

Alpha Alpha Zeta Chapter

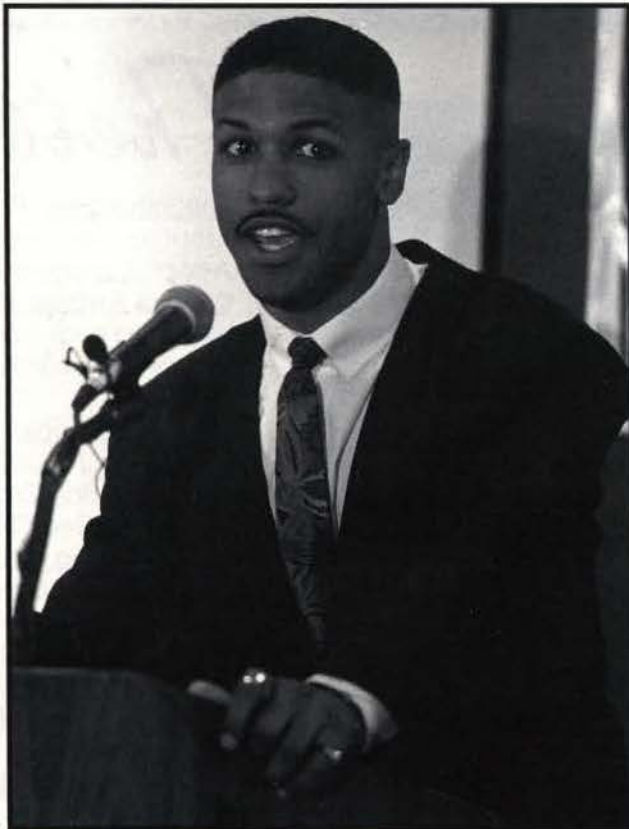
PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY

I N C O R P O R A T E D

University of Idaho



Top: Phi Beta Sigma National President Carter Womack was on hand for the ceremony. **Bottom:** Devon Pearce (left) accepts his pin from Bennie Harris, becoming one of the first members of Phi Beta Sigma.



Leland Allen Speaks of the significance of the first black fraternity at the UI.



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Breaking Boundaries

The first traditionally black fraternity in Idaho was adopted during a chartering ceremony on the UI campus on September 29. Seven African-American students at the UI were pinned as members of Phi Beta Sigma fraternity by the fraternity's national president Carter Womack.

Eric Haues, Calvert Johnson, Devon Pearce, Noah Ramsey, William Saffo, Chris Taylor and Everett Wilson became the original members of the Alpha Alpha Zeta chapter of Phi Beta Sigma. The fraternity's motto is "Culture for Service and Service for Humanity," as announced by Taylor who will serve as house president.

"It felt like a dream of ours had finally come true and we were happy that all the hard work paid off to get a charter started," Taylor said of the ceremony. "We felt good that we had a lot of commitment from the community and we are glad that we will have their support."

The ceremony included speeches by President Womack, Theresa Williams, Development Coordinator at Washington State University, and Munique Briggs, 2nd Vice Regional Director of Phi Beta Sigma.

"The ultimate measure of man is not where he stands in times of challenge and controversy," said Womack. "We are visionaries, proud of our past, but building on our future."

UI's Intrafraternity Council and Panhellenic Council officially recognized the fraternity at the ceremony along with a welcome from Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Hal Godwin and ASUI President Mike Gotch.

It was a historic day for the state of Idaho and this University," Godwin said. "It helps us to create a real sense of community for African-Americans and people of different cultural backgrounds."

The idea of adopting the charter on the UI campus came in 1988 when former UI student Leland Allen was initiated at the University of Washington's chapter. The chapter considers themselves as service oriented individuals who want to be more a part of the community. Phi Beta Sigma works nationally with such organizations as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Urban League, March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation, and the National Boy's Club of America.

While Phi Beta Sigma is for African-American men, Womack and Taylor said it is open to men of all races. The fraternity, which was founded in 1914 at Howard University, has more than 92,000 members in 600 chapters throughout the continental United States, Switzerland and Africa.

By Matt Lawson



Hal Godwin poses with new charter members of Phi Beta Sigma.