

THETA RHO LAMBDA CHAPTER
ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC.

THE IMAGE OF ALPHA

SUMMER 2022



PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Greetings Brothers,

The 2021-2022 fraternal year has been another challenging year for us, but it is my pleasure to report we are emerging from what hopefully was the worst of the pandemic period as growing, dynamic chapter. Throughout the entire period of COVID-19, we have maintained a firm commitment to serving and partnering with individuals and organizations that share our aims of manly deeds, scholarship, and love for all mankind and we will continue to do so for all time.

As you will read in this issue of the Image of Alpha, thanks to the hard work of all the Brothers of this esteemed chapter, we have continued to resume in-person operations. After a winter break in most activities due to a spike in COVID-19 cases, we again began holding hybrid chapter meetings

in April, and we have held several in-person service projects and social activities.

Also in April, the Theta Rho Lambda Education Foundation held a very successful Project Alpha Young Men's Wellness Conference that was attended by 12 young men. Additionally, we cleaned up our adopted highway in Falls Church and we resumed hosting Phirst Phriday happy hours at outdoor facilities on a monthly basis.

In May, we raised \$4,460 for the March of Dimes and participated in the Washington, D.C. "March for Babies." In June, the Education Foundation held its 55th Black and Gold Scholarship Ball in which it awarded four \$2,000 scholarships to deserving young scholars and raised over \$12,000 for future scholarships and educational activities.

Brothers, as this issue will show, Theta Rho Lambda is an esteemed chapter that does work that is more vital to our communities than ever. Serving as your president continues to be the honor of my time in our dear Fraternity. Let's continue to Hold High The Name as we move forward into the 2022-2023 fraternal year.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "K. Laing", written over a faint, circular, textured background.

Bro. Keith Laing
Chapter President



2021 CHAPTER MAN OF THE YEAR

“Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth” - Muhammed Ali

This quote by Muhammed Ali (April 1978) sums up part of my reason for dedicating my time to service-based organizations, such as Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Since my initiation in Fall 2006, I have made it a point to continue to serve dear ol' ALPHA in some capacity, whether I was financial or not. From Founders' Day activities to involvement with the National Pan-Hellenic Council, I made sure to represent ALPHA to the best of my ability in all that I do.

I came to Theta Rho Lambda Chapter as a reclaimed Brother in 2015 and since then I have vowed to remain committed to doing the work of ALPHA. From working on various committees and serving on the Theta Rho Lambda Education Foundation to representing the chapter in other ways, my commitment has not waived! If I ever get to a place where I am challenged by the number of meetings to attend, the multiple requests to assist, or I feel like it's all becoming a burden, then I remember my guiding fraternal mantra, “It's all *For the Jewels!*” Then, I roll up my sleeves and I get back to work.

I am truly grateful to the TRL Brotherhood for this recognition. I never seek recognition for the work that I do, so being selected by the Chapter as the 2021 Brother of the Year is a bonus and an honor. I will continue to uphold my commitment of service to our communities, to the chapter, and to the Fraternity. '06!

Bro. Mark A. Forrest
Fall '06





2022 CHAPTER MAN OF THE YEAR



Theta Rho Lambda Chapter's 2022 Chapter Man of the Year was revealed at the Theta Rho Lambda Education Foundation's 55th Black and Gold Scholarship Ball to be Bro. Michael Frempong.

Bro. Frempong has been a very valuable asset to Theta Rho Lambda since he joined the chapter in 2015. Bro. Frempong is our Chapter Dean and he also serves as chairman of our Project Alpha and March of Dimes Committees. In his role as Chapter Dean, Bro. Frempong has overseen the initiation of nine quality Brothers and helped to reclaim several others. Additionally, since taking over as our March of Dimes Chairman, Bro. Frempong has raised over \$21,000 cumulatively for our efforts to support the March of Dimes' March for Babies, including a total of \$4,460 this year.

Bro. Frempong is a Fall 2006 initiate of Xi Delta Chapter seated at James Madison University, located in Harrisonburg, Virginia.



