

Community News B1

Nursing sorority helping boost student interest in profession

BARCKSDALE
News Editor

In its 11th year of operation, Chi Chi Chapter of Phi Nursing Sorority still is quietly going about its business of helping young women get into the nursing profession.

This year, the local chapter of the national sorority provides opportunities for nursing students to pursue their education at Winston-Salem State University. Last week, chapter members sponsored a get-acquainted party for this year's contestants and the members of the sorority.

The purpose is to help continue the education of students interested in nursing," said Velma Fields, a member of the local chapter. "We adopt students at the university and we give yearly scholarships."

Phi Nursing Sorority Inc. is an organization of registered nurses and nursing students. It was founded in 1978 by Ailene C. Ewell with the assistance of 11 other members. The charter chapter, Alpha, was organized at the University Hospital in Washington, D.C. At its inception, Phi Nursing Sorority was composed primarily of African-American nursing professionals. But the sorority has expanded its outreach since its beginnings. The organization has integrated chapters and has chapters located in 22 states, the District of Columbia and Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa.

Velma Fields said that in addition to providing scholarships, the sorority also makes itself and its members available to offer health information for fairs and work-

shops. Another member, Phyllis Brown, said one of the

important functions of the chapter is to provide relief in times of emergency and disaster. She said the sorority was called upon several times last spring when the tornado hit the Twin City.

"There is a need right here in Winston-Salem for us to help," said Ms. Brown. "We help with Red Cross disaster relief. Often times, there is a need to have a group of nurses in one pool so that people know where to call when they need to get nursing help quickly. When there is a disaster, they know they have a resource available to them. They can call us and we know which nurses are available and we can contact them quickly to help out. So there is definitely a need here in Winston-Salem for this sorority. When the storms hit here, they called us and we got people to go out and help."

The sorority has broadened its focus on the national level and has spread its services across the United States and into Africa. The organization provides civic and cultural activities and financial contributions to deprived individuals and groups of people.

In 1973, the sorority, in cooperation with the American Nurses Association, restored the gravesite of Mary Eliza Mahoney, the first known Afro-American nurse.

Other purposes of the sorority include continuing a recruiting program for nursing and the health profession, stimulating a close relationship among the members, developing working relationships with other professional groups for the improvement and delivery of health care services, and identifying a corps of nursing leaders within the membership who will function as



photo courtesy of Chi Chi chapter

Contestants for Chi Chi chapter nursing scholarships, front row from left, are LaShonda Fields, Kia Boston, Walteria Watkins, Karen Clyburn; back row, Angela Ellis, Aisha Fields and Reglna Brown.

agents of social change on the national, local and regional levels.

Locally, Chi Chi Chapter is preparing for its scholarship campaign. This year's seven contestants will compete for scholarship money that will be awarded in the fall. Each contestant will be assigned to a chapter member or a chapter team that will help them raise

funds during the scholarship campaign.

Each year, Chi Chi chapter, which was founded in 1978, awards at least one scholarship and sometimes two.

This year's contestants are Kia Boston, Regina Brown, Karen Clyburn, Angela Ellis, Aiesha Fields, LaShonda Fields and Walteria Watkins.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SATURDAY, JAN. 27

The National Council of Negro Women will hold a membership meeting from 2 to 5 p.m. in the Hall-Patterson Communications Building at Winston-Salem State University. The theme for the nationwide telecast is "Extend the Family Spirit."

SATURDAY, FEB. 3

There will be a meeting at noon for any members of Delta Sigma Sorority Inc. interested in a new Forsyth County Chapter. The meeting will be held at the main library. For more information call 725-861-9628, 773-0510 or 768-8240.

