

# BLUE NOTES



**Official Publication of the Gamma Alpha Sigma Chapter  
Of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Incorporated  
Cleveland, Ohio (Chartered May 9<sup>th</sup>, 1951)**

**December / Winter 2016 Edition #15**

(From left to right) Bros. George Baker, Darrell Claytor, Lee Tate, Lee Jackson, newly inducted Bro. Karlton A. Laster, Michael Brown and Taurean Adams after the initiation ceremony



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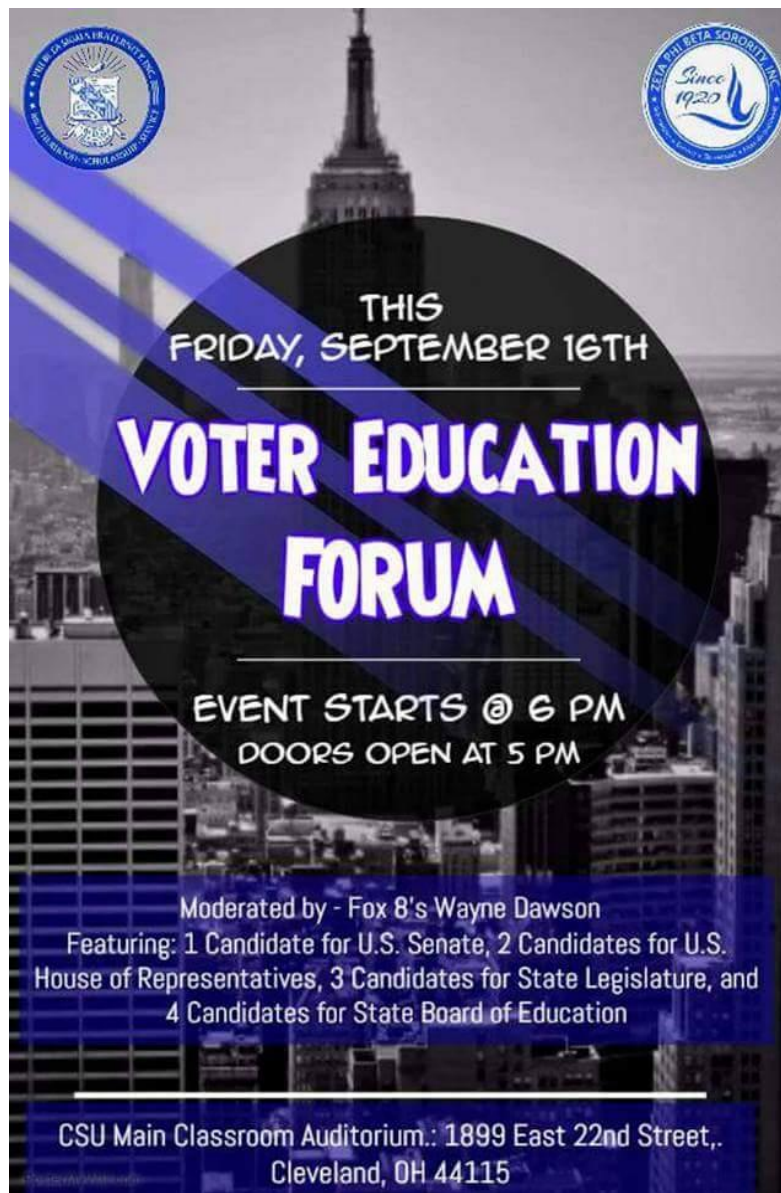
## Dawson Foundation 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual "I AM" 5K Walk / Run

Bro. Issa Arney at the finish line of the  
Dawson Foundation 5K



We want to shout out Bro. Issa Arney and all the brothers of the chapter who supported Bro. Wayne Dawson's 3<sup>rd</sup> annual "I AM" 5K Walk / Run that took place on September 11, 2016 at Forest Hills Park in East Cleveland, Ohio. The Dawson Foundation host various events throughout the year to raise funds for scholarships for deserving individuals within the community while addressing various issues such as cancer survivorship and women's equality. Once again thanks to those who supported the event and we look to be out in greater numbers for next year's event.

