

FALL 2021

# Pearl News

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Raleigh Alumnae Chapter of  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

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## Chapter Meetings

Meetings for the Raleigh Alumnae Chapter are only open to the duly initiated members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

For details and to receive a virtual meeting registration link, please contact:  
[membership@raleighdst.org](mailto:membership@raleighdst.org)

## PEARLS OF WISDOM

*By: President Lillian M. Davis*

Congratulations Raleigh Alumnae for starting this sorority year with vigor and the enthusiasm to serve. Our theme "One Sisterhood: Continuing the Legacy...Striving for Excellence" has created the foundation for our chapter to truly ignite change in the Wake Co./Raleigh community.



Members of Raleigh Alumnae have been busy making connections and making a difference. We started the year supporting Southeast High School with provision of water bottles. It's a staunch reminder of how fleeting time is and the preciousness of life. Every day is a gift. I've had the honor of working alongside some of the most dynamic women in Delta Sigma Theta. We've collected bookbags; encouraged families when their loved ones have passed from labor to reward; marched to protest against the unfair policies of government; forged relationships and partnered with local chapters to strengthen bonds and encourage cooperation. The seeds of Raleigh Alumnae are being planted constantly and the fruits of our labor our heard in the testimonies of others. We do make a difference!



# BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE



Raleigh Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated partnered with the Iota Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. to host a Back-to-School Drive.



Over 300 backpacks with supplies were donated to Walnut Creek, Rand Road, Fox Road, and Barwell Road Elementary Schools. It was a huge success!



## FOCUSING ON COMMUNITY UPLIFT AND SERVICE

The F.O.C.U.S. Taskforce purchased and coordinated delivery of 250 cases of water to Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School. Wake County Public School System suspended water access of public drinking fountains within the school facility due to the high documented rates of COVID-19 in that jurisdiction. A second delivery of 250 cases has been coordinated by the taskforce.



Thank you to the SRMHS Principal, Eddie Harden (a member of Iota Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.), and Data Information Specialist, Shelia Nobel for coordinating efforts for the successful delivery of the project.



## Raleigh Alumnae Chapter Supports ST. JUDE GIVE THANKS. WALK.™

September 25th Virtually

GIVETHANKSWALK.ORG

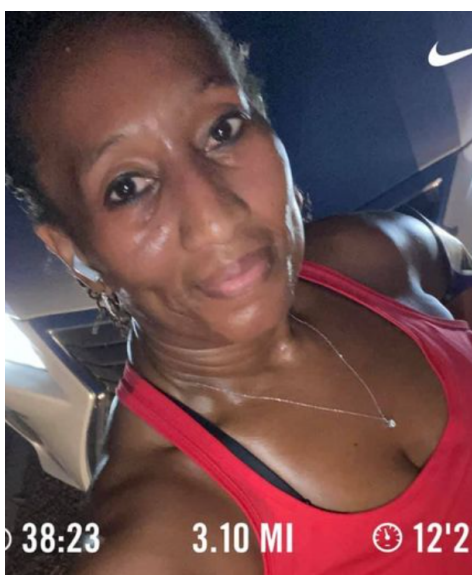
**WALK**  
To help us live.



*St. Jude patients  
David, age 6,  
Samantha, age 13,  
and Angélica, age 6*

## RALEIGH ALUMNAE RAISED OVER \$9K!

The Raleigh Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated participated in the 2021 St. Jude Walk/Run event. Forty-four sorors raised **\$9,055.38** and the team won **2nd place** in the Triangle NC area & **4th place** of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. teams. Thank you to all who supported our efforts to End Childhood Cancer!





## SMALL BUSINESS GROWTH SUMMIT

*Written by N'Kengie Best and Rhonda McCluney-Smith*



The Economic Development Committee in collaboration with Wake Technical Community College Small Business Center and StartUp Wake Tech hosted Your Business Plan, Funding your Business, and the Website Do's & Don'ts session.

Keynote speaker was Raleigh Alumnae Member, **Bridgette Wilson**, CEO & Founder of Urban Verbiage. Other show-stopping speakers included:

- C. Renae Simon, Founder of Step-by-Step Business Solutions & C.R. Symone Inc.
- Chisa Pennix-Brown, Founder & CEO Lady Bizness

The Raleigh Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. and the Economic Development Committee would like to thank all of the fabulous Summit speakers and all participants who took time out of their busy weekend schedule to join us for such a phenomenal event!

A special thanks to Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.'s very own, Bridgette Wilson for her willingness to serve and represent our Sorority like a BOSS!



