

WINTER 2022

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

PEARLS OF WISDOM

By: President Lillian M. Davis

We're fortunate to see a new year that will be filled with abundance of opportunities. I realize that many of us have dealt with the challenges of life and continuous adjustments to this global pandemic. As you begin to embark upon your resolutions, remember to give yourself grace. Show kindness and love for others as we continue this journey through 2022.



Health is a vital part of our well-being. February is heart health month. We "Go Red for Women" to promote heart awareness. Nearly 50,000 African-American women die annually due to vascular diseases. Heart disease was once considered a "man's disease" but it's become prevalent in women and is a cause of great concern. It is called a "silent killer" because it often has no symptoms or presents pain that is barely noticeable. We are encouraged to guard our hearts and take care of our health.

As we focus on this season of love, let us be intentional on improving our health. Show love to others and encourage them to pay it forward.

COLEMAN LOVE GIFT GIVING PROJECT



The Focusing on Community Uplift and Service (F.O.C.U.S.) Taskforce's Coleman Love Gift Giving project was held in December 2021 as a collaboration initiative with the **Iota Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi**. Walmart in Garner served as the meet location of the collaboration gifting project. In observance of COVID safety protocols, real-time direct shopping with the families was omitted.



The goal of this event was to provide financial support to underserved children in the Southeast Raleigh area to provide a Christmas holiday filled with gifts and love. Each child received a \$50 gift card to purchase what they would like for their families for Christmas.



F.O.C.U.S. Co-chairs, **Sheila Bazemore** and **Patricia Brown**, purchased and delivered 15 gift cards for students at two of our Wake Co. Public Partnership Schools - Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School (10 gift cards) and Walnut Creek Elementary School (5 gift cards).

President **Lillian Davis** and Sorors **Candice Lee**, **Sondra Chavis** and **Kenya Edmondson** were on-site at Walmart to distribute gift cards to 6 individual children and 1 family with 7 children identified through Wake County DHHS Family Support Services.

Through our 2021 efforts, we were able to impact a total of 28 children/families!

HEALTHY SNACK AND BOOK DRIVE

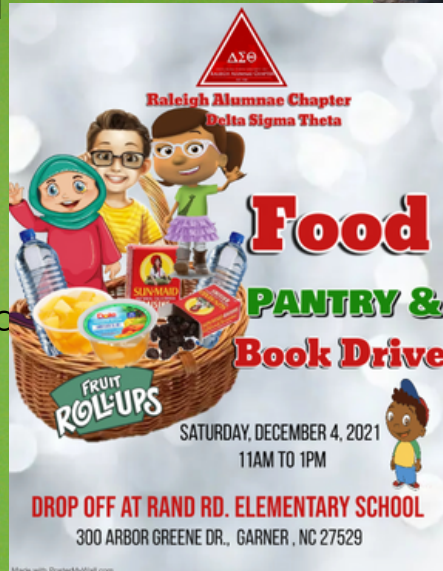
ARTS AND LETTERS COMMITTEE & F.O.C.U.S. TASKFORCE JOINT PARTNERSHIP

The F.O.C.U.S Task Force partnered with the Arts and Letters Committee for a healthy snack and book drive on Saturday, December 4, 2021, from 10am-1pm at Rand Road Elementary School.

The purpose was to address the Title I school, serving many families below the poverty line by replenishing the school's food pantry with healthy snack options and water. Nearly 1,000 individual snack items of 8oz bottles of water, fruit juice boxes, fruit snacks, pretzels, granola/cereal bars and fruit cups within the short 2-hour window were collected. Family sized non-perishables of canned goods, pasta, cereal, and peanut butter were also received.

Additionally, the Arts and Letters Committee sought to address the literacy needs and increase children's desire to read by sharing books that were more representative of the multicultural student body.

A total of 219 culturally inclusive books were contributed from donors! Special thanks to every Raleigh Alumnae Chapter member and supporter for getting the word out and for donating so generously to make this effort a great success.



ARTS AND LETTERS VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB

OCTOBER 2021 EVENING WITH THE AUTHOR



Friday
October 29, 2021
7 pm



Author and Soror, **Veronica G. Henry**, led a great discussion with 19 Raleigh Alumnae Chapter members during a fun filled evening highlighting her debut novel, "Bacchanal".



