April 1, 2001



Message from the Interim President

Greetings Fellow Alumni!

Welcome to the first issue of The Alliance—the newsletter of the TWU-UNT Minority Alumni Alliance (MAA).

Who we are and what we do.

The TWU-UNT Minority Alumni Alliance was born of Reunion 2000, a reunion of minority alumni of Texas Woman's University and University of North Texas (NTSU), held last May in Dallas (Farmer's Branch), Texas. From that grand weekend, relationships were rekindled and commitments made to support the minority population of faculty, staff and students at both universities.

We are committed to keeping you informed on items of interest of what is going on at both campuses and with fellow alumni. I am personally committed to increasing our membership, especially among the TWU alumnae and our younger alums. So whether you were Greek, non-Greek, athlete or artist, the Minority Alumni Alliance has a place for you!

Interim officers were elected in January to get the ball rolling and by this fall, we are hopeful to have elections and be fully fledged as a not-for-profit entity. Some of the things we have in the planning stages are another gathering this Memorial Day weekend in Dallas, elections of officers in early fall, a possible concert during Homecoming 2001, and Reunion 2002 in Houston! Take a look at the various committees and if you would like to participate, contact the chairperson.

So forward this newsletter to any alum of TWU or UNT who may not know about us and join our quest by becoming a member of the Minority Alumni Alliance (MAA) today.

More importantly, we want to hear from you! Send your thoughts and ideas to our email address: TWU-UNT-MAA@mail.com.

Best regards,

Elwood Shannon Interim President NTSU Class of '81

Inside this issue: Mission of the Alumni Alliance 2 Application for Membership 3 Kappa Alpha Banned from UNT 4 **Response from Interim President** 8 The Alliance's Next Major Event 9 Memories from Reunion 2001 9 Standing Committees 10 Type of Memberships 10 **Announcements** 11 Meet your Interim Officers 12



Elwood Shannon

Special points of interest:

- Introducing the TWU/UNT Minority Alumni Alliance
- The Interim Officers
- Plans for Major Event
- Announcements from Alumni
- Standing Committees
- Application to join Minority Alumni Alliance

Mission of the Minority Alumni Alliance

The purpose of the TWU/UNT Minority Alumni Alliance (TWU/UNT MAA) is to encourage and support students of color attending Texas Woman's University (TWU) and the University of North Texas (UNT) through mentoring and scholarships. The TWU/UNT MAA also provides a means to serve alumni of the two Denton universities and to keep them interested, involved and invested in TWU and UNT. The TWU/UNT MAA strives to provide a means for a life long bond between the Denton universities and it alumni of color. Through this we can all have a part in the direction of the future of both Denton universities.

The TWU/UNT MAA plans to be:

- a source of information for students in their studies and their employment quest after graduation.
- a resource to assist recent graduates of the Denton universities in their employment search and to broaden their employment opportunities. This network can be a valuable resource through out the lives of the alumni of both universities.

Through scholarships the TWU/UNT MAA intends to assist TWU and UNT student with financial assistance with both scholastic and need based financial assistance. These funds may be in the form of tuition assistance, payment of books, assistance with housing or to offset the cost of commuting.

Through fellowship the TWU/UNT MAA hopes to bridge the gap between the generations of students from the Denton universities through social functions and fundraising activities. Fellowship in the TWU/UNT MAA will allow students and alumni of both universities a means to search for and contact past students with which they may have lost contact. Regularly scheduled reunions are another means to make new acquaintances and renew old relationships.

Through fellowship, mentoring and scholarships it is our intent to enhance the students of color's studies at TWU and UNT and help their time at the Denton universities to become the first step in what we hope will be the start of the journey of excellence in their lives.

David Lee Woods Interim Vice President TWU-UNT Minority Alumni Alliance

^{*} The TWU/UNT MAA does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, ethnic background or national origin.

Application for Membership

Name						
Address						
Street		City		State	ZIP	Apt No.
Phone	(hm)			(bus)		(cell)
E-mail		(w	/k)			(hm)
College Attended	UNT	TWU (check one)) Year graduated _	(oj	ptional)	
Major/Minor						
Name of Employe	er					
Address						
Job Title						
Type of Business	/Service Employed:					
	Banking/Finance		Medical		Other	
	Information Technology		Retail/Wholesale			
	Education:		Radio/Journalism/TV	V		
	Primary		Government/Political			
	Secondary		Human Resources			
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Please return this form with payment to: TWU/UNT MAA, P.O. Box 170991, Dallas, TX 75217

Kappa Alpha Banned From NT

Eric Finley and Megan Middleton Staff Writers Published February 6th 2001

University officials levied a five-year "death penalty" against the Kappa Alpha Order fraternity Friday, citing charges of misconduct for verbal abuse, disruption of activities, disorderly conduct and providing misleading information during their investigation.

