

Editor's Notes



The new year promises to be an interesting and exciting one. There are many opportunities ahead of us, and 2009 has the potential to be one of the most important years in our history. Mr. Barack Obama has been inaugurated as the 44th President of the United States of America. He has already made critical decisions that will impact our economy, our nation's security, health care, and education. Remember, though, that we must do our part in our local communities to help realize his vision for change. We must continue to work with youth, aid those who are less fortunate, and make our voices heard so that our local and state leaders can act wisely. As the next few months pass, look forward to new challenges, which can be met and overcome if we use our collective talents for the benefit of our country.

This issue develops the theme of Grand Polemarch Dwayne Murray, "Creating Inspiration: A Call to Service." Many of

the articles in this issue are inspirational. Our cover story features Rev. Dr. Gardner Taylor, a noted minister, scholar, author, humanitarian, and community leader. His oratorical and ministerial skills have taken him throughout the world, and his own personal story should inspire us to walk more closely in God's path. Our General Counsel, Cleophus Thomas, Jr., conducted the interview of Brother Taylor. I hope you will enjoy it. If we are fortunate, we may get to meet him this summer during the 79th Grand Chapter Meeting in Washington, DC.

Many chapters answered the call to service during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday seasons. You will find several reports of chapters that prepared and delivered Thanksgiving baskets, served meals to the homeless at shelters, collected donations for the Salvation Army's programs, presented toys to children for Christmas, and tutored children whose grades fell below average. These stories should inspire more of us to play an active role in our communities, where we can make a difference.

There are also stories of individual brothers who are inspirational. Rhodes Scholar Myron Rolle is profiled in a feature story, which also gives information on the Rhodes Scholarship process. Rolle is an outstanding young brother who motivates everyone he meets. He will certainly benefit from his experiences at Oxford University. Look forward to reading more great news about him in the future.

In the National News and Achievements section, you will find inspiring articles on Anton Gunn, who was featured in *Time* magazine and elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives, and Dr. Jerlando Jackson, who has been named editor of

the Association for the Study of Higher Education Reader Series. In the Middle Eastern Province news section, you will find the story of Dr. James Raynor, associate professor at Fayetteville State University, who is inspiring students to pursue careers and advanced degrees in the sciences. There are many more inspirational stories waiting to be told. I look forward to receiving such stories for upcoming editions.

We continue to salute our brothers whose stories are told in National News and Achievements, Kappas in the Military, and Kappas in Sports. Encourage other brothers to submit their stories for publication. These stories are a source of pride for us all. I know, too, that our undergraduate brothers are achieving on their respective campuses and look forward to reading about their accomplishments and efforts to serve their communities.

The *Journal* staff is already working on the next issue, the Conclave issue. We started this issue cycle behind, and, honestly, I have not been able to catch up because of some personal and professional challenges. Rest assured, though, that the next issue will be in your hands well ahead of our Grand Chapter Meeting. I appreciate your patience, and I look forward to sharing details of my own interesting year with many of you at the Conclave in Washington, DC.

Enjoy the spring and summer. Finalize your plans to be in Washington, DC. And remember to send in your news. The next deadline is August 1 for the October issue, but you need not wait until August 1 to submit your items. Take care, and keep up the good work!

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Editor