

JOURNEYS

AOA National Alumnae and Graduate Newsletter

Spring 2004

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Alumnae Chapters Pave New Paths

During 2002, Lambda Theta Alpha saw the tremendous expansion and organization of its alumnae chapters. In 2003, our alumnae participation thrived as our sisterhood witnessed more alumnae sisters collaborate to form additional alumnae chapters.

The beginning of 2003 brought the establishment of Lambda Epsilon chapter, serving alumnae in the Texas area. Lisa Garces, Ja'Nise Anderson, Roxanne Martinez, Merisa Trevino, Melissa Aguilar Salinas and Elicia Frias worked to establish Lambda Epsilon chapter and served as the chapter's first executive board.

In the summer of 2003, the National Alumnae Executive Board welcomed the establishment of Lambda Zeta, thanks to Dulce Noemi Delgadillo, Karen Castro, Olivier Castillo, Lizbeth Rivas, Diana Gonzalez, Alexandria Rosales, Patricia Pietro, Christina Cintron, Laura Andrade and Julissa Mendoza Gonzalez. Lambda Zeta chapter will serve alumnae in the California area.

In the fall of 2003, Lambda Eta, the newest alumnae chapter, was established. Lambda Eta chapter will serve the New York area. Amanda Roman, Jessica Serrano, Lydia Renee Gonzalez, Kathy Rivera, Angelica Marie Ferrara and Jenilee Ramirez will serve as the chapter's first executive board.

Membership Votes Change Due

by Lisa Garces

In January 2004, the membership of Lambda Theta Alpha voted in favor of two new changes in our current dues structure. Beginning May 2004, new college graduates will receive a 50 percent reduction in dues for their first year out of college. Recent graduates would only be required to pay annual dues of \$80, rather than \$160, in order to remain an active member. The National Alumnae Executive Board understands that recent college graduates face a number of financial constraints simultaneously, including the loss of financial aid support, the loss of parental financial support, and possibly the loss of part-time wages while in search for full-time employment. Recent college graduates also face a number of major purchases and expenses, such as moving/relocation expenses and repayment of student loans. The NAEB hopes that this will allow recent college graduates an opportunity to remain active without placing a financial burden on them during their transition from college.

A life-time dues proposal was also approved by the membership of Lambda Theta Alpha. Life-time dues recognizes the contributions of alumnae who have been active dues-paying alumnae members for three years. Alumnae fulfilling the requirements may opt to pay a one-time \$500 fee for life-time active membership. For more details contact the National Alumnae Financial Advisor, Blanca Torres at: alum-finance@lambdalady.org.

President's Corner

Dear Lambda Theta Alpha Alumnae & Graduate Sisters,

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the first issue of LTA's alumnae/graduate newsletter! We hope that you enjoy it and look forward to it for years to come. The 2002-2003 NAEB brought about extraordinary growth for LTA alumnae. We saw the tremendous expansion and organization of alumnae chapters nationwide, as well as an increase of alumnae participation and influence in all aspects of our sisterhood. The "Universal Woman" truly resonated. I, along with the 2003-2004 NAEB, urge you to continue on this journey, this "movement," set in motion by our predecessors, by our Founding Mothers, by you.

Too many times we have been asked to make a choice. We are asked to choose who we will be: will we be the wife and mother, will we be the professional, will we be the activist, will we be the sister? The Universal Woman makes the choice to be all of those things, not because she must or because she is asked, but because she just is. *It is not who you are but who you can you be.* The Universal Woman in each of us was given life when we joined our wonderful sisterhood. The Universal Woman is that continuing whisper in our heart that urges us to continue with our struggle. Yes, it is a struggle. It is a struggle to beat all odds, to be a woman of color in an institution of higher education, to be the role models in our community that are few and far between, to be the rock that our immediate and extended families rely on, to take on hardships for your sister when she is in need. Yes, it is difficult, but rewarding beyond measure. But we don't do it for reward; we do it because we can do nothing less...that is what it means to be a Universal Woman.

"It is not who you are but who you can you be."

