

MISSISSIPPI

SIGMAS

ENGAGED | EMPOWERED | ENLIGHTENED



April 2021

Spring 2021

ISS. 1

State Director's Message

Greeting Brothers of the Mighty Mississippi,

We have had an amazing first quarter in Sigma. Our year began with witnessing a groundbreaking 107th Founder's Day Celebration on January 9th from the International Headquarters. This celebration was truly a testament to where our organization is moving in this age of technology. I then had the opportunity to both speak and attend as many local chapter celebrations and rededications throughout our state. All which were well attended and offered tributes that were most memorable. We concluded with our first joint Mississippi Statewide Virtual Founder's Day Celebration. Welcoming back our International President, the Honorable Michael E. Cristal, home as he completes his tenure as president, was a distinct honor.

In February we moved into our 2021 Mississippi Virtual State Conference. Although the number of registered brothers was not significantly higher than the prior face to face conference, we took care of the business of Sigma in an orderly and timely manner. I would like to thank our technology team: Brothers Byron Keys, Synarus Green, Dwight Doughty and Lorenzo Grimes for working behind the scene to make sure all the technological needs of the

brotherhood were met. I also applaud all committee chairman and program directors who committed many evening meetings and prepared reports for the brotherhood. Thank you to Brothers Robert Tate and DeAnthony Jones for donating door prizes for the weekend. Lastly, congratulations to every chapter and brother who was recognized. This was our biggest investment.

In March, we prepared and attended our 2021 Southern Regional Conference. Over 500 brothers registered for the conference and we were introduced to CVENT which will be our new online platform for the upcoming year. Congratulations to those chapters who were recognized for doing outstanding work for Sigma from Mississippi. We concluded this month with Blue and White on the Hill. An extremely monumental and rewarding experience. We had over 100 participants of both Sigma and Zeta to greet and listen to our very own Mississippi State Legislatures. A special resolution was also presented to Brother Frank Nichols.

As we forge in the next quarter of Sigma let's remember that there is still work to be done. We currently stand at 539 financial brothers with only 304 being fully financial. I ask you to not only invest in your international organization but in your local chapters as well. This



is where the work to build Sigma is being done. On April 2, I celebrated twenty-three years of being a part of this great organization and there is not one experience I would take away. It has been a road of trials and error, success and setbacks but like many of you this organization has helped us build character, perseverance, and a love for brothers both near and far.

This issue outlines a plan of actions for the next three months, pays tribute to some awesome brothers who are doing extraordinary things in our state, welcomes new brothers, and displays some important data in relations to building a stronger Sigma.

God bless you, God Bless Phi Beta Sigma, and Stay Safe,

Brother Sedric Scott,
State Director of Mississippi.



Blu & White Water Drive

Byron Keys
State Director of Publicity

Blu and White brothers and sisters from across the state of Mississippi along with brothers and sisters from the state of Alabama convened in Jackson Mississippi to conduct a water drive. Cases of water were provided to the citizens of Jackson who have been without water since a major

ice storm swept across the south back in February. Some Jacksonians were placed on boil water alerts while others had no water at all because of no water pressure. Even during these times where major gatherings are still restricted because of covid concerns, the Blu and White family came together to deliver over 98,784 bottles of water. Chapters such as the Gamma Epsilon Sigma Chapter in Meridian led by our

current Southern Regional Director of Social Action Brother Louis Sutton who also serve as their current president, arrived in Jackson with multiple diesel trucks filled with water. This drive was organized through the efforts of Sedic Scott, State Director of Mississippi- Delta Upsilon Sigma, Lorenzo Grimes 1st Vice State Director of Mississippi- Mu Sigma, Synarus Green, Secretary of Mississippi- Mu

Sigma, James Martin, Social Action Director- Mu Sigma, Louis Sutton, Director of Social Action, Southern Region, Abraham Evans III, State Director of Alabama-Tau Sigma, KeVon Chesson, Secretary of Alabama-Alpha Eta Sigma, Taril Slater, Director of Education - Eta Mu Sigma, and Eugene McIntosh Director of Social Action-Alpha Eta Sigma



Brother Frank Nichols Receives Special Resolution

I'm extremely honored to receive a Resolution from the Mississippi House of Representatives for my years of service as Chief of Police for the great City of Starkville.

A special thanks to State Representative Cheikh Taylor for making this special day possible for me, and for always supporting and putting the people/community over politics.

I would also like to thank my high school classmate and friend Rob Roberson for always believing in me!!!

Super S/O to Soror State Representa-

tive Zakiya Summers and my Frat Brother Senator Sollie Norwood for making the 1st Blu and White Day at the Capitol a huge success.

Thank you Senator Angela Turner-Ford and ALL the Representatives who took time to speak to the Blu and White Family.

