A New Beginning

CHARTERING OF
The Johns Hopkins University Chapter
ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.

Sunday, May 27, 1984

THE GARRET ROOM
Milton S. Eisenhower Library
The Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland

SOROR RUTH C. EASLEY
North Atlantic Regional Director

SOROR FAYE B. BRYANT
Supreme Basileus
History

The Johns Hopkins University Interest Group of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority got its start through the foresight and action of Soror Gail Robinson, a transfer student from Carnegie Melon Institute. She motivated eight young women with an interest in Alpha Kappa Alpha to unite. They were: Janine M. Austin, Lisa Benton, Celeste E. DeBaptise, Sherrie L. C. Dixon, Rhonda Robinson, Vivian E. Roston, Ethnie Small, and Barbara Sugland.

Gail then contacted Epsilon Omega, the Baltimore Alumnae Chapter, to discuss the need and desire for a Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha on The Johns Hopkins Campus, and to secure their support and guidance in establishing a Chapter.

An Epsilon Omega Soror, Carol Westcott, was appointed to work with this group to achieve this goal. The group chose the name "A Touch of Radiance" following a meeting in April, 1981. During the summer of 1981, two other young women joined the groups, Aladraine Ellis and Margaret-Ann Howie. These ten began to develop and implement community projects, learning the history of Alpha Kappa Alpha, and the meaning of sisterhood.

"On December 19, 1981, "A Touch of Radiance" became the line of Ivies know as "Radiance" along with Sharon Sifford, a student from Franklin and Marshall College. On the following day, December 20, these ten young women were initiated into the Sorority as General Members by Soror Gilda J. Garrett, Basilius, Epsilon Omega.

During the 1982-83 school year, a new member joined The Johns Hopkins University Interest Group, Vanessa “Baby Cakes” Tatum of the line, “The One and Only” was inducted into the Sorority on March 18, 1983. Soror Tatum later became the Dean of Pledgees for the 1983-84 line “Poise and Ivy.” This line of 5 Ivies became Sorors on February 12, 1984. In doing so, they strengthened the efforts of the Interest Group in community service through programs of services and economic development activities.

Today, with the Interest Group consisting of 12 members, and under the guidance of Soror Verna Jones, Graduate Advisor, we now have the anxiously awaited Chapter status. Thank you, Sorors, who have graduated and those that could not be here to share this day, but helped to lay the foundation for this new beginning.
Greetings

Dear Sorors and Friends,

It is my pleasure to extend warm greetings to you on behalf of the members of the Johns Hopkins University Interest Group on this the occasion of our chartering ceremony.

We appreciate and acknowledge the assistance and support which we have received from our families and friends as we worked to attain our goal of chapter status.

At this time let us look fondly to the memories of our past and in them find the inspiration to continue into the future.

Sincerely,

VIVIAN ROSTON
Basileus
Johns Hopkins Interest Group

Dear Sorors and Friends,

In 1908, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, this country's first predominantly black female greek-letter organization was born on the campus of Howard University. Since her beginning, Alpha Kappa Alpha has branched out to become a channel through which selected college-trained women can improve social and economic conditions throughout the world. Alpha Kappa Alpha has a nucleus of more than 80,000 women in over 690 chapters. Today at this historical event we have witnessed the chartering of another chapter. This accomplishment exemplifies true power. In the words of Soror, Dr. Flossie Dedmond,

"Power! Power! Power!
That's Alpha Kappa Alpha
Working together
for all humanity;
With fervent dedication
and faith in the future,
Nothing can stop us
On our upward way."

I extend my warmest congratulations to you Sorors and God be with you in all your future endeavors.

Sisterly yours,

VERNA JONES
Graduate Advisor
Dear Sorors,

We salute you on this memorable occasion as you become the newest chapter of the North Atlantic Region, the first region, of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the oldest Greek-letter organization established by Black College women in America, in 1908.

There are many similarities which have bonded the members of Alpha Kappa Alpha together in the loving grasp of sisterhood. These bonds have been cemented with pride, love, joy, faith, common interest, friendship, sisterly concern, and the vows made by each member of our Sorority.

The purposes of Alpha Kappa Alpha as conceived by our Founders, Soror Ethel Hedgeman Lyle and her associates, is to be of service to all mankind, particularly in the areas of health, scholarship, civic betterment, and cultural and political advancement of women. Your charge is to bring the light of Alpha Kappa Alpha to the Johns Hopkins University community.

"Hold high the Torch, you did not light its glow. It was given you by other hands you know. Tis only yours to keep it burning bright. Yours to pass on, when you no more need the light:
For there are feet that you must guide, and forms go passing by your side. Their eyes are watching every tear and smile, and efforts you think are not worthwhile. Hold high your Torch."

Congratulations! Godspeed as you "Hold high your Torch."

Sisterly yours,

Gilda J. Garrett
Basileus
Janine M. Austin
Senior - Immediate Plans: Harvard University, School of Medicine. “Alpha Kappa Alpha means good times, hard work, achievement and sisterhood.”

Celeste E. DeBaptise
Senior - Immediate Plans: Temple University, School of Medicine. “For me Alpha Kappa Alpha means very close, caring and supportive relationships with some of the finest women in the world.”

Beth Geter, Sophomore
Future Aspirations: Doctor of Psychology. “Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is, to me, a lifetime of sisterhood with women coming together to serve all mankind.”

Denee M. Hendrick, Sophomore - Future Aspiration: Public Health Physician. “Alpha Kappa Alpha has given me an opportunity to work closely with women towards achievement of common goals.”

