

Wilmington (DE) Alumni

March 8, 1947

The Wilmington (DE) Alumni Chapter of **Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.**, the third alumni chapter chartered in the Northeastern Province, was chartered on Saturday, March 8, 1947 at the Walnut Street YMCA at 10th and Walnut Streets in Wilmington, Delaware. Dr. Idel (“Prof.”) William Edward Taylor, a native of Lewes, Delaware, presented the charter. Dr. Taylor graduated from Howard High School in Wilmington, DE in 1930, and while he was a student at Lincoln University in Oxford, PA, he was initiated into the Epsilon Chapter. During his tenure as Dean of Men at Delaware State College in Dover, Dr. Taylor was responsible for chartering the Beta Sigma Chapter on March 8, 1947. Dr. Taylor joined the faculty at Morgan State College in Baltimore, MD where he served for almost four decades as Advisor to the Alpha Iota Chapter.

The Reverend John B. Redmond, Jr. was primarily responsible for the chartering of the Wilmington (DE) Alumni Chapter. The chartering process began in January 1946 while Rev. Redmond was serving as the newly appointed Executive Secretary of the Walnut Street YMCA. The Grand Board of Directors unanimously approved the charter petition on January 30, 1947. Total cost for the chartering procedure was \$21.00 (\$10.00 for the charter fee; \$10.00 for a set of five rituals; and \$1.00 for a copy of the Grand Chapter Constitution.)

Rev. Redmond personally enlisted all seventeen charter members of the Wilmington (DE) Alumni Chapter and reminded them of their duties and obligations to the Fraternity. Each charter member was assessed six dollars (\$6.00) as well as a reinstatement fee of one dollar (\$1.00) if the brother was not currently financial. The officers and charter members were Dr. Charles H. Butler (Strategus), N. Watson Brown (Keeper of Records), D. Edward Fleming, Richard Fleming, Dr. Louis D. Giles (Vice Polemarch), Phillip Gooden, Paul D. Haughton, John O. Hopkins, Sr., George A. Johnson, a 1911 initiate of Alpha Chapter (Reporter), George L. Johnson (Historian), Clarence C. Jones (Polemarch), Rev. James L. Morgan, Millard A. Naylor, Walter L. Purnell, Rev. John B. Redmond, Jr. (Keeper of Exchequer), Dr. Oscar N. Smith, and Dr. John H. Taylor.

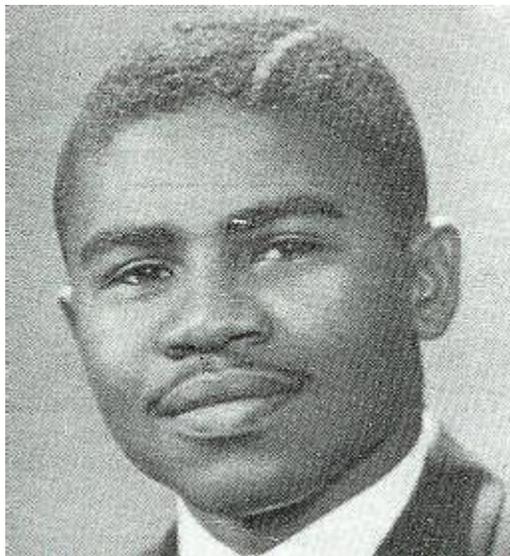
Initially, monthly meetings of the Wilmington Alumni Chapter were held in the homes of the active brothers. The first chapter dance was held at the Nur Temple Shriner’s Club. Scholarships were awarded from the proceeds of this activity. A leadership conference was held in 1963 at the Walnut Street YMCA. In 1964 the chapter sponsored a Black Art Show. A significant achievement of the Wilmington Alumni Chapter was its integration of the Hotel DuPont which was used as the site for its Christmas formal dance.

The Wilmington Alumni Chapter has hosted four Province Council Meetings: 1948 at the Walnut Street YMCA; 1961 at the Hotel DuPont; 1971 at the Holiday Inn; and 1987 at the Radisson Hotel.

1973-1975); and Donald M. Evans, Sr. (Province Keeper of Exchequer 1979-1981). Additionally, these Wilmington Alumni Chapter members have served the Northeastern Province in various capacities: Clarence S. Bennett (Parliamentarian); Kenyon L. Camper (Editor, *The Diamond Newsletter*), Delbert Horton (Chairperson of these committees: Job Bank, Job

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Resources/Development, and Achievement); Stanley W. Smith (Province Reclamation Committee, National Reclamation Committee, and Social Action Committee).



*Kenyon L. Camper, Editor
The Diamond Newsletter*

Wilmington Alumni brothers who have received Northeastern Province Awards are as follows: Dr. William E. Bazzelle, Sr., Donald M. Evans, Sr. and Delbert Horton - *The James M. Kidd Distinguished Service Award*; Dr. William E. Bazzelle, Sr. and Stanley W. Smith - *The Northeastern Province Achievement Award*; and Dr. William E. Bazzelle, Sr. - *The 1998 Bert V. Wadkins Award for Most Outstanding Guide Right Advisor*.

