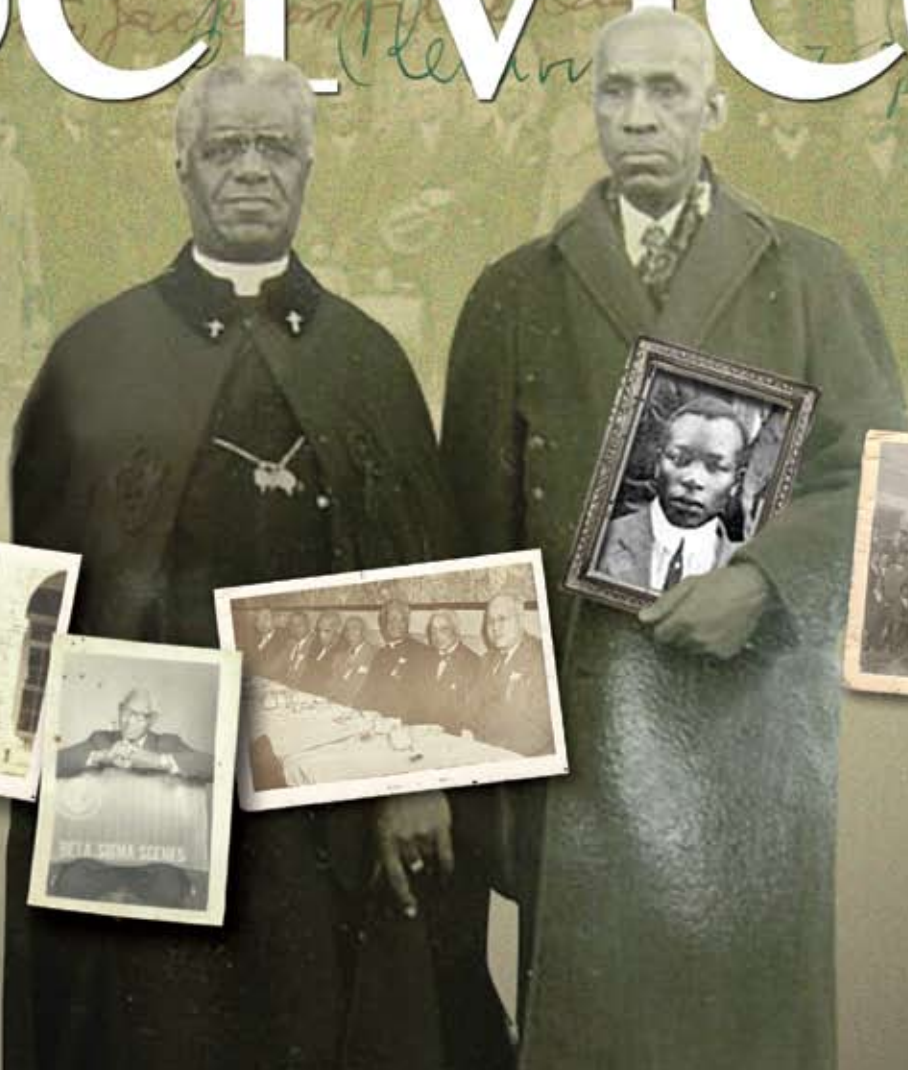


OUR CAUSE

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE EASTERN REGION OF PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY, INC. • VOL. 1 ISSUE 1

Culture for Service



SPRING 2009



95th
ANNIVERSARY
CONCLAVE
JULY 6-12, 2009
NEW ORLEANS

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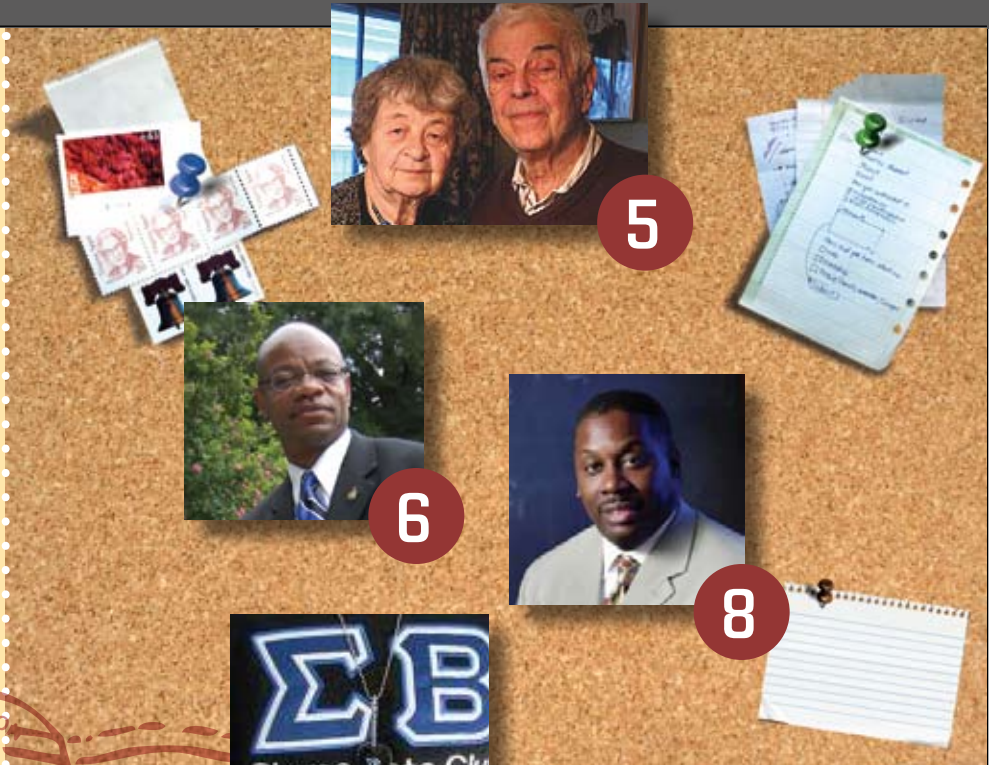
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To my Sigma Brothers of the Eastern Region:

In these uncertain economical times, it is my hope and prayer that the brothers of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc and their families remain strong; spiritually, emotionally and financially. During this period in history, we may have been shaken and for some an uncertainty of the future; but it is my belief we will come through this, a better and stronger people and nation. When we consider ourselves as an organization of Sigma men committed to “Culture for Service and Service for Humanity”, we recognize the importance we can and should have in our lives and the lives of others.

As your 24th Eastern Regional Director, I envisioned giving the brothers a regional magazine which would be both informative and educational; while providing chapter, regional and national news, all in a professional and first rate publication. I am proud to present the first Eastern Regional “Our Cause Magazine”. As we continue to publish the electronic version of the “Our Cause” Newsletter throughout the year, the “Our Cause Magazine” will be a yearly publication which highlights Sigma’s best throughout the region. We will also discuss issues relevant to health, personal, professional and spiritual growth and topics impacting our community.

Please join me in thanking Bro. Todd Le Bon, Eastern Regional Director of Publicity for his commitment in this project. He and his team have done an excellent job in publishing the first edition of the Eastern Regional “Our Cause Magazine”. Our first publication focuses on Service, and those brothers and chapters who have demonstrated the high ideals of Brotherhood, Scholarship and Service.

Let the brothers of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. continue to be that beacon of light, an organization committed to service to others. Be blessed.

Fraternally,
Bro. Darryl T. Williams
24th Eastern Regional Director



Hotep (Peace) Brothers of the Eastern Region:

An old warning says, “When you find yourself up to your backside in alligators is usually when you remember that your original goal was to drain the swamp”.

My original plan, after more than forty years of hard work, a dozen of those years spent as the Executive Director of Phi Beta Sigma, my original goal was to get some much deserved rest. Unfortunately...

This latest edition of your regional magazine has been presented in our continuing regional effort to broadcast to our regional membership the wonderful programs and projects that our chapters are pursuing.

On behalf of the many who have contributed to this issue, I say thank you. To those who have not as yet played a part in this adventure in public service, I say it’s time to get to work. We were the first of the major predominately African-American fraternities to dedicate our lives and skills in the delivery of “Service for Humanity”. We must live the mission that we proclaim.

G. D. Smith



On May 1, 2009 two new exhibits will open at the Museum of Jewish Heritage: A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, located at 36 Battery Place in New York City. The first exhibit, *Seeking Justice: The Leo Frank Case Revisited*, recounts the 1915 trial and lynching of Leo Frank in Atlanta, GA. Frank was the only Jew ever lynched in America. Visitors will view the evidence in the case which begins with the 1913 death of thirteen-year old Mary Phagan, a Christian girl. The exhibit covers evidence from the trial, the conviction and subsequent lynching of Frank. The exhibit comes to the Museum from the Breman Jewish Heritage Museum in Atlanta.

The second exhibit, *Beyond Swastika and Jim Crow: Jewish Refugee Scholars at Black Colleges*, was inspired by the book *Beyond Swastika and Jim Crow: Jewish Refugee Scholars at Black Colleges*, by Gabrielle Simon Edgcomb (Krieger Publishing Company, 1993), and subsequent documentary on PBS by Joel Sucher and Steven Fischler. This exhibit tells the story of Jewish scholars, dismissed from their posts at German and Austrian universities under the Nazis, and their experiences teaching at black universities in the Jim Crow South. Visitors will learn of the life long relationships forged while at these universities and how students and professors affected each others lives.

Drs. Bro. Georg and Mrs. Wilma Iggers are two of the Jewish scholars featured in the exhibit. They both taught at Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Arkansas and Dillard University in New Orleans, Louisiana. While at Philander Smith the Iggers played a crucial role in spearheading a challenge to the Little Rock Board of Education in the 1950s. While at Philander Smith Bro. Iggers became a member of Phi Beta Sigma. During conversations with Bro. and Mrs. Iggers they often speak about the similarities between Nazi occupied Europe and the Jim Crow South. This environment of shared experiences often resulted in many of the Jewish professors becoming involved in the Civil Rights Movement.

While their Black peers experienced prejudice teaching at white universities, these professors felt comfortable at the Black universities. Some professors would stay at the Black universities their entire careers. Many relationships which began on the campus, with peers and students, still flourish today.

