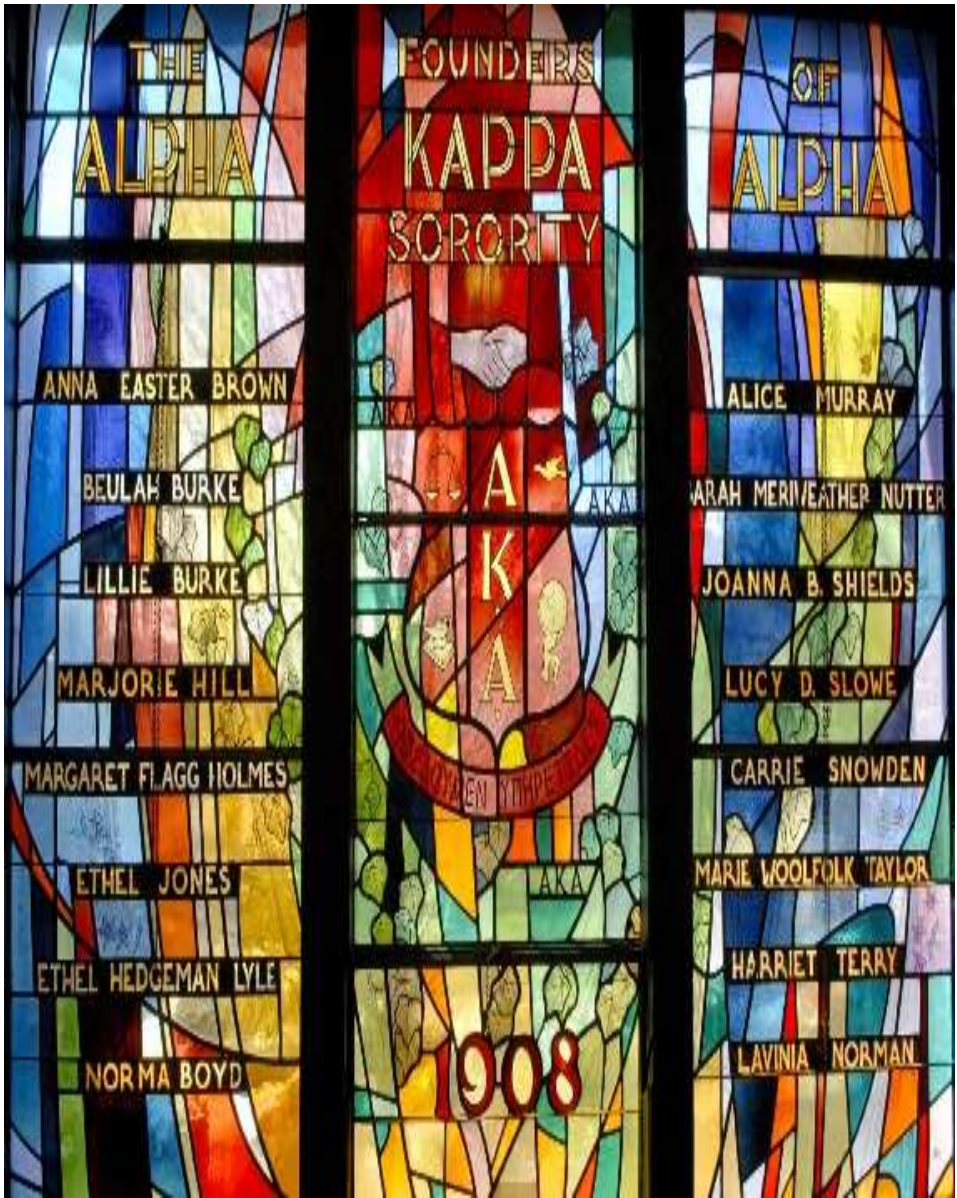


*Timeless Service with an
Unwavering Heart*



The Makings of Lambda Upsilon Omega



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
Founded January 15, 1908

Timeless Service with an Unwavering
Heart:

The Makings of Lambda Upsilon
Omega

First Edition

Compiled and Written by
The History Committee-
Lambda Upsilon Omega Chapter
Concord, NC

T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

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Dedication

In Loving Memory of
Dr. Mable Parker McLean



Seed-Sower, Plant Nurturer & Reclaimer

Thank you for the many hours spent in the Human
Vineyard.

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INCORPORATED

A Legacy of Sisterhood and Timeless Service

Confined to what she called “a small circumscribed life” in the segregated and male-dominated milieu that characterized the early 1900s, Howard University co-ed Ethel Hedgeman dreamed of creating a support network for women with like minds coming together for mutual uplift, and coalescing their talents and strengths for the benefit of others. In 1908, her vision crystallized as Alpha Kappa Alpha, the first Negro Greek-letter sorority. Five years later (1913), lead incorporator Nellie Quander ensured Alpha Kappa Alpha’s perpetuity through incorporation in the District of Columbia.

Together with eight other coeds at the mecca for Negro education, Hedgeman crafted a design that not only fostered interaction, stimulation, and ethical growth among members; but also provided hope for the masses. From the core group of nine at Howard, AKA has grown into a force of more than 265,000 collegiate members and alumnae, constituting 972 chapters in 42 states, the District of Columbia, the US Virgin Islands, the Bahamas, Germany, South Korea, Japan, Liberia, and Canada.

Because they believed that Negro college women represented “the highest—more education, more enlightenment, and more of almost everything that the great mass of Negroes never had—Hedgeman and her cohorts worked to honor what she called “an everlasting debt to raise them (Negroes) up and to make them better.” For more than a century, the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sisterhood has fulfilled that obligation by becoming an indomitable force for good in their communities, state, nation, and the world.

The Alpha Kappa Alpha program today still reflects the communal consciousness steeped in the AKA tradition and embodied in AKA’s credo, “To be supreme in service to all mankind.” Cultural awareness and social advocacy marked

Alpha Kappa Alpha's infancy, but within one year (1914) of acquiring corporate status, AKA had also made its mark on education, establishing a scholarship award. The programming was a prelude to the thousands of pioneering and enduring initiatives that eventually defined the Alpha Kappa Alpha brand.

Through the years, Alpha Kappa Alpha has used the Sisterhood as a grand lever to raise the status of African-Americans, particularly girls and women. AKA has enriched minds and encouraged life-long learning; provided aid for the poor, the sick, and underserved; initiated social action to advance human and civil rights; worked collaboratively with other groups to maximize outreach on progressive endeavors; and continually produced leaders to continue its credo of service.

Guided by twenty-eight international presidents from Nellie M. Quander (1913-1919) to Carolyn House Stewart (2010-2014), with reinforcement from a professional headquarters staff since 1949; AKA's corps of volunteers has instituted groundbreaking social action initiatives and social service programs that have timelessly transformed communities for the better—continually emitting progress in cities, states, the nation, and the world.

Signal Program Initiatives

2000s—Launched Emerging Young Leaders, a bold move to prepare 10,000 girls in grades 6-8 to excel as young leaders equipped to respond to the challenges of the 21st century; initiated homage for civil rights milestones by honoring the Little Rock Nine’s 1957 desegregation of Central High (Little Rock, Ar.) following the Supreme Court’s 1954 decision declaring segregated schools unconstitutional; donated \$1 million to Howard University to fund scholarships and preserve Black culture (2008); strengthened the reading skills of 16,000 children through a \$1.5 million after school demonstration project in low-performing, economically deprived, inner city schools (2002); and improved the quality of life for people of African descent through continuation of aid to African countries.

1990s—Built 10 schools in South Africa (1998); added the largest number of minorities to the National Bone Marrow Registry (1996); Became first civilian organization to create memorial to World War II unsung hero Dorie Miller (1991).

1980s—Adopted more than 27 African villages, earning Africare’s 1986 Distinguished Service Award; encouraged awareness of and participation in the nation’s affairs, registering more than 350, 000 new voters; and established the Alpha Kappa Alpha Educational Advancement Foundation (1981), a multi-million dollar entity that annually awards more than \$100,000 in scholarships, grants, and fellowships.

1970’s— Was only sorority to be named an inaugural member of Operation Big Vote (1979); completed pledge of one-half million to the United Negro College Fund (1976); and purchased Dr. Martin Luther King’s boyhood home for the MLK Center for Social Change (1972).

1960s—Sponsored inaugural Domestic Travel Tour, a one-week cultural excursion for 30 high school students (1969); launched a “Heritage Series” on African-American achievers (1965); and

emerged as the first women's group to win a grant to operate a federal job corps center (1965), preparing youth 16-21 to function in a highly competitive economy.

1950s—Promoted investing in Black businesses by depositing initial \$38,000 for AKA Investment Fund with the first and only Negro firm on Wall Street (1958). Spurred Sickle Cell Disease research and education with grants to Howard Hospital and publication of *The Sickle Cell Story* (1958).

1940s—Invited other Greek-letter organizations to come together to establish the American Council on Human Rights to empower racial uplift and economic development (1948); Acquired observer status from the United Nations (1946); and challenged the absence of people of color from pictorial images used by the government to portray Americans (1944).

1930s—Became first organization to take out NAACP life membership (1939); Created nation's first Congressional lobby that impacted legislation on issues ranging from decent living conditions and jobs to lynching (1938); and established the nation's first mobile health clinic, providing relief to 15,000 Negroes plagued by famine and disease in the Mississippi Delta (1935)

1920s—Worked to dispel notions that Negroes were unfit for certain professions, and guided Negroes in avoiding career mistakes (1923); pushed anti-lynching legislation (1921).

1900s—Promoted Negro culture and encouraged social action through presentation of Negro artists and social justice advocates, including elocutionist Nathaniel Guy, Hull House founder Jane Addams, and U. S. Congressman Martin Madden (1908-1915). Established the first organizational scholarship at Howard University (1914).

—Earnestine Green McNealey, Ph.D., AKA Historian
August 2013

A Historical Perspective of the Mid-Atlantic Region

Presented herewith is a brief perspective of the lives and contributions of seventeen Mid-Atlantic Regional Directors of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. the first Greek-letter organization founded by African American women. Sixty-One years ago there was a special place in the vast new land of North Carolina and Virginia, a sisterhood between two great states which would later be called the Marvelous Mid-Atlantic Region of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. In 1924, the Southern Region of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority included all chapters in the Southeast. Realignment in 1932 split the Region into two: South Eastern Region (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee) and South Atlantic Region (North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia). The new region was established in 1953 at the 33rd Boule in Saint Louis, Missouri with the support of Rose Butler Browne, Zateella H. Turner, Clarissa K. Dillard, Viola F. Chaplin, Edna M. Colson, Edna Over Gray Campbell, Vivian Carter Mason, Zenobia Gilpin Henderson and others who helped pave the way for a new region. Realignment included two states, (North Carolina and Virginia, which became the Mid-Atlantic Region. South Carolina remained in the South Atlantic Region.

Attempts to explain and plan for the sorority from a regional perspective have a long history. The earliest attempts to divide the sorority into administrative "regions" took place in 1932 and 1952. Zateella R. Turner, South Atlantic Regional Director, gave a formal presentation in which statistics were presented for the ninth geographical divisions at the 32nd Boule in Cleveland, Ohio. In 1953, Dr. Rose Butler Browne, one of the preeminent regional planners of the South Atlantic Region, proposed the separation of the two states from South Atlantic Region into a new region for travel and administrative purposes. Dr. Browne argued at the 33rd Boule that the sorority has actually "eight regions", with differing economic, political, and cultural emphases, and that thinking in terms of a ninth region would lead to better economic choices and closeness among the current thirty-eight chapters in North Carolina and Virginia. It is not surprising that the 14th Supreme Basileus, Arnetta Mckamey Wallace, aptly described the area in its realignment as the "Mid-Atlantic Region". Dr. Rose Butler Browne became the first Mid-Atlantic Regional Director. The population of chapters and individual members grew among the HBCU educational institutions

and local communities, providing “Continued Timeless Service” and “Sisterhood” for members in both states. In many ways the lives of these women provide a historical perspective for the development of leadership for African American women in the nation. Yet, they continued the original mission of excellence in scholarship, high moral and ethical standards and service to mankind. With the transformation of our society, the original goals have been expanded to include also international trends.

From the inception of the Mid-Atlantic Region of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the leadership has always stressed the goal of excellence in all its programs. Today, this region is comprised of 125 chapters which consist of forty- eight undergraduate chapters and seventy-seven graduate chapters with over 6,500 members within this Region.

