Founders’ Day Celebrations

The celebrations began on January 5th, 2014, marking the 103rd year of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. On January 13th the Lambda Omega Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc celebrated with all sorors on campus, students and administrators, in Von Canon. The ladies of Iota Mu celebrated Founders’ Day in the Mary Lou on January 15th. On January 16th Nu Omicron celebrated the Founding Day of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc.

Congratulations everyone!

Happy Centennial Phi Beta Sigma!

The Alpha Alpha Chi Chapter celebrated 100 years of Brotherhood, Scholarship, and Service of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. January 9th, 2014 marks 100 years since Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity came into creation by their three Most Honorable Brothers: A. Langston Taylor, Leonard F. Morse, and Charles I. Brown. The Duke chapter celebrated with all the local Triangle chapters.
The authors of The Weedicle, Duke’s “co-dependent occasionally” which satires different aspects of student life recently published an article titled “ACTIVIST DEMANDS ABOLITION OF CULTURAL GREEK COUNCILS.” This article purports to explain the advocacy platform of fictional student Cameron Hudgins, who makes a plea for culturally affiliated Greek organizations to be “re-integrate[d] into the “mainstream” campus community.”

Most Duke students know very little about NHPC and MGC so if the most popular "news" story about these groups is a satirical article about a fictional student calling for their abolition, then those who read this article will draw many of their primary opinions about NPHC and MGC with only one source - The Weedicle. This seems like legitimate news when the readers are unaware of the topic being addressed, outside of the introduction to the topic via the satirical article itself.

But isn't satire harmless? When taken in context, it is clear to see how this article is problematic and perpetuates a cycle of ignorance about minority cultures. To all the satirists at Duke, keep this in mind - even after you write the most sensational satirical piece that will garner you the most attention, minority students must come behind you and pick up the pieces to the puzzle of our Duke experience that we've been putting together for the past 50 years.

Duke NPHC kicked off the spring semester on January 8th, 2014 with an informational session about Greek life at Duke in White Lecture Hall. Advisor Sean Palmer opened the evening with an inspirational poem that included a range of quotes from the NPHC organizations. Afterwards, a panel with a representative from each organization answered various questions regarding stereotypes, myths, and acceptance requirements. Attendants were given the opportunity to mingle with members of the council in order to get more questions answered or expand on thoughts that were previously mentioned.
André May, a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., is a Civil and Environmental Engineering major with a concentration in Structural Engineering and Mechanics. He was born and raised in Jamaica, but currently resides in Durham, NC. On campus he is involved with Duke Engineers for International Development (DEID), The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), The Duke Episcopal Center, Round Table and the Office of Student Conduct Disciplinary Advisors. He enjoys playing soccer, drawing, learning foreign languages and listening to music. Andre aspires to become a structural engineer and use his talents to help those less fortunate.

“For my final semester, I'm mainly focused on fostering and maintaining relationships. Whether it be with members of the class of 2014, other students, staff and/or faculty, I've met a lot of awesome people here at Duke.”

Ciera Price, a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., is majoring in Biology with a concentration in Anatomy, Physiology, & Biomechanics, and minoring in Psychology. During her time at Duke she has been involved with fabrication research, volunteer organizations such as Crazies Who, Care & Habitat for Humanity, and even Black Tenting in K-ville. Additionally, she has dedicated a notable amount of time to participating in and facilitating various leadership development programs, most significantly the LeaderShape Institute. She is also, of course, heavily involved in Greek Life and Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. When asked about her experience she stated:

“Looking back I realize that SGRho has made my Duke experience so much more than I ever thought it could be, filling a void I never knew existed and holding me to standards even higher than those I hold for myself. Moreover, my membership in NPHC has fostered several immensely important relationships with Duke administrators as well as the most precious friendships I've ever had.”

She is currently completing an independent study project within the Mechanical Engineering & Materials Science Department involving the biomechanical properties of the sclera. Following graduation, she intends to continue working in her independent study lab as a hired employee before accepting a position in an O&P clinic in California. During this gap year, she will be preparing to enter graduate school with plans to obtain a Master’s in Orthotics and Prosthetics. After completing her residency, she hopes to contribute to the research field of artificial limbs.
Million Meals is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of senior citizens in need. With over 5,000 locations across the country, the organization provides a million nutritional meals each day for those in need. More specifically, Meals on Wheels Durham has been serving the local community since 1975. Through the support of donors and volunteers, the organization has made close to two million meals. If you are looking to get more involved in the community and need more information contact Meals on Wheels Durham at 919-667-9424 or info@mowdurham.org

NPHC Week
This year marked the first annual Spring NPHC Rush Week. The 90s themed week offered a new way for students on campus to interact with and learn about the Greek community.