The Leo Frank Case exhibit will be on view through Fall 2009. The Beyond Swastika and Jim Crow exhibit will be on view through January 2010. For more information on these and the other exhibits visit the museum's website at: www.mjhnyc.org.

– T. Le Bon

Exterior of Museum of Jewish Heritage-A Living Memorial to the Holocaust
Photo Credit: Thomas Hinton
Courtesy of Museum of Jewish Heritage-A Living Memorial to the Holocaust

A CONVERSATION WITH BRO. DR. GERALD L. ROBERTS WEATHERSPOON



Bro. Roberts Weatherspoon is an Associate Professor of Chemistry and the Associate Chairman for the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry at George Mason University. He first came to the University in 1996 after two years at Lucent Technologies. He graduated with a B.S. in Chemistry from Jackson State University in 1985, and a Ph.D. in Chemistry from University of California-Davis in 1994. Dr. Roberts Weatherspoon is currently the only African-American tenured faculty member in the College of Science at the University.

Our Cause staff writer Bro. J. Artel Smith (Northern, VA Area Deputy Director) had an opportunity to sit down with Dr. Roberts Weatherspoon and to reflect on his time at George Mason University.

OUR CAUSE (OC): Where and when did you become a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.?

Dr. Roberts Weatherspoon (DRW): I became a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated through Alpha Beta chapter at Jackson State University in March of 1982.

OC: Why Phi Beta Sigma?

DRW: The constitutional linkage between Phi Beta Sigma and Zeta Phi Beta appealed to my ideals of what an extended family and community should reflect. The Sigmas on JSU's campus were very active on campus and in the community and carried themselves with respect and were leaders in campus organizations. Prior to graduating from high school, I had participated in the Health Sciences Summer Program at Tougaloo College and met members of the Blue and White family that were actively tutoring and teaching in the program (math, physics and engineering majors).

OC: How did it feel to become the first Black tenured professor at George Mason University in the College of Science?

DRW: At the time that I was granted tenure (2002) my department was still a part of the College of Arts & Sciences and there were three (3) Blacks granted tenure at the university that year, however I was the only one in science and engineering. The enormity of the accomplishment did not hit me until Earl Ingraham, former Director of the Equity Office, summoned me to his office for a reality check approximately two weeks prior to me receiving the official letter granting tenure from the Provost's office. It was during that meeting that the veil was peeled back and I realized that I had accomplished something that my forefathers had prayed for generations ago.

OC: Were you expecting to be appointed the Associate Chairman of the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry? How does it feel now that you have been appointed?

DRW: I was not expecting to be appointed as the Associate Chairman of the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry because there were others nominated who were equally qualified. I am the only African American (Black) in the department and one never knows how the vote will go when you are running against the majority for such a position. Now that I have been appointed to the position, I feel an even greater sense of accomplishment; not only for me, but especially for those that I can help by me being in this position.

OC: What is the most rewarding part of your position at the institution?

DRW: The most rewarding part of my position is seeing students successfully pass my class, even though the rumor mill had told them that the course was extremely difficult, and later seeing them excited at graduation with a sparkle in their eyes because their hard work paid off. In addition, many students return to campus periodically to visit and give me updates on their current job situations, etc., especially those that are now doctors, pharmacists, dentists, research scientists and professors-----because I took time to help mold them.

OC: We all know that Blacks in chemistry are rare. What advice would you give a young person trying to follow in your footsteps?

DRW: My advice to someone trying to follow in my footsteps is to hold fast to your dreams and never let anyone discourage you. Find yourself a mentor and place yourself in his/her back pocket so that you have every opportunity possible made available to you for future successes. Do not let race nor Greek-letter affiliation be a hindrance when choosing a mentor because we come in all shapes, sizes, colors, and affiliations. Science started in Africa and we should not have a fear of something that is so natural for us.

OC: Did your interest in science start at a young age? (Explain)

DRW: My interest in science started with science fiction books and watching Star Trek in black and white. I was always curious about how and why things worked a certain way. Having grown up in a rural area of Mississippi, nature provided many opportunities for exploration. By the time I reached high school I was hooked on science and I, along with three other students, competed in the Mississippi State Science Fair----a first for our high school.

OC: Why did you choose your particular field of study?

DRW: I have often told people that I did not choose chemistry as a field of study; it was chosen for me. I started off at JSU as a biology/pre-med major only two weeks after graduating from high school. Our entering class took the battery of placement exams and the freshman chemistry advisor pulled me from the classroom and told me that I was in the wrong major; that I had scored too high on the placement exam and should change my major to chemistry. She then took me directly to the Chemistry Department and filled out a change of major form for me and I have been in chemistry and enjoyed it immensely.

