

CAAC CONNECTIONS

DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.

DORISENE WALLACE HILL SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON STUDENTS EARN COLLEGE FUNDS

The Central Arkansas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. recently awarded \$12,500 to high school seniors at the eighth annual Dorisene Wallace Hill Scholarship Luncheon.

The event's theme was "A Cherished Legacy: Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Present and Encouraging the Future."

The luncheon, traditionally a breakfast, was created during the 2014-15 sorority year under the leadership of **Soror Shirley Tyson** as a committee chair.

The first scholarship breakfast named for **Soror Dorisene Wallace Hill** was held on June 6, 2015.

Traditionally, CAAC awarded two \$2,000 scholarships, said **Scholarship Committee Chair LaCresha Newton**. In celebration of the Chapter's 25th anniversary, CAAC increased the amount.

During the luncheon, Soror Hill's church, Pilgrim Valley Missionary Baptist in Little Rock, donated an additional \$1,000 to the scholarship fund. Hill, a CAAC charter member, passed away on Jan. 23, 2022.

These students (pictured above in this order) earned scholarships:

- **Miracle Jones**, attending college in Texas
- **Akiya Saine**, attending college in Texas
- **Carrington Johnson**, attending college in Tennessee
- **Lillian Goins**, attending college in Massachusetts
- **Joree Pierre-Antoine**, attending college in Arkansas.

The event was held Sunday, May 1, 2022, at The Greens at North Hills in Sherwood, Arkansas.



Scholars Miracle Jones, Akiya Saine, Carrington Johnson, Lillian Goins and Joree Pierre-Antoine

[SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 6](#)

SPRING 2022
EDITION

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PRESIDENT'S PEN

Greetings, Beautiful Sorors!

Psalm 66:2 extols, "Sing out the honor of His name; Make His praise glorious!" As I approach the culmination of my term as the Central Arkansas Alumnae Chapter's 10th president, I do sing out with honor and praise in God's holy name. God has surely shown Himself strong in our Chapter during a pandemic, and I am grateful. Major records have been set during this 2020-22 administrative term because of your dedicated work in serving our community and willingness to embrace my vision.

Sorors, you have shone so brightly that your lights could not be hidden, and I am so proud of your accomplishments. As **Arkansas State Coordinator Deborah Bland** reminds us, "We Brag Differently!"

Allow me this opportunity to brag:



Under the leadership of **First Vice President and Membership Committee Chair Melinda Peer**, our Chapter has the highest number of financial sorors since our inception: 145. We had record-breaking visiting sorors, and those who joined us served on committees; some even became committee chairs!

Membership Committee



Over the last two years, under the leadership of **Second Vice President and Regional ERT Coordinator Ebony Crutchfield-Wiley**, our Program Planning & Development Committee has become the pillar of our service areas by donating thousands of dollars to worthwhile organizations.

PP&D Committee

They include the following: Ronald McDonald House, National Association for Negro Women, UNICEF, St. Jude, National Diabetes Association, World AIDS Day and Gladstar Ministries. This committee also has partnered with numerous organizations and schools to provide needed resources ensuring Delta was visible in keeping with our programmatic thrusts.

READ MORE ABOUT THE PP&D COMMITTEE'S WORK ON PAGES 11-12.



Soror LaCresha Newton and her Scholarship Committee took us to a new high in high school scholarships! We have gone from \$4,000 a year to over \$10,000! Major!

Scholarship Committee



Courtesy Committee



Chaplain

Under the leadership of **Soror Noria Day**, no soror has been left behind. If we knew of celebrations, illnesses or deaths, her Courtesy Committee made sure each member knew the Chapter cared and that **Chaplain Natalie Holliman** prayed with them.

(PRESIDENT'S PEN, CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)



PRESIDENT'S PEN (CONTINUED, 2 OF 4)

"WE BRAG DIFFERENTLY!"



