

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®  
Theta Beta Omega Chapter  
Presents

THE 33<sup>RD</sup> TRIENNIAL  
DEBUTANTE BALL

*Triumph,  
Beauty, &  
Optimism:*

A Journey of Elegance  
and Leadership

*Jones County  
Civic Center*  
Trenton, NC

Saturday, June 7, 2025  
5:30 PM





A woman with long dark hair, wearing a colorful, patterned dress with a high slit, posing with one hand on her hip and the other behind her head. The background is a city skyline at dusk.

*Ezell P. Williams*

PERSONAL SHOPPING,  
STYLING, LUXURY SOURCING  
AND EXPERIENCES

HELPING YOU GET  
DRESSED TO MEET  
YOUR BEST MOMENTS  
SINCE 2004!

WORK WITH ME VIA  
BERGDORF  
GOODMAN

HORCHOW

*Neiman Marcus*

*Saks*

Let's Connect

917.239.7248

<https://linktr.ee/EzellWilliams>

A green ivy branch with leaves and small yellow flowers, extending from the top left corner.

33<sup>RD</sup>  
TRIENNIAL DEBUTANTE BALL

# Triumph, Beauty, & Optimism:

A Journey of Elegance and Leadership

Jones County Civic Center  
Trenton, NC

A green ivy branch with leaves and small yellow flowers, extending from the bottom right corner.





## *Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® History*

For more than a century, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® has been on the leading edge of progressive programming for African American communities, and today AKA is still the model of women using their strength to soar to greater heights.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® was formally organized on the campus of Howard University in Washington, DC, in 1908 and is the oldest Greek-lettered organization established in America by women of color.

The five basic tenets of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® are to cultivate and encourage high scholastic and ethical standards; to promote unity and friendship among college women; to study and help alleviate problems concerning girls and women to improve their social stature; to maintain a progressive interest in college life; and to be of “Service to All Mankind.” Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® is a globally impactful organization with over 300,000 members committed to enriching minds and encouraging life-long learning; providing aid for the poor, the sick and under-served; initiating social action to advance human and civil rights; working collaboratively with other groups to maximize outreach on progressive endeavors; and continually producing leaders to ensure the relevance of the organization into perpetuity.

## *Theta Beta Omega Chapter History*

Located in New Bern, NC, Theta Beta Omega Chapter was established by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® in 1964 as its 198th graduate chapter. The chapter consisted of twenty ladies from New Bern, Robersonville-Williamston, and Beaufort areas with the heart and desire to embark on a program of service and involvement for their communities.

Today, the chapter is composed of women from diverse walks of life who are meeting the challenges of education, business, health, the arts, government and volunteerism. Its membership is involved in many programs, including scholarships, education, voter registration and education, health, and early cancer, prevention, detection, and support.

In 1956, Theta Beta Omega sponsored its first Debutante Ball and Cotillion which became the chapter’s signature program. This activity has served not only as a fundraiser for scholarships and other community programs but has also provided educational and cultural enrichment activities for young women and men in the Tri-county area.

Tonight’s event marks the 33rd Triennial Debutante Ball and Cotillion.





## *Theta Beta Omega Chapter*

Theta Beta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® was chartered in New Bern, NC, on November 21, 1964. Charter members, kneeling left to right, are Sorors Jessie D. White and Otis Belle Meyers. Seated left to right are Sorors Adelaide F. Booker, Nora Slade, Elizabeth S. Randolph (then Mid-Atlantic Regional Director), Martha S. Faison, Alma G. Gaither, and Blanche S. Rivers. Standing, left to right, are Sorors Mary B. Danyus, Clara Owens, Ann S. Moore, Ruby R. Humphrey, Annie Day Smith, Clifford Wooten, Arabelle B. Bryant, Fannie L. Slade, Norma F. Godette, and Marie L. Jones. Charter members not shown here include Sorors Lauretta B. Smith, Frances Newby, and Bernice McElrath.

## *President's Message*

Greetings,

On behalf of the members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, Theta Beta Omega Chapter, it is my distinct honor to extend to you a formal welcome to our Thirty-Third Triennial Debutante Ball. We are elated to return to our in-person Debutante Ball, themed: **“Triumph, Beauty, and Optimism: A Journey of Elegance and Leadership.”**

The Theta Beta Omega Chapter Debutante Program prepares young women for the transition from high school to college and beyond. This evening's ceremony signifies the culmination of months dedicated to leadership development, community service, as well as social and educational activities that have fostered the growth of these young ladies, both individually and collectively.