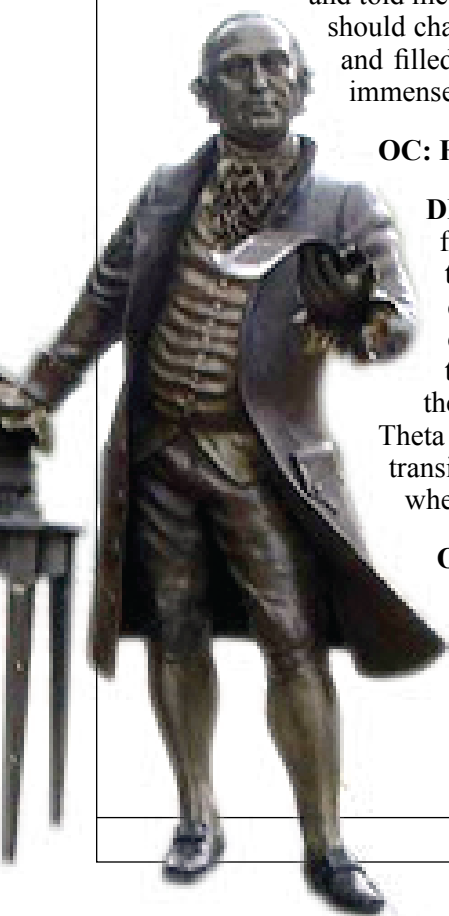
OC: How has membership in Phi Beta Sigma contributed to your success?

DRW: The professional networking in Phi Beta Sigma has aided each time I relocated for jobs and internships during the past 26 years. I relocated to the Oakland Bay Area two weeks after graduating from Jackson State University and joined Alpha Nu Sigma chapter. My acclimation to the Bay Area was aided greatly by the brothers of ANS chapter and at least two of them were past presidents of Alpha Beta chapter. My transition to my post-doc position at AT&T Bell Laboratories was made pleasant by the brothers of Chi Sigma chapter and later the position at GMU by the brothers of Theta Tau Sigma chapter. Membership in Phi Beta Sigma has definitely help smooth these transitions by having an extended family and instant support system established in areas where I did not know people.

OC: When it's all said and done, what do you want your legacy to be?

DRW: I want my legacy to be that I helped someone along the way because I never forgot where I came from and who I am.

– J. A. Smith



LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD IN THE HEALTHCARE ARENA

Bro. Dr. Thomas A. LaVeist
and the Hopkins Center for Health Disparities Solutions

Healthcare continues to be a hot topic in America. It has been a major issue in national

elections for over two decades. Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, took on the issue as First Lady during the Clinton Administration.



JOHNS HOPKINS
BLOOMBERG
SCHOOL of PUBLIC HEALTH

you? As the cost of your benefits continues to increase, while services seem to decrease, we

need to identify those entities looking out for our best interest. What are the major health issues facing your family and how can we turn



Documentary filmmaker Michael Moore's film *SiCKO* addresses several aspects of the healthcare issue. However, many Americans struggle to afford even the basic level of healthcare benefits for their families.

Healthcare lobbyists maintain a large presence on The Hill and give large sums of money to our elected representatives to ensure their voices are heard. While you might pay the same premium for your health benefits as a fellow co-worker, this does not guarantee equal access and/or the same quality of care. These factors will depend on several variables; including race, socioeconomic status and even the neighborhood in which you reside.

While lobbyist work in the best interest of the healthcare industry, who is going to bat for

the tide in our favor? The Hopkins Center for Health Disparities Solutions addresses those issues and more. Under the leadership of Dr. Thomas A. LaVeist the Center, located in Baltimore, MD, is working diligently on your behalf. They are in the business of establishing equality for all Americans.

Bro. Dr. Thomas A. LaVeist, Ph.D. is the Director of the Hopkins Center for Health Disparities Solutions and professor of health policy and management at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. A frequent visiting lecturer, he is often called upon to consult federal agencies on health issues and disparities.

Professor LaVeist received his B.A. from the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore,

and his Ph.D. degree in medical sociology from the University of Michigan. He joined the Johns Hopkins faculty in 1990 after holding a postdoctoral fellowship in public health at the University of Michigan. He has been published in numerous scientific and medical journals. He is author of *Minority Populations and Health: An Introduction to Health Disparities in the United States (2008)*. He is also editor of *Race, Ethnicity and Health: A Public Health Reader (2002)*.

In his position as Director of the Center for Health Disparities Solutions, he works to increase access to quality health care for all Americans, regardless of race and/or socioeconomic status. Through their research the Hopkins Center identifies the causes for health care disparities and develops solutions to eliminate existing gaps. The research is conducted in conjunction with community based organizations, HBCUs and other institutions.

The Hopkins Center was established in 2002 through a 5 year grant from the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities. A second 5 year grant was received in 2007. The renewal of the grant allows the Hopkins Center to continue its work through research, training, community partnership, advocacy and policy formulation. The Hopkins Center has partnered with other departments within the university system, as well as others outside of the university. These valuable partnerships allow the Center to expand its mission and reach a broader base.

The Hopkins Center uses several approaches to achieve their goals. In the area of outreach, they have several initiatives including; community studies, college health and wellness studies, health care equity programs and several other forms of community outreach. In the area of training the John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health offers doctoral degrees, masters degrees and certificates of concentration in subspecialties in public health.

