

Fall 2011 Edition



Louisville Sphinx



ALPHA PHI ALPHA

Fraternity, Incorporated
Alpha Lambda Chapter

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.,
develops leaders, promotes brotherhood and academic excellence,
while providing service and advocacy for our communities.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated Alpha Lambda Chapter Presidents Welcome: State of the Chapter Address

As given September 9, 2011

To each of you within the greatest Brotherhood known to all, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, good evening! Today, I stand with humility and genuine respect for all of you, to extend my 4th, and final, State of the Chapter Address. For those Brothers elected and appointed in 2010, we are slightly past the midway point of this administration. As we move forward toward completion of our service to you, members of Alpha Lambda Chapter, there are many things we can stand firm on and be proud about regarding the present and future direction of the House Jewel Eugene Kinckle Jones built on April 11, 1911. Today, the report will project a vision for the future that will allow Alpha Lambda to continue moving onward and upward. Additionally, this report will show the Alpha Lambda Chapter to be progressive and equipped to continue the work of our Fraternity's beloved seven Jewels.

In my first State of the Chapter Address on September 12, 2008 at the J.O. Blanton House, I advised the Brotherhood then that we stood at a crossroads. One road saw us resting upon a historical legacy and name recognition while the other road saw us embracing the mantle of leadership from our past leaders and working diligently at moving Alpha Lambda forward. Today, I can say with true confidence that the Alpha Men you elected to lead you over this time-span have done a yeoman's job of moving us forward. We embraced our responsibility to you while being focused on growth and progress; to leave the House better than we found it. I never wanted it to be said about Alpha Lambda under my tenure that we slept, or even rested. While we know all "busy" work is not necessarily "good" work, I believe that factually and historically, the record will show that this period of time saw us do better and be better than we had been in a very long time. That is something to be proud of!

Secondly, it was said that in less than three years, the first alumni chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity would celebrate 100 years of existence. A clarion call was given for teamwork, cooperation, preparation, dedication and execution as we 'Strode toward the Centennial!' We worked to locate and secure our history, formed strategic alliances and worked together with common purpose. As evidenced by the success of the 79th Midwestern Regional Convention, the hard work of our local planning team and all of you who filled in all the gaps when we needed you most, it will forever be one of the proudest moments of my Alpha life to see the clarion call being heeded to. As testament to such collaborative effort, the chapter account stands over \$13,458 better. Brothers, give yourselves a hand for indeed, you should be proud!

Each State of the Chapter Address has provided a Strategic Vision for forward progression. In this year of Centennial celebration, it is of vital importance that we lay the groundwork for the next 100 years of Alpha Lambda with an ambitious, yet realistic, vision. It is my duty to develop a vision keeping the future of Alpha Lambda in mind and mapping out the best path to reach a unified, progressive destination. Tonight, you will hear from our Chapter Treasurer to outline recommendations for a 2012 Operating Budget. We have a responsibility to approve a budget that allows us to conduct the work of Alpha, support our 2 returning collegiate chapters, and provide meaningful and uplifting programs and services to the Greater Louisville community. Over the last three plus years, we have had three Treasurers, Bro. Christopher Hollins, Bro. Harold Allen (now our Chapter Vice President) and our current Treasurer, Bro. Antoine Wilson. I take this opportunity to publicly thank them for their service. They have fiscally safeguarded our House of Alpha and today we are a 'Strong House' in a position to determine how to utilize the largest Treasury this chapter has seen in a long time, perhaps ever. Tonight, I am calling on the Finance Committee to propose no less than one, and preferably, two key fund-raising initiatives that will, in conjunction with the anticipated 2012 Stomp Off Event, generate consistent, stable revenue streams to support our desire at making our programs better and expanding upon our goal of having an Alpha House in Louisville by the end of this decade.

Additionally, over the next fraternal year, we will begin to look at ways to leverage the synonymous relationship of the Alpha Lambda Education Foundation and our Chapter in regards to our fund-raising and fiscal operations. If you will not voluntarily support the Foundation, we will bring the Foundation to you! In fact, many programs that we do can be done under the auspices of our Education Foundation while specifically highlighting the work of our Education Foundation to improve the lives of impressionable youth through its current scholastic initiative, the West Louisville Community Scholarship.