Join us for an upcoming read via www.RaleighDST.org/Bookclub

JANUARY 2022 AFTERNOON WITH THE AUTHOR



January is
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
Awareness Month

In recognition of this month, Raleigh Alumnae's Arts & Letters and Domestic Violence Awareness Committees presented:
An Afternoon with the Author Virtual Book Discussion on "**ANYBODY'S DAUGHTER**" by Pamela Samuels Young.

On January 9, 2022, 3:30-5:00pm, NAACP award winning author, Pamela Samuels Young discussed her book based on real-life horrors faced by thousands of girls in the sex trafficking world. Ms. Young shared what inspired her to write the book, spoke of personal stories, as well as talked about the physical and psychological impact human trafficking has on young girls, bringing the conversation full circle in that, this type of crime can happen to "Anybody's Daughter". We had 74 virtual participants. Website: www.pamelasamuelsyoung.com

WAKE UP AND READ



THE ARTS AND LETTERS COMMITTEE PARTNERED WITH WAKE UP AND READ ON JANUARY 14, 2022 TO SORT AND ORGANIZE DONATED BOOKS FOR THE WAKE COUNTY COMMUNITY. **WAKE UP AND READ** IS A COMMUNITY COALITION MADE UP OF 30+ ORGANIZATIONS IN WAKE COUNTY COMMITTED TO IMPROVING CHILDHOOD LITERACY. TWELVE (12) BINS OF BOOKS WERE SORTED AND 230 ALPHABET FLASH CARD KITS WERE ASSEMBLED. THANK YOU SORORS FOR YOUR SUPPORT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY.



INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS & INVOLVEMENT

The International Awareness & Involvement (IAI) committee, chaired by Soror **Chimi Boyd-Keyes** and Soror **Keñya Edmondson**, has been very busy actively engaging the community for international efforts.



The Haiti Relief Campaign was introduced via social media campaigns in November 2021 and concluded in January 2022. Funds were raised to provide clean drinking water to children and staff at the Cynthia M.A. Butler McIntyre Campus in Haiti; and to support the initiation of a meal program. The total donations will be remitted in February 2022. To date, approximately \$625 has been received.



Annual World AIDS Day is December 1st. As part of the observances, IAI committee members supported the AIDS Alliance of the Carolinas led by the Executive Director (ED) **Soror Melissa Haithcox-Dennis**. Fifty (50) personal cold weather packages were prepared and delivered to the AIDS Alliance for distribution to their homeless community on 12/1/21 by **Soror Sondra Chavis**. Individual kits included hand sanitizer, lip balm, facial tissues, gloves, hand warmers, hand lotion, Vaseline and mylar blankets. The staff of the AIDS Alliance were sincerely touched and grateful for Raleigh Alumnae Chapter members' efforts! Also, as part of the World AIDS Day observance, the IAI Committee hosted "Let's Talk: A Virtual Panel Discussion on Treating and Living with HIV & AIDS" on December 15th. Panelists included: Shanaa Chapman- Alliance of AIDS Services Carolinas Prevention Specialist; Alicia Diggs- Manager for the Office of Community Engagement at UNC-Chapel Hill Center for AIDS Research; Soror Melissa Haithcox-Dennis – Alliance of AIDS Services Carolinas EDor; and Lorraine Jones – HIV Client. It was a great event and all involved learned valuable information!



BE THE MATCH
Be Involved. Save Lives.

Lauren, donor

SAVE OUR SELVES
Register.Swab.Commit.

18-44 yrs. old Complete Registration Swab Cheeks Confirm Commitment

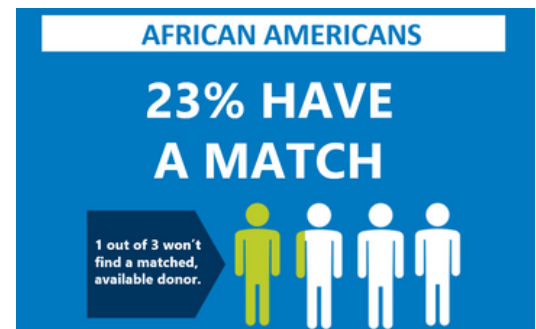
EVERY 3 MINUTES SOMEONE IS DIAGNOSED WITH BLOOD CANCER

YOU COULD BE THE CURE

BE THE MATCH-OPERATION SAVE OUR SELVES (SOS)

If you could save someone's life, would you? It's as easy as a cheek swab!

