle and stick with it. Partner with someone who will help you help yourself. Eventually you will see the weight loss, which is synonymous with dead weight that you carry around. This “dead weight” can often include friends, attitudes, laziness, and more. If the workout is applied to other aspects of your life, your current state will transcend into a more toned and leaner body, and ultimately a clearer state of mind.

**Fight.** Lake, the University of Michigan and Wayne State University graduate, said once you’ve found the appropriate workout, you have to keep up the fight. All warriors are wary of what they put into their bodies. In order to be successful, you must watch what you are being fed; by yourself and by others. Lake warned that even the people closest to you—family, friends, boyfriends, or co-workers—may be feeding you negativity which will ultimately bring you down. Quoting *Romans 8: 37*, Lake declared that “we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us”.

**Committed.** Lake said you must be committed in order to succeed. “You have two choices in life, to do or not to do, to be or not to be, to be... or be nothing at all.” She said unlike our nation’s “right-now” state of mind; attributed to drive-thru meals, valet parking, frozen dinners, and everything in

between; your success cannot be “microwaved.” It happens over time, with hard work and determination.

**Change.** Lake, HGTV’s *Spice Up My Kitchen* host, charged the crowd to improve one or more aspects of their lives through education, religion, mentality, finances, family, health and more. “If you’re the strongest in your group of friends,” said Lake, “change your group of friends so that you can grow and learn from a new flock.”

Lake changed the atmosphere when she referred to the beautiful burnt orange peach colored dress that draped her body. The audience was solemn as she told about her mother being a victim of breast cancer, stating that she [Lake] died the day her mother died. The significance of the dress is that she wore it to her mother’s funeral since she told her to “wear something colorful”. Fit. Fight. Committed. Change. Four words that Lake said “helped her to reclaim her life.” She ended by having the audience repeat after her, “I am a warrior!”

Following the keynote address Soror Yorri Berry gave the poetic charge which struck chords of sisterhood, speaking of unity in the community and within the Sorority’s chapters. Her rhythmic words echoed across the room as guests hung on to every word, while anticipating the next. She ended by asking “How long before your fire will be sparked?”

Also in attendance were members of the Delta Gems and the Presidential Academy participants. Each young lady was given a laptop computer and software with funds provided by several companies; the Sorority, Dell, Inc. and Microsoft, Inc.

Collegiates were enthused and ready to commit to change. “Lauren Lake helped me to realize that I need to feed into myself,” said Lauren Williams, a member of Rho Delta Chapter (Oral Roberts University, Tulsa, Oklahoma). “The poem also fed my spirit and I know that Delta is about change, and I want to help us get to the next level.” ▲



PHOTO BY W. LASHEA MORRIS  
Collegiate luncheon speaker Lauren Lake of HGTV.

## COLLEGIATE AWARD RECIPIENTS

### Chapter of the Year Award

Beta Eta  
Alabama State University  
Montgomery, AL

### Outstanding Chapter Program Award

Alpha Chapter  
Howard University  
Washington, DC

### National Project ACE Day

Las Vegas Alumnae  
Las Vegas, NV

Eta Chi Chapter  
University of Nevada-Las Vegas  
Las Vegas, NV

### National Advisor of the Year Award

Soror Leslie Howard  
Epsilon Chi Chapter Advisor  
Southern University-New Orleans  
New Orleans, LA

Soror Gloria Moultrie  
Epsilon Chi Chapter Advisor  
Southern University-New Orleans  
New Orleans, LA

### National Collegiate Soror of the Year Award

Soror Traneil Clark  
Gamma Tau Chapter  
Tuskegee University  
Tuskegee, AL

## MINERVA AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

**Delta Delta Chapter**  
Alabama A & M University  
Normal, AL

**Gamma Psi Chapter**  
Tougaloo College  
Tougaloo, MS

**Lambda Citywide Chapter**  
Chicago, Illinois

**Theta Nu Chapter**  
Texas A & M University  
Commerce, TX



And the Winner is...Charlotte Alumnae Chapter

PHOTOS BY W. LASHEA MORRIS



# DELTA $\Delta$ IN $\Delta$ ACTION





# DELTA S ▲ I N ▲ A C T I O N



**CONGRATULATIONS AND SPECIAL THANKS TO THE SORORS OF THE GREATER ORLANDO CHAPTERS MU IOTA ▲ ORANGE COUNTY ALUMNAE ▲ ORLANDO ALUMNAE ▲ SANFORD ALUMNAE FOR A WONDERFUL AND SUCCESSFUL 49TH NATIONAL CONVENTION IN THE "CITY BEAUTIFUL"**