Fall Calendar of Events

Chapter Meetings

October 14
November 11
December 9

Community Involvement

Healing Place
Volunteerism:
November 19
Lost Sheep Volunteerism:
December 15

Social Activities

Brotherhood Bowling:
December 10

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State of the Chapter Address (Cont.)

Brothers, we need you to support the West Louisville Community Scholarship. As we seek to merge more chapter programming with the Education Foundation, this scholarship initiative will become a preeminent program that takes each of us collectively working together to maximize the scholarship's potential success. The scholarship committee has been working hard behind the scenes to get this initiative moving forward and it is a slap in their faces when 95% of the chapter will not come to the Education Foundation meetings. If the Foundation does not meet at a time conducive to maximum attendance, then please speak up and address it with our Foundation's Executive Director. We must take more ownership of our Foundation and its wonderful potential. The truth is while the Foundation and chapter are separate legal entities; ALEF's survival is dependent on the involvement of the Alpha Lambda Chapter membership. We must have your commitment Brothers!!

In 2008, it was stated that we would conduct our National Programs. In 2011, the facts are that we have met that challenge each year and ensured that our National Programs have been completed. Moving forward, the question now becomes, "Now that we understand the vital importance of these programs, how do we increase our impact and effectiveness toward reaching the masses that our programs are intended to assist?" We must become more efficient! The best programs are most effective because of the efficiency of preparation. I want to acknowledge Brothers Harold Allen and Shaune Jones for their leadership helping to advance our chapter programming as Director of Educational Activities. Our new Director, Brother Adam Rivon recently introduced a wonderful concept for Program Management moving forward that will be implemented across all chapter operations. This concept is the Resource Planning Meetings, which will occur ahead of events to allow all chapter members an opportunity to be updated on the specifics of an event, things needed to make the event successful and ensure your attendance and/or support for that particular event. You have probably noticed the emails that Bro. Rivon has sent asking you to participate in these calls and I'm asking every Brother here to take heed to these requests. Get on these calls, share this information with other Brothers and let's be more engaged in our programming. Come to the table of Brotherhood and let us roll up our sleeves, put our best ideas out there, and create the best programs to uplift our Louisville community.

Furthermore, let us be mindful that chapter programs are determined, in part, by mandates from our National Organization to participate in certain events each year. The other part is determined exclusively by the will of the local Brotherhood. To become more efficient, we must have more 'hands on deck' Brothers. We have enough members, but often not enough active participants. If you don't like a program we do, outside of the National Programs, suggest or propose new program ideas. It is unacceptable to ever suggest not conducting our National Programs. However, our budget is filled with special projects and programming such as BBBS, March of Dimes and Relay 4 Life. While I believe participation in these special programs are essential, they are negotiable. If you don't want us to participate, do not approve the funding allocations. Alpha Phi Alpha, to its core, is a democracy and not a dictatorship. If you have an idea for new programs or improvements to existing ones, get in contact with Brother Rivon. Alpha Lambda wants and needs your creativity. Work through your ideas with him and then bring it to the Brotherhood. In a proactive measure, Brother Rivon is currently taking time out to contact every chapter member and ask for your commitment for a minimum of 2 events or committees (of your choice) for the upcoming year.

I am weary of hearing any Brother say they do not feel as if they have a voice. The democratic process is your voice. Your committee participation is your voice. Your ability to vote is your voice. Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated is a strong network of college educated and trained men with professional backgrounds and networking to allow our influence to yield strong power. Accordingly, we will not short change our professionalism. If you are going to bring forth your ideas, Alpha Lambda wants them! Again, I repeat, Alpha Lambda wants them! Stop saying you do not have a voice because it's not true. Know the process and follow it. If you don't know it, be willing to learn it. When you became a Brother, one thing you promised to do was support the Constitution and By-Laws of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated. To support your Constitution is to know what it says and how it works for the organization and its greater good. That's not being un-brotherly, that is appreciating and respecting the professionalism and protocol of Alpha Phi Alpha. If you are one of those Brothers who have heard, or continue to hear, that our Chapter is not receptive to new ideas, then I ask you to dispel that notion immediately. It was a lie before, it's a lie now and it'll be a lie in the future for anybody to say they do not feel they have a voice. The Bible tells us that when we were children, we spoke as children, but as adults we put away childish things. I draw this scripture to make an analogy. When a Brother has not been taught proper protocol and process, from the outside looking in, the way we conduct business could be foreign or unknown to him. However, once he has seen how business should be done and gone to Conventions to see the bigger picture and true impact and fullness of our Organization, then his eyes and nose are opened and he quickly learns of the importance of structure. If you are in this House and you know this perception exists, I ask you to teach that Brother and invite him here. In this House of Alpha, cordiality exists among all who abide within. If those Brothers are willing to come back inside the House and not just 'wear' Alpha but make an Alpha Investment, his eyes and nose will be open and we will kill that negative perception about voices not being heard once and for all.

