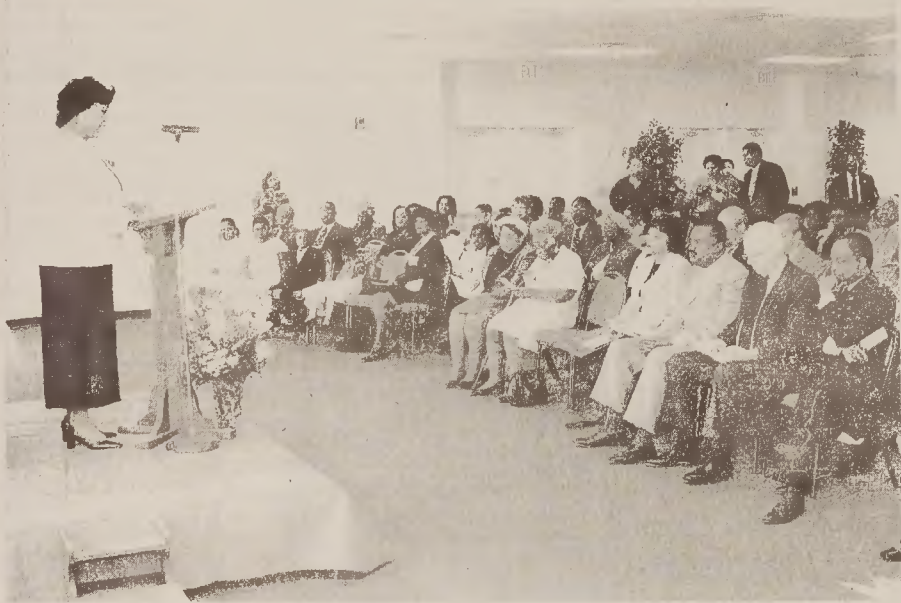


# AKAs Hold Groundbreaking Ceremony



Mrs. Janeen J. Denson, Gammage, Ex-Officio, addresses audience.



Dr. Caroline Lattimore, Mid-Atlantic Regional Director of AKA Sorority.

Alpha Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. celebrated the grand opening and official dedication of Ivy Community Center on Sunday, February 1. The Center is located at 4418 Fayetteville Street.

The 7000 sq. ft. facility features a conference room, seminar room, computer lab, offices, kitchen and a multipurpose room. It is envisioned that the Ivy Community Center will serve as a comprehensive center for all of the educational training and human resource development programs provided by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. It currently serves as one of the sites for the 21st Century Community Learning Center. Students enrolled in the program receive one-on-one tutoring and mentoring. The program also includes an IVY Reading AKAdemy which focuses on improving reading skills of young children.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. is the oldest Greek-letter organization established in America by black college women. It is a sisterhood of women who have chosen this affiliation as a means of self-fulfillment through volunteer service. Its focus since inception has been "Service to All Mankind." Alpha Kappa Alpha serves mankind through more than 170,000 women in the United States, the Caribbean, Europe, and Africa.

Alpha Zeta Omega, the Durham Graduate Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., was the first Greek-letter sorority in

Durham and the third chapter to be established in North Carolina. The chapter has a rich history of service in the Durham community and has been involved in many service initiatives.

Seeking to broaden its community service activities, Alpha Zeta Omega established Ivy Community Center (ICC), a 501(c)(3) charitable corporation, in 1995. The non-profit was organized for the purpose of acquiring and maintaining a facility in which community service programs and activities would be sponsored. Property for the construction was acquired in 2000 and groundbreaking took place in September 2002.

Prior to construction of the Community Center, and in keeping with the sorority's goal to improve the quality of life for all mankind, ICC formed a limited partnership in 1996 with Gordon Blackwell and the Regency Housing Group. Together they worked to provide safe, clean, affordable housing in a Hillside Park neighborhood of Durham. This area had been plagued with high crime and drugs. It had been targeted by both elected officials and the community at large as overdue in its need for improvement. The partnership purchased and renovated the 231 multi-family unit complex and renamed it "Ivy Commons." Members of the sorority provide services and programs to residents of Ivy Commons. Construction of the Community Center enables the expansion of services and programs.



Members of the audience look on.



Dr. Mary Jacobs, Rev. Michael Page, Durham Public Schools' Board Chair; Gordon Blackwell, president Third Renaissance; and Mayor William V. "Bill" Bell.



Ms. Beverly Evans, Ms. Norma B. Martin, vice president, and Ms. Rosa Small, secretary.

**Photos By**  
**Lawson**



Members of the audience look on.