

FORMAL OPENING CELEBRATION OF

In celebration of the sorority's 85th anniversary, Supreme Basileus Mary Shy Scott formally opened the Alpha Kappa Alpha Archives to the public on Saturday, November 6, 1993, on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C. Over three hundred sorors and guests attended.

The theme was "85 Years of Service: Continuing the Legacy of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority 1908-1993". The program took place in the beautiful historic Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel where the Alpha Kappa Alpha Founders' Commemorative Window is located. Greetings were extended



Sorors touring the Moorland-Spangman Research Center look over the archive contents documenting the history of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.



Howard University president, Dr. Franklyn D. Jenifer welcomes Alpha Kappa Alpha to Howard University.

to everyone by the mayor of the District of Columbia, Soror Sharon Pratt Kelly. Soror Berna Rhodes, second supreme anti-basileus presented the occasion as North Atlantic regional director Erma Barron gave the response.

First Supreme Anti-Basileus Eva L. Evans and Soror Anne Mitchem-Davis, chairman of the International Archives Committee gave

an overview of the history and contents of the archives.

Also in attendance were Dr. Franklyn D. Jenifer, president of Howard University, Rev. Dr. Bernard Richardson, dean of the Chapel, Rev. Dr. Evans Crawford, dean emeritus of



Soror Sharon Pratt Kelly, mayor of Washington, D.C. applauds with Sorors Eva L. Evans, First Supreme Anti-Basileus, and Mary Shy Scott, Supreme Basileus during the formal opening of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Archives.



Soror Sharon Pratt Kelly addresses sorors and guests at Howard University.

the Chapel, Rev. Deborah McGill-Jackson and Dr. Thomas C. Battle, director of the Moorland-Spangman Research Center where the Alpha Kappa Alpha Archives are located. There was a tour of the archives following the program.

The Xi Omega Ensemble of Xi Omega

THE ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA ARCHIVES



Chapter in Washington, D.C. provided musical selections.

A very special ceremony which took place that weekend occurred the preceding evening. The granddaughters of founder Ethel Hedgeman Lyle, Muriel Jean Lyle Smith and Andrea Joan Lyle Wilson, were inducted as honorary members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

The remainder of the weekend was spent touring the National Museum of African Art and attending a worship service held at Rankin Chapel.



Sorors and guests assembled in Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel on the campus of Howard for the formal public opening of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Archives. (inset) Dr. Thomas C. Battle, Director of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center speaks to the capacity-filled audience.



Past supreme basileus join Supreme Basileus Mary Shy Scott and First Supreme Anti-Basileus Eva L. Evans in welcoming the newest honorary members (5th from the left) Soror Muriel Lyle Smith and (7th from left) Soror Andrea Lyle Wilson, the granddaughters of founder Ethel Hedgeman Lyle.



Past supreme basilei and directorate members are shown participating in the Alpha Kappa Alpha Archives opening weekend.



Members of the Directorate join in with the faculty of Howard University as they listen to the Xi Omega Ensemble.

UPDATE: THE ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA INTERNATIONAL ARCHIVES AT THE MOORLAND-SPINGARN RESEARCH CENTER

The Alpha Kappa Alpha Archives was established in 1978 to document and preserve the sorority's rich history and contributions to society. The archives are administered by the manuscript division of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center (MSRC), which is composed of four departments: Manuscripts; music; oral history and prints; and photographs.

The archives contains sorority publications, including *Ivy Leaf* magazines, history books, and the *Alpha Kappa Alpha Heritage Series*. MSRC holdings also consist of sorority documents, photographs, papers of sorority founders and supreme basilei, and contributions from individual sorors, family, friends and other organizations.

The Howard University Archives, also located in MSRC, houses a special collection of "Howardiana," which includes a collection of periodicals, yearbooks and clippings of certain articles and photographs concerning the activities of Alpha Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha.

The primary focus of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Archives in 1993 is still the same as it was during its inception in 1977:

- To further develop the relationship between MSRC and the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority for the ongoing administration of the archives project.
- To establish a records schedule for the routine and systematic transfer of inactive records from the International Headquarters to the archives.
- To renew efforts to identify, survey, and arrange for transfer to the archives, the records of past international officers.

- To continue efforts to locate records of the founders and early members of the sorority.
- To outline plans for processing the records that are to be made available for research.
- To establish procedures for access to the records in the archives.
- To renew the Alpha Kappa Alpha oral history project.
- To encourage chapters to continue the preparation of written histories.
- To develop guidelines for the preservation and care of the records documenting the history and activities of chapters and regions.

Each soror has a responsibility to the development of the archives. If you are aware of materials you believe are appropriate for the Alpha Kappa Alpha Archives, the Alpha Kappa Alpha Boutique has available a copy of the Archives Handbook (see order form on page 72) which details the types of materials sought for submission and how to submit them, or you may contact Soror Anne Mitchem-Davis, at 11104 Oak Leaf Drive, Silver Spring, Md., 20901 or Ms. Karen Jefferson, Curator of Manuscripts, MSRC, (202) 806-7479 or 7480.

This information was compiled and excerpted in part from the Spring 1989 issue of Ivy Leaf.