

THE IMAGE OF ALPHA

First of All | Servants of All | We Shall Transcend All

Phirst Fridays (by Bro. Shannon Thompson)

In the previous fraternal year, TRL launched “Phirst Fridays” as a social community engagement initiative. The intent was – and continues to be – to serve multiple purposes: to provide an avenue for brothers to meet and greet other brothers outside of the monthly chapter meetings; to create a medium for other Greek affiliates, friends and family members to expand their social network; and to increase the chapter’s visibility within the Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, Va. communities. Phirst Fridays, typically, are scheduled the first Friday of each month and at a location in Arlington or Alexandria that is easily accessible via Metro train. Phirst Friday was relaunched in April, and the venue to host the event was Spider Kelly’s. Following Spider Kelly’s, Phirst Fridays were at Chammps in May, First Down Sports Bar & Grill in June, Kora Restaurant in July, Ireland’s Four Courts in August, and concluding at San Antonio Bar & Grill in September as the final Phirst Friday for the season. During each event, many individuals from the brotherhood and community attended and had a great time!



2015 Black & Gold Scholarship Ball (by Bro. Keith Laing)

On November 21, 2015, the Chapter will host its annual Black & Gold Scholarship Ball. We will be having this event at the Sheraton Pentagon City in Arlington, Va. and we will award a scholarship that evening to a deserving high school student from the northern Virginia area. Members of the committee have been working tirelessly to ensure that this event will be an evening that meets the high standards of Alpha Phi Alpha. If you have not received your tickets to sell please let one of the committee members know, so that we can get them to you right away. Also note that tickets can be purchased online at www.thetarholambda.org/foundation.

Remember you must have a ticket to enter the event.

Other Upcoming Events

- Area 4 Founders’ Day Event: Saturday, December 5, 2015
- 2015 VACAPAF Convention (Harrisburg, Va.): Feb. 18-21, 2015
- 2016 Eastern Regional Convention (Pittsburg, Pa.): Mar. 30-Apr. 3, 2016.

Personal Announcements

- Bro. Jarryd Taylor (Fa 07, TRL) married Natalie Taylor on July 11, 2015.



- Bro. Hezron Williams (Sp 92, TRL) was selected to be Regional Manager of the new U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to open in Dallas, Tex.
- Bro. Eddie Hill is conducting a book tour for his new book "The Ugly Secrets of Private Roy."
- Bro. Mike Bajit joined Millennium Corp., a subcontractor on a support contract to the DoD Biological Engagement Program as branch lead.

2014 Scholarship Winners (by Bro. Matthew Johnson)

Jordan Artis, a first-generation college student. He now attends Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Va. and plans to major in Sports Medicine.

Dennis Afrane, who was born and raised in Ghana, Africa and moved to the United States a few years ago. He now attends Radford University in Radford, Va. and plans to major in Health Care Administration.



Bro. Otha Myers presents scholarships to Mount Vernon High School students Jordan Artis and Dennis Afrane at the Golden Jubilee 50th Anniversary Ball in November 2014.

Happy birthday to following brothers who have birthdays in the fall:

Bro. Jarryd Taylor

October 13

Bro. Lenard Williams and Bro. Adam Jackson

October 30

Bro. Kevin Glover

November 21

Bro. Thomas Jones

November 28

Bro. Bruce Cobb

December 11

Congratulations to the following brothers who are celebrating fall crossing anniversaries:

Bro. Jarryd Taylor

November 10, 2007

Bro. Kevin Glover

November 17, 2007

Bro. Lenard Williams

November 14, 2009

Bro. DeMickel McGrigg

November 12, 2011

Bro. Bruce Cobb

Bro. Derrick McMahon

Bro. Gregory Hinton

Bro. Benjamin Turman

Bro. Shannon Thompson

Bro. Andrew Clay

Bro. John Stokes

Bro. Gillis Taylor

November 9, 2014



A Moment in TRL History (By Bro. Chris Jones)

As our great fraternity approaches another successful year, celebrating 109 years, Theta Rho Lambda would like to celebrate the upcoming ten year Alphasaversary of its Fall 2006 initiates, Bro. Kenneth Santiago and Iverson Gandy, III. These two brothers, pictured with Bro. Hezron Williams and Bro. Curtis Reaves, have been committed to the aims, mission and motto of the fraternity for almost a decade. Their steadfast dedication to Alpha's vision has contributed to both the growth of the fraternity and Theta Rho Lambda.

