Convention Reflections

62nd NATIONAL CONVENTION
SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

ALPHA KAPPA MU HONOR SOCIETY
(13th Biennial Meeting)
March 21-23, 2013

Thank you to Dr. Cynthia Smith, Advisor; members of the Kappa Sigma Chapter and other Alabama A&M University Faculty and Staff members for hosting the 62nd Convention and making this 75th Anniversary Celebration one of the most memorable, educational, and rewarding meetings in the history of Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society. We thoroughly enjoyed the hospitality and everything that was prepared for us.

We also appreciate Alabama A&M’s President, Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr.; Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Daniel Wims; 1890 Administrator, Dr. Virginia Caples, and other Alabama A&M University members who celebrate academic achievement.

A superb convention!!! A Job Well Done!!!!

Dr. Cynthia Smith and Dr. Marilyn Saintjones
A Message from Our President, Dr. Francis E. Dorsey
(Excerpted from Convention Welcome Message)

Dear Members of Alpha Kappa Mu:

On behalf of our host institution, Alabama A&M University, the Kappa Sigma Chapter and the Executive Board of Alpha Kappa Mu National Honor Society, I would like to welcome you to the 62nd Convention and the historic 75th Anniversary of the founding of our organization. Our conference theme “Scholarship, Leadership, and Service: Repositioning Alpha Kappa Mu to Meet New Challenges of the Present and Future” is part of our continuing need and process to build and maintain this organization and the principles upon which it was established. Our role is also to remain true to the commitment established by representatives of the founding colleges and universities, and the men and women who had the vision and wisdom in 1937 to establish a general scholarship honor society open to junior and senior men and women in all academic disciplines.

From the founding of this organization, we understood the value of recognizing and rewarding students who achieve academically. We understood the need to build our universities from within through academic achievement, but we also understood the need to take what we have learned to build our external communities. We understood the role that Alpha Kappa Mu has played and continues to play in promoting, developing and maintaining a viable academic perspective on university campuses and in our communities. This is our heritage, this is our legacy.

We have come a long way since 1937, with 67 active chapters and 91,990 members; and we are pleased that you have joined us in our celebration of 75 years of understanding the real significance of the statement—knowledge is power. And we cherish the words of the noble sage Ptahhotep who wrote in the oldest book in the world: “Do not be arrogant because of your knowledge, but confer with the ignorant man as with the learned.” As we embrace the theme of this conference on our 75th Anniversary, let us also re-embrace the basic principles of Alpha Kappa Mu: character, scholarship, citizenship, service, and leadership.

We would like to thank you the students and advisors who make up every facet of this organization. Students, without you we would not have an organization to call our own.

Sincerely,

Dr. Frances E. Dorsey, Associate Professor
(aka Dr. Kewsi Atta Dorsey)
Department of Pan-African Studies
Kent State University
Kent, Ohio 44242
National President, Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society
Dr. Ann Harris, Dr. Cynthia Smith, Dr. Mollie Brown, Ms. Nikefa Salter-Grayson, Dr. Francis Dorsey, Ms. Hannah Doughty, Dr. T. Bernard Clayton, Dr. Alvin Seals, Mrs. Sandrea Williamson, Dr. Titus Brown, Dr. Marlene Robinson, Mrs. Penny Speas, and Dr. Veronica Yon

Executive Board

Conference Highlights

Kappa Eta Chapter (Virginia Union University) Wins Two Convention Awards: “Attendance Award” and “Traveled the Farthest Award”

The Kappa Eta Chapter thoroughly enjoyed attending the annual convention. According to Emily Piercy, “We were afforded the opportunity to meet other students from different chapters and to talk about programs that they do on their campus.

After talking to the members, we decided to implement some of the ideas and programs we learned about at the convention in our own chapter. We gained more pride in this organization [Alpha Kappa Mu] after attending this convention.

We learned about the prominent history and participated in workshops. One of our members, Kendra Waddy participated on the ‘Survival Strategies’ forum during one of the sessions.”

Back row (left to right): Kendra Waddy, Teairah Massey, and Lillian Ike
First Row (left to right): Diamond Thomas, Emily Piercy, Jasmine McKay, and Alisha Williams
The Kappa Eta Chapter held its annual induction ceremony on February 21, 2013, and inducted 17 new members. The service was held in Coburn Hall during chapel service where students, faculty, and staff attended.

Florida A&M University (Kappa Iota Chapter) Inducts Eleven Members, Fall 2012

On Friday, November 30, 2012, the Kappa Iota Chapter held its fall induction ceremony and welcomed eleven members (3 graduate and 8 undergraduate) into fellowship.

