

# The Austin Sphinx

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

Issue 1: February 2018



## A Message from the President

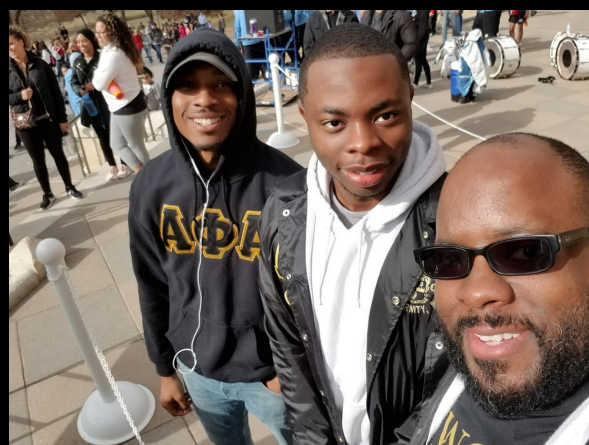
Brothers,

As we enter into 2018, I am excited to see what we can accomplish as a chapter. We have accomplished a great deal over the past four months and I expect us to continue this trajectory. I am excited to be your president and I look forward to working with you all in our future endeavors. As many of you know, the work of Alpha is never done. I ask you all you please look over the various needs of the chapter and see how you can contribute. I also ask that we take the time to celebrate our brotherhood. Whether it be during the repast after the meeting or quick text message to follow up with a long lost brother. Thanks to the brothers who came before us, Gamma Eta Lambda has accomplished great things. We remember their work as we engage each other and our community to spread the Light of Alpha to Austin and the world.

## MLK Day Parade



The brothers of Gamma Eta Lambda, Delta and Epsilon Iota chapters met to commemorate the legacy of our brother Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The brothers met at the King statue, on the campus of the University of Texas, where chapter president Eric L. McDaniel gave a short speech about what is needed to carry on the legacy of Brother King. Focusing on his speech "Staying Awake Through a Revolution," Brother McDaniel emphasized that being "woke" is about actions, not words. After placing a wreath at the foot of the statue the brothers commemorated the event by singing the Alpha hymn and recited the Alpha prayer. Joining the other marchers, which numbered in the hundreds. The brothers marched to the Texas State Capitol where local and state leaders spoke of Brother King's dream and need to make it a reality. From their they marched to the campus of Huston-Tillotson University where they participated in the city wide celebration.





## Gold Goes Blue for Operation Blue Santa

The Gamma Eta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Partnered with the ladies of our local Sigma Gamma Rho Alumni chapter to plan our annual Austin PanHellenic Council community service project by volunteering to be part of the Austin Police Department's Operation Blue Santa Initiative. Although it was a frigid December morning, the Alphas showed up in numbers to bring joy to many kids in the Austin area who may not get any holiday cheer. Operation Blue Santa delivers a full holiday meal and wrapped gifts for children under the age of 14. The effort of the chapter helped Operation Blue Santa serve over 4,500 families in the Austin area along with 1,500 Adoptions. Although we were a small part of the production our efforts help make the 45th year of the program a major success.



## Alpha's Leadership Development Institution on full display during the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Festivities



During this year's Martin Luther King Jr. march spectators might have noticed that the Alphas were looking much younger. For the first time in the chapters history, the young men of our Leadership Development Institution (LDI) marched with the members of Gamma Eta Lambda during the MLK Day Festivities. The LDI program strives to impart life skills into next generation by following the mission statement of our fraternity by not only developing leaders but promote academic excellence In the young men we serve. The LDI program is in its fourth year and registration is opening for our fifth year of the program in early February. You can visit [LDI homepage](#) on the AustinAlpha website for more information and an application.

## Senior Brother's Luncheon

On Friday, February 2, the chapter held its Senior Brother's Luncheon. Organized by Brothers Sam Robertson and Ed Roby, the luncheon was an opportunity for brothers to come together to enjoy each other and trade stories about Alpha. It was a well attended event as brothers from throughout the city came in. The luncheon was also joined by several brothers from Epsilon Iota. The brothers took time to celebrate the birthday of Bro. A. L. Mackey and Bro. Keith Wooten announced the regions plans to recognize veterans.