Sunday: “Cool Like Dat” - an informative dessert progressive
Monday: “This is How We Do it” – the council united for a day of service with Million Meals
Tuesday: The “U.N.I.T.Y” dinner at Marketplace provided a relaxed setting for getting to know members
Wednesday: An inspirational speaker from TransAfrica talked about human rights for black communities worldwide.
Thursday: “Hard Knock Life” was a high energy bowling event
Friday: “Jump Around” allowed everyone to shoot some hoops and show off basketball skills.
Saturday: “How Do you Want It” was a 90s themed party in Devil’s Den

More on Million Meals
On January 25th, Omicron Nu attended their Regional Mid-Winter conference in College Park, Maryland (picture to the right). This February look out for the event A Living History on February 5, 6-8pm. Also coming up is Rholl bounce at Wheels Skate Park on February 22nd from 11pm-2am.

On January 19th, Lambda Omega attended the local Durham Founders’ Day event which included members from across the South Atlantic region. The ladies also worked at the Delta Sigma Theta Durham Alumnae event Jabberwock, an annual showcase that grants 11th and 12th grade girls college scholarships.

On January 11th the event Flawless AKAsion was a success, reaching overcapacity. Also during the event Timeless Service: Valentine's Edition on January 28th, the members created 125 cards for the disabled and those who are unable to be with loved ones on or around Valentine's Day. Look out for the event A Toast to Black Women on February 13th.

Nu Omicron played a major role in NPHC Week. Tiana Horn personally made all of the event flyers and took the reigns on publicizing the events. This February be sure to attend their annual date auction on February 8th in the Searle Center.
On January 5th, 2014 Alpha Alpha Chi celebrated the life and works of Bro. George Washington Carver. Carver was an innovator of many agricultural products including cotton, peanuts, and sweet potatoes. January 9th-12th, 2014 was the Southeastern Regional Conference where Representatives partook in valuable workshops, important trainings, and principal meetings. On January 11th, 2014 the Brothers in the Triangle area gathered together to volunteer at Habitat for Humanity in Durham, NC.

January was a month of accomplishments for the men of Iota Xi. Awards included artist of the week for DeShaun King and Deans List for Zachary Freeman. In addition, Drew Underwood got accepted to Duke Engage in Guatemala while Ross Emory got an internship at J.P Morgan. Good job guys!

Quan Stevenson began the "Omegas On A Mission" philanthropy campaign in order to lend a hand for those who endured adversity with great fortitude. The mission is to bridge the gap between the general public and the less fortunate. Omega Zeta is building a legacy of service that allows our youth to eventually stand up on their own two feet and become model citizens in their own communities.

Kappa Omicron participated wholeheartedly in the NPHC rush events this past month. Stay tuned for events that the men have planned for the month of February.
Frater Les Brown (Phi Beta Sigma) has said, "if you take responsibility for yourself you will develop a hunger to accomplish your dreams." No words have ever been truer when you are actively engaged in a high touch model of training students. Unfortunately, all training doesn't come from a meeting in a room with a preselected speaker and prepared questions. It sometimes comes in the form of trial and error...and even failure. The goal of a good mentor is to share honest criticism and help pick up the broken pieces, rather than shouting from their lungs, "see, I told you so." "I told you so" can be icing on our advisory cake, but to our students it sounds like, "you aren't tight!!!" So, I've become one of those advisors that believes every moment can teach and empower, even if students have failed to meet our standards. Teaching responsibility for an organization, a sorority, a fraternity, or for self requires that learning be in the middle of tough conversations, that it meander over meals, and that brothers and sisters learn skills that will empower them for a lifetime. Even when they think they know it all, I am clear that teaching responsibility in praxis prepares my young fraters and sorors to accomplish their dreams in ways that they have never imagined!

Meet the Author!

Angel Nwachukwu is a second year economics major from Houston, Texas. In addition to Delta Sigma Theta, Angel is a member of Duke Africa, the Co-Director of Programming for the Black Student Alliance, and the Secretary of Nourish International. “As the new historian my goal is to ensure that Duke students stay up to date about the works of NPHC both on campus and in the Durham community.”