



ALPHA KAPPA MU NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

"The scholar....in the right state,
is MAN THINKING."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson
"The American Scholar"

67th National Convention Reflections (18th Biennial Meeting) March 29-31, 2023

"Navigating the Pandemic: Recovering, Refocusing, Redefining"

Thank you to everyone who participated in our 67th National Convention. And a special thank you to our hosts: the Alpha Iota (Albany State University) Chapter. We hope to see even more AKMuans at our 2024 regional meetings and our 68th (2025) national meeting. Until then, enjoy these convention highlights!



Convention Participants



Hosts: Dr. Kenya Lemon &
Professor Brandon Henry



Hosts: Albany State Delegates



Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society, Incorporated

324 Enterprise Drive
Albany, GA 31705-5476
www.alphakappamu.org

Knowledge Is Power!

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER

TELEPHONE: (229) 883-3097

PRESS RELEASE

Albany State University Professor Elected National President of Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society

Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society recently announced the election of Mr. Brandon G. Henry as its twenty-fourth national president. The appointment was made at the Society's 67th National Convention, which was hosted by the Alpha Iota (Albany State University) Chapter, in Albany, Georgia.

Henry, an Assistant Professor of Biology in the Department of Natural Sciences at Albany State, has strong ties to the honor society, which was founded in 1937 and celebrates the academic achievements of juniors, seniors, and graduate students in all disciplines. It was the first honor society at an Historically Black College and University (HBCU) to be admitted to the Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS).

As an ASU undergraduate, Henry was inducted into Alpha Kappa Mu in 2001. Also, as an ASU alumnus and faculty member, he served as director of Region V-A (Georgia), co-chair of the scholarship committee, and co-advisor of the AKMu Alpha Iota Chapter. Henry's dedication and leadership within the Society at-large contributed to his unanimous selection as president.

At Albany State University, Professor Henry also serves as Subject Matter Expert (SME) for the Natural Sciences department, senior faculty fellow, STEM mentor, faculty senator, and University College teaching fellow. Additionally, he is the site coordinator for the ASU-Meharry Medical College BS to MD Program and advisor of Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA). In these capacities, Henry works with faculty to develop initiatives and provide mentoring opportunities (for students and faculty) that foster student success. His other memberships include Beta Kappa Chi National Scientific Honor Society and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.



Professor Henry's term as Alpha Kappa Mu president will begin on August 1, 2023. Of his appointment, Henry quipped, "The writing was on the wall.... I could see this coming."

67th National Convention (cont'd)



Convention Participants with ASU President, Dr. Marion Fedrick



JSU Delegates



Stillman Delegates



FAMU Delegates



West Virginia Delegates

See more convention pics on our Facebook and Instagram pages:
<https://www.facebook.com/AKMNational>

Congratulations!

Dr. Cynthia Smith

During Alabama A&M University's spring commencement exercise, Dr. Cynthia Smith (former national AKM president, former faculty advisor for Alabama A&M Chapter, and current Region IVA-Alabama Director) was appointed to the status of Professor and Chairman Emeritus of Family and Consumer Sciences.



Dr. Mollie Brown

On April 1, the Albany State University Foundation presented the 2023 Albert "Smitty" Smith Philanthropy Award to Dr. Mollie Bell Brown ('65), AKM's national executive secretary-treasurer.



From 1965 – 2003, Dr. Brown served in various roles at Albany State University, including Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College of Business. For her years of service, she was honored in the ASU Alumni Hall of Fame.

Read More: <http://bit.ly/3FPreUF>
More Info: asurams.edu/galainfo

Dr. Gerard McShepard

Even though he has a Ph.D. with a focus in Neurobiology/Microbiology, and a master's degree in molecular biology, Dr. Gerard McShepard (AKMu Region II Director) graduated from Virginia Union on May 13 with a master's degree in public health. Now, he can add epidemiologist to his portfolio.

Dr. McShepard is currently the Dean of Arts and Sciences at Edward Waters University.