What can be said about the love and commitment of our Arts & Letters Committee? I am grateful to **Soror Sandra Hatley** for agreeing to serve as our 2020-21 chair. Although we were restricted to all virtual activities, her creative efforts afforded us the opportunity to participate in revisiting the life and legacy of the legendary Alvin Ailey.

*Arts & Letters
Committee*



After almost two years of isolation, **Soror Michelle Mothershed** and the 2021-22 committee propelled us out of COVID confinement so members could participate in person as a sisterhood in the Red-Carpet debuts of "King Richard" and "Hamilton."



The Social Action Committee fearlessly answered the call for change. Under the leadership of **Soror Dametrice Anderson**, CAAC held its first virtual candidate forums: North Little Rock Ward 3 Runoff Forum and North Little Rock Election Runoff Candidate Forum.

*Social Action
Committee*



Social Action Committee Chair Ericka Benedicto led her members in serving as a co-sponsor for the Central Arkansas Re-Entry Coalition, "Rights After Wrongs" program (Oct. 16, 2021). The committee participated in person at the Pleasant Valley Church of Christ in Little Rock.



We are grateful for the knowledge and leadership of **Rituals and Ceremonies Chair Rochelle McFerguson**. Whether it was virtual Chapter meetings with required displays, or physical meetings and Omega Omega ceremonies, CAAC always displayed poise and professionalism.

*Rituals &
Ceremonies
Committee*



Let us not forget the sacrifices made by **Recording Secretary Tamela Cane**. She made sure that the business of the Chapter was made available to every member before monthly meetings were held.

*Recording
Secretary*



We salute **Sergeant-at-Arms Katriel Alexander** for being at her post, not only during Chapter meetings, but also during Executive Board meetings.

*Sergeant-
at-Arms*



National, regional, state and local news was consistently shared with the Chapter via **Corresponding Secretary Shannon Early-Rice**, even during the months when she was deployed to another state!

*Corresponding
Secretary*

(PRESIDENT'S PEN,
CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)



PRESIDENT'S PEN (CONTINUED, PAGE 3 OF 4)

"...I AM GRATEFUL"



And let us not forget the examples set by **Founders Day Committee Chair Latriana Robertson**. The special presentation in remembrance of charter members Soror Gwendolyn Smith and Soror Dorisene Wallace Hill will be etched in our hearts for years to come.

*Founders Day
Committee*



We also cannot forget the demonstration of faith and perseverance exhibited by **Soror Martie Hamilton** and members of our 25th Chapter Anniversary Gala Committee. Although delayed in time, our gala has become the epitome of grandeur in our service areas.

*25th Chapter
Anniversary
Gala Committee*



Enough cannot be said about the fortitude of our Tech Team and ERT Committee! I believe if a poll were taken, **Soror Keneasha Scott** and her formidable members could easily be awarded the most likely Chapter to comply with ERT guidelines, as well as most efficient Technology Team in our sisterhood. Because of their due-diligence, CAAC never missed a beat as it related to the expectations of our state, regional and national guidelines.

*Emergency
Response Team*

*Technology
Team*



Let us remember the service and creative efforts of our Delta D.E.A.R.S. Under the leadership of **Soror Essie Trice Hewett**, they supported Soror Ernestine Lawrence in providing meals to residents at Our House. They also celebrated their third Red & White Tea with D.E.A.R.S. from Arkansas chapters.

*Delta
D.E.A.R.S.*

**READ MORE ABOUT
THE TEA ON PAGE 10.**



Webmaster



*Fundraising
Committee*

What about **Webmaster Freta Rogers**? Because of her efforts, our website, caacdeltas.org, is second to none!

Also, under the leadership of **Sorors Celise Weems and Freta Rogers**, our Fundraising Committee did not allow the pandemic to stifle our efforts. The Chapter was blessed with additional funds via working football games once restrictions had been lifted.