## Remembering Bro. Joseph McMillan, Jr.



In January, the Gamma Eta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. celebrated the transition of Bro. Dr. Joseph Turner McMillan Jr. to Omega Chapter.

Brother McMillan was born on July 19, 1944 in Valdosta, GA, the eldest of three children. Even in his early youth, Bro. McMillan exhibited a love for education, mentoring, and a desire to help others. This passion led him to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Howard University, where he graduated in 1965. It was at Howard University that Bro. McMillan saw the light of Alpha and was initiated via Beta Chapter into the brotherhood of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. in which he later became a life member. Bro. McMillan went on to expand his education by receiving a Master of Arts degree in Student Personnel Administration from Howard University in 1970; and a Doctor of Education degree in Higher Education Administration from Teachers College, Columbia University, in 1986.

He also earned the Certificate in Educational Management from Harvard University during the summer of 1990.

Bro. McMillan was active in civic, cultural, religious, and educational organizations throughout the nation. In the City of Austin, he was a member of the Austin Regional Advisory Board of Chase Bank of Texas; a member of the Certification Advisory Council of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board; and a former member of the Board of Directors of the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce (1990-1993). Bro. McMillan is most notably remembered as President and Chief Executive Officer of Huston-Tillotson College from July 1, 1988, to June 30, 2000. He was named President Emeritus after his retirement. Serving as the fourth president of what is now Huston-Tillotson University, Bro. McMillan's 12-year legacy included the development of new course majors to address workforce development in Austin; strengthening standards for admission, retention, financial aid eligibility; implementing technology throughout campus; building and maintenance enhancements; the initiation of comprehensive strategic planning processes; and increased financial stability.

On Tuesday, December 12, 2017, Bro. Dr. Joseph Turner McMillan Jr. went from labor to reward surrounded by loving family and friends. On Saturday, January 13, 2018, his life was celebrated at the King-Seabrook Chapel on the campus of his beloved Huston-Tillotson University.

### Chaplain's Prayer for February

Heavenly Father, we are forever grateful and offer sincere thanks for all the many blessings you have bestowed upon us. For our families, friends, loved ones, health, and financial well being. We acknowledge that you serve as our only source, our only protector, our only provision, and our only guide. Some believe that they are sustained only by their hard work or that their health is a result of only their actions, but as Alpha Men we realize that without God we can do nothing but with God all things are possible.

It is with this realization as reflected in Philippians 4:13, that we believe we can do **ALL things through CHRIST** who gives us strength. It is with this belief that we start the year of 2018 with high expectations for not only ourselves individually, but for our families, for Gamma Eta Lambda, and for Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. We believe and declare through God that we are, **STRONG, HEALTHY, PASSIONATE, TALENTED, VALUABLE, CONFIDENT, PEOPLE OF EXCELLENCE, FULL OF INTEGRITY, SUCCESSFUL & PROSPEROUS, GREAT HUSBANDS, GREAT FATHERS, GREAT FRIENDS, BLESSED & VICTORIOUS**, and most importantly **CHILDREN OF THE MOST HIGH GOD!**

We stand together in expectation of receiving your best for our lives. No longer will we settle for mediocrity, no longer will our marriages be unhappy, our relationships with our children strained, our bank account insufficient, our friendships lacking, or our health unsatisfactory. To the contrary, we believe that according Ephesians 3:20, that God will do **EXCEEDING, ABUNDANT, AMAZING** things in every aspect of our lives.

We ask you God that as we journey through 2018, that you continuously lead and guide us. Help us to avoid trouble, give us the strength to overcome trouble, and let us not forget to praise you when we get out of trouble. Teach us to work together and be as one so that we may become through thee, **SERVANTS OF ALL**. In the name of Jesus Christ, **AMEN**.