Thank you to Brothers Michael Anthony, John Huggins and Michael Branch. These three have each held the position of Associate Editor to the Sphinx since 2008. Thank you for your work. In your own way, you have each added value and credibility to the Louisville Sphinx publication. Our current Editor, Brother Branch, is doing a yeoman's job with limited resources to provide an "Alpha Phine" product. Our network has expanded, our newsletter is being archived at the Louisville Free Public Library, and its presentation format enhanced its image. Far too often, however, Brother Branch has been a one man band. More accountability will be directed toward our event and program committee chairmen to provide short write-ups following event or program activity. I have all primary committee chairmen to ensure each of your sub-committee chairs provide timely reports, as needed.



State of the Chapter Address (Cont.)

Brother Allen and I will do regular follow ups to ensure this has been done. Additionally, I have also asked Brother Branch to provide a "PR Release" template to each committee chair for usage when either providing their written report or as an event preview to be released to the public in advance. This simple step will serve to increase our opportunity for exposure while maximizing our efficiency for best results.

Thank you to Brothers Quentin Blanton and Lathon Logan. These brothers have each held the title "Webmaster" since 2008. Thank you for your work. As with the Louisville Sphinx, our website has seen much positive change. I especially give kudos to Brother Logan who revamped our website when needed and continues to provide innovative ideas to make the website interactive, user friendly and polished with the professional look expected of Alpha Phi Alpha. Brother Logan has my full support, and I ask that you give him yours, in taking our website to the next level. Please visit the website, share the link with others and offer constructive feedback to help our image via the World Wide Web be the very best!

In 2008, it was stated, "We have made a concentrated effort, realizing that the work of Alpha is not one we have to do alone, to be committed to the return of the Alpha Pi Chapter at the University of Louisville. We will be better Brothers, and our mentorship will be meaningful. We will not repeat the mistakes of years gone by. We can do better and I promise you, we will!" Oh how that message resonates through the years. We set a goal to see Alpha Pi return early from suspension. While it did not happen as quickly as was initially hoped, the day is quickly approaching and I'm proud that this great chapter will return next semester to the University of Louisville campus to resume its place as an important, impactful student organization! That is something to be proud of and excited about! Additionally, we took on the responsibility to fully support the return of Beta Mu Chapter at Kentucky State University. Brothers, what we do now, over the course of this next year, will lay the groundwork for our relationships with both chapters moving forward. We must support our Membership Management Committee and its efforts to provide adequate Alpha Training to new initiates. We must respect our appointed advisers and help, not hinder, them to fulfill their advisory roles. We must show our new Brothers what Brotherhood is all about. We must put our arms around them, be that special village to teach them to be respectful and knowledgeable about their history, while being excited about all the possibilities that come with being an Alpha Man for life! I agree with Brother Mark Tillman who recently said that we must "invest in the transition of college brothers to life after college and ensure that the initiation of every member is not the pinnacle, but the start, of his Alpha experience..." Brothers, may we be happy for them, watchful over them, but always remember, "College days swiftly pass..." and if you haven't encouraged their participation in Alpha beyond the walls of college, you have done them a great disservice. May we always put the will of the Brotherhood above individual motivations. Provide your wisdom and give your advice of how to be better Alpha Men, but do not try to re-live the collegiate experience through them.