**Sigma / Zeta Voter Education Forum**  
**@ Cleveland State University**



THE SIGMA FRATERNITY INC.

ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY INC. Since 1920

THIS  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH

**VOTER EDUCATION  
FORUM**

EVENT STARTS @ 6 PM  
DOORS OPEN AT 5 PM

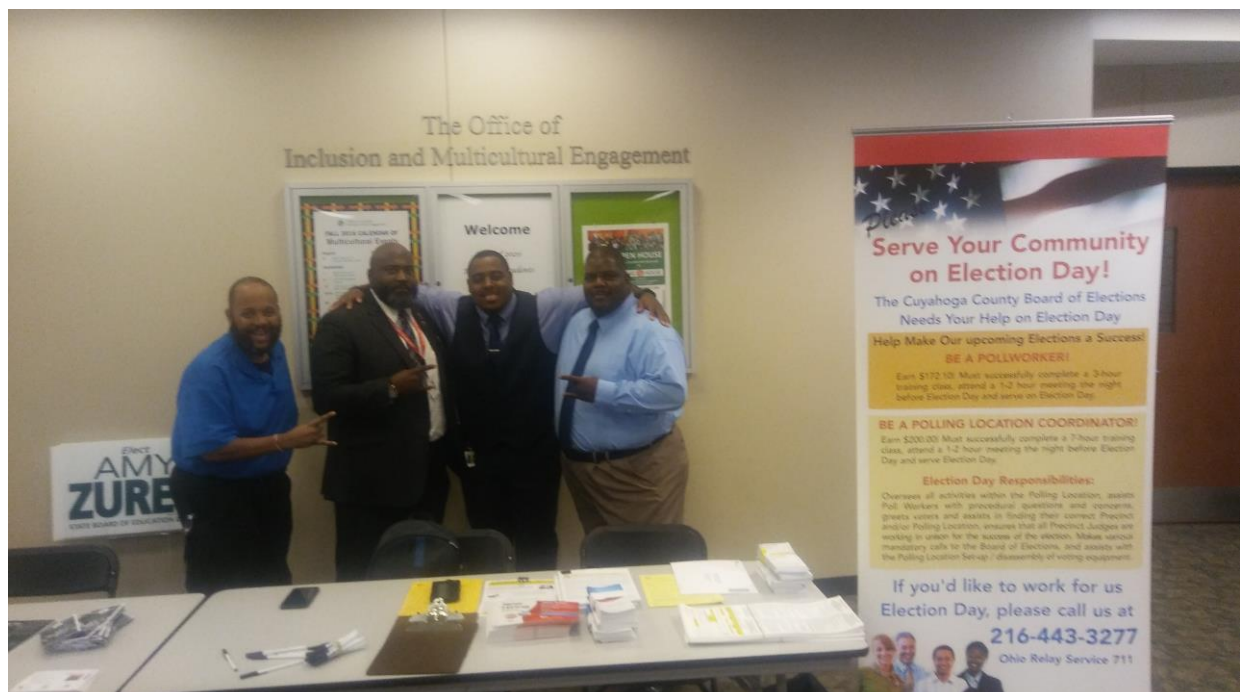
Moderated by - Fox 8's Wayne Dawson  
Featuring: 1 Candidate for U.S. Senate, 2 Candidates for U.S.  
House of Representatives, 3 Candidates for State Legislature, and  
4 Candidates for State Board of Education