*The Greater Orlando Chapters Leadership Steering Committee*





## Omega Omega



**Soror Audree C. Britton**, was initiated into Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., at The Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio. She was a charter member of the Cincinnati Queen City Alumnae Chapter and transitioned to the Omega Omega Chapter on May 24, 2007. Born an only child, she had an abundance

of sisters in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., who loved her dearly. Soror Britton loved Delta Sigma Theta Sorority—which was her heart—and was committed to being active as best she could and was treasured for her kindness, sisterly spirit, ready smile, and good nature.

Born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio, she graduated from Walnut Hills High School and received a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from The Central State University. She also received a Bachelors of Education., a Master's degree in Counseling and Guidance, and 32 hours toward her Ph.D. from the University of Cincinnati. She began her career as a social worker with the City of Cincinnati and ultimately became a teacher with Cincinnati Public Schools. After retirement, she continued teaching and also became a realtor.

Soror Britton loved animals, jazz, traveling, the arts, discussion of current events, creating decorations for her home, and spending time with friends over wine and cheese. She was involved with many organizations but her love was working with children and her sorority.

Soror Britton, who will always be remembered for her gentle voice, quick wit, kind heart, and beautiful smile, will fondly be cherished and remembered by her family, god-children, and sisters of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., especially those of the Cincinnati Queen City Alumnae Chapter. ▲

**Soror Edith Mae Carroll Cousins**, a member of the Columbus (Ohio) Alumnae Chapter, passed away on March 7, 2008. She was 101 years old.

Soror Cousins was born in Greentown, West Virginia, and of the twelve children born to her parents she was the sole survivor. She later moved to Columbus, Ohio and following her graduation from North High School, attended The Ohio State University. She earned three degrees: a bachelor of science in elementary education and a bachelor of arts and a master of arts in elementary education.

She taught for 30 years in Fayette County, West Virginia, and then returned to Columbus, teaching an additional 11 years until her retirement in 1973. Her strong belief in the benefits of education extended beyond the classroom and she assisted several family members in their pursuit of higher education.

A Golden Life Member of Delta, Soror Cousins was initiated into Epsilon Chapter and was a charter member of the Beckley (WV) Alumnae Chapter and an honorary charter member of the Columbus Alumnae Chapter. She was also an active member of the National Council of Negro Women, the Urban League, the Urban League Guild and the NAACP.

Soror Cousins accepted the Lord at an early age and as an adult was a member of the First Baptist Church in Mt. Hope, West Virginia, serving as clerk. When she returned to Columbus she rejoined the church of her youth Shiloh Baptist

Church, where she was a devoted member.

Soror Cousins is survived by five nephews, two nieces, 12 great nieces and nephews and a host of relatives, extended family and friends. ▲



**Soror Bernice Archie Duckett**, a member of the Greenwood (SC) Alumnae Chapter, departed this life on June 2, 2007. Soror Duckett was born in Clinchco, Virginia to the late William and Dora Archie. She graduated from Brewer High School in Greenwood and received a Bachelor's Degree from Winston-

Salem Teacher's College. Duckett earned a Master of Science Degree from A&T University.

Soror Duckett served as a Guidance counselor at Brewer High and Greenwood High Schools. Her teaching career began with a two year stay at the Franklin County Training School, Louisburg, North Carolina. She joined the Brewer High School Faculty in the fall of 1946 and remained there until the fall of 1970 when the schools were integrated. She went to Greenwood High School and continued to work as a guidance counselor until she retired in June of 1984.

She was a member of Morris Chapel Baptist Church, where she sang in the choir and was a member of the Scholarship Committee. Her affiliations were many and varied: Member of Greenwood Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Rochelle Chapter #298 O.E.S., Life Member of NAACP, National Council of Negro Women, State Education and Public Information committee of South Carolina Mental Health Association, GLEAMNS Human Resource Commission, Inc., and the Advisory Council for Greenwood County Commission on School and Drug Abuse among many others.

Soror Duckett's awards include "75th International Honoree" by Delta Sigma Theta in 1988, and many other state level awards for her work in education.

She had a special talent for composing over one hundred fifty inspirational poems and songs. In 1955, one of her poems "Life in the Sky" was published by the National Library Book of Poetry, International Society of Poets.