Reclamation through Theta Rho Lambda Chapter

- Visit our Chapter Web site: www.thetarholambda.org for information about the chapter
- Attend one our Phirst Friday events to meet Brothers in a social setting
- Email us at info@thetarholambda.org to find out when and where our next chapter meeting will be

Life After Becoming an Alpha (By the Brothers of Fall 2014)

Bro. Bruce Cobb: This past year as a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. has been a wonderful experience and it went rather quickly. In the past year I have learned so much about myself and what a brotherhood of this magnitude can achieve in a unified effort. My LBs and I have been welcomed into this fine brotherhood with much love. We have been participating in community service projects throughout the community. Our brotherhood is internalized within the purpose; Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. develops leaders, promotes brotherhood and academic excellence, while providing service and advocacy for our communities. This purpose alone fuels our bond and our effort to change the community in a positive way. I'm grateful to be a part of this brotherhood and I look forward to the years and projects to come.

Bro. Benjamin Turman: My first year in Alpha has been informative. My brothers have helped me to see myself in a different light. I had notions and ideas about what it would be like to join the fraternity. Some were true but it has been nothing like I thought. It's been so much more. They have been friends and companions. They allowed me to open up and relax a bit which was hard for me. My first year of law school was extremely stressful. Having my brothers in my corner helped me to get through it. We're not all the same but I can trust them. I feel like we are not just paying lip service to our aims, or the motto, or our mission. We live up to it. I've seen the impact we have in the community with our service projects. The brothers are not in it for glory or recognition. They are good people trying to make a difference in this world. I feel like I've found a home with them. This is just the first year. I look forward to many more.

Bro. Shannon Thompson: As I reflect over my first year as an Alpha man, it has truly been a rewarding and humbling experience. The date I was initiated into this great fraternity, I was tasked with enhancing the Educational Foundation – a major extension of the chapter. Recognizing the importance and severity of my task, I accepted the charge with great pride. In addition to working on the Foundation, I was appointed Chairman to the Voteless People is a Hopeless People Program. One of the things I love most about Theta Rho Lambda (TRL) is its excellent leadership. Regardless of one's number of years in Alpha, everyone is given the opportunity to serve in a leadership role, which is pretty uncommon among other chapters. TRL is truly a proponent of developing leaders – within the House of Alpha and out in the community.

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Additionally, TRL has helped me further embody the principles of Alpha by constantly challenging the status quo even if it requires one to be the lone ranger. Whether it's supporting someone with a suspicious background or holding brothers in leadership positions accountable, TRL does not appear to be a chapter that's afraid of challenging the populous' expectations. As I continue life's journey, as an Alpha man, I will forever be mindful to employ many of the principles and ideals I have learned thus far, and I look to many more years with TRL!

Bro. Andrew Clay: As a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., twelve months elapsed since the season of Fall 2014. Since then, I have experienced nothing but true brotherhood. The brotherhood I had anticipated for a long time has been rewarding to this point. The journey thus far has been valuable. It has been with such great honor to be among historical and cultural excellence. I have had the privilege of learning about my line brothers. The strengths and weaknesses we all shared have done nothing but bring us together in supporting one another - to mend together a lasting friendship that will never break. We faced arduous days, but the warm courage of our unity has been clear in the consciousness of completing something together as one. I make no regrets, instead I embrace the knowledge, accentuate good character, intensify the brand of Alpha in a positive light and support my brothers to the utmost.

Bro. John Stokes: My first year as a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. has been everything I hoped it would be and more. Being a part of such a great organization has meant the world to me. I always felt like I had so much to offer the world and this organization has been a great platform to do so. From helping the down trodden with school supplies and Thanksgiving baskets to simply helping clean up the community has really showed me that one person can make a difference. The love I have received from this organization and others has been everything to me. I look forward to continuing my work in the community. '06!!!!

Bro. Gillis Taylor Sometimes, I think that I am one of the oldest pledges in the history of Alpha. I was the oldest neophyte! I don't mean 20, 30 or 40 years old. When I crossed the sands, I was 56 years old! It could be a record, hopefully not. As an older gentleman, my observations are probably a little different from my younger brothers.

"Goodwill is the Monarch of this house." I will say this about my first year in Alpha Phi Alpha; it was all I hoped it would be and then some. I've heard the talk; "once you're in the fraternity, you have just as much say, as someone in APA for 50 years." Well I came with 50 years and then some. I heard this type of talk before. I am a retired Soldier. I know what it is to arrive as a new Soldier at their first unit and are called "cherry". Cherry is a military neophyte. Except, cherries get busted or broken-in and neophytes are blended in. Alpha is different. I was welcomed and I was blended in. I learned that there is an expectation with Alpha. When you cross over, your work begins. I was thinking that it would be a while before my LBs and I had responsibilities or held an office. Not so! We were put to work with a quickness! It reminded me of arriving at a new duty station. Those of you with a military background will understand. We arrive, we report to our commander and we are given our assignment. Boom! Get to work. Needless to say, even though we hold offices and positions, we do "neophyte" chores.

