

# The Light House



Student leaders from Amos Hiatt Middle School and brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha, Zeta Kappa Lambda Chapter and Omicron Pi Chapter.



Students engaged and wrestling with the ideas that were presented to them.

## Programs and Partners

### Amos Hiatt Middle School Embraces Project Alpha

By: Anthony Ferguson

On Wednesday, October 4, the men of the Zeta Kappa Lambda chapter executed yet another Project Alpha event. This year the brothers decided to partner with Amos Hiatt Middle School.

Project Alpha is one of Alpha Phi Alpha's National Programs that seeks to provide education, motivation and skill-building on issues of responsibility, relationships, teen pregnancy, and sexually transmitted diseases. This year 25 outstanding student-leaders were selected to participate in the program.

Throughout the day, students were challenged to stretch their thinking, collaborate with their peers, and engage in meaningful and healthy dialogue to enhance their knowledge. Brother Nana Coleman shared "it was amazing to see students wrestle with the ideas we were presenting them. I was truly impressed with their maturity and willingness to engage."

In reflection on the event, Brother Zach Brown also stated "the response we received from the students when we arrived was energizing, and before the program had even ended I had students approaching me asking when we would be back." This is a partnership we look forward to continuing in the future with Hiatt Middle School.

There were 25 outstanding student leaders selected by Amos Hiatt's Vice Principal, Mr. Christopher K. Schmit, to participate in Project Alpha.



On behalf of the Zeta Kappa Lambda chapter we would like to thank the Project Alpha committee, Des Moines Director of Middle Schools, Brother Corey Harris, Hiatt's Vice Principal, Mr. Christopher K. Schmit, and lastly the 25 outstanding student-leaders for their participation.



## John Deere Continues to Provide Financial Support

By: Sam Reed

John Deere and the John Deere Citizenship team awarded the Zeta Kappa Lambda Education Foundation a generous gift of \$5,000! Deere's continued support helps to sustain and increase our impact in the Greater Des Moines Community.

Funds given by our partners and supporters contribute directly to our programs and scholarships.

In 2017 the ZKL Education Foundation was able to provide college scholarships to 5 outstanding diverse students who were recognized at the annual Black and Gold Scholarship Ball.

With the support of the ZKL Education Foundation 8 students were funded and chaperoned to attend the Alpha Leadership Development Institute on the campus of Northern Kentucky University. This unique learning experience provided students the opportunity to gain critical leadership skills.

Our reach in the community through the last two sessions of Project Alpha, influenced the lives of over 75 middle school and high school male students.

As a non-profit organization, the ZKL Education Foundation relies on the partnership of financial supporters to supplement fundraising. If you or your organization would like more information about how you can partner, then please contact the executive director, Phil Hall, at [exec@zkl06.org](mailto:exec@zkl06.org).



**JOHN DEERE**

## Voice of the Students

### Thankful for the College Experience, Thankful for Scholarships

By: Shaeloren Deering, 2017 Scholarship Recipient

The first few months of college have felt like a roller coaster ride. During these months, I have cried about being homesick, having hard classes, and struggling to love Spelman. I have done terrible on tests that I actually studied hard for and have struggled to understand concepts discussed in class. I have also had moments

when I simply just wanted to give up and questioned if I made the right decision.

Spelman is extremely expensive and I don't have time, money, or approval from family to stay at an institution that I'm not excelling at. After a getting down a routine, class work has become easier to understand and I have made improvements on tests. My favorite course is my required African Diaspora class because we are learning African American history that I never knew existed. We read works by black authors and discuss topics such as treatment of slaves in Saint Domingue, Africans coming to the Americas before Columbus, the psychological consequences of slave owners denuding slaves, and the argument of race being a social construct.

During my time at Spelman I have also created amazing memories, I met Spike Lee, attended a free Atlanta Dream WNBA game, experienced my first HBCU homecoming, attended Afropunk to see Solange, and met Yvonne Orji at Afropunk.

After the first three weeks of school, I managed to meet a group of friends that I can genuinely relate to and love hanging out with. My little community of friends share the same interests as me and were also extremely homesick so it helped knowing that I wasn't alone.



Shaeloren Deering was a 2017 ZKL Scholarship Recipient. She went to high school at Roosevelt in Des Moines and currently goes to Spelman in Atlanta, Georgia.

My ZKL scholarship was the largest scholarship I received and it helped pay for a tremendous amount of my Spelman fees. In order to register for my second semester classes, my \$25,000 balance must be paid in full. I wouldn't be at Spelman College if it weren't for all the local scholarships I received from Iowa organizations.

I refuse to take my Spelman experience for granted because I worked so hard to receive scholarships simply so that I could be here. I will forever be grateful to the Zeta Kappa Lambda scholarship foundation because the foundation gave me the opportunity to attend my dream institution.

In the future, I hope to have the ability to donate to the ZKL scholarship foundation and other great foundations, in order to help high school seniors attend their dream institutions too. In the next few years, I know that I will have to work extremely hard to receive good grades in my college courses. The grades I receive now will determine if I can apply to the Spelman Honors program, and if I can continue to apply for and win scholarships to fund my education at Spelman College.

During summer break, I plan to intern and prepare for my sophomore year of college. In the next few years, I hope to have a clear understanding of what I want to do after Spelman. I plan to figure this out by taking new courses, finding internships, joining clubs, and job shadowing during breaks. I love Spelman and truly believe that my time here will prepare me to be successful after I graduate.

## Students on the Move

### Julian Neely | Iowa State University

By: Sam Reed

Julian Neely is currently a Junior at Iowa State University and he is the Chapter President of the Omicron Pi Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha.

He has been an excellent example of service and advocacy for the Ames community and on the campus of Iowa State University through his deep involvement in various organizations.