Soror Duckett leaves to cherish her memory two sisters, Louise Tucker of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Dora Chenault of Stone Mountain, Georgia as well as a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. ▲



**Soror Vivian Austin Edmonds**, a member of the Chapel Hill-Carboro Area Alumnae Chapter, passed away on Mother's Day, May 11, 2008. This distinguished journalist and publisher of *The Carolina Times*, North Carolina's oldest black-owned newspaper, was 80 years old. The Omega Omega Ceremony was conducted

by the Durham Alumnae Chapter.

Soror Edmond's father, Louis E. Austin, founded

The Carolina Times in 1922, and she took over the family business after he passed in 1971. Soror Edmond's son, Kenneth Edmonds, now succeeds his mother as head of the paper and said that she always abided by the paper's motto, "The Truth Unbridled." Soror Edmonds used the power of the pen to champion civil rights issues and to provide a voice for the African-American residents of Durham, North Carolina.

Edmonds garnered many honors during her distinguished career. She was inducted into the North Carolina Journalism Hall of Fame in 1988 and received the Living Legacy Award from Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina. She obtained the Spirit of Hayti Legacy Award from the St. Joseph's Historic Foundation, Inc. and the Outstanding Woman Award through the Durham YWCA's Women of Achievement Program. She also received awards from Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Iota Phi Lambda Sorority and the Boy Scouts of America, Durham Chapter of Squaws.

Soror Edmonds was initiated into the Sorority in 1947 through the Alpha Lambda Chapter at North Carolina Central University in Durham. She is survived by her son Kenneth Edmonds and a host of family and friends. ▲

**Soror Dovie Juanita Miles Goodwin**, entered the Omega Omega Chapter on November 5, 2007—a few months short of her 100th birthday.

Soror Goodwin was born on March 21, 1908 in Denton, Texas. Because African-Americans in Denton were not allowed to attend school after the 10th grade, she moved to Dallas to finish high school. She attended Wiley College in Marshall, Texas and was only one of three black women majoring in math. In 1939, she earned a bachelor's degree in math and when World War II ended, Soror Goodwin moved from Texas to Utah as a USO Director and Recreational Director. She was mentored by Brigadier General Benjamin O. Davis Sr., the first African-American general in the Navy.

Because of her race, it took her three years to be hired as an elementary school teacher in the state of Utah. She was only the third Black teacher in the state and taught in elementary and junior high schools. After her retirement, she tutored students in math for 29 years.

She was initiated into Delta in 1942 in the Psi Sigma Chapter in San Antonio, Texas. Soror Goodwin was a charter member of two chapters: Beta Omega Chapter in El Paso, Texas and Ogden Alumnae Chapter in Utah. A member of Delta for 66 years, she served as hostess for the 21st National Convention held in 1950 in Berkeley, California.

She married the late Roy A. Goodwin and had a son, now deceased, and a daughter. She was involved in many community activities, including girl scout leader, 4H Club assistant leader, treasurer to the NAACP, advisor to the NAACP youth council, member of the Women's Historical Society and board member of the American Association of University Women. She is the recipient of numerous awards including, Teacher of the Year, Retired Volunteer, Retired School Employee of the Year and Grand Marshal for the Pioneer Days Parade.

A dedicated Delta Dear, her legacy of serving others lives on through her daughter Roietta Fulgham, a member of Sacramento Alumnae; niece Sandra Mack, a member of Las Vegas Alumnae; and grand niece Lori Howard, also a member of Las Vegas Alumnae. She is also survived by her two grandchildren, three great grandchildren, and a host of people throughout the world who referred to her as "Mom," "Auntie," "Sister," or "Friend." ▲



**Soror Marie Russell Harris Groom**, a former president of the Jackson (TN) Alumnae Chapter, entered the Omega Omega Chapter on January 4, 2008. Soror Groom was born on November 25, 1929 in Tennessee, the eleventh of twelve children. She graduated from Tennessee State University with distinction and received a bachelor of science degree. She also took classes at Tennessee State University, Murray State University, Alabama A & M, University Freed-Hardeman University and St. Thomas University in Miami, Florida.

She taught home economics, science and biology in Chester County for 40 years until her retirement and received the High School Teacher of the Year award in 1989.

