



## Soror Spotlight

Soror Beverly E. Smith has been selected to be the system's assistant commissioner over the state's adult education programs of the Technical College System of Georgia. Smith will head the TCSG Office of Adult Education (OAE) that delivered adult literacy programs to 92,000 Georgians last year and administers the statewide GED® Testing Program which produced almost 20,000 graduates in 2009. For Soror Smith, this is a perfect alignment of job and civic duty. "It's a rare opportunity when one's passion for community service can be matched with their career choice, and the chance for me to lead Georgia's adult education team provides that match," said Soror Smith. Active in public service, Soror Smith is the national secretary for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and served as the organization's executive director from 1988 to 1990. She is also the current chair of the Cobb County Board of Elections & Registration. Soror Smith is the recipient of many honors and awards including being recognized as a Northwest Georgia YWCA Woman of Achievement and listed in the Who's Who Among African Americans and Who's Who in the Southeast. In 2006, she was named a "History Maker" by The History Makers (thehistorymakers.com), a national African-American historical directory.

## Greetings from the President



Greetings Sorors!

I can't believe it has been 2 years already! Together we have left our mark of excellence in commitment to public service. Our commitment and accomplishments have not gone un-noticed. Individuals and the chapter have been recognized on local, regional, and national levels. We were greatly honored to have been named, 2009-2010 Southern Region Chapter of the Year at the 50th National Convention.

Two years ago I ran on the platform of MRAC **being the difference for change** that we wanted to see in our chapter and communities. Armed with a **VISION** for individual, chapter, and community transformation, we have put our name and faces on service and partnership through our collaborations with the Marietta Sixth Grade Academy, Cobb County Collaborative, Boys and Girls Club, the Census Bureau, Dunwoody Springs Elementary School, the Foster Care Foundation, MUST Ministries, Children for Youth and Young Adults, to name a few.

OUR accomplishments over the past two years are a result of believing in a vision and taking up the mantra of not just making a difference, but actually transforming our minds, our hearts, our attitudes, and our **actions** to BE the Difference for change.

Sorors, we are not tired yet. There is still much to be done, and we can't afford to waver in our commitment to **BE THE DIFFERENCE for Change** we want to see in our chapter and our communities.

Thank you for all you do for MRAC and Delta!

Sisterly and Sincerely,  
Patsy

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# *An Evening of Ebony Elegance*

On November 20, 2010, 18 remarkable young ladies participated in an event unlike any other of its kind and provided all who attended with an experience of a lifetime...a true Evening of Ebony Elegance. The tenth biennial Debutante Cotillion held in the Grand Ballroom of the Grand Hyatt Atlanta in Buckhead proved to be a night full of grace, charm and sophistication while the Debutantes illuminated the setting and our hearts as they made their formal debut to society.

The evening was the culmination of an eleven month process, packed with educational and entertaining activities designed to enrich the academic, social, cultural and civic awareness of the Debutantes. Over the past year and a half, members of the 2010 Cotillion committee worked tirelessly to provide the Debutantes with events and life lessons that not only served them in an educational capacity but promoted the development of long lasting friendships as well. As the Debutantes move forward to pursue their future educational and professional aspirations they will have the tools provided by the Cotillion committee to assist them in achieving their goals.

Debutantes were formally introduced to guests during the "Presentation of Debutantes" narrated by the Master and Mistress of Ceremonies, Corey Thompson and former MRAC Debutante Stephanie Maxwell. The Debutantes, who were presented by their parents, looked exquisite as they glided across the stage and presented the audience with their grand ceremonial courtesy.

For many, the highlight of the evening was presentation of waltzes. Guests were treated to a collection of waltzes that retained the fundamentals of traditional waltzes yet introduced the fanciful nature of more modern dances. The Debutantes, Escorts and Jr. Escorts impressed the audience with waltzes to tunes such as Waltz of the Goliaths, I Feel Pretty, Daughters and Rainbow Connection. Guests were thoroughly entertained and delighted by the display of talent and proficiency demonstrated by all who participated.

The evening proved to be even more exciting when awards and recognitions were announced, the first of which was the Congeniality award. This award winner was chosen by the Debutantes themselves for demonstrating a pleasant attitude and fun-loving personality. Throughout the Cotillion process, this recipient consistently displayed virtues indicative of a positive inner spirit, warm heart and a genuine respect for others. It was a clear choice for the Debutantes that 16 year old Cheryn Janel Elizabeth Moore, a junior from Grady High School exemplified all of the characteristics that embodied what a Congeniality award winner should be.