This year, we will learn more about implementing our 4th National Program, My Brother's Keeper. Ponder the question, "What does it mean to be my Brother's Keeper?" The answer may vary, but one thing for sure, if we are remembering the spirit and tenacity of our beloved Fraternity Founders, then we also know that uplifting, supporting and respecting our Brothers goes from initiation all the way to Omega. During our December Retreat, one of the workshops will be on this vital initiative. I ask you to remain mindful of the support we give our Brothers and their families in need. Let us take more initiative to reach out to our sick and shut in, go talk with them, learn from them, lift their spirits by our visits. Let us also remember Alpha wives and widows for they are so much a part of who we are and what we do. Speaking of our Alpha Wives and Girlfriends, I am calling on our Membership Management Committee to create an event concept that honors them. Alpha Lambda used to do a Sweetheart Dinner. Perhaps that could return! In order for Alpha to remain relevant in a busy man's household, his family must see Alpha and its importance to the Brother. I seek a longer term solution that potentially bridge gaps with our inactive brothers. I believe the involvement of our wives and significant others will bridge gaps and reclaim Brothers. As I reviewed Alpha Lambda history during the Regional convention, some of those stalwart brothers left lasting impressions that echo through the ages. One obvious lesson was to involve the Alpha wife in the social vitality of the Fraternal organization. Why not have them help us coordinate some service functions? Why not ask them if they'd be willing to prepare a snack tray or small dish for our chapter meetings? I envision us hosting a "Couples Night" that allows for us to mix and mingle on more reasonable levels outside of Fraternal business. It could be once a month, definitely no less than once per quarter, where we go to the movies, do dinner or a play, etc. and find neat ways to enjoy the company of the one another and engage our spouse as well. This is a good initiative and I am asking for work to begin on it right away!

Recently, Brother Ellis Tarver reminded me of a concept learned as a young Alpha Man: the 3 T's (Time, Talent and Treasury). At the pinnacle of our Alpha lives, we can consistently and willingly contribute all three. However, there are periods in our lives, some shorter, some longer, where we can only give 1 or 2 of those 3 T's. Brothers, I issue another clarion call to each of you to remember this and carry this message to all the Brothers in the Louisville area. We must make a commitment and take a stand. Now is the time to change our Alpha Attitude and proclaim an Alpha Commitment! We must go to our Brothers in the Louisville area and ask them to re-invest in Alpha Phi Alpha. Our chapter members must lead in showing and explaining Alpha Value in the yearly investments we make mentally, physically and financially. Again, I agree with Brother Tillman when he says that Alpha value is "obtained by showing that our programs will earn a profit, is significant, and rooted in substance." Brothers, it's time to stop always leaning on the shield. Show us who you are and where your loyalty lies! If you don't have the Treasury, give your time and talent. If you don't have time, we need your Treasury and whatever talent you can offer from afar. Provide us access to your networks and resources. If you are talented in one, or more, areas that brings out the best of you, we need that service! There is enough room in the House of Alpha for you to find your niche...to see your way...to etch your place in the Alpha Legacy.

State of the Chapter Address (Cont.)

I remember the first time I heard “All Of My Love, my Peace and Happiness...I'm gonna give it to ALPHA.” Do you remember that day? Do you remember how you felt? Do you still feel that way? If not, what changed? It's now cliché within the Fraternity to say “take an honest inventory.” However, we must constantly ask ourselves these questions. I would love to shoot basketball and play spades with all of you every day if possible. I would love to go bowling, have drinks and talk about college days. All those things are fun and brotherly. I submit to you, however, that seeing a young child smile because of your mentorship is fun and satisfying. Seeing our programs become a financial success is fun and satisfying. Working together with one voice, one sound, one purpose to accomplish a unified mission is fun and satisfying. Where the work of Alpha is...that's where I'll be. Will you join me? I applaud every brother who takes on grand tasks and fulfills his obligations, but do not taint the experience by the comment “I've done my part, now it's time for me to step aside.” Who are you stepping aside for and why? Alpha is a lifelong commitment! Bro. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said in his last speech on April 3, 1968 that “like anybody I'd like to live a long life, longevity has its place.” Dr. King died the next day. We would all hope to live a long life and think we can take time away from the Fraternity and come back later in life and do more, but longevity is not promised to any of us. Do not wait Brothers, there is always something you can give! We do not need a change of heart in Alpha, we need a change in Alpha mentality and attitude! I do not have all the answers Brothers, but this I know for certain: If we do not get more sustained involvement across the board from membership, we will have some difficult days ahead. Alpha Lambda will not thrive by continuing to initiate new members and immediately placing all the heavy lifting upon them. We will not thrive with attitudes that exude “I put in my time, now I will rest.” There's a lot of brothers who came before us who put in 50, 60, 70 years' worth of quality Alpha work. I will rest when I sleep, I hope to find my reward once I reach Omega, but until that day, the work of Alpha must be done and that is where I will be!