*National
Pan-Hellenic
Council
Representative*

The Chapter was blessed to have been represented by **Soror Kimberly Cogshell** as a member of the National Pan-Hellenic Council of Little Rock.

(PRESIDENT'S PEN, CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)



PRESIDENT'S PEN

(CONTINUED, PAGE 4 OF 4)

"I AM SO PROUD..."



*Budget &
Finance
Committee*



*Financial
Secretary*



*Assistant
Financial
Secretary*



*Internal
Audit
Committee*



*Policies and
Procedures
Committee*

Let us not forget the sorors who have diligently worked behind the scenes to ensure our Chapter remained in compliance. Hats off to our Budget and Finance Committee: **Chair/Treasurer April Buirse**, **Financial Secretary Nyree Williams** and **Assistant Financial Secretary Tongela Allen**. Special thanks go out to **Internal Audit Committee Chair Shaneen Sloan** and **Policies and Procedures Committee Chair Exa Hartman**. This year has been filled with many transitions and because of these committees, CAAC has continued to adhere to Delta guidelines.



*Public Relations
Committee*

Under the leadership of 2020-21 **Public Relations Committee Chair Jennice Haynes**, CAAC increased its virtual presence on social media due to the pandemic restrictions for in-person events. This was done by creating more ad content for the media campaigns and developing an award-winning Sister Care Sunday Facebook Live event, which was held every third Sunday. The committee also played a major role in the Social Action Committee by creating the content for the 2020 Census and voter's registration and education social media campaign. The committee created content for recognizing CAAC educators and nurses during the 2020 National Recognition Month. Members also played a major role in supporting all of the Chapter's Facebook Live programs.



*Chapter
Journalist*

I cannot end my words without thanking **Information & Communications Committee Chair Riva Brown** for her work on rebirthing our Chapter newsletter, which will become a part of CAAC's heritage and archives. **Chapter Journalist Jamieria Collins** assisted.

As I come to the end of my tenure and assignment, it is my desire to thank you, my beautiful sorors, for rising to my call to SHINE! You have demonstrated what it means to think outside the box, and I always will be indebted to your fellowship. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as a leader with this amazing, knowledgeable and talented group of God-fearing women in the Central Arkansas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Sorority, Inc.

With much love and appreciation,

Shirley J. Inkton

Shirley J. Inkton
10th President

DORISENE WALLACE HILL SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON



Soror Dorisene Wallace Hill's family: Francine Hill, Nathaniel Hill, Kenneth Hamilton, Zina Frazier and Soror Natalie Hill Coleman



TOP ROW: Soror Morgan Dickerson, mistress of ceremonies; Soror Shelia Hayes, keynote speaker
BOTTOM ROW: Soror Latriana Robertson, tribute to Soror Hill; Jalen Flood, musical guest



Scholar Lillian Goins with mother, Soror Millie Goins



Scholar Carrington Johnson with First Vice President Melinda Peer and Scholarship Committee Chair LaCresha Newton



Scholar Joree Pierre-Antoine and parents



Scholar Miracle Jones and parents



Scholar Akiya Saine and parents

(SEE STORY ON PAGE 1)

25th Anniversary Gala

CELEBRATING SILVER WITH SERVICE

The Central Arkansas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. recently celebrated 25 years of sisterhood, scholarship, service and social action. The black-tie soiree was held Saturday, March 5, 2022, at The Venue at Westwind in North Little Rock.

Marlisa Goldsmith, journalist/anchor, THV11-TV, served as mistress of ceremonies.

The keynote speaker was Soror Tamika J. Edwards, J.D., Women's Foundation of Arkansas "2021 Woman of the Year in Business."