67th National Convention (cont'd)



Contest Winners

Gore/Crawford Undergraduate Scholarship

Anaya Harris - Kappa Phi - Jackson State University

Alejandro Ibrahim - Kappa Gamma - North Carolina Central University

Inaugural Brown/Morris Graduate Scholarship

Shernica Ferguson - Kappa Phi - Jackson State University

Jorge Del'Angel - Kappa Iota - Florida A&M University

Chapter Showcase

1st - Kappa Iota (FAMU)

2nd - Alpha Upsilon (Stillman College)

3rd - Alpha Delta Sigma (West Virginia State University)

Essay/Research Competition

1st - Ericka Horne - Kappa Iota (FAMU)

2nd - Carla Louca - Alpha Upsilon (Stillman College)

3rd - Anaje Austin - Kappa Iota (FAMU)

HONOR SOCIETIES AND ACHS



Promote academic excellence and research



Support members through scholarships and grants



Encourage leadership development



Offer community service opportunities



Provide a rich tradition of collegiate history

“The mission of ACHS (Association of College Honor Societies) is to build a visibly-cohesive community of national and international honor societies that promotes the values of higher education; fosters excellence in scholarship, leadership, service, and research; and adheres to the standards of honor society excellence”
(achshonor.org).



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President's Report, March 29, 2023

One of my missions/goals in life – whether personally or professionally –is to always leave a place better than when I arrived. Serving as the 23rd National President of Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society has been a huge honor and blessing. Because of this organization, I have forged some of the most treasured acquaintances, friendships, and even family members.



Also, because of this goal of leaving a place better, I have worked throughout my presidency to move the society on-ward and upward. Of course, we still have many issues to address; however, I firmly believe we've made great strides over the course of four years. ("We've come a long way, baby.")

During the first two years of my tenure, I focused on building a stronger sense of community within the society. Unbeknownst to me, when I was elected at the 2019 convention, I would need to quickly establish guidelines for maintaining operations during a global pandemic. Doing so included offering myself (even more so) as a resource to new and veteran advisors, and establishing procedures to ensure the society would thrive even in the midst of uncertain times.

Practices I used to build upon my communal goal included the following:

1. holding regular Advisor Meetings (fall and spring)
2. creating a special Advisor Page (on the national website), and
3. reaching out to members with a more frequent distribution of President's Messages.

In addition, I routinely conversed with students and advisors via email and phone regarding membership and induction procedures and have attended/participated in several installations and induction ceremonies, especially given the Zoom culture that the Covid-19 pandemic has mandated....

During the second half of my presidency, I proposed four organization changes, three of which required executive level approval.

1. the establishment of a Social Media Coordinator position
2. the establishment of a Graduate Student Scholarship. Note: The name (Brown-Morris) was suggested by Region 1 Director Mrs. Sandra Williamson in honor of our two longest serving executive secretary treasurers, Dr. Ann Morris and Dr. Mollie Brown. The reversal of the names was made to prevent confusion with Morris Brown College. This convention, the 67th, will mark the inaugural awarding of the scholarship. Finally,
3. a Raise for the National Executive Secretary Treasurer, which was unanimously approved on April 5, 2021, at a special meeting of the executive council. It was noted that Dr. Brown accepted the position in 2009 and had not ever received a salary increase. All council members expressed their appreciation for Dr. Brown's

President’s Report, March 29, 2023 (cont’d)

efforts and agreed the position duties should be reviewed annually or at least biennially.

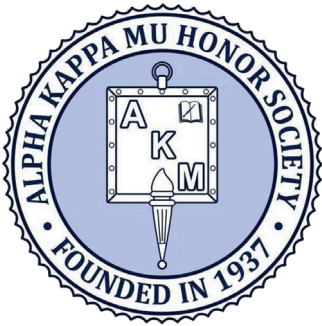
4. the return of Regional Meetings, an organizational practice developed to maintain community and continuity between biennial conventions. The return of this time-honored tradition was proposed at the April 5, 2021, executive council meeting and realized in the spring of 2022.

As I close out the final months of my term, I offer a special thank you to everyone who has stood shoulder to shoulder with me to ensure the realization of these initiatives. I look forward to supporting our next president as we continue to implement the vision of Dr. George Gore, and as we all strive to leave Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society a better place than we found it.

