



The Ivy Vine



September 2021

Chi Delta Omega Welcomes New Members



Chi Delta Omega and the Tokyo Olympics had much in common during 2020 and 2021. They both, after unexpected delays, were hosts to champions. Chi Delta Omega was awarded 18 special “gold medals” as the largest group of candidates for membership completed MIP. Just like the Tokyo Olympics there was no audience of Sorors except by Zoom. And just like the Olympics all the candidates came through with flying colors and set new records. The closing ceremony for the new sorors, held on June 17, completed the legacy of sisterhood, friendship, and service to all mankind. The Ivy Vine will feature all of our new champion sorors in subsequent editions.

Chi Delta Omega Chapter proudly embraces our new medal worthy sorors:

VeEtta Bess-Dukes, Sandra Booker, Ingrid Bowman Thomas, Pantos Ellis-Pettus, Re’nada Fells, Kandyce Flagg, Karla Flagg-Wright, Dorothea Gaskins, Chakia Jones, Kimberly Lee, Jada Lowery, Faith Lyons, Sheila McGirt, Saraya Miller, Asha Pinckney, Tampra Rumph, Kellie Trotter and India Williams.

Notes to Sorors 11

HEART TO HEART

Basileus Hazel Lockett



Meetings again, my dear sorors of Chi Delta Omega Chapter,

It is altogether fitting and proper that this column documents the official welcome to the eighteen new sorority members of Chi Delta Omega and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®. Perhaps the best way to welcome our new members is by giving some tips on how to make this a more rewarding venture for each of you. In that vein, I hereby offer you three tips to help you along your Alpha Kappa Alpha journey: Connect, Join, and Read!

For almost all chapter members except your sponsoring sorors, you are at present a name in our directory, a face we have seen a few times. But the sisters of Chi Delta Omega have already put in place how we will get to know you better and how you will get to know us better. Our Heart Sisters Project is that mechanism. Heart Sisters make an effort to reach out to each other when they want to know more about some activities of the chapter, when they want to get clarity on the functions of a specific committee, or, more importantly, just to connect to find out how another soror is doing. In short, just to chat! Heart Sisters lunch together—sometime with other Heart Sister groups—, plan excursions together, and celebrate birthdays and other special events together. The important thing is that they reach out to each other to strengthen the bond of sisterhood. It is a deliberate act that I hope each of you will utilize often.

To speed up the “getting-to-know-you-better” idea, you might also reach out to committee chairmen to find out more about how a particular committee works, to volunteer for service on that committee, or to offer any suggestions you might have. Chi Delta Omega recommends you join at least one OPERATIONS committee and one PROGRAM committee. You may join more, but



we suggest you keep it at one at this time, at least until you get to know the committee’s work better. We don’t want you to get in over your head.

The longer you are a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha, the more you will realize that there is a great deal that you do not know about this sorority. Fortunately for us, we have been preceded by thousands of women who had great visions, great commitment to establishing the visions as reality, and great stamina in keeping their dreams afloat. Cases in point include the sorority itself which has endured for 113 years and is now stronger than ever and the *Ivy Leaf* magazine which has endured without a lapse in publication for more than a century. So, in addition to the two suggestions above and the prompts you received during MIP, the best advice I can give you is READ. Read the chapter related emails you receive. Read the eblasts from Corporate Office that you receive. Read the *Ivy Leaf* magazine you will receive quarterly. Reading will spark new ideas that you can share with the chapter. Reading will offer new building blocks to AKA knowledge. Reading will either confirm or negate what you hear. Read the Forms & Documents section of the aka1908 website. Use the supply order form – found in most copies of the *Ivy Leaf*-- to order information about a particular subject you are curious about. You will never run out of useful and informative reading materials.

We look forward to getting to know you better and your continued years in Chi Delta Omega.

With heartfelt sincerity,

Soror Hazel



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® kicked off its 69th Virtual Boule Part II

Seminar, on July 12. -16, 2021, in the *Pink Easy* with a New Orleans flair.