The Center's Health Care Equity Program (HCEP) is designed to address disparities in health

care utilization within health plans. The program assists employees to navigate their healthcare benefits in an effort to maximize the quality of their benefits and reduce the disparities. Partnering with the health plans and the employer groups allows them to identify disparities and address them in an effort to benefit all parties involved.

Over the years the Center has conducted numerous research initiatives. In 2003 studies were conducted in the Baltimore, MD community and at HBCUs in an effort to gather data on various health related issues. A study on trust was also conducted to gauge the level of comfort the community has in those responsible for their healthcare. There is a great deal of distrust in the healthcare system in the Black community, much of it based on historical factors. Any successful system must maintain a level of trust between patient and provider. The data collected during this research is used by the Center to develop solutions to these issues in an effort to close the disparity gaps.

Community outreach and education have also been key elements of the Center's work in the area of healthcare improvement. Local artists, faculty and staff worked together to establish Project LIVE. The Project used poetry and music to help communicate the issue of health disparities to young adults. A CD was created and distributed free of charge. In 2004 the Center worked with Operation Reach Out South West to conduct a nutrition seminar. The seminar was designed to inform the community of the important role nutrition plays in health. Participants received information concerning reasons for eating healthy, portion control, healthier food alternatives, and sample recipes.

The Hopkins Center provides us with the valuable allies we need to counteract the healthcare industry and its many lobbyists on The Hill. We must encourage community organizations to partner with the Center in an effort to educate and close the health disparity gap. As the Obama administration works to provide universal health

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Iota Sigma Chapter HOLIDAY SEASON FOOD DRIVE

The Holiday Food Drive is a long standing tradition of Iota Sigma Chapter. For this year's event, the chapter was able to surpass all of our expectations. They used their connections in the Richmond Metro area to expand the scope of the pre-existing Carver Elementary Food Drive.

For many years Iota Sigma has adopted several families at George Carver Elementary located in the Jackson Ward neighborhood, the historic home of the chapter. The relationship with Carver Elementary has existed since the school first opened 57 years ago. The school was the site of the 1952 Conclave.

This year's project was spearheaded by Bros. Richard Berry and Alonzo Coley with the assistance of last year's Social Action Director Bro. Dana Davenport. Collection sites were set up at the Celebrity Chateau Barbershop in Jackson Ward and at a local Wal-Mart. Several brothers also collected donations at their places of employment. Through the efforts of the chapter and the support of the Sigma Delta Zeta chapter and the Omicron Xi Zeta chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. over 1,000 pounds of donations were collected. All donations were promptly donated to local food banks. The chapter would also like to thank WTVR News Channel 6 and WCDX 92.1FM for on-air promotion for the project.

— C. Arthur



Burlington County SIGMA BETA CLUB

In 1950 Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity became the first Greek organization to develop a youth auxiliary group. Under the direction of Hon. Dr. Parlette L. Moore the Sigma Beta Club was founded. Brother Moore was concerned about our changing needs in our communities and recognized the important role that Sigma men could play in the lives of our youth.

The Sigma Beta Clubs' four major principals of focus are on culture, athletics, social and educational needs. The Sigma Beta Club offers our membership a unique opportunity to develop values, leadership skills and social/cultural awareness in our youth during their developmental years. Sigma Beta Club programs are geared to meet the needs of its members, but at the same time provide them with a well-rounded outlook that is needed to cope with today's society. Phi Beta Sigma is confident that investing in our youth today will produce effective leaders of tomorrow.

In today's world, youth programs, such as the Sigma Beta Club, are needed more than ever. Drop out rates in our schools are in the double digits, high double digits for Black and Hispanic youth. Extracurricular activities and after school programs once viewed as safe havens for our youth are disappearing; the result of budget cuts in cities and municipalities across the nation. Gang violence, once segregated to small areas of the country, has spread to every corner of this nation.

In response to a rise in youth violence and gang activity, the Kappa Upsilon Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. started a mentoring program for young men. Brothers Darryl Curtis and Milton Dilligard, who run a recreational track and field club in Burlington Township, started the ground work for the Burlington County Sigma Beta Club; as a way to keep young boys out of trouble and off of the streets. "We need to have something so we don't lose the kids that we have," Brother Curtis said. The Sigma Beta Club was founded in October 2006 with 38 members. The men of Sigma help develop strong values, leadership skills, a love of learning, social responsibility, cultural awareness and pride within these young men. We hope to assist these young men to become good family men and upstanding members of their community.

The Club members elect officers and hold regular monthly meetings at the Kennedy Center in Willingboro or the Willingboro Public Library. Members of the Club participate in athletic contests, social events and community service projects. The Club has hosted several speakers, one of which shared the importance of job etiquette with club members; including what to do at an interview. "Programs of this type will help

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James “BUD” Bodley Memorial Golf Classic

A LIFE OF SERVICE REMEMBERED

We cross the burning sands from a time in our past to a future fulfilled, as we search to find our destiny, our true calling as Sigma men.

Bro. James “Bud” Bodley was the embodiment of purpose, integrity and dedication. Bro. Bodley was a family man, a man of God, and a man dedicated to the values expressed through our motto: “Culture for Service and Service for Humanity”. Through the James “Bud” Bodley Golf Classic, the brothers of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc, Lambda Lambda Sigma Chapter honor a man whose life symbolized the epitome of what brotherhood, scholarship and service truly means to all men of SIGMA.

