

SCHOLARSHIP RE-CIPIENTS - The Durham Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, a public service organization, presents its 2012 scholarship recipients.

Front row (left to right): Misses Haley Perry (Riverside), Lydia Cozart (Hillside), Daitoyya Jenkins (Riverside); second row: Miss Vanessa Springs (J.D. Clement Early College), Andre Dixon (Southern School of Engineering), Misses Indigo Sage (Durham School of the Arts), Allison Wilson (Hill-side); third row: Scholarship Committee members, Mses. Harriet Davis, Naomi T. Jackson, Committee chair;, Jacqueline Brodie, co-chair; and Ruth T. Wyn-

Absent recipients are Misses Jasmine Everett (Durham School of the Arts), Aaliyah Campbell (Southern), and Kori Mc-Donald (Hillside).

Absent committee members are Mses. Barbara Craig, Judith Russell, Kim Moss, Jeri Harris and Deborah Artis.



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT - The Durham Retired School Personnel announces its 2012 scholarship recipient, Miss Jasmine Danielle Everett. The 2012 graduate of Durham School of the Arts is enrolled at Bennett College where she will major in Math Education.

The scholarship is presented to a graduate who aspires to be-

Alpha Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Recognizes Diamond Members



MRS. SELENA WHEELER

"Into a daybreak that's won-

drously clear I rise bringing the

gifts that my ancestors gave. I

am the dream and hope of the slave. I rise, I rise, I RISE."

-Maya Angelou

diamond members of the Alpha

Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha

Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Mrs. Selena Wheeler and

Mrs. Thelma Carrington, have

promoted the sorority's mis-

In 2012, the chapter proudly announced the addition of a new

diamond or 75 year member, Mrs. Gladys Rennick. The dia-

mond members represent a total of 253 years of dedicated mem-

bership and service to the soror-

ity in spite of challenges faced

service to all mankind.

For more than 75 years, two

by African American women seeking full representation in our society during the time in which they joined the organization.

Legal suppression of African Americans continued into the mid 1960's even though the civil war was to have officially ended slavery. While African Americans remained challenged in their quest for full citizenship, group of nine Howard University honor students established Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the first Greek letter organization for college trained

African American women.
Twenty-four years after the sorority's founding, Mrs. Selena Wheeler was initiated into the sorority's birth or Alpha chapter at Howard University.



MRS. GLADYS RENNICK AND DR TARA FIKES

She is the widow of Mr. John H. Wheeler and daughter of the late Dr. Stanford L. and Mrs. Julia Warren. She served on the Board of Stanford L. Warren Public Library and was the second library director. Under her leadership, library opportunities were expanded tremendously. She retired from Jordan High School in 1970 and became secretary/treasurer for Wheeler Airlines in 1990. She served on the Board of Trustees of Stanford L. Warren Library for twenty years. As a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated for 79 years, Mrs. Wheeler remains a vivacious and elegant trustee of the sorority's legacy in Durham.

In 1934, Mrs. Thelma Carrington was initiated into the Alpha Chi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority at North Carolina College (now North Carolina Central University). Like Mrs. Wheeler, Mrs. Thelma Carrington has also demonstrated dedicated service to the sorority. As a 75 year member of the sorority, she has made outstanding contributions in her service as secretary, chairperson of the Nominating Committee, and member of the Awards, Music, and Standards Committees. Mrs. Thelma Carrington, a mother and grandmother, has definitely risen with distinction both civically and professionally and can take pride in the awards and recognitions received for her vast contributions.

In 2012, Mrs. Gladys Rennick joined the ranks of these distinguished women, as she became the chapter's third "diamond" member as well. Twenty-nine years after the sorority's birth, Mrs. Rennick was initiated into the Alpha Epsilon Chapter at Virginia State University in 1937. Prior to attending Virginia State University, Mrs. Rennick University, Mrs. Rennick attended Palmer Institute for high school and junior college and reflects upon being inspired by Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown and many of the outstanding instructors in the school who, like Dr. Brown, the school's founder, were members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown was a pioneer African American educator and civil rights activist in the first half of the twentieth century. Mrs. Rennick followed her role model and served 40 years as an educator in the Caswell County Schools. She has been dedicated to Alpha Zeta Omega as demonstrated by her previous role as treasurer and her continued involvement and support of chapter initiatives.

All three women have seen a number of changes in the organization over the 253 total years of their membership. From



MRS. THELMA CARRINGTON

nine African American women at Howard University, the diamond members have watched the sorority grow to a racially diverse membership of 260,000 women in graduate and undergraduate outstanding chapters with service projects worldwide. The three women remember when sorority meetings were held in homes of members, churches, etc. prior to the chapter's moving to its permanent home, the Ivy Community Center on Fayetteville Road. Though they have witnessed changes, they all

agree that service to others

has remained the sorority's central focus and stand with their fellow sorority sister and poet, Maya Angelou, in the belief that, through all of the societal challenges that Alpha Kappa Alpha women have faced, they "rise", they "rise," and continue to make a dramatic difference in the local, national and world communities.

Dr. Tara Fikes is president of the Alpha Zeta Omega Chapter and Attorney Carolyn House Stewart is the International President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

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