Soror Groom was initiated into Delta at Alpha Chi Chapter and became an active member of Jackson (TN) Alumnae Chapter, serving as the 17th president. In 1981, she received the chapter's Delta of the Year award. A Golden Life Member, she attended at least 20 National Conventions and was a mentor to new members in the chapter and local collegiate sorors.

She was very involved in numerous community and professional related organizations, including serving as past president of the Chester County Education Association, vice president of District Two of the Former West Tennessee Teacher's Association and the West Tennessee Chapter of the American Home Economic Association, charter member of the Chester County Truancy Board, and member of the Advisory Committee for the Chester County Chapter of the NAACP. She also served as parliamentarian of the Chester County Chapter of Tennessee Retired Teacher's Association, and as a member of the Literacy Council and Tennessee State Advisory Board for Education and Certification, County Democratic Executive Committee and County Democratic Women's Club. She was a life member of the National Council of Negro Women and served on eight evaluation committees for the Southern Association and Certification of Colleges and Schools.

An active member of New St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church, she served as president of the Mother Board Ministry, chairperson of the Program Committee and was involved in various other church projects and ministries. She was married to the late Jodie Croom and leaves to cherish her memory, two sisters-in-law and a host of nephews, nieces, cousins, other relatives and close friends.  $\blacktriangle$

**Soror Christine Harris**, a member of the Pasadena (CA) Alumnae Chapter, was truly a woman of Christian principles who dedicated her life to her church, public service, and the improvement of human welfare. In Pasadena, whenever there was a cause needing support or a group needing help, this ideal Delta consistently responded by creating programs, providing financial support, giving her time and talent, or doing whatever the issue required.

Early in her career, Soror Harris served as the director of the senior center and put in place numerous programs and activities to serve that community. She became friends with many of the seniors there and retained their friendships throughout her life. Soror Harris also devoted herself to caring for her ailing mother. It was obvious that she had a special place in her heart for senior citizens. When she became supervisor at the Jackie Robinson Center, she made sure that a vibrant senior program was presented, and today, this program remains intact.

At the Jackie Robinson Center numerous programs and activities take place which were headed by this ideal Delta. Because of Soror Harris, this center is a picture of true community involvement. The premiere activity at the Jackie Robinson Center and Robinson Park, which would be synonymous with the name Christine Harris, is the Black History Parade and Festival which celebrated its 25th year in 2007.

Specifically, in the Pasadena Alumnae Chapter, Soror Harris loved the Cotillion and served on that committee during her membership. Her greatest participation was that of an advocate in the community for a variety of activities sponsored by the chapter.

For all who knew her, many positive moments were encountered. She would always ask about the health or condition of those whom she had not seen for a while, and she always wore a beautiful smile upon her face. This beautiful, loyal, and dedicated Delta's presence will still be felt for she was a blessing in many lives.  $\blacktriangle$

**Soror Willie Lee Hearst**, passed away on March 5, 2008 at the age of 76. Soror Hearst was born on November 7, 1932 and grew up in Daytona Beach, Florida. She graduated from Bethune-Cookman College in 1954 with a bachelor's degree in physical education. She later received a master's degree in physical education and certification in administration supervision from Nova University in 1981.

Soror Hearst's greatest joy was working with youth and she believed that all students wanted to be understood and to know that someone cared about them. She was a teacher at Carver Middle/High School in Delray Beach, where she also served as an assistant principal. She also was an assistant principal at Omni Middle School in Boca Raton and worked as a program coordinator for the after-school program at Congress Middle School. She retired from the Palm Beach County School System in 1999.

Soror Hearst was a member of Deland Alumnae Chapter and a Golden Life Member. She is survived by her son, David Beasley, Jr., her brother, three

sisters, two grandchildren and a host of family and friends.  $\blacktriangle$

**Soror Mabel Martin**, was born in Oakland, California, May 28, 1913. She was awarded a Bachelors of Arts in psychology at UC Berkeley in 1939. She and her good friend, Soror Eula Dean Roby, were initiated into Delta at Berkeley where Mabel became president of the Berkeley Chapter and was chosen Farwest Regional Director the next year. While she was Regional Director, Mabel was married and had two sons.

After graduation, Soror Martin became a social worker working for the Works Progress Administration and for the City of L.A Bureau of Public Assistance. In the early 1950s, Soror Martin obtained elementary school credentials and commenced what was to become a twenty-six year career with Los Angeles Unified School District. She served with distinction as a teacher of the developmentally challenged, reading consultant and a member of various district textbook selection committees. While teaching, she earned a Master of Arts in Reading at California State University at Los Angeles.