I can honestly say that I never worked as hard for my sisterhood as I have now: a full-time graduate student, a full-time professional, a full-time girlfriend, a full-time daughter and a full-time sister. It has been difficult. Yet, I have never been filled with so much passion, energy, hope, love and vision for our

sisterhood as I have since I have taken the honor of serving my fellow alumnae. Those who are not part of our wonderful sisterhood ask how I and other sisters are able to do this. We know why...because we are able to draw on the love and strength of so many extraordinary sisters. My sister, Ja'Nise Anderson, who no matter how much I think I have fallen short, never fails to remind me that it is not as bad as I make it out to be. My sister, Melissa Aguilar Salinas, a loving wife and mother, who reminded me that our alumnae are out there and ready to lend a hand, we just have to ask. My sister, Babe Pupperiputag, who in the worst of economic recessions is confident enough to ask and get the raise she deserves and inspires me to always remember my worth. My sister, Kia Alford, all I can say is that I found my other half. My sister, Roxanne Martinez, NAEB board member, holds down two jobs and is the strength that keeps her family moving forward. They want to ask us how we do the things we do...it is the burgundy and grey, from the east coast to the west coast, a block away, a phone call away, a continent away and still in our hearts. I do it because we all do it. It does not take a super woman, but the Universal Woman, that is LTA.

So, I say to my fellow alumnae, thank you. Thank you for all your hard work. Thank you for making Lambda Theta Alpha what it is today--the premier organization for the Universal Woman.

With Unity, Love & Respect,

Lisa Garces

Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc.

National Alumnae President 2003-2004

On National Tour



The National Alumnae Executive Board of
Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc.

presents

"Aspire, Act, Achieve"

National Alumnae & Graduate Convention

- What:** Open to any and all Lambda Theta Alpha alumnae and graduate members; while the convention topics will be specifically targeted towards alumnae and graduate members, undergraduates are also welcome to attend.
- When:** Saturday, April 3, 2004
- Where:** Wyndham Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland
- Fee:** \$25-must be postmarked/posted by March 15th

For more information or to register, visit us at:

www.geocities.com/LTAalumgradconvention

Name

Chapter

Address

Apt #

City/State/Zip Code

Email Address

Phone Number

Hotel accommodations are not included in the registration fee. More information on hotel accommodations at the Wyndam Baltimore Hotel will be sent out at a later time. If you are interested in being paired with another sister to split hotel costs, please check here:

Registration

Register online at:
www.geocities.com/ltaalumgradconvention

or complete and mail this form to:

National Alumnae & Graduate Convention
c/o Roxanne Martinez
1421 Michael Street,
Fort Worth, TX 76106

Payment

Pay online through PayPal at:
www.geocities.com/ltaalumgradconvention
or mail check or money order payment to:

LTA-NAEB
National Alumnae & Graduate Convention
PO Box 14426
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Paving The Way

Sister Profile:

by Roxanne Martinez

Daniela de la Piedra

As a founding sister of Gamma Alpha chapter, Daniela de la Piedra learned first hand the struggles of paving the way in Spring 2001 when, along with her linesisters, she helped paved the path to establish the first and only chapter of Lambda Theta Alpha in the state of Virginia.

"We laid down a strong foundation to be respected and the following lines continue to proudly carry on the legacy," Daniela says.

Daniela has not only paved the way for the sisterhood to expand to the University of Virginia. She also uses her leadership skills in her professional career as a legal assistant at NARAL Pro-Choice America. With a bachelor's degree in Latin American Studies, Daniela has joined the journey for women of color in the reproductive rights movement.

"The womens' movement has always been racially divided. Since I work at a mainstream woman's organization I have been faced with challenges. As I overcome them, I pave the way for my sisters that will follow," Daniela says.

Paving the way is never an easy task, so anyone who has lead a journey can tell you that they learned something valuable along the way. Daniela certainly is no different.

"Being assertive, patient and professional will get you far," Daniela says. "I have been faced with situations in which I just wanted to pull my hair out and quit, but instead you take a deep breath, go on a walk and come back and tackle the task at hand. When working with others open communication is key! Lastly, we MUST enjoy what we do, whether it's school, our job, or LTA."

With all that she has learned along her journey, Daniela plans to take the LSAT in June, with hopes of attending law school in Fall 2005. Her interests include public interest law, minority/gender issues, womens' rights and immigration.

Daniela, born in Chile to a Chilean mother and Peruvian father, is happy to be back home with her family these days. She currently resides in McLean, VA with her mother and two brothers. She currently serves as the Maryland Area 1 Orientation Supervisor.

"With everything going so well - work, LTA, family, friends - I feel so motivated at this point in my life, and I hope I can hold on to that feeling for a long time," Daniela says.