To ALL my BLU and WHITE Family, thank you for always staying true to OUR Principles.



Beta Rho Brother Awarded Prestigious Scholarship

Byron Keys
State Director of Publicity

Bro. Donald Aaron a senior at Tougaloo College received the Bi-Centennial Fredrick Douglass Scholarship and was honored by members of Fredrick Douglass's family. The program awards two \$10,000 scholarships each year to exceptional HBCU seniors (one female and one male student) who have demonstrated high academic achievement, strong leadership skills, commitment to community

service and unmet financial need. To be eligible for the scholarship Bro. Aaron had to be an enrolled full-time rising senior at any accredited public or private four-year HBCU

Possess a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale as verified through submission of a current transcript

and demonstrate a commitment to community service



Alpha Zeta Chapter Receives Award

Byron Keys
State Director of Publicity

The brothers of Alpha Zeta was presented an award by Sodexo Dining for volunteering during the winter storm that swept across Mississippi and most of the south back in February. Alpha Zeta along with our sisters of Zeta chapter, donated food and water to the campus of Alcorn State University.



Listen to what frat has to say



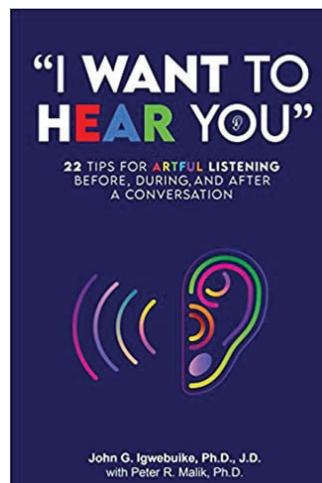
Dr. John G. Igwebuike who is a professor at Alcorn State University, recently published a book that he authored with Dr. Peter R. Malik entitled *I Want to Hear You: 22 Tips for Artful Listening before, during and after a Conversation.*

According to Dr. Igwebuike, “the book is designed to introduce readers to the greatest skill never taught: listening. By learning our proven ways to prepare, conduct, and complete a conversation, readers will be empowered to listen more authentically to their loved ones, teachers, coworkers, and everyone that they interact with every single day.”

The book also includes a section entitled “The Artful Listener’s Guide to the Job Interview Process.” This will be especially helpful for our collegiate brothers who are graduating from college.

Dr. Igwebuike is a listening coach as well as a professor of legal environment of business in the School of Business at Alcorn State University. Along with his professorship, he has held a variety of senior administrative positions at the university, including interim provost, vice provost, and NCAA faculty athletics representative. In 2020, he founded the Alcorn chapter of The Lead Listening Society with twenty-two students. The Lead Listening Society is a student organization dedicated to learning, practicing, and disseminating effective listening techniques in academic and workplace settings. The motto of the Society is this: “Effective listening is the greatest skill never taught.” He can be reached at Guanacaste: The Lead Listening Institute www.leadlisteninginstitute.com (614) 526-9872 drjohnigwebuike@gmail.com. Bro. Igwebuike joined Phi Beta Sigma at Delta Omicron chapter at The Ohio State University where he served as chapter president. He is a charter member of the Alpha Alpha Epsilon Sigma Chapter in Inland Empire, California. He was the inaugural president. He has served as the Great Lakes Regional Director of Programs. He is an active life member and member at large in the Southern Region.

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MAB Releases A New Children’s Book

Bro. Byron Keys
State Director of Publicity

Bro. Hardie Meeks of the Eta Lambda Sigma chapter recently released his new children’s book this year, “Officer Marcus and Officer Hillary Serving the Community.” The book is about two police officers going through their day on the job as they help people in the community, showing kindness and love. Bro. Meeks found inspiration for “Officer Marcus and Officer Hillary Serving the Community,” in a friend of his. They were talking about coming up with ways to unite their community and bridge some gaps. “We decided to start with the kids.” His friend mentioned that perhaps a children’s book because he has already written one and he liked the concept of it.

“I’m in law enforcement and I know that’s attractive to kids.” Bro. Meeks decided to write the book about police officers serving the community through service. The officers will teach the kids how to be kind and to love others. It also shows kids that police officers do more than fight crime. This book doesn’t have any crime or arresting in it. All Positivity!!! You can find copies of “Officer Marcus and Officer Hillary Serving the Community” in bookstores in Oxford. Bro. Meeks also take orders through Facebook / Messenger and ship them if requested. He accepts all electronic payments as well as cash.



hotty toddy



Gathings returns to MSU as director of strategic planning and implementation

mstate.edu

A veteran higher education administrator is returning to Mississippi State in a new position within the Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President.

Cedric Gathings begins his role as director of strategic planning and implementation this month. He will provide assistance to the provost and other senior leaders, as well as build partnerships and collaborate to integrate best practices into institutional programming. Among his primary duties will be engaging stakeholders to develop, implement, operationalize and measure the university’s strategic plan, vision and related goals.