Her Christian heritage was Congregationalist, Baptist, and AME. After her marriage, she became a member of the Disciples of Christ serving at Pasadena Christian Church in numerous ministries, especially working with children and youth.

Second only to family and church was Soror Martin's devotion to Delta. Born in the same year that Delta was founded, she was an active member for seventy years! She was a member of the Pasadena (Calif.) Alumnae Chapter. She played key roles in the establishment and success of three of the

## Remembering Honorary Member Tina Allen

*By Erica Donerson and Sylvia S. Turner*

"She was a very beautiful person whom I admired a great deal," said Mona Humphries Bailey, 17th National President of Delta Sigma Theta, about **Soror Tina Allen**. The sculptor died after a brief illness on September 9, 2008 in Los Angeles. She was 58. In July 2000, Soror Allen was inducted into Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, as an honorary member at the 45th National Convention in Chicago.

In 2004, Soror Bailey and Soror Allen were seated together at Los Angeles Alumnae's 75th Anniversary. That's when the artist told Soror Bailey, then president of the Delta Research and Educational Foundation, that she wanted to use her talent to help DREF financially. "It was one of the most wonderful things that happened to me on that trip," Soror Bailey said. From that conversation, the Delta Heart and Delta Maiden were born. Soror Allen decided to sculpt the bronze pieces of art especially for members of the Sorority. She planned to create a maximum of 111 Hearts and 111 Maidens, for a total of 222 in honor of the Sorority's Founders. Soror Allen stepped into her studio and created the pieces as they were ordered. Half of the proceeds from each sale went to DREF, primarily for the Center for Research on African American Women.

Soror Allen said the Delta Heart shows a proud, strong, loving woman who embraces life with love, while the Delta Maiden represents the future, fresh with hope and dignity.

Even before her work with the Sorority, Soror Allen was world renowned for documenting the spirit of African-Americans in bronze. "Great people should have great monuments," she said. Soror Allen intentionally emphasized traditional African features in her works. She once said, "When we celebrate our physical looks, we're sending a message to our children to appreciate our features and respect our potential."

Soror Allen's sculpture of abolitionist Frederick Douglass is housed in the African American Museum of Birmingham and was even featured in the movie *Akeelah and the Bee*. Some of her other subjects include George Washington Carver, Sammy Davis Jr., Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Sojourner Truth. But, Soror Allen may be best known for her monumental statue of *Roots* author Alex Haley, which was installed in 1998 in his hometown of Knoxville, Tenn. For two years, she worked on the towering 13-foot seated sculpture and used 7,500 pounds of clay.

Soror Allen sat on the board of directors for the International Center for African American Asian Relations, as well as the Los Angeles Support Committee for the African National Congress. She was a graduate of the University of South Alabama and also studied in New York and Venice, Italy. Soror Allen is survived by a host of loving family members, including her mother, sister, children, grandchildren and stepmother. "Deltas should be very proud that she was one of our Honorary Members," Soror Bailey said.  $\blacktriangle$



*Soror Tina Allen*



chapter's most outstanding programs: Cotillion, Boutique, and the Delta Volunteers.

Soror Mabel Martin, a devoted mother and grandmother, died November 7, 2007 leaving behind two sons, two grandsons, and two great grandchildren along with many relatives and friends. ▲



**Soror Patricia Anne Mathews**, a member of the Providence (RI) Alumnae Chapter, passed away on November 27, 2007. Soror Mathews was born on May 21, 1936 in Providence to the late George H. and Dorothy Stockett.

Soror Mathews attended Boston University and was initiated into the Iota

Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority in 1955. She was a charter member of the Providence Alumnae Chapter, which was established on October 31, 1970. She also helped found other community organizations such as the East Providence Community Center. Soror Mathews was a former board member of John Hope Settlement House, the Minority Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitative Services, and the Children's Museum. She was a community service leader with RI CORE and served in various capacities with other community advocacy organizations such as the Providence Shelter, United Way, South Providence Tutorial, Leadership Rhode Island, Community College of Rhode Island, Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC), and R.I. Commission on Women.