SUNDAY, FEB. 4

Moore Alternative School PTA will host a reception in honor of Mrs. Brown at 3 p.m. at Moore School. Mrs. Brown was the principal of the school for 18 years before accepting her current position as director of minority achievement, Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools. School parents, friends and alumni are invited to attend. RSVP call 311 to 723-8941, 945-4943 or 722-4790.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The local African-American writers' critiquing group, Assegai Writers, is seeking new members actively involved in the writing process. Meetings are held the first and third Thursday of each month. For more information call 748-1624.

The Alzheimer's Support Group will meet the first Wednesday of each month from 10 a.m. to noon at Knollwood Baptist Church, 330 Knollwood St. For more information call 748-6220.

The YWCA is starting a women's recreational basketball team. The team will meet one night a week and is open to all ages from 16 to 99. Levels of skills are encouraged to attend as everyone will play. For more information call 722-5138.

The Herpes support group will meet regularly to provide accurate information and emotional support. Everything is confidential. Contact call 748-1624, P.O. Box 2413, Winston-Salem, 27102.

An effort to keep the Winston-Salem community informed of community events, the Winston-Salem Urban League and the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Council of Forsyth County will compile a calendar of activities to be held in February in observance of Black History Month. The calendar, to be distributed throughout the community, will list the sponsor(s) and the time, date and place of the activity. If you are planning an activity in celebration of Black History Month and wish to have it printed, free of charge, send information to the Urban League, Winston-Salem Urban League, 201, W. Fifth St., 27101.

In celebration of the Experiment in Self-Reliance's 25th anniversary, the agency is asking all former employees to contact ESR at 748-1624.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Forsyth County is seeking concerned volunteers interested in becoming matched with girls who are in need of mentoring and parenting between the ages of 12 and 17. For more information call 724-7993.

The adult walking for life program will meet every Wednesday from 7 a.m. to noon at the MLK Recreation Center. All ages are welcome. For more information call 727-2740.

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SOCIAL NOTES

Deltas' regional director to highlight annual Founders' Day

The Winston-Salem Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority will observe its annual Founders' Day in a public service Sunday, Jan. 28, at 3 p.m. at the Anderson Center on the campus of Winston-Salem State University.

Sharon Reed, director of the South Atlantic region, will be the keynote speaker. Music will be provided by the University Choir, directed by Dallas Simmons.

A native of Charleston, S.C., Ms. Reed received her early education in Charleston County. She received her bachelor of arts degree from Winthrop College in Rock Hill, S.C. Following her graduation, Ms. Reed attended Virginia Tech to study toward her master's in urban affairs. She received her master of education degree in English education from South Carolina State College in Orangeburg.

In 1978, Ms. Reed received the distinction of being the first black woman employed by the City of North Charleston in a managerial level position. She served as that city's community development coordinator with responsibilities for a \$3 million budget for three years. She also has served as regional housing planner for the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments.

A strong believer that education is the best vehicle for progress, Ms. Reed joined the staff of South Carolina State College in 1981 as



Sharon Reed

community relations coordinator. Since then she has worked at that institution as director of the nationally-recognized targeted education program for the education and prevention of alcohol and drug abuse among historically black colleges, coordinator of special events and director of K.W. Green Student Union, the position she currently holds.

In her past capacity, Ms. Reed was responsible for student union and student development programs including leadership training.

Ms. Reed, who says the theater is her first love, is the author of three plays. She wrote "200 Years Later and Still Ain't Got No Mule" while she was a student

at Winthrop College. In 1978, she wrote and co-directed "The Crystal Stair," which premiered at the then newly-renovated Garden Theater in Charleston. In 1980, Ms. Reed wrote and directed "My House: A Tribute to Black Womanhood." Both "The Crystal Stair" and "My House" were produced by the Charleston Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. "My House" was also performed by the Henderson-Davis Players of South Carolina State College as a part of their 1984 touring repertoire.