The program was presided over by Mr. Joseph Etienne, chapter president, who also provided the greetings and invocation. Kappa Iota Alumnus Alex DeJarnett delivered the history and occasion, Alumna Briget Horne presented the inductees, and chapter advisor Dr. Veronica Yon introduced the speaker, Dr. Ralph Turner, a Distinguished 3M Professor of Chemistry in the College of Science and Technology at Florida A&M University.

Dr. Turner began by sharing his early experiences as a student and as a mentee of AKM founder, Dr. George Gore. Turner noted that Gore “felt scholarship was something sacred” and continued by challenging inductees to conduct research to solve problems of the nation. He also shared other nuggets of wisdom: 1. Believe in yourself even when others conspire against you; 2. Don’t go with the flow; you are the flow; 3. Study hard, for nothing is promised to you; 4. No one can receive more from a system than one puts into it (entropy); 5. Consider teaching because it permeates all professions; 6. Know yourself (your strengths and weaknesses) in order to prepare yourself for what is ahead; 7. Like the astronomer Kepler, repeat your steps until you get them right, and 8. Keep God on your side.

Following his address, the chapter presented Dr. Turner with a certificate of appreciation and Interim University President, Dr. Larry Robinson, provided closing remarks.

Inductions

### Statement of 2012-2013 Inductions
(March 1, 2012-February 28, 2013)

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Induction Totals: 841/49

Kappa Iota Chapter (Virginia Union University) Inducts 17

The Kappa Eta Chapter held its annual induction ceremony on February 21, 2013, and inducted 17 new members. The service was held in Coburn Hall during chapel service where students, faculty, and staff attended.

From left to right, the fall 2012 inductees are as follows:

Niyah Owens, Junior, Criminal Justice; Eddie L. Johnson Jr., Senior, Psychology; Samantha S. Stone, Senior, Health Care Management; Ashley D. Williams, Senior, Criminal Justice; Andrina A. Powell, Graduate, Architecture; Ruthie A. Brown III, Graduate, Criminal Justice; Cierra Newman, Senior, African American Studies; Leland Hall, Junior, Broadcast Journalism; Harlem Motley, Junior, Animal Science; Tiffanie Annette Morris, Senior, Criminal Justice; and Jody Ann R. E. James, Graduate, Architecture.

Also photographed with the inductees are Interim President Larry Robinson (far left) and Induction Speaker Dr. Ralph Turner (far right).
Inductions

Kappa Iota Chapter (Florida A&M University) Inducts Ten Members, Spring 2013

The Kappa Iota Chapter of Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society inducted ten members (2 graduates and 8 undergraduates) during its spring ceremony, which was held on Friday, March 29, 2013 in Tallahassee, FL.

Program participants included Mr. Joseph Etienne, president, who provided the greetings; Mr. Leland Hall, vice-president, invocation; Ms. Cierra Newman, member, history and occasion; Ms. Tiffanie Morris, secretary, presentation of inductees; and Dr. Veronica Yon, advisor, introduction of speaker.

The keynote speaker, Mr. Alex DeJarnett is a 2010 graduate inductee of the Kappa Iota Chapter; he is also the Coordinator of Student Services in the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at Florida A&M University where he advises first through fourth year professional students.

Mr. DeJarnett’s address focused primarily on the importance of leadership and being prepared for one’s call to lead. For DeJarnett, his call took him to Africa and essentially changed his life. After witnessing the vestiges of apartheid, he returned to the states with a renewed spirit to learn and to lead. His experiences made him a better scholar, leader, and person. He concluded by asking the inductees the following: “What will be your impact?” and “Will you leave this world a better place than you found it?” Mr. DeJarnett was presented with a certificate of appreciation for his inspirational and timely address. Closing remarks were delivered by Interim University President Larry Robinson.

From left to right, the spring 2013 inductees are as follows:

Justin McCorvey, Senior, Political Science; Brittany Sanna, Graduate, Occupational Therapy; Surena Robbins, Junior, History; Nolan McCaskill, Junior, Graphic Design; Marvyn Joseph, Senior, Public Relations; Chikyra Crabbe, Senior, Psychology; Kristan Morgan, Graduate, Nursing; Chéré Diggs, Junior, Sociology; Christopher Andrews, Junior, Political Science; Jamar Sanna, Senior, Psychology.

