

**ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC.
ALPHA LAMBDA CHAPTER**



LOUISVILLE SPHINX



Winter 2012 Issue

PRESIDENTS WELCOME (CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

Greetings and Happy New Year!

Today, I begin by acknowledging the indomitable spirit of each community member and leader who commits time, energy, resources and finances toward the upliftment of downtrodden humanity through acts of service and love. Providing service and advocacy for our communities is a vital investment aimed at highlighting the need for more education, crime prevention, voter education and awareness and improvement of the socio-economic plight of many in our local communities. Individuals and organizations are more likely to invest critical time, resources and finances toward things they are passionate

about, support and believe in. An enormous challenge Louisvillians face today is determining how much of an investment they are willing to make and to what causes. Let our message be unified and clear in 2012: Community leaders and members working collectively to improve the lives of many, especially those of our most impressionable, the youth who will become tomorrow's leaders.

My Brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha, we seek forward progression of fraternal programs and policies aimed at moving Alpha's mission skyward in every community of our presence. It is vital that while making audacious

2012 plans that complements a



Bro. President and future president.

collective vision for unequalled success that we take a moment to remember where the importance of Brotherhood lies to our survival. As we continue our commitment to the Greater Louisville community, we must also remember our own Alpha community. Our National Big Brothers, Big Sisters Coordinator, Brother Dale Long, once

Inside this issue:

Presidents Welcome	1,2
Louisville's Native Son	1,5
Welcome the New Initiatives	2
Founders Day 2012	2
Chapter Retreat	3
PHItness PHlrst	3
Think Tank	4
Brotherhood Bowling	4
Healing Place	5
Fraternal Calendar	6

"LOUISVILLE'S NATIVE SON – BRO. CHARLES HARRIS WESLEY" (CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

We should all be familiar with our esteemed brother, Dr. Charles H. Wesley and be proud of his connection to our beloved city. However, for those brothers who may not know a lot about this brother here is a small

biography followed by some words of wisdom that, although may be several years old, are still applicable today.

Bro. Wesley was born in Louisville on December 2, 1891 to Matilda and Charles

Snowden Wesley. He was educated in the Louisville school system, but there is not a lot of information about where and when. When he was only 15 he enrolled at Fisk University where he earned a Bachelor of Arts

WELCOME THE NEW INITIATES!

Greetings Brothers, I would like to take a moment to introduce the Fall 2011 initiates of the Alpha Lambda Chapter, 4 P.H.R.O.Z.E.N. S.O.U.L.S (Pharaohs of Honor, Righteousness, Originality, Zeal, and Excellence Now Solemnly Obligated to Uphold the Light).

The initiates include Khotso Libe, Charles Dixon, Jr., Lavon Clark III, and Aaron Snardon. Khotso Libe, age 23, is a graduate from the University of Louisville with a B.A. in Pan African Studies and Psychology. Khotso is currently working on his M.A. in College Student Personnel and serves as a Graduate Assistant for the REACH program at the University of Louisville. Charles Dixon, Jr, age 38, is a graduate

from Jackson State University with a B.A. in Political Science, Charles also received his M.S. in Management from Indiana Wesleyan University and his M.A. in Theology from Campbellsville University.



New Brothers at their welcome reception.

Charles currently works at Humana as a Communication Consultant. Lavon Clark III, age 24, is a

graduate from the University of Louisville with a B.S. in Marketing and currently works at PNC Bank as a Branch Manager. Aaron Snardon, age 26, is a graduate from the University of Louisville with a B.S. in Finance and currently works at UPS as a financial analyst.

These men have made sacrifices and worked diligently to be where they are today, and I am confident that they will not only live up to the standards of an Alpha Man but contribute much to the Alpha Lambda Chapter. To the four gentlemen, congratulations on making full development in becoming Alpha Men and continue to move Onward and Upward as you uphold the light of Alpha.