The 6th Annual James “Bud” Bodley Golf Classic, scheduled for Monday, July 13, 2009, is an extension of the man who wore the blue and white proudly and gave so much of himself to others. The Classic will be held at the Mercer Oaks Golf Course in West Windsor, NJ.

An avid golfer, James “Bud” Bodley was born in Milton, Florida. He attended Prairie View A & M University in Prairie View, Texas on a football scholarship. He was drawn to the brothers of the Delta Theta Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. from the start. Many of the brothers played



on the football team with him. In 1967 he was initiated into “Our Wondrous Band” through Delta Theta Chapter. He would meet his future wife, Mrs. Linda (Blocker) Bodley during their freshman year on the campus. Mrs. Bodley is a Soror of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc, initiated into the Omega Gamma Chapter at Prairie View A & M in 1969.

Bro. Bodley graduated in 1970 with a B.S. in Industrial Technology and Education. The same year he and Linda would marry. After graduation he enlisted in the Army’s Officer’s Training Program as a 2nd Lieutenant. Upon completing his tour of duty he joined Johnson & Johnson & Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics as a Facility Engineer Manager in 1971. His career with the company would last thirty years. In 1973 he was transferred to Chicago, Illinois, where he would stay until his transfer to the Mercer County, NJ area in 1980. Upon moving to Mercer County he became active with a local chapter. A

life member of the Fraternity, Bros. Bodley lived his life to assist others. He served on The Board Directors of Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Mercer County, and gave his time to numerous other community outreach programs. He was president of DeKai Enterprises, Inc., a sports and entertainment corporation. This venture afforded him the opportunity to keep his passion for football alive and provide financial guidance for athletes. Former Eagles Cornerback Troy Vincent was one of his clients.

Through the efforts of eleven brothers, including Bud Bodley and close friend Bill Johnson, the Lambda Lambda Sigma Chapter was conceived in 2000. The official charter was granted by the National Headquarters on November 27, 2001. After assisting in establishing a firm foundation for the chapter, Bud Bodley passed on to the Omega Chapter on October 4, 2003.

The James “Bud” Bodley Golf Classic was established in 2003 to pay homage to his legacy not only as a family man, a man of integrity and high moral character, but equally important as a dedicated man of Sigma. The Lambda Lambda Sigma Chapter partnered with Big Brothers & Big Sisters in sponsoring the annual golf outing which not only celebrates

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Bro. Bena Tshishiku To Study Abroad In The Fall

Bro. Bena Tshishiku, Beta Beta Nu Chapter is a rising senior at Washington & Lee University. Bro. Tshishiku has been selected to attend a fifteen week program at The Technical University of Budapest. While at the University, he will take four mathematics courses and a Hungarian language course as part of the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics Study Abroad Program. The program is designed for mathematics majors, specifically those students planning to continue their studies in the field after graduation. Bro. Tshishiku hopes to gain insight into how the approach to teaching and learning mathematics may differ in another country. Bro. Tshishiku was recently awarded the Barry

M. Goldwater Scholarship established by Congress in 1986 to honor Senator Barry M. Goldwater, the scholarship aims to foster, encourage, and recognize excellence in science and mathematics. The scholarship provides \$7500 to assist students with expenses for graduate school. This year over 1,000 mathematics, science, and engineering students were nominated by the faculties of colleges and universities nationwide. Only 278 scholarships were awarded. The scholarships are awarded by each state, Bro. Tshishiku is one of five students selected from his home state of Georgia.

— C. Arthur



**Bro. Col. Lucius
M. Young
Transitions to
The Omega
Chapter**

After almost 100
years of living,
exemplifying

many years of service to mankind,
Bro. Young, aka "Colonel Young",
transitioned to the Omega Chapter
Tuesday, February 24, 2009. March
On, March On ye mighty host!

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Bud's legacy, but also gives back to the charities that were near and dear to his heart.

Proceeds raised from the 6th Annual event will aid in the funding of social, educational, and vocational activities of the Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Mercer County. Additionally, Lambda Lambda Sigma Chapter regularly provides educational scholarships to Trenton area students. The scholarships are awarded at our annual Father's Day Brunch in June. In the 5 year history of the Father Day event, Lambda Lambda Sigma Chapter has awarded more than \$8,000 in annual scholarships to local youth. Additionally, over \$1,250 has been awarded in the form of shopping sprees at Barnes and Noble Bookstore.

Soror Linda Bodley continues to be the passionate driving force carrying on her husband's legacy. "The community service work "Bud" performed exemplified the virtues of brotherhood, scholarship and service. We will have well over 90 golfers traveling from Virginia, Florida, Texas, New Jersey and beyond to support Bud's vision and pay tribute to his legacy through their participation. Proceeds from the Classic will assist Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Mercer County and the charitable efforts of the Lambda Lambda Sigma Chapter that "Bud" loved so dearly", stated Soror Bodley.