Social engagements were proof of concept. Our first social event after crossing over was our chapter's Black and Gold Ball. In the spring, we had a cook out. In the summer we had our TRL Chapter retreat and annual planning meeting. At each event, we were treated as though we had been members in long standing.

I feel, as though, I've known my brothers for years rather than a year.

TRL did a great job welcoming us and blending us within the college of friendship. Six out of eight of my LBs are actively involved in our chapter. Unfortunately, a sniper called "misfortune" shot one of my LBs shortly after we crossed the burning sands. The angel of opportunity kissed another brother and he got a fantastic job working in sunny Southern California. Me, for some reason, I was elected CHAPLAIN! God bless you!





*Fall 2014 - Under Pressure a.k.a. Golden Jubilation
November 9, 2014*

*1. Bro. Bruce Cobb - Below Phreezing
Brain Phreeze 3:46:04 p.m./16:46:04*

*2. Bro. Derrick McMahon - L.o.C. Squared
Spellcheck 3:51:04 p.m./16:51:04*

*3. Bro. Greg Hinton - ICE Cub3d
Phamily Guy 3:57:04 p.m./16:57:04*

*4. Bro. Benjamin Turman - Phoursight
Smart Guy 4:01:03 p.m./16:01:03*

*5. Bro. Shannon Thompson - RePhreeze
Back for the Phirst Time 4:08:03 p.m.*

*6. Bro. Andrew Clay - DICE.
Head Phake 4:14:04 p.m./16:14:04*

*7. Bro. John Stokes - INCognito
Cool Breeze 4:20:05 p.m./16:20:05*

*8. Bro. Gillis Taylor - ICE Age
8 Second Delay 4:26:05 p.m./16:26:05*

Fraternity Mission Statement

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

2015 Chapter Retreat (by Bro. Thomas Jones)



Brothers at the 2015 Chapter Retreat.

The brothers of Theta Rho Lambda listened to Bro. Sean McCaskill tell them why he should be the next General President and pledged to support the re-ignoration of the Brother’s Keeper and Project Alpha programs at the annual Chapter Retreat held last June at the Woodlawn Village Community Center in Fort Belvoir, Va. The body voted to support Bro. McCaskill’s candidacy.

Separately, Bro. Adam Jackson (Sp 14, TRL) emphasized the importance of the Brother’s Keeper program in supporting older brothers in practical ways such as tutoring them to help improve their computer skills. He asked the Information Technology committee to volunteer as tutors for older brothers. Bro. Jarryd Taylor (Fa 07, TRL) additionally briefed brothers on the Project Alpha session scheduled for June 19.

The productive session also resulted in the body setting dates for the Phirst Friday on July 10, and the Chapter Cookout on July 18. After some discussion, it was decided that the Chapter Picnic would be held at Arlington, VA. Proposed dates for the Leadership Development Institute at Howard University and the Alpha Awareness Seminar were also discussed.

The business session was followed by a cookout where brothers shared fraternal camaraderie, ribs, and other great good and drink.

93rd General Convention (by Bro. Lenard Williams)

The 93rd General Convention of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. was held in Charlotte, N.C. from Aug. 5-9, 2015. Theta Rho Lambda had a huge presence at the convention with over eight brothers in attendance. During the convention, the brotherhood voted Bro. Aaron Crutison and Bro. Everett Ward to advance to the final election. Brothers also voted to contribute one million dollars to help build the African American Museum in Washington, DC. Bro. Roland Martin moderated a few discussions on education and race. EPSN anchor Bro. Stan Verrett and Stephen Scott (the late Stuart Scott’s Brother) accepted an award on Bro. Stuart Scott’s behalf. The convention closed with the Black and Gold Ball on Saturday evening and an ecumenical service on Sunday. Brothers all over the world came to Charlotte to make the 93rd Convention a success and everyone looks forward to the 94th General Convention in Baltimore, Md. during the summer of 2017.



Chapter Officers

President:	Bro. Kevin Glover	Director of Intake and Membership:	
Vice-President:	Bro. Lenard Williams		Bro. Chris Jones
Recording Secretary:	Bro. Andrew Clay	Associate Editor of the Sphinx:	
Corresponding Secretary:	Bro. Richard Stitt		Bro. Keith Laing
Financial Secretary:	Bro. Mike Bajit	Director of Educational Activities:	
Treasurer:	Bro. George White		Bro. Matt Johnson
Chaplain:	Bro. Gillis Taylor	Sergeant-At-Arms:	Bro. Robert Wright
Historian:	Bro. Hezron Williams	Parliamentarian:	Bro. Otha Myers