Words to Live By:

"Vivir sembrando, siempre sembrando." (Sembrando means to plant seeds, so it translates into "live by planting, always planting.") Daniela adds "it sounds more poetic in Spanish."

"Women must be the voice, not the echo." (Something Daniela's grandmother would always say.)

Email Daniela at: tripleimpact3@yahoo.com



Sisters Helping Sisters: Mentorship Program Introduced

by Blanca Torres

Alumnae sisters are needed to serve as mentors for undergraduate sisters as part of a new initiative launched by the NAEB. The NAEB developed the alumnae/undergraduate mentorship program in order to focus on the professional interests of undergraduates, as well as alumnae. The purpose of this program is to personally connect sisters to provide career guidance, contacts and support in a particular field such as law, business, education, journalism or medicine. Many alumnae sisters have a wealth of experience, information and advice that can be invaluable to an undergraduate trying to map out her career. The program will also help alumnae connect with undergraduates on a personal level whether they live in the same area or across the country.

Through the mentorship program, an alumna can provide one on one, personal attention to an undergraduate that may be far more effective than trying to reach the general membership. Participants will be required to meet in person or talk on the phone regularly and complete activities provided by the NAEB.

Blanca Torres, NAEB financial advisor, will coordinate the program and hopes to implement a pilot version in Spring 2004. Registration forms will be available for download from the National Alumnae website at: www.universalwoman.org. If you have any ideas or would like more information, contact Blanca Torres at alum_finance@lambdalady.org.

New Resources for Alumnae & Graduates

The NAEB hopes that two new resources for sisters will provide additional networking opportunities for alumnae and graduates. The NAEB is pleased to announce the first issue of *Journeys*, the official alumnae and graduate newsletter. The newsletter will provide alumnae and graduate sisters with an avenue to read about issues impacting them and will feature membership profiles, networking tips, as well as national event and news updates.

The NAEB also has plans to launch the national alumnae and graduate website. The website will provide information and history on Lambda Theta Alpha's alumnae and graduate chapters, as well as serve as a tool for recruitment and a resource for exchanging ideas and networking among membership. Look for the website to be up soon at: www.universalwoman.org.

Paving the Way for Foundation

The mission of the Pave the Way Foundation is to promote philanthropic initiatives among the undergraduate chapters of Lambda Theta Alpha and encourage the giving of time, talent, professional expertise and wealth by Lambda Theta Alpha alumnae while upholding the mission and principles of Lambda Theta Alpha. The objectives of The Pave The Way Foundation include: to provide for the unique needs of our community; to promote community initiatives, academic and leadership development among undergraduate chapters by providing them with monetary resources to carry them out effectively; to provide and outlet for LTA alumnae to support the organization through tax-deductible contributions; to promote corporate, private and business donations; and to promote a culture of philanthropy among members of the organization.

The Pave The Way Foundation will award initiative grants to undergraduate chapters, in order to promote activities in the areas of community service and leadership development, as well as to promote the academic advancement of sisters. Preference will be given to programs that are unique Lambda Theta Alpha initiatives, such as start up funds for F.U.T.U.R.O programs. The foundation will also award scholarships. For more information about donating or applying for a grant, contact the Alumnae Association at alumassoc@lambdalady.org.

Share Your Journey

"Life is a journey, not a destination."

Every sister of Lambda Theta Alpha is on her own special journey. With every journey, we learn something new. Each of us has a story to tell or lesson to teach. So, let's hear it.

Share your journey with alumnae and graduate sisters nationwide. Tell us about your obstacles and how you pressed on to the top. Tell us about how you followed your dreams and how we can too. Tell us about your accomplishments and how you achieved them. Tell us why you joined Lambda Theta Alpha, what LTA has done for you and what LTA continues to do for you, even after graduation.

Whatever your journey, you know something that could benefit the sisterhood. Don't worry if you are not the perfect writer or don't know how to express what you want to say. If you have a story to share, contact Roxanne Martinez, National Alumnae Executive Secretary at: alum_secretary@lambdalady.org. She will help you share your story. Please include your name, chapter, email address, phone number and the best time/way to contact you.

Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc. National Alumnae Executive Board

P.O. Box 14426
Minneapolis, MN 55414

National Alumnae
Executive Board
2003-2004

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The purpose of Lambda Theta Alpha shall be to provide a sisterhood based on Unity, Love and Respect; to provide social and cultural activities, and to carry on charitable and educational programs; to promote leadership, maintain high academic standards, and serve as a voice for the Latino community.