**Texas Council of Alpha Chapters**  
 February 15-18, 2018 **DISTRICT CONVENTION**  
 Hyatt Regency North Dallas  
 701 East Campbell Road, Richardson, Texas

*The Urgency of Now:  
 A New Vision That Paves the Way  
 for a Brighter Tomorrow!*

**ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC.**

**Summarized TCAC Schedule**

<b>Thursday</b>	7:00pm-9:00pm 8:00pm-12:00am	Ladies Meet & Greet Hospitality Hosted by Sigma Gamma Rho
<b>Friday</b>	9:30am-10:30am 11:30am-1:00pm 3:00pm-4:00pm 4:00pm-5:00pm 8:00pm-9:00pm 10:00pm-1:00am 10:00pm-2:00am	Opening Business Session District Director's Honor's Luncheon Senior Brothers Roundtable Competitions Preliminary Round Step Show Competition Hospitality Hosted by Alpha Kappa Alpha TCAC Step Show After Party
<b>Saturday</b>	7:30am-8:45am 9:00am-11:45am 12:00pm-1:30pm 2:00pm-4:00pm 3:00pm-4:45pm 4:00pm-4:30pm 4:15pm-5:15pm 5:00pm-6:30pm 7:30pm-9:30pm 9:30pm-11:30pm	Life Members Breakfast Second Business Session College Brothers Oratorical Luncheon Fraternal Workshops Voting Caucuses Scholars Bowl Final Round Final Business Session Black and Gold Banquet Miss Black and Gold Pageant
<b>Sunday</b>	9:00am-10:00am	Ecumenical Service

**Gamma Eta Lambda Delegates to TCAC**  
 Bro. Eric L. McDaniel  
 Bro. Keylan G. Morgan  
 Bro. Keith Wooten  
 Bro. Ahmos Zu-Bolton

# To Be an Alpha Man

By Bro. Fred H. Woodruff

To be an Alphaman means more than just to wear a pin,  
It requires intrinsic qualities that are developed deep within,  
It calls for lasting brotherhood, a word sometimes used in vain,  
It means an honest devotion, not anticipation of personal gain.

Fraternity speaks of brotherly love, that's something to achieve,  
It's more than just a grip of hands, it's an ideal to conceive.

You're proud to be an Alpha, and share her praises won,  
Before you inflate yourself with pride, ask yourself, honestly, how much have I done?

To realize the wealth of personal satisfaction, from knowing you've given your all,  
To have helped her cause unfalteringly, when you rally to her call.

To combine all these qualities, and root them deep within,  
The product would be an Alphaman, deserving of his pin.

So take an honest inventory of your character within,  
And for every virtue you find missing, try and weave it in.  
For a man without these virtues isn't worth a grain of sand.  
It's plain to see, it's more than just a pin, that makes an Alphaman.

## Upcoming Events

February 10	MLK Gala Meeting
	Chapter Meeting
February 15-18	TCAC, Richardson TX
February 17	"Liberty, Equality, and Fireworks" LBJ Auditorium UT Campus
February 20	First Day of Early Voting
March 2	Last Day of Early Voting
March 6	Election Day

President
Vice-President
Treasurer
Financial Secretary
Recording Secretary
Corresponding Secretary
Chaplain
Director of Education
Chapter Dean of Intake
Associate Editor to the Sphinx
Sergeant at Arms
Parliamentarian
Historian
SWR Vice-President
District Director
Area Director

## Chapter Officers

Bro. Eric L. McDaniel
Bro. Noel Sherman
Bro. Y. Sekou Bermiss
Bro. Joshua Postell
Bro. DeQuincy Adamson
Bro. Antonio Gage
Bro. Lawrence Williams
Bro. DeQuincy Adamson
Bro. Keylan G. Morgan
Bro. Nathan Walker
Bro. Kevin Pete
Bro. Keith Wooten
Bro. DeQuincy Adamson
Bro. Tarrynce Robinson
Bro. Lewis Brewer
Bro. A. L. Mackey

<http://www.austinalpha.com>

<http://alphasouthwest.org>

<http://www.apa1906.net>

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