Also photographed with the inductees are Interim President Dr. Larry Robinson and Keynote Speaker, Mr. Alex DeJarnett.

Pi Lambda Psi Chapter (Morgan State University) Inducts 46

On Wednesday, April 3, 2013, approximately 350 individuals gathered to witness the annual Induction Ceremony of forty-six new members into Pi Lambda Psi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society at Morgan State University. Baltimore City’s Chief Academic Officer Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises gave an inspirational and encouraging address to the honorees. In her address, she thanked them for their hard work and for their dedication to academic excellence, while sharing personal anecdotes and keys to success.

Following tradition, Dr. Milford A. Jeremiah, Chapter Advisor, invited parents, siblings, and friends to share congratulatory remarks with the inductees. As always, this segment of the ceremony was very emotional on the part of the inductees and the audience.

Congratulations to the Pi Lambda Psi Chapter’s inductees!

Criteria for AKM Membership

Undergraduate Students - An undergraduate student shall be eligible to be elected as a collegiate member if the individual:

1. is registered as full time, and is in good standing with the institution at which the chapter is located
2. is at least a junior in a degree program, and has completed 50 percent of the requirements for graduation
3. has a minimum grade-point average of 3.3, when A = 4
4. is ranked in the upper 10 percent of the class
5. exemplifies good character
6. exhibits the potential for leadership and service

Graduate Students - Graduate students are eligible to be elected members when the following requirements are met:

1. a baccalaureate graduate of a regionally accredited school who is entering graduate school must have a grade-point average of 3.3 or better (when A = 4) and must be ranked in the upper 10 percent of the class
2. a continuing graduate student must have been admitted as a matriculated student and must have earned a minimum of 15 hours with a grade-point average of 3.7 or better
3. exemplifies good character
Inductions

Alabama State University
(Kappa Omicron) Inducts 49 Students

The 2013 induction ceremony of Kappa Omicron Chapter of Alpha Kappa Mu National Honor Society was held on Thursday, April 4, at Alabama State University. Congratulatory remarks for the induction ceremony were presented by Mrs. Sabita Saldanha, interim assistant professor of biology, and program participants also included the 2012 student officers: Ms. Chelsi Stancil, president; Mr. Kyree Robinson, vice president, and Ms. Carrie Sanders, secretary/treasurer. Dr. Shuntele Burns, professor of biology, serves as the chapter advisor.


Congratulations Kappa Omicron!

Tuskegee University Welcomes Fifty-Eight Students to Beta Tau Upsilon Chapter

Tuskegee University’s Beta Tau Upsilon Chapter inducted fifty-eight students into Alpha Kappa Mu during a ceremony held on April 17. Dr. Fitzgerald B. Bramwell, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, was the guest speaker for the occasion. Other program participants were chapter officers: Porsha Thomas, president; Amanda Powell, vice president; and Morgan Arline, secretary-treasurer. Dr. Loretta S. Burns, professor of English and chair of the Department of English, serves as chapter advisor.


Congratulations to the Beta Tau Upsilon Chapter’s inductees!

Other News

Reactivated Chapters: Welcome Back!
Clark Atlanta University, Atlanta, GA
–Mr. Willie L. Todd, Jr., Advisor

Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN
–Dr. D. Lee McGahey, Advisor

Gore-Crawford Scholarship:
Application packets for the George W. Gore/Thomas J. Crawford Scholarship are due on February 14, 2014. To obtain an application and other information, visit our website: www.alphakappamu.org. Only one nomination per chapter is allowed.

AKMu Newsletter:
Dr. Veronica Adams Yon, Advisor at Florida A&M University, has agreed to serve as Director of Public Relations. The deadline for the spring 2014 issue is December 20. Send original poems, scholarly activities, chapter news, reflections, successes, etc. to veronica.yon@famu.edu.

Facebook Page: We’re now on Facebook! Check it out from the website: www.alphakappamu.org and become our friend.
Inductions

Kappa Beta Chapter (LeMoyne-Owen College)
Inducts 25 Members

On Tuesday, April 9, 2013, the Kappa Beta Chapter of Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society at LeMoyne-Owen College (LOC) in Memphis, Tennessee, welcomed twenty-five members (all undergraduates) into fellowship during its 2013 induction ceremony.