It was a great week of education, excellence, and entertainment. There were over 28,000 sorors in attendance, with 12 of our own in the mix. There were live celebrations, performances, guest appearances which included Phylicia Rashad, Anthony Anderson and Regina Bell just to name a few and plenty of Speakeasy vibes! In addition, there were sisterly celebrations along with professional development and workshops.

It was a virtual celebration of excellence, unity, service, and fellowship. HBCUs were the highlights for a most enjoyable public meeting.

The next Boule is scheduled for July 15-19, 2022, in the city of Orlando, Florida. You won't want to miss it!! Start preparing now, for this wonderful experience. CDO delegates, Sorors Hazel, Kowanna, Olivia, Thea and Marva, will be sharing their learnings in the very near future.



Pearl Soror Robbie Johnson Honored Twice

In June 2021, Soror Robbie Johnson was honored by The Links, Inc. Oakland County Michigan chapter, for being the chapter organizer and *the charter president* of the chapter. The Links chapter was celebrating its 40th anniversary via Zoom. Soror Johnson organized the chapter 40 years ago and was honored with gifts and a special interview. More than 75 Links attended via Zoom. Eighteen of the 23 original members were in attendance. Soror Robbie will later be honored as a Platinum member of the Links, Inc.

Soror Robbie also attended, via Zoom, the 35th anniversary of Pi Tau Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. in June. Soror Robbie was a *charter* member of that chapter and served as the first parliamentarian. The chapter has grown from 38 charter members to 257 active sorors in 2021.



Soror Robbie with Pearl Soror Gloria

Congratulations !



Target #1 – #CAP and HBCU

Soror Michelle Vernet serves as Co-chairman of Program Target #1 – HBCU #CAP and she takes her responsibility seriously. To put her commitment in action, she helped two students, at the high school where she teaches, get into college by helping them complete the application process from start to finish. Congratulations to Soror Michelle and the students on their achievement.



DATES TO REMEMBER:

SEPTEMBER 24–26, 2021 CHI DELTA OMEGA CHAPTER EVENT

SEPTEMBER 19–25, 2021 HBCU WEEK

SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 HBCU IMPACT DAY

BLACK BUSINESS DIRECTORY

2021-2022



Chi Delta Omega published the long-awaited Black Dollar Directory of businesses in the area owned by Blacks. Check the CDO Facebook page for a link or see below to access the online directory. Thank you to Soror Olivia

Bereal and Soror Yolanda Pino for your work on this project.

Link: <https://anyflip.com/qtcnb/sss/>

Supporting Black-Owned Businesses

It was Double Good! If Mrs. Dimpie Good!

If you have tasted the Double Good Popcorn, you could say it is not just good but “double good.” However, for the Ivy Community Foundation, Inc., double good was a description of the success of their first attempt at an online fundraising event. Foundation members, friends and family contributed to one of the most successful fundraising events in Chi Delta Omega Chapter’s and the Ivy Community Foundation’s history. The Way

and Means Committee of the Ivy Community Foundation, chaired by Jacquelyn Williams, led the event which had members set up their personal “pop-up store” and inviting others to shop for gourmet popcorn. This was unique and virtually “real good!”

Scholarship Reception Recognizes Awardees

On July 18, 2021, members of CDO celebrated with this year's scholarship recipients and their families in a virtual reception. Tevel Adams, the 2019 scholarship recipient, as speaker, shared thoughts on “Finding Your Purpose.” Krishna Louis, the 2017 scholarship recipient and 2021 University of Miami graduate, quoted, “Still I Rise” and offered words of encouragement and inspiration. Samira

Taite-Headspeth participated on the program as the soloist. Scholarships are presented through the Ivy Community Foundation, Inc. to select students in Flagler and Putnam Counties. Each recipient announced his/her college choice and major. The Scholarship Committee is co-chaired by Sorors Cerrito King and LaShonda Watson.

Hailey Arias



Stetson University

Brandall Kearse, Jr.



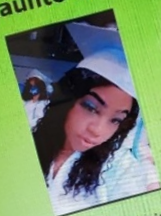
University of Florida

Brianna Whitfield



University of Central Florida

Shaunte White



Jacquelyn Faison Memorial Scholarship
Daytona State College/University of Central Florida

Vandyn Pinckney



University of Florida

Krishna Louis



Delton Nealy, Jr.