We express our gratitude to the parents, family, friends, and community members who have generously supported our debutantes in all facets of the Debutante Program. We are immensely proud of each participant for their dedication and enthusiasm throughout this process.

This year we are fortunate to have committed Chairmen, Co-Chairmen, and Committee members who have diligently organized, planned, served, and executed this Debutante Program. To the Co-Chairmen, every Committee Member, and those who worked behind the scenes, THANK YOU for continually offering your time, talent, and treasure to the young women being presented tonight. Your efforts in shaping, mentoring, and serving with excellence have made this season one to be remembered.

Once again, on behalf of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, Theta Beta Omega Chapter, I thank you for your presence this evening and for your ongoing support of our programs. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Theta Beta Omega 2025 Debutante participants. Together, let us continue to support and encourage these young women as they embark on their journey, poised to make a significant and positive impact in the world.

Sincerest Regards,

*Natasha Perkins*

Natasha Perkins, President

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, Theta Beta Omega





## *A Message From the 2025 Debutante Ball Chairman*

Greetings Debutantes, Family, Friends and Supporters:

It is with extreme pleasure that I welcome you to the 33rd Triennial Debutante Ball Presentation of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.®, Theta Beta Omega Chapter. I am Tracy Shope Moore, the Chairperson for this year's event and I am grateful for your support and attendance.

Our local charter members held the very first Chapter Debutante Ball in 1956. The purpose of that significant event still holds true today. The Debutante Ball is our platform to present young ladies to society, to empower said young ladies to pursue academic excellence, to foster community engagement, to develop life skills and to cultivate friendships that will last a lifetime. This is achieved through workshops, monthly activities, mentorship, community service, and academic scholarships.

The Theta Beta Omega Debutante Ball, which is our signature program, also serves the purpose of allowing us; with your participation and support, to provide scholarships to other area high school students, and to carry out our many community service projects. This event has been a successful endeavor for almost 70 years because of the reasons stated above but also because of much dedication and commitment on behalf of the chapter members, the debutantes, their families and the community.

This 2025 presentation, Triumph, Beauty, and Optimism: A Journey of Elegance and Leadership is a magical rite of passage to showcase the accomplishments and future endeavors of exceptional young women from our local communities. I extend heartfelt appreciation to this year's debutantes from Craven, Jones and Pamlico Counties and look forward to their futures which already look so very bright.

Tracy Shope Moore  
Chair, 2025 Debutante Ball



## *A Message From the 2025 Debutante Ball Co-Chairman*

Greetings,

It is with immense pride and heartfelt joy (pun absolutely intended!) that I welcome you to the 2025 Debutante Ball. As the 1998 Theta Beta Omega Debutante Queen, this moment holds special significance for me. I vividly remember standing where you are now—nervous, excited, and filled with dreams for the future. To now serve as Co-Chair, and as a proud 21-year member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, has truly brought my journey full circle—an honor I deeply cherish.

This year's theme, ***“Triumph, Beauty, and Optimism: A Journey of Elegance and Leadership,”*** beautifully captures your transformation. Each of you has embraced this experience with grace, intelligence, and a spirit of sisterhood. Serving on the Activities Committee and watching you grow through workshops, service, and meaningful connections has been a true joy.

As you prepare to step boldly into your next chapter, I leave you with a principle I've shared often throughout this journey: “To be early is on time, to be on time is late, and to be late is unacceptable.”

May this mantra guide you beyond this program—as a reflection of your discipline, your respect for others' time, and your commitment to excellence.

You are now being presented to society with grace and promise. Savor this moment—it is a celebration of your achievements and the boundless future ahead.

With love and admiration,

Joy Hill Malone  
Co-Chair, 2025 Debutante Ball





*Theta Beta Omega Acknowledges...*

*Dorothy Hawkins Bryan*

**Our Newest Golden Soror!**

Dorothy Hawkins Bryan has reached Golden status with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®. She was initiated into Theta Beta Omega Chapter in 1973. A New Bern native, Mrs. Bryan is the author of the chapter's most recent history book *The History of Theta Beta Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, The First Half Century of Timeless Service*. We salute Mrs. Bryan for her leadership to the chapter and for her service to all mankind.