(SEE MORE GALA PHOTOS ON PAGES 8-9)



Gala Chair Shirley J. Inkton,
Gala Co-Chair Martie Hamilton



Soror Amari Briggs, history



Chaplain Natalie Holliman



Soror Tia Baker, charter member



Soror Exa Hartman, charter member



Soror LaCresha Newton, spoken word



Soror Ernestine Lawrence and guest



Soror Kimberly Cogshell and guest, Soror
Rhonda Lovelace Tillman



Soror LaTonya Brady, Soror Amber Lowe,
Soror Constance Withers

CELEBRATING SILVER WITH SERVICE



Scott Hamilton and Little Rock Mayor Frank Scott



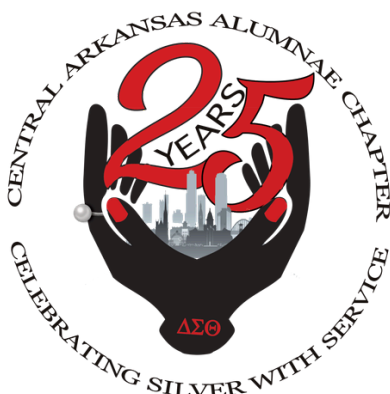
Soror Tamika J. Edwards, keynote speaker, and husband Quincy Edwards



Mistress of Ceremonies Marlisa Goldsmith and husband Ledarius Anthony



Vivian Flowers, Soror Terri Hollingsworth and Soror Tamika J. Edwards



Rep. Fredrick Love and Steve Person



(SEE MORE GALA PHOTOS ON PAGES 7 & 9)

CELEBRATING SILVER WITH SERVICE



Soror Angela Austin and husband



Soror Rhonda Valley and husband



LRAC Soror Pamela Lewis and CAAC Soror Kristy King



Soror Rochelle McFerguson and husband



CAAC Sorors Kimberly Vance, Erika Hadley, Regina Howard and Danielle Haynes



Spring 2019 DODs



Mary Hawkins, Shalanda Neeley, Deanna Williams, FranSha Anderson, Tonya Shepard, Kristie Henderson and Vekissa Wilson

(SEE MORE GALA PHOTOS ON PAGES 7-8)

D.E.A.R.S. celebrate sisterhood at third annual Red & White Tea



Delta D.E.A.R.S.

BY SOROR ESSIE TRICE HEWETT

As isolation and social distancing have affected social and mental health worldwide, Delta D.E.A.R.S. statewide joined the Central Arkansas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for the third annual Red & White Tea. The virtual event was held Thursday, March 10, 2022, during Sisterhood Month.

In addition to special guests from the Arabian Gulf Coast Alumnae Chapter and the Iota Omega Chapter, sorors from these Arkansas Alumnae Chapters attended:

- Blytheville
- Forrest City
- Fort Smith
- Hot Springs
- Little Rock
- Magnolia
- Marianna
- Pine Bluff
- Texarkana
- West Memphis.



Legacies, Deltas who are daughters and granddaughters of Deltas, were highlighted in a slide presentation. Soror **Natalie Hill Coleman**, a Legacy and CAAC Delta D.E.A.R.S., attended. She is the daughter of the late Soror Dorisene Wallace Hill, a CAAC charter member.

The Red & White Tea featured photos of the following:

- Soror Betty Lacy, Pine Bluff Alumnae Chapter
- Soror Alice Gray, Little Rock Alumnae Chapter
- Soror Birlee Davenport Lever, Pine Bluff Alumnae Chapter
- Soror Rhonda Gray, Fort Smith Alumnae Chapter
- Soror Frances Dalton, Pine Bluff Alumnae Chapter
- Soror Sarah L. Cannon, Little Rock Alumnae Chapter
- Soror Constance Sims Withers, Pine Bluff Alumnae Chapter
- Soror Pearly Stepps, Pine Bluff Alumnae Chapter
- Soror Alean Peek-Tate, West Memphis Alumnae Chapter
- Soror Essie Trice Hewett, CAAC
- Soror Shirley J. Inkton, CAAC president.

Dedicated - Energetic - Active - Respected - Sorors

A joint proclamation declaring March 10 "Arkansas Day of the DEARS" was issued by **Southwest Regional Director Michelle Brown** (below left) and **Arkansas State Coordinator Deborah Bland**.



