



Hyattsville/Landover (MD)
Alumni Chapter
Kappa Alpha Psi
Fraternity, Incorporated

The Kappa Konnection

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The Journey to Our Centennial Continues

By Earl Tildon

More than ninety-eight years ago, some young male college students embarked upon a historic journey. These students were African American students at Indiana University at Bloomington, Indiana. These young men, led by Elder Watson Diggs, recognized the racial disparities that existed on ethnically majority campuses, much like the desegregation that existed throughout the south and other parts of America, including the State of Indiana.



Brother Earl Tildon

As these young men witnessed the unlevel playing field at Indiana University for them, they began a conversation to address their dilemma. They got together and discussed their options. They knew that they were intellectually capable to compete with other students at the university, and that they could reach beyond themselves and make life better for African American students yet unborn.

It was the beginning of a long journey for these young men, who decided to fashion an organization equal or better than some Greek-lettered organizations they had witnessed at Indiana and other campuses. This journey began with their vision to promote achievement in all fields of human endeavor. To this end they

founded Kappa Alpha Nu Fraternity, and subsequently changed the name to Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

Over the years, hundreds of undergraduate chapters of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity have been chartered and young men, primarily African Americans and others, have carried on the tradition of achievement, making outstanding contributions to our world. In addition, alumni chapters have been formed, to give young men that were not able to join in their undergraduate years, the opportunity to join with like-minded-college educated men in the furtherance of our Founders vision.

(See **JOURNEY**, Page 3)

SAT Workshop & Financial Aid Forum

By Rufus Little III

On Saturday, September 12, 2009, the Hyattsville/Landover Chapter hosted its annual SAT Workshop and Financial Aid Forum at Charles Herbert Flowers High School in Springdale, MD. There were approximately 400 students in attendance. The content for this year's SAT Workshop was delivered by a team provided by Kaplan, Inc. – Rhonda Henderson and Daniel Cepos. In support of the stu-

dents participating in the workshop, Kaplan offered each student FREE access to their online question database which includes 300 SAT practice test questions. Kaplan also offered each student registered a \$400 discount on a Kaplan course, gave away a free course to one student, free study materials to 3 students and prizes to several more students. Brother Ron Watson (Vice-Chairman of the PG County School Board) and Polemarch Bryson delivered opening remarks.

The Financial Aid Forum,



facilitated by Brother Carlos Johnson hosted more than 200 parents. Our speakers for this event included Monique Boyd Associate Director,

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Kappa Kudos



Brother Douglas Scarborough
Appointed:
Eastern Province
Guide Right Chairman



Brother Willie Stewart
Appointed:
Eastern Province
Reclamation Chairman



Brother Freddie Colston
Elected to the Nominating
Committee for the National
Association of
Parliamentarians

Congratulations!

79th Grand Chapter Meeting Recap

By Ralph Williams & Willie Stewart



On Tuesday, August 4, 2009, at the Marriott Wardman Hotel, Kappa Alpha Psi held its 79th Grand Conclave to a capacity audience in the ballroom. On that evening, leaders from the other “Divine 9” organizations presented gifts to Grand Polemarch Duane Murray on behalf of their respective organizations. The Laurel Wreath, the highest honor in Kappa Alpha Psi, was awarded to Dr. Ralph Bryson, Montgomery Alumni; Dr. Carl Anderson, Washington Alumni; Judge Nathaniel Jones, Cincinnati Alumni; Dr. Thomas Moorehead, Alexandria/Fairfax Alumni.

There were a variety of events throughout the Conclave. The preliminary events included golf outings, church services, and a Kappa Health Walk. Other events included many sanctioned and unsanctioned social events. There were countless parties in DC neighborhoods such as Adams Morgan, U St, and DuPont Circle. There

were sanctioned events for Brothers of all backgrounds and stages including a party for the Senior Kappamen and the “So Fresh and So Clean” party for the undergraduate Kappamen.

On the first business session, Grand Polemarch Murray presided and gave the State of the Fraternity Address. President of the Kappa Alpha Psi Foundation William B. Groom gave the annual report. That same day, the undergraduate luncheon was held and Junior Grand Vice Polemarch Michael J.A. Davis was the speaker. The luncheon also included musical selection from Brothers Marvin Carr and Derrick Christian.

Chaired by Michael Dubose, Chairman of the Corporate Strategic Alliance Cluster, the Economic Business Summit was held to discuss financial literacy in the African American community.

Finally, the Awards program was held on Wednesday, August 6, 2009 at 6:30. The fraternity presented the Distinguished Citizens Awards to its recipients. The Elder Watson Diggs Award was presented to Brothers Dr Chuck Carr-Brown, Donald Bland, William H. Coleman, Esp., Dr Frank S. Emmanuel, and Clarence Nelson.