Andrea J. Murray, Junior - Future Aspiration: Physician. “Alpha Kappa Alpha means that I have developed sisterly bonds with women all over the world. Being a member in Alpha Kappa Alpha, I am now a part of an important black female organization that strives for worldwide social change and justice.”

Vivian Roston, Senior
Immediate Plans: Columbia University Graduate School of Public Health. “Alpha Kappa Alpha means friendship and a sense of unity and continuity. Alpha Kappa Alpha offers me the opportunity to continue the good works which began many years ago.”
Sherrie L. C. Dixon  
**Senior** - Immediate Plans: Johns Hopkins Graduate School of Public Health. “Alpha Kappa Alpha has become a way of life for me. I have experienced good times, true friendships and hard work.”

Aladraine I. Ellis  
**Senior** - Immediate Plans: Medical School. “Alpha Kappa Alpha provides me with effective channels for developing quality relationships.”

Margaret-Ann Howie,  
**Senior** - Immediate Plans: Columbia University, School of Law. “Alpha Kappa Alpha means continuous hard work. I can use my talent and energies, and strengthen my weakness for worthwhile causes.”

Sumayah Jamal,  
**Sophomore** - Future Aspiration: Career in the field of Biophysics. “Alpha Kappa Alpha has meant learning to reach out to touch people. Alpha Kappa Alpha has helped me to realize my potential as a young black woman.”

Vanessa L. Tatum,  
**Junior** - Future Aspiration: Physician. “Alpha Kappa Alpha means working with a fantastic group of women. I have seen growth and maturity working together toward the achievement of our common goals.”

Tamara Williams,  
**Junior** - Future Aspiration: General Practitioner. “Alpha Kappa Alpha means that my family has increased. It means that no matter where I go, I will always have a sister.”
ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.
Johns Hopkins University Homewood Campus Officers

Interest Group
Basileus .................................................. Soror Vivian Roston
Anti-Basileus ........................................... Soror Margaret-Ann Howie
Tamiouchos ............................................. Soror Celeste E. DeBaptiste
Grammateus and Epistoleus ...................... Soror Deneen Hendrick
Parliamentarian ...................................... Soror Sherrie L. C. Dixon
Dean of Pledgees .................................... Soror Aladraine I. Ellis

Chapter
Basileus .................................................. Soror Vanessa L. Tatum
Anti-Basileus ........................................... Soror Sumayah Jamal
Tamiouchos ............................................. Soror Andrea Murray
Grammateus and Epistoleus ...................... Soror Deneen Hendrick
Dean of Pledgees .................................... Soror Tamara Williams
Assistant Dean of Pledgees ...................... Soror Beth Geter
Ivy Leaf Reporter .................................... Soror Sumayah Jamal

THE CHARTERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Sorors
Chairperson ............................................ Vivian Roston
Co-Chairperson ....................................... Sherrie L. C. Dixon
Corresponding Secretary ......................... Margaret-Ann Howie
Financial Secretary ................................. Celeste E. DeBaptiste

Members
Janine M. Austin
Aladraine Ellis
Beth Geter
Deneen Hendrick
Sumayah Jamal
Andrea Murray
Vanessa Tatum
Tamara Williams
CHARTERING CEREMONY
11:30 A.M.
Soror Ruth C. Easley, Officiating
North Atlantic Regional Director

Ritualistic Services
Installation of Officers

FELLOWSHIP HOUR
12:30 Noon
Hor d’oeuvres Served in the Corridor

LUNCHEON PROGRAMME
1:30 P.M.

GREETING.................................................................Soror Vivian Roston
Basileus, Johns Hopkins University, Interest Group

INTRODUCTION OF MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES

MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES........................................Soror Vanessa Tatum
Basileus, Johns Hopkins University Chapter

INTRODUCTION OF DAIS

STATEMENT OF THE OCCASION.................................Soror Ruth C. Easley
North Atlantic Regional Director

CONGRATULATORY STATEMENT.................................Soror Gilda J. Garrett
Basileus, Epsilon Omega Chapter

GRACE.................................................................Soror Edna O. Campbell
Twelfth Supreme Basileus

LUNCH

MUSICAL SELECTION.................................................Soror Sabrina Austin
Theta Kappa Chapter, University of Virginia

INTRODUCTION OF P.O.W.E.R. PRESENTATION..............Soror Flossie Dedmond
Epsilon Omega Chapter

P.O.W.E.R. PRESENTATION..........................................Sorors of Johns Hopkins

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS..........................................Soror Sherrie L. C. Dixon
Co-Chairman

PRESENTATION OF MAYOR’S PROCLAMATION..................Soror Carolyn Brown
Special Assistant to the Mayor

RECOGNITION OF VISITING SORORS...........................Soror Deneen M. Hendrick
Grammateus

CLOSING REMARKS
Soror Verna Jones, Graduate Advisor

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA HYMN
Words of Appreciation

We, the Charter Members of The Johns Hopkins University, would like to thank all the sorors and friends who have encouraged and supported us in all our endeavors. We realize that without your help and continuous belief in us, the existence of this chapter would not have been possible.

Special gratitude is extended to Soror Verna Jones, our Graduate Advisor, who has demonstrated extreme patience while working with us to achieve our goal. She gave of herself willingly to accomplish the best results possible and her efforts are to be commended. Soror Ruth E. Causey, North Atlantic Regional Director - if it were not for her sisterly love and support, this day would not have been possible.

As we embark on a new beginning, we reflect on the past but envision the significance of this event in the future. Let it be known that as the history of The Johns Hopkins University is written, the pioneers of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority will be a chapter of innovation and service to all mankind.

Sisterly Yours in Perseverance,
The Sorors of Johns Hopkins 1984