In 1954 Dr. Rose Butler Browne led the Region with determination and commitment to serving all mankind, focusing on the national theme “Our Health, Our Strength.” She, along with several steering committees, planned and executed the first Mid Atlantic Regional Conference on April 9-11 1954, with Lambda Omega Chapter in Newport News, Virginia serving as the host. The conference took place at the Phyllis Wheatley Branch of the YWCA and the Carver Elementary School in Warwick County, Virginia. Dr. Browne went on to charter Delta Theta, Elizabeth City State University, North Carolina on February 20, 1954. The first Graduate Chapter, Zeta Epsilon Omega was chartered in Franklin-Smithfield, Virginia on February 12, 1954. She later held the First Mid Atlantic Basilei Conference in Lynchburg, Virginia with Gamma Iota Omega serving as hostess on October 16, 1954 at Amelia Pride Cottage Dunbar High School.

This region has produced two international leaders of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated – Dr. Barbara K. Phillips, 20th International President from Winston Salem, North Carolina and Janet Jones Ballard, 22nd International President from Richmond, Virginia. In 1998 the *Marvelous* Mid-Atlantic Regions, name was coined by 25th International President, Norma Solomon White. Since the establishment of the region, there have been seventeen Mid-Atlantic Regional Directors with strong leadership guidance, serving mankind in the local communities within the two states, North Carolina and Virginia.

We cannot hope to capture all that makes this region a special place for our graduate and undergraduate chapters. Our riches are in the heritage of a strong sisterhood, love of family, independence of spirit, and an unquenchable thirst for knowledge and preservation. We honor our visionary leaders and the quilted stories on which we continue to build and strengthen local chapters and communities. Even as we claim this rich heritage of our sisterhood in North Carolina and Virginia, we look forward to the 22nd century with anticipation as we celebrate the legacy of Continued Timeless stories of the Marvelous Mid-Atlantic Region.

Linda Simmons Henry, Certified Senior Archivist
International Archives Committee Representative
MAR Historian
2014

Regional Highlights

Other Perspectives of the Mid-Atlantic Region

- **First Undergraduate Chapter**
Alpha Epsilon (Virginia State University) is the Region's oldest undergraduate chapter; chartered May 15, 1926 in the South Atlantic Region
- **First Graduate Chapter** Delta Omega (VA; formerly Nu Graduate) is the Region's oldest graduate chapter; chartered February 6, 1921 in the South Atlantic Region
- Hosted the 18th & 54th Boule 1935 and 1990 in Richmond, Virginia
- Home of two International Presidents: Barbara K. Phillips, 20th Supreme Basileus, Winston Salem North Carolina and Janet Jones Ballard, 22nd Supreme Basileus, Richmond, Virginia
- Home of Barbara K. Phillips - founder of the Educational Advancement Foundation, Heritage Club and Leadership Fellows Program

Mid-Atlantic Regional Directors



**Rose Butler
Browne |
1953-55**
1st M.A.
Regional Director
**Chapter: Alpha
Zeta Omega,
Durham, NC**



**Evelyn Reid
Syphax | 1978-
82**
9th M.A. Regional
Director
**Chapter: Zeta
Chi Omega,
Alexandria, VA**



**Grace
Matthews
Pleasant
| 1955-57**
2nd M.A.
Regional Director
**Chapter:
Upsilon
Omega,
Richmond, VA**



**Barbara W.
Davis | 1982-86**
10th M.A. Regional
Director
**Chapter: Alpha
Lambda Omega,
Charlotte, NC**



**Leah Kay
Frazier | 1957-
60**
3rd M.A.
Regional Director
**Chapter:
Lambda
Omega,
Newport News,
VA**



**Marye J. Jeffries
| 1986-90**
11th M.A. Regional
Director
**Chapter: Zeta Pi
Omega,
Fayetteville, NC**



**Lucille J.
Piggott | 1960-
64**
4th M.A.
Regional Director
**Chapter: Beta
Iota Omega,
Greensboro,
NC**



**Maxine Black |
1990-94**
12th M.A. Regional
Director
**Chapter: Upsilon
Omega,
Richmond, VA**



**Elizabeth
Randolph |
1964-68**
5th M.A.
Regional Director
**Chapter: Alpha
Lambda
Omega,
Charlotte, NC**



**Doris R. Asbury |
1994-98**
13th M.A. Regional
Director
**Chapter: Alpha
Lambda Omega,
Charlotte, NC**



**Pauline C.
Morton | 1968-
70**
6th M.A.
Regional Director
**Chapter:
Lambda Psi
Omega,
Franklin, VA**



**Clara M. Hines |
1998-2002**
14th M.A. Regional
Director
**Chapter: Lambda
Omega, Newport
News, VA**



**Barbara K.
Phillips | 1970-
74**

7th M.A.
Regional Director
20th
International
President |
1978-82

**Chapter: Phi
Omega,
Winston
Salem, NC**



**Caroline L.
Lattimore |
2002-06**

15th M.A. Regional
Director

**Chapter: Mu
Omicron Omega,
Chapel Hill, NC**



**Janet Jones
Ballard | 1974-
78**

8th M.A.
Regional Director
22nd
International
President |
1986-90

**Chapter:
Upsilon
Omega,
Richmond, VA**



**Ruby B. Archie |
2006-10**

16th M.A. Regional
Director

**Chapter: Alpha
Phi Omega,
Danville, VA**



Linda Henry Gilliam | 2010 - present
17th M.A. Regional Director
Chapter: Pi Rho Omega, Richmond, VA

Introduction

With this first edition of the history of the Sorors of Lambda Upsilon Omega and its makings, I am overwhelmed with humility in its tradition of sisterhood and service. The information covered in this book gives you a chronological history since its beginnings from 1978 to 2014 in Concord, North Carolina. We share our history to remember the past and to learn from it in an effort to make the chapter better in the future. Many of the members have continued lifelong membership in our sorority within other areas locally and abroad, but they will forever be a part of the history of this chapter.

Our history is the story of unwavering hearts committed to serving with excellence. Many hours of research was poured into this rendition with nearly 36 years of chapter records. It also includes an oral interview of one of our charter members, pictorials and some written reflections on the best memories of current chapter members in our esteemed sorority.

It is my hope that you will find this book to be useful as a reference for the chapter's history and that it will bring many good memories back to your remembrance. It has been a pleasure to serve in this capacity as the compilation of the history unfolded before my eyes and it truly humbles me to be part of a chapter with an unwavering heart. Continue to serve the Cabarrus County community and all mankind.

Christy Mercer Allsbrooks, President
Lambda Upsilon Omega Chapter
February 24, 2014

The Makings of Lambda Upsilon Omega

Lambda Upsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated grew out of Soror Mable Parker McLean's desire to reclaim sorors in the area of Concord, North Carolina. Also the chapter would serve as a mentor for sorors of Delta Psi on the campus of Barber-Scotia College.

Under the leadership of co-chairmen Mable McLean and Joyce Lyons the group communicated with the Regional Director Janet Ballard to get guidelines on organizing a graduate chapter. After much work which included self-assessment, reviewing the organization's history and by-laws, and recommitting to the vows taken by these sorors, the group planned several community projects which involved the girls from Stonewall Jackson Training School. These activities included charm school, vocational planning, team planning, and decision-making activities.

On Sunday, March 12, 1978, Lambda Upsilon Omega was chartered. The chartering was unique because new members were made through a Charlotte Chapter. Lambda Upsilon Omega is being chartered through Alpha Lambda Omega by initiating five new sorors and then chartering of the chapter. With the five newly initiated sorors and the 20 sorors of the Concord area AKA's Soror Janet Ballard with the powers invested chartered a new chapter in the presence of visiting sorors to be known as Lambda Upsilon Omega.

The Charter members are: Jacquelyn Lyons, Gloria Bost, Carolyn Connor, Elaine King, Vivian Wilson, Carolyn Powell, Martha Lipscomb, Ola Stranger, Dorothy Bost, Patricia Woods, Emma Witherspoon, Johnnie Hunt, Betty Beatty, Ethel Aaron, Teresa Torrence, Terry Stafford, Mable Mc Lean, Elaine Jordan, Johnnie Tillman, Karen Jones, Yvonne Pettis, Harriett Tyler, Bernice Moore, Vivian Shrives, and Priscilla Green.

After a brief celebration, our first chapter meeting was held and our first slate of officers was elected and installed. At that time, Joyce Lyons was elected Basileus and we were on our way.

Profiles of Charter Members

| | |
|---|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Joyce Lyons</p> <p>Primary Vocation: unknown Degrees: unknown Initiated: unknown</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Betty Beatty Evans</p> <p>Primary Vocation: Educator Degrees: BS (1973) Barber-Scotia College Concord, North Carolina Initiated: Delta Psi (1973) Barber-Scotia College</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Gloria Thornton Bost</p> <p>Primary Vocation: Educator/Social Worker Degrees: BS Barber-Scotia College (1971) Concord, North Carolina Initiated: Delta Psi Barber-Scotia College</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Ethel Aaron</p> <p>Primary Vocation: Educator Degrees: BS North Carolina Central University Durham, North Carolina Initiated: Alpha Chi North Carolina Central University</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Carolyn Connor</p> <p>Primary Vocation: Educator Degrees: BS Tennessee State University Nashville, Tennessee MS Tennessee State University Nashville, Tennessee Initiated: Omicron Omega Birmingham, Alabama</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Teresa Torrence</p> <p>Primary Vocation: Educator Degrees: BS Winston-Salem State University Winston-Salem, North Carolina Initiated: Gamma Lambda Winston-Salem State University</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Elaine Bost King</p> <p>Primary Vocation: Educator Degrees: BA (1971) Barber-Scotia College MEd University of North Carolina at Charlotte Initiated: Delta Psi (1969) Barber Scotia Collge</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Terry Stafford Scott</p> <p>Primary Vocation: Educator Degrees: BS Winston-Salem State University(1977) Winston-Salem, North Carolina Initiated: Gamma Lambda (1974) Winston-Salem, North Carolina</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Vivian Wilson</p> <p>Primary Vocation: Educator Degrees: BS Barber-Scotia College MEd North Carolina Central University Durham, North Carolina Initiated: Delta Psi Barber-Scotia College Concord, North Carolina</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Mable Parker McLean</p> <p>Primary Vocation: Retired President of Barber-Scotia College Degrees: BS Johnson C.Smith University Charlotte, North Carolina MA Howard University Initiated: Delta Xi Omega Salisbury, North Carolina</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Carolyn Pryor Powell</p> <p>Primary Vocatio: Educator Degrees: BS Barber-Scotia College (1970) Concord, North Carolina MEd University of North Carolina at Charlotte Initiated: Delta Psi Barber-Scotia College</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Elaine Jordan Funches</p> <p>Primary Vocation: Educator Degrees: BS Barber-Scotia College Concord, North Carolina Initiated: Delta Psi Barber-Scotia College</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Martha Lipscomb</p> <p>Primary Vocation: Educator Degrees: BS Barber-Scotia College Concord, North Carolina Initiated: Delta Psi Barber-Scotia College</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Johnnie Tillman</p> <p>Primary Vocation: Educator Degrees: BS Barber-Scotia College Concord, North Carolina Initiated: Delta Psi Barber-Scotia College</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Priscilla Green</p> <p>Primary Vocation: Educator Degrees: BS (1971) Barber-Scotia College Concord, North Carolina Initiated: Delta Psi Barber-Scotia College</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Karen Jones</p> <p>Primary Vocation: Educator Degrees: BS (Cum Laude) Barber-Scotia College Concord, North Carolina MED University of North Carolina at Charlotte Initiated: Delta Psi (1966) Barber-Scotia College</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Dorothy Bost</p> <p>Primary Vocation: Educator Degrees: unknown</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Yvonne Simmons Pettis</p> <p>Primary Vocation: Business Entrepreneur/Real Estate Agency owner Degrees: BS North Carolina Central University Durham, North Carolina MA University of Tennessee Initiated: Alpha Chi (1959) North Carolina Central University</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Patricia Francine Pearson Woods</p> <p>Primary Vocation: Educator Degrees: BS Business Education; Masters in Human Development & Learning; Educational Specialist Degree-Educational Administration; Educational Doctorate-Educational Leadership Initiated: unknown</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Harriet Tyler</p> <p>Primary Vocation: Educator Degrees: MA Ohio State University Initiated: unknown</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Emma Witherspoon</p> <p>Primary Vocation: Educator Degrees: BS Barber-Scotia College Concord, North Carolina Initiated: Delta Psi Barber-Scotia College</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Bernice Moore</p> <p>Primary Vocation: Educator Degrees: BS Barber-Scotia College Concord, North Carolina Initiated: Delta Psi Barber-Scotia College</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Johnnie Hunt</p> <p>Primary Vocation: Educator Degrees: BS Barber-Scotia College Concord, North Carolina Initiated: Delta Psi Barber-Scotia College</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Vivian Shrives</p> <p>Primary Vocation: Educator Degrees: BS Barber-Scotia College Concord, North Carolina Initiated: Delta Psi Barber-Scotia College</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Ola Stranger</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Primary Vocation: Educator Degrees: unknown</p> | |

The First Initiation Group 1979



Standing From Left to Right:

Iris Misenheimer Polk

Henri Mae Rumph

Barbara Atwater

Evangeline Royall Darity

Ruth Little Lyerly

Luvenia Morton

Fredia Watkins

Janie Jones

The Largest Initiation Group 1980



Standing From Left to Right:

Janie Jones, Laura Potts, Alice Tinsley, Beverly Steadman, Carlenia Ivory,
Carolyn Powell, Vernice Morgan

Sitting From Left to Right:

Mary Thomas, Julia Burris, Artie Phillips, Margaret Willie

Lambda Upsilon Omega



Chapter Presidents



Joyce Lyons



(1978)

Joyce Lyons served as the first Basileus of the Lambda Upsilon Omega Chapter. Joyce was amongst the divine, visionary Sorors who wanted to assure that the perpetuity of the sorority continued within the Concord area. Within her one year term she upheld the values and goals of Alpha Kappa Alpha, and led the newly chartered chapter with an administration grounded in sisterhood and service.

