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### GAMMETTE STAFF

**Soror Akon Ekpo**  
*Epistoleus/Web Developer*

**Soror Sydney Stewart**  
*Editor*

**Soror Stephanie Spencer**  
*Graphic & Web Designer*

**Soror Trenika Smith**  
*Editor*

**Soror Aisha Akorede**  
*Editor*

in this issue

# Youth Symposium

## Soror Akon Ekpo

**E**ta Xi Sigma Chapter has done it again! On Saturday, March 22, 2003, Eta Xi Sigma Chapter hosted its Annual Youth Symposium. This event, geared toward youth between the ages of 12-18, attracted over 100 guests at the Spoken Word Café, located on the city's south side. The program began with a panel discussion by professionals in the field of arts and entertainment and commenced with a talent show with youth showcasing their individual talents.

At the event, our guest panelists discussed what their careers entailed, showcased their talents, and provided a means to help young people break into the industry. Our youth showcased their talent through, dance, song, prose/acting, and step. This year we had a special treat for our youth by showcasing a Greek step routine by alumni sorors from University of Illinois (Urbana, Illinois). Our participants left the Symposium with more knowledge of what they would like to do in life and confidence in themselves.

## Meet our Newest Member

NAME:	Soror Sharon L. Houston
DATE INDUCTED:	March 15, 2003
PROFESSION:	Accountant for Larabida Children's Hospital
BIRTHDAY:	April 11
HOMETOWN:	Chicago
HIGH SCHOOL:	St. Francis DeSalle
COLLEGE:	Western Illinois University/Chicago State
FAVORITE COLOR:	Neutral Colors in the brown family
FAVORITE FOOD:	Seafood
HOBBIES:	Working Out
WHY I CHOSE SIGMA:	I chose Sigma because women of substance choose Sigma.

*When Soror Houston was asked to describe Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated in one word she replied, "ELEGANCE"*

# Announcements

## Meet the Newest Members of Sigma's Extended Family

Announcing the Arrival of

Klarke Alexis Monelle (5:00pm 6lb 18.5" Long)

&

Gregoire Monelle II (6:15 pm 7lb 2 oz 19" Long)

Born March 22, 2003 @ West Suburban Hospital, Oak Park, Illinois

Congratulations to both Mom (Soror Kay Monelle) & Dad (Bro. Greg Monelle, KAΨ)

## Undergraduate Focus:

*By Soror Aisha Akorede*

For the third consecutive year, the Ladies of Xi Lambda Chapter have hosted a sexual awareness event at DePaul University. This year our undergrads hosted "Sex For Chocolate", an open discussion about health awareness in today's society. The risk for transmitting sexual diseases and holding on to unhealthy relationships increase more and more with the number of incoming freshman and continuing students that enroll each year. Xi Lambda feels that sex awareness of the DePaul community is necessary for the student body to thrive.

Xi Lambda has invited speakers from Planned Parenthood, the entertainment industry and poetry corners to speak on sexually transmitted diseases as well as relationships. This year Dudlita Smith of Project VIDA, led the discussion on sex-

ually transmitted diseases and relationships. Project VIDA is a community-based non-for-profit organization with a special focus on serving minority communities. Project VIDA is focused on health awareness issues with an emphasis on AIDS/HIV prevention and education.

'Sex for Chocolate' drew in a sizeable crowd that was probably surprised about the topic for discussion. Ms. Smith was able to engage everyone with startling facts, pictures and personal experiences. Her clear-cut tactics were very much welcomed and effective. Everyone received chocolate for each question asked, which made the discussion all the more interactive. This event was well received and marked yet another successful event for the Exhilarating ladies of Xi Lambda Chapter.

## Spotlight on Rhoers *Soror Trenika Smith*

It's work as usual for the Rhoer Club of Eta Xi Sigma Chapter. Since the New Year the Rhoers have been busy participating in events that were planned for the remainder of the calendar year 2003. In the past four months the Rhoers have been concentrating on fundraising, bonding, and community service.

The Rhoers had a Krispy Kreme donut sale where they sold over 200 boxes of donuts. This fundraiser enabled the Rhoers to pay for two hotel rooms for our Regional Conference. The money raised will also be used to enable the Rhoers to participate in college and university campus visits in the spring.

On February 22-23, 2003 the Rhoers enjoyed a weekend of bonding with the Rhoer Committee. The weekend started with the Rhoer at Soror Victoria Jackson's house. The activities consisted of a movie at the mall and an evening of eating, talent exhibitions, fun and lots of games. Following the sleepover the Rhoers enjoyed church service at Mars Hill Church on the city's west side. The weekend commenced with their second induction of the year in which they inducted 2 new Rhoers with a reception that followed.

On April 5, 2003 Sorors Jackson, Stewart, and Neely along with six Rhoers participated in a business meeting, clothes sorting, food preparation for The Ronald McDonald's Children's Charities Family Center and a visit to The Expo For Today's Black Woman. The Rhoers bonded while separating 25 large bags, suitcases and boxes filled with women's, men's, and children's clothing. Then the Rhoers prepared and delivered a large tray of spaghetti along with 2 loaves of garlic bread to RMCC. After their community service efforts, the Rhoers enjoyed an afternoon at The Expo For Today's Black Woman at The McCormick Place. After a long day of community service and bonding, the Rhoers enjoyed a pizza party at Soror Jackson's house.