As we seek to train and develop the incoming members of Beta Mu and Alpha Pi, we must remain steadfast to ensure our training and develop at the alumni level never ceases. One new feature to our budget proposal is the appearance of the College Chapter Support line item to assist Beta Mu and Alpha in their returns to active status. This is not only meant to serve as a financial boost, but also will have an impact on leadership development. It will be our chapter's intention to yearly send at least one brother from Alpha Pi and Beta Mu to the Alpha Leadership Academy. We must be committed to training our collegiate brothers and giving them the tools of Alpha success. Two of my major disappointments as your President have been lackluster attendance at planned Membership Development Seminars and miniscule attendance at District Conferences and General Conventions. Regional Conventions seem to be the notable exception. Brothers, when you begin to disregard the training opportunities, you began to lose chances to learn and increase your knowledge. If we don't continually work our brains, we start to lose the information therein. The Membership Development Seminars were placed on my original platform as a way to ensure our members remained trained about Alpha rules and regulations. It sounded good in my head and it looked good on paper. Advance notice was given, yet 99% of you chose to stay home each time it was offered. Our Fraternity is ever-evolving the meet changes of the world around us. Information that you knew 20 and 30 years ago may have changed or become obsolete. If you do not attend opportunities Alpha gives to train your mind and renew your fraternal spirit and commitment, you will become lackluster in your performance. As evidenced by the large percentage of members not consistently shouldering the load of Alpha work, we need a stronger level of commitment now, more than ever before!!! Register for conventions whether you are a delegate or not. Attend the Chapter Retreat and Membership Development Seminars. All these things are done so that we grow collectively in our efforts to positively influence all whom we contact.

Brothers, your chapter leadership is doing its very best to meet you in your fraternal circumstance and situation and provide you the opportunity and tools to be successful, while remaining passionate about your Alpha service. In closing, I am reminded that the Bible teaches us, “To whom much is given, much is required.” We have so much at our disposal to work with, but the questions of 2008 persist today, “With all that has been given to us, have we met the mandated requirements of being an Alpha Man?” Join your leadership in encouraging the highest and noblest form of manhood. When you need some encouragement, dust off your history book and become reconnected with YOUR Alpha legacy. May we remain forever committed to achieving higher social, economic and intellectual status for all people. I still believe there is an energetic group of Brothers here who can and will do the work of Alpha. I still believe our collective vision for Alpha Lambda involves greatness. I still believe in Manly Deeds, Scholarship and Love for All Mankind. I still believe in promoting scholarship, developing leadership and uplifting the downtrodden of mankind through service. I still believe in Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated. Most of all, I will always believe in each of you. God bless you, God bless Alpha Lambda Chapter, God bless the returns and futures for Alpha Pi and Beta Mu Chapters and God bless Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated.

Yours in Service,
 Charles V. Piphus, Jr.
 Chapter President
 Alpha Lambda Chapter
 Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated

Meyzeek Middle School (Go to High School-Go to College)

On Saturday, August 6, The Alpha Lambda chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. received a requested to set up a booth during the Meyzeek back to school event to encourage students to sign up for our highly regarded GTH-GTC program. This was a great opportunity for outreach with the community before the school year started. Brothers and aspirants showed up in mass. This was a legacy builder and the chapter is really expecting great things. We received 13 applications from families and students interested in the program.

Following up the student back to school bash, on Tuesday September 13, 2011 we conducted the first GTH-GTC mentoring workshop at Meyzeek Middle School. This event was the beginning of a continuous relationship between Alpha Lambda and JCPS. Our ultimate goal is to help children successfully matriculate to high school and then into a platform of higher education.

Sixteen students showed up to the after school program. We started with an ICEBREAKER. The students and brothers had an opportunity to introduce themselves. Next, we shared the current topic, "The Drought in Somalia." With a high Somali population we felt this would resonate well with the students and it did. Finally we rapped up with a networking session on the Basketball court. The kids had a great time. We have begun to develop relationships that will allow them to trust us, and before long they will look to the Alpha's as mentors and individuals in the community to look up to!