The Kappa Alpha ban removes the fraternity from the NT campus for a five-year period, ending the group's 74-year history at NT and dissolving it from any official university status. The ban also evicts the fraternity from its two-story house on Welch Street.

The removal stems from allegations that members of the fraternity made racial remarks to a group of prospective football recruits Jan. 27. "For a period of five years, the fraternity will not be able to hold any activities on campus or receive any money to operate on campus," Deborah Leliaert, associate vice-president for marketing and communications, told members of the press Friday afternoon. "They will not have a presence on campus and will be vacating their fraternity."

Kappa Alpha members remained in their house as of Monday night. University officials gave no deadline as to when the students would have to leave.

Leliaert said the Student Development Center conducted a "thorough and swift" investigation into the matter, and said university officials had interviewed witnesses who were in the University Union when the incident occurred. "The severity of the punishment equals the severity of the incident," Leliaert said. "Racism is inconsistent with our educational mission."

Roddy Wolper, director of NT News and Information, said that the investigation focused on the alleged incident. "What we were doing was looking at the incident itself, trying to determine what happened," Wolper said. "We talked to enough people that we felt that things that happened in the student union on Saturday the 27th did warrant our suspending the fraternity."

Specific consequences followed the university's findings. "They cannot be on campus in any capacity," Wolper said. "They can't have meetings. They can't meet as members of Kappa Alpha fraternity members. They can be students." A university statement ranks the suspension "among the most severe sanctions UNT has ever imposed on a campus organization found to be in violation of the Code of Student Conduct and Discipline."

University officials said both the Kappa Alpha Order's national headquarters in Lexington, Va., and the local chapter had agreed to the sanctions. No statement from the local chapter of the fraternity had been released as of Monday. Kappa Alpha will be banned from NT until 2006. At that time, if NT students wish to re-establish the local chapter of the fraternity, they would have to petition the university to return. NT officials said that might not be an easy process for Kappa Alpha after five years.

"Given the circumstances that they have left campus, I'm sure there will be certain requirements they will have to meet to come back," Wolper said. "They would have to be an organization that is compatible with the mission of the university, and the mission of the university is one of diversity."

The ban comes after a six-day investigation of Kappa Alpha's actions after members of the Eagle Angels, the organization providing the tour, said a group of Kappa Alpha members shouted racist remarks at potential students touring the campus and waved a Confederate battle flag.

Many of the tour group's members were African-American. "The death-penalty nature of the disciplinary action is warranted by the seriousness of the incident," NT president Norval Pohl wrote in the university's statement.

Eagle Angels member LaToya Royal, a Dallas senior who witnessed the alleged incident, said she was upset after she heard about the university's decision to ban the fraternity for only five years. "I'm not emotionally stable from this," Royal said. "This really affected me. And it affects me now that I see that my university is slapping them on the wrist again, and just saying, 'Hey guys, don't do that anymore, so we're going to put you on punishment for five years.' It's very hard for me to verbalize what I feel right now." She said she feels the punishment was not tough enough. "I don't feel like the school stood behind us," Royal said. "As a black American, as a black student on this campus, I don't feel like the verdict was just. And considering [Kappa Alpha's] history, I don't feel like the verdict was just." Royal said she was scared by the Jan. 27 incident.

"When I see [the Confederate battle flag], that's racism," she said. "I equate that with racism; whether that's their intention in flying the flag, I don't know. Personally, I don't care. That's how I equate that, and that's how most black Americans in this country and on this campus equate that flag - with racism."

In protest of the alleged racism, a gathering of more than 600 concerned students marched Jan. 31 from the University Union to the Administration Building, delivering a list of demands to Pohl's office regarding the allegations. Demands included the permanent suspension of Kappa Alpha and confiscation of the fraternity's house, as well as a \$100,000 fine against the fraternity.

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Although some of the group's demands are similar to actions taken by the university, Student Government Association Vice-president Dustee Tucker said NT officials set the penalty on their own. "The investigation did not include any students," Tucker, an Andrews senior, said.

Kappa Alpha continued

"It was all people with the administration and people involved with this issue." Tucker also said the SGA would stand by the university's findings. "For those who were not involved and have lost their chapter, it is a sad time," she said. "But the university came to this conclusion, and the SGA will be supportive."