Gloria Bost



(1979)

Gloria Bost was initiated into the Delta Psi Chapter on the campus of Barber Scotia College, of Concord, North Carolina. Gloria obtained a Bachelor of Science in Education, and after graduation worked as a social worker.

In 1979, Bost was installed as the second Basileus of the chapter, during which the chapter conducted its first Membership Intake Process. The chapter extended membership to eight exemplary women.

Following the conclusion of her first year she relocated to Georgia where she continued her service within the sorority.

Dr. Marble Parker McLean



(1980)

Dr. Mable Parker McLean, lecturer, administrator, consultant and distinguished educator from Moore County, North Carolina was inaugurated in 1975 as the first woman president of a co- educational historically black senior accredited college. Her career as a public school teacher, a university professor, and administrator spans more than 60 years.

She was a native of Moore County. Dr. McLean was a graduate of Barber Scotia College and Johnson C Smith University. She earned her master's degree in education at Howard University. She continued her postgraduate education attending many schools throughout the United States.

Dr. Mable McLean was an initiated into Delta Xi Omega Chapter in Salisbury, N. C.

In the fall of 1977, Dr. McLean called together graduate Sorors on the Barber-Scotia College campus and other Sorors in the area that were not active. The purpose was to establish a graduate chapter. The chapter would serve as a mentor for Sorors of Delta Psi on the campus of Barber-Scotia College.

In 1978-1979, Dr. McLean became a charter member of the Lambda Upsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

She was an active participant in the chapter's fundraisers, assisting with yard sales, fish fries, and casino nights. Her recipes using flour and meal along with secret spices to coat the fish before frying were always a topic for discussion.

Dr. McLean was a member of the Mid-Atlantic Regional membership and program Committees. As a member of Lambda Upsilon Omega, she served as Basileus, Anti-Basileus, Pecunious Grammateus, and Graduate Advisor. She was a member of the following Committees: Programs, Finance, Membership and Standards. She also served as the Membership Chairperson of Lambda Upsilon Omega and had a membership intake three consecutive years.

The chapter was honored to have her leadership in Lambda Upsilon Omega. Her resonant voice reverberated in the “halls of ivy” and around the world as she spoke with dignity, power, and honor addressing problems as opportunities to help improve our complex society. She has spoken at several Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference Closing Breakfasts held on the last day of the conference (Sundays).

On Friday, January 27, 2012, Dr. McLean became an Ivy Beyond the Wall.

Karen Marquess Jones



(1981-1982)

Karen Marquess Jones is a native of Miami, Florida and has lived in North Carolina since 1963 when she arrived at Barber-Scotia College. While there, she became a charter member of Delta Psi Chapter and became its first Basileus. Karen graduated from Barber-Scotia with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. She received a double Masters in Education and Human Growth from The University of North Carolina, in 1981.

In 1978-79, Karen became a charter member of Lambda Upsilon Omega and served as its fourth Basileus. She led the chapter through an evaluation audit of chapter books and presided over the chapters meeting for the visiting team. The 9th Regional Director of the Mid-Atlantic Region, the late Evelyn Syphax, said that she had not met anyone like her because Karen definitely defended Lambda Upsilon Omega's practices.

Karen served the chapter as Basileus, Anti-Basileus, Tamiouchos, Epistoleus, Grammateus, and Historian. She has been the chairperson of many committees, especially Finance, Program, Protocol and Standards.

Karen taught in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools for over 30 years. Since retirement, she has given countless hours in volunteerism and was honored with the George Williams Award from the YMCA of Greater Charlotte. She is constantly giving service to all mankind. Karen is a life member and a Silver

Star Member. She enjoys family cruises and traveling- Hawaii, England and Italy. She has one daughter, Dena Nikkol, who is also a member of the sorority, and two grandchildren: Jordan and Mia.

Barbara Atwater



1983-1984

Barbara Atwater is a native of Chapel Hill, North Carolina. She attended North Carolina Central University where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in 1963. She did further her studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

She was initiated into the Lambda Upsilon Omega Chapter in 1979.

While a member of Lambda Upsilon Omega, Barbara was very much involved; she served as Basileus and an Anti-Basileus. She was active with the executive board and helped to make sure that Alpha Kappa Alpha programs were implemented.

She is a member of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church and serves on many church committees. She is also active in several social and civic organizations.

Barbra is married to James Atwater Jr. and they have one son, Byron.

Sadie Nesbitt



(1985-1986)

Sadie Nesbitt is a native of Columbia, S. C. and graduated from Booker Washington High School and Benedict College. She did graduate studies at New Haven University in New Haven, Connecticut.

In 1957, Sadie moved to Charlotte, N.C. and served as librarian at several schools in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System.

Sadie was initiated into Lambda Upsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. in 1982. Sadie led the chapter as Basileus in 1985 and 1986. She was a very active member and typed materials for several souvenir journals. She made herself available for many committees.

Sadie joined Biddleville Presbyterian Church which later became Memorial Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC. She served diligently in the church.

Sadie later transferred to Alpha Lambda Omega Chapter in Charlotte, N. C.

Vernice Dungee



(1987-1988)

Vernice Richardson Dungee, was a resident of Kannapolis, NC. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree with honors from Elizabeth City State University; a Masters of Education degree from Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She continued her pursuit of knowledge by earning a second Master's degree in Library Science from Appalachian State University, Boone, NC. Her professional career as an educator spanned over 37 years. Her academic dreams led her to establish the Vernice Richardson Morgan Scholarship at Livingstone College, Salisbury, NC. She wanted to help young people make their dreams come true through education. Vernice was a committed Christian and pursued her dream of Christian stewardship as a faithful and dedicated member of the AME Zion Church on the local, district, and national level. At the time of her demise, her lovely home was bequeathed to her home church, Bethel AME Zion.

Vernice was a civic minded person who served on many civic and social boards, local, state, and national. She had a deep and abiding love for Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Vernice was initiated into the Lambda Upsilon Omega Chapter in 1980.

She served as Basileus, Tamiochous, and in many other capacities within the chapter. Her favorite testimony: "Trust in God, hold on to faith even in the midst of the battle. Continue to walk by faith and not by sight, knowing God is able to do more abundantly and exceedingly than all you could ask or think."

Henri Rumph



(1989-1990)

(2001-2002)

Henri M. Rumph hails from Fort Valley, Georgia. After matriculating from Fort Valley State University, she taught one year in Georgia and was recruited to teach in Connecticut. While teaching in Hartford, she earned a Masters Degree in Education from the University of Hartford. After moving to Charlotte, she continued teaching and earned a Masters in Library and Information Studies from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She became a member of Lambda Upsilon Omega in 1979 and served as Basileus from 1989-1990 and 2001-2002. She was Basileus in 2001 when the chapter sponsored "A Salute to Outstanding Women" and Miss Fashionetta in 2002.

Her positions served in the chapter include Basileus, Anti-Basileus, Ivy Leaf Reporter, Connections Chair person, Parliamentarian, and Membership Chair. She served as a facilitator for a workshop at the 2003 Leadership Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada and she served as a Protocol escort at the 2011 Regional Conference in Richmond, Virginia. She has attended 14 Boules and many Regional Conferences. She also served as Co-Chair of Operations at the 2004 Regional Conference in Charlotte, NC.

She retired from the Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools System as a Media Specialist in 2003.

Henri loves to travel and has visited Argentina where she lived with an Argentine family for two weeks. She also has visited Alaska, Austria, Australia, Bermuda, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, living with a family for a week, England, France, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Holland, Italy, Jamaica, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Switzerland, The Virgin Islands and 40 states in the United States.

She volunteers at Charlotte Douglas International Airport where she has received the Presidential Service Award twice. She is the president of her

Undergrad Alumni Association. She is a Deacon at Memorial Presbyterian Church and is a Life Member and Silver Star Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Mary Thomas



(1991-1992)

(1995-1996)

Mary Knox Thomas is a native of Greenville, North Carolina. She received her B. S. degree in elementary education from Barber-Scotia College in 1966 and M.Ed. from Springfield College, Springfield, Massachusetts in 1976. Mary was initiated into Lambda Upsilon Omega Chapter of AKA Sorority, Inc. in January, 1980. She served as Basileus in 1991-1992, and a second term as Basileus in 1995-1996. Several fundraisers were completed in this timeframe. There were two Fashionetta's, and the chapter conducted a new fundraiser, Tiny Gems and Pearls in 1996. In 1995, the Chapter sponsored the Rockaway Revue. This senior group from New York City performed musicals and exhibited fashions.

Mary served the chapter as Basileus, Anti-Basileus, Grammateus, Pecunious Grammateus, Ivy Leaf Reporter, Historian, and Parliamentarian. She has served as chairperson of the Connection, Standards, Protocol, and EAF Committees.

Mary taught school in Moore County, Sumter, South Carolina. Springfield, Massachusetts, and retired from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System after over 35 years in education.

Mary continues to serve the greater community through her many volunteer activities in such organizations as the AARP, the Harvey B. Gantt Center (formerly the Afro-American Cultural Center), UNC-Charlotte's University Transition Opportunities Program (UTOP). She also provides tutorial program assistance to churches, colleges, and community organizations.

Mary is a Life Member and a Silver Star Soror. She enjoys reading, walking, and planning activities with family, especially her grandchildren. She is married to Dr. Herman E. Thomas. They have three children

(Terence, Maurice, and Katrina), and four grandchildren (Steven, Marisa, Matthew, and Natalie).

Ruth Curry



(1993-1994)

(2004-2006)

Ruth McSwain Curry was born in Cherryville, North Carolina. She grew up in Kannapolis, North Carolina. She received her High School Diploma from George Washington Carver High School, her Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education from Barber-Scotia College, Concord, NC, and her Masters Degree in Education, Curriculum Planning and Instruction, from the University of North Carolina in Charlotte, NC.

On June 22, 1988, Ruth was initiated into Lambda Upsilon Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She served as Basileus of the chapter in 1994-1996, and again as Basileus in 2004-2006; serving twice as Anti-Basileus, Grammateus, and as associate Graduate Advisor.

Locally she served as chairman of many committees. Regionally she served on Conference committees and nationally on the Centennial Standards Evaluation Committee. "Ensuring our Sisterhoods perpetuity by Enhancing Standards procedure."

Ruth taught in the Kannapolis City School System for 31 years. She was elected to "Who's Who among America's Teachers, and to membership in Delta Kappa Gamma Teachers Society International. Her civic endeavors have earned her many honors and awards. She continues to be of "service to all mankind."

She is the proud mother of three children and two grandchildren.

Barbara Black



1997-1998

Barbara Anderson Black is a native of Kannapolis, North Carolina. She is a graduate of North Carolina Central University, where she received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English. She also received a degree in Elementary Education from Barber-Scotia College.

