

# THE PULSE

PI UPSILON LAMBDA CHAPTER

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## BEING SERVANTS OF ALL

Greetings Brothers,

As we finish out another successful fraternal year, the time has come when our chapter sends out a call to its membership to step up and serve. Pi Upsilon Lambda Chapter has selected new officers for the 2013-2014 fraternal year. We took a vow to be servants, not only to our community but to our fraternity as well. I understand that many of us have busy schedules, and the average chapter officer has more going on in their lives besides the work of Alpha. However, they make time to honor their word and commitment that they said they would do when they crossed the burning sands. I often hear of the things that Brothers would like to see done in our chapter, but do not step up to help implement that change. We can not have change if we do not have participation. Sideline chatter will only keep us stagnant. I would like to thank Bro. John Greene for stepping up and chairing the elections committee.

Brother Duane J. Edwards

President, PUL Chapter 2012-13



Bro. Duane J. Edwards

**FRATERNAL YEAR FLASHBACK**

As a Black History Month activity for their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Beautillion Academy, Pi Upsilon Lambda brothers took their BeauX on a trip to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in Washington, DC. The brothers drew a following from other visitors at the Memorial as they went to each of the 14 quotes on the wall and presented the history surrounding the particular quote.

“We believe that hearing the background information that depicts the climate and challenge that Dr. King faced when delivering the quote enhances the visit of the young men and guests” said Brother Anthony Barnes, the chapter’s director of education. “We’re proud to share the history of our Alpha brother, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.” Barnes added. This is the second year that the chapter has taken its Beautillion Academy participants to the Memorial.

After leaving the Memorial, the brothers, beaux and guests visited the Smithsonian Museum of African Art and the World War II Memorial.

Brother Anthony Barnes

Director of Education, PUL Chapter 2012-13



Brothers at WWII Memorial



Pi Upsilon Lambda Chapter brother reciting history on an MLK Memorial quote.



Brothers at MLK Memorial

## WHY MY ALPHANNIVERSARY MATTERS

Many Brothers can relate to this rather condensed sequence: when I learned I would become a father, I prayed triumphantly. When my son came out two weeks late and blue, I prayed to avert disaster. Each of those prayers, dichotomous and sincere when considered jointly and separately, was a matter of faith and perspective. Joining Alpha requires a tremendous leap of faith and an ability to adjust your perspective to incorporate more light.

“If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster; And treat those two imposters just the same” (Excerpted from Rudyard Kipling’s “If”). My sponsor, Bro. Jamal Okon, should not have had to ask me to pen this article. 17 April 2013, marks three years since I became a part of our dear Fraternity. “I came to the door of the House of Alpha...” must be how my letter began. The subsequent words, while authored by me, also came backed with the strength of character, commitment, and credibility of my sponsors, Dean, and all of the Brothers who had a hand in supporting my quest. More importantly, those words were an “I’ll prove you wrong” to all who obstructed my path. Have I lived up to those words? I question that after each community service activity, each chapter meeting, each Brotherhood Smoke, and yes, every intake session. The honest answer is, yes, mostly. That, however, is not good enough.

More than any other phrase, I have ingrained in myself that you get out of Alpha what you put in. How can a Brother have a good accounting of what he has given to the organization? I suggest starting with your sponsors – who better to provide the unvarnished truth. All of us, in some way or another, had to court and convince a few men we respected to guide us along the path from darkness to light. For many, that includes learning information, addressing personal opportunities for improvement, and understanding one’s place in a large, discreet organiza-

tion. Before you become an Alpha, you must prove yourself worthy. For me, the year I crossed was an *Annus Horribilis*; with the perfect storm of personal stressors ranging from my home to my children to my career to most domestic issues stemming from a mentally ill ex-girlfriend. No question exists in my mind that the process of joining Alpha helped me through it.

Around the same time I decided to join House #652, I purchased my first home and terminated (or so I thought) a toxic, abusive relationship. Leaving my six month old son and abusive ex at home, I went out to an Awareness Seminar that would alter the course of several lives forever. My namesake – his father transformed from aspirant to Alpha, I would lose nearly everything of earthly value to me, and spend countless hours examining and reshaping myself for strength in the New World of single fatherhood.

This could be the first and last article I write for this publication, but it truly is all I need to write and the best thing I have to say about Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. My sponsors were my family when I had no one to look to or count on. My line brother’s daycare center was a refuge for my infant child, who had been involved in multiple abduction attempts. Each incident, every instance was all put in perspective for me by men I respect greatly and with whom mutual bonds of faith and brotherhood have been forged.

***“Each incident, every instance was all put in perspective for me by men I respect greatly and with whom mutual bonds of faith and brotherhood have been forged.”***

Bro. Elliott M. Reed I, “EX-Factor” 3PUL10

Brother, PUL Chapter 2012-13

## BROTHERHOOD SMOKE

Brotherhood Smoke was held on 19 April 2013 at Shelly's Backroom 1331 F St NW, Washington, DC: This event was largely successful. Brothers in attendance were Elliott Reed, Dale Wright, Hasani Isom, Derrick Williams (4FA97 IZ), and Rashid Mahdi. The evening was filled with food, drinks, cigars, and discussion ranging from life, marriage, children, and current happenings in our fraternal organization. This event was focused on brothers not currently active, and was successful in bringing out at least 2 inactive members. A goal next fraternal year is to have at least one per quarter.

Successes this year were evident, as we successfully reclaimed at least 5 brothers. We also brought at least 3 inactive brothers to our events this year. There is, however, room for improvement in the next fraternal year. We need to work together to ensure that our brothers that were made here in PUL are reclaimed and retained.