The following persons have served the Grand Chapter of **Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.** as designated: Delbert Horton - Undergraduate Summit Speaker, Risk Avoidance Committee, Strategic Planning Committee; and Stanley W. Smith - Kappa Choir.

Significant information about the Wilmington Alumni Chapter is as follows:

- Ø From 1947 to the present time that chapter membership has increased from seventeen to ninety-four.
- Ø Twelve brothers have become Northeastern Province Life Members.
- Ø Thirty-five brothers have become **Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity** Life Members.

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- Ø The chapter is proud to have in its membership two of the most senior Fraternity Life Members: Gilbert H. Jackson, Jr. (#80 - 1968) and Kenyon L. Camper (#86 - 1968).
- Ø The NAACP presented the Wilmington Alumni Chapter an award in 1983 for recruiting 40 new members for that organization.
- Ø The chapter won the Northeastern Province Alumni Chapter of the Year Award on three separate occasions.
- Ø The chapter won the Northeastern Province Guide Right Chapter of the Year Award on four separate occasions.
- Ø The Chapter won the Northeastern Province Award for Reclamation in 2001.
- Ø The Chapter won the Student of the Year Competition Award for 1999 and 2001.
- Ø Wilmington Alumni – Northeastern. Province Chapter of the Year - 1999



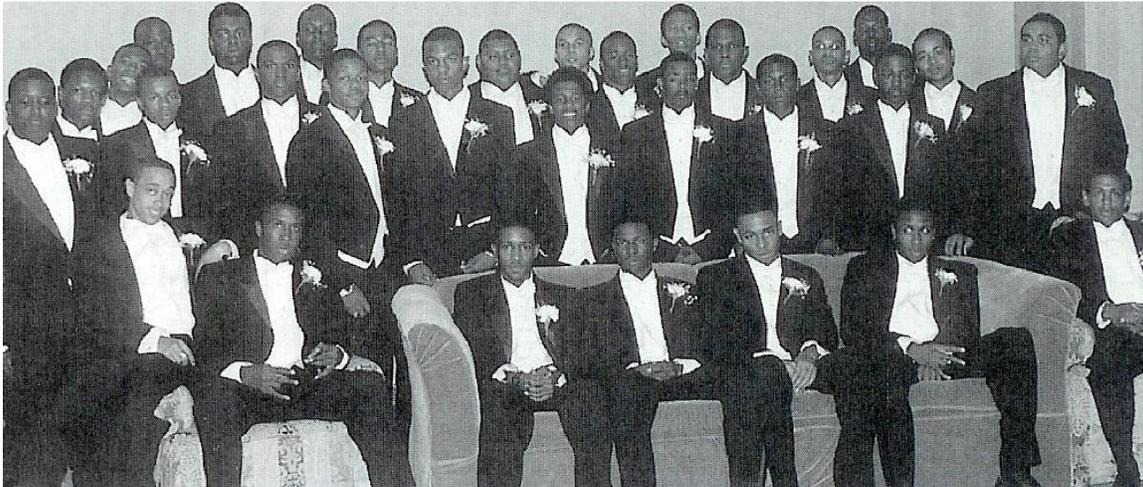
Wilmington Alumni – 2000

On-going activities of the Wilmington Alumni Chapter include the Ferris School For Boys, Adopt-a-Family, Kappa League East, Kappa League West, Kappa Klassic, The Achievers, Student of the Year, Halloween Party, Spelling Bee, Picnic, Spiritual, Christmas Formal, Founders Day, Senior Kappas, Chapter Outing, Achievement, Nominations, Reclamation, Audit, Nu Xi Chapter, Fall/Spring Event, Charity Bowling Tournament, Annual Golf Tournament, Cancer Walk for Life, and The Achievement Center.

For the past 14 years, the Wilmington Alumni Chapter has teamed with the local chapter of The Links to sponsor a program to promote excellence among African-American male youth in New Castle County, Delaware. The program, led by Guide Right Chairman William E. Bazzelle and Link Co-chairperson Claire Carey, is called "The Achievers." The program is open to Black male high school juniors and seniors who have maintained at least a 2.0 grade point average. Activities include a mentoring experience with a professional Kappa man, two African-American cultural experiences and a quality series of workshops on topics such as financial awareness, sexual responsibility, goal setting, and business and social etiquette.

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The 2000 Achievers group of 31 young men diligently completed service projects. At the culminating event, the June 18 "Affair of Honor," they were awarded \$25,000 in scholarships plus a portion of the money they raised in ads for the souvenir booklet. The young men also received awards for academic excellence, leadership, entrepreneurial skills, service orientation, and inspiration.



Wilmington Achievers – 2000