ADOPT A HIGHWAY

Since 2019, the Brothers of TRL have adopted a portion of Highway Route 29 in Falls Church. On April 23, the Brothers came out to perform its service duties and commitment. During this time, Brothers are granted time to fellowship as they navigate the two-mile stretch of road. TRL performs this service a minimum of twice a year in coordination with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

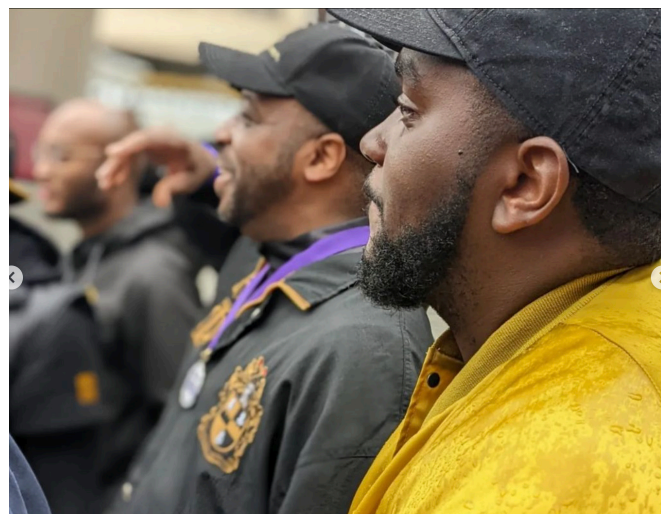




MARCH FOR BABIES

On May 7th, 2022, the Theta Rho Lambda Chapter participated in the DC March for Babies Walk. For the last 15 years, the chapter has partnered with the March of Dimes Organization, to raise funds for research and other programming that seeks to improve the health of mothers and babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality. Along with soliciting funds on the chapter's team page the committee held an online bracket pool during this year's NCAA March Madness Tournament. The Brackets for Babies Event allowed participants to create their own brackets after making a small donation to the chapter MOD page. The creator of the best bracket at the tournament's conclusion was awarded an Amazon gift card.

This year, Theta Rho Lambda was able to raise \$4,460 for the MOD Organization exceeding our goal and, aiding in Alpha raising over \$100,000 for the organization in the DMV Area. The March of Dimes Committee would like to thank the brotherhood, family, friends, and all other supporters that aided us in reaching our goal. See you all next year!





Embedded within the Arlington Presbyterian Church is the Rhonda Gilliam Clothing Bank. Our dear Brother and charter member established the clothing assistance program in 1970. Brothers were proud to continue this tradition of serving those less fortunate. On May 14, Brothers came and donated several bags of clothing and shoes.



In May, the brothers of Theta Rho Lambda partnered with a local outreach organization, Grace DC, to provide lunch bags to the homeless throughout the area.

We successfully assembled 50 lunch bags this year that provided nourishing meals to the unhoused, including tuna sandwiches, a sweet and savory treat, and water – as well as a personalized note to each recipient.

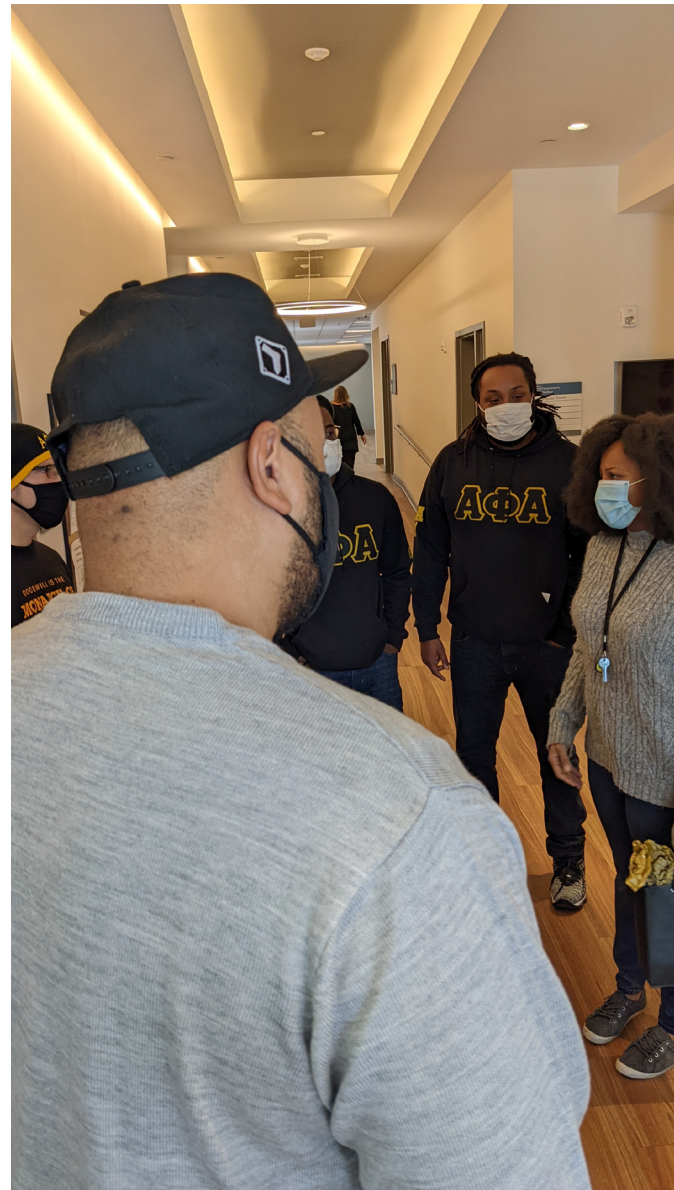
This pilot initiative also created an opportunity for brothers to fellowship while doing the work of Alpha. And given the success of this initiative, we look forward to participating in more opportunities like this moving forward.