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Reclamation Effort

By Al-Wayne Morgan

With the support of the newly appointed Eastern Province Reclamation Chairman, Willie Stewart, the Hyattsville/Landover (MD) Alumni Chapter Reclamation Committee is excited and looking forward to the endless possibilities to bring Brothers back to the Chapter this fraternal year. The Reclamation Committee currently consists of a blend of both old school and new school brothers that are eager to implement new ideas, programs, and activities to the Chapter.

To kickoff the new fraternal year was "Monday Night Football with the H/L Nupes." It's simple...come and hang out, watch the game, and reconnect. Throughout the year there will be additional programs and activities hosted by the Reclamation Committee. The Committee is currently in the process of aligning its programs and objectives with the national objectives of the fraternity.

During the span of a week there is a lot of interaction with Brothers. As a committee it is the responsibility to provide and facilitate to get these Brothers back. However, it is the responsibility of each member of the Chapter to do their part. Something as simple as collecting their information and following up or even inviting them to a future event or Chapter meeting can make the biggest difference.

ONE KAPPA!

SAT Workshop

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Client Services, (Office of Student Financial Aid, University of Maryland), Jennifer Price (Office of Student Financial Aid, Prince George's Community College), Marianne Ragins, President (Scholarship Workshop, LLC), and Tierney Kraft (Regional Director, Kaplan Inc.).

Feedback from parents and students for both events was very positive. Paper evaluation surveys were distributed and online evaluation surveys are being emailed to parents and students.

The Journey

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Hyattsville/Landover (MD) Alumni Chapter is one of many chapters that boasts of chapter achievements, as well as individual achievements in and out of the fraternity. It is a chapter that has promoted the major programs of the fraternity, reaching out to the communities it serves to enhance the lives of its neighbors, especially young African American males, who are adversely affected by the lack of resources and other social, economic, education disparities.

It is time for all Kappa chapters to unite in a spirit of "ONE KAPPA," recognizing that we live in a global society that demands achievement at the highest levels. All Kappa chapters must unite as one in supporting the national Kappa programs and initiatives. It is time to partner with other chapters and other organizations, to increase our leverage as we move proactively to be major players on the international scene.

Hyattsville/Landover Alumni Chapter has felt the thrill of victory in being named "International Chapter of the Year." The challenge as we move toward our national centennial, is for Hyattsville/Landover to contribute mightily to the centennial story, and answer with action, the question, "What have you done for Kappa lately?" When this question is answered affirmatively, it will be a living testimony to Hyattsville/Landover that they are vital players in the Kappa journey that continues to fulfill the vision of our Founders.

When Kappas convene in the State of our Founding in 2011, I pray that Hyattsville/Landover Alumni will be represented in great numbers, and that they will experience the essence of ONE KAPPA as they view the Kappa Trail and reminisce on the hallowed ground of Indiana University.

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

- **November 13, 2009 - Bowling with the Brothers**
- **December 31, 2009 - New Year's Eve Gala**

To submit articles, announcements,
and updates, please contact:

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The Alpha Xi Presence

By Ralph Williams

“Back in days of '33, four great men joined a fraternity, they gave it a name, the greatest to be, and they called that chapter ALPHA XI.”

Alpha Xi at Florida A&M of Kappa Alpha Psi. The Rock of the South. FAMU's Finest. For some time, Alpha Xi, the oldest chapter in The Southern Province, has been an exemplary chapter for Kappa. Its members have contributed to the fraternity since its inception on all levels. Hyattsville/Landover (H/L) has reaped the benefits with Alpha Xi men who continuously achieve and serve the community. Currently, there are 6 (at the time this article was written) members of Hyattsville/Landover who were made at Alpha Xi. This is proportionately higher than any other undergraduate chapter presence in Hyattsville/Landover. So what makes these brothers so different from so many? Three Alpha Xi brothers (Polemarch Bryant Bryson, Guide Right Committee Chairman Rufus Little, and 30 year member Joe Lovett) were asked on separate occasions.

When asked "What is it about an Alpha Xi Kappaman that makes him different from any other Kappamen? ", Polemarch Bryson answered "Alpha Xi is about achieving in every field of human endeavor. Alpha Xi is not a stereotypical chapter. There is a certain swagger." Brother Lovett agreed as he "...wanted to join because I saw the change in a fellow classmate, Shelby Taylor, and saw the change in his attitude and mannerisms. The Kappas had a certain smoothness. I also noticed the camaraderie he gained after he crossed." Brother Little believes that the mentoring component of Alpha Xi brothers is also something that is prominent from the rest. "(The) mentoring (component) would show you how to be a leader in the fraternity and in life. Alpha Xi's would achieve leadership. Older brothers would call and check up to make sure they (the undergraduates) are preserving the chapter."