HBCU Scholarship Recipient
Savannah State University

Speaker

Mr. Tevel Adams
2019 ICF Scholarship Recipient



Soloist S Metheadsp



Maya Felton



Chi Delta Omega Chapter Courtesy Award



Guess Who Came to Dinner and the Races?

On Friday, August 27th, several members of Chi Delta Omega were honored with the opportunity to enjoy dinner and an up-close and personal conversation with our illustrious *Supreme Basileus*, *Dr. Glenda Glover*. Basileus, Ida Wright, of Gamma Mu Omega Chapter, served as hostess to the dinner at Stonewood's in Ormond Beach, where several members of Gamma Tau and Tau Chi Omega also attended who were verified vaccinated and wearing masks. Dr. Glover

was in Daytona to represent Tennessee State University as the recipient of an HBCU million-dollar donation from the racing team owned by *FedEx*. The car, #11, was driven by Denny Hamlin, a multi-NASCAR winner. The "Daytona Coke Sugar Free 400" race was nationally televised from the Daytona International Speedway on August 28th. The *FedEx* car finished 7th in the race.



2021 HBCU Endowment Awards

Forty years ago, the Educational Advancement Foundation was established to promote lifelong learning. It is now the largest minority owned women's foundation in the country with assets totaling over \$22.7 million. The foundation has donated over \$6.5 million for scholarships, fellowships, and community assistance grants.

As you know, in partnership with the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's HBCU Task Force, the foundation is working to raise \$10M to establish an endowment at every HBCU. This historic undertaking has been enthusiastically supported by sorority members, families, friends and others who support our nation's HBCUs.

On Wednesday, July 14th during the Public Meeting of the 69th Boule Part II, EAF presented \$50,000 endowment checks to thirty-two (32) 4-year HBCUs and \$12,500 to three (3) 2-year HBCUs. With this latest donations EAF has invested \$4.7M in all of our nation's HBCUs. A full list of the schools awarded in 2021 is provided below:

| | |
|--|--|
| Alabama A & M University | Morehouse School of Medicine |
| Alabama State University | Morgan State University |
| Bethune-Cookman University | Morris College |
| Bishop State Community College | North Carolina A&T State University |
| Charles R Drew University of Medicine and Science | Prairie View A&M University |
| Claflin University | Shorter College |
| Clark Atlanta University | Simmons College of Kentucky |
| Clinton College | Southwestern Christian College |
| Coahoma Community College | Spelman College |
| Florida A&M University | Texas Southern University |
| Hampton University | Tuskegee University |
| Howard University | University of Maryland Eastern Shore |
| Interdenominational Theological Center | University of the District of Columbia |
| Jackson State University | University of the Virgin Islands |
| Johnson C Smith University | Virginia State University |
| Meharry Medical College | Virginia Union University |
| Morehouse College | Winston-Salem State University |
| | Xavier University of Louisiana |

AKA

EAF

Educational Advancement Foundation

Soror Jonita McCree Named Top Agent

Over 44 Years of Selling Real Estate

Soror Jonita McCree has helped people from every walk of life and met every personality type one could imagine. It's her favorite part of the job. "In this business, no two days are the same. The sheer diversity of the people you get to work with makes it exciting! Every transaction comes with its own unique challenges, and every client has their own specific set of needs. I love that I get to be the one to help them achieve their dream."



Jonita originally got her license in St. Louis, Missouri, opening Mitchell Realty with her husband in 1977. These days she serves clients in Florida with Coldwell Banker Premier Properties, focusing on neighborhoods in

Palm Coast, Orlando, and Jacksonville. With a double master's degree in management and human relations from Webster University, a bachelor's degree in accounting from Alabama State University, and a business degree from Mobile State University, Jonita brings an incredible breadth of knowledge to her efforts on behalf of her clients.

When she's not working, Jonita enjoys spending time at home with her husband, watching movies, traveling when she can, serving at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church and her sorority, AKA. As for the future of her business, she wants to work six more years, which would make 50 years of helping people achieve their dreams.

