

AFRICAN PEARLS OF WISDOM

SOUTHERN AFRICA ALUMNAE NEWSLETTER



Where We Serve

The Sensational Southern Africa Alumnae Chapter

Our chapter serves Kenya and the 16 countries in the Southern African Development Community. We have active sorors living and working in six of these countries: Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, and South Africa.

The countries in our region are home to powerful cultural histories and incredible landscapes. From the Zulu people and cosmopolitan vibes of South Africa to the roaring waters of Victoria Falls and the creative energy of Nairobi, the Sensational Southern Africa Alumnae Chapter serves a region that is home to vast cultural heritage and incredible landscapes.

The Southern Africa Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Incorporated was chartered on April 11, 2021. Our goal is to expand the growing movement to connect Africa and the Diaspora, as well as support local communities in our region. We proudly support several projects in the region including the Adelaide Tambo School in Soweto, the Training and Resources for Early Education (T.R.E.E.) in Durban, and the Delta House/Vashti Village in Eswatini.

SAAC also supports projects in Kenya including the Mary Help of the Sick Mission Hospital in Thika, I CAN FLY International, which supports marginalized and under-resourced communities by increasing access to educational resources, and the Mbingu Boys Secondary School in Machakos.



Nombhle Jacqueline Gcabashe Canca

Delta Sigma Theta

Sorority, Incorporated



Tunuka M. Gray



Rebecca Maserumule



Yvette Davis Gayle



Sha Givens

SOUTHERN AFRICA ALUMNAE CHAPTER

Established April 11, 2021



Marissa D. Scott



Angela Pulliam-Gillespie



Charlotte Holt-Fuller



Cheraé Robinson



Marcia Olivia Payne



Jasmine White



Kerry Scott



LETTER FROM OUR EDITOR



HAPPY 1 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Sorors this is an amazing moment in the history of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc as the first regional chapter in Southern Africa turns 1. We have worked diligently to establish the Southern Africa Alumna Chapter and I'm so proud of what we have been able to accomplish during our first year.

The first year was filled with structuring our chapter, making sure our policies and procedures were in place and taking care of Delta business. But we also were able to accomplish a lot in terms of serving our community. The Covid 19 pandemic thwarted movement and gatherings and turned the world upside down. With God's grace we prevailed.

Take a look at some of the amazing things we did. I look forward to moving forward in Sisterhood, Scholarship and Service as we move into our second year.



Soror Yvette Davis Gayle
Chapter Journalist



MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Sawubona, Dumela, Greetings from South Africa Sorors. My name is Sherida Stevens and I am the President of the Southern Africa Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated! On behalf of our 18 charter members and our two new chapter members, we welcome you to our first newsletter highlighting our year. I can't believe it has been a year since over 1500 of you watched us being installed as officers and watched our ceremony LIVE!!!

Sorors, we chartered a path on April 11th 2021 that had not been done in the Southern Africa Region of the continent. The seeds were planted over a decade before by Delta women who never gave up wanting this chapter on the continent. We are truly grateful for the National and Regional leadership involved in making this a reality, our chartering members, and all the women who came before us. Our chapter thanks each one of them for their hard work and dedication.



Soror Sherida Stevens
President



2021-2022 EXECUTIVE BOARD



President - Sherida Stevens

First Vice President - La Chenna Cromer

Second Vice President - Ghairunisa Galeta



Corresponding and Recording Secretary

Amaka Nwankwo-Igomu

Financial Secretary - Debra Townes

Treasurer - Katrina Jackson-Stephens

Chaplain - Marissa Scott

Parliamentarian and Country Coordinator

Angela Pulliam-Gillespie

Sergeant at Arms - Jasmine White

Journalist - Yvette Davis Gayle



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



When I awake in the morning and see the sunrise
My heart skips a beat as I begin to clear my eyes
My soul says what a mighty God I serve
To be in the land of the living and to feel every nerve