Patrice Jamil White was the recipient of the 2010 Public Service Award. Patrice has demonstrated steadfastness to serving the community in numerous capacities. Her public service includes: Interning at the Center for Visually Impaired, Trinity UMC Homeless Feeding, USDA Food Distribution, Aid for Haiti Benefit Concert Planning Committee, Ecuador Mission Trip to help to build a school, Girl Talk Peer to Peer Mentoring Program Mentor, and Youth Hope Builders Academy Scholar. The Cotillion committee is truly proud of Patrice's commitment to Public Service.

The Brenda Haywood Scholastic Achievement award is given to the Debutante with the highest grade point average according to the enclosed transcript in the Debutante application submitted, January 2010. This year, this very special award was given to Brianna Alberta Bingham, a 17 year old senior from Roswell High School. Brianna impressed the committee with a stellar 4.0 grade point average throughout her entire high school career.

The evening culminated with the announcement of the 2010 MRAC Cotillion Scholarship winners. The third place scholarship award was presented to Cheyenne DeVon Cheatham daughter of Rev. Lesia Thomas. Cheyenne, a 16-year old junior from Kennesaw Mountain High School Academy of Math & Science, lists the following on her vast resume of awards and activities: National Beta Club, Habitat for Humanity, KMHS Glee Club, Student Honor Roll, KMHS Video Production Team, COBB Alcohol Taskforce Youth Council, BUY-COBB Leadership Academy, Junior Achievement Fellow 2010-2011, Global Youth Leadership Merit Scholar, just to name a few. Cheyenne's career aspirations are to attend college and pursue a double major in Global Mass Communication & International Business and minor in Spanish and music.

Cheryn Janel Elizabeth Moore, daughter of Pamela Elizabeth Bowles-Moore and Dwayne Lamar, was the second place scholarship award winner. As a junior at Grady High School, Cheryn's extracurricular activities include playing volleyball, piano, being a triple threat and participating in the teen ministry at church. Upon graduation from high school, Cheryn plans to attend either Georgetown University or Howard University and major in either biochemistry or biomedical research. The Cotillion Committee is truly proud of Cheryn and wishes her all the best.

# **Welcome to Candyland: 2010 Community Christmas Celebration**



**MRAC Sorors stepped up yet again to help support a successful 2010 Christmas event! Our Chapter provided Christmas presents to over 50 children from our service community. This was an incredibly festive event that included entertainment, special and fun activities for the children, candied treats, and amazing food to celebrate the holiday season. "I am so grateful! You have no idea how much this means to me and my family" said one tearful participant.**

We partnered with new and old organizations to find the families and children who participated: Marietta 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy, The Center for Youth & Young Adults, and our new partnership with Dunwoody-Springs Elementary School and our very own MRAC Recommended Families. Members from these organizations included single moms, families recently homeless due to house fires, unemployed mothers, and orphans. The families walked into our "Candyland" theme decorated room full of the Christmas spirit in song and laughter. As they navigated through the colorful tiles to various stations, they had the opportunity to make a Gingerbread house or play games at the Peppermint Forest. King Candy was also available to hand out candy bags to the line of children. Lunch with served by Sisterly Catering along with a phenomenal team of Sorors who ensured that every plate was full and everything good until the last bite. Delta Academy was also on hand to serve food and act as elves! A dance performance by Eagles Landing Dance Center, a sweet song by One-A-Chord, a picture from the Caricature Artist, and a special appearance by Santa Claus helped close the event.

Over 100 Sorors and ~250 people attended along with our partnering organizations and fraternity partners. We provided \$100 Gift Cards, a Wii Station and game to the orphanage, and needed and "wish list" item gifts for families. For some children, our gifts were the only Christmas gifts that they received. This was truly an event that could not have been successful without the time and effort of our Chapter Sorors and especially our Team Captains!