Barbara labored diligently to instill knowledge and a love of learning in the lives she touched as a teacher and confidant for 32 years. She continued to shed her light into the lives of the undergraduate and graduate chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She served as Graduate Advisor to Delta Psi, undergraduate chapter at Barber-Scotia College, and as Basileus of Lambda Upsilon Omega Chapter from 1997 - 1998. She also kept immaculate records as treasurer of our chapter for many, many years, as well as serving in many other capacities wherever she was needed. Her aim has always been "To be of service to all mankind."

Her service extended from her chapter to her community. She was involved in various community oriented projects. Her service also extended to her beloved family. Her marriage to Mr. Vernon Black Sr. produced four children, Vernon Black Jr., Chris Black, Sonji Black, and Robert Black, as well as many Grandchildren, (Vernon Black III, Thomas Black, Charlene Black, Christopher Edleman, and Brittany Black), Great Grandchildren (Ari Black, Arianna Black, Arion Black, and Nyla Anderson).

Barbara Alexander



1999

Barbara Alexander has resided in Huntersville, NC for the past 60 plus years. She graduated from Torrence Lytle High School in Huntersville in 1966 and continued her education at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, NC graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education. She then taught two years in the Catholic Schools in Charlotte and later gained employment in Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools as a Choral Music Teacher. She retired in July 2000.

She is a Charter member of New Friendship Presbyterian Church, in Huntersville, NC, where she serves as an Elder and on the Worship and Evangelism Committee. She is an ordained Deacon, former Choir Director and Sunday School Teacher. Barbara is also a past Moderator of Women of Color of the Presbytery of Charlotte. Her civic affiliations include the following: Member of the Huntersville Community Bible Club, Order of the Eastern Star, Cyrene Crusaders, and Heroines of Jericho.

Barbara was initiated into Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. in Lambda Upsilon Omega Chapter in 1992 under the auspices of the late Francis Cowan and Maxine Newsome. While a member of Lambda Upsilon Omega, she served in the following positions: Basileus, Anti Basileus and Grammateus. During her tenure as Basileus, she was instrumental in starting the chapter's newsletter, along with the reinforcement of the National Program foci. While serving as Anti Basileus, Barbara introduced the Concord/Kannapolis community to the "Rockaway Revue". This is a group of Senior citizens from age 62 to 90, who traveled the Country singing and dancing. She also assisted with chapter's annual "Fashionetta" program. She attended all Boules, Clusters, and Regional conferences while serving as a member of Lambda Upsilon Omega.

Her "free" time is mostly spent working in her garden and working with flowers. Barbara also enjoys Westerns on television, and going to church.

Her life is centered on excerpts from the poem "Invictus" by William Ernest Healey.

“In the fell clutch of circumstance I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance, My head is bloody but unbowed.”

“It matters not how strait the gate, how charged with punishments the
scroll, I am the master of my fate: I am the captain of my soul.”

Eleanor Stafford



2000

Eleanor Stafford received her Bachelor of Science Degree from North Carolina A. & T. State University, Greensboro, N.C., where she was initiated in Alpha Phi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. in Fall 1979.

She was an active member of Lambda Upsilon Omega Chapter, in Concord, North Carolina for over ten years. During this time period, she served in various leadership positions: Graduate Advisor to Delta Psi, the Undergraduate Chapter of Barber Scotia College, the Western Carolina Cluster chairperson hosted at Barber Scotia College, Basileus and Anti-Basileus. She spearheaded and brought to fruition several souvenir journals for four Miss Fashionetta Programs. In 2000, while Basileus, Eleanor aimed at providing quality service to all mankind as evidenced in her service on various committees. She also attended Boules, Regionals and Clusters.

Eleanor is currently employed as Business Manager in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Convinced that one should not try to achieve success but value, she is a

member of Victory Christian Center, in Charlotte, North Carolina. She serves faithfully at the Courtesy Booth. Eleanor has one son and one granddaughter.

Ruth Davis Berry



2002-2004

Ruth Davis Berry is a native of Kannapolis, North Carolina. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Barber-Scotia College, in Concord, North Carolina in 1961. She received a Reading Certification and a Masters in Early Childhood Education from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, in Charlotte, North Carolina in 1975. She taught elementary students in Cabarrus and Rowan Counties and retired after 43 years of service.

Ruth Berry was initiated into Lambda Upsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., in 1992. She served as Basileus in 2003-2004. Under her watch, the chapter sponsored another successful fundraiser, Miss Cotillion 2003 - "Young Pearls of Distinction."

She has also served as Anti-Basileus, Grammateus, Pecunious Grammateus, Hodegos, Philacter, the Ivy Leaf Reporter Committee, and Standards Chair. Presently, she tutors elementary children during after school hours, volunteers her time at Carolina Medical Center-Northeast Mammogram Center, in Concord, North Carolina.

In addition to striving to "Life the fallen and save the lost," Ruth enjoys tour bus trips, line dancing, crocheting knitting, Italian food and beach vacations. Ruth Davis Berry was married to the late John L. Berry, Jr. She has on dedicated son, Anthony Leon Berry. He resides in Landis, North Carolina.

Terry Stafford Scott*



2007-2008

Terry Stafford Scott is a native of Concord, North Carolina. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from Winston Salem State University. While a student there in 1975, Terry was initiated into Gamma Lambda Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

In 1978-1979, Terry became a charter member of Lambda Upsilon Omega of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Terry was the Membership Chairperson in 1980. Thus, Terry was membership chair of the largest number of intake candidates in the history of Lambda Upsilon Omega: eleven ladies. She has been membership Chairperson several times.

She has served as chapter Basileus and has supervised the past Basilei in preparation for the chapter audit, in which the chapter audit passed as a result of her leadership. She has also served as Hodegos. Terry has rendered service as a member of the following committees: Executive, Archives, Sisterly Relations, and Protocol.

Terry enjoys cooking, especially baking. In her retirement she likes to decorate. In addition, she regularly attends local, regional and national conference.

Terry is married to Robert Scott. They have two daughters: Robin and Kia Scott Andrews and one granddaughter, Aria.

Janice Collymore



2009 – 2010

Soror Janice Collymore originally from Memphis, Tennessee, resided in Harrisburg, North Carolina for over 7 years, and currently lives in Charlotte, NC. Soror Janice received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Tennessee and a Master's degree from Central Michigan University in Human Resources Management. Her career involves an extensive background in sales, customer service and operational management.

She served in several community service organizations in Cabarrus County (CC): including Guardian Ad Litem (2005-2009) for children in the foster care system. She was an active member of the North Carolina Democratic Party representing Cabarrus County on the State Executive Committee, served as Asst. Treasurer of the CC Democratic Party, as 3rd Vice President (2009-2011) and President (2011-2012) for the CC Democrat Women, and Precinct Organizer and Chair (2004-2012) for Harrisburg.

Soror Janice was initiated in the Zeta Lambda Chapter at the University of Tennessee in Martin, TN in 1976. She has also served on various committees in Lambda Upsilon Omega during her tenure in the chapter: Standards, Scholarship, Membership, Nominating, Connections, Hospitality & Sisterly Relations and the Executive Committee. In addition to leading as Basileus, she served as Precunious Grammateus and Philacter. She also served on the Southeastern Regional Planning Committee (2009 & 2010), and the Western Carolina Cluster Planning Committee (2012).

Several events planned and implemented during her tenure include: the Women of Distinction Luncheon, the Belk Stores Charity Event, Celebrating Carolina Women (co-sponsored with CC Democrat Women) and 1st Annual Sisterly Retreat.

She is married to Fitz G. Collymore; they have a blended family of five daughters, four grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Dimples Williamson



2011-2012

Dimples Williamson hails from Danville, Virginia. She graduated from Virginia Tech University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mar Marketing Management. After obtaining an undergraduate degree, she earned a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) degree from Pennsylvania State University. These degrees afforded her the opportunity to work in various Marketing and Sales roles for large corporations like IBM and General Electric.

Since a young age, Dimples has always been active in her community through church, school, and community focused organizations. She had several mentors that were members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and she wanted to emulate those individuals as an adult. Her dream came true in the Spring 1992, where she became a member of the Theta Phi Chapter on the campus of Virginia Tech University. As an undergraduate, she served as Tamiouchos, Grammateus, Membership Chair, Standards Chair, and chair of a host of other committees.

Once she graduated from college, she continued her service to all mankind by joining chapters in Albany, New York, and Bentonville, Arkansas where again she served in various leadership roles such as Parliamentarian and Fundraising Chair. She then became a member of Lambda Upsilon Omega in 2009, where she served in several leadership roles including Basileus, Tamiouchos, Historian, Standards Chair and Technology Chair.

During her tenure as Basileus, the chapter experienced the following accomplishments:

- 1) Increased utilization of technology and established its first website
- 2) Established a Facebook and Twitter presence
- 3) Met all program targets
- 4) Helped a local church serve meals to over 100 people in need in Cabarrus County through flawless execution of our Global Poverty Initiative
- 5) Implemented the Emerging Young Leaders (EYL) program
- 6) Conducted internal leadership workshop to ensure effective operations
- 7) Executed three successful fundraisers that allowed the chapter to distribute over \$3000 in scholarships to deserving high school and college students

8) Executed a successful Cluster where chapter received high satisfaction results and had the highest attendance. The chapter hosted the International President at this event.

Dimples also enjoys traveling, shopping, scrapbooking, knitting, and cultural arts. She serves in leadership roles in other community based organizations like YBM leadership Alliance. She has been married for 15 years to Travis.

Christy Mercer Allsbrooks



2013-2014

Christy Mercer Allsbrooks is a true North Carolinian, where her hometown is Greenville, North Carolina. She experienced Christian love and family unity with a big extended family and learned how to live in harmonious relationships at an early age. Desiring to be a woman of value, and not success, she began her journey when she moved to Charlotte after graduating from high school to attend The University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics and a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance in 2001. Shortly after, she earned FINRA Series 6 & 63 securities licenses and became licensed as a Real Estate Broker in the state of North Carolina.

Her leadership and professional experience were being polished as she participated in numerous leadership positions on the campus of the university, including Student Alumni Ambassador, Student Body Treasurer and helping to charter the 100 Black Women collegiate chapter. She was initiated into the Kappa Kappa Chapter at The University of North Carolina at Charlotte on March 21, 1999, where she served as the Tamiouchos for multiple years, as well as on the fundraising and programs committee.

Her career began with a start-up financial planning firm upon graduation working as a financial planner and officer of the company. She later joined TIAA-CREF, as Advisor Relationship Manager assisting Certified Financial Planners and Registered Investment Advisors with employer sponsoring

retirement accounts, IRA's and other investments. As a member of the River Cathedral of Charlotte Church, she serves on the Music/Choir Ministry. Her time is also spent serving the community as the Chair of the Volunteer Council (2013-2014) at TIAA-CREF in Charlotte, North Carolina, and as a "Be The Match" Ambassador, where she volunteers at bone marrow drives to registering people for the Registry to assist patients with finding a bone marrow donor.

Christy is currently the Basileus of Lambda Upsilon Omega (2013-2014) of her beloved sorority. In 2013, she was instrumental in the chapter's first "Black and White Odyssey: An AKA Experience", which raised monies for scholarships to deserving high school students and the community the chapter serves. She joined the chapter in 2010 and has served as Tamiouchos, Co-Chair of Emerging Young Leaders (EYL) program, and Co-Chair of the Chapter's first Blood/Bone Marrow Drive and on the Economic Empowerment Committee.

Christy truly has a passion for sound financial concepts and enjoys sharing techniques with her family and friends to assist them in financial freedom and in building a financial legacy. She's an educator at heart and enjoys traveling, shopping, and playing volleyball. When Christy is asked what is her greatest desire in life; her response is to always "Stand in My Truth" and to "Leave a Legacy".

Lambda Upsilon Omega



Golden Members
(50 years of membership)

Dr. Mable Parker McLean

Dr. Mable Parker McLean, a charter member of Lambda Upsilon Omega, life member, and Golden Member, blazed new trails as the first-woman President of Barber-Scotia College and also the first female to chair the member institutions of the United Negro College Fund. In an interview with Dr. McLean, Ruth Curry asked Dr. McLean: "What are your hopes for the future of Lambda Upsilon Omega?" She answered:

We have a dynamic group of women in our chapter who must remember to learn and know everything they can about the organization of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc, and all that she stands for; be true to the requirements and demands and respect what we represent. Leave the door of choice open to others who feel they want to belong. Make sure that they understand that their choice is their own because they can't go back. They must be ready to move forward with the rules and regulations of the Sorority.