Chuck Churchwell, an executive member of the Interfraternity Council, the governing body of the fraternities, was one of several members of the greek community on hand Friday to hear the university's findings. Churchwell said the five-year "death penalty" is, in fact, a tough punishment that will make it hard for the fraternity to return. "It's going to be very difficult for Kappa Alpha to get back on this campus," Churchwell said. "They do have a very difficult road ahead of them to ever get back on to this campus."

Nikki Jones, president of the National Pan Hellenic Council, the historically African-American greek governing body, was joined Friday by Corey Powell, president of IFC, and Heather Hines, president of the Panhellenic Council, the governing body of the sororities. Jones said the three greek leaders came to the press conference together in a show of support for each other. "We do realize that these were individual members of KA, not IFC as a whole," Jones said.

Fort Worth senior Nathaniel Singleton, the leader of Wednesday's march, made another statement after NT officials released their findings on Friday and spoke of diverse cultural groups on campus.

"We are blessed with the presence of students, faculty and staff who represent all ethnic groups and over 100 nations," Singleton said. "The face of our institution is multicolored and multicultural. The face of our university is evolving into a reflection of the face of all humanity. We like that. Anyone who doesn't appreciate this should leave. We're staying."

Yet when asked after making his statement if he was pleased with the five-year suspension handed down against Kappa Alpha, Singleton hinted he felt the punishment should have been stronger.

"I have no comment on that," Singleton said. "I have to accept what [the university] did, but we're not happy with that."

While many on hand Friday thought a longer suspension should have been in order, Dallas senior Troy Griffis thought suspending the fraternity was the wrong action.

Griffis, an SGA member who said he was not a spokesperson for the group, said he thought only guilty individuals should have been asked to leave. "I think [university officials] aren't attacking the problem directly, because even though the organization is gone, those individuals are still here on campus," Griffis said. "They still have the opportunity to throw out those bigoted remarks. I think it is not a true solution to the problem." Griffis said it was a sad day for the university to lose an organization. "It's sad to lose any organization," he said. "If KA made it official that their goal was to run off recruits, then they should be gone. But nowhere in their statutes or constitution does it say that their purpose is to come here and make demonstrations to scare people away."

The latest accusations of racism follow more than a decade of troubles for Kappa Alpha. In 1990, Kappa Alpha was placed on a two-year probation for campus alcohol violations. In November 1996, a Kappa Alpha pledgebook was found containing racist comments made by fraternity members.

According to a November 1996 article in the NT Daily, university officials told a gathering of more than 200 students at an NAACP meeting they did not have the power to punish a group for racist comments.

Then in 1998, the fraternity was placed on a two-year probation again for allegations of hazing and more alcohol abuse. Kappa Alpha was removed from that probation in December 2000.

Wolper said the fraternity's past troubles might have influenced the university's descision to impose a fiveyear ban. "I would say that probably to a very small degree some of [the prior allegations] were factored in," Wolper said. "But the circumstances of this particular incident were serious enough to merit a suspension. Any of [the latest] charges levied against them could have been worthy of a suspension."

NT alumnus Donald Norman-Cox, who was present for the release of the university's verdict Friday, said he remembers the Kappa Alphas from when he was a student at NT in the 1970s.

"They used to fly [the Confederate battle flag] up over their house when I was here," Norman-Cox said. "They flew it. They wore it. They did everything they could with it. I avoided them like the plague."

Following this latest round of allegations against the group, Kappa Alpha president Matt Spellman issued a statement Jan. 29 defending the organization and its history.

"We are a Southern fraternity, not a Confederate fraternity," Spellman, Corpus Christi junior, wrote. "We celebrate the South as a melting pot of many different and interesting cultures."

In a September 2000 interview with the NT Daily, Spellman spoke of the lasting impression he thought Kappa Alpha had made on NT in its 74 years on campus.

"The fact that this organization has been around here so long means the infrastructure is so strong," Spellman said in September. "That tells me we're going to be around forever."

In the same September 2000 article, SGA president and then Kappa Alpha member Mike McClendon spoke with pride of his affiliation with the group.

"It's the best of the best. The sharpest guys on campus go KA," McClendon, Mesquite senior, said in September. "We have a very rich tradition. I'm proud to be a part of that."

But in the wake of the latest allegations, McClendon turned in his fraternity badge to Kappa Alpha Jan 29.

After a week of media attention, allegations, protests and the final verdict, many greek leaders and administrators said they wanted to see the university come together and move forward from this incident.

Churchwell said he hopes NT's suspension of Kappa Alpha will bring an end to a week of racial tension on campus.

"We don't want to have to deal with this ever again," Churchwell said. "It's horrible for the greek community and for this campus as a whole to have to deal with this kind of stuff. We should be able to live together in harmony, and be able to enjoy the best years of our lives."

