

# Davis, Phifer Honored As "Sigma Women Of Year"

Dr. Mildred Baxter Davis and Mrs. Mentzie Phifer Johnson, charter members of the Beta Omicron Sigma Chapter, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, were honored as "Sigma Women of the Year" at the 36th Annual Founder's celebration recently held at Johnson C. Smith University. The theme for the weekend's activities was "Service to Mankind."

Soror Carolyn Nichols presided at the Founders' Day Dinner in Smith's Student Union. Soror Mary Smoot brought greetings; Soror Carolyn Nichols gave an introduction of Dias, and Soror Carolyn Greene did the invocation.

Samuel Stevenson, a noted local artist, sang "How Great Thou Art." His accompanist was Alice Mitchner. Lavenia S. Young, chairperson for the event, cited the purpose and Soror Adelaide Hunt gave highlights of the Beta Omicron Sigma years from 1950-1986.

Soror Geraldine Taylor presented three \$500 scholarships, one to Johnson C. Smith, Livingstone College and Barber-Scotia College to be awarded to a young lady who has an interest in Sigma Gamma Rho, who has financial need and meets the academic eligibility of each educational institution.

In the absence of each of the college presidents, Mrs. Carolyn Smith accepted the scholarship for Johnson C. Smith, Mrs. Hunt for Livingstone, and Soror Mildred Baxter Davis for her alma mater, Barber-Scotia.

Silver engraved bowls were given to the honorees, Dr. Davis and Mrs. Johnson for 36 years of service. Dr. Baxter is a native of Charlotte whose other awards and honors include

Who's Who in America; the Order of the Long Leaf Pine - highest civilian award in the State of N.C.; Mildred Baxter Davis Day, July 10, 1982; and an apartment complex for the elderly and handicapped, Baxter Manor, named in her honor. Dr. Davis presently serves as Mecklenburg County Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor.

Mrs. Johnson is a native of Whiteville, N.C. She is a retired fifth grade school teacher from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System. Mrs. Johnson is president of the Episcopal Church Women and she is an active volunteer for Crisis Assistance Ministries. Mrs. Johnson is an international traveler. Her most memorable trip was to the Holy Land.

Special guests included Dr. Davis' mother, Mrs. Lola Jenkins, Jerod Green, William Deforest Baxter and Mrs. Johnson's sons, William and Jerome Johnson.

Mrs. Annette McClure, a former student of Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Natalie Holmes, her grandson Tony who read a special dedication poem and presented flowers to both honorees, were also in attendance. Mrs. Ruby McNeely also gave special tributes to both honorees.

A meditation prayer for Soror Mattie Greene who is hospitalized was given by Carl J. Hunt.

Evening activities concluded with a poem benediction by Mrs. Hunt.

Concluding weekend ceremonies were held in sisterly worship in the Johnson C. Smith Chapel at the 11 o'clock service.

Soror Betty Harris and Lavenia Young served as the chairpersons for this gala weekend event.



Dr. Mildred Davis accepting check for Barber Scotia College from Soror Geraldine Taylor chairperson Scholarship Committee.

## Hypertension Management Workshop

"Hypertension Management In The Workplace" will be presented on December 1 from 12-2 p.m. at Community Health Services. This luncheon forum is another presentation in the series on "Health in the Charlotte Workplace," sponsored by Community Health Services over the past year.

"Hypertension Management In The Workplace" is a unique on-site high blood pressure management program that incorporates screening, referral, education and maintenance of the hypertensive employee.

Hypertension (high blood pressure) is estimated to affect nearly one-third of the workforce in the U.S., costing more than 29 million work days, (\$2 billion in earnings),

as a result of high blood pressure-related diseases such as heart attack, stroke and kidney disease.

Recognizing the high costs linked with the diseases associated with hypertension, many businesses have established high blood pressure screening and management programs. Data reveals that high blood pressure is one of the easiest and least expensive health problems to identify.

Community Health Services will present a nationally recognized, cost effective, successful approach to screening and managing the hypertensive employee. Lunch will be provided at no charge. Please call 375-0172 by December 1 to make a reservation.

## NAACP Files Suit Against Wayne County

The Wayne County, N.C., branch of the NAACP, filed suit against the Wayne County Board of Commissioners alleging that the Wayne County Board of Commissioners violated Section 2 and Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended.

Furthermore, the NAACP alleges that the Wayne County Board of Commissioners changed the term of office from two to four years, and staggered the at-large seats on said Commissioners board, so that it would be unlikely that the minority citizens of Wayne County would be able to single-shot vote, and thus elect candidates of their choice. That this election law change was made in 1965, and was not pre-

cleared by the Justice Department, as required by law.

Under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, the Wayne County Branch alleges that looking to the totality of the circumstances, and noting that Wayne County, N.C., has a history of discriminatory practices in education, health, housing and voting matters. When we look at the totality of the circumstances, we can see that to continue a system such as we have in Wayne County, N.C., will serve to dilute minority voting strength, and violate the Voting Rights Act, as amended.

The Wayne County Branch is specifically asking for three things:

1. That the court enjoin the further use of the non-pre-cleared

1965 system.

2. That the court ordered the Wayne County Board of Commissioners to create a new electoral system for the election of members to the Board of Commissioners, that would not dilute minority voting strength.

3. To order all present members of the Board of Elections to run for re-election, upon the institution of the new system that does not dilute minority voting strength.

This suit was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of N.C., on October 20, 1986, U.S. District Court Judge James Fox has been assigned to hear this case, along with two other judges who have yet to be appointed.

For further information regarding the specifics of this matter, contact the law firm of Penny, Barnes and Rodgers, P. O. Box 2162, Elizabeth City, NC 27908, telephone number 919-338-1148 or 338-5311, attention Harold Barnes, Esq.



## Beta Omicron Sigma Chapter - SIGMA GAMMA RHO'S

# 36th FOUNDERS DAY CELEBRATION



Purpose given by Soror Lavenia Young chairperson of Founders Day.



Basilius Carolyn Nicholas presenting Silver Bowl to Honoree Soror Mildred Davis, Charter Member.



Basilius Carolyn Nicholas presenting Silver Bowl to Honoree Soror Mentzie P. Johnson, Charter Member.



Dr. Mildred Davis accepting a check for Barber Scotia College from Soror Geraldine Taylor, chairperson of Scholarship Committee.



Mrs. Carolyn Smith accepting a check of \$500 for Johnson C. Smith University from Soror Geraldine Taylor.



Soror Adelaide H. Hunt accepting check for Livingstone College from Soror Geraldine Taylor.



Carl Hunt - meditation prayer for Soror Mattie Greene.



Soror Adelaide Hunt highlighting Beta Omicron Sigma Year.



Tribute given by Soror Ruby McNeely to Tony Johnson, Soror Mentzie Johnson and Soror Mildred Davis.