**THERE WERE 88 ATTENDEES. OF THOSE WERE 72 MINORITIES, 76 WOMEN AND 31 WERE BUSINESS OWNERS.**



## FOR THE PEOPLE ACT: WHAT'S IN THE BILL?

# SOCIAL JUSTICE FORUM

Monday, September 20, 2021 • 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM



Sponsored by the Raleigh Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Social Action Committee and in partnership with Transformative Justice, NAACP, Repairers of the Breach, and Black Voters Matter



REPAIRERS  
OF THE BREACH

BLACK  
VOTERS  
MATTER

## "The For the People Act: *What's in the Bill?*"

JOIN US FOR A ROBUST PANEL DISCUSSION



Dr. Barbara Arrwine, Esq.  
President & CEO  
Transformation Justice Coalition



Dr. T. Anthony Spearman  
President  
North Carolina NAACP



Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II  
President/Senior Lecturer  
Repairers of the Breach



Mr. Dean C. Anthony II  
National Field Director  
Black Voters Matter

Over 200 attendees joined virtually during Raleigh Alumnae's first Social Justice Forum Livestream!

## BREAST CANCER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN



During the month of October, Raleigh Alumnae's F.O.C.U.S. Taskforce partnered with Poplar Springs Church and Studio 113 to launch a campaign to increase awareness of the #1 killer among African American women.

Owner of Studio 113 and a proud member of Raleigh Alumnae, **Michelle Merritt-Tucker**, hosted a display at her salon highlighting literature on Black women getting breast cancer at a slightly lower incidence rate (3%) than white women, but are 42% more likely not to survive. More advanced stages at diagnosis among black women have been largely attributed to issues related to lack of awareness access to high-quality health care - including fewer screening mammograms, lack of timely follow-up of abnormal results, and receipt of health care at lower resourced or non-accredited facilities. Even one preventable death is too many!





**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS**  
RECOGNIZE. REPORT. PREVENT.

Raleigh Alumnae participated in #PurpleThursday on October 21st.





## MARVELOUS MEMBERS



The Membership Services committee would like to recognize the September 2021 Marvelous Member: **Bria Wright!!** Bria is a 2020-2021 Wake County Public Schools Teacher of the Year Finalist, AIG/Literacy Teacher, Equity Team Leader, and author of the Teaching Tolerance Article, "I Teach For Black Girls Like Me." Bria plans to attend graduate school to obtain her Masters Degree in School Administration. Congratulations Bria!

#RACMarvelousMember

### October 2021 Marvelous Members:

On September 25, 2021, **Cheri Fleming & Jewel Hayes** participated in the MS Ride Tanglewood in Winston-Salem, NC in support of Cheri's sister-in-law who has MS. The Fleming family team, Reny's Riders, raised **\$11,911.86** and was awarded the Rookie Team of the Year!



**Tanya Simmons** recently earned a Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter (CPCU) designation; the most prestigious in the insurance industry. The designation is the equivalent of a Master's Degree in Insurance/Risk Management and Claims rolled into one. Only 4% of 1.4 million insurance professionals have this designation. Tanya holds a Bachelor's Degree from Howard University and an MBA from Augusta University.

**Kimberly "EXTRA! EXTRA!" Pettaway Willis** has demonstrated remarkable dedication to our Sorority while balancing so many other roles including wife to a retired NFL professional athlete, mother of twin teenagers, and co-author of a cancer devotional with her aunt. She's a graduate of UNC and earned her doctorate from FSU. She currently serves as an international sports marketing and sports media professor at NCSU while pursuing her Executive MBA from Kenan-Flagler. She is also the proud founder of Cor'Rae Cosmetics, a beneficiary of The Pettaway & Willis Foundation, Inc.



**Petal Munroe Reddick** recently joined PNC Bank as a legal consultant for the 2nd installment of its secondment initiative, the Leg Up Program. She is honored and humbled to be the 1st associate in her law firm selected to participate in this secondment program with PNC Bank.