A complete timeline of my activities and events are listed ... [in the full report, which will be included in the conference proceedings].

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica A. Yon
Veronica Adams Yon
23rd National President
Director of Public Relations
FAMU Chapter Advisor



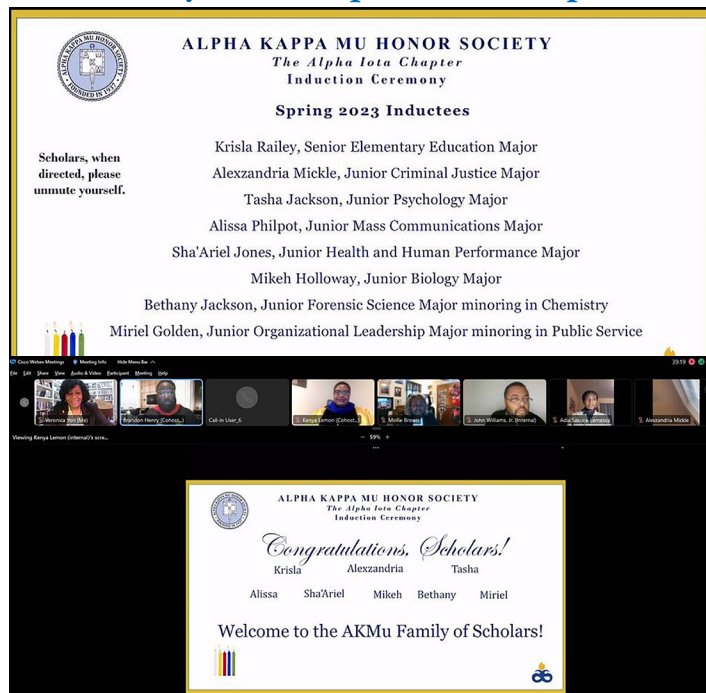
67th National Convention (cont’d)



Spring Induction Ceremonies

Celebrating character, scholarship, citizenship, service, and leadership. Congratulations to all of our spring 2023 Inductees!

Albany State (Alpha Iota) Chapter



Thank you, advisors Dr. Kenya Lemon and Professor Brandon Henry!

West Virginia State University



(l-r) Dr. Alonda Wylie (new faculty advisor), Miranda Stark (secretary), Dr. Sonya Armstrong (regional director), Brooke Smith (vice-president), Sydney Brown (president), Belinda Fuller (member), Rhonda Brogan (not pictured).

Thank you, Dr. Armstrong, for ensuring the legacy of the Alpha Delta Sigma chapter.

Stillman College (Alpha Upsilon) Chapter



Congratulations to Carla Louca, senior religion major, and LaKeshia Shine, junior business major, spring 2023 inductees of the Alpha Upsilon chapter. Thank you, advisor Dr. Norman Golar!