Bro. Jamal Okon

Brother Jamal Okon

Associate Editor of the Sphinx, PUL Chapter 2012-13

## MARCH OF DIMES MARCH FOR BABIES

Once again the Brothers of Pi Upsilon Lambda rallied to answer the call to raise money for the March For Babies campaign. On Saturday, April 27, 2013, over 20 Brothers from PUL chapter came out to walk for this cause. This year under the chairmanship of Bro. Keith Holloway our captains were able to raise \$12,166 to date. Once again the March for Babies event was a huge success. The weather great and the Brothers really stepped up their game again this year. A big thanks to Bro. Holloway all the team captains, the top walkers, and all the brothers and their families who came out in support of March of Dimes and PUL. We still have until June 30th to raise money so tell everyone that it is not too late and that they still can donate.



Brother Duane J. Edwards

President, PUL Chapter 2012-13

## \$20 FOR 20 CAMPAIGN

Greetings Brothers. We are less than 2 months away from celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Pi Upsilon Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated! It is with great pleasure that I come to you as part of the 20th Anniversary Committee requesting that you join us in participating in the 20 for 20 Campaign (\$20 for 20 Years).

This campaign was established to not only serve as a fundraiser for our anniversary events, but also to honor the very best of what Pi Upsilon Lambda has accomplished in its first 20 years. With each donation, donors can either share a Good Deed, Good Brother, or Good Program that has contributed to the success of PUL since its inception. I will collect all submissions and donations to compile them to be added to a Wall of Good Deeds that will be created for and displayed at the Anniversary Celebration scheduled for Friday, August 2nd.

Please see me at the chapter meeting to submit your donations and submissions for the Wall of Good Deeds. Also, please secure additional donations from supporters of PUL. If they would like to give more than \$20 or list more than one Good Deed, Good Brother, or Good Program, please encourage them to do so. Please contact me for a donor list.

I look forward to partnering with you as we celebrate the best of PUL! If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Brother James Massey  
Brother, PUL Chapter 2012-13

## 6TH ANNUAL CHRISTOPHER RILEY FATHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

The Father's Day Breakfast is fast approaching and we need your help to make this breakfast another successful PUL event. There will be tickets available at this Friday's Chapter meeting and we would hope that Brothers are willing to push this event to your friends, family, loved ones, and their respective circles. Brothers Michael Nelson and Dale Wright have worked hard on this event and you won't be disappointed if you come. The details are as follows:

June 15th, 2013  
9am-1PM  
Metro Points Hotel  
8500 Annapolis Road  
Lanham, MD

\$25 adults  
\$15 Children (ages 3-12)

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, Pi Upsilon Lambda Chapter Present...

6<sup>th</sup> Annual Christopher Riley  
Father's Day Breakfast

"Testimonials to Fatherhood"

JUNE 15th, 2013 // 9AM - 1PM METRO POINTS HOTEL (8500 Annapolis Road) NEW CARROLTON, MARYLAND

SPECIAL GUEST  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY STATE ATTORNEY  
ANGELA ALSOBROOKS

TO PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE:  
HTTP://PUL.EVENTBRITE.COM  
ADULTS \$25 CHILDREN (3-12) \$15

POINT OF CONTACT  
BROTHER MICHAEL NELSON 301.219.3198  
BROTHER DALE WRIGHT 240.605.4504

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Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. develops leaders, promotes brotherhood and academic excellence, while providing service and advocacy for our communities.

## **EDITOR'S NOTE**

It has been my pleasure stepping in to be your Associate Editor to the Sphinx. Thanks to President Duane Edwards, I have had the opportunity to do something utterly foreign, and the chance to learn through my missteps. I have learned a great deal and grown in the position. After consulting the President-Elect Frank Malone, I know that we have aspirations this next fraternal year of our chapter becoming a regular contributor to the Sphinx. Every issue, every quarter. I am also going to utilize the same style of "shuttle-diplomacy" and leadership he is starting to exhibit. We will be producing a high quality quarterly PULse publication this fraternal year. We will have full participation from all chapter members in this publication as well. I will be TENACIOUS as never before in securing this participation in the form of articles. To facilitate the seamless transition from PULse to Sphinx submission, we will write articles in the style and format of the Sphinx requirements. All articles should have accompanying photos and captions. These are the following sections and requirements going forward:

1. News articles: Less than 300 words, (stories, current events, or issues and do not have to be fraternity-related).
2. Features: Less than 1,000 words, (long-form, in-depth on issues, i.e. healthcare, business, economics, law, education and other areas such as sports, entertainment, travel and leisure).
3. Chapter News: Less than 150 words, (latest accomplishments of brothers; chapter as whole; community projects, etc.).
4. Brothers on the Move: Less than 150 words, (latest accomplishments of individual brother, promotions, new positions in workplace or academia, special honors or graduations, degrees, etc.)
5. NEO News: Less than 500 words, and written by a neophyte brother. Article should explore his journey into Alpha Phi Alpha; why he joined, any special anecdotes about life as a new brother.
6. Arts and Culture: Less than 200 words, (reviews of books, audio, video and film projects by, about, or on Alpha brothers or fraternity issues of concern; must include publisher, number of pages, author name, etc.)

**2013-2014 SUBMISSION DEADLINES** (11:59 p.m. ET): Fall 2013: July 15; Winter 2014: Oct. 15; Spring 2014: Jan. 15

Please send your submissions no later than 14 days prior to the Submission dates above. For the sake of our listserv not shutting down, your inbox, your cell phone, and home phone, please participate. Because you will certainly be hearing from me.

Thank you in advance Brothers!

Brother Jamal Okon  
Associate Editor of the Sphinx, PUL Chapter  
2012-13

