

Central Arkansas Alumnae Chapter, (501) 261-1650

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President's Message

"Where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

Matthew 18: 15-20

Those that meet you will most likely not forget you, but how you are remembered is your choice.....

Ladies, welcome back. It is so wonderful to behold your beauty and an honor to begin another sorority year with each of you.

I suspect many of you are bubbling over with anticipation and excitement due in part to the information gained as a result of your attendance during the Southwest Regional Conference held in Little Rock.

Let the programming begin today Saturday, September 10, 2005 as we embark on a journey to tailor and approve programming and projects that will empower the community and strengthen our partnerships.

There are many new initiatives and activities proposed for this calendar year that will be successful because of your input. The new initiatives - *Healthy Lifestyle Changes, Financial Fortitude and Delta Gems* are just a few of the exhilarating and rewarding activities endorsed by the National Program, Planning and Develop and Finance Committee's.

Many thanks to those of you who have accepted the challenge to serve Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc and the Central Arkansas Alumnae Chapter (CAAC) as an elected, appointed and or member. Your input is very valuable to the growth of CAAC.

Amid the fun and festivities, we should remember those who founded Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. They strived for excellence for themselves but more importantly for their community.

Now it is your turn. Most recently many of our brothers, sisters and neighboring communities were devastated by the effects of the hurricane "*Katrina*," some, physically, financially and mentally.

Please solicit God in your time with him to provide, comfort to the multitude that have experienced lost due to the hurricane. Additionally, ask him for guidance in how you can assist one or more of these individuals.

Sisterly,

Latriana Robertson

CAAC Announcements

- △ **CAAC Receives Website Honor:** CAAC was awarded 3rd place for its website at the 40th Regional Conference and will be one of three chapters to represent the Southwest Region in the website competition at the National Convention in Philadelphia, PA.
- △ **Called Meeting:** Saturday, September 17, 2005 at the Cox Creative Center on 3rd Floor. We will discuss the budget for the 2005-2006 Sorority year.
- △ **Delta Academy/Delta GEMS:** The kick-off will take place Thursday, September 22, 2005 at Dee Brown Library on Baseline, Little Rock. For more information, contact Venus Hawkins, Chair PP&D at 501-407-0880.





Joseph C. Phillips visits the Clinton Library while in Little Rock.



Joseph C. Phillips with Soror Claudette Barbee before delivering the keynote address at the Sickle Cell Charity Ball.



The Red Hot Readers

Meets: Every 4th Sunday of the Month

Time: 6:30-8:30p.m.

For More Information Contact:

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ANNUAL SICKLE CELL ANEMIA CHARITY BALL

By Lizzie Breaux

Sickle Cell Anemia is a devastating disease largely affecting the communities of African American and Hispanic people. Unfortunately for the many thousands affected by the disease, there is no cure.

In Arkansas, one in every 500 African Americans is living with Sickle Cell Anemia. Despite its seriousness, it fails to receive little recognition. This is largely a disadvantage particularly in Central Arkansas where a majority of the state's African American and Hispanic people make up a prominent part of its diverse culture. It is for this reason that the Central Arkansas Alumnae Chapter (CAAC) has accepted the challenge

and made strides to create awareness and impact the community of this major public health concern.

On Saturday, June 11, 2005, CAAC hosted its 1st Annual Sickle Cell Anemia Charity Banquet entitled "Lighting the Torch in Our Community, Revealing a Silent Sickness." Proceeds were geared toward the establishment of an annual fund at Arkansas Children's Hospital for children suffering with Sickle Cell Anemia and blood disorders to attend Camp Alders gate, a special needs camp for children in Arkansas.

The event went over largely for all guests in attendance and was an even greater success with the presence and

support of the evening's honored guest, celebrated actor Mr. Joseph C. Phillips. Joseph C. Phillips, known best for his portrayal of Lt. Martin Kendall on the Cosby Show, acted as the evening's keynote speaker addressing the disease from a touching personal perspective. "Many parents walk around unaware that they carry the Sickle Cell trait. If both parents have the trait there is a 25 percent chance a child will be born with the disease. Therefore, everyone should be tested for the Sickle Cell trait," says Phillips.