Edward Waters University (Mu Phi) Chapter

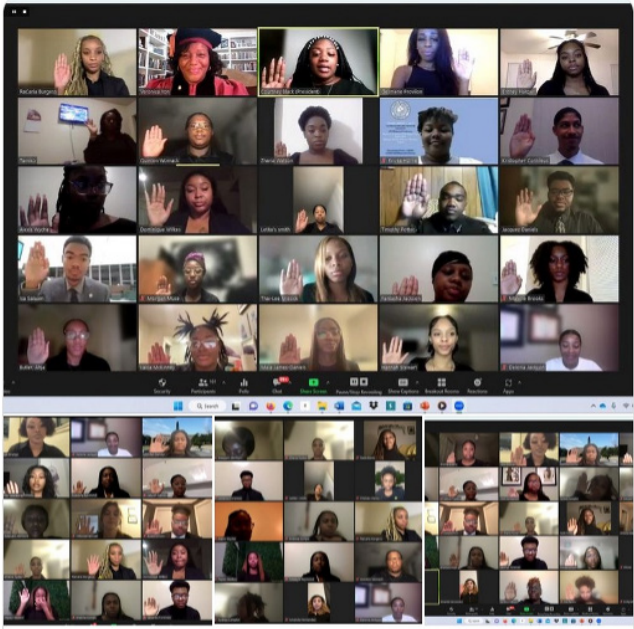


This spring, the Mu Phi chapter held its second induction since the chapter's installation in 2020 and its first since the college became a university. A special thank you to Trio Director Mr. Laroda Barnes and Dean of Arts and Sciences Dr. Gerard McShepard for ensuring these six scholars were honored. Also, thank you to outgoing national president Dr. Veronica Yon for conducting the ceremony and First Lady Tyciee Faison for offering support and closing remarks.

Spring Induction Ceremonies (cont'd)

Florida A&M University (Kappa Iota) Chapter

The FAMU Chapter is proud to announce the recent induction of forty-seven (47) scholars: Maryam Akintoye, Breona Braboy, Malerie Brooks, Ra'Caria Burgess, Sade Burns, Ahja Butler, Kristopher Cornileus, Jacquez Daniels, Ja'Kyah Daniels, Charles Evans, Viktoria Fancsali, Lavarius Foreman, Kole Fortson, Keyana Fowler, Kazion Gibson, Aryana Golson, Britney Harper, Jiliah Henderson, Chelsea Henry, Amanda Hernandez, Fantasha Jackson, Maia James-Daniels, Alexia Johnson, Sydney Lampkin, Trinity Lawrence-Williams, Lakia McKinney, Thai-Lee Missick, Morgan Muse, Timothy Potter, Gesmene Provilon-Vislan, Nia Rankin, Makayla Raymond, Monifah Render, Candace Roberts, Isa Salaam, Taylor Skelton, Letita Smith, Brianna Songie, Hannah Stewart, Jada Strange, Zharia Tucker, Antonio Walcott, Zharia Watson, Dominique Wilkes, Quinton Womack-Wedlaw, Tamiko Woodard, and Alexis Wyche.



Thank you to our advisor and national president, Dr. Veronica Yon, along with our E-board: Courtney Black (president), Ericka Horne (VP), Deloria Jackson (iStrike Liaison), Stormy Smith (treasurer), and Ezekiel Blount (PR coordinator) for conducting the virtual ceremony.

67th National Convention (cont'd)



In Memoriam

At the 67th National Convention, we paid tribute to the following AKMuans who have passed away.

Nicholas Ramone Cutter

July 22, 1982 – January 9, 2022

Nicholas Cutter was a wonderful scholar, poet, and teacher. In the spring of 2021, he was inducted into the Kappa Iota Chapter of Alpha Kappa Mu and graduated from the Department of English and Modern Languages at Florida A&M University. Shortly thereafter, he became an elementary school teacher at Brownsville Preparatory Institute, Tallahassee, FL.

During his time at FAMU, Mr. Cutter was also a member of the “Marching 100” Band and an editor of CAKE: A Literary Journal. He was dearly loved and admired by his students and friends, as well as FAMU faculty and Brownsville Preparatory staff.



Lyle Ragler

February 23, 1966 – September 13, 2022

Lyle Ragler was a Coppin State graduate student who passed in the days leading up to the AKM chapter's induction ceremony. He was posthumously inducted on October 5, 2022.

Lyle devoted himself to serving his community and helping others both in his profession and through his volunteer work. He worked as a counselor or case manager in organizations such as People Helping People, HERO, Gaudenzia, and, most recently, as an addictions counselor at A Helping Hand. As a member of Grace AME Church, Mr. Ragler volunteered to help feed homeless families.

A lifelong learner, after earning his undergraduate degree in Sociology from Lincoln University, Lyle attended Coppin State University and completed his Master of Science in Addiction Counseling in 2021. At the time of his application to Alpha Kappa Mu, he was working to complete the requirements for a certificate in Rehabilitation Counseling.



Dr. A'ndrea Wilson

November 30, 1978 – August 23, 2022

Dr. A'ndrea “Drea” Janell Wilson earned a Bachelor of Science in psychology from the State University of New York, College at Brockport, a Master of Science in counseling psychology, marriage and family counseling from Palm Beach Atlantic University, a Ph.D. in global leadership, educational leadership from Lynn University, and a Master of Fine Arts degree in dramatic writing from Savannah College of Art and Design.