The program was presided over by Dr. Elton H. Weaver III, Assistant Professor of History, chapter advisor, who also provided the greetings, gave the history and occasion, and delivered the invocation and closing remarks. Ms. Marian Hart, chapter member and Accelerated Degree Completion Program Coordinator (ADCP), introduced the officers of Kappa Beta chapter. The LeMoyne-Owen Concert Choir rendered two breathtaking musical selections. Kappa Beta Chapter vice-president, Mr. Daniel Padgett and Secretary/Treasurer, Ms. Kahmeka Jones, and Mrs. Linda Poindexter, directed the induction. Mrs. Tabatha White, chapter member, introduced the speaker, Councilman Myron Lowery, Memphis Mayor Pro Tem 2009, District 8, Position 3, and a 1968 alumnus of LeMoyne-Owen College.

Councilman Lowery began his address, entitled “You’ve Got to Make it Happen,” by sharing experiences about his life. He also shared five obstacles all students must overcome in order to be successful. Those obstacles are as follows: (1) self-doubt, (2) family crisis, (3) lack of resources, (4) lack of motivation, and (5) inflexibility.

Councilman Lowery encouraged the audience to “Make it happen” and always remind themselves that “If it’s to be, it’s up to me.” Following the inspirational address, the new inductees and their families enjoyed a reception in the Dorothy Harris Lounge. LeMoyne-Owen College Vice-President, Cheryl Golden, was also in attendance and blessed the food before the reception. Mr. Levon Atkins, Kappa Beta chapter member and professional photographer, took photographs of the induction ceremony and reception.

Congratulations to the newest inductees of the Kappa Beta Chapter. They are as follows: Ayele Akibulan, Senior, Business; Brittney Atkins, Junior, Business; Karen Baker, Senior, Business; Jethon Branch, Junior, Business; Roger Brown, Senior, Business; Ronald Chaission, Junior, Business; Adrienne Gilmore, Junior, Business; Alesha Humphrey, Junior, Business; Akili Jackson, Junior, Business; David Jones, Senior, Business; Fabian Kasongo, Junior, Business; Angela King, Senior, Business; Melody Martin, Senior, Business; Dartha Morris, Junior, Business; KeLeista Perry, Senior, Business; Anita Phillips, Senior, Business; Beverly Pitts, Junior, Business; Janko Popovic, Junior, Business; Michael Rubin, Junior, Business; Christine Telford, Senior, Business; Andrea Thomas, Junior, Business; William Tolbert, Senior, Business; Judy Washington, Junior, Business; Kalculus White, Junior, Social Work; Marice Williams-McGhee, Senior, Business.

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The past met the present at a ceremony for Alpha Kappa Mu member and human rights medal recipient Dr. Alvin V. Blount, Jr. Dr. Blount, a graduate of North Carolina A&T State University, returned to his alma mater at the beginning of May 2013, to be repinned by the Gamma Tau chapter of Alpha Kappa Mu.

Dr. Blount has been a dynamic member of the Greensboro community for over 50 years, graduating magna cum laude from North Carolina A&T State University in 1943. Following his graduation he was accepted into a government funded program that allowed him to attend Howard University, where he received his MD degree in 1947. Upon graduating from Howard University, Dr. Blount served as a Captain in the Medical Corp the US Army during the Korean conflict. He decided to return to Greensboro, North Carolina, in 1952, where he became the first African American in the state of North Carolina to earn the certification of the American College of Abdominal Surgeons. Other accomplishments of Dr. Blount include being a member of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity since 1970, enabling him to establish the Beta Epsilon Boule of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity in Greensboro, North Carolina in 1979. He is a member of the North Carolina Guardsmen and has served as secretary for the Guardsmen for over 20 years. Additionally, Dr. Blount is a 33rd degree Mason and holds numerous positions in the organization.

Dr. Blount was married to the late Gwendolyn Harris Blount. They are the proud parents of seven children and the grandparents of nine grandchildren. Although his children could not be in attendance at the ceremony, his great nieces, Janisa and Heather Brame, were able to attend. Janisa is a 2013 inductee into Gamma Tau chapter of Alpha Kappa Mu, and Heather is a newly inducted member of Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society.

At age 91, Dr. Blount continues to actively practice medicine at an office right across the street from North Carolina A&T. He expressed his gratitude to the Gamma Tau chapter for honoring him with a new pin and for having the ceremony on his behalf. The Gamma Tau chapter assured him that the honor was all theirs, and after all, when Dr. Blount was inducted into the Gamma Tau chapter of Alpha Kappa Mu, it would be for life.
Awards From The 75th Anniversary Convention

CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION:

In Recognition of Contribution to the Development of the Society and as a Token of Appreciation for continued interest in, and loyalty to, the organization of Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society.