The brothers of Lambda Lambda Sigma Chapter are seeking your help. We are calling all Sigma men from Maine to Virginia and beyond to support this worthy endeavor. We need golfers and sponsors. New to the Classic this year will be an instructional golfing program available for first time golfers. The program will assist participants in learning the basics of the game.

The men of Lambda Lambda Sigma Chapter wish to thank all sponsors and participants of the Classic, both past and present. We encourage all brothers and chapters to become part of this annual event.

— T. Williams

care in this country, we need Dr. LaVeist and the Hopkins Center more than ever. We can count on them to monitor any new plan and keep the

disparity issue on the table.

We wish Bro. LaVeist and the Center all the best as they continue their crusade for

equality in healthcare for all. To read a complete interview with Dr. LaVeist, conducted by Bro. Charles Holt, please go to the Eastern

Region website at www.pbseast.org. To read more about Dr. LaVeist go to his website: <http://www.laveist.com>.

– T. Le Bon

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to prepare the older members for summer job interviews”, stated Bro. Dilligard.

Brothers have already noticed some positive changes in the members. One of their field trips was a visit to Pennsylvania to attend the Philadelphia National College Fair. As the chapter’s Director of Education Bro. Dilligard believed this would be a great opportunity for the members to obtain a better understanding of what colleges require of applicants.

While at the college fair the members were given an assignment. Each member had to visit a minimum of 5 colleges they would like to attend. They were required to ask the college representative five questions about the college and report their finding at the next club meeting. Many members were able to locate colleges which no longer require students to take the SAT, however a 2.5 GPA or higher is required for admission. Parents were invited to attend this event, but asked not to assist in the questioning. Many of our parents were pleasantly surprised by the reports given by the members at the next club meeting.

“It’s pretty fun. You get to hang out with your friends. You get to talk about community service,” said club member A.J. Salley, 16, of Burlington Township. “It’s cool to be a part of something that’s a group, but not a gang.”

The Club collects membership dues and they are taught how to set-up and run their own fundraisers. The last two years the Club has conducted a skate party at the International Sports Complex in Mount Laurel, New Jersey. The management enjoys having the event at their facility because it showcases the positive impact our youth can have in the community.

The Club voted to take a trip to New York City, along with the brothers and their parents, for a tour of Ground Zero and other city landmarks. They have also conducted several community service projects including; a food drive during Thanksgiving, donating toys to First Way Children’s Center and donating baby items to a local shelter for teen mothers.

Like the Fraternity, the Sigma Beta Club only admits new members during certain times of the year. The group holds an information session for young men between the ages of 11-18 in September. After the information session they begin the process of accepting new members. However, if someone knows of a young man in need of a mentor, the Club’s doors are always open.

Parents play an important role in the Club. The Chapter makes a conscious effort to keep the parents involved as it helps to build better relationships and understanding of each member’s home life; as they work together to raise these young men to be strong well rounded adults. These young men are our future and the men of Kappa Upsilon Sigma will continue to mentor them and be a positive example for them to follow.

For more information on the Burlington County Sigma Beta Club, please contact the brothers of Kappa Upsilon Sigma Chapter: Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. / Kappa Upsilon Sigma Chapter / P.O. Box 341 / Willingboro, NJ 08046 / (609) 543-2497 / Email: pbskus@yahoo.com.

– Brother Darryl T. Curtis

The Blessing of Bro. Francis L. Hall, Alpha Chapter 1935 Co-Author of the Sigma Light

I have been blessed to know and walk with some of the legends of this great fraternity. Some would say the word legend is a strong word, but when I think of Bro. Francis Hall, that is the word which comes to mind. The last nine years of his life, he was confined to the Carroll Manor Nursing Home in Northeast Washington, DC. I visited him often, and Bro. Hall would share an oral history of his early days in Phi Beta Sigma. He was a

proud Sigma brother, always wearing his Sigma hat, sweatshirt, and watch. He shared historical facts about Founder Taylor, meeting Founder Morse, and how Dr. Alain Leroy Locke was the greatest name in Sigma when Bro. Hall came into the fold. He shared countless stories of taking Crescents down to Haines Point, in Washington, DC (an Alpha and Alpha Sigma tradition), and meetings



such Sigma greats as Dr. I.L. Scruggs, William E. Doar, Jr., R.O. Sutton, George Nelson, Billboard Jackson, Leonard F. Morse, Jr. (who was pinned in Bro. Hall's backyard by our Founder), and the list goes on and on.

Brother Hall did not want any fan fare, he loved Phi Beta Sigma. He had a huge collection of Sigma history and he was aware of my desire to learn more about his

days in the Fraternity. In 1945 he was the Alpha Sigma Chapter delegate at the Conclave in St. Louis, Missouri. At the conclave Bro. George Parker, National President and member of Alpha Sigma Chapter, designated Bro. Hall and Bro. J. Edgar Smith to write The Sigma Light. Bro. Hall remembered that year fondly, he told me he had a great deal of fun writing the Light.