*Theta Beta Omega Acknowledges...*

*Ezell Williams*

**Our Newest Silver Star!**

To qualify as a Silver Star one must be active for at least 25 years in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®. Ezell Williams is the newest Silver Star of Theta Beta Omega.





*Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®*  
*Theta Beta Omega Chapter Officers*  
*New Bern, North Carolina*



Ms. Natasha Perkins - President, Dr. Katrina Arnold - Vice President, Dr. Roneca Wallace - Recording Secretary, Mrs. Jaimee Bullock Russell, Esq. - Asst. Recording Secretary

Mrs. Joy Hill Malone - Corresponding Secretary, Dr. Veronica Williams - Treasurer, Ms. Thelma Simmons - Financial Secretary, Mrs. Gazelia Carter - Ivy Leaf Reporter

Ms. Earline Sills Williams - Hostess, Ms. Dawn Jones - Sergeant at Arms, Mrs. Jennifer Grimes - Chaplain, Ms. Patricia Smith - Historian

Not Pictured: Mrs. Tracy Shope-Moore, Esq. - Parliamentarian

*Theta Beta Omega Chapter Members*



Dr. Katrina Arnold  
 Mrs. Gazelia Carter  
 Ms. Shineka Grice  
 Ms. Aquila Griffin  
 Mrs. Jennifer Grimes  
 Ms. Shirley Guion  
 Ms. Cleopatra Hargett-Lawton  
 Ms. Kiarra Hill  
 Ms. Yvette Howard  
 Ms. Dawn Hunter-Jones  
 Mrs. Joy Hill Malone  
 Mrs. Marva Martin

Mrs. Brittany Martin Respass  
 Ms. Fannie Martin-Williams  
 Mrs. Alisa Mike  
 Ms. Taejon Owens  
 Ms. Natasha Perkins  
 Mrs. Barbara Perry  
 Ms. Sonia Pickens  
 Mrs. Jaimee Bullock Russell  
 Ms. Thelma Simmons  
 Mrs. Beatrice Smith  
 Ms. Evelyn Smith  
 Ms. Patricia Smith

Mrs. Latisha Staton-Foster  
 Mrs. Mary Sudler-Henderson  
 Dr. Roneca Wallace  
 Ms. Earline Sills Williams  
 Ms. Ezell Williams  
 Dr. Veronica Williams  
 Ms. Rachael Wilson  
NOT PICTURED  
 Ms. Dorothy Bryan  
 Dr. Eleanor Patrick  
 Mrs. Tracy Shope-Moore, Esq.  
 Dr. Kaye Thompson-Rogers



*In Memory of our  
Ivies Beyond the Wall*



Norma Fisher  
Godette



Carthenia Clark  
Mann



Evelyn Celeste  
Skinner Simmons

**Norma Fisher Godette** (1933 – 2023), a James City native and New Bern resident, was the last surviving Charter member of Theta Beta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®. Her involvement in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® began in 1954. A graduate of Winston-Salem State University, she continued her education earning a Master of Arts Degree in Education. Following her belief that “one could not learn enough be certified and qualified for now and the future,” she completed further educational studies at Columbia University (New York City), Howard University (Washington, DC), and East Carolina University (Greenville). She was initiated into Gamma Lambda Chapter at WSSU. Mrs. Godette served Theta Beta Omega in various capacities: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and on various committees, both as a chairperson and a member. She is remembered for her passion for the creation and distribution of bookmarks to schools, libraries, and churches during African-American History Month.

**Carthenia Clark Mann** (1927 – 2022), a native of Pantego in Beaufort County, was initiated into Theta Beta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® and remained a lifelong member of the chapter. A graduate of NC Central University, she spent her working life as a public school teacher. Mrs. Mann held various positions in the chapter: President, Vice President, Recording and Corresponding Secretary, Assistant Recording Secretary, Chaplain, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Parliamentarian. She also served on a variety of chapter committees, including chairing By-Laws, 1970 Debutante Ball and Rituals. As part of her chapter work, she led Theta Beta Omega’s first celebration under new Sorority guidelines that allowed chapters to design their own Founders’ Day programs. Mrs. Mann is well-remembered for her words of support and wisdom.

