

The Austin Sphinx

The Journal of Gamma Eta Lambda
Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity

Issue 1: December 2016



A Message from the President

Greetings Brothers!

As your chapter president I would like to express my congratulations and well wishes for our chapter's most recent slate of accomplishments. We started the fraternal year with high hopes and aspirations. Please take a moment to read and reflect upon our achievements and milestones. Thank you for all that you do above and beyond that makes it easy for the fraternity, our brotherhood, to move onward and upward.

Bro. Craig Christopher Williams

Alpha Family Day

On July 16 the brothers of Gamma Eta Lambda met in Taylor, Texas at the house of Bro. Ahmos Zu-Bolton to celebrate family and fellowship. The brothers and their families enjoyed many activities including basketball, water activities, dancing and great food. Over 30 brothers and their families were in attendance as they dined on a variety of food including pulled pork, sausage, chicken, baked beans, potato salad and dirty rice. Bro. Maxie Bishop blessed the gathering with two of his famous pound cakes in addition of an abundance of other desserts, such as apple pie, cupcakes and cookies. Music is always enjoyed at an Alpha event and this was no exception as DJ Bro. August Martin kept the attendees thoroughly entertained. The children had a great time keeping cool with an inflatable waterslide and other outdoor activities. What is an Alpha event without a stroll off which was led by the multi-talented Bro. Aaron Spivey-Sorrells who was joined by the Beta Psi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. It was day of fun and festivities that was enjoyed by all. This summer event was the highlight of what has proven to be a very busy and rewarding fraternal year.



Boots on the Ground

On May 14 and October 22 the brothers of Gamma Eta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. teamed up with sisters of the Beta Psi Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority sponsored a "Boots On The Ground" community service project. This event specifically targeted the underserved homeless population. The fraternity and sorority distributed handbags with food, toiletries and clean water. Clothing items were distributed to both genders. The turnout was a success and made a significant difference to all involved.



Pancake Breakfast

On November 12 the brothers of Gamma Eta Lambda, led by Bro. Marques Bailey, hosted their semiannual pancake breakfast. The patrons enjoyed pancakes, hash browns, scrambled eggs, bacon and great conversation. The event was a success as we exceeded last year's goal.



Feast of Sharing

To show their commitment to being "Servants of All," Bros. Kevin Pete, DeQuincy Adamson, Keith Overton-Hadnot, and Lawrence Williams, from Gamma Eta Lambda, participated in the 2016 H-E-B Feast of Sharing at the Palmer Events Center. The Feast of Sharing is the culmination of a year-round commitment H-E-B makes to fighting hunger in the Austin area.



2016 Undergraduate New Initiates



Pictured above are the Fall 2016 initiates into Epsilon Iota: Bros. Ekom Ekpa, Javonte Starling, Bradley Chinidu, Vernon Marsh, and Nkeli Nkeli.



Pictured above are the Fall 2016 initiates of The Delta Chapter: Bros. Ryan Dixon, Markail Carron, Zack Hawthorne and Joshua Jones

2016 Leadership Development Institute

This year's LDI was held on the campus of the University of Texas and had 40 participants. The young men in attendance were presented with a full day of presentations regarding what it means to be a man, education attainment, sexual and financial health. Along with the participation of several brothers from Gamma Eta Lambda, the students heard Dr. Leonard Moore who discussed the meaning of manhood. The day was highlighted with a presentation from Bro. Mike Morath, the Texas Education Commissioner.



The day ended with a presentation on leadership from Bro. Chris Collins.



Pictured above, with the brothers of Gamma Eta Lambda, are Bro. Robert Smith (center) and Houston Mayor, Bro. Sylvester Turner (front right)

Texas African-American History Memorial

The brothers of Gamma Eta Lambda showed up en masse for the unveiling of the Texas African-American History Memorial on November 19. The brothers were specifically invited to this event, which was attended by Gov. Gregory Abbott, to assist with the unveiling of the memorial. With a bit of effort, they pulled off the tarps covering it to unveil a marvelous monument that detailed the history of African-Americans in the state of Texas.

Entering into Omega Chapter

As we wrap up 2016, it is important to remember those brothers who have entered into Omega Chapter. These brothers have served the fraternity and the chapter and will be missed.