You can imagine the beauty in everything you see
To smell the odor of the sap flowing from a tree
When the sun goes down and the darkness comes soon
The whole world is lit by the light of the moon

When all is said and all is done
To see the day pass and the setting of the sun
As I go deep into the realms of sleep
I know that my God will watch and keep

PATRICIAN GRANTHAM



CHERYL HICKMON

SUNRISE May 11, 1962
SUNSET January 20, 2022

The nation mourned the passing of our beloved National President and Chair of the National Board of Directors, Cheryl A. Hickmon. President Hickmon transitioned peacefully on January 20, 2022 after a recent illness.

Cheryl Hickmon, was elected President of the on Nov. 21, 2021 at the 55th national convention held in Atlanta, Ga. Hickmon, a beloved and celebrated member, served the organization for 39 years. The Connecticut native was initiated into the Alpha Xi Chapter at South Carolina State University in 1982 and was an active member of the Hartford (Conn.) Alumnae Chapter.

President Hickmon was a devoted member of Delta Sigma Theta since 1982 and served in various capacities at the chapter, region, and national level before being elected National President. She is remembered not only for her role as a leader but for being a colleague, friend, and most of all, sister.



CHARTERING ANNIVERSARY



On Monday, April 11, 2022, the Southern Africa Alumnae Chapter (SAAC) of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated celebrated their 1-year charter anniversary. SAAC is the sorority's 1059th chapter and part of the Dynamic and Historic Eastern Region. Furthermore, the SAAC is the first DST chapter in the Southern Africa region and Kenya. To honor this historic milestone, 15 charter members gathered in Durban, South Africa over the weekend for sisterhood, fellowship, and service.



CHARTERING ANNIVERSARY



The weekend activities were diligently planned and executed by Soror Angela Pulliam-Gillespie who led the first-year charter anniversary committee and who is also the Country Coordinator and the Parliamentarian. Sorors arrived in Durban from around the continent on Friday, April 8th. Our President, Soror Stevens, welcomed 15 sorors at our historic in person gathering at the Oyster Box Hotel. Sorors came from as far as Kenya, Angola and Zambia and fellowshiped during a welcome dinner. Despite working together daily over the past year, this was the first time many of the SAAC chapter members were able to meet in person due to the Covid-19 pandemic and given that the chapter is spread across 17 countries in Africa.

Saturday, April 9th had a packed itinerary which started at T.R.E.E., one of the official International Awareness and Involvement approved programs. Chapter members planted an indigenous camwood tree and had a dedication ceremony with a plaque commemorating SAAC's one year charter day anniversary. Training and Resources in Early Education (T.R.E.E.), a South African non-profit which focuses on Early Childhood Development, resource and training. Sorors in Southern Africa have worked with T.R.E.E. over the past years, even before there was an official chapter in the region. The evening function was a formal program to acknowledge charter members and they were presented with their chartering certificates



CHARTERING ANNIVERSARY



On Sunday, April 10th Soror Marissa Scott, the SAAC Chaplain, led the chapter in a spiritual word, and the chapter gathered to watch the pre-recorded first year anniversary celebration video with greetings from our National and Regional leadership.

The video announces our inaugural scholarship fund which will support students in Southern Africa and Kenya. Since the chapter anniversary falls on Soror Charlotte Fuller's birthday, the chapter was grateful to celebrate Soror Charlotte's 91st birthday together.

The weekend was filled with camaraderie and joy, SAAC's Chapter President Sherida Stevens noted "It was incredibly important for us to celebrate our chapter anniversary in person and bond over our love for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and the SAAC. We now understand each other better and can work together more effectively in the year ahead."