Brother Neely is the Assistant District Director for Alpha Phi Alpha – Iowa District, Director of Diversity and Inclusion for the Government Student Body, Community Advisor for his apartment building, and a Freshman Action Team Delegate for the Black Student Alliance. This brother is involved and helping to bring about change he is passionate about and change others need advocacy for.

A few of the projects and initiatives he is working closely with include: the pursuit of divine nine plots on the campus of Iowa State University, cultural competency training for professors and staff, and a Tree of Oppression awareness initiative.

Although the proposal for the divine nine plots is still in its evaluation stage, there has been a good amount of support and excitement for this project. This would be the first project of its kind on campus and would further solidify the presence and relevancy of Black Greek Letter Organizations on campus.

Students have expressed the desire to have a more connected classroom. The connection mentioned here is a call for closer alignment and acceptance of each student's culture and needs to provide a more inclusive environment. Brother Neely is working on initiatives to help build support to have staff training include awareness of language, culture, backgrounds, orientation, accessibility, communication tools, etc.

Brother Neely is also involved in the process of planning the Tree of Oppression initiative this Fall. This will be a project where chains of several different colors will be placed around a tree to represent different identities. Participating students select and define the meaning of the link they choose to place on the tree. Each color can mean something different and will be unique to the individual. This symbolizes that even though one link can look like another, it may be associated with a radically different story. Students will add a link to the tree and then add / define their identity on posters.

The intent of the Tree of Oppression initiative is to start conversations and raise the comfort levels when it comes time to break the silence or topics of oppression. Brother Neely and his committee are in the process of working through a call of action plan for this initiative.



Julian Neely on the campus of Iowa State University.



This brother's passion comes from personal experiences that sparked a burning desire to change situations and help others avoid negative experiences. He is fueled by encouraging, protecting, and acting on behalf of others. "We all have a voice," he said, "and we should seek to do something with it." Conversation only goes so far, and recognition is irrelevant. Brother Neely is a brother of action and he works diligently to see action in his communities.

## Celebrate with Us



### Black and Gold Ball 2018 | Save the Date

By: Theotto Lillard

The 2018 Black and Gold Ball is the Zeta Kappa Lambda Education Foundation's signature event. In its (serving YEAR) of existence we have awarded over \$115,000 in scholarship money to well deserving students of color and have recognized a number of philanthropists throughout the Greater Des Moines community for their continued contributions. Our mission 'to bridge educational and leadership opportunities for students and develop better citizens for our communities' speaks to the focus being on our students, the engagement of our community and companies and being a bridge to their combined success.

**The 2018 Black and Gold Ball will be held February 17, 2018, at the Downtown Des Moines Marriott Hotel.** We have partnered with the Marriott to host the event for the next three years.

Save the date. We look forward to celebrating students with you!



### Our Scholarship Application is Available!

The scholarship application for 2018 is available online. Please visit [www.zkl06.org](http://www.zkl06.org) to download the application. The estimated timeline below will help you to stay on track and complete the application by December 31, 2017.

### All applications will be assessed by the following criteria:

- GPA—20 points
- Extra-curricular/Work/Community Service—20 points
- Essay—15 points
- Leadership/Recognition/Awards—15 points
- Involvement with AΦA—5 points
- Interview—25 points

### Within two weeks you can: (Complete by Nov 27)

- +Personal and Educational Information
- +Complete Self Profile
- +Think About Essay Response
- +Complete Application Form
- +Take/Save High Resolution Photo
- +Identify Sources for Letter of Recommendation
- +Order Official Transcripts

### For the next three weeks you can: (Complete by Dec 18)

- +Draft and Finalize Essay
- +Follow-up of Letters of Recommendation
- +Follow-up on Delivery of Official Transcript

# November 2017

December 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 All Saints' Day Family Literacy Day	2 <b>SCHOLARSHIP APP AVAILABLE ONLINE.</b>	3	4
5 Daylight Saving Time Ends	6	7 Election Day	8 Parents as Teachers Day	9 <b>100 DAYS UNTIL BLACK AND GOLD BALL!</b>	10	11 <b>50 DAYS UNTIL SCHOLARSHIP APP DUE</b> Veterans Day
12 Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week	13 World Kindness Day American Education Week	14	15 America Recycles Day I Love To Write Day	16 Parental Involvement Day	17 <b>OMEGA PSI PHI FOUNDERS DAY (106)</b>	18 Family Volunteer Day
19 Family Week	20 <b>40 DAYS UNTIL SCHOLARSHIP APP DUE</b>	21	22	23 Thanksgiving Break-No School	24 Thanksgiving Break-No School	25
26	27	28	29 <b>80 DAYS UNTIL BLACK AND GOLD BALL!</b>	30		



# December 2017

January 2018

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4 <b>75 DAYS UNTIL BLACK AND GOLD BALL!</b> ALPHA PHI ALPHA FOUNDERS DAY (111)	5	6	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8	9
10 Human Rights Day	11 <b>20 DAYS UNTIL SCHOLARSHIP APP DUE</b>	12 First Night of Hanukkah	13	14	15 Bill of Rights Day	16 <b>15 DAYS UNTIL SCHOLARSHIP APP DUE</b>
17 Wright Brothers Day	18	19	20	21 First Day of Winter	22	23
24 <b>55 DAYS UNTIL BLACK AND GOLD BALL!</b>	25 Christmas Day	26 <b>5 DAYS UNTIL SCHOLARSHIP APP DUE</b> First Day of Kwanzaa Winter Break-No School	27 Winter Break-No School	28 Winter Break-No School	29 <b>50 DAYS UNTIL BLACK AND GOLD BALL!</b> Winter Break-No School	30
31 <b>SCHOLARSHIP APP DUE!</b>						