**Acts 20:35 "...It is more blessed to give than to receive".**



## ***A Silver Celebration of Sisterhood***

On Saturday, February 12, 2011, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of MRAC at the Renaissance Waverly Hotel. In celebration, we saluted the original twenty-one excited, hard working, dedicated and insightful sorors for chartering the Marietta-Roswell Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. As stated by our National Secretary and Chapter Member, Beverly Smith, it was indeed a Magnificent, Magnanimous, Magnetic and Marvelous 25th Anniversary Celebration weekend. We had no trouble keeping up with our theme because it was truly “A Silver Service Celebration.”

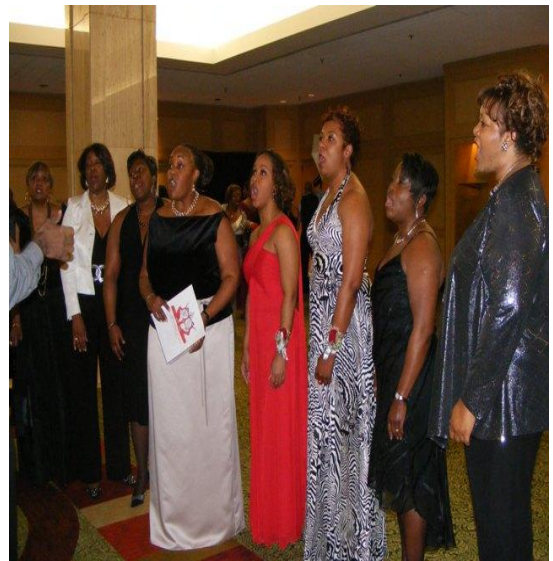
The celebration kicked-off on Friday night with a “Sorors Only” event held at the Providence Clubhouse, hosted by the 25th Anniversary and MRAC Membership Committees. With over 175 Sorors in attendance, the chapter members enjoyed fellowship with charter members and visiting sorors. Good food and fun activities contributive to the excitement of the evening. However, the auction for historical and one of kind Delta paraphernalia was the highlight of the evening as it included bidding fun that proved to be indescribable.

On Saturday, MRAC continued the celebration with the newly formed MRAC 1 A-C#ORD choir. During the pre-dinner reception, the choir entertained our guests with melodious voices and inspiring songs. With over 440 guests in attendance which included 17 of our 21 charter members, 7 Past Presidents, 200 chapter members and a host of family and friends, the evening was a night to remember. It was an evening that celebrated 25 years of volunteer services rendered and the strategic connection that the Marietta-Roswell Alumnae Chapter has maintained throughout the communities of Cobb, Cherokee and North Fulton Counties.

President Patsy Pattman stated that MRAC’s exemplary programs and its commitment to improving communities, earned us the “2009-2010 Chapter of the Year” recognition for the Southern Region. Receiving this award is a testament to those twenty-one visionary women who, twenty-five years ago, knew that through an unwavering commitment to the sorority’s principles of Sisterhood, Scholarship and Service, great things can be accomplished and lives can be changed!

As the chapter continues to grow, we are reminded to be steadfast in upholding the traditions and mandates of our dynamic organization, and our 22 founders, as it serves as a catalyst for sisterhood and community service. Carol Edwards - Chair and Lucinda Mills- Vice-Chair along with a dynamic committee were proud that they (had the privilege of spearheading this momentous event.





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## ***Me and My Brand: New Perspectives. New Directions.***

The Marietta Roswell Chapter hosted its' annual image building workshop on February 19, 2011 at the Wingate by Wyndham Hotel in Marietta, GA. This year's workshop highlighted, personal brand, social networking, professional communication and formulas for success. The participants were all African American females preparing to graduate from high school. The workshop was designed to assist them in continuing to enhance their self-image and esteem. Through time, the media has promoted a hierarchy that suggests African American women don't always possess the features many may consider beautiful. The standard of beauty is not the same for all. Low self-esteem and self- image has been linked to several negative effects on a girl's life. It can impact their emotional and behavioral health leading to higher levels of depression, generalized and social anxiety, suicide, general life dissatisfaction, eating disorders, adjustment problems, teen pregnancy, abuse of alcohol and drugs, engagement in criminal activity, and isolation. (Steese et al., 2006; Kenny & McEachern, 2009).

It is the intent of the Chapter to assist in promoting positive self esteem and self images amongst young African American teenage girls by serving as role models, mentors and teachers. The image building workshop is just one step towards making a difference in their lives. We will continue to provide powerful tips for building confidence and image as they enter college and eventually, the business world.