-Brother Adam Rivon

2011 Alpha Lambda Chapter Picnic

On an unusually chilly Labor Day, September 5th, member of Alpha Lambda and their families converged on Des Pres Park for our annual Labor Day Cookout. It was an opportunity for brothers' families to come together and enjoy one another's company over great food! Events like these remind of the vital importance of fraternal fellowship and family time. Special thanks goes to Brother Craig Anderson for his displaying his craft on the grill! On behalf of the Alpha Lambda Chapter, thanks to everyone who attended and added value to time well spent.

-Brother Charles Piphus



PHItness PHirst

Healthy Options While Eating Out (Part 2)

In part we discussed four easy tips for eating healthy while eating out. The first was to be proactive in your eatery of choice, try and select a restaurant with healthy options. The next was to ditch the empty calories that accompany our cups, that sugary waste we call soda.

Also important, realize that many healthy options are in fact, not. Sure there are plenty of vegetables on your dish but chances are they are covered in butter, salt, or oil. Ask for steamed vegetables and shy away from any healthy options that may be too good to be true. Another notorious healthy meal impersonator is the salad! There are salads out there that have more calories and fat than a hamburger and fries. In nearly all cases it comes from the fixings; i.e. salad dressing, bacon bits, etc. Regular salad dressing is nearly 100% fat and chock full of calories that can turn a healthy side into a scale-tipping nightmare. In addition, ensure that you opt for healthier fixings such as grilled chicken vs. fried and nuts vs. croutons. Choose fat-free salad dressings or light vinaigrettes over regular options.

Finally, one last tip is to make dining out a special occasion as opposed to a regular affair. The simple truth is that you are much more capable of determining what goes into your body from the comfort of your own kitchen. If it's a special occasion think about showing your family/loved ones just how much you care by preparing the meal yourself. Look online or in a good cookbook for healthy options. But dining out doesn't have to be a blight on your otherwise healthy diet, follow these tips and you can enjoy a nice meal without the corresponding detrimental effect on your health.

-Brother Michael Branch



Louisville Aids Walk

The annual Louisville Aids Walk took place on Sunday September 25, 2011 at the Belvedere in downtown Louisville. Participants showed in full force to support raising money for research and awareness of Aids issues. But the work isn't over, you can still donate online at <http://www.louisvilleaidswalk.org/donate.html>. Various organizations and groups showed up to show their support to this worthy cause. To all those who participated thank you, and we hope to see more of you next year!

-Brother Michael Branch

Louisville Alumni NPHC Cookout 2011

On Saturday, August 13, 2011, Cox park was a veritable kaleidoscope of colors with the members of the Divine 9 showing up to listen to music, socialize, and take pictures for the scrapbook. It was an wonderful time indeed fraternizing with the lovely ladies of AKA, and joking with the Nupes. There was enough food to feed an army, and everyone got their fill. This was surely not an event to miss. Hope to see you all next year.

-Brother Michael Branch



NPHC Looking for Executive Board

The Louisville Alumni NPHC is in the process of accepting nominations for its executive board. The NPHC meets on the 2nd Monday of each month, at 6:00pm at the NIA Center on 28th and Broadway. Our next meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2011. Please contact the local chapter President Nathan Beckham if you're interested; njbeckham@bellsouth.net.

-Brother Michael Branch

Kentucky District Roundtable 2011

On Saturday, August 24, 2011 the district roundtable convened at Morehead State University in Morehead, KY. The morning was ice cold and muggy at the same time. Morehead State's Football team was focused on the game which was scheduled to start around noon. Our event kicked-off with a voters registration drive for the college students. We arrived early and set up shop near the stadium. We greeted passersby with gifts and motivated them to fill out registration cards. Around 10:30 we conducted a campus site visit, just prior to having lunch at the student union. Following lunch we got to the business of the day. Updates were given on various facets of fraternity business, seminars were shared for the edification of those present, and by 6:00 PM we'd convened. We took photos on the steps of the administration building and sang the fraternal hymn. By the end of the day my mind had reverted to a poem I once recited, "Men many like myself unacquainted, entered shook hands, exchanged greetings, and departed friends." The event was well coordinated, and for those whom were unable to attend here are some of the topics that you missed out on:

- 2011 March of Dimes final report
- 2012 plans for "Day at the Capitol"
- The status of district fundraisers, Alpha Employment Initiative, the corporate financials, and much, much more.