**Evelyn Celeste Skinner Simmons** (1938 – 2023), a native of Elizabeth City, was educated and initiated into Delta Theta Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® at Elizabeth City State University, where she majored in English. She spent her career in the classroom, introducing young minds to the joys of literature and grammar. She was active in Theta Beta Omega Chapter, serving as President twice, Vice President, Secretary, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Parliamentarian. Her chapter work was wide-ranging. She was chairman, co-chairman and member of Rituals, Health, History, Senior Residence, Standards, Music, Budget, Education, Black Family and others. Mrs. Simmons liked to have everything proper and in good order.

*\*Information based on The History of Theta Beta Omega Chapter*

Written by Theta Beta Omega member Mrs. Dorothy Hawkins Bryan



Debutante Ball Committees

STEERING COMMITTEE

Latisha Staton-Foster	Veronica Williams
Tracy Shope Moore	Gazelia Carter
Veronica Williams	Earline Sills Williams
Aquila Griffin	Shirley Guion
Sonia Pickens	Sonia Pickens
Joy Hill Malone	
Patricia Smith	

ATTIRE

Latisha Staton-Foster	Eleanor Patrick
Gazelia Carter	Earline Sills Williams
Taejon Owens	

DECORATIONS & FLOWERS

Tracy Shope Moore	Patricia Smith
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PORTFOLIO

Aquila Griffin	Gazelia Carter
Joy Hill Malone	

EVALUATIONS

Veronica Williams
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SCRIPT AND PRESENTATION

Sonia Pickens	Alisa Mike
Joy Hill Malone	Tracy Shope Moore

ACTIVITIES

Joy Hill Malone	Latisha Staton-Foster
Taejon Owens	

GIFTS AND PRIZES

Patricia Smith	Jennifer Grimes
Shineka Grice	Evelyn Smith

FINANCE

Veronica Williams	Thelma Simmons
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SOUVENIR BOOKLET & PUBLICITY

Gazelia Carter	Joy Hill Malone
Aquila Griffin	Alisa Mike
Shirley Guion	Earline Sills Williams
Kiarra Hill	

HOSPITALITY

Earline Sills Williams	Jennifer Grimes
Gazelia Carter	Evelyn Smith
Shineka Grice	

QUEEN’S COURT

Shirley Guion	Kaye Thompson-Rogers
Beatrice Smith	

MUSIC AND CHOREOGRAPHY

Sonia Pickens	Tracy Shope Moore
Alisa Mike	



*Mistress of Ceremonies*  
*Ainee Lynnette Taylor*



Former WITN News Anchor/Reporter and award-winning journalist, Ainee Lynnette Taylor graduated from East Carolina University with a Broadcast Journalism degree in 1997.

She immediately started working at WITN as an Associate Producer. In less than a year, she accepted a position there as a reporter and was later promoted to weekend morning anchor. After five years at WITN, she moved to the Sunshine State to become the morning and noon anchor for WCJB-TV 20 in Gainesville, Florida.

Ainee Lynnette returned to Eastern NC in 2007 and teamed up with Dave Jordan in October of 2008 to co-anchor WITN News at 6:00 P. m. In June of 2018, she left WITN, to pursue her passion in missions and entrepreneurship.

She is a Mary Kay Beauty Consultant and the Founder of T.V. Stars Media, LLC.

Currently, the business focuses on her experience as a TV Personality to host special events, Interview political candidates and voice-over content for local commercials.

Currently, she is now a published author and Podcaster of the show: "Dearly Departed: The life of a Young Widow".

*Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated®*

THEME: Soaring to Greater Heights of Service and Sisterhood

PROGRAM INITIATIVES

2022 – 2026

Strengthening Our Sisterhood  
Empower Our Families  
Build Our Economic Wealth

Enhance Our Environment  
Advocate for Social Justice  
Uplift Our Local Community

SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

AARP®

GEICO®

THETA BETA OMEGA LOCAL PROGRAMS

African American Heritage Culture Center

Area Nursing Homes

Autism 5K Run

Christmas Donations/Gifts

Coastal Center for Hope & Healing

Dazzling Dancers

Juneteenth of New Bern

Multiple Sclerosis Bike Ride

NAACP

New Bern Cancer Care

Scholarships (High School Seniors and Debutantes)

Sickle Cell Association

Special Requests

Supporting Peace

Tried by Fire Women's Shelter

Thanksgiving Baskets

Vision Forward



Scholarship Recipients

2025		2017	
Emily Farver	Storey Skinner	Brianna Dawson	Zyaja Mattocks
Chelsi Guadarrama	Holli Scout	Deanna Gibbs	Leetasia Midgette
Kaitlynn Gaskins	Brooke Cumbo	Mahari Green	Shannon Shope
Ava Strayhorn	Sophia Ruiz	Jakayla Kelley	
2024		2016	
Maliyah Hill	Charlise Petersen	Treasure Banks	Chiquasia Morris
Madison Foster	Macy Brooke Swain	Kevin Jarman	
Liza Reno			
2023		2015	
Andrea Lopez	Mekhi Hargett	Chrisitan Alfred	Tamera Perry
De’Yana Thomas	Jahmyla Woodruff	Hoytrice Barber	Amaris Woodfolk
Taylor Buck	Jelani Hargett	William Hardee	
Summer Raines			
2022		2014	
Aria Canady	Gabriella Rodriguez	Kourtney Bryant	Frederica Smith
		Nicole Edwards	Jalia Washington
		Leauntea Grimes	Kieara Williams
		Myra Parker	
2021		2013	
Emmanuel Cantey		Dejaunte Dawson	
2020		Rachel Ferrara	
Tristen Best	Morgan Wells	Taleesa Fisher	
Jenna Bustamante	Alisha Gatling	Kierra Fleming	
2019		Morgan Lindsey	
Kayla Bertling	Sydney Braxton	Amanda Mullen	
Kyle Kirian	Savannah Taboro	Bria Riggs	
Shemaiah Moore		Kristen Strong	
		Jachin Watkins	
2018			
Caroline Bryant	Freda Smith		
Tay Tiana Bryant			
Samantha Lilly			

Former Debutante Queens

2022—Miss Alexandra Sade Henry	1973-- Miss Lori Buck
2016-- Miss Jalaya Williams	1970-- Miss Sandra Vail
2013-- Miss Morgan E. Lindsey	1968-- Miss Gloria Swain
2010-- Miss Bria Riggs	1967-- Miss Vivian Fisher
2007-- Miss Elizabeth Standifer	1966-- Miss Sandra Sparrow
2004-- Miss Ashley Denae Young	1965-- Miss Kathryn Owens
2001-- Miss Adia Coleman	1964-- Miss Ida Willis
1998-- Miss Joy Johnell Hill	1963-- Miss Jacqueline Fields
1995-- BEAU & BELLE COTILLION	1962-- Miss Constance Evans
King - Mr. Charles Sentel Williams	1961-- Miss Julia Rose White
Queen - Miss Natasha Perry	1960-- Miss Elnora Phillips
1992-- Miss Cheryl Antoinette Dixon	1960-- Miss Naomi Robinson
1989-- Miss Latisha D. Staton	1959-- Miss Reese Marian Reese
1986 -- Miss Marian C. Dillahunt	1958-- Miss Annie C. Heath
1983-- Miss Tremel A. Faison	1957-- Miss Janet E. White
1980-- Miss Iris Godette	1956-- Miss Charlene H. White
1978-- Miss Lisa G. Morgan	
1976-- Miss Deborah Murphy	
1976-- Miss Kelly Pillman	



## Debutante Activities

*February 2025*

"I AM Black History" Vision Forward Black History Parade  
Childhood Hunger Initiative Power Pack (CHIPP)