State Delta D.E.A.R.S. Coordinator **Norma Valley** (bottom left) welcomed attendees, and **Central Arkansas Alumnae Chapter President Shirley J. Inkton** prayed.



CAAC DELTA D.E.A.R.S.

Soror Essie Trice Hewett, chair
Soror Shirley J. Inkton, president
Soror Jackie Banks
Soror Natalie Hill Coleman
Soror Lynda Phillips Johnson
Soror Ernestine Lawrence
Soror LaVerne Paige
Soror Vicki Weems

CHARTER MEMBERS (IN MEMORIAM)

Soror Dorisene Wallace Hill
Soror Gwendolyn Smith

FIVE-POINT PROGRAMMATIC THRUST

EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Program Planning & Development Committee

BY SOROR EBONY CRUTCHFIELD-WILEY

Strategic Community Partnership Program

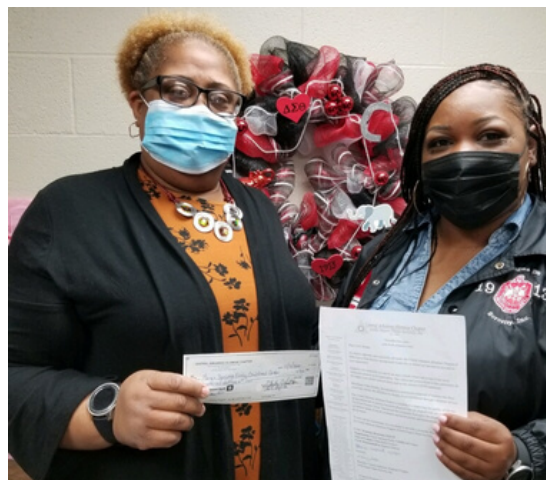
The PP&D Committee continued, established and maintained community partnerships, supporting lasting relationships within our service areas.

The committee has donated over \$3,000 for our school partnerships: **College Station Elementary**, **Geyer Springs Early Childhood Center** and **ScholarMade Achievement Place**.

We are especially proud of our strategic community partnership with the **7th Street Elementary School**. Because of this relationship, we partnered with King Solomon Baptist Church to provide additional funds and events for the school. To celebrate the joy of reading, all students and volunteers participated in the daily reading activities.

Charitable Partners

Charitable Partners are non-profit organizations that collaborate with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. to address disparities within communities of color, particularly African Americans. These disparities are in areas ranging from health and wellness to social, economic and educational concerns. The PP&D Committee donated over \$1,000 toward Delta Charitable Partners.



Soror Charlotte Cornice, principal of Geyer Springs Early Childhood Center, receives a check from Soror Kantris Oliver, who made the donation on behalf of the Chapter.



Soror Alyssa Robinson at College Station Elementary School



2021 Partners in Education Award

The Central Arkansas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. won the 2021 Partners in Education Award, thanks to the PP&D Committee's work with Volunteers in Public Schools.

ViPS was founded in 1972 to assist teachers and other staff members in the Little Rock School District.

With volunteer readers unable to visit classrooms this year, ViPS focused on building classroom libraries. ViPs donated over 1,200 new books.

FIVE-POINT PROGRAMMATIC THRUST

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH



*Program Planning &
Development Committee*

BY SOROR EBONY CRUTCHFIELD-WILEY

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

TOGETHER
for Mental Health

#Together4MH

Mental health carries a stigma of shame, especially in African American communities.

The PP&D Committee supported the **National Alliance on Mental Health** Lunch and Learn Series and participated in the virtual NAMI walk.

The PP&D Committee, through informational and educational webinars, helped sorors become more informed of how to achieve mental and emotional wellness. Sorors also learned about mental illness symptoms and risk factors that affect quality of life.