Every 3 minutes someone is diagnosed with a blood cancer (e.g., leukemia, lymphoma, multiple myeloma). The odds of finding a life-saving donor for Black & African American patients is 29% compared with 79% for Caucasians. We need to increase the odds.



On Sunday, December 12, 2021 Raleigh Alumnae launched it's **Be The Match Initiative – Operation Save Ourselves (SOS)** to the public. Raleigh Alumnae and Be the Match have partnered to confront the challenge of African Americans in need of a blood stem cell transplant. The goal of Raleigh Alumnae is to add 100 new Black members to the national marrow donor registry by August 31, 2022. Spread the word. Ages 18-40 Get Involved!

WHO IS BE THE MATCH?

They are operated by the National Marrow Donor Program. Be The Match saves lives through cellular therapy. 70+ diseases can be treated by blood stem cell transplant, including leukemia and lymphoma, sickle cell disease, severe aplastic anemia, and inherited immune disorders.

WHY YOUNGER DONORS?

The target population are Millennials and Generation Z (ages 18 – 40) because they can provide the best chance for transplant success. They provide higher volume of blood stem cells. Transplant doctors request donors in the 18–32 age group 2/3 of the time. 25% of all donors are current college students.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Register: Text RaleighDST to 61474 or scan QR code

Receive your pre-paid cheek swab kit in mail (follow the directions on the swab kit)

Swab each cheek for 10 seconds, place back in the kit, and then mail it back

Stay committed if you are ever called



The Raleigh Alumnae Chapter was represented by 92 members during the 55th National Convention hosted in Atlanta, Georgia November 19-22, 2021. This was an unprecedented year where we had 74 virtual and 18 in-person attendees to join collectively to complete the work of Delta. Highlights included the induction of six honorary members and the receipt of over \$100,000 in financial gifts during the Public Meeting from various nonprofit and social action organizations.



COLLEGIATE EXAM CARE BOXES

The Membership Services Committee in partnership with the Collegiate Connection Taskforce provided Final Exam Care Boxes to our collegiate chapters during their final exams. The boxes consisted of snacks, drinks, etc. Raleigh Alumnae members wrote Inspirational Notes/Cards that were included in the Final Exam Care Boxes.



Shaw University



North Carolina State University



North Carolina State University



St. Augustine University

The inspirational messages helped to motivate our collegiate Sorors and boost their confidence and provided them with courage and strength needed during a stressful time. We wanted to let our collegiate Sorors know that we were thinking about them during their final exams.

2021 RAC Virtual Christmas Breakfast

The annual Raleigh Alumnae Chapter (RAC) reclamation event under Membership Services 2021 "**Home for the Holidays**" Christmas Breakfast event was held to invite Sorors looking for a "home" chapter to become a member Of RAC. There were 221 attendees with 23 visitors.

We had the opportunity to listen to festive holiday music, fellowship, engage in games and showcase Christmas hats/toppers and completed the event with a holiday stroll! Participating sorors also received a Christmas ornament as a gift.

The Christmas Breakfast Committee partnered with the Membership Services Committee who provided overall support and financial assistance, the IT Committee for their technical support, and the Finance Committee for their assistance.

Accelerating Men, Inc. and **SOAR Outreach** were selected to receive donations as our community service organization winners.

Thank you to: President Davis for her support and allowing Sorors Angela Knox and Sydney Coles to co-chair the event, thank you to 1st VP Birhanie Robinson, 2nd VP Soror Faison-Johnson (Chair of Membership Services), IT Committee under leadership of Soror Jones, Sorors McKoy, Marsha Bailey, Melton, Jazmin Simmons and the Christmas Breakfast Committee members: Sorors Lillar Barnes, Cathy Brown, Sheree Bruinton, Tina Cothran, Shon Burch-Crispin, Madeline Dobbins, Wanda Gilmore, LaVerne Harrison, Tierra Holey, Joyce Johnson, Petel Reddick, Gwen Sanders, Vanessa Saulter, Belindia Scott, Tanisha Stevens and Barbara Wilson.

The Christmas Breakfast Committee is looking forward to our 2022 event and prayerfully we will be able to fellowship in person!

MARVELOUS MEMBERS



November Marvelous Member: Krystal Meares recently opened up her own practice, Pragmatic Psychological Solutions, PLLC. A licensed Psychologist and Certified Health Services Provider in North Carolina and Georgia. Krystal opened her practice to continue to close the mental health gaps within the community.