And moving the chapter forward is what Lambda Upsilon Omega continues to do. As a chapter with a member of our illustrious sorority for more than 50 years, we believed it was important to document her story and life in an oral interview by chapter member, Ruth Curry and transcribed by Mary Thomas, also a chapter member. The interview captures an indescribable legacy left by Dr. McLean to Lambda Upsilon Omega and Alpha Kappa Alpha women.

Condensed Oral Interview
Of
Dr. Mable Parker McLean
By
Ruth Curry, Interviewer
February 11, 2011
Videographer, Paula Robinson
Video Transcript Editor, Mary K. Thomas

Dr. McLean was the first female president of Barber Scotia College, Concord NC, and the first female president of a HBCU

She served as president:

1974-1988

1994-1996

2006-2007

The Interview

Ruth M. Curry (R): Today is Friday, February 11, 2011. My name is Ruth M. Curry, and I am visiting with Dr. Mabel P. McLean who is presently residing at Morningside Assisted Living Facility because she is not able to live alone due to health restraints.

I came to do a biography of this important interesting lady's life.

Mrs. Paula Robinson is a dear friend [will be our videographer]. I will be using the tape recorder so that we will have a living record for now and further generations. So let us begin.

(R): Dr. McLean would you care to tell us when and where you were born?

Dr. Mable McLean (M): Well, I was born in a little town called Cameron, N.C. which is near Carthage, NC. I was born in Moore County but the little town that they call the Center was Carthage. I was the older of two children eventually for most of my life.

R: Could you tell us a little something about your parents?

M: That is not easy to do because I really remember more about mother and grandmother than I do of anyone else primarily from the standpoint of what has lasted in my life, in my thoughts, that those things that have influence in my life today. My mother was not a college graduate in terms of formal training but a university graduate in terms of her direction of my life.

R: What about siblings?

M: I have had some step-sisters and brothers and I had one younger sister named Delores who preceded me. She died early.

R: You remember her best

M: That's the one I remember best.

R: What chores did you do as a child growing up?

M: I did some babysitting for that younger sister. My grandmother was the custodian of her life. She could not read nor write formal language but she could read and write any language for my development and she did.

R: Both your mother and grandmother were filled with wisdom.

M: That's true. My mother, I knew for a very short time. She died when I was 9 years old. My life really was under the umbrella of my grandmother who was, in formal language, illiterate, but in the language of living, she was an expert. In a gentle way, I don't ever remember her raising her voice or administering a paddling. I'm sure I must have needed a few, but that was not a pattern.

R: Did you have to share a room with anybody growing up?

M: Perhaps I had very little memory of that, but I'm sure I probably did.

What was your proudest moment as a child growing up?

M: When my mother died, I came from Virginia to North Carolina to live with my grandmother. My proudest moment too which means I came in the middle of the school year of at least before the school year was over when at the end of the school year I was promoted to the next grade but my mother had died in November. I came to Wilson, North Carolina from Norfolk to live with a grandmother I never lived with so when I made the grade, I was very proud.

One day after Christmas they had the habit in Wilson of children bringing money for presents for the teacher, or a present for the party. You could have a part at holiday time, and somebody said I had missed some time because my mother died in November.

My younger sister developed pneumonia too, and my mother had just passed from pneumonia. She cried so and the doctor recommended that she should be around someone, someone with whom she was familiar. Otherwise, the crying aggravated the condition so I was the one person because my father went back to Norfolk.

One day on the street I was waiting for my grandmother to come from work and the lady saw me and it was the teacher that I had met the first day I went to school in Wilson. She asked me why I hadn't been coming to school? Do you think your grandmother could get someone to stay with your sister and let you come to the Christmas party? They had classroom parties then. I said, "I can ask." I asked my grandmother and she made arrangements.

I didn't know anyone at the party but the teacher but from that experience after Christmas they were having a check-up because at that time they [would] permit children to bring money for a Christmas party of another party. I can't bring so-and-so, but I can bring a package of cookies. I could bring a package of this or that. I was able to go to the party.

But at the party after Christmas, they were checking up on everything and so one girl said everybody didn't bring something for the Christmas party.

The teacher said everybody participated in the Christmas party and had a right to be here. The girl wasn't satisfied. This was just the fourth grade. She said the new girl didn't bring nothing. It was obvious she was talking about me.

The teacher said, "Oh yes she did because I put in money for every child in this room and I included her and I put in extra because she was not here. She was not able to come. It was an embarrassing moment for me to have someone say I accepted without participation.

I remember that stand that the teacher took. I'm sure she didn't put in a quarter and said this is for Mable Parker, but she ended it and it was never brought forth again.

They let you do that then always we would prepare for a party. Children would decide whether they want to have one. I had to decide how much money you would ask everyone to bring or the equivalent because some children said I can't bring any money, but I can bring a box of vanilla wafers. They had something at home that had not been opened.

The teacher stood by me. She really didn't know me. I had been there for only a day or two.

I made a change about bringing stuff for a party because everybody doesn't have it to bring and yet it shouldn't be embarrassing.

R: What were your best subjects in school?

M: Of course, I like to read. Math was my stronger subject in high school and middle school. I didn't have one I guess maybe I had the least experience in science that was because the schools were limited...

R: What did you aspire to be when you were grown? What were your aspirations?

M: I wanted to be a teacher.

R: That's what you were-an excellent teacher.

M: I grew up in the presence of teachers. One of my aunts in the household was a primary teacher. I admire her. It's easy to imitate somebody you admire.

R: That's true.

R: Did you have any particular hobbies? I know you love to read and you love to travel.

M: I don't think I have one. I still enjoy reading.

R: After your teaching career and the many years you taught, you became the first woman president of Barber-Scotia College. Could you share a little of that experience with us?

M: That was not---I never aspired to be a president.

R: You never aspire?

M: I was advisor to Gresham. He was just twenty-nine.

R: Lionel Newsom was president of Barber-Scotia College, too; while I was at Scotia, too. Jerome Gresham was not only the president. I was like an advisor to him because he was just twenty-something. He would come in and ask should I do so-and-so because I had been a teacher there and become academic dean.

But he was smart, too. He was not a dumb follower. You know, there's a difference between a dumb follower, and a follower.

R: Absolutely. After he left, is that when you became president?

M: Dr. Newsom was on the scene.

R: Dr. Newsom was interim wasn't he? Or did he just become president? I remember when Dr. Newsom was there.

M: I don't think he was aspiring necessarily. I think any number of people in those days came into positions because they were the next in line or they were most familiar with the operations. They didn't go to the formal process that you go through now. Names [were] submitted and other names [were] submitted. If you were carrying the load, they tend to look at you first.

Dr. Newsom was not only a good president but a person whose name was popular in terms of being in position. He was aspiring not necessarily of his own accord to be more than an academic dean from the beginning.

R: Our chapter, Lambda Upsilon Omega, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., was organized while you were president at Barber-Scotia. So, how did that come about? Share with us.

M: Actually, I became a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha by way of the Salisbury Chapter. There was not a chapter here. I can remember distinctly there were five of us who became members of the Salisbury Chapter. When I came here by me being here awhile that was our goal. There were five of us but one lady was from Salisbury so there really were four from the Concord [area]. I mean from the Scotia area. We were employed at Scotia. That gave us our members to start a new chapter. There was no dissention among us. Each one of us had some

administrative position at Scotia. I remember one of them was Dean of Women at Scotia.

R: That's right, at that time because when I became a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha we were initiated right there in the president's house when you were president which was a momentous occasion for me.

M: I wasn't being biased, I was just.....

R: We thought we were special because we got to go over in the president's residence and we had a most delicious meal that was catered and all that was great!

M: The people claim the president was biased! That was not true.

R: Do you have any other particular thing you would like to share with us as this oral biography will be shared with the chapter. Is there anything else that you would like to share with us about your Alpha Kappa Alpha experience.?

M: First of all, I think when it comes to membership in anything, you ought to first know something about that anything which you aspire to become a member. I had known about Alpha Kappa Alpha long before Alpha Kappa Alpha came to Concord or Scotia. You must want it above all others that belong in that same category whether it's a chapter or whether it's a club, whether it's a job. It must be superior to anything else. It must not be dancing between one group and then another group arguing about another group. This is the one and only if you don't make it, you don't choose something else. You just stay true to yourself.

I have never regretted the choice.

The choice was made not based on the name, but based on the work. I respect others. You must respect others.

I know I made the right choice. I know I traveled many nights to Salisbury where the home chapter existed. Did all the many things that people don't have to do now. That was alright; that was the price you paid for membership. That was not convenient at that time. You didn't have people with an automobile; every other person with an automobile

R: It was sort of a sacrifice.

M: I never regretted this, too is an example, I think, of what you do with what you choose.

You must leave open the door of choice for other people for what they want and the person who walks in this door and say this is my choice and put hands up is not truly a member.

You must leave the door of choice open. It may be yours. It might not be. It may be your child. It may be your sister, but the choice must be theirs because it is irrevocable. You can't go back.

R: It has been a joy to do this interview with you and we're coming to the close. We would love for you to close with one of your wisdom sayings.

M: I don't have a special today. Lately this has been going through my mind. I guess because of the time of year.

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the years: Give me a torch that I may stride safely to the other side. And he said go into the outer darkness and place your hand in the hand of God and there shall be for you a worldly sightless sage that will be yours forever. Put your hand in the hand of God and that shall be your life forever.

R: So well said; so well said. Thank you, Dr. McLean. This has been a joy.

M: It means that you always leave that door open for others to make their choice. Everybody is not going to choose the same thing in anything and I am not sure it will be well if they did.

At this particular moment, I have come to the evening of my life. That is a blessing. You do a lot of reflecting. In the moments of reflection, you begin to think about what you could have done, what you should have done, what you might have done, and you look to the creator of us all and thank Him that you didn't do some of the things you could have done, and that he gave you a chance to do something that you could do and to make a difference in the world.

I think everybody is supposed to pay back something that you got out of life.

R – Ruth Curry

M – Dr. Mable Parker McLean

Please note: This was transcribed from a verbal recording

Maxine Newsom

Soror Jane Maxine Newsom became an Ivy Beyond the Wall on June 22, 1996. She was born in Springfield, Ohio to the late Thomas and Hettie Viola Emerson on February 25, 1919. On June 17, 1946 she married the love of her life, Dr. Lionel H. Newsom. She was a loving and devoted wife, mother and grandmother. She is survived by their only daughter, Jacquelynne, and grandchildren, Janine and Damien Lionel Peters.

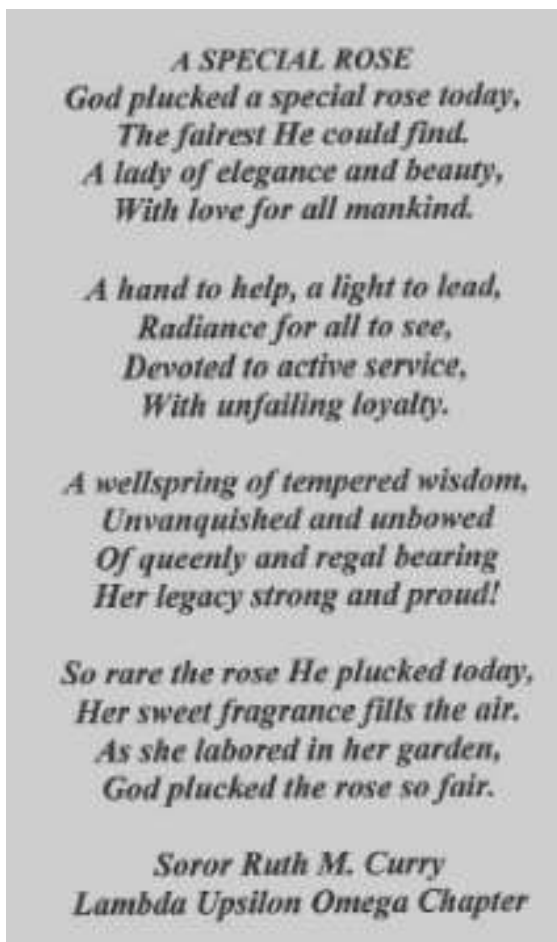
Maxine was an avid participant in a variety of service and social organizations from Ohio, Atlanta, Concord and Charlotte. She was an active and dedicated member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated since 1940. She attained the lofty status of “Golden Soror” in 1990. She was a charter member of Lambda Upsilon Omega chapter. In 1965, she was one of five sponsors of Delta Psi, the undergraduate chapter on the campus of Barber Scotia College, in Concord, North Carolina.

