



Soror Spotlight

President Obama announced his intent to nominate **Gwendolyn E. Boyd**, for Member, Board of Trustees of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation. Soror Boyd is an accomplished engineer currently serving as Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff at the Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Laboratory and Chair of the Johns Hopkins Institutions Diversity Leadership Council. She has received numerous awards and honors including: the 1996 Black Engineer of the Year Public Service Award congressional citations and recognition by U.S. Black Engineer magazine as one of the Nation's "Most Distinguished Black College and University Graduates". Soror Boyd is a graduate of Alabama State University with a B. S. degree in Mathematics and a double minor in Physics and Music. She has the distinction of being the first African American to earn a Master of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Yale University and has also earned a Master of Divinity with Honors from Howard University and received Honorary Doctorates from Bennett College for Women and Lincoln University.

Greetings from the President



Thank you for your commitment to BEing the Difference for Change during these first four months of our sororal year. MRAC continuously proves to be the best chapter in the Southern Region! Sorors, we have accomplished so much in such a short period of time, and I would like to give a special thanks to all of the committee chairs and members who continuously demonstrate their commitment to the success of our programs. A few of our accomplishments include:

- Partnership with the U.S. Census and received a **\$3,000** Grant for Census 2010 activities
- Official Partners in Education with Marietta Sixth Grade Academy – two-year commitment
- Member of Cobb County Collaborative –open to all chapter members
- Partnership with Mass Mutual and received a **\$1,000** award to contribute to Relay for Life
- Participated in the Aids Walk and raised over **\$2,000**, which exceeded our goal
- Received a **\$1,000** grant from the Delta Foundation for MRAC's 1st Annual Economic Empowerment Summit
- 1st Annual Collegiate Forum
- 1st Political Awareness and Involvement Webinar
- Annual Christmas Store assisted over 60 children and families in need
- Continuous mentoring sessions/activities for 60 young ladies from Delta Academy and GEMS

IN THIS ISSUE

*Greetings from the President
*Soror Spotlight
*Delta in Cyberspace

*MRAC Goes Beyond
*Membership Has Its Responsibility
*The Role of Chapter Committees

* A Night on the Town
*After the Storm
*A Closer Look

- Economic Survival Kit for chapter members and the community
- 1st “MRAC Day of Service” in Cobb County
- 1st MRAC Tailgate Party
- 1st Town Hall Meeting with MRAC’s President
- Increased publicity through the Media

Sorors, as we enter a New Year, I encourage you to join one committee and commit yourself to BEing a part of the meaningful and exciting work that we are doing in our service area. Much has been accomplished but there is still much to be done and we need assistance from every member of MRAC.

I look forward to seeing and meeting you at one of our chapter meetings or one of our many events next year. Please let me know if there is anything that I can do to make your experience as a member of MRAC one that you enjoy.

Sisterly and Sincerely,

Patsy

MRAC GOES BEYOND

By Mirhonda Studevart

Led by Sorors Lisa Ford and Carol Caines, MRAC’s Collegiate Outreach committee hosted an informative and dynamic metro-Atlanta collegiate forum, Saturday, September 26th, on the campus of Georgia State University. The theme was *“It’s All About Collegiates...On the Yard & Beyond”*. In alignment with their purpose to “foster seamless transition of graduating collegiate sorors to alumnae chapters within the sorority”, MRAC led sorors from the Pi Nu (Southern Polytechnic), Sigma Epsilon (Kennesaw) and Zeta Phi (Georgia State), chapters through a series of interactive exercises. In addition, sorors from other metro-Atlanta alumnae chapters, including Stone Mountain-Lithonia, Henry County, Douglas-Carroll-Paulding, Atlanta Suburban and East Point/College Park, participated in this exciting forum. The various activities



helped sorors learn more about each other as well as our illustrious sorority. The forum was helpful to all who attended. It gave collegiate and alumnae sorors a glimpse into each other’s lives. Collegiates were encouraged to express their opinions, perceptions and concerns about advancing to the next stage of Deltadom. Alumnae sorors provided the benefit of their transitional

“Hey, Soror. Your pictures from the party are great! It looks like everyone had a wonderful time. I’m sorry I missed the festivities.”

