History of Pi

*KAPPA ALPHA PSI FRATERNITY, INC.* was founded on the campus of Indiana University in Bloomington Indiana on January 5, 1911. The Fraternity's fundamental purpose is achievement in every field of human endeavor.

Early in the 20th century, African-American students were actively dissuaded from attending college. Formidable obstacles were erected to prevent the few who were enrolled from assimilating into co-curricular campus life. This ostracism characterized Indiana University in 1911, thus causing Elder W. Diggs, Byron K. Armstrong, and eight other black students to form Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity.

Founded as an undergraduate fraternity, Kappa Alpha Psi, now comprised of functioning Undergraduate and Alumni Chapters on major campuses and in cities throughout the country, is the crystallization of a dream. It is the beautiful realization of a vision shared commonly by the late Revered Founders: Elder Watson Diggs, "The Dreamer", John Milton Lee, Byron K. Armstrong, Guy Levis Grant; Ezra D. Alexander, Henry T. Asher, Marcus P. Blakemore, Paul Caine, Edward G. Irvin and George W. Edmonds.

The founders sought a formula that would immediately raise the sights of black collegians and stimulate them to accomplishments higher than they might have imagined. Fashioning achievement as its purpose, Kappa Alpha Psi began uniting college men of culture, patriotism and honor in a bond of fraternity. Chapters spread in succession to the University of Illinois.

The first chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. installed in the Deep South was here at Morehouse College, in Atlanta Georgia, on April 23, 1921, thanks to the unflagging zeal and determination of future Laurel wreath recipient Caesar ‘Zip’ Felton Gayles. Gayles, an all time great among college athletes, battered down all resistance to a chapter south of the Mason-Dixon Line to insure the establishment of what was to become one of the finest installations in the whole of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Throughout its existence the Pi Chapter continues to produce luminaries of note across various fields of achievement.

Notable Members

Prominent initiates of the Grand Pi Chapter include; Kenneth Whalum III, Grammy winning platinum record selling saxophonist; Michael Sterling, Senior Advisor to Mayor Kasim Reed; Dr. Kimuel A. Huggins, Atlanta University Chairman of the Department of Chemistry; Dr. Franklin L. Forbes, Chairman of the Department of Physical Education at Morehouse; T. Lee Curry, Atlanta Insurance man; John Pittman who as Editor of the Morehouse student publication, changed the name from The Athenaeum to the Maroon Tiger the college newspaper; Charles Clark, a former baseball great; E. Davidson Hutt and Dr. Edward A. Jones, Chairman of the Department of Modern Languages at Morehouse College.

Buildings on Campus Named after Members of Chapter

Forbes Arena on the campus of Morehouse College was named after a Pi Chapter member.

National Programs

The fraternity has a national social out-reach program-Guide Right. Today, National Guide Right programs provide programming, role models, and mentors for the young “at risk” population in communities throughout out International organization.