-Bro. Dejuan Brown

PRESIDENTS WELCOME (CONT.)

said that to be a man, you must see a man. I challenge and give the charge to each of you to be a Brother worthy of the ideals of our Jewels. To be a good brother, we must see a good brother. Let us be brothers beloved within the ties that bind, in the compassion that we display, in the respect that we give...not just for service to the community, but to service amongst ourselves. A central ingredient that keeps our organization from growing stale is our

Brotherhood. We are all equal in Alpha. Titles mean nothing without relevant action that brings along every Brother and elevates us collectively. Every member who has met the obligation of Espirit de Fraternite wears the same 2 A's and a Phi on his chest, keeps its secrets, upholds its mandates and encourages others about the good that is Alpha Phi Alpha.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Alpha Lambda Chapter for opportu-

nities at meaningful partnerships. Thank you for your continued support and please visit our website at www.alphalambda1906.org for updated information on chapter programming and activities.

Kind Regards,

Charles V. Piphus, Jr.
Chapter President
Alpha Lambda Chapter

FOUNDERS DAY 2012; HERE'S TO ANOTHER YEAR

The weekend of Dec 2 - 4 saw Brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha in Louisville join together to celebrate 100 years of promoting scholarship, developing leadership and uplifting the downtrodden of mankind through service. On Saturday, December 3, Brothers gathered for a wonderful meal at Queenie's Soul Cuisine. On Founder's Day, December 4,

another gathering took place at the home of Brother Eric Jackson. Great stories, NFL football and games of pool were the highlight of the day. Indeed, as we sat and pondered Alpha Phi Alpha at 105 and our collective vision for

future success, we paused to remember the core ingredient of what makes it all possible: Brotherhood.

-Bro. Charles Piphus



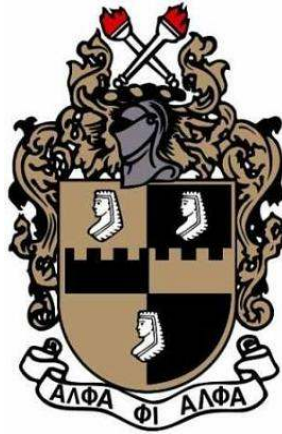
Our 7 Jewels

CHAPTER RETREAT; WINTER 2011

The Alpha Lambda chapter held their annual chapter retreat on December 10-11, 2011. Under the leadership of Bro. President Charles Piphus, the chapter has annually held a retreat in December in lieu of a business meeting. The aim of the retreat is to provide fellowship, education and recreation for all brothers who choose to attend. The retreat occurred over Friday evening and Saturday morning. There were approximately 30 brothers in attendance for the retreat on Friday evening.

There were a number of topics covered in brief including the fraternity's newest national program, the A. Charles Has-ton **My Brother's Keeper** National Program. The My Brother's Keeper program is designed to direct chapters in assisting our elderly brothers. For more information, please visit the National

Website at www.alpha-phi-alpha.com.



The majority of Friday evening's time was dedicated to open forum, an opportunity for brothers to discuss what's on their mind. Topics included but not limited

and national body(s).

On Saturday morning, the brothers returned for Neophyte training. Alpha Lambda recently welcomed four new members to the fraternity, and conducted their Neophyte training as a part of the retreat activities. Also, participating in Saturday's training were the newest initiates of the Beta Mu chapter from Kentucky State University. A couple of the Beta Mu brothers were in attendance on Friday evening as well. Overall the retreat was a success that presented us with opportunities for improvement as we go forward. Onward and Upward!

-Bro. Harold Allen

to, were effectiveness of chapter activities, direction, leadership, membership intake, issues pertaining to the regional

PHITNESS FIRST

Goal Setting for the New Year

On January 1st of each year there is a phenomenon at gyms across America. For 3-6 weeks there is a surge in activity as New Years resolutions include getting in

"Tell everyone about your goals."

the gym, staying active and healthy, and eating less take-out. Unfortunately for the gyms, as well as for the goal setters themselves, this phenomenon is short lived. In a matter of weeks people let their health resolutions slide and McDonalds once again becomes the meal of choice for those to "busy" to attend to their health needs.

Do yourself a favor this year and take a few simple steps to make sure those resolutions aren't your first failures for the New Year.

1) Write them down. Writing down your resolutions really forces you to think about exactly what it is you want to do, and seeing them in paper gives you a better since of

how realistic they are in the scheme of things. Once they are written down place them somewhere where you have to look at them often. For example, a bathroom mirror or by your nightstand.