Could someone tell from your pictures and posts on Facebook that you are a Delta? Do any of your pictures or posts have questionable content? Be very aware of what you place on networking websites. Be sure that none of your pictures or posts depicts you or Delta Sigma Theta in a negative light. Remember that what is placed in these arenas become the property of the server. Sometimes items posted are searched by employers when hiring prospective employees. Always portray yourself and Delta in the best light.

As members of Delta Sigma Theta we must follow certain guidelines in cyberspace. The national website has rules for private and chapter websites. Certain things may not be included on web pages such as The Sorority Crest; Secrets, Passwords, Signs and Grips; Ceremonies, Formal Openings, Membership Intake Activities (Narratives nor photography); Oath, Mottoes or Mizpah; Official Delta Songs or Past Chapter Lines.

If your email address identifies you as a Delta, it should be in good taste also. Do not relate Secrets, Passwords, Signs or Grips in your email to another Soror. Especially do not use the letters of the Secret Motto in your email signature. When sending email to members on your committee, you may include everyone’s name in the To box. This way members can Reply to All to share input. When forwarding general emails, delete all the email addresses and send your message using Blind Copy. This protects chapter members and anyone else receiving your emails.

Enjoy cyberspace and see you on Facebook!

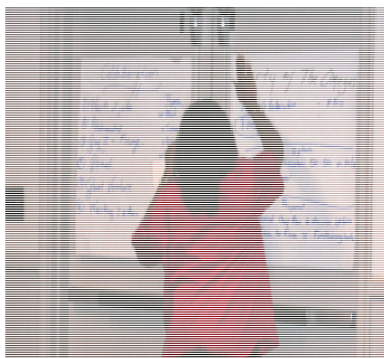
Rituals & Ceremonies/
Protocol & Traditions Chair,
Carolyn Jackson

Membership Has Its Responsibility

We all know that membership in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., is afforded by a chosen few and very unique women. What we do not always remember is that with membership comes responsibility. Responsibility to not only honor our jewels by being living examples to what they represent, but also by remembering our financial and volunteer obligations. As college educated women, we are, by default, role models to our communities. The bar is set high to lead, to engage, to inspire and aspire to magnify plights in our community such as HIV/AIDS, low education attainment, socio-economic burdens and pure apathy towards building great communities. As Delta women, we should set aside time, talent and treasure to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate. It is no accident that we are in this great organization. Someone saw something in each of us that we did not see in ourselves. When the call goes out for volunteer opportunities with the Five-Point thrust programs; answer it. When dues are due; pay them. When called to lead; step-up and embrace the opportunity. In the words of Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Aspire to make a difference!

Membership Chair,
Laurie Reid

experiences as well as learning more about the current issues that Collegiates face. Collegiate Outreach Co-chair Carol Caines felt that "the level of interaction between collegiate and alumnae sorors was extremely engaging. The activities provided a great opportunity to network and fellowship while learning about the Delta experiences of other sorors. The relaxed environment was conducive to sharing candid perspectives with a splash of sisterly jokes, lots of love and tons of fun."



The forum began with registration where all attendees were assigned to one of four unique groups: Violets, Pearls, Elephants and Fortitude. Sorors were also provided with index cards to anonymously submit questions for the panel discussion. After a welcome from MRAC's 1st Vice President, Wilma Davis, all sorors introduced themselves before participating in a brief icebreaker.

Then, the various groups played a round of "No That Soror Didn't!", developing skits based on an assigned topic or infraction. Facilitated by very creative Sorors Veda Johnson and Kimberly Scurlock, the skits were entertaining to say the least, as sorors analyzed the skit and identified what protocol or other infraction the actors had committed. After a brief break, Sorors Carol Caines and Lisa Ford facilitated a panel discussion "What's in your PIE?" where the submitted questions were addressed as well as a review of the PIE (Performance, Image and Exposure) components that are critical to Deltas of all ages, but especially prominent during the collegiate years.



Kimberly Scurlock led a session regarding collaboration with campus and community organizations, as well as Delta Alumnae chapters in "Collaboration Friend or Foe?" At the conclusion of the forum, Kimberly Scurlock expressed that "I was excited about the two-way information exchange. I am sure I got just as much from the seminar as the Collegiates."