The theme of the 2011 Image Building Workshop was *Me and My Brand: New Perspectives. New Directions*. The purpose of the workshop was to inform and expose young African American teenage girls, all of whom are graduating high school seniors, to the concept of a personal brand and to assist them in ensuring their brand is reflective of a positive self-image. The workshop also covered effective communication skills and formulas for success as shared by members of the sorority, from collegiate to Delta Dears.

A highly interactive 2- part workshop was conducted consisting of a display of various brands to include famous people the girls could relate to and other brands both positive and “questionable”. The second portion of the workshop consisted of small group sessions highlighting various occupations to include sign language interpretation, secret service positions, language pathology, public relations and others. The young ladies were given an opportunity to begin to create their “own” brand within small groups and creating their own story board that was reflective of who they are and the image they want to present.

On a scale of poor to excellent, the workshop was rated excellent by the attendees. Many commented that it was a very moving experience, as well as, a true eye opener. Comments include “this program will benefit me now and forever as I start my own career. This workshop was full of useful information. I learned something about myself and how I can present myself as a positive woman in the world using my brand. It gave me great insight on numerous opportunities. It gave me steps in taking on the world and my career.”

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## ***DRIVEN: Do You Hold the Keys to Pursue Your Passion?***

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Teen Forum was held on March 19, 2011 and was again the talk of Metro Atlanta. To execute the 2011 version, MRAC partnered with South Cobb Recreation Center. This partnership afforded exposure to a portion of the Metro area where need is great, participation high, but laborers are few, a formula ripe for some special DST attention.

The theme for this year’s event was “***DRIVEN: Do You Hold the Keys to Pursue Your Passion?*** “ and was designed to be a day filled with educational workshops and interactive sessions for Teens grades 6-12 in the Metro-Atlanta area (primarily Cobb, Cherokee & North Fulton Counties). Separate Adult workshops were also offered. This year the goal was to utilize the RIASEC (Realistic Investigative Artistic Social Enterprising Conventional) personality model to group the students and adults so that they could take advantage of workshops specifically designed to enhance their leadership styles and strengths. Based on previous MRAC Teen Forum feedback forms as well as state and local statistics and theoretical teaching models, the data showed that a person’s ability to maintain and retain information had a direct link to their personality type. Thus in an effort to maximize this 5-hour interactive learning session and foster an environment of creativity we had all attendees complete a quick assessment test so that they would be grouped with those having similar personality traits and learning styles.

The workshops were built around the skill sets of the attendees versus a desired job or career. Separate workshops for the Youth and Adult groups per their RIASEC personality model results were conducted.

**Conducted Workshops:**

**R&I (Realistic & Investigative)** - problem solving, analytical thinking, research, critical thinking, brainstorming and planning & execution

**A&S (Artistic & Social):** verbal communication, written communication, team work, active listening, mental preparedness/perseverance and creativity

**E&C (Enterprising & Conventional):** leadership, decision-making, public speaking, time management, organization and managing process flow

The workshop formats mimicked “The Apprentice”. Participants were given various scenarios and asked to work together to get the best solution. Their culminating activity was a one-minute commercial to promote their “brand” to an employer/potential client.

Additionally, in an effort to allow an outlet for specific gender based issues the Female and Male teens had separate luncheons. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual EMBODI luncheon for our male teens and the attendance more than doubled from 20 male attendees last year to approximately 45 this year.



The overall feedback was very positive. Adult and Youth participants were impressed with the implication of the theme throughout and some noted that they can't wait until next year to see how MRAC will step up. The male and female luncheons and formats received the highest rating. Attendees commented how professionally each workshop was conducted and organized.

This event aided our target audience in breaking down a complex tool such as the RIASEC model to a workable format of scenarios they could use to help decide future personal/professional career paths and demonstrated how their unique abilities can positively impact society.