Our beloved Soror Maxine’s life was a mirror of the lovely roses and colorful flowers that she grew in abundance in her garden. Not only was she the “First Lady” in the lives of her family, she was “First Lady” to Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity during its twenty-second term; “First Lady” to Barber Scotia College, To Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina, and Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio.

Testimony extolling her loveliness, friendship, and importance was evidenced during her “Ivy Beyond the Wall” Ceremony as a very special rose.



This poem is dedicated to her memory.



Glenda Smith

Glenda Smith is the only living golden member in the Lambda Upsilon Omega Chapter, and was recognized for that honor at the 2014 Boule in Charlotte, NC in July 2014. She was initiated in Pi Chapter in 1963 at Fisk University. She has been a member of Lambda Upsilon Omega since 2011.

Lambda Upsilon Omega



Pictorials



On Right:
Barbara Black
and Carolyn
Harrington
(Sisters)

On left: Karen
Jones & Dena
Jones (Mother
and Daughter)



Mary Thomas
and Katrina
Thomas
Jarrett
(Mother and
Daughter)



Terry Scott
and Kia Scott-
Andrews
(Mother and
Daughter)



Mada Ritter (Silver Member), her mom (Golden Member) and her sisters

Family Members (Continuing the Legacy)

From Fashionetta
to
Membership
in
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Roster



Katrina Thomas Jarrett



Kelly Eaves-Boykin



Kesha Grant



Krista Woods Manns



Marian Thompson



Summa Thompson



Lambda Upsilon Omega Fashionetta Photos



Other Events: Women of Distinction, Breast Cancer Awareness, 2013
Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference



Members, Ruth Berry and Markelia Weaver at Breast Cancer Awareness-2011

2013 Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference (Gala) in Winston-Salem, NC; Members, Brittany Owens, Christy Mercer Allsbrooks, Mary Thomas, Ruth Curry, Gaynelle Propst, and Henri Rumph



Lambda Upsilon Omega



Founders' Day Celebrations



Lambda Omega Upsilon Chapter Celebrate Founder's Day



ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.
LAMBDA Upsilon OMEGA
CONCORD, NC
2012

2012 Founder's Day Celebration



Lambda Upsilon Omega



Chapter Programs

Programs

In The Beginning

Once the chapter was chartered in 1978, the chapter began to take advantage of the community resources by using facilities as Barber-Scotia College to hold math and science camps. At the First Baptist Church in Kannapolis, as a part of the On-Track program, we tutored with the aid of computers in their after school program. These services quickly spilled over into activities with two local elementary schools- Logan and Woodrow Wilson.

Partnerships of this nature continued to dominate chapter programs demonstrated in services to seniors at nursing homes, adult care centers, and Logan Community Center.

Over the years, the chapter has sponsored many Fundraisers. Our most successful financial ventures have included Casino Night, Women of Distinction Awards Luncheon, Rockaway Revue, Miss Fashionetta and Little Miss AKA Pageants. The funds generated have enabled the chapter to award book scholarships to high school students entering college. Contributions were also given to UNCF, the NAACP, Cabarrus Arts Council, and the Afro-American Cultural Center (now the Harvey Gantt Center) in Charlotte and the Co-operative Christian Ministry initiative in Cabarrus County. The Chapter has conducted drives such as voter registration, winter clothes drive, blood and food drives, and the Susan Komen Walk for the Cure.

Present Day

Alpha Kappa Alpha's international program theme for 2010 – 2014, "Global Leadership Through Timeless Service," defines our strategic direction toward meeting the needs of others. Locally, Lambda Upsilon Omega conducts community service programs that align with the specific initiatives of our international platform as outlined below.

Under the administration of our current International President, Carolyn House Stewart, the chapter implemented the Emerging Young Leaders (EYL) program in 2010. The program provided them with leadership development, civic engagement, enhanced academic preparation and character building skills. We selected a local middle school with the goal of offering experiences that will help girls in grades 6-8 adjust to and excel in our complex society. Fourteen girls were initially selected for

the first EYL class. Our chapter continues to work with young girls in the community by mentoring and offering topics beneficial to their success.

As a part of our national health initiative, we conducted our annual Health Fair at Carolina Mall in Concord, NC in 2011 and 2012. Participating vendors from the local area represented a variety of health-related professions/needs: Health Alliance, CMC, American Red Cross, Cabarrus County Red Cross, Cabarrus County Senior Center, New York Life Insurance Company, Oracle, LLC, Voter Registration, and Duke Medicine. Many citizens took advantage of the free health screenings for hypertension, diabetes, and bone marrow.

Several hundred people became more acquainted with how to maintain a healthy lifestyle. They were also instructed how they receive assistance and how to use resources. In 2013, we partnered with Bethel Enrichment Center in Kannapolis, North Carolina by joining their health fair. We offered bone marrow registry information by utilizing two members of Lambda Upsilon Omega as “Be The Match” Ambassadors to assist in locating a potential match for someone in need of a marrow transplant. We also invited attendees to participate in “Zumba with AKAs” offering a power hour of Zumba to promote fitness and exercise.

To implement the goals of our international initiative - Global Poverty- Lambda Upsilon Omega partners annually with Bethel Enrichment Center’s Community Program where we donate, collect, and assemble food items for meals for the Thanksgiving holiday. The items serve those who are in need of food assistance. Lambda Upsilon Omega also donates funds to Heifer International – an organization whose mission is to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and also to care for the earth.

The international initiative -Economic Security- focuses on wealth building and allocation of resources. The initiative also focuses on home ownership, estate planning, support and empowerment of female-owned businesses, and urban enterprise zones.

Lambda Upsilon Omega teaches basic financial and money concepts to the community and their Emerging Young Leaders via workshops to empower them to be financially responsible. Our chapter also regularly supports black female businesses.

Social Justice and Human Rights is another one of our international initiatives which addresses gender equality issues. This initiative focuses on domestic violence, services for children with incarcerated parents, youth aging out of foster care, and parents as advocates for educational and health-care needs.

Through the Women's and Children's Shelter, Lambda Upsilon Omega has provided seminars and workshops to women in the shelters who are in transition. The topics discussed include credit and debt management.

In 2013, our chapter participated in "Free The Girls" program, a national organization that collects bras to assist girls and women who are survivors of sex trafficking. Our chapter holds drives to collect bras and ships them to the organization. These are, in turn, sent to Africa in order to benefit young women who are victims.

And lastly, the initiative, Internal Leadership for External Service focuses on leadership training for members of Alpha Kappa Alpha and serves as a catalyst for members to reach their fullest potential as skilled leaders in service to AKA. Workshops are held as requested by our members which serve to empower Lambda Upsilon Omega in leadership skills and other areas of training.

The chapter continues to have raise monies through fundraising to offer scholarships to high school students who are attending college. In February 2013, we sponsored our first dance affair, "Black and White Odyssey: An AKA Experience" held at the Vintage Motor Club in Concord. This event was also in honor of our 35th chapter anniversary.



Community Service Projects/Scholarships





Emerging Young Leaders (EYL) 2010-2014



Lambda Upsilon Omega



Chapter Pictures



1979



Lambda Upsilon Omega Chapter

"WE PERPETUATE THEIR DREAMS"



1980



1985



1986



1990



2002



2003



Front Row (L-R): Heidi Zumbro, Gaynelle Piquet, Selma Stewart, Ruth Cozart, Davis Clemons, Malika Parker McLean
 Back Row (L-R): Terry Scott, Yasha Hall, Janice Collymore, Ruth Berry, Rose Woods
 Absent: Juliana Black, Frances Cosette, Dilje Deyane, Janel Jones, Kaitlin Jones, Richard Lewis,
 Jagad Nwan, Tami Parris, Ednaee Stafford, and Mary K. Thomas.

2010





Cluster Chapter Pictures



2010



1988

Lambda Upsilon Omega



Reflections (Current Members)

Reflections by Mary Thomas

My first knowledge of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated occurred as I browsed college year books while in high school. When I attended Barber-Scotia College there were no sororities or fraternities. During college days, I learned more about Greek life from hometown friends who attended other colleges at semester and holiday breaks.

I was inspired by these women while helping them complete community projects. Later, I was invited to become a member by Lambda Upsilon Omega Chapter. My neighbor and another college classmate gladly wrote one of the recommendation letters for me.

I was initiated into Lambda Upsilon Omega Chapter in January, 1980 and have been financial and active without interruption.

The first Boule I attended was the Golden Boule, July 18-23, 1982 in Boston, Massachusetts. Registration was \$70.00. I was able to attend this Boule because my entire family vacationed that week with me and we lived with my sister in Boston. One of the national projects in the early eighties as I recall was the Cleveland Job Corps Center. Job Corps was part of the total family of Comprehensive Employment and training service provided by the U.S. Government through the Department of Labor. It was part of Title IV, part B of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act for Disadvantaged Youth between the ages of 16 and 21 designed to provide access to a second chance for basic education, vocational training, and specific job skills and employment. I remember our chapter making contributions certain months of the year to the Cleveland Job Corps. I especially recall the magazine subscriptions, cash, and presents we donated during the Christmas season.

My membership in AKA has helped me to grow. The training and education through workshops, plenary sessions, and forums help me to be more aware of issues and make intelligent decisions that have made a difference on the national, state, and local levels to help make a positive change in our complex society and improve mankind.

Reflections by Henri Rumph

When I was initiated into Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Soror Jane Ballard was the Supreme Basileus. She expanded the African Village Development Program. More than 250 villages were adopted and over \$100.00 was donated. She launched a 4 million dollar drive on behalf of Historical Black Colleges and Universities.

Under Soror Norma White's leadership, she initiated leadership certification for Alpha Kappa Alpha Officers. She embraced the Black Family initiative by keeping 15, 000 youth ON-TRACK and donated 75,000 coats. She also launched the Reactivation campaign.

I attend all Boules, Regionals, Clusters, and Leadership conferences so that I can bring back new information for the chapter. I was a facilitator for the Leadership Conference in Las Vega, Nevada tin the summer of 2003.

I also was a Co-Chair of Operations when the Regional conference was held in Charlotte, NC in 2004.

I am presently the Co-Chair of Airport Hospitality for the 66th Boule to be held in Charlotte, NC in July 2014.

Reflections by Christy Allsbrooks

My first knowledge of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. as a young person was when I was in middle school, I had a few friends who were contestants of Miss Fashionetta in Iota Kappa Omega. I remember them once wearing to school a white sweater with "Miss Fashionetta" on the front painted in pink and green. I didn't realize then what they were a part of, but it's nice to know that even then AKA was influential in the life of my classmates. In the Fall of 1996, my knowledge was heightened as an 18 year old, when I walked onto the campus of UNC Charlotte. The Alpha Kappa Alpha ladies on campus were well noticed, respected and liked by many. They implemented wonderful, thought provoking and educational programs and events at the

university. I worked closely with a few members at the university in other organizations on campus and supported the chapters programs as a result of my interest in becoming a member.

I was greatly influenced by many of the members of the chapter at UNC Charlotte. They carried themselves with grace, the leadership of the members were visible in every organization on campus and the fact that they consistently held the highest GPA of ALL organizations on campus (including the non NPHC fraternities and sororities) each year was extremely impressive to me.

My dream came true when I was initiated into the Kappa Kappa Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. in Spring 1999 with 15 beautiful and intelligent young women. The love I have for the sorority and the sisters initiated with me is indescribable. I will cherish forever the close relationships experienced as a result of becoming a member of the first black sorority for college trained women. When I made the choice to become a member, I could not have imagined all that this organization would mean to me.

I matriculated to a graduate chapter shortly after graduation in Alpha Lambda Omega in Charlotte, NC and was eager to be active in programs in the community where I could make an impact. I later transferred to a smaller chapter, Lambda Upsilon Omega, where I have been the President of the Chapter since 2013. My growth in the organization has grown tremendously over the years and I look forward to continued leadership development with Alpha Kappa Alpha.

I am also the first in my family to become a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

What an awesome legacy to look forward to!

Reflections by Brittany Owens

When did you first learn about Alpha Kappa alpha Sorority, Inc.?

I first learned of Alpha Kappa Alpha's existence in 4th grade. My homeroom teacher Kimberly Easton was a soror. At the time I didn't

know much about it, I was just able to identify her as an AKA. Furthermore, my high school choir teacher, Jocelyn Thompson, was an evident member of AKA, and she provided a little more insight. I still didn't quite know what to expect of AKA, or Greek life in general from a college perspective.

When did you first become interested in becoming a member?

My interest in AKA actually stemmed from the opportunity to join an interest group, because at the time there were no historically black Greek organizations on campus.