CSU Main Classroom Auditorium.: 1899 East 22nd Street.,  
Cleveland, OH 44115

We want to send a special shout out to Bro. Mario Snowden in being the lead organizer for the Voter Education Forum that took place at Cleveland State University on Friday September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Brother Snowden along with Soror Chanda Neely and the ladies of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. held this special event which was open to the community to bring local candidates in to discuss their platforms and give further insight to more of the local issues affecting the city of Cleveland. One can imagine that with the whirlwind of press and media being focused so much on the national (highly controversial at times) election between candidates Hilary Clinton and Donald Trump for President of the United States, that issues and individuals running for local and state offices can get overlooked or simply not focused enough on. The voter education forum was set up specifically for this cause to inform the community about what issues are at hand on



local ballots, get a chance to talk to those public officials and individuals looking to retain their positions / move into other ones and, create a more intimate setting to discuss the issue of politics overall. Gamma Alpha Sigma's own Bro. Wayne Dawson of WJW Fox 8 news served as the moderator for the event as candidates answered a slate of questions from those prepared to be answered in advance by the coordinators of the event and those in attendance. We want to also thank Bro. Percy Turner (who works for the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections) for not only coming out to support the event but running a voter registration table at the event as well to sign up potential individuals who may not have been registered to vote. Once again, thanks to all the brothers of Sigma & members of Zeta Phi Beta who came out to support this informative event!



## Undergraduate Chapter Updates & Information

For those who are unaware Gamma Alpha Sigma is the advising alumni chapter for the 3 undergraduate / collegiate chapters in Northeast Ohio. Those chapters are Beta Nu (Cleveland State University), Iota Beta (University of Akron) and, Epsilon Epsilon (Kent State University). This will be an added edition in each Blue Notes as it is crucial as an alumni chapter to mentor, aid and, encourage our collegiate brothers in any way possible. Here is what is currently going on with our collegiate chapters:

### **Beta Nu Chapter / Cleveland State University**



Beta Nu is currently in a rebuilding process as there is technically only one brother on the yard at the moment. The ultimate goal for Beta Nu is to make it a self-sustaining chapter again as it is literally "in the backyard" of Gamma Alpha Sigma. Some initial talk has been had between members of Gamma Alpha Sigma's M.I.P team and the brothers of Epsilon Epsilon at Kent State to see what can be done to rekindle the Sigma light at Cleveland State University. Stay tuned as details develop down the line.

### **Epsilon Epsilon Chapter / Kent State University**



The "Mau Mau" chapter at Kent State University has been moving ahead at a steady beat with successfully hosting their 2016 Sigma Week this semester, further spreading the work and name of Sigma on campus. The chapter has set goals to bring in new members within the spring 2017 M.I.P season. Stay tuned to further information as the Kent State undergrads march on.

### **Iota Beta Chapter / University of Akron**



The Iota Beta chapter unfortunately due to hazing allegations and other items of misconduct in recent years has been suspended by the school and the fraternity as a whole until the later part of the decade. We will keep the chapter informed if imposed sanctions and punishments get lifted off of the chapter anytime sooner so that the business of Phi Beta Sigma can continue on the campus at the University of Akron

## Fall 2016 M.I.P Initiation Ceremony

From left to right: Bros. George Baker, Darrell Claytor, Lee Tate, Lee Jackson, newly inducted member Karlton A. Laster, Michael Brown and Taurean Adams after the initiation ceremony



We are happy to announce that the chapter has brought new blood into the chapter and into the wondrous band of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. Newly inducted Fall 2016 initiate Bro. Karlton A. Laster officially joined the chapter on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Following his initiation ceremony he was joined by family and friends as all afterward, stuck around for light refreshments. Bro. Laster (although new to Sigma) is no stranger to the dealings of the Blue and White family. His mother, Soror Linda Laster (who was also a solo) was initiated through the Xi Gamma chapter at Ohio State University and is also a member of the Nu Theta Zeta Alumni chapter of Warrensville Heights, Ohio.