Taken from the NT Daily.

TWU/UNT MAA President's Response to the Editor on the Kappa Alpha Incident

To the Editor:

While the actions of a few individuals may not speak for an entire group, it is the repeated allegations of improper behavior that has plagued the Kappa Alpha Order Fraternity over the past several years. The harshest evidence of such behavior was the 1996 discovery of a KA pledge book that contained racial slurs against African Americans, Asians, Hispanics and discriminatory remarks against lesbians. This brought unwanted national attention to UNT that caused Chancellor Hurley to write an open letter to the editor of the NT Daily dated Friday, November 15, 1996.

The University and KA agreed that all members attend a diversity training session---a mere slap on the wrist. Four years later it seems that nothing was learned from that incident. It is unlikely that any of the young men who were members of the fraternity in 1996 are still enrolled and participated in Saturday's alleged chanting of racial slurs to visiting parents, recruits and Union personnel, but obviously their beliefs and teachings are still being fostered.

The TWU-UNT Minority Alumni Alliance provides scholarships and promotes the Denton universities to minority students. This unwanted publicity makes it increasingly difficult for our organization to attract students to attend UNT and our alumni to support it. The actions and unwanted publicity of last week's unfortunate incident undermines our task and the seemingly genuine efforts of the university to promote diversity at all levels. The swift and decisive statement of UNT President Dr. Norval Pohl sends a message that is a far contrast to 1996 when members of KA were required to attend the diversity workshop.

We, the TWU-UNT Minority Alumni Alliance, welcome the challenge of continuing our quest to promote the University. We hope the decision that is handed down is fair, to the point, and in the words of Dr. Pohl, "UNT will take the strongest possible action against the fraternity."

Elwood Shannon Interim President TWU-UNT Minority Alumni Alliance

" Make plans to attend Reunion 2002 Houston, Texas Memorial Weekend"

The Alliance's Next Major Event

The Alliance is busy planning another spectacular event. The TWU/UNT Minority Alumni Alliance is currently making plans to host an evening of social glitz. This effort is the first of many to raise funds for the scholarships. It is the intent to award scholarships to graduating seniors in the state of Texas. For those of us who attended the TWU/UNT 2000 Reunion know this group can host a party; however, The Alliance wants to be an instrument to promote unity to all alumni and education to our youth.

You can share in this effort by supporting what promises to be a fantastic evening of great music, mingling and mellow relaxation. We want to see all alumni of both schools, no matter what year you attended.

Wear your dancing shoes and let's party together. When The Alliance party, they

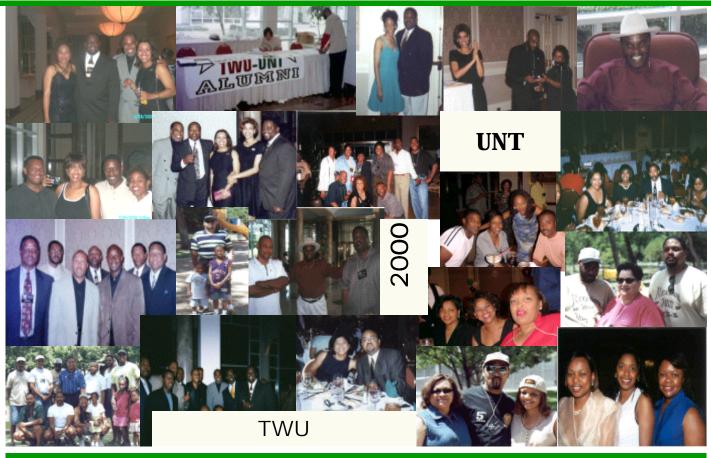
party with a specific purpose. Together we can help our youth have a positive college experience, graduate and make their mark in the world.

The Alliance can make an enormous difference in the lives of youth that may not have the opportunity to attend college. Show your support.

Mark your calendar, Friday, May 25 at the Blue Mesa Grill Lincoln Park, 7700 W Northwest Hwy, 214-378-8686, located across from North Park Shopping Center, next door to the Cheese Cake Factory, the cost is \$10 with a minimum of two beverages. Listen for information on KRNB 105.7, K104 radio stations and check www.dallasblack.com and www.dallastilldawn.com

" ONE NATION UNDER A GROVE"

Memories from Reunion 2000



VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1

The Alliance Standing Committees

The Finance Committee

This committee shall evaluate and maintain the financial stability of the Organization, recommend ways to generate revenue, devise plan investments of capital for future use, and develop plans and programs for scholarships for students of TWU and UNT.

Student Relation Committee

This committee shall be responsible for all activities with both Minority colleges from TWU and UNT college bound Minority high school students in an effort to retain and recruit students seeking academic excellence.

