

Deltas observe 99th Founders Day

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Consistent with the vision of a sorority built on Christian principles, the Winston-Salem Alumnae and Pi Omicron (Wake Forest University) chapters of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. began their 99th Founders Day Observance on Sunday, Feb. 26 in worship at Mount Zion Baptist Church, where Dr. Serenus T. Churn Sr. delivered an inspiring message.

A public meeting with the theme of "Transforming Lives and Impacting Communities!" followed the worship service. During the program, tributes to individuals and organizations that are



Members of the Founders Day Committee.

in lockstep with the sorority's five-point programmatic thrusts were made. The economic development honor went to DeGlynis Whitted Bell of Dress for Success; the educational development honor was presented to Ruth Hopkins of Carter G. Woodson School; Dr. Keith Phillips of the Giving Hand Foundation received the physical and mental health honor, while the social action honor went to Wanda Reid of Shoebox Ministry. Robin Sizemore of Hopscotch Adoptions

was honored in the international development category; the social action honor went to community volunteer Mustafah Abdullah; and the political and social action award went to Soror Olivia Swinton. The honor was posthumously presented to Swinton's family for her tireless work with Cancer Services. A monetary award was also presented to Cancer Services' Felicia Bennett-Giles. Award presenters included Chapter President Lisa W. Smith, Founders Day Chair Pamela Bradsher and Sorors Doris Herrell and J'Taime Lyons.

Other program participants included Chapter President Carmen Green, Sharon Buford, Chapter Chaplain Deborah Daniels, Maurice Johnson, Rosa Tribble Wilson and Zakiyyah Njang, who performed during the event.

Founders Day celebrates the 22 enlightened young women who started the sorority on Jan. 13, 1913 on the campus of Howard University. On the threshold of its 100th anniversary, Delta Sigma Theta continues to embrace a wide range of programs addressing education, health, international development and the strengthening of the African American family.

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show the kids' background and history and why they should be so proud of themselves," she commented. "What we're constantly trying to do is build our students up so that they know the community cares about them and there's nothing they can't do."

Diggs-Latham, which opened its doors to students at the new building in October, was formerly two schools: Diggs, which was predominantly African American, and Latham, which was predominantly Hispanic. Blending the two distinct populations made it more important than ever to celebrate the students' backgrounds and cultures, explained Art Teacher Amanda Gordon, coordinator of this year's celebration.

"Our message is that we all have differences and want the children to learn to embrace each other and not let the differences be a problem but to celebrate that," said Gordon, who taught at Latham for eight years.

The celebration itself was home to a mix of performers, from students of all races to teachers and community members. Third, fourth and fifth grade students graced the stage as performers in the wax museum, where they portrayed a variety of important historical figures as their bios were read. Fifth graders performed an energetic Zumba dance to Shakira's "Waka Waka," and the school's cheerleaders rocked the stage with a spirited dance set to Michael Jackson's "Black or White."

Second grade teacher Solomon Stover educated the students on the history of Black History Month and the origins of the Negro National Anthem, which was sung by Speech Pathologist Susan Ingram. Black History Month began as Negro History Week, which was founded by



Photo by Layla Farmer
Darian Lowe as famed musician Duke Ellington.

Scholar Carter G. Woodson, Stover told the students.

"He hoped to educate people about their culture and their background and instill in them a sense of pride about their race," he said of Woodson, who became the second African American to earn a doctorate from Harvard University (WEB Dubois was the first) when he received the degree in 1912. "This was done in the month of February to honor two men who had so much to do with the success of African Americans: Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln."

Deacon Stephen McCloud of Galilee Missionary Baptist Church recited excerpts from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous "I Have a Dream" speech for the children. McCloud told the students that the accomplishments of African Americans should be noted and appreciated by people across the nation, regardless of race.

"Black history is part of the very fiber that has made this country great," he proclaimed. "It is rich in the milestones that really deserve everyone's attention."

Thomas Barksdale, a motivational speaker and youth minister at Galilee, served as keynote speaker. In his brief but energetic speech, Barksdale reminded the students to believe in themselves and be unwavering in the pursuit of their goals.

"I'm here to celebrate with you the African

American history movement ... but most of all, students, I'm here to encourage you," he said.

Barksdale told the students that he struggled with reading as a child, but he refused to let his educational setbacks stand in his way.

"You can live your dream. You can be anything you want to be if you work hard," he remarked. "Sometimes life will be difficult ... but the real talk is if you apply yourself and you become disciplined and determined, you can achieve. It doesn't matter what hood you come from. It matters where you are trying to go."



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Pink Ladies Go Red



Submitted Photo
The women of the Phi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc. went from pink to red in February in observance of National Heart Health Month. The month served as a reminder to all to visit their doctor regularly and take care of their hearts.

PRAYER BREAKFAST

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