History of Alpha Rho

The rich history of Alpha Rho Chapter at Morehouse College is one that is steeped in a long-standing tradition of excellence in leadership, scholarship and service.

The deep roots of the Alpha Rho chapter lie intertwined with that of the distinguished and visionary men of the Eta Lambda chapter. Established May 20, 1920, Eta Lambda was organized to serve the fraternal needs of both undergraduate and graduate brothers at Atlanta University and Morehouse College. Brother Roderick Harris along with three of his fellow Morehouse classmates who were then juniors at Morehouse, Charles W. Greene, William E. Anderson, and W.G. Dixon became four of the first twenty-one charter members of Eta Lambda chapter. These four men in turn would introduce Greek life to Morehouse College. Yet, it was not until four years later that Morehouse would have its own chapter.

The President of the College at that time was Dr. John Hope, a distinguished scholar from Brown University. A pioneer in the field of education, he was the College's first African-American president. Hope, a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Brown University, encouraged an intellectual climate comparable to what he had known at his alma mater and openly challenged Booker T. Washington's view on education. Under his presidency, a new era in academic achievement was underway at Morehouse.

Although Hope was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, the administration at Morehouse was openly hostile towards fraternities as they were seen to be disruptive to the bonds of brotherhood already being established at the College. Other fraternities founded since the founding of Alpha had made a presence at Morehouse, these members had to keep all of their activities off campus. Based upon the strong encouragement of a long-time friend and faculty associate, W.E.B. DuBois, President John Hope would make a bold move and accept the call to become a noble member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. through the Eta Lambda Chapter in Atlanta, GA. After this brilliant event, all Greek letter organizations were recognized and Dr. Hope stated in Chapel that he had been wrong about fraternities and thereafter all opposition to fraternities had ended.

On January 5, 1924, the Alpha Rho Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. was founded at Morehouse College and was installed by Brothers Oscar Brown and Norman L. McGhee. At Alpha Rho, thirteen men envisioned the destiny of fraternal life at Morehouse and were focused on four goals: scholarship, brotherhood, loves for all mankind, and service to humanity.

Notable Initiates


Buildings named after initiates on campus

Hugh M. Gloster Hall, Wiley A. Perdue Resident Hall. Otis Moss, Jr. Residential Suites, Robert C. Davidson House

Fraternity Awards

2012 Regional College Chapter of the Year
2012 Regional Oratorical Contest Winner - Reginald Sharpe
2012 Regional Debate Competition Champions - Christopher Gooding and James Jeter (Competition Inaugural year)
2012 Regional Charles H. Wesley Brotherhood Award (in conjunction with Eta Lambda, Alpha Phi, and Zeta Mu chapter)
2011 Georgia College Brother of the Year – Kenneth Williams
2011 Georgia Miss Black & Gold- Hope Wiseman
2011 National College Brother with the Highest GPA- Cameron Yarber (4.0 GPA)
2011 National College Chapter with the Highest GPA
2009 Georgia Chapter of the Year
2009 GA Chapter w/Highest GPA – 3.34
2009 Georgia College Brother w/highest GPA – Anthony Roberts (4.0 GPA)
2008 Georgia College Chapter of the Year
2008 Georgia College Brother of the Year – Shannon Joyner
2008 Regional Brother with the Highest GPA – Anthony Roberts (4.0 GPA)
2008 National College Brother with the Highest GPA – Anthony Roberts (4.0 GPA)
2008 Assistant Regional Vice President – Tristan J. Allen
2007 Georgia College Brother w/ Highest GPA – Ruben Alexander (4.0 GPA)
2006 Georgia Chapter of the Year (Centennial Honor)
2006 Regional Chapter of the Year (Centennial Honor)
2006 National Chapter of the Year (Centennial Honor)
2006 National College Chapter with the Highest GPA (Centennial Honor)
2006 National College Brother of the Year – Leland Ivy (Centennial Honor)
2006 Assistant Regional Vice President – John L.G. White (Centennial Honor)
2005 National College Brother of the Year – Jarrod Loadholt
2005 Assistant Regional Vice President – Leland Ivy
2005 Georgia Scholars Bowl Champion
2004 Assistant Regional Vice President – Edwin Troy Causey
2004 Assistant Georgia District Director – Leland Ivy
2004 Georgia Oratorical Contest Winner – Joshua McNair
2004 Georgia Scholars Bowl Champion
2003 Georgia Chapter of the Year
2003 Georgia Chapter of the Year
2003 Georgia Scholars Bowl Champion
2002 Georgia Chapter of the Year
2002 Georgia Oratorical Contest Winner – James Britton
2002 Georgia College Brother of the Year – Brian Barnes
2002 Georgia Stepshow Champion
2002 Regional Stepshow Champion
2001 Georgia Stepshow Champion
2000 Georgia Stepshow Champion
2000 Regional Stepshow Champion

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