*March 2025*

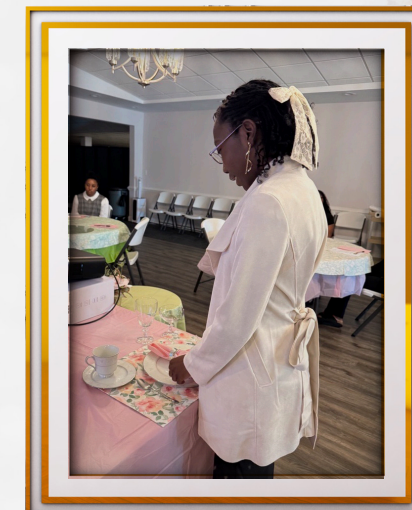
Charm & Etiquette Clinic

*April 2025*

"Do Good Friday" Childhood Hunger Initiative Power  
Pack (CHIPP)  
Mocktails & Masterpieces  
Debutante Dollars: Financial Savvy for the Next Generation

*May 2025*

Crowned in Confidence: A Mental Wellness Workshop





## *Debutante Portfolio Overview*

As part of the 33rd Triennial Debutante Ball experience, each Debutante was required to create and submit a personal portfolio that reflects her journey, achievements, and aspirations. The Debutante Portfolio is a digital presentation compiled using the media platform of the Debutante's choice. It serves as a showcase of each young woman's individuality, leadership, and accomplishments.

### PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS:

- Title of Presentation
- Table of Contents
- Autobiography
- List of Talents, Hobbies, and Interests
- School Clubs and Extracurricular Involvement
- Community and Church Involvement
- Honors, Awards, and Special Recognitions
- Debutante Activities
- Future Goals and Aspirations

### JUDGING CRITERIA

- Appearance
- Organization
- Required Content
- Creativity
- Mechanics (grammar, spelling, clarity)

Awards will be presented to the First, Second, and Third place winners. Recipients will be announced during the evening of the Debutante Ball.

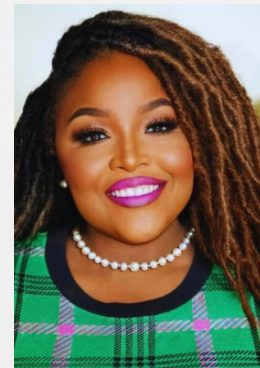
We are proud of the creativity and effort our Debutantes have put into sharing their stories through this special project.

## *2025 Debutante Portfolio Judges*



*Dansherryl Ford-Knapp*

Charter Member and Immediate Past Basileus - 2022-2023  
Phi Lambda Omega Chapter, Memphis, TN  
Current President of Pearls Service Foundation, Inc., Memphis, TN



*Joi N. Bass*

Current Ivy Leaf Reporter, Kappa Alpha Omega Chapter  
Itta Bena, MS  
South Eastern Region Investigation & Evaluations Committee



*Kyndal McDougal*

Member, Beta Iota Omega Chapter, Greensboro, NC



## Programme

MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES  
Ms. Ainee Lynnette Taylor  
The 2025 Cotillion Ball Programme

### ~ Part One ~

#### INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE

#### INTRODUCTION OF MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES

**Ms. Sonia Pickens, Member**  
*Theta Beta Omega Chapter Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.*

#### WELCOME

**Ms. Natasha Perkins, President**  
*Theta Beta Omega Chapter Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.*

#### INVOCATION

**Mrs. Jennifer Grimes, Chaplain**  
*Theta Beta Omega Chapter Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.*

#### GREETINGS

**Mr. Schumata Brown**  
*Town Manager, Maysville, NC*  
*Chair, Jones County Board of Education*

**Mr. Charlie Dunn, Jr., Vice-Chairman**  
*Jones County Board of Commissioners*

#### PRESENTATION OF MEMBERS OF SORORITY

**Dr. Roneca Wallace, Recording Secretary**  
*Theta Beta Omega Chapter Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.*

#### MUSICAL INTERLUDE

### ~ Part Two ~

#### RECOGNITION OF PAST QUEENS

**Dr. Katrina Arnold, Vice President**  
*Theta Beta Omega Chapter Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.*