2) Make them specific. "Lose weight" isn't a good goal, it's too broad. "Lose 40lbs" is a very specific goal that is measurable; you can tell whether you succeeded or failed by the end of the year. By breaking broad goals down into specific pieces it better enables you to make strides towards your goals and turns the daunting large goals into manageable pieces.

3) Tell everyone about your goals. This is one of the most important parts of goal setting. If no one knows about your goals they can't help you reach them, and may actually hinder your pro-

gress. If your old smoking buddy knows you're trying to quite he may be less apt to ask you to go outside with him for a smoke break. Further, letting others know your goals makes you accountable to others. It's easy to forget about your goals when the only person who knows about them is you. But if you've told others about your efforts then you're more likely to try and reach them.

4) Don't get down on yourself for missteps. If you fall off the wagon don't throw up your hands and say I quite. One bad decision doesn't have to lead to another. If you picked up a doughnut for breakfast it's ok, make sure you opt for the salad at lunch. Nobody's perfect.



Write down your goals.

These simple steps will help make your goals achievable. I'll ask you how they went come next year!

-Bro. Michael Branch

THINK TANK: FOOD FOR THOUGHT

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

Fraternities and sororities provide an aspect of brotherhood/sisterhood. This system of bonding is unlike any other and fosters a sense of belonging and acceptance among members. It's an opportunity to form a potential lifelong bond with others and provide you with a second family with whom you can share your dreams, fears, accomplishments, and failures. At any given time there are thousands of other people in the world with whom you have an instant connection with because of this organization/system of values/history/rituals you have in common. This is just as alive today as it was years ago during the formative years of the organizations. Potentially even more so, thanks to the advent of the internet and social networking technologies you can keep in touch and share information easier than ever before.

Greek organizations also provide opportunities for leadership and other important life skills like communication, public speaking, and problem solving. Members have the opportunity to serve in leadership capacities within their respective organizations and through varying initiatives and experiences they also have the chance to interact with others to develop skills pertinent to their education and careers. Chapter meetings teach parliamentary procedure and efficient communication, committee meet-

"We are as relevant as ever."

ings develop creativity and problem solving skills, community service events provide a chance for members to learn how to give back to their communities, etc.

Fraternities and sororities are also inherently social organizations. Even outside of the realm of parties, social get-togethers, and step shows members have the opportunity to interact with like minded individuals. All work and no play leaves a person set for burn out and not well rounded. We all need social outlets to get away from our busy school/work lives and enjoy the chance to interact with our brothers and sisters. One need only look at a college campus in order to ascertain that this piece of the Greek system is very much still alive and serving its purpose.

A very important purpose of Greek organizations is to give back to the community. Fraternities and sororities provide the chance to uplift those around you through community service and philanthropic efforts such as fundraising and promoting awareness for numerous programs. It is

important that as we climb the ladder we extend our hand backwards to pull others up. Organizations often focus on initiatives are specific to them and their values but sometimes they team up to provide help for a common cause (Big Brothers Big Sisters and the American Cancer Society are examples). Each year black Greek organizations provide hundreds of thousands of dollars to great causes around the globe.

We are as relevant as ever. Greek life is still a vital force of the college campus and outer community. It is up to those who are members to continue to push forward in advancing the causes of our organizations and providing a valuable service to our communities.



Alpha Brothers at Wayside Christian.

-Brother Michael Branch

BROTHERHOOD BOWLING

Alpha Lambda hosted a Brotherhood Bowling event on Sunday, December 11, 2011 at Executive Strike and Spare and Strike Zone. There were approximately fifty (50) people who came out to fellowship with Alpha Lambda brothers. The event was a great night of food, fellowship and fun in a family friendly atmosphere. There was plenty of bowling, pool sharking, air hockey and NFL game watching for all. In true Alpha

PHashion, the Brotherhood Bowling event was a party with a purpose. The event helped raise awareness and



Bro. Rivon smiling for the camera at Brotherhood Bowling.

funds for the West Louisville Scholarship (WLS). The total WLS donation for the night was \$125. Thanks to everyone who came out and made the night PHun and successPHul.

