# The Ivy Pages

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.
DELTA RHO OMEGA CHAPTER
BROOKLYN, NY
EST. 1947

OCTOBER 2021

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# TREASURED PEARLS

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Dawn Baskerville

Octavia Hill

Victoria Thomas

# *From The Desk of the Basileus*

Greetings Sorors,

Welcome to the October 2021 edition of the Ivy Pages!

Welcome to fall in Brooklyn with Delta Rho Omega! The chapter kicked off the season with a beautifully executed private tour of the Obama Portraits at the Brooklyn Museum Saturday, October 2nd. This was the first time in over a year many of our members had a chance to meet in person due to the pandemic. We were overjoyed with excitement for the fellowship and the opportunity that was extended to the chapter. It was an amazing evening. Sorors, if you have some time, treat yourself and visit this exhibit, which will continue until October 24th.

Breast Cancer Awareness Impact Day was observed on October 4th. Sorors be sure to have your regular mammograms. Early detection is essential. As we focus on breast cancer awareness for the month of October, please pay close attention to your healthcare; it is so important. COVID testing, various vaccinations, flu shots, and other essential medical services are all available.

Sorors, please be mindful of the slate of leadership positions that are open and contact the Nominating Committee for more information. This is a busy time of year for us. Even during the pandemic, we will need to continue to raise funds for our programs. The fund development committee of the Ivy Rose Foundation sent out the link for the "Triple Your Treasure Raffle," the final fundraiser for the year. Sorors, we need your help. Please share the link with your family and friends. You definitely want to participate. The prizes are fabulous! Please reach out to Soror Katuisca Lawrence for more information.

As we move forward, please be aware of the following mandates from the COVID-19 Pandemic Task Force: Chapter and committee meetings and retreats will continue to be virtual. Chapter Service Projects are limited to 50 vaccinated sorors. Participation in Ivy Beyond the Wall Ceremonies are limited to 50 vaccinated sorors. As we prepare for MIP, please be mindful that all individuals (members and candidates) involved in MIP activities are required to be fully vaccinated and must show proof of vaccination. Registration for the Cluster III Conference is now open. The conference will take place on October 30th and will be virtual.

Sorors, this is the time of year that we work diligently to complete our work for the year and plan for the next year. Your service and our sisterhood are what keep Delta Rho Omega growing and glowing. Thank you.

Sisterly,
***Soror Susan***
Susan Hobson Ransom
Basileus

***"Grace in women has more effect than beauty."***

*~ William Hazlitt*

# First Anti-Basileus' Message

Greetings Sorors!

When did you last conduct a breast self-exam? When was your last mammogram? Have you had conversations about breast health with your mothers, daughters, sisters, and friends? Black women are more susceptible to aggressive forms of breast cancer than white women and will often suffer a poorer prognosis from the disease (source: Centers for Disease Control). We must have these crucial conversations in our community, because early detection saves lives.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. With a program of service dedicated to improving Women's Healthcare and Wellness (Target 2), it is only right for Alpha Kappa Alpha women to stand united and draw attention to this disease. While we observe the Breast Cancer Awareness Impact Day on Monday, October 4, Delta Rho Omega will also encourage the community to turn their awareness into action by spreading the word about detection and treatment options.

I salute all breast cancer warriors and survivors, and I offer my sincere gratitude to all healthcare providers, caregivers, and advocates who support those impacted by the disease.

Sisterly,
***Soror Monique Okumakpeyi***
First Anti-Basileus

# Second Anti-Basileus' Message

Greetings Sorors

Happy Fall Season. It's officially "Sweater Weather". Sorors, the Fall season offers a whole suite of fun activities that you can enjoy with your Mentor/Mentee and or Pink Pal.
Let's keep that warm sisterly connection going even as we go into the cooler months, whether we are virtual or in person there is truly no other like our sisterhood.

A warm sisterly Thank You to Soror Sharon Fortune-Bowden and the DRO Sister to Sister Reclamation Tea Committee for planning and executing a wonderful program and outreach to our local inactive sorors.

Sisterly,
Wanda Berry Joseph
2nd Anti- Basileus

## *Mentor and Mentee Snaps*

**Mentor Soror Monique Okumakpeyi and Mentee Soror Monica Bertty-Castellan enjoy a wonderful meetup for a great cause at the HBCU Game Night.**

**Mentor and Mentee fun**

Keep the pictures coming sorors and keep enjoying the sisterly support of the Mentor/ Mentee and Pink Pal program. If you need a Mentor or Mentee or if you are looking for a DRO Pink Pal please reach out to me directly.