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Keep up-to-date with all the news, events and feature-length articles about the Eastern Region at www.pbseast.org



Beta Beta Psi Chapter UMass-Amherst

Beta Beta Psi chapter at the University of Massachusetts will host its 1st Annual Friends & Family Breakfast on May 9th, 2009 at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst campus. The event will be a celebration for the success of their newly chartered chapter, Beta Beta Psi. Additionally the chapter will be honoring individuals and organizations

who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to the UMass-Amherst community and surrounding areas. The chapter will be recognizing outstanding members of the UMass-Amherst administration, faculty, student organizations, and surrounding local community service organizations. During the celebration, words of inspiration will be heard by members of UMass administration, student leaders, and members of Phi Beta Sigma, such as Eastern Regional Vice Director Bro. Leonard Lockhart. "This event will bring people together for a greater cause; to honor individuals and organizations who strive to make positive changes in our community", said Bro. Yannick L. Brookes, President

of Beta Beta Psi Chapter. Award recipients will be honored in the name of Phi Beta Sigma's national programs, Bigger Better Business, Social Action, and Education. There will also be a Community Service Excellence award given out to the selected community service organization. "Our goal is to inspire audience members to go out and give back to their community in some way shape or form. We are looking to showcase the good deeds of individuals and organizations that do not receive much publicity for their efforts", said Bro. Brookes.

PICTURE: From Left- Bro. Gregory Saint-D, Bro. Cory Smith, Bro. Noah Kirksey, Bro. Yannick L. Brookes, Bro. Mike Moise, Bro. Gerlin "JJ" Guillaume

Lambda Lambda Sigma Chapter HONORING FATHERS



PICTURE: From Left - Bro. Kevin Kauffman, Bro. Keith L. Smith, Bro. Jean B. Lamothe, Bro. Fred Cook, and Bro. Tyrone Howard

June is an exciting time in the Mercer County, New Jersey area as anticipation grows for two popular community events. During the month, the annual Platinum Dads Celebration, honoring exemplary fathers, and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity's Annual Father's Day Brunch will take place. This year's events will be sponsored by UIH Family Partners, Trenton Housing Authority and Lambda Lambda Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. The Platinum Dads/Men of Action Celebration will be held on Saturday, June 20, from 10 am to 1 pm, at the Trenton Marriott at Lafayette Yard.

The afternoon brunch will feature a keynote speaker, musical entertainment, and award and scholarship presentations. The third annual Legacy of Fatherhood Award will be presented to recognize the contributions of a senior gentleman with ties to Mercer County who has set the bar high for future generations of fathers.

Lambda Lambda Sigma Chapter is the newest partner in this joint venture. Bro. Kevin Kauffman, President of Lambda Lambda Sigma, noted, "Having the distinction and honor of serving the Mercer County area, Lambda Lambda Sigma Chapter located in Trenton, NJ continues to dedicate its resources, energy and time to the programmatic thrusts set forth by our national body. Our chapter is committed to meeting the needs of the community through strong leadership, Social Awareness and Academic Recognition for tomorrow's leaders". Everyone is invited to attend the Platinum Dads/Men of Action Celebration. Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased by contacting Mr. Ed Gittens at 609-695-3663 or Mr. Leon Williams at 609-588-7758.

— T. Williams

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One of things that really lifted his spirits was meeting the young brothers from Alpha Chapter. He would often ask me, "Did Alpha Chapter have a line this year"? If there was a line on he would ask to meet them. I would make a few phone calls and the brothers of Alpha Chapter would come to meet him. I would reserve a conference room in his facility and get him in his wheelchair and take him downstairs to meet them. He would throw up the sign and grip everyone. Most of the brothers were in awe of him, but his quiet nature, and excellent memory of events was amazing.

Bro. Hall transitioned on January 20, 2006. I had taken the brothers from the University of Maryland College Park (Epsilon Psi Chapter) to meet him a few weeks prior to his passing. He was a die hard Washington



Bro. Kevin Christian shown here with the late Bro. Francis L. Hall

Redskins fan, and I remember him telling us the Skins would beat Dallas that day. The Redskins beat the Cowboys that day 35-7. I asked Bro. Hall how he knew, he said, "I just did".

I have an autograph book that Bro. Hall signed in 1935 as a Crescent. From 1935-1952, he collected signatures of some of the GIANTS in Sigma. In this book are the original signatures

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of Founders Taylor and Morse, charter member Dr. I.L. Scruggs (2nd National President), James "Billboard" Jackson, R.O. Sutton (17th National President), Felix Brown (13th National President), Dr. Alain Leroy Locke, William E. Doar, Jr., Alpha Chapters brothers from the 1930s and 40s,

and a number of Sigma brothers who attended the 1949 (35th Anniversary) Conclave. This book would move any Sigma when you see the names and brothers who signed it. After 74 years the book is still in near mint condition. It is my dream to have this book printed for all Sigma Brothers to enjoy and to

entitle it *FRANCIS L. HALL, THE TRUE SIGMA LIGHT*. Thank you Bro. Francis L. Hall, your light will forever shine.

*Bro. Kevin Christian
Alpha Sigma Chapter
Past Eastern Regional Historian and
Collector of Phi Beta Sigma History*



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

Mercer Oaks Golf Course
West Windsor, NJ
July 13, 2009

For more information contact
Leon Williams 609-558-7758

"A legacy of generosity and commitment"



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