Bro. Anthony E. Haynes	February 10, 2016
Bro. Dennis R. Swinney	May 13, 2016
Bro. Lucius H. Alexander, Jr	September 4, 2016
Bro. Dr. Allen M. Johnson	October 11, 2016



Pictured are some of the brothers who attended the funeral service for Bro. Allen Johnson, who succumbed to complications from ALS on October 11. The portrait was painted by Bro. Marcus Jackson and signed by members of the chapter. Along with members of Bro. Johnson's church, Bro. Y. Sekou Bermiss organized volunteers to assist Bro. Johnson at his senior care facility.



Honoring Bro. Allen M. Johnson

As an to honor Bro. Allen Johnson, Bro. Y. Sekou Bermiss (pictured on the right) organized the chapter to raise funds for the annual Walk to Defeat ALS. Through his efforts, the chapter raised \$995. He and Bro. Albert A. Thomas represented the chapter at the event.



Meet GHL's Newest Initiate

Bro. Shaquan Kearse is the Fall 2016 initiate of Gamma Eta Lambda. He is pictured with his sponsor, Bro. Keylan G. Morgan, Sr. Bro. Morgan also serves as the Chapter Dean.

2016 Founder's Day Weekend



It was every brother's favorite time of the year as Gamma Eta Lambda celebrated Founder's Day weekend. The brothers met for a night of revelry at the fraternity house on Friday night and met Saturday morning for the annual Founder's Day Brunch. This year's speaker was our very own Bro. Teddy McDaniel, the CEO of the Austin Area Urban League. Bro. McDaniel's speech was short, but powerful as he called on brothers to work toward the future. Citing several projects in the Austin area, Bro. McDaniel challenged the brothers to capture that Alpha Spirit and work to engage and enrich our communities.

In addition to the receiving such a powerful and inspiring message, the brothers also took time to acknowledge those brothers who have worked to sacrifice for the chapter and have made great strides professionally and civically. This year's award winners are listed below.

Esprit de Fraternité Award

- Bro. Keylan G. Morgan, Sr.

Alpha Brother of the Year Award

- Bro. Craig Christopher Williams

COMMUNITY SERVICE Award

- Bro. Paul J. King

ALPHA MERIT OF ACHIEVEMENT Award

- Bro. Alfred "Al" Lemon

HOUSE OF ALPHA Award

- Bro. Albert A. Thomas

On Sunday December 4, the brothers attended David Chapel Missionary Baptist Church for worship. The chapter was warmly greeted by the congregation, led by Pastor Joseph Parker, Jr. (pictured in the center).

Spreading Holiday Cheer

The Brothers of Gamma Eta Lambda hosted a pancake dinner at the Booker T. Washington Terrace (BTW) apartments on December 23, 2016. The brothers partnered with the Housing Authority of the City of Austin and volunteers from the BTW apartments to carry out this event. The brothers prepared, cooked, and served pancakes, waffles, sausage, fruit, apple juice, tea and other items to approximately 70 youth and their parents. Five \$10 gift cards were given away as prizes, as well as a Dell computer. Additionally, gift bags filled with fruit, chocolate, candy and \$5 McDonald's gift cards were provided to the first 60 youth in attendance.



Chapter Officers

President	Craig Christopher Williams
Vice-President	Eric L. McDaniel
Treasurer	Bro. Shawn Ball
Financial Secretary	Bro. Y. Sekou Bermiss
Recording Secretary	Bro. Terrell King
Corresponding Secretary	Bro. Sheldon George
Chaplain	Bro. Lawrence Williams
Director of Education	Bro. DeQuincey Adamson
Chapter Dean of Intake	Bro. Keylan G. Morgan, Sr.
Associate Editor to the Sphinx	Bro. Patrick Patterson
Sergeant at Arms	Bro. Paul King
Parliamentarian	Bro. Albert A. Thomas
Historian	Bro. Alfred Lemon
SWR Vice-President	Bro. Maurice Gipson
District Director	Bro. Tarrynce Robinson
Area Director	Bro. A. L. Mackey

Upcoming Events

January 14	Chapter Meeting
January 14	MLK Day of Service
January 16	MLK March
February 11	Chapter Meeting
February 16-19	TCAC Convention
March 11	Chapter Meeting
April 20-23	SWR Convention
April 29	Relay for Life
May 13	Chapter Meeting
June 10	Chapter Meeting
June 17	Juneteenth Parade
July 15	Family Day Picnic
August 5	Chapter Retreat

<http://www.austinalpha.com>

<http://alphasouthwest.org>

<http://www.apa1906.net>

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