Congratulations Soror Jonita!

You are already "golden" in AKA Membership.

Soror Geraldine Dillon Retires As Sunday School Superintendent

Soror Geraldine Dillon's retirement as Mt. Calvary Baptist Church of Palm Coast Sunday School Superintendent was announced during the Youth Recognition Program on Sunday, June 27, 2021. This came as a surprise to many in the Mt. Calvary family, as she was recognized for her passion and dedication to the youth and teachers in the Sunday School Ministry. Soror Gerri relocated to Palm Coast, Florida, from New Jersey in 2003. She retired from the East Orange Board of Education as an elementary guidance counselor and joined Mt. Calvary in 2005. Soror Gerri served in the Sunday School Ministry for 16 years and became the Superintendent in 2013. She was lauded for her work with team of dedicated teachers, Bible Challenge Activities such as Jeopardy and Bible Tic Tac Toe, the Prayer Angels Project, and watching youth grow in the

Word of God. Soror Geraldine Dillon is described as one who glorified God through her excellent, diligent, and dedicated service as Sunday School Superintendent. She continues these same characteristics as an active CDO member, current Executive Director of the Ivy Community Foundation, Inc., chair of the SMART AKAdemy team and 2008 Soror of the Year.

Congratulations, Soror Gerri!



Getting to Know Our New Sorors

Pantos Ellis-Pettus

Being called Soror for the first time on Sunday, June 20th reminded me that like 2 of the iconic symbols, the Pearls and the Ivy, this was a process and the end result gives me strength and endurance. None of which would be possible without God. I trusted the process.

One of my favorite shows to watch is Flea Market Flip I enjoy refurbishing furniture.

Each year I travel on a week long vacation to Black History Monuments /Museums .

One thing I know I do well is listening to others.

One thing I cannot live without is Good music.

The person I look up to the most is my mother, she is the Most Authentic woman I know.



Asha Pinckney

Being called Soror for the first time on Sunday, June 20th reminded me that what I manifest will become real. I am no longer alone and I have over 300,000 sisters to prove it!

I'm pursuing a Doctorate in Public Health (October 2022).

I have 2 dogs and 7 birds.

I love to travel.

I am a Military Brat.

I love Marvel movies.

Ingrid Bowman Thomas

Being called a Soror for the first time reminded me that God hears and answers prayers. This process also reminded me of one of my favorite scriptures: Habakkuk 2:3, "For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end, it will speak and not lie; though it tarry, wait for it, because it will surely come, it will not tarry."

I currently teach Criminal Justice courses at Wilberforce University and Wiley College.

I teach introductory Spanish for Duval County Schools in the Community Education program.

I hope to be a published poet soon; waiting confirmation from the U.S. Library of Congress copyright office.

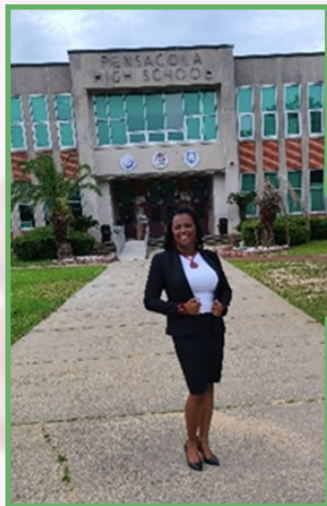
I love to laugh.

I do not know how to whisper!

I do not have rhythm. I'm a great chair dancer.

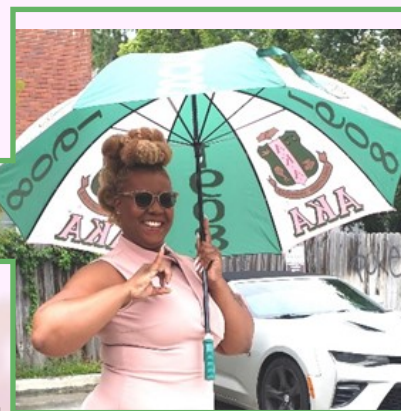
I used to stutter as a youth and overcame it with therapy.