Soror Mathews had a career that was far reaching. She developed classes in Black History while she was employed as a Program Development Advisor at Rhode Island College. As Deputy Director of the Urban League of Rhode Island, she advocated fair employment practices and community involvement. She later served as a staff member under the former Governor of Rhode Island, J. Joseph Garrahy. Soror Mathews retired from state service as Chief Public Information Officer for the Department of Children, Youth and Families.

Soror Mathews' Christian beliefs were strong and her philosophy that it "takes a village to raise a child," guided her outreach endeavors. During her lifetime, she was recognized with countless awards for her compassionate and untiring commitment to public service.

Soror Mathews leaves to cherish her memory, her partner of twenty-seven years, Kenneth Gross; two sons, Keith Mathews (and wife Maria) and Kevin Mathews (and wife Maryann); six grandchildren, Keira, Janel and husband Kyle, Crystal, Michael, Kevin Jr., Antonio; two great grandchildren, Jakhi and Khalil; and a host of friends and sorors who will truly miss her. ▲

**Soror Curtistine Holt Miller**, a member of the Little Rock Alumnae Chapter, entered the Omega Omega Chapter on March 7, 2008. She was born in Arkansas and graduated from Horace Mann High School and Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri. A veteran educator, she spent most of her career as a counselor at Thornwood High School in Illinois, where she distinguished herself with compassion and dedication to helping student excel. After retirement, she continued to work with students by serving as the director of the Office of Field Placement at Chicago State University.

Soror Miller was initiated into Delta through the Alpha Theta Chapter at Lincoln University in 1964. She was a charter member and second president of the Joliet Area/South Suburban Alumnae Chapter, where she held every chapter office.

She was also active in Delta nationally, serving as a member of the National Arts and Letters Commission and as a member of the Social Action Commission.

For the last five years, Soror Miller belonged to the Little Rock Alumnae Chapter and when the chapter hosted the 2005 Southwest Regional Conference she worked as co-chair of the reception committee.

She was a dedicated member of Second Baptist Church where she worked with the public relations ministry and as a member of the noonday prayer circle. Soror Miller is survived by a number of family and friends, including her sister, Lottie Holt Shackelford, a member of the Social Action Commission. ▲



**Soror Olga Moore**, died September 5, 2007 at the age of 89. She was a devoted member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for over fifty-seven years. Soror Moore was born on February 25, 1918 in Chattanooga, Tennessee, where she attended elementary and high school and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business and Sociology from the University of Tennessee.

She furthered her education by completing a teaching credential at Pacific Oaks College in Pasadena, California.

Soror Moore was inducted into Delta Sigma Theta Sorority while attending the University of Tennessee and was elected president of the Alpha Chi Chapter the following year. She married Dr. Wallace T. Moore, a Pasadena dentist, in 1942. The product of that union is a son, Michael Moore.

Olga Moore began her professional career as a bookkeeper for AFL in Washington, DC, and after the completion of her teaching credential, became an elementary teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District where she retired after many years of rewarding experiences in developing the academic and social skills of young minds.

Choosing Delta Sigma Theta Sorority for membership stemmed from her interest in public service and academic excellence. She found the Christian principles upon which the organization is based and the superior service programs offered by Delta to be in line with her concept of improving conditions for the community.

As a charter member, Soror Moore was active with the Pasadena Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority since its inception in 1963. She has chaired the Cotillion Committee and the Cotillion Decorations Committee. She has made a major impact in the success of the chapter's Annual Holiday Boutique, which raises funds for programs offered by other community service organizations. The true spirit of Delta is manifested through the work of this Delta Dear. She'll truly be missed by sorors, family, and friends. ▲

**Soror Kimberly Charisse Mounger-Fields**, passed away on December 26, 2007 at the age of 29. She was born on March 13, 1978 in Jackson, Mississippi, and at an early age developed an interest in music. She began singing at the young age of three at Wells Grove Missionary Baptist Church and later became a member of Zion Chapel of God in Christ, where she was a member of the choir. After moving to Natchez, Miss., she joined the Zion Chapel A.M.E. Church and was actively involved in the Missionary Society, Women's Ministry and became a leader of the Praise Dancers and a member of the choir.

She attended Alcorn State University in Mississippi and was a lead singer in the university's gospel choir. She was initiated into Delta Sigma

Theta in 1998 in the Delta Epsilon Chapter. After graduation, she continued to pursue her devotion to music and worked in the Natchez School District as a music teacher at Frazier Elementary School. She later became a counselor at Robert Lewis Middle School.