GIFT CARD EXCHANGE

Something New. Something Different. In support of this year's MLK Day, the chapter created a week-long virtual gift card drive to support local homeless families in need called, The 20/25 Gift Card Drive. This pilot fundraiser sought donations in increments of \$20 and \$25 to provide gift cards to families transitioning in and out of temporary housing. After weeks of planning, we successfully raised \$1,330 – donating 54 gift cards to the Carpenter's Shelter in Alexandria, Virginia. Not only that, but the brothers also got a chance to tour the facility. After touring and talking to the Community Relations Manager, Jamila Smith, we discovered even more ways we potentially can serve this shelter in the future.

Once again, we would like to thank all who donated and participated



THETA RHO LAMBDA EDUCATION FOUNDATION: YEAR IN REVIEW



This year was a very productive year for the Theta Rho Lambda, Alpha Phi Alpha Education Foundation (TRLEF). During the 2021-2022 year, the Education Foundation:

- Presented career awareness seminars to students at Wakefield High School (Arlington, VA)
- Had the most successful Project Alpha program in the chapter's recent history by engaging and connecting with 12 students
- Continued mentoring/coaching our 2019, 2020, and 2021 Scholarship recipients
- Awarded \$8,000 in scholarships to four deserving young men within our service areas of Alexandria and Arlington, VA
- Raised nearly \$13,000 in support of education during the annual Black & Gold Scholarship Ball

Internally, the TRLEF Leadership had a retreat to discuss next steps for the Foundation. The goal behind the retreats was essentially to review our operating procedures to ensure our efficacy and productivity while also

looking at ways we can continue to move the Education Foundation forward. The TRLEF Leadership will host a retreat for the full Foundation Board during Summer 2022, when we will address additional topics such as the Foundation's Rebranding Initiative.

As chairman of the Theta Rho Lambda Education Foundation, it is my hope that we will continue to be productive in fulfilling our role as the educational and fundraising arm of the Theta Rho Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. We are grateful for the support of the Chapter and look forward to a continued partnership.

Bro. Mark Forrest
Chairman
Theta Rho Lambda, Alpha Phi Alpha Education Foundation

TRLEF

Theta Rho Lambda Education Foundation



On June 11, 2022, the Theta Rho Lambda Education Foundation and the Brothers of the Theta Rho Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. hosted its 55th Black and Gold Ball at Fort Myers Base in Arlington, Virginia. Over 140 people attended the event and helped us honor our four scholarship recipients, Mr. Timothy Cotman Jr., our community service award recipient, Brother Micheal Frempong and Brother Mark Forrest, our two Brother of the Year awardees, and Brother Chris Jones, our President's Award recipient. Our VACAPAF President, Brother Fred Scott, and our VACAPAF Area IV Director, Brother Chris Washington were in attendance. Additionally, the presidents of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Xi Alpha Lambda Chapter, Bro. Jason Calhoun, and the Zeta Upsilon Lambda Chapter, Bro. Rory Miott, were in attendance.

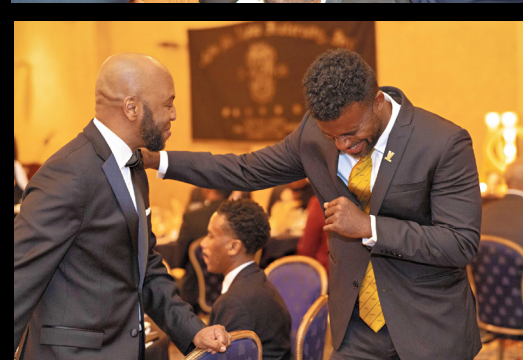
The Theta Rho Lambda Education Foundation would like to thank each of our Corporate Sponsors:

- Capitol Petroleum Group, an Old Gold Sponsor
- Miller and Smith, an Old Gold Sponsor
- Briclyn Entertainment Group, a Black Sponsor
- Brother's Michael Bajit and DeGeorge Griffin, both Black Sponsors
- And finally, M&T Bank, a reception sponsor.