CAAC' member Claudette Barbee pre-sented Mr. Phillips with the Arkansas Travelers Award.

40th Southwest Regional Conference

By: Angela Austin

On July 28-31, 2005, over 1400 Deltas from Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Texas and Jamaica convened to celebrate the 40th Southwest Regional Conference in Little Rock, AR. The conference was launched with a public service project, "Taking It to the Streets" The Healthy Lifestyles Health Fair held at the Statehouse Convention Center on July 27. A wreath was also placed on the gravesite of Honorary Member, Daisy Bates at Haven of Rest Cemetery. The hostess chapters held a splendid welcome recap-tion at

the Riverfront. During the Opening, Dr. Louise A. Rice, 23rd National President, addressed the delegation speaking on the theme, "one Mission. One Sisterhood: Empowering Communities through Committed Service." Workshops were presented to give Sorors the resources needed to improve and enhance the functions of chapters. Phenomenal speakers, from Dr. Walter Kimbrough, President of Philander Smith College and Author of "Black Greek 101" to our very own Bishop Vashti McKenzie, were present to address delegates. The highlight of the Conference was the "Red Hat-titude" Sisterhood Luncheon

held Friday, July 29. Sorors sported red hats of all styles and shades. Bishop Vashti McKenzie delivered a powerful speedh, "Blessed and Highly Favored," with scripture taken from Genesis 31. Bishop McKenzie stated, "The favor of God is not diminished or weekend by the negative acts of others. Dr. Marvette J. Thomas also made a special presentation to the "Golden Soror" who celebrated 50 or more years in the sorority. Thank you to all CAAC members who helped.



Hurricane Katrina The Natural Disaster with Enormous Impact



By: Angela Austin

With shrieking winds of 145 miles per hour, Hurricane Katrina slammed into the Gulf Coast outside New Orleans on Monday, August 29, 2005. Two levees broke and sent water coursing into the streets of the Big Easy a full day after New Orleans appeared to have escaped widespread destruction from Katrina. The water submerged entire neighborhoods up to the roof of houses, swamped Mississippi's beachfront and blew out windows in hospitals, hotels and highrises.

The storm was so great the Mayor of New Orleans, Ray Nagin, described it as, 'a catastrophe of biblical proportions.' Mayor Nagin pleaded with the federal government to give him executive power to dictate and manage military resources to clean up the disastrous city.

As of Tuesday, August 30, 2005, eighty percent of the city was under water with conditions worsening. City officials were prompt to evacuate hotels and hospitals and drop huge sandbags from helicopters to close the breached levees. Flooding was so severe city officials implemented mandatory evacuations; however, there were residents reluctant to leaving their "home." South Mississippi and Alabama were swamped by the rising coastal waters and have also been devastated.

Louisiana Governor, Kathleen Blanco, stated "The situation is untenable. It is just heartbreaking." The death toll is said to reach 10,000. Thirty victims in Harrison County (Biloxi and Gulfport, MS) were from a beachfront apartment building that collapsed under a 25-foot wall of water. Dead bodies were being pushed aside to rescue citizens trapped on roof tops and in attics.

Looting broke out in some neighborhoods and the hot city of 480,000 had no drinkable water and the electricity may be out for weeks.

Tens of thousands of evacuees were hurdled in the Superdome to escape the flood waters.



However, with water rising in the Dome, residents were persuaded to seek shelter else where. Governor Blanco asked residents to spend Wednesday, August 31, evening in prayer.

To make matters worse, criminals committed rape and murder in the Superdome and Convention Center. Everyone begin to ask, "Where are President Bush and the federal government?" The government arrived days later with buses to transport evacuees to the Astrodome in Houston. Other evacuees were being placed in Red Cross shelters across the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Texas, while others left to reside with family members.

Arkansas has done an exceptional job assisting evacuees find some sort of normalcy. On September 1, 2005, Governor Mike Huckabee announced Operation KARE (Katrina Assistance and Relief Effort), a statewide initiative to assist businesses and individuals affected by the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. The Governor has also authorized \$10 million for the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management to use at shelters for evacuee assistance. The Citadel radio family along with the Red Cross and other organizations collected food, water and clothing at War Memorial Stadium.