INTERNATIONAL FOUNDERS DAY

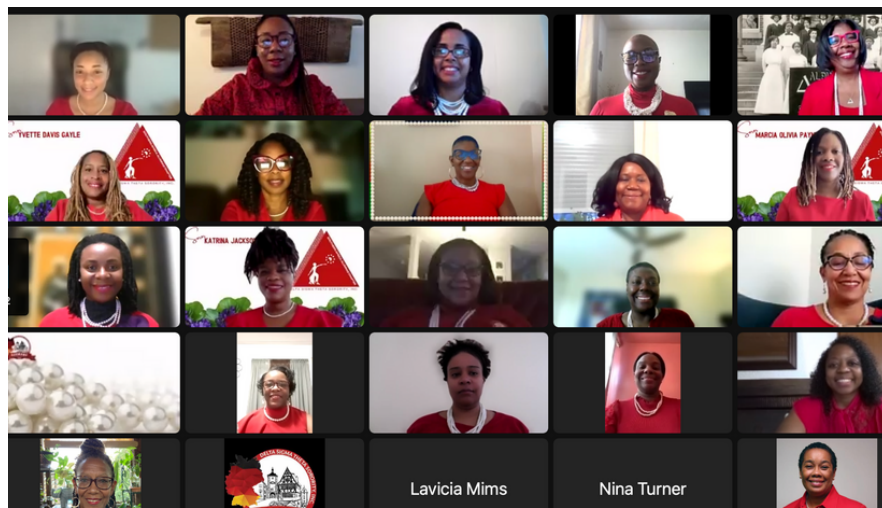
INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT



The Southern Africa Alumnae Chapter (SAAC) and Germany Alumnae Chapter (GAC) of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated co-hosted a virtual International Founders Day celebration on Saturday January 22, 2022. The Southern Africa Alumnae Chapter (chartered on April 11, 2021) and the Germany Alumnae Chapter (chartered in 1979) are both part of the sorority's Dynamic and Historic Eastern Region.

The theme for the celebration was Honoring the Past, Treasuring the Present, Shaping the Future. The two chapters conducted a tribute to the 22 founders led by Soror Juanita Johnson-Archie of the Germany Alumnae Chapter and Soror Amaka Nwankwo-Igomu, a charter member of the Southern Africa Alumnae Chapter. The Chapter members were honored to have Soror Carol McLaurin, current Chair of the International Awareness and Involvement subcommittee, serve as the guest speaker. Soror McLaurin shared information on all of our 7 Internationally Approved Programs.

The event was open to all financial and non-financial Sorors. In total, 52 Sorors were in attendance. In true Delta fashion, the celebration included a service project. The Southern Africa Alumnae Chapter donated to "I Can Fly International" – a service organization led by SAAC charter member. Sha Givens based in Machakos, Kenya. The service project resulted in 120 girls receiving hygiene kits consisting of sanitary pads, underwear, and soap. Germany Alumnae donated detergent pods to support the Landstuhl USO wounded warrior centre where military members come for care if they were injured while deployed. These donations were made in service and recognition of our Founders Day.





PAMOJA - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In a joint collaboration, the Southern Africa Alumnae Chapter (SAAC) and the North Jersey Alumnae Chapter (NJAC) of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated held the closing session for the first cohort of the Pamoja Project on Sunday, January 23, 2022. The Pamoja Project was a ten-week program launched on November 6, 2021.

The Pamoja Project is the brainchild of SAAC charter member Soror Cherae Robinson. “Pamoja,” -- the Swahili word for together, is a concept for how we believe Black women entrepreneurs in Africa and America can grow more substantial businesses and build deeper bonds. Soror Robinson’s desire was to find ways for these two groups of women to learn from each other as Black women face similar challenges whether on the continent or in the United States. In her remarks at the closing session, she noted shared experiences, such as how to find investors, as well as other pathways to success as women entrepreneurs.

The project encouraged peer-to-peer learning and interactions using resources designed specifically for participants and a cadre of inspirational speakers. Masterclass workshops on how to fundraise were presented by Soror Robinson.