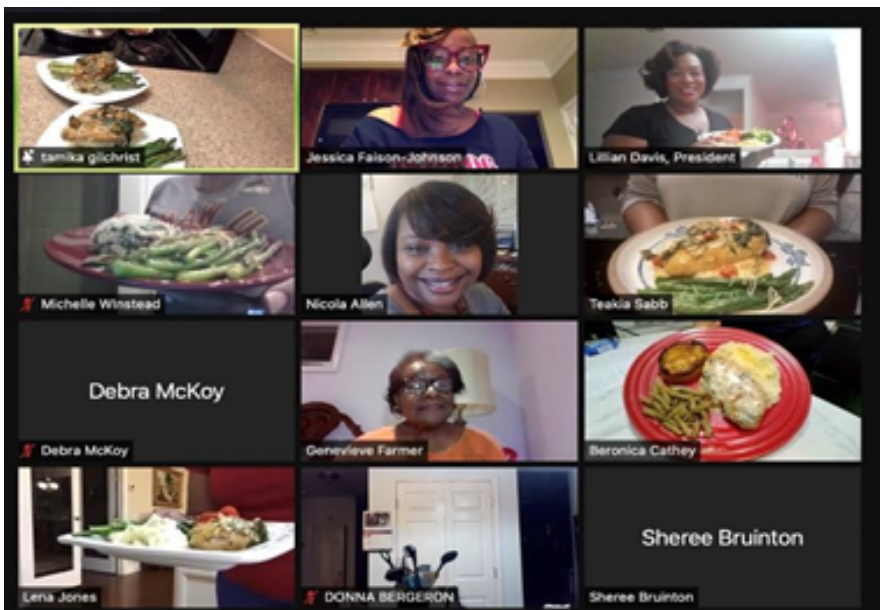




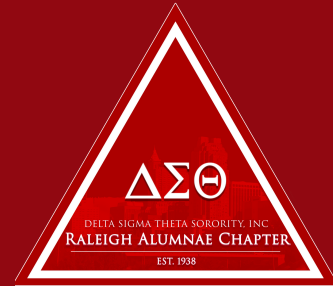


## VIRTUAL COOKING CLASS

On Saturday, October 9, 2021, The Membership Services Committee held a Virtual Cooking Event! The cooking instructor was #RaleighDST's very own **Tamika Gilchrist** owner of "Eats with Mik". The fun-filled event had all the virtual kitchens smelling amazing with Creamy Tuscan Chicken, homemade mashed potatoes, and asparagus! Ms. Gilchrist did a phenomenal job guiding sorors through each cooking step while also providing some healthier alternatives to the meal ingredients. Membership Services, **Nicola Allen**, engaged attendees in a brief yet insightful history lesson on Tuscany and Tuscan Cream Sauce! The sorors that attended the event truly had a delicious time!



## Raleigh Alumnae Chapter



### 2021 - 2023 EXECUTIVE BOARD

President .....	Lillian M. Davis
1st Vice President .....	Birhanie Robinson
2nd Vice President .....	Jessica Faison-Johnson
Recording Secretary.....	Teakia Sabb
Assisting Recording Secretary.....	Marsha Bailey
Corresponding Secretary.....	Michelle Rouse
Treasurer.....	Paulette J. Evans
Assistant Treasurer.....	Angela Smith
Financial Secretary.....	Tierra Hobley
Assistant Financial Secretary.....	Priscilla Awkard
Assistant Financial Secretary for Scholarship Gala.....	Jewel Hayes
Chaplain.....	Debra C. McKoy
Internal Auditor.....	Terri Porter Holmes
Parliamentarian.....	Charlotte Williams
Sergeant-At-Arms.....	Daphne Carter Wright
Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms.....	Michelle Bruinton
Historian.....	Beronica Cathey
Custodian.....	Cynthia Whitney
Journalist.....	Kamira T. Jones
Immediate Past President.....	Angela C. Hatton



#### FACEBOOK

[www.facebook.com/RaleighDST](http://www.facebook.com/RaleighDST)



#### INSTAGRAM

[www.instagram.com/RaleighDST](http://www.instagram.com/RaleighDST)



#### TWITTER

[www.twitter.com/RaleighDST](http://www.twitter.com/RaleighDST)



#### WEBSITE

[www.RaleighDST.org](http://www.RaleighDST.org)



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**BE IN** volved  
formed  
cluded  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**VOTE**

**Cast Your Ballot Nov 2nd**



**Raleigh Alumnae Chapter  
of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.**

**Invites You to Our Annual  
Internet Safety Webinar  
January 27th at 6:30pm ET**

**SAVE the DATE**

Raleigh Alumnae Chapter  
**Crimson and Cream  
Scholarship**

*Gala*

**A Legacy of Excellence**

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Saturday, February 19, 2022  
Virtual 7pm – 10pm

# Home for the Holidays

We are excited to host our Annual Christmas Breakfast on Saturday, December 18th at 8:30am. This event will be held virtually and open to ALL duly initiated members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. Proof of membership is required and must be verified BEFORE admittance to this event is granted.