Dr. Wilson published many pieces of literature and self-published her books by establishing Divine Garden Press (DGP), which specializes in books promoting individual, marital and family development, as well as clean entertainment. Her passion for education led her to accept a professorship at Grandview University in Des Moines, Iowa, where she served as the Braidia Endowed Chair of Creative Writing and also chartered the Mu Epsilon Chapter of Alpha Kappa Mu in 2020.



67th National Convention (cont'd)



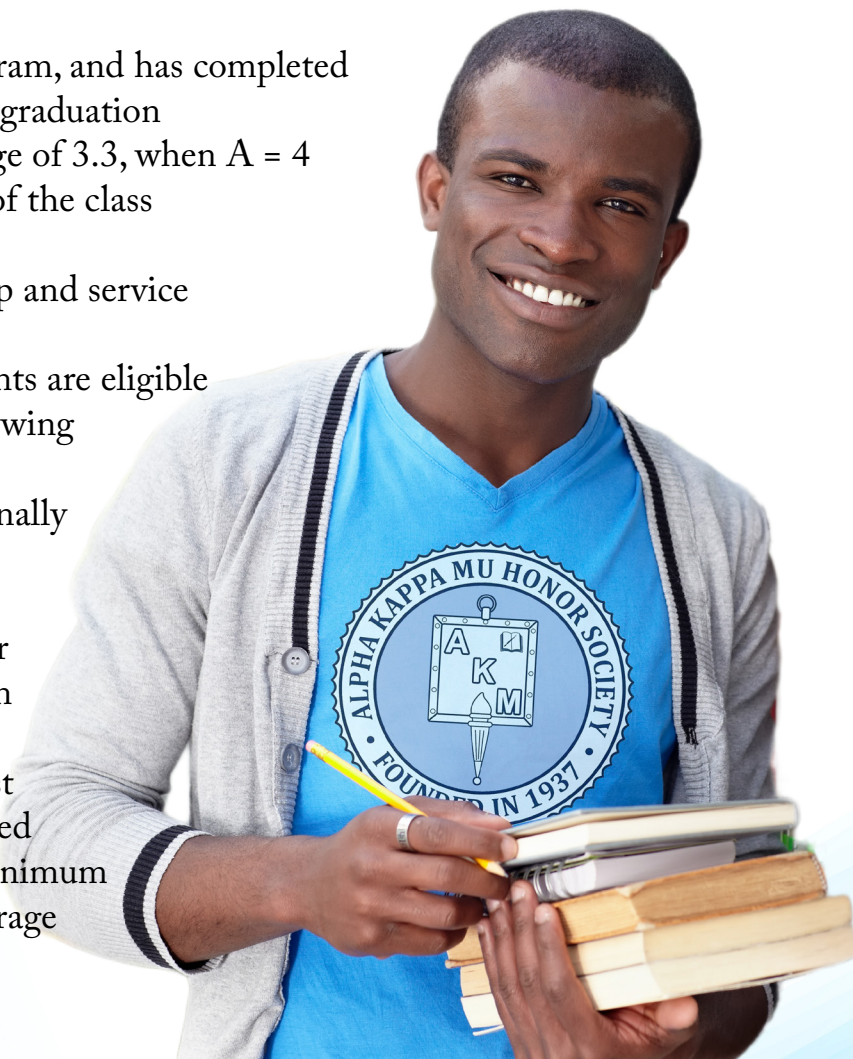
Criteria for AKM Membership

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



ALPHA KAPPA MU HONOR SOCIETY, INCORPORATED
MEMBER (ACHS) ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE HONOR SOCIETIES

324 Enterprise, Albany, GA 31705-5476

Website: www.alphakappamu.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/AKMNational

Executive Secretary-Treasurer: Dr. Mollie B. Brown

Email: mbs03bs@mchsi.com

President: Dr. Veronica Yon

Email: veronica.yon@famu.edu