Soror Mounger-Fields was a member of the Natchez Alumnae Chapter and the Kitchen Talk Women's group. Her community involvement also included sponsoring the American Cancer's Society Relay for Life event for the Natchez school system. She was the Natchez-Adams School District Team Captain.

Soror Mounger-Fields is survived by her husband of five years, Ernest "Tony" Fields III; her son Ernest "Lil Tony" Fields IV, who inherited her love of music and is a devout drummer; and a host of family and friends. ▲

**Soror Cleopatra W. Robinson**, of Virginia Beach, Virginia, passed away on her 51st wedding anniversary, June 26, 2006. She was the last survivor of 11 children. A strong believer in the value of education, Soror Robinson received her early training at Palmer Memorial Institute in Sedalia, North Carolina, and attended Bluefield State College before graduating from Bennett College with a bachelor degree in home economics. She also performed graduate work at Cornell University, before embarking on a successful 20-year career as a VPI Extension Agent.

A trailblazer, Soror Robinson was the first African-American agent in Princess Anne County in Virginia Beach, Virginia, where she worked under challenging racial conditions. She later joined the Cooperative Extension Service (division of Virginia Poly Technical Institute) and was presented with the Florence Hall and Distinguished Service awards for outstanding professionalism.

A spiritual woman, Soror Robinson was an active member of Bank Street Memorial Baptist Church, where she served as a member of the Boosters, which sponsored Woman's Day and Mother's Day programs.

She was initiated into Delta through the Chesapeake-Virginia Beach Alumnae Chapter and became a Golden Life Member, recognized for her 25 years of faithful membership.

Her professional affiliations included the American Home Economics Associations, the State Negro Home Demonstration Agent's Association and the Adult Education Association.

Soror Robinson's survivors include her husband of 51 years, Harry Lee Robinson; one son; one daughter, Hakimah Muhammad, a member of the Federal City Alumnae Chapter; a step-son; three grandchildren and the many people whose lives she touched with her compassion, courage and strength. ▲

**Soror Barbara Jackson Scott**, departed this life on November 11, 2007. She was born on December 15, 1936 in Alabama and moved to Pensacola, Florida, where she graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in 1953. She received a bachelor's degree from Tuskegee University and moved to Fort Pierce, Florida, where she met and married Donald Scott, her husband of 49 years.

She continued her education, attaining her master's and specialist degrees from Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. She taught third grade in the Saint Lucie County School District and was also an adjunct professor at Indian River Community College.

A faithful and hard-working member of Saint Paul AME Church, she prepared the bulletin boards each month, established a tutorial after-school program, taught vacation Bible school, served with the food service ministry, hosted the marriage ministry and sang with the former Women's Chorus.

Soror Scott was initiated in Delta in 1976 through the Fort Pierce Alumnae Chapter and re-



mained actively involved in Delta for 31 years. She also was an active participant in the community, serving on the ALPI Advisory Council, a charter member of the Fort Pierce Chapter of the Links and as a member of the Retired Educators Association.

Soror Scott's memory will be cherished by her devoted husband, Donald Scott, two children, Amelia Scott Bell and Michael Scott, two grandchildren and a host of other relatives, friends and caregivers. ▲



**Soror Grace Ballard Simms**, of Greenwood, South Carolina, passed away on December 17, 2006. She was born in Greenwood on January 14, 1913. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Education from South Carolina State College and her Master's degree from Atlanta University.

Soror Simms retired as an elementary school teacher in 1976, after more than 40 years of service.

A Golden Life Member and a charter member of Greenwood (SC) Alumnae Chapter, she attended numerous Delta National Conventions. She also held membership in Order of the Eastern Star, Yellow Jessamine Garden Club, Charmlette Club, and was charter member of RBH Modernistic Bridge Club.

Soror Simms was a member of Mt. Pisgah AME Church and served as steward, trustee, missionary and choir member.

A humanitarian, contributing financially to numerous charities, she supported the Adopt-A-Child Program by supporting an African child through mail correspondence during the 1970's.

Survivors are nieces, nephews, other relatives and a host of friends. ▲



**Kenya Tanasha Tillery**, "Ms. Maestro," was born January 28, 1972. She departed this life to sing in God's celestial choir on March 7, 2008. She was born in Williamston, North Carolina to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Delano and Mary Katherine Tillery. She spent her formative years in Winston-Salem, North Carolina

and attended the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools.

