A Newsletter of the Dynamic Duke NPHC  March 6, 2014

The Burning Sands

A Month of Big Events

On February 8th the ladies of the Nu Omicron Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. hosted their 7th annual charity date auction. Bachelors from the triangle area were auctioned off, with all proceeds given to charity. Bids ranged from 50 to a hundred dollars.

On February 28th, the Kappa Omicron Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. hosted the Miss Black and Gold Pageant. Six beautiful ladies competed for a scholarship. Congratulations to Lauren Jefferson for winning the grand title and good job guys for executing a great event.

The Iota Xi Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. hosted their 35th Correy T. Williams Ball: Diamonds of Revolutionary Achievement at the Nasher Museum. The ball was held to sponsor the Durham Partnership for Children, an organization that provides resources to improve childcare around the community.
Congratulations to the new 2014-2015 NPHC Officers!

President

**JT Ross**
Sophomore, Phi Beta Sigma

1st Vice President

**Chioma Iwelumo**
Sophomore, Delta Sigma Theta

2nd Vice President

**Broderick Turner**
Junior, Phi Beta Sigma

Secretary

**Kathryn Cooper**
Junior, Alpha Kappa Alpha

Treasurer

**Drew Underwood**
Junior, Kappa Alpha Psi

Parliamentarian

**Imani Moise**
Sophomore, Delta Sigma Theta

Community Service Chair

**Lindsey Huth**
Junior, Sigma Gamma Rho

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Members of the Alpha Alpha Chi Chapter sleeping out for the homeless

**Sigmas Sleepout for the Homeless: Feb 17-18, 2014**

The Alpha Alpha Chi Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. presented the annual Sigma Sleepout for the Homeless. This event brought awareness of the issue of homelessness in the Durham community, allowing Duke students to help by donating canned food, clothing, and other items to the Durham Rescue Mission. The Duke Sigmas partnered with J-Ville who made kits and discussed the issues that face homeless people and families. The donations received will help dozens if not hundreds of people. Thank you to all who donated and supported the cause.

**Update from Omega Psi Phi**

Quan Stevenson, member of the Omega Zeta chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., has spent the month of February preparing for a QZ reunion. The reunion promotion video is coming out in late March. Quan is also working on a business-networking event that should be coming out later this semester.
**Minorities and Mental Health: Addressing Stigmas and Solutions**

The Lambda Omega Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. partnered with NAACP to address the issues of mental health in minority communities. Professionals offered concrete advice on ways to detect depression and steps to take in order to receive help. Also on February 27th Lambda Omega raised awareness about Black History Month through cookies and facts in both the Bryan Center and Marketplace. In addition to these events, February was a month of accomplishments for LQ. Morgan Ramsey will be interning for Google this summer in Los Angeles while Imani Moise will intern for NBC in New York. Good job ladies!

**Update from Iota Mu**

On February 20th the ladies of the Iota Mu Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. commemorated Black History Month through a celebration of black women. During A Toast to Black Women the ladies discussed topics that are essential for the continuous advancement of our community. A special discussion included the stigma around mental health in black women. In addition to this event, congratulations to Kathryn Cooper for winning Ms. 1906 in the Miss Black and Gold Pageant!

**Rholl Bounce**

The Omicron Nu Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho would like to thank everyone who came out to Rholl Bounce and made it a success!! It was a fun night of skating at Wheels Fun Park in Durham. The DJ played a range of music from 80s to present day. Stay tuned for a study break from the ladies of Omicron Nu.
SPOTLIGHT: Seniors on the Yard

Crystal Fuller is member of the Iota Mu Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She will be completing a one year Post-Baccalaureate Program at UNCG to further prepare for dental school. She is also waiting to hear back from the MED summer program at UNC Dental. She will be graduating with a major in Cultural Anthropology and a double minor in Photography and Visual Arts. She has shadowed dentists, completed SMDEP, and worked 2 jobs (Duke University Stores and the MLWC). She has been a mentor with Future is Now Mentoring Program all 4 years, serving as president for 2. In addition to these commitments, she served on the executive board for BSA for 2 years, and has been an active member of Iota Mu where she served as Vice President, Programming Chair, Community Service Chair, Financial Secretary, Historian, and Webmistress.

"Being apart of this sisterhood has taught me so much about myself and has definitely made me become a more wholesome person. I love being here for my sisters and serving others. Alpha Kappa Alpha has not only positively affected my Duke experience, but will continue to leave positive marks in all other aspects of my life."

Noelle Cunningham is a member of the Lambda Omega Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Noelle is majoring in Economics while also minoring in both Psychology and French Studies. This past year has presented Noelle with numerous leadership opportunities that have ultimately transformed her Duke experience. Her most memorable experiences include speaking in the Duke Chapel for Greek convocation, meeting the DST National President at the Centennial Torch Relay in NYC, and also representing her chapter and her school at various local and regional events. In her time at Duke, she has also been heavily involved in the Figure Skating Club in the roles of Vice President and Treasurer. She is preparing to compete at the University of Delaware next month and on April 19th she will have an exhibition in Durham (mark your calendars!). She serves as a research assistant in the Department of Psychiatry and also the Fuqua School of Business. She is a member of the Brownstone selective living group. After graduation, Noelle hopes to use her economics degree in the areas of healthcare and public policy by working for pharmaceutical consulting firms or government agencies like the Federal Reserve Bank.

“Delta Sigma Theta has transformed my life in ways that I never thought possible. I have become more engaged as a student and a citizen. I look forward to maintaining membership after I graduate so I can continue to impact lives and transform communities.”
Unfortunately, being in an NPHC organization isn't always celebration, love, and fun. Sometimes it's grueling midnight oil kind-of-work that forces students to provide blood, sweats, and tears in the advance of their particular organization. In my time as an NPHC advisor, member, and regional representative, I've seen Greek affiliation pit best friends against each other. I've seen members burst out into tears as they feel the conflict of betrayal and sadness, dealing with people in competing organizations. I've seen people's reputations obliterated in the wake of positional leadership or the desire to hold power. This is the ugly of NPHC Greek life...because no one wants to lose friends or exacerbate tenuous relationships in the advance of what was founded in 1906, 1908, 1911, 1913, 1914, 1920, 1922, or 1963.

However, there is much learning going on in the tired moments of NPHC Greek Life. Students don't know it yet, but they are learning valuable lessons that will help them navigate multiple and competing interests at the same time. Greeks don't know it yet, but they are learning to put their relationships in the light, which will ultimately show both the weaknesses and strengths of perceived friendships. NPHC hasn't made sense of these lessons, but in due time, they will learn how to fix what has been broken...and how to repair chapter relationships. These are good lessons to learn because life in the public square and on the international main-stage can create conflicts of interest, challenge relationship, and create the perfect storm for crisis decision making.

It is important in this moment that we don't miss the lesson inside of the crisis because our students need to be trained to be dynamic, not only when it's easy to do so, but also in the "frying pans" of life. As an advisor, it is my goal to help students develop their voice, speak truth to power, learn strategy, and build relationship in spite of competing goals, objectives and agendas. As an advisor, I'm charged with helping them pick up the pieces even when things are not as "Happy" as they could be. I'm left with my grandmother's thoughts in those moments, "its not how you celebrate in moments of triumph, its how you act when hell is breaking loose that reveals your character." The politics of being Greek requires us to teach this valuable lesson!