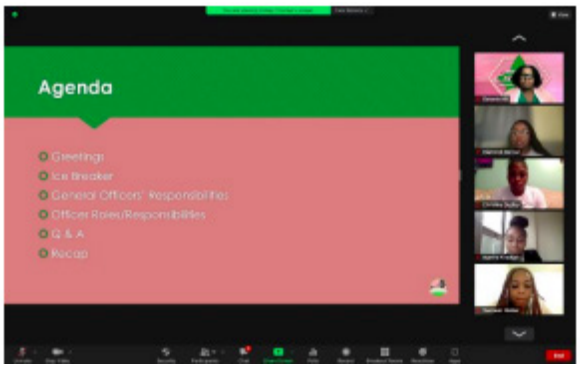
**The Membership Committee is hosting a Reclamation Tea titled "Reclaiming Pearls by Cultivating a Spirit of Sisterhood".**

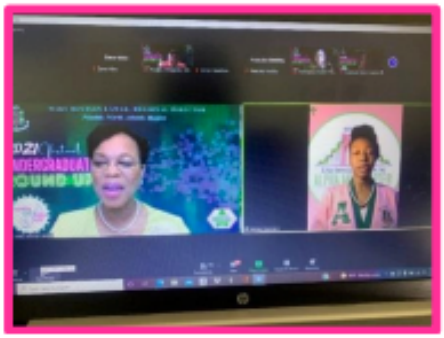
**Please continue to invite local sorors who may be looking for chapter to come visit and possible join DRO.**

# GRADUATE ADVISOR

Graduate Advisor
Delta Rho Omega Chapter
Newsletter
October 1, 2021

Former Delta Rho Omega chapter Basilei, Victoria Thomas and Octavia Hill presented a leadership workshop to Alpha Mu Sorors on the officers' roles and responsibilities.



Soror Bethany Saunders was selected by the North Atlantic Regional Director, Mary Bentley LaMar to sing the Sorority Hymn at the end of Undergraduate Roundup. Sorors were moved by her beautiful voice.

Alpha Mu participated in the yearly Club Fair at Medgar Evers College on Wednesday, September 20, 2021. They showcased the chapter's programs and members highlights.

On September 20, 2021, Alpha Mu chapter joined the Greek fraternities and sororities at "Meet the Greeks" at LIU Brooklyn Campus. The chapter highlighted the need for voter registration and provided resources or students to vote.

In partnership with LIU-Brooklyn Resident Life, Delta Sigma Theta and Phi Beta Sigma and BSU, Alpha Mu hosted Game Night. This was an opportunity to welcome students back to campus, check in with each other and provide a night of fun and fellowship.

A special Thank You goes out to Soror Octavia Hill, Victoria Thomas, Susan Hobson Ransom and Joanne Joyner-Wells! We appreciate your time and generosity! XO

**Mentorship Matters!!!**
Soror Monique Okumakpeyi and her Alpha Mu mentee, Soror Diamond Derival spent a day of fellowship on Saturday in Bedford Stuyvesant. Food, fun and great conversation!

Mentoring
Makes a Difference

Social Media Pages

**Instagram**: am1955aka

**Facebook**: Alpha Mu Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

"It's hard work that makes things happen. It's hard work that creates change."

–Shonda Rhimes

# *Greetings from the Hodegoi*

With the mission in mind, we set our sights on greater tasks to begin. Though our accomplishments are many, we do not rest on our laurels because we understand the urgent needs of our community and the utmost relevancy of our purpose. To be of service to mankind is a privilege not taken lightly and through our sacred sisterhood, unified in step, we will continue to strive and do.

Committed to Excellence,

***Sorors Nadya Williams and Brandi J. Bradshaw***

Hodegoi

# Happy Birthday Sorors!

| | |
|---|---|
| 10/3 | Soror Lisa Hightower |
| 10/5 | Soror Marilyn Simon |
| 10/8 | Soror Monica Bertty-Castellan |
| 10/8 | Soror Nadya Williams |
| 10/9 | Soror Marthajean Caesar |
| 10/9 | Soror Marvelie Tribie |
| 10/11 | Soror Natasha Thompson |
| 10/17 | Soror Ebony D. Martin |
| 10/18 | Soror Edith Adams |
| 10/19 | Soror Maureen Carter |
| 10/19 | Soror Bria N. Thomas |
| 10/22 | Soror Bintia Boure |
| 10/22 | Soror Kathleen Daniel |
| 10/22 | Soror Mona Romain |
| 10/24 | Soror Jennifer Robinson |
| 10/24 | Soror Brittney Young |
| 10/25 | Soror Tiarra L. Nero |
| 10/27 | Soror Octavia D. Hill |
| 10/27 | Soror Lisa S. Quarles |
| 10/28 | Soror Jacqueline Cole |
| 10/29 | Soror Dawnasia Freeman |
| 10/29 | Soror Gale E. Gibson-Gayle |
| 10/31 | Soror Josephine Hernandez |

# Congratulations Soror!

***Congratulations are in order!!***

- Congratulations to Soror Adero-Zaire Green on successfully defending her dissertation, thereby receiving her Doctorate of Education (Ed.D) in Higher Education Administration from Saint Peter's University!
- Congratulations to Soror Kayona Wall on her completion of the Yale School of Management Executive Education Women's Leadership Program!
- Congratulations to Soror Azurée S. Montoute-Lewis and family as they celebrate the publication of her Honey-Do's (Ron Lewis) first book, "Alpha Drive" which supports young readers in learning cursive. "Alpha Drive" is currently available on Amazon!

