



# PRAISE

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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN REGION OF PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY, INC.

## Calling all Brothers...Regional Conference 2006

On April 6-9, 2006, the City of Memphis-- Home of the Blues-- will become Sigma Land with the Marriott East serving as our headquarters. Working with the local alumni and collegiate chapters the Southwestern Region leadership team has planned a convention focused on *Enhancing our Communities while Focusing on Brotherhood.*

The Bluff City will provide a memorable backdrop as we come

together to chart new directions, exchange information and renew commitments to public service. This edition of the *Praise* is dedicated to this year's Southwestern Regional Conference. You'll get a sneak preview at what awaits you in April.

This year's Regional Conference promises to be one of the best ever! Don't wait....

**REGISTER NOW!!!**



Brothers,

Happy "Blue Phi" New Year to you and your family...2006 is destined to be a year of Greatness for the Southwestern Region!

As Collegiates/Alumni

begin to prepare for the upcoming Spring Semester/Spring, there are a few things I would like for you to place as chapter priorities:

### Regional Conference Memphis-

Please make sure you take advantage of the Early-Bird Registration for our upcoming Regional Conference in Memphis...April 6-9, 2006. Collegiate Early Bird Registration is \$100 with Alumni being \$150...we're looking for record attendance at this conference. Some of

the activities planned for the Regional Conference: 2nd Annual Miss Phi Beta Sigma Pageant, Oratorical Contest, Debate Contest, Regional Greek Show (Alumni and Collegiate) and several educational workshops to enhance your chapter. Complete conference information can be found on the regional webpage... [www.pbssouthwestern.org](http://www.pbssouthwestern.org).

**Membership Growth-** During our Fall State Meetings, we discussed driving our membership growth by chapter to 1200 in 2006. The breakdown by State is: AR...311; KS...20; MO...265; NE...35; OK...140; TN...439. In order for us to hit these numbers, all Collegiate and Alumni chapters should participate in Membership Intake during the Spring as well as focus on reactivation. We've targeted six chapters within the Region for "Super Growth" during

2006: Tau Iota Sigma...100 Members, Eta Beta Sigma...100 Members, Kappa Sigma...100 Members, Delta Nu...60 Members, Beta Theta...60 Members, and Beta Epsilon...50 Members

**Chapter Fees Paid-**All Chapter Fees were due by 12/31/05...if chapters haven't paid their chapter fees by January 27<sup>th</sup>...those chapters will be suspended. Area/State Directors will be working with you to make sure chapters are in compliance.

Thanks for the tremendous support you've given in making the Southwestern Region the best within Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity!

May Our Cause Speed On,

Micheal Cristal  
Regional Director

# REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2006

## Taking Care of Business...

On Thursday, April 6, the men of the Southwestern Region of Phi Beta Sigma will convene at the Marriott East in Memphis, TN. This year's conference includes a variety of workshops and sessions developed to enable brothers to carry on the tradition of Brotherhood, Scholarship and Service that we make real through our programs

and projects supported in communities across the region.

Thursday's agenda includes committee meetings, the Opening Ceremony of the regional conference and the Regional Director's Reception.

Chapters are reminded to submit their lists of brothers who wish to serve on the various committees

that will begin their work on Thursday!

Things move full steam ahead on Friday, as we will all get the opportunity to meet the International Officers! The International President and International Executive Director, along with other International Officers will speak on Friday morning and provide an update on the status of our great Fraternity.

The business sessions of the regional conference will continue on Friday. Highlights include the State of Region address from Bro. Micheal Cristal, Southwestern Regional Director, committee reports, and the debate competition.

Saturday highlights will include the election of new regional officers, swearing in ceremony, oratorical competition, and a banquet in honoring the Regional Director. And our tradition of enhancing our host city continues with the *Sigmas Enhance Memphis* project.

This year's conference promises to offer new workshops and activities that will make it one of the most memorable ever!

### All work and no play???

What would a regional conference be without the opportunity to fellowship with the bruh's? There will be no shortage of opportunities to enjoy the social side of things during the 2006 Regional Conference!

Beginning on Thursday night, the lovely ladies of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. will be providing a hospitality suite every night of the conference.

Friday's entertainment includes the 2nd Annual Miss Phi Beta Sigma Pageant and the Collegiate Step Show and

after party. Collegiate chapters have an opportunity to win \$2000 in prize monies in this year's step show!

On Saturday, you'll have an opportunity to enjoy the city of Memphis on your own before heading to the Club 1914 Reception (for Club 1914 members only) or the Collegiate party that night.

And, of course, the city of Memphis offers a number of exciting social opportunities, including world-famous Beale Street.

## Conference Registration

### Pre-Registration (Feb. 1 - Feb. 28, 2006)

Collegiate \$130.00 | Alumni \$180.00 | National Officer \$90.00 | Guest \$95.00

### On-Site Registration

Collegiate \$160.00 | Alumni \$210.00 | National Officer \$100.00 | Guest \$100.00

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON REGISTRATION, CONTACT:

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**For full details on the  
Regional Conference,  
visit:**



**[pbssouthwestern.org](http://pbssouthwestern.org)**

# REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2006

## Just for the Collegiates

### Step Show

On Friday **April 7, 2006 @ 9.p.m.**, the 2005 Regional Conference Step Show will be held during the Conference. Collegiate Chapters will have an opportunity to win **\$2000** and be declared the undisputed

#### Southwestern Regional Step Champions.

**\*\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*\***

Please note that each Brother participating in the step show must be a registered conference attendant.