A former CAAC chapter member, Angelena Player, who evacuated Slidell, LA, has been directly affected by Hurricane Katrina. Angelena is currently residing in Houston. She returned to Slidell on Sunday, September 4, 2005 to find her home in ruins. To assist our Soror in need, CAAC is soliciting monetary donations. Donations should be made to the chapter and will be given to Angelena. Please keep our Soror in your prayers.

You may continue to assistance in the relief efforts by volunteering at shelters and donating money to **Soror Player**, make check payable to Delta Sigma Theta or contact Tia Baker; **Watershed**, call (501) 378-0176 or drop off donations at 3701 Springer Boulevard, **BlackAmericaWeb.com Relief Fund**, visit www.blackamericaweb.com, **Red Cross**, call 1-800-HELP-NOW or visit the website at www.redcross.org; **Salvation Army**, call 1-800-SAL-ARMY or visit www.salvationarmy.org or **Operation KARE**, visit www.kare.arkansas.gov or call Steve Jones at (501) 682-7311.

May God continue to bless us as we bless others in their time of despair.

Central Arkansas Alumnae Chapter

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**For Comments or
Story Ideas email:**

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Exa Hartman is appointed
Arkansas State
Coordinator.



Come Grow With Us!

www.caacdeltas.org

New National Initiatives



The National Program Planning and Development Committee, co-chaired by Sorors Maxine Cormier and Pamela Smith, has developed an agenda complete with comprehensive programs to empower women, youth, children, and families in communities worldwide.

The Health Task force, chaired by Dr. Pamela Ross, asks chapters to implement two programs under the Physical & Mental Health Thrust: "Lifestyle Change" and "Go Red for Women" Campaign. Lifestyle Change focuses on achieving and maintaining healthy weight through the "take the weight off" program. Go Red for women is a

campaign designed to educate women about heart disease. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority has formed an alliance with the American Heart Association to implement the campaign.

The 25th Anniversary of Delta Summit will be commemorated with Summit VI: Health Issues that Impact Women of African Descent, "The Total Woman: Mind, Body & Spirit," at a conference in Jamaica, March 9-12, 2006.

With the enormous success of the Delta Academy, a second program has been created to encompass girls 14 to 18. "Delta GEMS," Growing and Empowering Myself Successfully, has been launched. Dr. Louise A. Rice is committed to enhancing the future of African American girls through the "Delta GEMS" program.

"Financial Fortitude" will address the economic component of the programmatic thrust and focuses on financial planning and literacy for empowering Sorors. Deltas will learn how to set and achieve their financial goals. Chapters will receive work tools to conduct workshops on debt reduction/ management, retirement, college education financing, investing, insurance, estate planning, home ownership, and savings.

"Financial Fortitude" is tailored to serve members in 2005-2006 and may be extended to the community in 2006-07.

By: Angela Austin

New State Coordinator

By Angela Austin

The newly elected Regional Director, Gwendolyn Grant, appointed CAAC member and 40th Southwest Regional Conference Co-Chair, Exa Hartman, as the Arkansas State Coordinator for the 2005-2007 biennium.

Soror Hartman was initiated in Delta in spring 1987 at Prairie View A&M University, Eta Beta Chapter (#13). She acquired her

BS in Electrical Engineering in 1990 from Prairie View.

Exa married her high school sweetheart Jay; and they have two children, Jay II (JJ), 11 and Janae, 4. She is employed with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers as a Design Engineer. She enjoys swimming, bowling and quiet time.

Soror Hartman states, "Delta has been an outlet in my life that has prompt

me to do and give more than I would do alone. As a Delta, I am apart of a collective effort to serve others; in the process, I have become a stronger woman. Delta is giving and nurturing to the soul. I never imagined I would be State Coordinator; nonetheless, I will serve with all my heart and do the best I can in Delta."

DST Mission

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated is an organization of college educated women committed to constructive development of its members and to public service with a primary focus on the Black community.