November Marvelous Member: Priscilla Awkard is among Elon University's 2020 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients. Priscilla was recognized for her "Distinguished Service to Elon University." She was named one of four Alumni to co-chair the Elon LEADS Campaign. The LEADS Campaign is the largest funding Campaign at Elon that support scholarships, access to engage learning opportunities, research and internships, and supporting faculty and staff mentors.



December Marvelous Member: Belindia Taylor recently received her ITILv4 (Information Technology Infrastructure Library). This is one of Belindia's many industry certifications. ITILv4 promotes greater alignment with new ways of working, such as Lean, Agile, and DevOps, to co-create effective business value from IT-supported products and services. This certification confirms that she knows the key concepts of IT and digital service delivery, and that she can help her organization embrace the new service management culture.

MARVELOUS MEMBERS

November Marvelous Member: Jelyse Dawson has a heart for closing disparities in youth education and wellness/fitness. While in college, she taught YOGA to faculty at Grambling State University. During her role in corporate America, she provided fitness to employees to reduce stress. But her biggest sacrifice was to her mother, whom she helped to regain flexibility and mental confidence after a medical ordeal using restorative yoga. Her recent leadership activities includes a Yoga retreat for women in Atlanta, fitness for girls in the Cayman Islands, fitness for 100 Black Women, and serving girls as 2021/2022 co-chair of Delta Gems. Jelyse currently works for First Citizen Bank in marketing, owns Fusion Fitness by Jelyse LLC, and co-owns an entertainment business, JORJEL.com



December Marvelous Member: Sandra Thompson was recently promoted to Chief of staff (to General Manager) at IBM Systems Strategy and Development Department. Sandra is also a realtor with Keller Williams Elite office in Durham, NC and she is licensed across all of NC. Sandra became a realtor after several years of investing in real estate and helping her friends realize their real estate dreams.



January Marvelous Member: Michelle Rouse recently joined Cisco as a contractor. She is currently working as a Program Manager for the Automation Solutions Team. Michelle also serves as the Vice President of Programs For the North Carolina Project Management Institute (NCPMI) and Corresponding Secretary for the Raleigh Alumnae Chapter!



MARVELOUS MEMBERS



Congratulations!

Soror Lucille Webb
January, 1947



Sisterhood, Scholarship, & Service



The Raleigh Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. congratulates **Lucille Webb** on 75 years of sisterhood, scholarship, social action, and service. Lucille Webb was initiated Spring 1947 through the Alpha Mu Chapter on the campus of North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University. Join us in congratulating our SENSATIONAL chapter member on 75 years in DELTA!

#RaleighDST #SensationalSAR #DST1913





CHERYL A. HICKMON



It is with great sorrow that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. shares the passing of our beloved National President and Chair of the National Board of Directors, Cheryl A. Hickmon. President Hickmon transitioned peacefully on January 20, 2022 after a recent illness.

President Hickmon was a devoted member of Delta Sigma Theta since 1982 and served in various capacities at the chapter, region, and national level before being elected National President. She is remembered not only for her role as a leader but for being a colleague, friend, and most of all, sister.

The entire sisterhood of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated mourns the loss of President Hickmon. During this difficult time, we ask that you continue to keep her family and the National Leadership of Delta in your prayers.

Raleigh Alumnae Chapter



2021 - 2023 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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 1st Vice PresidentBirhanie Robinson
 2nd Vice PresidentJessica Faison-Johnson
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 Assistant Financial Secretary.....Priscilla Awkard
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 Scholarship Gala.....Jewel Hayes
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 Internal Auditor.....Terri Porter Holmes
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 Sergeant-At-Arms.....Daphne Carter Wright
 Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms.....Michelle Brinton
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 Custodian.....Cynthia Whitney
 Journalist.....Kamira T. Jones
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www.RaleighDST.org

IN MEMORY OF
— 27th —
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Cheryl A. HICKMON

*"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted
and saves the crushed in spirit."
Psalm 34:18*



Raleigh Alumnae Celebrates

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.

1913 Celebrating 109 Years 2022

LIVING OUR
Legacy

#DST1913 #DST109



SAVE the DATE

Raleigh Alumnae Chapter
Crimson and Cream
Scholarship

Gala

A Legacy of Excellence

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