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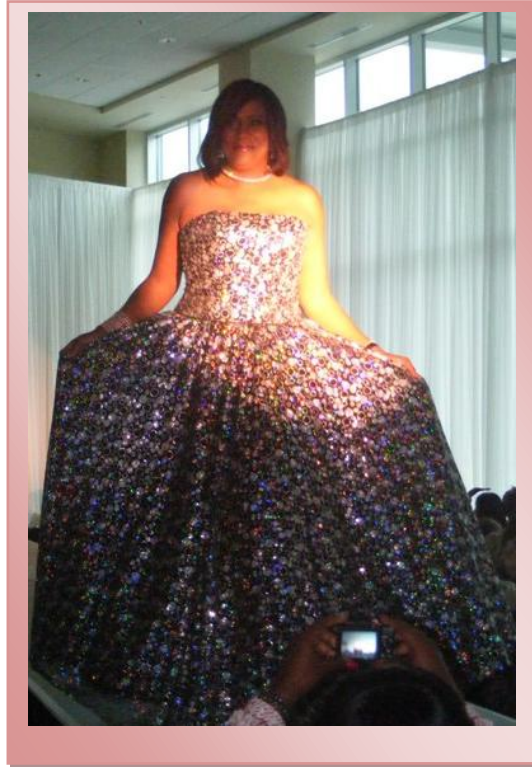
## ***Crimson Couture Fashion for a Purpose***

In partnership with The Minerva Foundation, Inc., MRAC hosted its 2nd Annual Crimson Couture Fashion for a Purpose Fashion Show. This year's show was held on March 27th at the Mercedes-Benz of Buckhead dealership located at 2799 Piedmont Road, Atlanta, GA. Approximately 350 guests were in attendance.

The event was hosted by Shedrick Garrett, actor and comedian. Celebrity models included Rashan Ali-Smith, multi-media personality within the sports and entertainment industries; Alicia Barnes, primary anchor for WOLO-TV in Columbia, South Carolina; Mia Butler, Host of TBS's Dinner and a Movie; Erin Coleman, anchor WSB-TV Channel 2 Action News; Marcia Dore, professional model and model instructor; Karyn Greer, anchor 11 Alive morning news; Mark Hayes, anchor Fox 5 morning news and host of Fox 5 Good Day Atlanta; Derold McIver, Vice President in Community Development & CRA with BB&T; Chesley McNeil, Meteorologist 11 Alive News morning and noon; Dr. Phillip Patterson, Department Chair of the Biology, Chemistry and Physics Department at Southern Polytechnic State University; James Pattman, West Region Enterprise Director in the Industrial & Automotive Sector with UPS Customer Solutions and Ryan Young, news anchor Channel 2 Action News. Female fashions were provided by Satoria Spa and Boutique, Marietta, GA and male fashions provided by Uomo Fine Menswear Collection, Atlanta, GA. Musical entertainment was provided by D'Laniger Sounds Entertainment. A special guest appearance was made by Juanita Baranco, owner of Mercedes Benz of Buckhead. One additional highlight included a major sponsor,

Grey Goose. Catering was provided by Jus-So Catering. This year's event also included a silent auction. Items were donated by various members of the chapter, Grey Goose, Satoria Spa and Boutique and Mercedes Benz of Buckhead.

One guest emailed, "What a lovely fashion show! This was my first one but not my last. I was a guest of Lamuriel Adams. I had a great time."



# 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... **Corresponding Secretary, Tiffany Roan!**

Tiffany's parents are both from Rome, GA, but Tiffany was a "military dependent". P.D.A., named because she was always volunteering to assist, was initiated at MRAC in 2007. Gwendolyn E. Boyd is the Delta who most inspires her. Tiffany enjoys reading anything by Toni Morrison. Her favorite color is purple and people are surprised to learn that Tiffany crochets blankets and drinks hot herbal tea almost every night. Tiffany's favorite song is "Love is Stronger than Pride" by Sade. One of Tiffany's most delightful surprises was being offered a job "on the spot" right out of college. She is with the same employer today. Tiffany loves MRAC because "there is diversity in age and delta experience so everyone can find a comfortable place to serve."

## Chapter Information

### Meeting Information

#### **Chapter Meetings:**

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month  
10:00 am  
Marietta Sixth Grade Academy  
340 Aviation Road  
Marietta, GA 30060

#### **Executive Board Meetings:**

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month  
7:00 pm  
Locations will be listed in the Weekly Reminders

### 2009-2011 Officers

President – **Patsy A. Pattman**  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – **Wilma Z. Davis**  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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 - **Sabrina Juancito**

### **Marietta-Roswell Alumnae Chapter**

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