# *Thinking of you Soror…*

***Please continue to keep our Sorors in your thoughts and prayers…***

- Soror Carolyn Walker-Diallo and family as they mourn the passing of their matriarch, Nancy Carroll Walker
- Soror Dana Williams-Tinsley and family as they mourn the passing of her brother, Samuel Eddie Simmons
- Soror Mecca Hawkins and family as they mourn the passing of their patriarch, Michael Hawkins

***May God give you peace that surpasses all understanding and cover you with his grace and mercy.***

# Soror Spotlight: Soror Christina Hodges

By: Soror Simone Belgrave

Soror Christina Hodges is our Soror Spotlight for the month of October. In 2008, she and her three other co-initiates were initiated into the Chi Delta Omega Chapter, located in Palm Coast, Florida. As our chapter tamiouchos, Soror Christina, confidently handles the financial needs of the chapter, while also working as a senior coordinator of business project management at Deloitte in their Corporate Intelligence Services division. In addition to her tamiouchos obligations and her work responsibilities, this goal-focused Capricorn is also an entrepreneur. She is a self-described "Jack of All Trades." Since 2017, she has owned her own professional organizing business, Organized Kingdom, which supports the needs of small businesses. Please see excerpts from our interview below.

**Q. What made you join the sorority? How long have you been a member of DRO? What made you join this chapter? What has made you stay?**

**A.** I come from a family where most of the women are Deltas and even the men married Deltas. Naturally, it was assumed that I would follow their lead but I've never been one to do what is expected of me. Around age 12, I just knew I wanted to be an AKA although I only knew of one family member who is a soror. My college major kept me busy so I never considered the undergraduate process. So, when the same cousin presented the opportunity to join her graduate chapter in Palm Coast, Florida, I was excited that a childhood dream was revived.

I've been a proud active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. for 13 years and a member for DRO for a majority of those years (9 years). It sounds odd, but my aunts molded me into the Alpha Kappa Alpha woman I am today. Growing up I saw their class, devotion to their sorority and community work and it served as the framework to make me a better soror, just wearing better colors. My 92-year-old aunt (with 75+ years of service in her sorority) still encourages me to treasure my AKA sisterhood, even when she threatens to throw all of my paraphernalia out of the window!

When I moved to NYC, I joined Delta Rho Omega only because a soror on her way to an Executive Board meeting saw me wearing para while we were both getting sandwiches at Subway. Still, she encouraged me to come to the next chapter meeting. After a couple of visits, I joined DRO later in the year. What has made me stay? Initially it was two people… Marvelie Tribie and Octavia Hill! At one point, I wanted to transfer to general membership as that was my original intent when I first moved to Brooklyn. I expressed my thoughts to Soror Marv during a morning subway commute and she encouraged me to not be intimidated by a large chapter and to join committees for connection. She didn't persuade me to stay or leave but instead asked me to give it some time to find where I fit in. Shortly afterwards, Soror Octavia in her special way voluntold me into becoming Ivy Leaf Reporter and we all know I couldn't tell her no! LOL In hindsight, I'm grateful that both sorors pushed me out my comfort zone. Their pushes led to so many other beautiful friendships in Delta Rho Omega and to me this is the epitome of sisterhood. To welcome and love on a new face, encourage her to use her gifts within the chapter and insist that no soror gets left behind.

**Q. Describe your collegiate educational background (Undergraduate & Graduate)?**

A. Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Q. What motivates you on your job? What has been a major achievement in your working career?**

A. In my full-time job and my entrepreneurship ventures, I'm motivated when I'm challenged to create solutions that seem impossible. A recurring theme throughout my entire career regardless of the company is that employers will fight hard to keep me because they see the value I bring to the organization.

Most recently, I didn't like the direction management was headed and was considering looking for other employment. Instead, I told my employer in a professional way that while I would prefer to stay with the firm, if my former manager continued to belittle my intelligence, I would have no choice but to pursue other opportunities. Almost immediately, there was a resounding "No, ma'am! You're not leaving us!" and I was allowed to create my current position. Our team conducts background and due diligence investigations and I have the ideal position as the team operations/finance lead, but I also get to conduct hands-on client investigation work too.