Just before the group was dismissed, the Collegiate Outreach committee surprised attendees by presenting several awards, including *First Collegiate to Arrive*, *Best Acting Soror* and *Collegiate Chapter Recognition Award*. Kudos to the Collegiate Outreach Committee for planting seeds today that will flourish into our next bountiful crop of dedicated, hardworking Alumnae sorors.

Chapter committees work on behalf of the chapter to come up with the best way to implement and execute the chapter's annual programs. The chapter delegates to a committee the responsibility for planning, organizing and bringing forth their ideas, projects or programs based on the chapter's goals and objectives.

Recommendations are first made to the Executive Board and then the chapter. The chapter votes on the recommendations before the committee takes action.

There are three primary functions:

-Advisor: Studies a problem or issue and reports the findings to the chapter.

-Coordinator: Locate resources, plans and directs the activities.

-Implementor: Organize to carry out the specific tasks of the project.

If you have not joined a committee, there is plenty of time to do so. To assist you in your decision to become active in at least one or more committees, we encourage you to listen attentively to committee reports given during chapter meetings. Talk with the committee chairperson or members to obtain more information. Attend committee meetings on a regular basis.

Internal Development Chair, Camille Patterson

MRAC IS the *Difference for Change: A Night on the Town*

By: Geneasa L. Elias

Marietta-Roswell Alumnae Chapter started its sororal year with a new attitude, a new style and a new theme *Be the Difference for Change*. The ladies of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. partied at Davinci's; metro-Atlanta's newest hot spot for the sophisticated professional. The club is spacious and designed to accommodate the more elegant party-goer. MRAC was dressed to impress as



members enjoyed the fellowship. While the music played, one could see a *Stroll* line forming on the dance floor. The food for the evening represented a family cookout. This evening gave sorors a chance to meet new members, hug old friends, and party like a "Rock-Star." It was obvious Davinci's had not experienced the presence of a MRAC sister. However, Davinci's will not forget her.

Davinci's is a new nightclub in the Marietta area and has a lot of growing to do. Sorors, if we truly want to *Be the Difference for Change*, let us be the ones that give this new business a chance for success. Give them a call and let them know what you thought about your visit. Maybe give some suggestions that would make their next event better. Be a supporter of businesses in our service area. Be a woman of action. *Be the Difference for Change*.



The Physical & Mental Health Committee presented each financial soror with a "Get Fit For Life" Passport at the September chapter meeting. The Passport assists sorors efforts to achieve better health while participating in the three Physical and Mental Health initiatives:

*Lose to Win

*Catching, Coping and Conquering Diseases

*My Cry in the Dark (focus on mental health)

The Passport includes examples of activities for each initiative and sorors can earn points for participation. There will be a prize awarded at the end of the sororal year for the soror with the most points.

Please see a member of the Physical & Mental Health Committee for more information or to get your Passport signed and stayed tuned for success stories in coming issues.

Physical & Mental Health Co-chairs,
Nikisha Jones &
Kawana Mitchell

AFTER THE STORM

By Mirhonda Studevart

Sunday, September 20th and Monday, September 21st are days that several MRAC sorors will never forget. After days of constant rain, storms and additional rain during these days (as much as 17" overnight in some areas) took a toll on several neighborhoods. Soror Carolyn Jackson awoke to a knock on her door, as a neighbor advised her that her basement was flooding. Sorors everywhere dealt with traffic woes as streets were detoured and rerouted to avoid washed-out roads and bridges. Other sorors suffered storm damage to their homes. Still others had logistical nightmares as they worked around unexpected school closings and other issues.