### Collegiate Scholarships

**All financial collegiate brothers of the Southwestern Region are eligible for \$1,000.00 in scholarship monies!**

The Southwestern Region will award three (3) scholarships based upon academic achievement and campus involvement. The scholarships will be awarded to brothers in increments of \$500.00 (one (1) recipient), \$250.00 (two (2) recipients).

### Oratorical/Debate Topics

#### Debate Topic:

Dr. Ronald F. Ferguson, Director of the Achievement Gap Initiative at Harvard University finds that black parents must share some of the blame for the educational achievement gap between black and white youngsters. Please debate this proponent and opponent side of this finding.

#### Oratorical Topic:

According to an article published in the Spring 2005 Edition of "The Journal of Black in Higher Education," Black men have fallen severely behind in college enrollment. The article goes on to state that if the trend continues..."within 100 years there will be no black men enrolled in higher education." What strategies can black organizations, including Phi Beta Sigma, implement that could reverse this trend?

## Deadlines Quickly Approaching!!!

Be sure to read the Conference Packet for important deadlines! Many of the required forms are due to the Regional Director by **March 4!**

## Hotel Information



### Marriott East

2625 Thousand Oaks Blvd.  
Memphis, TN 38118  
1-800-582-1601

**Room rates are \$85.00  
single to double.**

Please make your reservations early to secure your room at this great rate. For additional information regarding room reservations, contact the hotel directly.

*Please Register for Your Room by 3/16/06.*

# Around the Region

On Wednesday, January 25th, the Brothers of **Lambda Gamma Sigma** met with officials at AR Tech University about chartering a chapter there this Spring. The university has also set up an initial informational sessions to allow us the opportunity to introduce the fraternity to the campus. There is a strong interest there. We brought in two brothers in December, and talked with about 6 others.

Also the groundwork is being laid to schedule a meeting in Arkadelphia with alumni brothers with hopes of making the dreams of an alumni chapter a reality.

The **Honorable Brother Sylvester Davis (Eta Beta Sigma Chapter, Nashville)** was recently inducted into the Tennessee State University Agriculture and Home Economics Hall of Fame. Hon. Bro. Davis is a life member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.

The 1970 alumnus is retired director of the Division of Plant Industries for Tennessee's Department of Agriculture. In nominating him, professor of plant pathology Roger Sauve said, "If

it weren't for Sylvester's loyalty to TSU, the nursery research program in McMinnville would not be as it is today. Although the land was available, there were no state funds available to match federal dollars; thus, he is in fact responsible for the establishment of the university's research station in Middle Tennessee." Mr. Davis was inducted at the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Hall of Fame banquet November 4.



**Bro. Allen Jackson of Eta Beta Sigma Chapter** in Nashville, was recently the recipient of the Jefferson Street United Merchants Partnership (J.U.M.P.) People's Choice Award for "The Best Business" in 2005. Jackson, owner of Jackson Limousine and Body Guard Service is better known in the Nashville community as "Bodacious". The was the second consecutive year Jackson has been named The Best Business by J.U.M.P.

Sharon Hurt, Executive Director of J.U.M.P. presented the award to Bro. Jackson during an annual event held at Fifteen Avenue Baptist Church.

"This is a way to acknowledge the efforts made by the businesses and the individuals that we honor," she said. "There is no way that we can repay them for what they have done in keeping this community vibrant, thriving and giving it the prominence that it has.

"This is a small way for us to recognize the accomplishments these people have made and contributions they have given to this community."

J.U.M.P. was incorporated in 1993 to develop relationships among merchants, property owners and corporations to foster economic development

in the Jefferson Street area.

**Bro. Daryl Anderson** of Tau Iota Sigma Chapter in Memphis was the featured speaker for the Founder's Day Program in Bolivar, TN this year. According to Bro. Anderson, the speaking engagement ended his "sabbatical." Welcome back, Bro. Anderson!

There is no doubt that Sigma is back at Lane College in Jackson, TN. After only two years back on campus, interest in the Fraternity of Choice is at an all-time high. The **Delta Epsilon Chapter** recently hosted over 20 young men who were interested in Sigma. They also got word from many others that they were unable to attend because of class conflicts.

The **Kappa Omicron Chapter** at the University of Tennessee-Martin wrapped up the fall semester with a bang and has its sights on an even better spring semester. Last semester, the chapter raised over \$600.00 to support the local Red Cross in the wake of the Hurricane Katrina disaster. The chapter also competed in a number of step shows, placing just about every time out. The chapter has also emerged as campus leaders, providing some of the campus' best attended programs and activities.

**Tau Iota Sigma** (Memphis) president **Bro. Ed Jordan** has become a celebrity of sorts! During a recent march in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Bro. Jordan was filmed by local television crews. Dressed in full Sigma paraphernalia, Bro. Jordan was definitely representing the fraternity well. Bro. John Ewell, recently informed Bro. Jordan that he even got air time all the way in Nashville!

Got articles, pictures or suggestions for the Praise?

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We're on the web!  
[www.pbssouthwestern.org](http://www.pbssouthwestern.org)