Who influenced you to become a member?

Parents, family, friends, etc. I am actually the first of my intermediate family to join a sorority so unfortunately I didn't have any influence. However, with the close relationship I had with my music teacher, and her poise and attitude assisted me in deciding to become a woman of Alpha Kappa Alpha. My best friend and line-sister was also an influence. It was great to have that support system through it all and even today as a member.

List in chronological order all the chapters with which you have been affiliated? Tau Delta Chapter and Lambda Upsilon Omega Chapter

What were the unique attributes of each?

During undergrad, I was always the one who attempted to attend all committee meetings, even if I wasn't on the committee. I always wanted to be available and involved. I served as the Grammateus. Thus far in the graduate chapter, I have continued to try to attend all events and be present within the chapter. I assisted with the internal audit and assisted with our mentoring focus, Emerging Young Leaders.

What were the national projects at that time as you recall them?

At the time of my initiation, there were platforms around

entrepreneurship, health, and technology to name a few.

What community projects were unique to your chapter?

We were a new chapter, chartered in May of my sophomore year, so we were working out our signature programs for the chapter.

Reflections by Gaynelle Propst

In 1985, I started work at Barber-Scotia College. My first job there was working in the President's Office with Dr. Mable Parker McLean. Dr. McLean was an AKA and was very proud to let you know it. While working in her office, I would see many AKA undergraduates come in and out of her office--some with smiles and some with tears from the discipline that she would give them. I became very close with some of the undergraduates in the sorority and deep down I wanted to become a part of the organization. Working in the President's Office with Dr. McLean, included working with the undergraduates on different occasions as well as the graduate chapter. Some of the duties with both chapters included making contact with the members, typing programs, setting up meetings, etc.

During my years at Barber-Scotia College, I worked in many different areas of the campus. Those areas include: Student Affairs, working with five different presidents and Admissions. In those areas, I worked with ladies who were members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and were very influential in my life and my decisions made in my life. I also worked very closely with a young lady that was advisor to the undergraduate chapter (Delta Psi). Therefore, I have been surrounded by young ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha for a big portion of my life.

I wanted so very much to become a part of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, but I knew that I could not take on that responsibility at the time because I had a daughter in college who desired to become an AKA.

After my daughter was initiated into AKA, she encouraged me to seize the opportunity if I were invited. Dr. McLean retired in 1988 and returned several times as interim. One day we were having a

conversation and she asked me if I would like to become a member of her sorority and I gladly accepted.

Since joining the sorority, I have served as Grammateus, Tamiouchos (2 terms) and Pecunious Grammateus. I also served as co-chair with Dr. Mable McLean at the Ivy Beyond The Wall ceremony at the regional meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina. I have attended many Regional and Cluster meetings and one Boule when it was held in Washington, DC in 2008.

I enjoy the sisterhood and I have never regretted the decision that I made to become an AKA.

Reflections by Juanna Hayes

What was your first knowledge of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.?

High School; I was aware of the sorority due to teachers and women who were members of the church that my father pastored in Portsmouth, Virginia. In New Jersey, I was familiar with the activities of the sorority due to conversations with girls at Princeton High School.

When did you first learn about Alpha Kappa alpha Sorority, Inc.?

Rush; Ohio University 1968

When did you first become interested in becoming a member?

Rush; Norfolk State University 1969.

I did not remain at Ohio University but was very much aware of the AKA's when I arrived on the campus of Norfolk State College. I did like the rush party and the decorum and manners of the young ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha, plus many of the girls I had met were also interested in the sorority.

Who influenced you to become a member? Parents, family, friends, etc.

I had previously met many one of the girls who attended the NSU rush. They were an outgoing and a high-achieving group of girls; I was

interested in being their friend, and being part of a sisterhood of college women who were interested in community service was very appealing to me.

List in chronological order all the chapters with which you have been affiliated?

Delta Epsilon, initiated 1969 at Norfolk State University.

Theta Phi, helped to establish this chapter at VA Tech.

Iota Omega, Delta Omega, Upsilon Omega, Pi Pi Omega, Gamma Omega, Xi Tau Omega, Rho Eta Omega, Lambda Upsilon Omega

What were the national projects at that time as you recall them?

I was very interested in the Job Corps projects.

What community projects were unique to your chapter?

At Upsilon Omega I started a program for middle school girls that met at the Gilpin Court Housing Project in Richmond, Virginia. It was designed to introduce the girls to new opportunities and challenges that would perhaps persuade them to make more appropriate lifestyle choices, to aid in being good students, and explore setting goals and strategies for entrance into institutions of higher education. I called this program "*The Ebony Meld*".

Was voter registration considered a need?

Yes

What were the differences in race relations then?

In the early years after finishing college and graduate school, businesses and corporations were hiring young black people. Opportunities improved, but we understood that attitudes and behavior toward us remained the same as before the civil rights era.

Reflections by Mada Ritter

It is Fall 1973 and my mom is fussing the house about preparing for sorority meeting and crossing ceremony that she is helping out with, whatever that means. She is all made up in her white dress, her hair is done to the T and she has on the really sheer pantyhose that are black but shows off her legs and heels. Mom is not an outwardly emotional person to her four (4) girls, but as we watch her busy about, we realize that there is excitement in every step that she is taking.

My favorite aunt Lucy Bell Peterman was initiated into the graduate chapter in Montgomery. Not at all sure what that means, but she is decked out in pink and green everyday now and she received a lot of gifts from the members of her group.

January 1975 mom is at it again and this time she is all dressed up in black. She has on her sorority pen that has all these tiny pearls and it looks like a tiny green leaf. (I would often take a sneak peak at it when she wasn't looking because I wondered what the pen meant since she always kept it in a special box in her jewelry case.)

Spring 1978 - What in the world is a Regional Conference and why are all mommy's Sorors excited? And why are there so many of them here in Montgomery? Wow!! These ladies are really serious about this AKA thing!

Spring 1980 - My eldest sister is initiated into Theta Sigma Chapter, AKA at the University of AL. She has continued in mom's footsteps...perhaps, I will have the opportunity too.

Spring 1983 - I was initiated into Beta Pi Chapter, AKA at Alabama State University. I realize that I have always wanted to be AKA, but it was a gift to honor my mom as a Legacy member.

Fall 1985 - My baby twin sisters are initiated into AKA at Southern University. How excited that we all have been initiated into AKA and dad is a Life member of Alpha Phi Alpha!

Spring 2008 - I am a Silver Soror and I still marvel at all that AKA means to me and to those that we serve.

As I look back, I realize that I have a host of cousins, aunts and in-laws that are also members of our illustrious organization.

I have had the honor of being an active member of three grad chapters since I was initiated: Rho Chi Omega, Madison, AL; Rho Psi Omega, Charlotte, NC; and my current chapter, Lambda Upsilon Omega, Concord, NC.

Soror Mada Bell-Ritter
Beta Pi - Spring 1983

Lambda Upsilon Omega



Appendices

Membership of Lambda Upsilon Omega (1978-2014)

Conferences Hosted: Boules, Regionals & Clusters

In Memory of Ivies Beyond the Wall

2014 Executive Officers

Bibliography

Membership of Lambda Upsilon Omega (1978-2014)

| | 1978 | |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Jacquelyn Lyons | Gloria Bost | Carolyn Connor |
| Elaine King | Vivian Wilson | Carolyn Powell |
| Martha Lipscomb | Karen Jones | Priscilla Green |
| Ola Stringer | Dorothy Bost | Patricia Woods |
| Emma Witherspoon | Johnnie Hunt | Betty Beatty |
| Ethel Aaron | Teresa Torrence | Terry Stafford |
| Mable McLean | Elaine Jordan | Johnnie Tillman |
| Yvonne Pettis | Harriet Taylor | Berniece Moore |
| | Vivian Shrives | |

| | 1979-1980 | |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Barbara Atwater | Janie Jones | Carolyn Connor |
| Elaine King | Vivian Wilson | Iris Misenheimer Polk |
| Martha Lipscomb | Karen Jones | Priscilla Green |
| Freda Watkins | Luvenia Morton | Henri Rumph |
| Emma Witherspoon | Ethel Aaron | Yvonne Pettis |
| Ruth Lyler | Elaine Jordan | Terry S Scott |
| Mable McLean | | Harriet Taylor |

| | 1981-82 | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Barbara Atwater | Janie Jones | Janie Evans |
| Elaine King | Artie Phillips | Iris Misenheimer Polk |
| Julia Burris | Karen Jones | Glenda Jones |
| Vernice Morgan | Mary Thomas | Henri Rumph |
| Carol P. Williams | Sadie W. Nesbit | Beverly Steadman |
| Ruth Lyler | Alice Tinsley | Margaret Willie |
| Mable McLean | Joyce Cureton | Dorothy Thompson |

| | 1983-84 | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Barbara Atwater | Janie Jones | Janie Evans |
| Elaine King | Artie Phillips | Iris Misenheimer Polk |
| Julia Burris | Karen Jones | Glenda Jones |
| Vernice Morgan | Mary Thomas | Henri Rumph |
| Carol P. Williams | Sadie W. Nesbit | Beverly Steadman |
| Ruth Lylery | Alice Tinsley | Margaret Willie |
| Mable McLean | Joyce Cureton | Dorothy Thompson |
| | Laura Potts | |
| | 1985 | |
| Barbara Atwater | Janie Jones | Janie Evans |
| Elaine King | Artie Phillips | Iris Misenheimer Polk |
| Julia Burris | Karen Jones | Doris Clawson |
| Vernice Morgan | Mary Thomas | Henri Rumph |
| Maxine Newsom | Sadie W. Nesbit | Beverly S White |
| Ruth Lylery | Alice Tinsley | Margaret Willie |
| Mable McLean | Joyce Cureton | Laura Potts |

| | 1986 | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Barbara Atwater | Janie Jones | Janie Evans |
| Elaine King | Artie Phillips | Iris Misenheimer Polk |
| Julia Burris | Karen Jones | Doris Clawson |
| Vernice Morgan | Mary Thomas | Henri Rumph |
| Maxine Newsom | Sadie W. Nesbit | Beverly S White |
| Ruth Lylery | Alice Tinsley | Margaret Willie |
| Mable McLean | Joyce Cureton | Laura Potts |
| Vanesca Edwards | | Sonja McDaniel |

| | 1987 | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Vernice Morgan | Janie Jones | Janie Evans |
| Maxine Newsom | Karen Jones | Doris Clawson |
| Ruth Lylery | Mary Thomas | Henri Rumph |
| Mable McLean | Sadie W. Nesbit | Beverly S White |
| Vanesca Edwards | Alice Tinsley | Margaret Willie |
| | Sonja McDaniel | |

| | 1988 | |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Vernice Morgan | Janie Jones | Janie Evans |
| Maxine Newsom | Karen Jones | Doris Clawson |
| Ruth Curry | Mary Thomas | Henri Rumph |
| Mable McLean | Sadie W. Nesbitt | Beverly S White |
| Frances Cowen | Alice Tinsley | Margaret Willie |
| Mary Ann Gordie | Barbara Black | Evelyn Clyburn |
| | Margaret Bruner | |

| | 1989 | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Vernice Morgan | Janie Jones | Janie Evans |
| Maxine Newsom | Karen Jones | Doris Clawson |
| Ruth Curry | Mary Thomas | Henri Rumph |
| Mable McLean | Barbara Black | Margaret Willie |
| Frances Cowan | Margaret Bruner | Evelyn Clyburn |
| | Mary Ann Gordie | |

| | 1990-91 | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Vernice Morgan | Janie Jones | Janie Evans |
| Maxine Newsom | Karen Jones | Doris Clawson |
| Ruth Curry | Mary Thomas | Henri Rumph |
| Frances Cowan | Barbara Black | Margaret Willie |
| Betty Alston | Margaret Bruner | Evelyn Clyburn |
| Mary Ann Gordie | | Beverly White |

| | 1992-93 | |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Vernice Morgan | Janie Jones | Janie Evans |
| Maxine Newsom | Karen Jones | Doris Clawson |
| Ruth Curry | Mary Thomas | Henri Rumph |
| Frances Cowan | Barbara Black | Margaret Willie |
| Betty Alston | Margaret Bruner | Evelyn Clyburn |
| Mary Ann Gordie | Barbara Alexander | Beverly White |
| Ruth Berry | Michelle Cunningham | Michelle Love |
| Ingrid Nurse | Tonya Peay | Rowena Purham |
| Ronnie Oglesby Scott | Eleanor Stafford | Cleo Washington |