Soror Mirhonda Studevart awoke to an early Monday morning knocking and urgent doorbell ringing as a fire/rescue worker advised her to evacuate ASAP. Mirhonda was shocked to see water so high that her street looked like a river. Driving her car would be impossible – the water was too high. Therefore, she quickly packed a few items for herself and her pet cat Tyra, and literally walked out of the back door of her house to evacuate her subdivision. Two days later, Mirhonda returned to find her home in complete disarray. It was like Alice in Wonderland – all her items on the first floor – furnishings, appliances, books, photos were still there – under a layer of mud and stench of mildew. In a desperate effort to halt any further damage to her home, Mirhonda threw away nearly everything. Having no flood insurance, Mirhonda registered with FEMA and began the spiritual and physical process of recovering from the storm. That's where her "family" stepped in! On Facebook, Mirhonda had "friended" many Deltas, Omegas, classmates, coworkers, Turner Chapel AME and Cascade UMC church members (many people fit multiple categories). She hosted "Mirhonda Clean-Up Parties" that first weekend and was humbled and overwhelmed by the response. The men of Chi Gamma Gamma – many of whom are also Turner Chapel members - as well as the ladies of MRAC came to Mirhonda's home and helped rip up carpet, tear out sheetrock, wash/salvage photos, CDs and elephants. Whether it was one hour or all day, Mirhonda was grateful for these generous volunteers who swarmed around her house and helped her do what would have been impossible for her to accomplish alone. By that Monday, her home had been stripped to the framing and bleached repeatedly. But the best was yet to come...Mirhonda missed the October chapter meeting for obvious reasons but was again overwhelmed when she met with Soror Joyce Lee and received all the loving "shower" donations. The sentiment of the cards, the loving donations and gift cards, the encouraging words – most of all, the knowledge that her sisters were keeping her in their thoughts and prayers is of tremendous comfort and assistance as she continues to rebuild after the storm. MRAC's response to this unexpected service "opportunity" is one that reinforced her love of Delta and exemplifies the true meaning of sisterhood. According to Mirhonda, "Delta is more than a set of symbols. It is an instrument that we should use to demonstrate God's love." Mirhonda is very grateful to those who've helped her during this unexpected crisis. Thanks be to God for all those who provided love, light and calm after the storm.

A Closer Look



Join us as the Crimson Gazette introduces more personal aspects of the powerhouses who comprise the MRAC executive leadership. In this issue, let's become better acquainted with...1st Vice President, **Wilma Davis**

Like President Pattman, Wilma Davis has been a MRAC member for 10 years. Known for her outstanding oratorical skills, as a child Wilma wanted to be an actress, singer and author. Soror Davis' favorite quote is from Helen Keller: "Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experiences of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired, and success achieved." This lover of musicals, romance novels, Transformers movies and sports, also enjoys singing, dancing and swimming. Her favorite songs are "Man in the Mirror" and "Now Behold the Lamb". Wilma is over 20 years old in Delta, having crossed at the Eta Beta chapter in Fall 1988 on the campus of Prairie View A&M University. Soror Davis had three line names: 1) Full Effect because as a pyramid she participated in every possible function; 2) SmarT because she often got caught feeding her line sisters information and 3) Kodak (named by her line sisters) because of her ability to remember everything. A self-declared "engineering nerd" Wilma loves to analyze data and find the root cause of an issue. Wilma is also world traveler whose favorite vacation spot is Perth, Western Australia. Wilma truly loves the sorors of MRAC because "It feels like a family. As sisters we sometimes disagree but like family we make up. Most of the time we look for common ground and focus on the greater good; even in our most tense discussions, we can end the chapter meeting and go fellowship with one another."

Chapter Information

Meeting Information

Chapter Meetings:

1st Saturday of each month (*the January meeting will be on the 9th at 10:15 am and the Rededication Ceremony will begin promptly at 9:00 am.*)

Marietta Sixth Grade Academy
340 Aviation Rd., Marietta, GA

Executive Board Meetings:

3rd Thursday of each month
7:00 pm

Locations will be listed in the Weekly Reminders

2009-2011 Officers

President – **Patsy A. Pattman**

1st Vice President – **Wilma Z. Davis**

2nd Vice President – **Laurie Reid**

Recording Secretary – **Myesha Davis**

Assistant Recording Secretary – **Pat Allen**

Corresponding Secretary – **Tiffany Roan**

Treasurer – **Toni Carlisle**

Financial Secretary – **Mildred Fisher**

Assistant Financial Secretary – **Nicki Nelson**

Marietta-Roswell Alumnae Chapter

P.O. Box 70786 Marietta, GA 30007

Phone: 770-473-5508

Email: chaptermail@dstmrac.com

Website: www.dstmrac.com