Also, as mentioned before there were some great seminars:

- College 2 Corporate
- Effective Lobbying
- Neo training, risk management certifications, and so much more

In the end, this was a great event, but it will take the work of our brotherhood to press forward with the initiatives and goals that were established at this session.

-Brother Adam Rivon

Alpha Lambda Chapter Awareness Seminar

The first African American intercollegiate Greek Alumni Chapter, Alpha Lambda, is hosting an awareness seminar on Friday October 7, 2011 at the Canaan Christian Development Center at 7:00pm. It's a chance for those interested in this most prestigious of institutions to come out and learn more while socializing with the Brothers of Alpha.

-Brother Michael Branch

"Who you with"...

Think Tank...Food for Thought

Are We Still Relevant? (Part 1 of a 2 Part Series)

Why do and should men and women continue to join fraternities and sororities? Historically, what was the incentive for people to join the ranks of organizations in the “divine nine”? Do we still provide a valuable purpose to perspective members? Well, the “invisible hand” of the market tell us yes there is still demand; otherwise our organizations would cease to exist.

From a historical perspective, the harsh treatment and low numbers of African Americans on college campuses called for groups to band together to increase their chances of success. Further, as these students recognized their relative position to those underprivileged who couldn't participate in higher education they begin to create varying programs for social and community upliftment. This is the grounds upon which our African American fraternities and sororities were founded. Although these harsh realities are beginning to fade (yes, there is an African American in the White House but that doesn't change our situation on the whole), they are not gone entirely. There are still gross disparities in higher education, financial freedom, and the prison system for the African American community.

The counterarguments to Greek life abound. They're breeding grounds for frivolous sexual behavior, alcohol is used in great excess at functions, and they can over prioritize social aspects like partying, stepping, and the like while only giving precedence to community service, academic achievement, and social progress in verbal form. Allegations and cases of hazing have swept the nation over the past couple of decades as pictures of the aftermath of physical abuse and testimonies from students and families have dealt a blow to the Greek institution, especially for African Americans.

What purpose do Greek organizations provide; in other words why do people join? *(To be Continued)*

-Brother Michael Branch

A Moment to Remember...in Pictures; MLK Memorial Dedication



Photos by
Brother
Keith Allen



2011 Fall Quarter Fraternal Calendar

October

- (7) Alpha Lambda Chapter Awareness Seminar (7:00 PM)
- (14) October Chapter Meeting (6:30 PM)
- (28-29) University of Louisville Homecoming

November

- (18) November Chapter Meeting (6:30 PM)
- (19) Healing Place Volunteerism (11:00 AM, The Healing Place)

December

- (9) December Chapter Meeting (6:30 PM)
- (10) Brotherhood Bowling (Time TBD)
- (15) Lost Sheep Ministries Volunteerism (6:30 PM)

**

All Brothers who are not currently not getting correspondence from the chapter please contact the Associate Editor to the Sphinx, Brother Michael Branch, to be added to the e-mail listing or the Postal Mail listing. He can be reached at michaelbranch1906@yahoo.com or 502-777-2505.

2010-2011 Executive Board

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Alpha Lambda Chapter

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www.alphalambda1906.org

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial

Brother Dr. King championed a movement that draws fully from the deep well of America's potential for freedom, opportunity, and justice. His *vision of America* is captured in his message of hope and possibility for a future anchored in dignity, sensitivity, and mutual respect; a message that challenges each of us to recognize that America's true strength lies in its diversity of talents. The vision of a memorial in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. is one that captures the essence of his message, a message in which he so eloquently affirms the commanding tenants of the *American Dream — Freedom, Democracy and Opportunity for All*; a noble quest that gained him the Nobel Peace Prize and one that continues to influence people and societies throughout the world. Upon reflection, we are reminded that Dr. King's lifelong dedication to the idea of achieving human dignity through global relationships of well being has served to instill a broader and deeper sense of duty within each of us— a duty to be both responsible citizens and conscientious stewards of freedom and democracy.

For more information log onto www.buildthedream.org



Donate online by going to www.mlkmemorial.org

Note from the Editor:

For any inquiries regarding any information within this publication, general inquiries regarding the Alpha Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated or to find out how you can submit an article or other community news please contact the editor at:

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