Saraya Miller

Now that I'm an AKA, I feel as if I have gained a sisterhood and bond like no other. I am excited and grateful to be a part of such an exquisite organization/chapter. I look forward to continuing to cultivate scholarship, friendship, and unity to all mankind and exemplifying excellence through sustainable service.



Kellie Trotter

Being an AKA has been a lifelong dream. I am extremely excited and ready to serve. Thank you, Aunt Theresa, for sponsoring me.

I love to travel internationally to learn about other cultures and have visited 7 countries.

I'm a mother of five...26-, 19-, and 12-year-old of triplets!

I'm passionate about education, specifically being an advocate for students with disabilities.

I have recently obtained a position as Life Coach with Project Connect. I will be working with at risk youth within the Duval Juvenile Justice Department.

I am a volunteer mentor for at risk youth in Duval County via Bridge Builder's United, LLC (focus on African American males).



Sheila McGirt

My favorite part of the Membership Intake Process was holding hands and singing some of the Alpha Kappa Alpha hymns with my new Sorors. That was a feeling that I will always remember for the rest of my life!

Soror Saraya Miller Appointed High School Principal

The members of Chi Delta Omega Chapter are proud to congratulate one of its newest members, Soror Saraya Miller, on her appointment as the new Principal of Pensacola High School, Pensacola, FL.

Saraya began her educational journey in Palatka, FL, graduating from high school and going on to earn a Bachelor of Science Degree in Journalism and Public Relations, from Florida A & M University. She continued her education by obtaining a Master's Degree in Business Administration/Human Resource Management, from the University of Phoenix. However, her thirst for continuing education and her love for learning did not end there. She went on to earn an Educational Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University.

Saraya has always had a passion for education and teaching, starting her career in Duval County Schools, Jacksonville, FL then moving to positions with Orange County Schools, Orlando, FL. Over the span of the last 20 years she has worked as an English and Reading teacher, and served at a variety of Orange County Schools as Assistant Principal. Those being Winter Park High School, Meadowbrook Middle School, and Wekiva High School.

Since relocating to Pensacola, Soror Saraya has connected with some very influential and positive individuals who serve as leaders and mentors. Best of all, she has had the opportunity to meet other administrators in Escambia County Schools who are Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority members. Saraya says, "the sorors have greeted me with open arms and sisterly love, but I am not leaving CDO!"

Saraya expresses humility as she begins this new chapter of her career. She is very proud to serve as the Principal of Pensacola High School and she is doubly proud to be an Alpha Kappa Alpha Legacy Member. Soror Saraya is the daughter of CDO Charter member, Soror D'Arcy Miller.



Sorors needed to help with production of the **Ivy Vine** as reporters, writers, layout editors and proofreading. Training provided. Put those Social Media skills to use as the CDO **Facebook Manager**. Apply to the Ivy Leaf Reporter by email: mymiddle@aol.com. Great benefits package!



Sisterly Relations Committee Host Baby Shower

“The reveal” happened weeks earlier but Sorors gathered to “shower” Soror Michelle Vernet’s expected baby boy with lots of love and gifts. On August 14, 2021 at the Palm Coast Community Center. The CDO shower was sponsored by the Sisterly Relations/Membership committee. Soror Michelle was surrounded with many “Aunties” who offered the soon to be first time mother, lots of advice. Great food, fun, and fellowship was had by all as we learned more about Michelle through the games played. We wish



Michelle lots of sisterly love as she prepares to bring her new one into the world on her expected delivery date of October 14th.

Congratulations!



Soror Yolanda Brady on her induction into the 2021 Crescent City High School Hall of Fame for her outstanding performance as a volleyball player and scholar.

CONGRATULATIONS

HONEY DO LEE!

Husband of Soror Kimberly Lee



Post Office Box 351268

Palm Coast, Florida

The IVY VINE Newsletter

A Publication of

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.

Chi Delta Omega Chapter

EDITOR: Myra Middleton-Valentine

LAYOUT: Yolanda Pino

COPY EDITOR: Cerrito King

EDITION CONTRIBUTORS: Jonita McCree, D'Arcy Miller, Olivia Bereal, Robbie Johnson, Shata McDuffie, Michelle Vernet.