

KAPPA EXPANDS CHESS PROGRAM



Dr. Diane Quisenberry, principal of Oglethorpe Elementary School, with a student and Archon Alan Pinado

In the fall of 2005 Atlanta's Kappa Boulé tripled the number of schools participating in its chess program. Oglethorpe and M. Agnes Jones elementary schools are the new sites offering chess instruction and competitions after school. The Alonzo F. Herndon School now celebrates its fifth year in the program.

Students from Morehouse and Spelman colleges earn community service credits by serving as coach/mentors. After being trained to play at the tournament level, each collegian visits a school every week. Kappa provides the necessary equipment and supplies to the schools, and students are not charged a fee to participate. Both of the new schools are within walking

distance of the Catholic Center at Atlanta University Center, where the training and the weekly follow-up sessions are held.

Often Kappa's chess program reveals other needs: When chess software was being installed, Archon Alan Pinado learned from the Oglethorpe principal of a need for innovative software designed to improve students'



Spelman tutor and student

critical thinking skills. Since the product was not yet available through normal procurement channels, Kappa purchased the software and donated it to the school. “Lab packs” were then acquired to allow several classrooms to benefit.

The chess program encourages high academic achievement. At Herndon sixteen of the twenty-one chess club members were recognized for earning straight A’s or for maintaining honor roll status. When a Herndon Hispanic fifth-grade student demonstrated outstanding chess skills yet struggled academically, Kappa members learned that her parents spoke only Spanish while she spoke only English. Archons then identified a free English language program for the parents and provided them with bus tokens (to facilitate their attendance), as well as English-Spanish dictionaries, American history text books and biographies of high-achieving Hispanic Americans.

At Oglethorpe, as participants were passing their name cards to a certain student who added an artistic flourish, his talent was noticed by an Archon. When the student showed the Archon his sketch book, which was a two-by-three-inch assignment pad, a discussion with the school’s art teacher followed and confirmed the fourth grader’s remarkable talent; Kappa Boulé then purchased some sketch books and drawing paper for the boy.



Kappa Boulé chess club members

*Archon P. Andrew Patterson
Grapter, Kappa Boulé*



Archons Gary Bush and Bob Warren; mentee Leathan Lewis; Library of Congress Assistant Librarian Donald Scott; mentees Nehemiah Mekonnen, Simon Belay and Claude Murphy, son of Archon Rochester Murphy; and Archon Vance Shaw

BETA NU BOULÉ MENTORING PROGRAM A CONTINUING SUCCESS

In February 18 several Beta Nu Boulé Archons and eight high school students attended a college fair at the Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia. The eight young men are the products of a dream put into action by Beta Nu when the boulé launched its mentoring program in the summer of 2003. The mentees met with representatives from several colleges and conferred with the other high school students at the fair.

Beta Nu Archons Fred Leigh and Bob Warren are the cofounders of the mentoring program. Guidance counselors at T.C. Williams High School and Annandale High School in Fairfax County met with them in 2003 to select eight students who were then in the eighth grade to participate in the program. The Archons agreeing to be mentors committed to eight years of service, promising to follow the young men through their completion of high school and college.

Parents play a key role in the program, and in October Beta Nu Boulé hosted them for lunch and fellowship along with the mentees at

the Arlington, Virginia, Army Navy Country Club.

The mentors seek to assist the students in achieving grades that will qualify them for college entrance. All eight have been professionally tutored and have now taken the PSAT and SAT exams. They recently presented their first of four book reports to the mentors and to their fellow mentees and were given written evaluations on their presentations.

The boulé assigns a primary mentor and a secondary mentor to each student in order to ensure that there is always a mentor available. In December Beta Nu Boulé Archon Gary Bush hosted a group including the mentees, several high school counselors and Archons who participate as mentors, along with their Archousai, for a visit to the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. The group toured the library, visited the copyright rooms, listened to a lecture and viewed a movie from the archives on black history. The mentors often spend time with their mentees on weekends and regularly attend various high school events.

Archon Fred Leigh believes the Archons of Beta Nu are filling a void in their communities and thus creating a positive environment for both

the mentees and others: "In Northern Virginia it is difficult to create a positive environment that will be used to nurture the next generation. Beta Nu Archons bring together young men who need professional male role models in their lives who positively impact their futures and benefit the entire community. At the end of the four years, two thirds of the mentees in our program have had the experience of a supportive community and will go to college with a sense of responsibility for those coming up behind them," Leigh said.

Each mentoring team of two is responsible for making sure that their student is successful in school. Five of the eight mentees will each receive a \$20,000 scholarship from the Beta Nu Foundation to attend any college in the state of Virginia. Attending a school located in the same state will facilitate an ongoing relationship between mentors and mentees.

*Archon Vance Shaw
Grapter, Beta Nu Boulé*



The Johnnigan family receives a \$5,000 check from Gamma Epsilon Boulé: Grammateus Ralph C. Aldredge III, Sire Archon-Elect A. Tyrone Glover, Russell Johnnigan and Immediate Past Sire Archon Ira T. Joyner.

GAMMA EPSILON BOULÉ HELPS HURRICANE KATRINA SURVIVORS

On March 17 Gamma Epsilon Boulé, Sacramento, California, made a \$5,000 donation to the Johnnigan family of New Orleans, who are survivors of Hurricane Katrina. The check was presented to Russell Johnnigan at Scott's Restaurant in Sacramento. Sire Archon-Elect A. Tyrone Glover, Immediate-Past Sire Archon Ira T. Joyner and Grammateus Ralph C. Aldredge III represented Gamma Epsilon Boulé. Mr. Johnnigan accepted the donation on behalf of thirty of his family members who were relocated to Houston, Texas, in the wake of the storm.

Gamma Epsilon selected the Johnnigan family because of their strong ties to the Sacramento area. Although a native of New Orleans, Russell Johnnigan began his career in Sacramento as a chef-partner at one of Sacramento's premier restaurants, Il Fornaio, which named him Chef of the Year (out of twenty-four Il Fornaio chef-partners around the country) in 2001. He has also launched a catering business.

Mr. Johnnigan's initial interest in cooking and his current success can be traced back to his New Orleans roots. His recently published cookbook, coauthored by several other African American chefs, features a

number of the Johnnigan family's signature New Orleans-style recipes.

The Johnnigans expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Gamma Epsilon Boulé for the generous contribution. They acknowledged that they are just one of the thousands of families that have been displaced by the ongoing devastation of the hurricane and are in dire need of assistance. Mr. Johnnigan is currently spearheading a fundraising effort in Sacramento to assist other survivors.

*Dotson Wilson
Grapter, Gamma Epsilon Boulé* Ω