This attitude is evident from these unique brothers within the Bond of Kappa Alpha Psi. There are a number of Alpha Xi brothers who have and are a great many things for the community and the fraternity; particularly in leadership roles. This includes brothers Thomas Battles (Grand Board of Directors) and Kevin Cox, former Southwestern Province Polemarch.

Even within the Hyattsville/Landover Chapter, the Alpha Xi brothers have shown notable achievement. Professionally, there are salesmen, a dentist, as well as an attorney. These brothers are achievers and have been catalysts for the fraternity in a variety of ways. Polemarch Bryson was an officer at Alpha Xi and has held 3 offices for Hyattsville/Landover. Brother Little, the chapter's current Guide Right chairman and current Board of Director also worked diligently at Alpha Xi as well as the St. Louis Alumni Chapter. Brother Lovett has made significant contributions to the fraternity on a variety of levels; including culturally.

According to Brother Lovett, he was the last man on his line (#10) which is usually considered the "Show Dog". The Show Dog must be the best stepper on the line. During our interview, Brother Lovett did not demonstrate his skills, but he did attest to a noteworthy twirling prowess while at FAMU. After graduation and being active in the Columbus, OH alumni chapter, he was asked to be the Dean of Pledges and later the advisor for the Zeta of Kappa Alpha Psi. To his surprise, the brothers of that chapter did not step with kanes. Brother Lovett introduced twirling to the chapter and the rest as they say, is history. Because of his contributions to the Zeta of Kappa Alpha Psi, Brother Lovett was made an honorary "Zulu Zeta". Brother Lovett has also held the provincial post of East Central Province Oversight Officer where he focused on the pledge programs due to the problems caused by hazing at the time.

All of the brothers interviewed agreed that leadership and activism is the Alpha Xi way. Because of their instilled love of Kappa and rich tradition, most Alpha Xi men have an almost competitive desire to make the chapter in which they are a member great. This is done by measuring a brother's chapter against the standards of Alpha Xi. Most of the brothers feel that Alpha Xi is an exemplary chapter for both undergraduate and alumni chapters to follow. "I want to make a legacy that is the mark of Alpha Xi," stated Polemarch Bryson. "I want to instill Alpha Xi at all levels."

When asked how each of them ended up becoming members of Hyattsville/Landover, two of the answers seemed to lead indelibly to the connection with another Alpha Xi brother. For Brother Little, he found out that Polemarch Bryson was the Vice Polemarch at the time and wanted to support him. He stated that Alpha Xi brothers support each other. "(We are) loyal to each other in every way. It's what you expect from frat, but deeper since we seek each other." Brother Lovett's long love and activism in Kappa was evident in his discovery of Hyattsville/Landover: "I had always known of the Hyattsville/Landover chapter but I met Brother Ron Henderson and Brother Bernard Chase who influenced me to come out to the meetings which lead to me joining the chapter. I also know one of the original founders of this chapter very well (Brother Lionel Acosta in Decatur, GA)."

Another unique aspect of Alpha Xi is the pool of the membership. According to Polemarch Bryson, the members consisted of gentlemen who would be considered polar opposites of each other; geeks and jocks, thugs and choir boys, introverts and extroverts. They all seemed to find a home in Kappa and within the realm of Alpha Xi.

This diversity, however, sometimes created problems inside the frat house (One of few frat houses in the Southern Province). If there was a problem, Brother Little said with a slight laugh "they'd say 'take it to the basement' and brothers would knuckle up. Afterwards, it would be over. Afterwards, it would be fraternity as usual." He continued on to say that in spite of the occasional "knuckling up", there was a significant bond that was sustained in the house as brothers.

As idealistic as it may be portrayed; Alpha Xi is not immune to its own problems. In 2006, the Alpha Xi of Kappa Alpha Psi was suspended from the campus due to a hazing incident. The chapter is not eligible to return to Florida A&M until 2013. 2 former members were expelled from the fraternity, sentenced, and imprisoned for 2 years each by the state of Florida. This incident has saddened and shamed many an Alpha Xi brother, having some believe that this may be the end of Alpha Xi they knew, loved, and remembered. Many Alpha Xi men find the recent turn of events extremely discerning.

However, the legacy lives on in the Alpha Xi brothers across the globe who are working fervently for the fraternity and society as a whole. In Hyattsville/Landover, these Nupes have become an intricate part of our sub-culture. It is without a doubt that the influence of these men shall leave a mark on our great chapter now and for the years to follow.