Bro. Karlton Laster is a former lead analyst for Cuyahoga County Office of Executive-Elect Armond Bush and currently works as a Special Assistant for Cuyahoga County. Bro. Laster is also in the process of pursuing his law degree as he has currently taken the LSAT and currently looking at different schools to further his career. We welcome Bro. Laster to the family of blue & white, wish him well in his career endeavors and, look forward to see what this brother will bring to the table. Once again...CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!!





## Ongoing Community Service @ University Settlement



The brothers of Gamma Alpha Sigma were back at it again doing our part in contributing our time to help those a bit less fortunate by assisting in serving a hot meal to the individuals at University Settlement. For those brothers who are unaware of what University Settlement is or does, it is a neighborhood center that provides social services to the Broadway-Slavic Village neighborhood of Cleveland, Ohio. On Tuesdays each month University Settlement serves a hot meal to those in the neighborhood who may not know where their next meal is coming from. The brothers of the chapter on these day go and assist in the preparation, serving and cleaning up of the facilities dining area. The brothers who have participated can attest that the simple hour and a half that we usually spend down there is well worth the trip and knowing that something as simple as handing a person a hot plate and a cold drink goes a long way. The brothers are at University Settlement on select Tuesday's every month. To get more information as to when we will be there next please contact Bro. Jamie Taylor as we appreciate him becoming the "unofficial-official" contact for setting up our times to come out and help. Once again, thanks for those brothers who came out to help and we look to other brothers participating in the future



**A member of Zeta Phi Beta, the brothers of Gamma Alpha Sigma and other volunteers doing their part at University Settlement**



## Fall 2016 Sigma Beta Club Induction Ceremony



Current Sigma Betas Jovon Jones, Jaden Phelps and Jay'llen Hathman with new Sigma Beta Club inductees Jamir Terrell, Aristotle Wilson Jr., Michael Ware Jr. Santino Ware and Avery Taylor after the induction ceremony

We want to thank all the brothers who came out to support the newest members of the Sigma Beta Club during the induction ceremony on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The ceremony took place at the South Euclid-Lyndhurst Branch of the Cleveland Public Library, where the chapter inducted 6 new young men into the Sigma Beta brotherhood (new inductee Tyson Long is missing from the picture due to other commitments that morning). The Gamma Alpha Sigma chapter at this time now has 17 young men on the roster ranging from 8 all the way to 18. The Sigma Beta Club has grown by leaps and bounds each year and the coordinators of the club look to continue to keep that trend going. Once again thanks to the brothers who came out and we hope to see more of the brothers at the next induction ceremony.

**Current members of the Sigma Beta Club, new inductees of the Sigma Beta Club and the brothers of Gamma Alpha Sigma after the induction ceremony**



**New member materials (membership certificate, membership handbook, Sigma Beta Polo and lavalier)**



## Inaugural Gamma Alpha Sigma Chapter Retreat @ Kent State University



**Brothers of the Epsilon Epsilon (Mau Mau) chapter of Kent State University with the alumni brothers of Gamma Alpha Sigma after the retreat**

We want to thank the brothers of the grad chapter who were able to come out and participate in the inaugural chapter retreat which took place on Saturday November 5<sup>th</sup> in the Student Center @ Kent State University. Special shout out to the brothers of the Epsilon Epsilon chapter who not only secured the space for us on their campus but were highly active in the day's event as well. The current exec board of the chapter felt that this retreat was needed and long overdue to address some growing concerns amongst the membership and board. By the end of the day, many items were laid out on the floor, addressed and action items put in place to move forward as we gear up for 2017.





Bro. Ed Long presenting during one of the workshops on Roberts Rules of Order

The days schedule included a continental breakfast, welcome from the chapter president, introductions from each of the collegiate and alumni brothers present, presentation from the collegiate chapter on their current events and endeavors around Kent, multiple ice-breakers / team-building activities, various workshops, breakout sessions and open forum dialogue to address any and all issues that needed to be “aired out” during the retreat. We want to send special shout outs to Bro. Ed Long who ran the Roberts Rules of Order workshop, Bro. Jamie Taylor for organizing and running the different ice-breakers / team building activities, Bro. Leonard Remmer for facilitating / moderating the open forum discussions that were had and, once again to the collegiate brothers of Epsilon Epsilon for locking down the room for us and being active participants.