SUPER NURSE squad provides health screenings at Philander Smith College



The PP&D Committee dispatched the SUPER NURSE squad to a health fair at **Philander Smith College** in Little Rock on Oct. 27, 2021.

The educational and interactive event was designed to provide basic medicine and preventative medical screenings to community members and employees in conjunction with workplace wellness.

"We have to improve life, not just for those who have the most skills and those who know how to manipulate the system. But also for and with those who often have so much to give but never get the opportunity."



Dorothy Irene Height

10TH NATIONAL PRESIDENT
DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.

CAAC supports Soror Keymah in 'School Girls' play



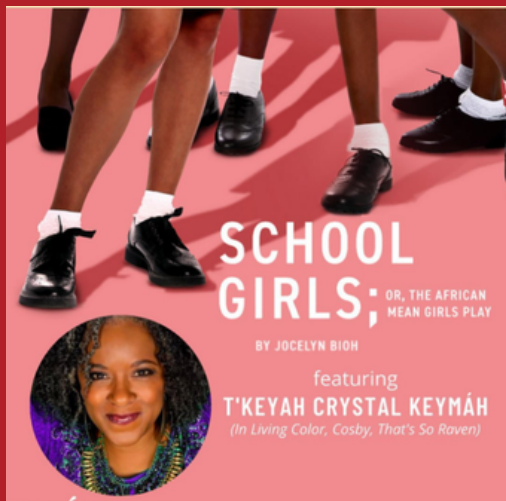
Arts & Letters Committee

BY SOROR MICHELLE MOTHERSHED

The Central Arkansas Alumnae Chapter supported Soror T'Keyah Crystal Keymah during her performance in "School Girls; Or, The African Mean Girls Play," by Jocelyn Bioh. As the reigning queen bee of Ghana's most exclusive boarding school, Paulina has her sights on the 1986 Miss Universe pageant. But the arrival of a new transfer student from America changes the game. The fearless comedy confronted conceptions of self-esteem and beauty.



CAAC members attend the play on March 17, 2022, at the Arkansas Repertory Theatre in Little Rock.



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: The Intuitive Pros



SOROR DAWN POWELL

WHAT PRODUCTS/SERVICES DO YOU OFFER?

The Intuitive Pros Security offers security systems, surveillance systems and automation for homes and businesses.

WHEN AND WHY DID YOU START YOUR BUSINESS?

I started The Intuitive Pros in 2018. I created my company with the values of transparency, integrity, personalized service and proficiency.

I felt there was a need for all of these values in a security provider in this industry. It was (and is) my desire to educate, provide first-class service and create lifelong relationships with all of my clients.

DESCRIBE HOW IT FEELS TO BE THE FIRST BLACK WOMAN IN ARKANSAS TO CREATE A SECURITY BUSINESS. HAS IT BEEN CHALLENGING? HAS IT BEEN REWARDING?

It absolutely warmed my heart when I learned that I was the first Black woman to own an alarm company in the state of Arkansas.

I was definitely surprised because I had been working in the security industry for over seven years at that time.

I've been in the industry now for over 11 years and am so thankful my work has not been too overwhelmingly challenging.

The most rewarding aspect has been being able to take great care of my clients and their security needs without the "red tape" I had encountered in the corporate industry.

FUN SECURITY FACT

Marie Van Brittan Brown, a Black woman, invented the first home security system in 1966.

WHAT IS THE LATEST BOOK YOU'VE READ?

"Fairest: The God Who Sees (A 21st Century Cinderella Story)," which is presently being republished as "The Fairytale God." Author, Shirley J. Inkton (my mom).

WHAT IS YOUR MANTRA/MOTIVATION?

"God blesses you to bless others." My motivation is to always help others. It doesn't always have to be in a financial manner. It could be by sharing life experiences, sharing key information, or supporting through networking. You would be surprised how I have been blessed and blessed others through these small actions.

HOW CAN PEOPLE FIND YOU?

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