100 Years of Influence and Empowerment

The Tau Chapter became an official organization of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority on Dec. 16, 1922. This was the first African-American sorority at Indiana University-Bloomington. Today, the chapter continues to spread positivity, hope and service throughout the IU community.

The women celebrate their history of 100 years throughout this semester. One event that the chapter recently held was to educate the group and become more aware of the racial dis-parities in healthcare. The event, 'Pretty Aware', created a safe space for the women to learn more about the racial indifferences faced in the healthcare system.

The president of Tau Chapter, Imari Walker, sees this event as a way to increase awareness on injustices that Black women face. "We really want to draw emphasis on how Black women are dispro-portionately affected and dispro-portionately treated," Walker said. "Some of the things we are going to be going over tonight are how the maternal death rates are much higher in Black women than our white counterparts."

This sorority strives for excel-lence and pushes themselves to become better leaders in their community. A member of the chapter, Dana Wilson, shares her experience with her personal growth throughout this semester.

"I feel like I have pushed myself by learning what it means to give back to the community and stand-ing up for what our chapter stands for," Wilson said. "I also feel as if I have really improved myself by collaborating with other women here."

As the first African-American sorority at Indiana University, the members embrace their his-tory and continue to develop in all new ways. Wilson states how impactful it is to her being in the TAU Chapter here. "We have such a long-lasting legacy here on campus," she said. "It means a lot to me knowing the history about all the women who have came before me and what they have done to make Alpha Kappa Sorority what it is today."

Sisterhood is a major theme shown throughout this sorority. This celebration of 100 years has brought these women together in many ways. "My biggest takeaway from these women is sisterhood, I have grown such a big connection with these girls," Wilson said.

Within the last 100 years of being a sorority on campus, the TAU Chapter has grown and continued to spread empowerment, educa-tion, and service. "As IU continues to grow and develop in terms of how it deals with diversity and inclusion, TAU Chapter will also continue to develop with it," Walker shared. "As we have new members join, we will be able to keep providing a new perspective on things that this chapter has been doing."

DaWanna Stubbs, the graduate advisor and former member of the TAU Chapter, shares her passion for this sorority and their celebra-tion.

"I was initiated into Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority in 1987 and being back is just another way to give back to these women," Stubbs said. She shared it is her way to give back to an organization who has given so much to her.

"For us to say we have been here for 100 years, it truly means a lot," she said.

Stubbs shared the women had 360+ previous alum of the chapter come back and celebrate this mile-stone. The oldest member who at-tended was initiated in 1956. "Just being able to see that sisterhood was amazing," she said.

The oldest African-American sorority at Indiana University continues to honor their long-lasting sisterhood here on campus. With events like 'Pretty Aware' and others, the women strive for inclusion and education on racial indifferences still present in our society. The TAU Chapter will keep spreading positivity, progress, and philanthropy at Indiana University and around the country.

Story and photo by Britan Shriner