The goal for next year's retreat (which will also be the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in November in lieu of that month's chapter meeting) will be to actually go out of town to some location where we can not only conduct business but bring family and hang out with one another as well. Talks of going to Kalahari Waterpark in Sandusky or Great Wolf Lodge have been in discussion for a couple of the possible destinations for next year's retreat so if any brothers have any suggestions, please bring them up as soon as possible as the exec board will be looking to plan this immediately after breaking into the new year. Kent this year not only suited us well due to time, planning efforts and commitment to attend from the brothers but also allowed us to further deepen our relationship with one of the undergraduate chapters we are responsible for here in Northeast Ohio. All and all many brothers reported having a positive experience, expressing items that could be done better or differently next time. Once again thanks to all the brothers who came out and participated and we look forward to seeing even more of Gamma Alpha Sigma next year.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Gamma Alpha Sigma Scholarship Gala & Dance



Now in its third year the chapter successfully hosted its annual scholarship gala and dance on October 8<sup>th</sup>. 2016. This year's event saw a change in scenery from the past 2 years as it was held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Mayfield Village, Ohio. The theme of this year's gala was "Celebrating the Legacy of Civil Rights: Past, Present and Future", a very fitting theme to address and touch on the ever-sensitive topic of social injustices, law enforcement mishandlings with men of color and, overall climate of our neighborhoods and society as a whole. The guest speaker for this year's gala would be Pastor Todd C. Davidson Sr. of the Antioch Baptist Church, who gave an energy filled and passionate speech directly speaking to the theme of the evening.



**Keynote speaker Rev. Todd C. Davidson Sr.  
of the Antioch Baptist Church**



After the thunderous applause given by those in attendance to Rev. Davidson after his speech, the brothers of the chapter presented him with a special award deemed the “John Lewis Award for Civil Rights”. This award created by the chapters current exec board was presented to Rev. Davidson not only for his works within the church but his endeavors outside as well. Rev. Davidson currently serves on the board of Community Connectors, a statewide initiative led by Governor Kasich that seeks to strengthen communities, encourage mentoring opportunities and create new pathways for civic engagement that will result in higher educational achievement, higher levels of well-being and health, and workforce readiness for our state.



**Bro. Ed Long with Rev. Todd C. Davidson Sr. upon receiving the John Lewis Award for Civil Rights from the Gamma Alpha Sigma Chapter**

Rev. Davidson would not be the only individual receiving an award that evening. Two other special recognitions would be given out to brothers Woody Richmond and Ed Long that evening. Brother Woody Richmond would receive a proclamation from the chapter in acknowledging his retirement after 26 years of service as an officer of the Shaker Heights Police Department. Bro. Ed Long would receive the “A. Phillip Randolph Leadership Award”. The award was created by the chapters’ current exec board to present to a brother who has shown unwavering dedication in guidance and headship to the chapter. Both the John Lewis Award for Civil Rights and A. Phillip Randolph Leadership Award are accolades that will possibly be presented each year at the scholarship gala, upon further conversation from the exec board and chapter.

We want to thank all of the brothers who worked countless hours to make our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual scholarship gala and dance a success. Overall feedback from the event was that the venue was pleasant, food was delicious, the speaker was dynamic and the gala in total was a very well executed evening of sophistication. Thank you to all who attended and worked to make this annual event continue to come to fruition once again and as usual, we looked forward to even more participation from the membership in 2017.