1. Dr. Titus Brown, Alpha Kappa Mu Historian—Florida A and M University, Tallahassee, FL
2. Dr. T. Bernard Clayton, Regional Director and Advisor—Wiley College, Marshall, TX
3. Dr. Francis Dorsey, Regional Director, Advisor and National President—Kent State University, Kent, OH
4. Dr. Ann Harris, Past President, Convention Secretary and Advisor—Lincoln University, Jefferson City, MO
5. Mrs. Marlene Robinson, Past President, Member Executive Committee, Advisor—Xavier University, New Orleans, LA
6. Professor Alvin Seals, Past President, Regional Director and Advisor—Kentucky State University, Frankfort, KY
7. Dr. Cynthia M. Smith, Regional Director, Advisor—Alabama A and M State University, Normal, AL
8. Mrs. Penny Speas, Co-Regional Director and Advisor—Bennett College, Greensboro, NC
9. Dr. Elton Weaver, Advisor—LeMoyne-Owen College, Memphis, TN
10. Mrs. Sandrea Williamson, Co-Regional Director and Advisor, North Carolina A and T State University, Greensboro, NC
11. Dr. Veronica A. Yon, Director of Public Relations and Advisor, Florida A and M University, Tallahassee, FL

ANNIVERSARIES AND FOUNDING CHAPTERS:

Founding Chapters - 1937 – Celebrating 76 Years of Service
Gamma Tau Chapter, North Carolina A & T State University, Greensboro, NC
Alpha Epsilon Chapter, Bennett College, Greensboro, NC
Beta Tau Epsilon Chapter, Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, AL
Phi Beta Tau Chapter, Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN
Alpha Delta Sigma, West Virginia State University, Institute, WV

Chartered 1938- Celebrating 75 Years of Service
Alpha Beta Tau Chapter, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Little Rock, AR
Kappa Lambda Chapter, Wilberforce University, Wilberforce, OH

CHAPTER ATTENDANCE AWARD:
Kappa Eta Chapter, Virginia Union University, Richmond, VA - 7
Alpha Gamma Chapter, Lincoln University, Jefferson City, MO - 7

CHAPTER TRAVELED FARTHEST DISTANCE:
Kappa Eta Chapter, Virginia Union University, Richmond, VA

GEORGE W. GORE, JR./THOMAS J. CRAWFORD SCHOLARSHIP:
Miss Hayley Hoth
Alpha Gamma Chapter
Lincoln University, Jefferson City, MO
Dr. Ann Harris, Advisor

Ms. Hoth plans to attend the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, MO, where she will pursue a Master’s Degree in Educational Technology.
In Memoriam

Mrs. Lunette Ellis, Co-Advisor
Alpha Pi Chapter, St. Paul’s College

Lunette Tucker Ellis, 66 of McKenney, VA, entered into eternal rest and peace on Sunday, March 24, 2013, at the Golden Living Center, Petersburg.

Lunette was born August 1, 1946 to the late Marvin A. Tucker, Sr. and Earline Moore Tucker and widow of the late Rev. H. James Ellis. At an early age she confessed Christ and became a member of the Springhill Baptist Church, Blackstone. She attended public schools in the Blackstone area, graduating from Luther H. Foster High School in 1964. She furthered her education at St. Paul’s College, Lawrenceville, VA, receiving a Degree in Business Administration and also received a Master’s Degree from Averette University in Roanoke, VA. She also attended Southside Community College in Alberta. Lunette was a dedicated employee and alumni at St. Paul’s College with over 25 years of services until her decline in health, retiring in 2011.

She leaves to cherish loving and precious memories, a sister, Dorothy T. Watson; niece and nephew, Jamila Watson and Rasheed Watson all of Washington DC; and nephew, James Alexander Tucker of Detroit MI; two aunts, Fannie T. Rather of Temple Hill, MD; and Rosa B. Moore of Columbus, MS; sister-in-law, Jeannie Tucker of Detroit, MI; step mother, Alma Tucker of Blackstone; and a host of cousins, other relatives, and friends.

Lunette will be remembered and missed by all who knew her. Funeral services were at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, March 29, 2013, at the Springhill Baptist Church, 403 Springhill Rd, Blackstone, VA, with the pastor Rev. eTravis Warren officiating.

Online condolences can be made at www.johnsonservices.us

Contact Us

ALPHA KAPPA MU HONOR SOCIETY, INCORPORATED
MEMBER (ACHS) ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE HONOR SOCIETIES
Celebrating 76 Years of Service (1937 – 2013)

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