Ms. Reed is committed to the service of her profession, her community and her church. She is a member of the Orangeburg Branch of the NAACP, the Advisory Board of the LEADS Project of the Orangeburg Chapter of LINKS Inc. and the National Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History. She is a member of Task Force 2000 of the Association of College Unions — International, a member of the Women's Commission of the Alcohol and Drug Problems Association of North America and State Director of the National Association of Personnel Workers. She remains an active member of Morris Street Baptist Church in Charleston and a watchcare member of Mount Pisgah Baptist Church in Orangeburg.

Ms. Reed is the recipient of numerous honors and awards,

including selection as an Outstanding Young Woman in America in 1978 and 1981 and listing in the 1981 edition of "Personalities of the South."

Last May, Ms. Reed became the South Atlantic regional director of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. The youngest person ever elected to that position, she assumes the leadership of 131 chapters of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority in South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., a non-profit organization, was founded by 22 women at Howard University Jan. 13, 1919. More than a social sorority, its goals were, and are, directed toward providing services and programs which promote human welfare.

A sisterhood of more than 175,000 predominantly black, college-trained women, the sorority currently has 750 chapters in the United States and chapters in West Germany, the Virgin Islands, Nassau, Bahamas and West Africa.

The major program focus of the sorority are centered around the organization's five-pint program thrusts, educational development, economic development, physical and mental health, political awareness and involvement and international awareness and involvement.

Marion B. Simpson is president of the local chapter. Louise Smith is the 1990 Founders' Day chair.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, contestants prepare for Miss Mardi Gras event

Special to the Chronicle

The local men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. are enthusiastic about their latest venture. The enthusiasm generates from plans by Psi Phi graduate chapter to name "Miss Mardi Gras" at the fraternity's Feb. 10 social. Miss Mardi Gras will be chosen from among four young ladies competing for the title.

The Mardi Gras Dance is an annual social event for the local fraternity members. Its sponsors and attendants look forward to the affair as a time for spirited entertainment and colorful costumes.

This year's activity has the added feature of a coronation in which Miss Mardi Gras will be crowned.

Ladies vying for the title of Miss Mardi Gras are being assisted by the fraternity brothers who are working in teams. Each team is sup-

porting their contestant through group projects and individual undertakings. Proceeds from the total efforts will be applied to the chapter's scholarship fund.

Those in contention for the coveted title of Miss Mardi Gras represent a diverse group. They include a college professor, public relations director, systems analyst and an administrative assistant. Each has expressed pleasure in being a part of the Omega scholarship project.

Dr. Barbee C. Myers, a professor at Wake Forest University, is being sponsored by a team led by James Rousseau and Norman Sanders. A newcomer to the city, Dr. Myers does research in the field of coronary heart disease among black Americans. Prior to accepting her Wake Forest post, she worked at

Pennsylvania State University.

Sandra E. Pennington is the director of public relations for the Winston-Salem Urban League. Charles Bohannon, Michael Stroud and Benny Murrill are coordinating contest efforts on her behalf. Ms. Pennington is a graduate of Hampton University with further study at Catholic University in Washington. She enjoys creative writing, baking and collecting cookbooks.

Candace S. Lackey represents the Omega brothers led by Nathaniel Williams. The Mitchell College and Forsyth Tech graduate is employed as an administrative secretary for the City of Winston-Salem. Her interests include reading, aerobics, sports, skiing and canoeing.

Kimberly Summers-Sims, who works for L'Eggs Products Inc. as a

senior operations analyst, is the contestant to whom the Howard Shaw-Millard James team has pledged its support. A native of Winston-Salem, Mrs. Summers-Sims finished Livingstone College with a degree in business administration and accounting. She finds enjoyment in singing, dancing and helping children.

The coronation ceremony for Miss Mardi Gras will take place during half-time activities of the Feb. 10 dance at the Benton Convention Center. Admission tickets are available from any member of the fraternity and at other distribution points around the city.

Charlie Bethea is chair of the Mardi Gras Committee. Robert McCollum is basileus of Psi Phi Chapter of Omega Pi Phi Fraternity.