Early on, Soror Tillery developed a love for music that would resonate throughout her life. As a child, she spoke of "hearing music in her head" and she made it her life's ambition to not only capture that music, but to share it and allow it to inspire countless others.

She shared her passion for music with students at UNC Wilmington, Warsaw Middle School, Diggs Elementary School in Winston-Salem, and The Piano Play in Sherman Oaks, California.

Soror Tillery was initiated into Delta Sigma Theta in 1994 through the Kappa Sigma Chapter at East Carolina University.

She was preceded in death by her father. Soror Tillery leaves to cherish her memory her mother, Mary Tillery of Winston-Salem, North Carolina; grandmothers, Lenora Frederick of Warsaw, North Carolina and Mary D. Tillery of Wilson, North Carolina; and a host of other relatives and friends. ▲

**Soror Bessie Corean Vinson**, passed away on February 13, 2008. She was a member of the Chesapeake-Virginia Beach Alumnae Chapter.

Soror Vinson was married to the late William L. Vinson, and the mother of Soror Laretta Dian Vinson Pridgen of Hyattsville, Maryland. Reared in Lumberton, North Carolina, she was the eldest

of seven children. She attended school in North Carolina and later received bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Norfolk State University.

She taught in the Norfolk City Public School System for more than 30 years as an elementary school teacher. She was an active member of Noble Street Baptist Church, the Esther Sunday School Class, and the Missionary Society until her illness. She was active in Delta Sigma Theta, Phi Delta Kappa, Les Gemmes, Inc., as well as other organizations. ▲

**Soror Carolyn Ann Mosby West**, a charter member of the Natchez Alumnae Chapter, passed away on April 19, 2007. Soror West was born on May 30, 1950 in Washington, Mississippi, and was one of the first African-Americans to graduate from Natchez High School in 1968.

She attended Southern University, where she was initiated into Delta in 1971 through the Alpha Tau Chapter. She graduated from Southern University in 1971 and worked as an elementary school teacher for more than 34 years, dedicating her life to working with children. In 1994, she received her master's degree in education from Alcorn State University.

She was married to Phillip C. West, whom she worked with in civic and political activities in Adams County, and they had two sons. An avid athlete and sports fan, Soror West played basketball and softball and was an excellent bowler. She was a fan of the Southern University Jaguars and the Los Angeles Lakers basketball team.

In addition to being a member of the Natchez Alumnae Chapter, Soror West was a member of the National Education Association, the Mississippi Education Association and a life-time supporter of the NAACP. She dedicated her life to working with children and her unwavering devotion will be missed by many. ▲

## Submission Instructions

### Winter 2008 Delta Journal

All submissions must be received by November 10, 2008

### Spring 2009 Delta Journal

All submissions must be received by February 1, 2009

### Summer 2009 Delta Newsletter

All submissions must be received by May 1, 2009

### Fall 2009 Newsletter

All submissions must be received by September 1, 2009

To ensure timeliness of all published materials, please send submissions for the Delta Journal and Delta Newsletter immediately after an event occurs.



## Dr. Louise A. Rice

*Continued from page 1*

Dr. Rice describes the end of her term as the end of a perfect day. "Perfect because as the Sorority has empowered communities, I have been energized by your energy, supported by your strength, encouraged by your expectations, and sustained by your sisterly love and affection. Thank you is not enough to convey the profound appreciation I feel at this moment."

Now that Dr. Rice has left the podium, the 49th National Convention has concluded, the torch has been passed to the esteemed 24th National President, and the new sorority year has begun, it's the perfect time to remember Dr. Rice's parting words. "Be good to yourself, and be good to Delta."  $\blacktriangle$

## Cynthia M. A. Butler-McIntyre

*Continued from page 1*

But as the Sorority approaches its centennial celebration, Soror Butler-McIntyre is aware of Delta's opportunity to collaborate with other entities. "Imagine production companies supporting the reenactment of our Sorority's founding because Delta has supported their movie which represented positive images. All this in my land called perfect."

Soror Butler-McIntyre said, "I am humbled at the opportunity to serve and expect great things in the future of Delta and it will take a commitment from every region, chapter and soror." She invited all members to join her on this trip to a land called perfect. "I can't take our sisterhood there by myself. Won't you join me?"  $\blacktriangle$



*Dr. Louise A. Rice, 23rd National President, and Cynthia M. A. Butler-McIntyre, 24th National President, before the Opening Ceremony.*

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