**Q. What is one lesson, saying, or advice that your mother has impressed upon you?**

A. Advocate for yourself and document everything! Mom was never a stranger at our schools. My sister and I were both academically gifted and yet on multiple occasions our schools tried to keep us out of advanced courses. Mom never backed down often providing detailed notes of her conversations with administrations, copies of our standardized test results and even making us "spies" in our classrooms to document any infractions from our teachers. I still keep meticulous notes because I never know when it will be needed to prove my case as needed.

**Q. What is your most memorable moment in your membership in Alpha Kappa Alpha?**

A. To date, the most memorable moment is serving as our chapter's Tamiouchos. If you would've told me five years ago that I would be in this position, I might've laughed at you hysterically! Not because I don't think I'm capable of doing the job but because stewardship is a lot of responsibility. At different times my mom and sister were our church's Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Financial Secretary, respectively and Dad was the ultimate budget guru. Managing finances for organizations seems to be in my bloodline and I tried to run from it for a long time. When I finally decided that I would consider running for Tamiouchos, I actually ran it by my mom first. I told her I remembered the extra care she took with the church and family reunion finances to make sure everything was accurate.

I bluntly asked her "Can I do this?!?! Are sorors prepared to see the Christina who doesn't play when it comes to money?" and she said "Of course! It's not for the faint of heart but you've got this! And if they aren't ready for your style, they'll soon find out!" Just six months after that conversation, Mom passed away and I thought there's no way I'm going to run. It seemed too much but then I remembered her words that I am indeed built for this act of service. So, here I am walking in her footsteps and with her blessing.

**Q. Would you rather travel the world for a year on a shoestring budget or stay in only one country for a year but live in luxury?**

A. Definitely prefer to travel the world for a year on a shoestring budget. I'm already a budget traveler and I'm looking forward to visiting new international locations in the coming year. One of my bucket list items is to ride every roller coaster in the United States. Plus, I need variety, or I'll get bored easily.

**Q. What risk would you take if you knew you could not fail?**

A. Full-time entrepreneurship – I'm working on this now.

**Q. What advice would you give a new soror in our sorority?**

A. Our sisterhood is what you make it. Just like anything in life, if you put in the work you will reap the rewards. In Alpha Kappa Alpha, "work" can mean several things – serving on committees, carrying out international program initiatives, becoming an officer, etc. But the work can also be as simple as sending a card to a soror who's been on your mind, inviting a soror sitting by herself at a chapter meeting to sit beside you or even socializing with sorors and not discussing anything sorority/chapter related. When I've put in the work, the benefits always come back to me a hundredfold. I may not agree with every Soror and not every Soror will like me, but at the end of the day I should always be my Soror's keeper in my words and actions.

**Q. If you could only listen to one singer or band for the rest of your life, who would you choose?**

A. Stevie Wonder hands down. From Little Stevie Wonder to present day, his entire catalog are literally the songs in the key of my life. But a close second would be Marvin Gaye.

# PARLI PRO CORNER

**Soror Deena A. Sellers**
**Parliamentarian, Delta Rho Omega**

**Q: How does a Soror make a motion during a virtual meeting?**

A: The Soror who wishes to make a motion on behalf of a decision that needs to be made must first gain recognition from the Chair (Madam Basileus, in our case). Then, the Soror must describe her proposal. It is very important that the motion be as precise in language as possible: the assembly votes on exact language, not general ideas, and each motion made at a meeting must be recorded by the Grammateus in the minutes. Note that when we meet in person, when asking for permission to speak, the Soror must also rise in order to be recognized.

(RONR In Brief, p. 20, section C no. 1)

**Example**

- **Soror Jefferson:** "Madam Basileus? This is Soror Theresa Jefferson."
- **Madam Basileus:** Soror Jefferson.
- **Soror Jefferson:** "I move that the chapter purchases a full page ad in the amount of $200 to support Soror Alexis Hamilton's distinction as the Brooklyn Chapter of the NAACP's Woman of the Year."

The second installment of the Bylaws Committee's workshop series, *"The Rules of Engagement"* - will be rescheduled for this fall via Zoom.

Stay tuned for more information!

# NOVEMBER CALENDAR

| DATE | EVENT | DESCRIPTION | LOCATION | TIME |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11/13/21 | Virtual Chapter Meeting | | | 2pm to 5pm |
| | | | | |

# DECEMBER CALENDAR

| DATE | EVENT | DESCRIPTION | LOCATION | TIME |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12/11/21 | Virtual Chapter Meeting | | | 2pm to 5pm |
| | | | | |

**Please view our monthly calendar here:**
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1YaoL4BID8vNjp7WHH1MVBGV7ilnIkT-pL_KB2_CYafWw/edit?usp=sharing

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

BASILEUS OFFICE HOURS

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MARY BENTLEY LAMAR

North Atlantic Regional Director

P.O. Box 413

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Montclair, New Jersey 07042

# STAY IN TOUCH!

@DELTARHOOMEGA

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Leading With Grace