Membership Committee

This committee shall evaluate the status of the organization's membership, recommend ways to enhance service to its members, develop plans and programs for attracting new members and retaining existing members, and determine ways to encourage participation from active and inactive alumni in the affairs of the organization.

Special Events Committee

This committee shall be responsible for holding events and meetings of campus, professional, or any other event in coordination with the at-large Alumni Associations of TWU and UNT.

Scholarship Committee

This committee shall be responsible for developing and administering scholarship awards. This committee determines the number of awards, criteria for the awards and the dollar amounts to be awarded. Evaluation of the criteria in selecting recipients is included among these duties.

Keep your Alliance strong. Join one of the standing committees. Your help is needed. We solicit your ideas to make viable contributions to the betterment of our children and our community. Respond today at: TWU-UNT-MAA@mail.com or write The Alliance at TWU-UNT-MAA, P.O. Box 170991, Dallas, TX 75217. The appropriate committee chair will respond immediately. Thank you for your cooperation.

SUPPORT THE ALLIANCE

Types of Membership

Regular

This yearly fee entitles members to The Alliance newsletter.

Green and White

This yearly fee entitles members to a newsletter, and \$25 will be earmarked toward the general scholarship fund.

Maroon and Cream

This yearly fee entitles members to a newsletter, and \$25 will be earmarked toward the general scholarship fund.

Only proceeds going toward the general scholarship fund are tax deductible.

"Invest in the human soul. Who knows, if may be a diamond in the rough. —Mary McLeod Bethune TWU-UNT MAA Announcement Page

Texas Relay Weekend

Friday April 6 - Ladies Night with Morris Chestnut

That's right ladies, just for you, Silent Partner Entertainment presents Ladies Night with the Star of "The Best Man", "The Brothers", and "Boys in the Hood", Mr. Morris Chestnut! He has been called one of the Sexiest Men in Hollywood. So ladies come out and see for yourself. So fellas, you know where the ladies are going to be. Oh yeah, they'll be at Bakari! Saturday April 7th - Its an Alpha Omega Jam

The Graduate Chapters of Alpha Phi Alpha and Omega Psi Phi have joined forces to give you "The First and Last Upscale Texas Relay Party" at Bakari, The Club. This is the party for the adult crowd. Dress to impress and free buffet between 8PM and

10PM. We know you have a lot of choices on this weekend and most of them require you getting through the crowds of college kids and finding parking downtown. Well we won't have that issue here. So let's get ready to Party! Bakari, The Club

Austin's Best in Special Events and Nightclub Entertainment 13800 Dragline Drive, Suite B Austin, TX 78728 (512) 670-9888



List your hours or the time and date of your event.



TWU/UNT MAA

Please submit any current announcements, ads, etc. you would like included in the next issue of The Alliance to: TWU/UNT, PO Box 170991, Dallas, TX 75217 or Email: TWU-UNT-MAA@mail.com

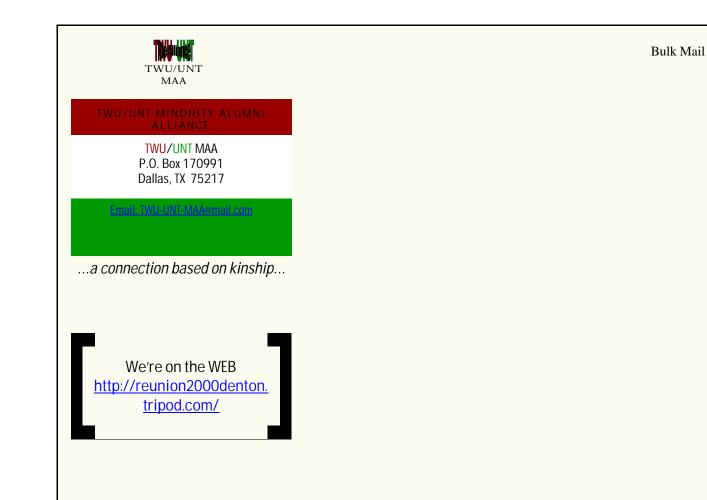
List your featured items

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TWU-UNT Reunion 2002 Houston, Texas

Any persons interested in helping toplan this event please contact Vanessa Archie at vanarchie@email. msn.com or call 713-779-1414 or voice mail 713-327-2008.

Tel: 555 555 5555



Your Interim Officers

President Elwood Shannon - UNT

David Woods Vice President - UNT

Sabrina Ingram Recording Secretary – UNT

> Michael McCain Treasurer – UNT

Valerie Pope Parliamentarian – TWU

