Black Greek History

Alexa Pierre, Vice-President of Public Relations

As we enter Black History Month, it is important to take time to reflect upon the great triumphs African Americans have accomplished over the past 200+ years. In fact, all of the Divine Nine Organizations were founded to fight for civil rights and equality by building bonds to nurture and cultivate Black excellence. These organizations have worked tirelessly over the years to ensure that people of color could afford the best opportunities possible. For example, many notable black Greeks played important roles in the civil rights movement. Legendary civil rights leaders Martin Luther King Jr. and W.E.B. DuBois pledged Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Benjamin Chavis Muhammad, the organizer of the Million Man March is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. Jesse Jackson Sr. is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. And the late Johnny Cochran is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

Black Sororities also made a substantial impact on civil rights. In 1913, Delta Sigma Theta’s twenty two founders marched in the iconic Women’s Suffrage March in D.C. where they fought for the rights of black women in America. Alpha Kappa Alpha sisters also participated in the Women’s suffrage march and worked to eradicate lynchings in the South. Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King are just two of many members of this sorority. Being founded in the Midwest, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority dealt with hostile environments as these women bravely improved the community by educating youth and performing service for the public’s interest. Women of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority were also actively involved in the plight to remedy societal and racial issues upon its founding in 1920. During Black History Month, we will celebrate those who joined the cause for equality through membership in a National Pan-Hellenic Council chapter, along with many other leaders who fought for equality and have made a positive contribution to our country.

Quote of the Month

“Each person must live their life as a model for others.”

Rosa Parks
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated

2nd Annual “Culture of Excellence” Program is Back, by Alpha Phi Alpha

Jessica Archer, Internal Vice-President

Happy Black History Month Terps! The Iota Zeta Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. is celebrating the legacy of Black scholarship, success, and excellence by awarding a $1000 scholarship to the winner of their 2nd annual oratorical contest! Interested students may prepare a 5 minute speech addressing the prompt: “Describe the ways in which the new generation African American can align cultural and social perspectives in order to move forward in America. Pick an issue. Are the distorted perspectives, such as stereotypes, really the main setback to progress?” The brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha will hold auditions on 2/10/13 from 3pm-7pm and 2/11/13 from 7pm to 9pm. Five contestants will be chosen to perform their speeches on Sunday, February 25th at the 2nd Annual Culture of Excellence program in Stamp’s Grand Ballroom. For more information, please check out he Infamous-IcyIotaZetaAlphas Facebook page and Twitter page @TheINFAMOUS_IZ or contact dpinkett@umd.edu

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