The launch of the Pamoja Project was inspirational. Soror Kyrra Hana Mosley moderated an insightful discussion with panelists:

- Dorothy Amuah, Founder and Marketing Director, Nomadic African
- Lorna Johnson, Principal, Global Linkages Inc.
- Stephanie Scott Bradshaw, CEO and Communicator-in-Chief of First and Last PR

The panelists shared their stories on how they began their journey to entrepreneurship; challenges they encountered when getting their businesses up and running; and how they created/established their networks to promote their businesses.

The Pamoja Project’s closing session was led by NJAC Soror Della Walker, Jr. who facilitated a Masterclass entitled “Planning Your Best Year Ever and Creating a Vision Board for Professional and Personal Life.” She also led a program recap and solicited valuable feedback from the first cohort of participants.

In total, Pamoja had 15 enrolled participants from 3 African countries and 3 states. Sorors in SAAC and NJAC look forward to welcoming another group of global Black women entrepreneurs when the Pamoja Project launches its second cohort in coming weeks.



GROW WITH GOOGLE EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Black Women Lead



We had a very successful workshop teaching Black Women how to work on Google.



FUNDRAISER

2021 Southern Africa Alumnae Chapter

POPCORN FUNDRAISER



4 Days Only!

October 21 - 25, 2021

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To purchase popcorn, please visit:

<https://popup.doublegood.com/s/9vo7tk17>

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We proudly participated in the Double Good Popcorn Fundraiser and it was a delicious success!





EASTERN REGION STATE CLUSTER



Southern Africa Alumnae Sorors Seated for the 2022 Eastern regional State Cluster





REGIONAL DAY OF SERVICE



Southern Africa Alumnae Shows Support For Black Businesses

For the Regional Day of Service (RDoS) for the Eastern Region, members of the Southern Africa Alumnae Chapter (SAAC) supported several Black-owned businesses for its first anniversary, April 11, 2022. The SAAC First Anniversary Committee made the strategic decision to support Black-owned businesses in the United States and in Africa to demonstrate the bond that not only connects the U.S. and the African continent, but to also illustrate the significance of SAAC's conscious endeavor and intention to support these businesses. Most items in SAAC's first anniversary swag bag came from Black-owned businesses. Though SAAC members supported various businesses for the RDoS, the chapter's commissioned scarf designed and created by Soror Simone Hand in the United States and the anniversary necklace co-designed by SAAC and produced by South African business, Pretty Anointed Hands are featured. The SAAC swag bag also included a red, matte lipstick from The Lip Bar, LLC owned by Soror Melissa Butler.

SAAC members pride themselves on honoring their ancestors by being good citizens and stewards of their talents. Entrepreneurship stands out in SAAC. Soror Yvette Gayle is co-founder of The African Agency, a talent agency representing talent around the continent. She also owns The Sitota Collection, a luxury candle and soap company. SAAC President Sherida Stevens owns real estate company, Sherida Properties. Country Coordinator, Soror Angela Pulliam-Gillespie, is CEO of APG Global Enterprises, LLC, a brand supporting black women entrepreneurs in Johannesburg. Soror Cherae Robinson is founder and CEO of Tastemakers Africa, an award-winning travel technology company connecting curious travelers to trips and experiences in Africa. Soror Kerry Scott is the founder and creative designer of Global Glam Kapemonos, LLC, one-of-a-kind reversible African kimonos. Soror Marcia Payne owns law firm Wright Law & Advocacy as well as Sweet Mossie's, a popular culinary company. Soror Mildred Kaunda owns Cutting Edge, a strategic communications firm based in Lusaka, Zambia dedicated to helping clients achieve a voice in the marketplace.



REGIONAL DAY OF SERVICE



Black business is not just what sorors of the Southern Africa Alumnae Chapter support; it is who they are. The chapter will continue to support black-owned businesses and work to help them thrive. On this Regional Day of Service, SAAC honored and saluted black-owned businesses in the United States and Africa.



GALLERY





GALLERY