These generous gifts helped us raise over \$12,000 so we can continue our work providing service and advocacy to our communities.

A big thank you goes to the committee members who worked over the last nine months to make this event a success. Thank you to my co-chair, Brother Lenard Williams, our fundraising chair, Brother DeGeorge Griffin, our Marketing Chair, Brother John Busby, and Brother Kaseem Smith for leading our decorations and printing efforts.

Bro. LeVar Crooms
Scholarship Ball Committee Chair





After a brief hiatus, Project Alpha has returned to Theta Rho Lambda. On Saturday April 2nd, 2022, the Theta Rho Lambda Education Foundation, with the support of the chapter, held the Project Alpha: Young Men's Wellness conference. Project Alpha is a collaborative effort between Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation established to provide education, motivation, and skill-building on issues of responsibility, relationships, teen pregnancy, and sexually transmitted diseases to young males. The Project Alpha workshop seeks to help develop and foster the goals and dreams of this next generation of African-American men, and instill in them a system of values, ethics, and respect for others.

With 18 registrants and 12 attendees, this year's Project Alpha featured speakers from within the chapter. TRL Brothers added rich discussions to the curriculum including topics like "Self-Awareness & Recognizing Your Greatness" and "Defining Wellness & Masculinity". The committee was able to fulfill the ultimate goal of improving the chances of success for young African-American males. We're looking forward to furthering the mentoring relationships formed as well as next year's workshop.



Theta Rho Lambda was well represented at the 90th Eastern Region of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. - AlphaEast convention in Atlantic City!

Bro. Thomas Davis, Eastern Region Registrar, announced over 700 brothers were in attendance (in person) and another 250 brothers logged in virtually. Theta Rho Lambda was represented very well with 11 members total present including all five neophytes who were recognized and pinned by the Eastern Region Vice President and his staff. During the VACAPAF caucus our very own Brother Kevin Glover, candidate for President of VACAPAF, delivered a great speech to announce his campaign. His speech centered around his campaign theme, VACAPAF First, and he received a standing ovation at the conclusion.

Overall, the Convention was a success. The state of the Eastern Region and the Fraternity remain strong.



MILESTONES



Bro. Dr. Keith Robinson

- On Thursday, May 5, 2022, I was duly accepted as a Lifetime Member of Phi Kappa Delta International as professional association in education. The purpose of which is to promote high-quality education, in particular publicity supported supported education, as essential to the development and maintenance of a democratic way of life. This purpose is accomplished through research, service, and leadership in education.
- On Thursday, April 14, 2022, my second book was published by DORRANCE PUBLISHING CO titled: IVORY TOWER INDEED: Addressing Structural Barriers to Higher Education for Students of Color and Making College Accessible for All.
- Celebrating 43 years crossed December 1, 1979

Bro. LeVar Crooms

- On July 2, 2022, Bro. LeVar Crooms and his wife, Anshia, welcomed the arrival of their first child, Zachariah McCray Crooms.
- On June 10, 2020, the Washington Business Journal announced Bro. LeVar Crooms as an honoree for its 2022 40 Under 40, its annual list of the younger generation's who's who among entrepreneurs, financiers, C-suite insiders, nonprofit executives, attorneys and other corporate leaders in the Washington DC area. Crooms was one of 40 selected out of the more than 300 nominations submitted by readers. Nominations were read and deliberated by a panel of judges including prior award winners and members of the Washington Business Journal editorial staff.



Bro. Keith Laing

- Bro. Keith Laing celebrated 15 years in our dear fraternity on April 21.
- Bro. Keith Laing and his wife Ashley are expecting a son in November.

Bro. Philip Wilkerson

- Brother Philip Wilkerson was selected as a Forty Under Forty honoree by the Leadership Center for Excellence and Leadership Fairfax. Philip was selected for all this work at George Mason University in addition to his community involvement, specifically serving on the MLK Day of Service Advisory Council which helps promotes the Annual MLK Day of Service through Volunteer Arlington.



SOCIAL ACTIVITIES COLLAGE





PREMIUM SINCE 1984