*(Above)*

Gamma Alpha Sigma President & Vice President Bro. Michael Brown and Taurean Adams presenting Bro. Woody Richmond with his proclamation from the chapter for his service



*(Left)*

Bros. Michael Brown and Taurean Adams with Bro. Ed Long upon receiving the A. Phillip Randolph Leadership Award at the scholarship gala



OTHER PICS FROM THAT EVENING!!!







*(Above)*  
Bros. Frederick and Monroe Kennedy with their  
wives

*(Left)*  
Bro. Grady Burrows with his wife and other  
guest





## 14<sup>th</sup> Annual HBCU College Fair @ Warrensville Heights High School

We want to thank all of the brothers of the chapter who were able to come out and support the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual HBCU College Fair that took place on November 19<sup>th</sup> at Warrensville Heights High School. The day's events included different workshops for parents and students, performances from the WHHS Marching Band and most importantly, the opportunity to discuss and talk with those individuals representing the various HBCU's that were in attendance.



**Sigma Beta's Jay'llen Hathman  
Camerin Crawford at the College Fair**



**Bro. Willie Dycks in attendance!**





Bro. Leonard Remmer in attendance,  
doing his thing with Exclusive Touch

These Were, Are & Will Be The

# Good Times

14th Annual

# HBCU

## College Fair

[www.HBCUAlumniCLE.com](http://www.HBCUAlumniCLE.com)  
216-282-HBCU

Warrensville Heights High School  
4270 Northfield Road  
Warrensville Hts., OH 44128

**HBCU**  
ALUMNI CLE

UNCF  
A mind is a terrible thing to waste.

One Team, One Vision, One Goal

Saturday | 11 TO 2  
19 | 8 am TO 2 pm  
16

## 2016 Salvation Army Kettle Bell Ring



We want to thank those brothers who were able to come out and participate in the annual Salvation Army Kettle Bell Ring that we do with the ladies of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. This year's kettle ring took place on November 19<sup>th</sup> at the JCPenny's at Richmond Town Square Mall out in Richmond Heights, Ohio. Thanks to all those brothers who gave of their time and we hope to include even more of the chapter next year.



Bro. Lee Tate with the ladies of the Gamma Delta Zeta chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. "doing the most good" at Richmond Town Square Mall





***Gamma Alpha Sigma Chapter  
Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc.  
Cleveland, Ohio***

**~\*2015-2016 Executive Board\*~**

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**Vice President**

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216-337-8693

**Other leads within Gamma Alpha Sigma:**

Ohio State Director – Bro. Percy Turner  
Sigma Beta Club - Bro. Taurean R. Adams  
Gamma Alpha Sigma Education Foundation – Bro. Ed Long  
Membership Intake Process – Bro. Lee Tate  
Social Media Chair – Bro. Jamie Taylor  
Sigma Wellness / Living Well Brother to Brother – Bro. Frank Andrews  
Adopt-A-School – Bro. Samuel Morris  
“Blue Notes” Chapter Newsletter – Bro. Taurean R. Adams  
NPHC Delegate – Bro. John Walker





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**~ANNOUNCEMENTS~**

*If you have anything that you would like to have included into the quarterly Blue Notes Newsletter you can send all information/articles/pictures to Blue Notes Editor-In-Chief:*

*Bro. Taurean R. Adams  
[Taurean.Adams@yahoo.com](mailto:Taurean.Adams@yahoo.com)*

**Upcoming Events in Sigma and Info/Stories to look for in future BLUE NOTES:**

\*Conclave 2017: Detroit, Michigan \*

\*2017 March for Babies Campaign\*

\*Adopt-A-Family / Holiday Service Project\*  
@ University Settlement

\*Re-introduction of "Blue & White Night" \*

\*2017 Founders Day Celebration\*

\*Divine 9 Panel Discussion @ Boys and Girls Club

\*Other Events & Information\*

Gamma Alpha Sigma chapter meetings are now the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month at the Maple Heights Library located @ 5225 Library Ln, Maple Heights, Ohio 44137 starting at 10:00am