## T.O.R.C.H. Training

### The Times are Changing *Soror Sydney Stewart*

Teaching - Obligations, Rights, Characteristics, and the History of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. This is the acronym for our new intake program. Thus, on Saturday, March 29, 2003 from 10:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M. Sorors from Area IV gathered at Doolittle Elementary School for the T.O.R.C.H. Training. Most of the chapters in this area were in attendance including our very own Eta Xi Sigma Chapter. The Sorors who attended were Sorors: Kelly, Stewart, Hightower, Daniels, A. Brown, V. Jackson, Dorsey, Hardy, and Houston.

The session was informative and allowed Sorors to voice their concerns regarding the program. Soror Annie Lawrence Brown informed Soror Ingram that she would be able to submit all of our questions and concerns in her regional report. Soror Ingram was very gracious and stated that she would be seeking Soror Brown's council for proper submission guidelines. Thus, Eta Xi Sigma was highlighted as a resource to our Regional Syntaktes.

In addition, Soror Ingram will identify Sorors in Area IV to serve as Certified TORCH Trainers. These trainers would be the only members of the organization who can officially train other Sorors and grant certifications. Soror Sydney Stewart was asked to take on this role and has accepted. Once this appointment has been confirmed, Soror Ingram will notify the Region so that additional trainings can commence for Sorors not in attendance.

If you were not able to attend this training, there will be a training session offered at the 63rd Regional Conference. If you will not be attending the conference, future dates will be made available at that time and brought back to the chapter. Times are changing, therefore, we must embrace it.

"Change is inevitable, growth is a choice."

# Spring Sigma Social

## Soror Trenika Smith

Eta Xi Sigma Chapter hosted a Spring Social on March 22, 2003 from 6-9pm at the house of Soror Victoria Jackson. The first hour of the social was for Soror's only. During that hour, Soror Starlet Jenkins, formerly of Delta Rho Chapter, did a presentation on chapter accountability. The presentation consisted of an activity that focused on 7 principles (represented by colors), duty & loyalty, scholarship, education, faith hope & trust, action, fire, and purity. Within this activity, we learned the significance of each of the 7 principles and how to apply them to chapter activities. Each Soror picked three of the seven principles/colors as a goal to accomplish with activities for chapter. Then Sorors were paired together with

another Soror that was not in their Sigma generation to serve as their "accountability partner". The accountability partner's responsibility was to contact their respective Soror once a month to check up on that Soror's status of their three goals. Each Soror pinned themselves with their colors as a reminder of their three goals. This activity proved to be a success.

The remainder of the evening was spent mingling with prospective members. We had dinner and played a hilarious game of "Win, Lose, or Draw". There were 5 prospective members and 6 Sorors looking to reactivate, in attendance for the Spring Social. This was truly a night to remember.

## Spring Inductions: Membership Has it's Privileges

Memories are priceless. Thus, for one newly inducted Soror, Sharon Houston, March 15 will never be the same. Instead, this Soror will reflect upon this day as a momentous and eventful one. As Ms. Sharon Houston approached the Foster Park Field House, she had no idea what was in store. She thought that she was coming to take a test and had no idea that she was about to be

inducted into the greatest sorority ever.

The proceeding week was very chilly. But, for some reason God smiled on Saturday, March 15th, and sent a ray of sunshine and warm weather. You see, God and the Goddess of Dawn, Aurora, had a serious conversation about the upcoming festivities. They both wanted the day to reflect the wonderful sisterhood that was being expanded. For on this day, God sent a true Sigma our way. She was dressed in white and was eager to be added to our family. Once the induction was concluded, a host of bluetiful Sigma Women, of Eta Xi Sigma Chapter, showered Soror Houston with royal gifts of welcome.

Not only did the induction have a gift giving ceremony, a wonderful reception followed. During the reception melodies of Sigma floated around the room and entered everyone's heart. Soror Houston received a spectacular welcome. As of this day, Soror Houston is still excited about being

*continued on page 6*

# Calendar of Events

PLEASE NOTE: Event dates and information may change with future issues.

## SEPTEMBER

**21** Chapter Meeting

## OCTOBER

**07** Executive Board Meeting

**12** NPHC Sankofa Breakfast

**19** Chapter Meeting

**26** Sigma Fall Social

## NOVEMBER

**02** Area Workshop

**04** Executive Board Meeting

**09** Founder's Day Celebration

**10** Day of Worship

**16** Chapter Meeting

**17** Holiday Baskets

## DECEMBER

**07** SGRho Party

**09** Executive Board Meeting

**14** Chapter Meeting

**20** Christmas Carolling  
Holiday Activity

## JANUARY

**12** Rhoer Club Informational

**18** Chapter Meeting

**26** Rhoer Club Inductions

## FEBRUARY

**02** Rhoer Club Business Meeting

**15** Chapter Meeting  
Carver Day Celebration

## MARCH

**02** Rhoer Club Business Meeting

**15** Chapter Meeting

**22** Youth Symposium

## APRIL

**12** Chapter Meeting

## MAY

**03** SGRho Party

**16-18** Central Regional Conf.

## JUNE

**07** Planning Meeting

**21** Chapter Meeting  
Chapter Awards Banquet

## JULY

**13** Sigma Round Up Picnic

## AUGUST

**16-18** Eta Xi Sigma's 10th  
Anniversary Celebration

## INDUCTIONS *continued*

a new member and she loves every minute of it.

It is our goal and our duty as Sigma Women to invite, welcome, mentor, and educate all that enter Sigma Land. Let's continue to expand our family and strengthen our bonds of sisterhood. If we continue our traditions and legacies, then others will know that membership in our beloved Sorority definitely has its privileges.

Thanks to all Sorors for assisting with the preparation for this event. It would not have been possible without all of your support and sisterhood.

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