| | 1994 | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Vernice Morgan | Janie Jones | Janie Evans |
| Maxine Newsom | Karen Jones | Doris Clawson |
| Ruth Curry | Mary Thomas | Henri Rumph |
| Frances Cowan | Barbara Black | Margaret Willie |
| Betty Alston | Margaret Bruner | Evelyn Clyburn |
| Mary Ann Gordie | Barbara Alexander | Beverly White |
| Ruth Berry | Eleanor Stafford | Cleo Washington |

| | 1995 | |
|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Vernice Morgan-Dun-gee | Janie Jones | Janie Evans |
| Maxine Newsom | Karen Jones | Henri Rumph |
| Ruth Curry | Mary K. Thomas | Margaret Willie |
| Frances Cowan | Barbara A. Black | Evelyn Clyburn |
| Betty Alston | Barbara Alexander | Cleo Washington |
| Mary Ann Gordie | Ronnie O. Scott | Michelle L. Gatewood |
| Ruth Berry | Rose Woods | Rowena Purham |
| Ingrid Nurse | Dena Jones | Mable McLean |
| | Michelle Cunningham | |

| | 1996 | |
|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Vernice Morgan-Dun-gee | Janie Jones | Ruth Berry |
| Maxine Newsom | Karen Jones | Henri Rumph |
| Ruth Curry | Mary K. Thomas | Margaret Willie |
| Frances Cowan | Barbara A. Black | Evelyn Clyburn |
| Betty Alston | Barbara Alexander | Cleo Washington |
| Mary Ann Gordie | Rose Woods | Ingrid Nurse |
| | Dena Jones | |

| | 1997-98 | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Vernice Morgan-Dungee | Janie Jones | Ruth Berry |
| Maxine Newsom | Karen Jones | Henri Rumph |
| Ruth Curry | Mary K. Thomas | Margaret Willie |
| Frances Cowan | Barbara A. Black | Evelyn Clyburn |
| Betty Alston | Barbara Alexander | Cleo Washington |
| Mary Ann Gordie | Rose Woods | Ingrid Nurse |
| Sharon Burris Byrd | Dena Jones | Pamela Lightsey |
| Marjorie Crystal Harris | Jacqueline E. Merritt | Carolyn Anderson Harrington |

| | 1999 | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Vernice Morgan-Dungee | Janie Jones | Ruth Berry |
| Billye Ruth Dupree | Karen Jones | Henri Rumph |
| Ruth Curry | Mary K. Thomas | Margaret Willie |
| Frances Cowan | Barbara A. Black | Evelyn Clyburn |
| Mable McLean | Barbara Alexander | Eleanor Stafford |
| Mary Ann Gordie | Rose Woods | Ingrid Nurse |
| Marjorie Crystal Harris | Dena Jones | Pamela Lightsey |
| Hortnese Turner | | Carolyn Anderson Harrington |

| | 2000-2001 | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Vernice Morgan-Dungee | Janie Jones | Ruth Berry |
| Billye Ruth Dupree | Karen Jones | Henri Rumph |
| Ruth Curry | Mary K. Thomas | Margaret Willie |
| Frances Cowan | Barbara A. Black | Evelyn Clyburn |
| Mable McLean | Barbara Alexander | Eleanor Stafford |
| Mary Ann Gordie | Rose Woods | Rachel Woods |
| Marjorie Crystal Harris | Dena Jones | Carolyn Anderson Harrington |
| Hortnese Turner | | Ida Reid |

| | 2002 | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Vernice Morgan-Dungee | Janie Jones | Ruth Berry |
| Billye Ruth Dupree | Karen Jones | Henri Rumph |
| Ruth Curry | Mary K. Thomas | Rachel Woods |
| Frances Cowan | Barbara A. Black | Rose Woods |
| Mable McLean | Barbara Alexander | Carolyn Anderson Harrington |
| Hortnese Turner | Dena Jones | Ida Reid |
| Edith Dalaine | Brenda Watkins Goodman | Shontilia Guy |
| Laura McClettie | Terry Porter | Tasha M. Hall-Powell |
| Gaynelle Propst | Natasha Ridge | Terry S. Scott |

| | 2003-2004 | |
|--------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Billye Ruth Dupree | Barbara Alexander | Ruth Berry |
| Ruth Curry | Karen Jones | Henri Rumph |
| Gaynelle Propst | Mary K. Thomas | Rachel Lewis |
| Mable McLean | Barbara A. Black | Rose Woods |
| Laura McClettie | Terry Porter | Ida Reid |
| Selma Burrell | Brenda Watkins Goodman | Shontilia Guy |
| S. Hemingway | Tosha P. Hall | Terry S. Scott |

| | 2005 | |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Billye Ruth Dupree | Barbara Alexander | Ruth Berry |
| Ruth Curry | Karen Jones | Henri Rumph |
| Gaynelle Propst | Mary K. Thomas | Rachel Lewis |
| Mable McLean | Barbara A. Black | Rose Woods |
| Selma Burrell | Frances Cowen | Terry S. Scott |
| Doris Clawson | Tasha Hall-Powell | Janie Jones |
| | Ingrid Nurse | |

| | 2006 | |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Billye Ruth Dupree | Barbara Alexander | Ruth Berry |
| Ruth Curry | Karen Jones | Henri Rumph |
| Gaynelle Propst | Mary K. Thomas | Rachel Lewis |
| Mable McLean | Barbara A. Black | Rose Woods |
| Selma Burrell | Frances Cowen | Terry S. Scott |
| Doris Clawson | Tasha Hall-Powell | Janie Jones |
| Eleanor Stafford | Ingrid Nurse | Janice Collymore |

| | 2007-2008 | |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Billye R. Dupree | Barbara Alexander | Ruth Berry |
| Ruth Curry | Karen Jones | Henri Rumph |
| Gaynelle Propst | Mary K. Thomas | Rachel Lewis |
| Mable McLean | Barbara A. Black | Rose Woods |
| Selma Burrell | Frances Cowen | Terry S. Scott |
| Doris Clawson | Tasha Hall-Powell | Janie Jones |
| Eleanor Stafford | Ingrid Nurse | Janice Collymore |

| | 2009 | |
|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Judith Belton | Juanna Hayes | Gwendolyn O. Roberts |
| Ruth Berry | Karen Jones | Kia N Scott |
| Margaret Bruner | Eboni Malloy | Joscelyn Teamer |
| Selma Burrell | Mable P. McLean | Summa Thompson |
| Janice Collymore | Lisa H. Franklin | Erin Oliver |
| Stephanie Brown | Tasha M. Hall | Gaynelle Propst |
| Ruth Curry | Alexis Jones | Henri Rumph |
| Doris Clawson | Janie Jones | Terry Scott |
| Frances Cowen | Rose Munoz | Mary Thomas |
| Billye Dupree | Ayanna Morrison | Dimples Williamson |
| Jacqueline Dickerson | Shauna Neavins | |
| Kesha Grant | Tasha S. Pile | |

| | 2010 | |
|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Judith Belton | Juanna Hayes | Erin Oliver |
| Ruth Berry | Karen Jones | Tasha S. Pile |
| Selma Burrell | Eboni Malloy | Gaynelle Propst |
| Janice Collymore | Mellissa Miller | Gwendolyn O. Roberts |
| Ruth Curry | Lisa H. Franklin | Kia N Scott |
| Doris Clawson | Alexis Jones | Terry Scott |
| Frances Cowen | Mable P. McLean | Joscelyn Teamer |
| Jacqueline Dickerson | Rose Munoz | Mary Thomas |
| Kesha Grant | Ayanna Morrison | Dimples Williamson |
| | Shauna Neavins | |

| | 2011 | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Christy Mercer Allsbrooks | Alexis Jones | Gaynelle Propst |
| Ruth Berry | Janie Jones | Henri Rumph |
| Margaret Bruner | Karen Jones | Stephanie Simmons |
| Selma Burrell | Eboni Malloy | Kia N Scott |
| Janice Collymore | Whitney McCoy | Terry Scott |
| Doris Clawson | Mable P. McLean | Glenda Smith |
| Ruth Curry | Mellissa Miller | Joscelyn Teamer |
| Billye Dupree | Shauna Neavins | Mary Thomas |
| Jacqueline Dickerson | Erin Oliver | Markelia Weaver |
| Juanna Hayes | | Dimples Williamson |

| | 2012 | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Christy Mercer Allsbrooks | Juanna Hayes | Henri Rumph |
| Kia Scott-Andrews | Alexis Jones | Stephanie Simmons |
| Ruth Berry | Janie Jones | Terry Scott |
| Margaret Bruner | Karen Jones | Glenda Smith |
| Selma Burrell | Whitney McCoy | Joscelyn Teamer |
| Doris Clawson | Brittany Owens | Mary Thomas |
| Janice Collymore | Shauna Neavins | Markelia Weaver |
| Ruth Curry | Mada Ritter | Dimples Williamson |
| Jackie Dickerson | Jackie Robinson | |
| Billye Dupree | Gaynelle Propst | |

| | 2013 | |
|------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Christy Mercer Allsbrooks | Jackie Dickerson | Gaynelle Propst |
| Kia Scott-Andrews | Juanna Hayes | Henri Rumph |
| Ruth Berry | Karen Jones | Terry Scott |
| Margaret Bruner | Brittany Owens | Glenda Smith |
| Selma Burrell | Eboni Malloy | Mary Thomas |
| Doris Clawson | Melissa Miller | Markelia Weaver |
| Ruth Curry | Mada Ritter | Dimples Williamson |
| | Jackie Robinson | |

| | 2014 (As of 12/12/2014) | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Christy Mercer Allsbrooks | Tonya Fletcher | Brittany Owens |
| Kia Scott- Andrews | Herdicine Garrick | Mada Ritter |
| Ruth Berry | Juanna Hayes | Jackie Robinson |
| Candice Brenson | Karen Jones | Gaynelle Propst |
| Margaret Bruner | Princess "Alexis" Jones | Henri Rumph |
| Doris Clawson | Janie Jones | Terry Scott |
| Lorri Connor | Jacquelyn McFadden-Garnier | Glenda Smith |
| Ruth Curry | Rose Mary Munoz | Mary Thomas |

Conferences Hosted
Western Carolina Clusters

| Date | Location | Basileus |
|--------------------|---|--------------------|
| October 16, 1982 | Barber Scotia College Concord, NC | Vernice Morgan |
| October 29, 1088 | Barber Scotia College Concord, NC | Barbara Black |
| September 27, 1997 | Barber Scotia College Concord, NC | Barbara Black |
| October 30, 2004 | Barber Scotia College Concord, NC | Ruth Berry |
| October 27, 2012 | Bethel Enrichment Center Kannapolis, NC | Dimples Williamson |

Western Carolina Regional Conferences

| Date | Location | Basileus |
|--|---------------|------------------|
| 41 st Regional Conference April 7-10, 1994 | Charlotte, NC | Ruth Curry |
| 46 th Regional Conference March 25-28, 1998 | Asheville, NC | Barbara Black |
| 51 st Regional Conference 2004 | Charlotte, NC | Ruth Berry |
| 56 th Regional Conference April 23-26, 2009 | Asheville, NC | Janice Collymore |

Boule Conferences

| Date | Location | Basileus |
|---|---------------|---------------------------|
| 66 th Boule July 12-18, 2014 | Charlotte, NC | Christy Mercer Allsbrooks |

Ivies Beyond the Wall



| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Dr. Mable Parker McLean | January 27, 2012 |
| Frances Carr Cowen | April 13, 2010 |
| Harriet Tyler | Unknown |
| Ruth Lyerly | Unknown |
| Janie Evans | January 22, 2006 |
| Luvenia Morton | Unknown |
| Vernice Morgan-Dungee | May 21, 2002 |
| Beverly Steadman | Unknown |
| Margaret Willie | 2002 |
| Laura Potts | Unknown |
| Maxine Newsom | June 22, 1996 |
| Mary Ann Gordie | Unknown |

2014 Executive Officers



Basileus --- Christy Mercer Allsbrooks

Grammateus --- Henri Rumph*

Pecunious Grammateus --- Juanna Hayes*

Tamiouchos --- Brittney Owens

Epistoleus --- Jackie Robinson*

Hodegos --- Mada Ritter**

Philacter --- Ruth Curry**

Parliamentarian --- Brittany Owens

Ivy Leaf Reporter --- Glenda Smith***

Historian—Mary Thomas*

Chaplain --- Karen Jones*

Life Member-*

Silver Member-**

Golden Member-***

Bibliography

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