MSU Provost and Executive Vice President David Shaw said he is pleased to fill the position with someone of Gathings’ caliber of experience who also has institutional knowledge from his previous tenure at MSU.

“Cedric will be able to begin from Day 1 with an understanding of our university and our values. He also brings incredible insight

from his various experiences, which will prove extremely helpful in this new role and which we anticipate will be tremendously beneficial for MSU,” Shaw said.

Gathings previously served at MSU as interim assistant vice president for multicultural affairs, assistant dean of students, director of the Holmes Cultural Diversity Center, associate director for fraternity and sorority life, and assistant director for national Pan-Hellenic Council. He served on numerous campus committees and advised many student organizations.

In 2016, Gathings was named vice president for student affairs at Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia. In 2020, he returned to Mississippi as associate dean of instruction for East Mississippi Community College’s Golden Triangle Campus.

“I have been fortunate during my 20-year career in higher education to have worked with students, faculty, staff and administrators to improve student life, academic outcomes and overall institutional impacts. I am excited that this new position allows me to return to Mississippi State, and I look forward to working with university leaders and



many others to ensure MSU is maximizing our strategic plan and the outstanding opportunities we have as a leading land-grant university,” Gathings said.

Gathings holds a master’s of education in sociology and a bachelor’s degree in social science from Delta State University. He also is a graduate of Northeast Mississippi Community College in Booneville, where he earned an associate degree with an emphasis in elementary education. He is pursuing his doctoral degree in higher education from Concordia University.

New Members Across the State



Theta Eta: Masterminds of a Royal Blu HEIST
Benjamin Humphries Jr (Legacy), Tylan Hunt; Mauricio McNeal



Gamma Psi: Again&t All Odds
Demarcus "Ma&term1nd" Robinson, Eric "MA&ETRO" McCombs, Corey "DeTAIL3d"



Alpha Omicron Alpha: The last Crusade: L.E.G.E.N.D.
Jahon King



**MISSISSIPPI
PIA NUMBERS UPDATE**

BBB 3
EDU 13
SA 22
SB 3
Membership 5

The bottom section features a large blue graphic on the left with the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. logo for the State of Mississippi and an illustration of a man in a suit shouting into a megaphone. To the right, the text provides a summary of membership numbers for various categories in Mississippi.



This page is dedicated to every
brother who have
gain their wings over the 20-21 years.



*"Fear not fight own for in this wise,
our cause speeds on its way."*

Happening Across The State



The Southern Regional Sigma Beta Conference will be held on May 8, 2021. Please register all members by deadline to receive SB T Shirt for conference. Lets represent Mississippi Strong.



Brothers of the Eta Beta Chapter at The University Mississippi were awarded 3 awards for their accomplishments throughout the semester. Chapter members Robert Mosley and Dr. Brian Foster won individual awards for their service.



Bro. Timmy Bridgeman, the chapter president of the Beta Rho chapter at Tougaloo College was elected as the 21st Mr. Tougaloo. He becomes the third member of his chapter to represent Tougaloo College in the role of Mr. Tougaloo.



Sekiric Scott | State Director Lorenzo Grimes | 1st Vice Eric Johnson | 2nd Vice Synarus Green | Secretary
 Jeremiah Blackwell | Treasurer Eric Cook | BBB Frank Morris | Education Dr. Vernon Rayford | Social Action
 Dr. Eric Cook | Collegiate Affairs Byron Keys | Publicity Kenyon Greer | Parliamentarian Dr. Benard Mitchell | Chaplin

The Next Three Months

- 1st Vice President: Empowerment of the Brotherhood; BluPrint Navigation Breakdown;
- Collegiate Affairs: Resolve Collegiate Advisors Situation; Monitor our Collegiate Graduates; Provide Brotherhood/Reminders/Engagement; Mentorship Program
- Education: Bio on graduating collegiates and future plans; Scholarship are available; (Time Value)/Grade Verifications; MOU for the 2021-2022 school year (Adopt a School); Education PIAs
- Social Action: Establish a state social actions committee (Project Vote, March of Dimes, Sigma Wellness); Regional Social Action Resource Guide; March of Dimes June 30, 2021
- Bigger Better Business: Identify BBB Directors for each chapter; adopt a business (how to adopt and connect) Reach out to local chamber of commerce; Black Spend; Planning for Sigma Small Business, Career Fair, Billboard Jackson (April 3rd); Social Media; Black spend monthly, Black spend spotlight; PIAs should be submitted monthly
- Sigma Beta
- Publicity: Spotlight Small Business (Sigma/Zeta) Mid April; ThrowBack Thursday, Graduation videos.

Closing Prayer and Benediction