-Bro. Charles Dixon

HEALING PLACE VOLUNTEERISM

Providing service for others with the Alpha Lambda chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., has given great fulfillment to the brothers of our chapter. One of our regular service opportunities includes the men's facility of the Healing Place. The Healing Place is a center that offers a detox program for drug and alcohol addicted men and women. Upon entering the program the men and women complete various phases of the program that eventually leads them to a successful completion of detox. This detox is a twelve step program.

The men of Alpha play a part by helping serve lunch to the program members on various Saturdays during the year. While there we assist with kitchen duty, dining hall duty,

attendance, clean-up, and general conversation with the men. During many Saturdays I've heard various stories from men who started on a good path, but fail to tragedy and circumstance. These same tragedies and circumstance are what lead to the addictions they are now facing. Through the Healing Place these men and women are hoping to get back on a positive track and turn their life around.

The helpful service that the Healing Place provides can never be replaced.

Through the servitude of the men of Alpha Lambda we are reminded that we are all very much similar in life. Though our lives often look the same we have all taken many dif-

ferent paths to get to where we are today. Through our service to mankind we are forever reminded why we exist and how important it is to look back and lend a helping hand. Our service to all mankind must continue as it impacts our lives as well as those we serve.

-Bro. Jason Finley

"LOUISVILLE'S NATIVE SON – BRO. CHARLES HARRIS WESLEY"

In 1913 he earned his Masters of Arts in Economics from Yale University. (He was initiated into Alpha Phi Alpha in March, 1913 while at Yale). Soon after, he began teaching at Howard University in the field of History and Language. He rose quickly to the position of Professor and Head of the Department of History. He also served as the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and the Dean of the Graduate School. In 1925 he received his Ph.D. in History from Harvard University, only the 4th African-American to do so.

He was an ordained minister in the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) church and pastored Ebenezer and Campbell AME churches in Washington, D.C. He rose to the position of Presiding Elder where he oversaw 25 churches in the Washington area. In 1928 he was awarded a Doctor of

Divinity degree by Wilberforce University.

He was the 14th General President of Alpha Phi Alpha from 1931 to 1940 and still holds the distinction as the longest serving General President in our history. He wrote our history book, "Alpha Phi Alpha – A Development in Negro College Life" in 1929 and revised it many times during his

"...longest serving general president in our history."

tenure as National Historian from 1940 until his death in 1987.

He also wrote the history books of Sigma Pi Phi (1954), the History of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Ohio (1961, 1972), the History of the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks of the

World (1955), and the History of the National Association of Colored Women's Club (1984).

In 1942 he was asked to become the President of Wilberforce University due to its affiliation with the Methodist Church. He accepted this role and served in this position until 1947 when he led the effort to found Central State University near the campus of Wilberforce. He served as President of Central State until 1965.

Bro. Wesley passed away on August 16, 1987. His ashes were interred in Lincoln Memorial Cemetery in the Wesley family plot near Washington D.C.

-Bro. Edgar Goins

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

Check out our Website for more information:

WWW.ALPHALABMDA1906.ORG

**2011-2012
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Parliamentarian:

Gerald Joiner

2012 WINTER QUARTER FRATERNAL CALENDAR

January

- (9) Winter 2012 Sphinx Release
- (10) GTHS-GTC, 6PM
- (13) Chapter Meeting, 6:30PM
- (14) Lords Kitchen Volunteerism, 11AM
- (15) MLK Jr. Memorial Program, 3PM
- (21) Miss Black & Gold, 7PM

February

- (5) Super Bowl Sunday Brotherhood Social
- (7) GTHS-GTC, 6PM
- (10) Chapter Meeting, 6:30PM
- (8) Kentucky Alpha Day at the Capitol
- (17-19) Kentucky District Conference

March

- (3) Greek Bowl for Kids Sake, 3PM
- (6) GTHS-GTC, 6PM
- (9) Chapter Meeting, 6:30PM
- (10) Voter Registration Drive, 10AM
- (17) Scholarship Stomp Off
- (24) Habitat for Humanity