

ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC.
GAMMA CHAPTER
SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE



July 6, 2007

Greetings Brothers,

This letter is to inform you about the scholarship efforts that the alumni brothers are putting together. As noted from previous correspondence, the centennial milestone will be celebrated during Virginia Union's Home Coming on the weekend of September 28-29. While this function serves as an obvious tribute to our rich history and provides us with an opportunity to reunite and fellowship, we are hoping to achieve another goal as well. Through registration revenue and donation from the brotherhood, we hope to raise \$10,000 of which half will go towards VUU general endowment and the balance will be used for the Gamma Foundation. (Please see attached document for more details).

The committee is asking each brother to raise \$100.00 from family, friends, co-workers etc. Additionally, we are asking brothers to make a donation with their registration. As stated before, the committee is working diligently to set up a foundation; one of the aims of this foundation will be to set up an endowed scholarship.

Please support these efforts and the committee will keep the brotherhood informed as we move through the process.

Fraternally yours

Bro. Andre O. Hudson
Bro. Robert T. Youngblood
Bro. Jonathan B. Webb
Bro. Jeffrey Ball

GAMMA FOUNDATION (Initial framework proposal)



Overview

This proposal serves as a framework by which an organization can be developed to support the interest of Alpha Men who were initiated into Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc at Virginia Union University.

For many of us as undergraduates, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. served as a vehicle by which we strived for excellence, while serving others. However, when we transitioned from college life to the “real world”, some of us lost a connection to the brotherhood and our undergraduate home – Virginia Union University. Although, we continue to promote the principles of scholarship, fellowship, good character and community service that the fraternity was founded on. We must recognize that our university and its culture is undergoing some serious challenges that is impacting our undergraduates and alumni altogether.

Currently, there is a desire among many of us who graduated from Virginia Union University, to strengthen our fraternal bonds, while continuing to support our alma mater – financially, socially and in some cases, politically – as Virginia Union strives to be a premier historically black institution of higher education that transforms the world – one student at a time.

As the 100th Anniversary of our chapter approaches (December 30, 2007), brothers have an intense desire to celebrate this milestone during **HOME COMING 2007**. In addition, we aspire to draw support and attention to the needs of Virginia Union University, the Virginia Union University National Alumni Association and undergraduate brothers of Gamma Chapter.

In order to accomplish the goal of building an endowed scholarship(s), this organization should serve as a **Foundation - which is an entity that is established as a non-profit corporation or a charitable trust, with the principal purpose of making grants to unrelated organizations or institutions or to individuals for scientific, educational, cultural, religious or other charitable purposes. This broad definition encompasses two foundation types: private foundations and public foundations. The most common distinguishing characteristic of a private foundation is that most of its funds come from one source, whether an individual, a family, or a corporation. A public foundation, in contrast, normally receives its assets from multiple sources, which may include private foundations, individuals, government agencies, and fees for service. Moreover, a public foundation must continue to seek money from diverse sources in order to retain its public status.**¹

¹ Foundation Center.org - <http://foundationcenter.org/getstarted/faqs/html/foundfun.html>

In other words, this organization should strive to become a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit led by a standing committee or Board of Directors, who would oversee the interest of the association.

Examples of Greek-Letter Organizations whose alumni members established a foundation include:

- The Alpha Phi Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity at Lincoln University of Missouri²
- The Upsilon Omega Foundation, Inc. – Omega Psi Phi (St. Louis, MO)³
- Alpha Phi Omega – Kappa Chapter Foundation⁴

History

Since 1865, Virginia Union has provided this society with some of the greatest leaders and servants, this world has ever known. Virginia Union University has served as a base for character education, leadership development and scholarly study. Many have been unsung heroes in the fight for social, economic and political equality. Yet, one organization, Alpha Phi Alpha has set the standard for scholarship, fellowship, good character and community service.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. – Gamma Chapter was founded on Monday, December 30, 1907 by Eugene K. Jones and seven college men on the campus of Virginia Union University. Eugene K. Jones was a 1906 graduate of Virginia Union University and the First Secretary of the National Urban League.

Vision

The Gamma Foundation's vision is to empower young African American men to strive for excellence as they pursue their endeavors of higher academia. ***The Gamma Foundation*** recognizes the struggle that many young African American men face while seeking to improve their chances for economic and social success. It is this struggle that often postpones or derails a young man's chance to complete his undergraduate studies. Through our collective efforts, we shall encourage these young men to become scholars, leaders, and lifelong learners who attain their maximum potential to become contributing members of a global society.

Mission

The mission of ***The Gamma Foundation*** is to raise funds to assist students attending Virginia Union University, founded in 1865. Virginia Union University, nourished by the African American heritage and energized by a commitment to excellence, provides a nurturing, intellectually challenging and spiritually enriching environment. ***The Gamma Foundation*** shall match that commitment to scholarship, while promoting brotherhood, leadership, and community service.

² Alpha Phi Charitable Foundation - <http://www.alphapsifoundation.org/>

³ Upsilon Omega Foundation - <http://www.angelfire.com/mo/upsilonomegapsiphi/foundation.html>

⁴ Alpha Phi Omega – Kappa Chapter Foundation - <http://foundation.kappachapter.org/index.html>

The Gamma Foundation will also serve as a source of support for the Gamma Chapter, by creating a venue for Alumni of Virginia Union University to provide support to the college brothers actively enrolled at Virginia Union University.

Objectives

In order to achieve the mission previously mentioned, **The Gamma Foundation's** Board of Directors (Standing Committee) shall establish aggressive goals that are embodied in the following objectives.

1. Support Virginia Union University via fundraising initiatives, student recruitment & retention.
2. Support the Virginia Union University National Alumni Association by enhancing the alumni spirit and encouraging an increase in support.
3. Support the Undergraduate Brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha – Gamma Chapter through mentorship, scholarship & fellowship.

Strategic Focus

Our Objectives shall be met as we concentrate our efforts in the following ways.

1. Exercise our collaborative network to raise funds in the name of Alpha Brothers that will:
 - a. Assist undergraduate students at Virginia Union University with their academic pursuits.
 - b. Assist the undergraduate chapter with hosting an annual Leadership Retreat, open to all student leaders, to prepare students for leadership roles on campus.
 - c. Support undergraduate attendance at national and regional meetings such as Alpha Phi Alpha General/Regional Conventions & Virginia Union University National Alumni Convention
 - d. Support Virginia Union University's annual giving campaign (unrestricted gift)
2. Empower young males to commit themselves to excellence, while pursuing higher education within the nurturing, intellectually challenging and spiritually enriching environment.
3. Encourage younger alumni (1985-2007) to increase their support of Virginia Union University.
4. Ensure that the undergraduate chapter remains functional and continues to uphold the standards of the University and Fraternity.

5. Promote Virginia Union University in the communities in which we live, work and serve.

Items to consider:

- Identify leadership for **The Gamma Foundation**
- Develop a Steering Committee for the Selection of the Board of Directors
- Develop by-laws
- Incorporate **The Gamma Foundation** into a 501(c) (3) non-profit entity
- Identify best location to incorporate
- Establish Officers who will actively navigate **The Gamma Foundation**
- Identify a location (banking institution) to establish a holding account
- Develop a Fiscal/Meeting Calendar to discuss the objectives of **The Gamma Foundation**
- Identify potential funding sources and events
- Establish fundraising goals
- Identify potential recipients for scholarship
- Establish scholarship requirements

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