### ~ 2022 Queen's Farewell ~

**Ms. Alexandra Sade Henry**

#### MUSICAL INTERLUDE INSTRUMENTAL

### ~ Part Three ~

#### INTRODUCTION OF DEBUTANTES

**Ms. Ainee Lynnette Taylor**  
*Mistress of Ceremonies*

#### WELCOME DEBUTANTES TO SOCIETY

**Mrs. Joy Hill Malone, Co-Chairman**  
*2025 Debutante Committee & Former Queen 1998*

## The Cotillion

#### PRESENTATIONS

**Ms. Patricia Smith, Chairman**  
*Gifts and Prizes Committee*

#### RECOGNITION OF QUEEN'S COURT

**Ms. Thelma Simmons, Financial Secretary**  
*Coronation of the Queen*

### ~ Salute to the Queen ~

**“One Moment in Time”**  
*Whitney Houston*

#### CLOSING REMARKS

**Mrs. Tracy Shope Moore, Chairman**  
*2025 Debutante Committee*

#### POSTLUDE INSTRUMENTAL





*Debutante*  
*La Niyah Nevaeh Callaway*

***DAUGHTER OF:***

Mrs. Latoya Thompson and Mr. Willie Callaway

***SCHOOL:***

Jones Senior High

***CLASSIFICATION:***

Junior

***ESCORT:***

Mr. Isaiah Pearsall

***MARSHALL:***

Mr. Raymond Thompson, Jr.

***CHURCH:***

Free Will Chapel Church

***HONORS AND ACTIVITIES:***

CTE Honor Society, Captain of Varsity Cheerleading, Softball, Health Occupations Students of America

***SPONSOR:***

Mrs. Joy Hill Malone





*Debutante*  
*Ar'Yon Nicole Drew*

**DAUGHTER OF:**

Ms. Shineka Grice and Mr. Davon Drew

**SCHOOL:**

New Bern High School

**CLASSIFICATION:**

Freshman

**ESCORT:**

Mr. Braylen Parham

**MARSHALL:**

Mr. Davon Drew

**CHURCH:**

Without Limits Christian Center

**HONORS AND ACTIVITIES:**

Honor Roll, Principal List, New Bern High School JV Cheerleading Team,  
WLCC SOAR Teens Ministry

**SPONSORS:**

Ms. Shineka Grice and Ms. Sonia Pickens





*Debutante*

*Cadence Anaiyah Edwards-Preston*

**DAUGHTER OF:**

Ms. Majulee Edwards and Mr. Christopher Preston

**SCHOOL:**

New Bern High School

**CLASSIFICATION:**

Freshman

**ESCORT:**

Mr. Jayden Lewis

**MARSHALL:**

Mr. Christopher Preston

**CHURCH:**

Little Rock Missionary Baptist Church; Rev. Dr. Carlton Davis, Pastor

**HONORS AND ACTIVITIES:**

JV Cheerleader and AB Honor Roll

**SPONSORS:**

Ms. Shirley Guion and Dr. Kaye Thompson-Rogers





*Debutante*  
*Sa'Nya Lanai Henderson*

**DAUGHTER OF:**

Ms. Donkisher Henderson and Mr. Stephen Henderson

**SCHOOL:**

New Bern High School

**CLASSIFICATION:**

Junior

**ESCORT:**

Mr. Mario Bargneare

**MARSHALL:**

Mr. Stephen Henderson

**CHURCH:**

Without Limits Christian Center

**HONORS AND ACTIVITIES:**

Honor Roll, Certification in Career Management

**SPONSOR:**

Mrs. Tracy Shope Moore, Esquire





*Debutante*  
*Kristen Arnasia Charity Powell*

**DAUGHTER OF:**

Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Powell

**SCHOOL:**

Pamlico High School

**CLASSIFICATION:**

Senior

**ESCORT:**

Mr. Karvin Magwood

**MARSHALL:**

Mr. Kevin Powell

**CHURCH:**

West Street Christian Church

**HONORS AND ACTIVITIES:**

Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Honor Roll, Cheerleading, Band, Track & Field, Youth & Government, 100 Hours of Community Service

**SPONSORS:**

Dr. Veronica Williams and Ms. Taejon Owens





*Debutante*  
*La'Niya Marie Simmons*

**DAUGHTER OF:**

Ms. Lanisha Simmons and Mr. Cornelius Bradley, Jr.

**SCHOOL:**

Craven Early College

**CLASSIFICATION:**

Junior

**ESCORT:**

Mr. Kamden Sampson

**MARSHALL:**

Mr. Cornelius Bradley, Jr.

**CHURCH:**

Oakey Grove Missionary Baptist Church

**HONORS AND ACTIVITIES:**

Active member of National Honor Society, Community Service, Second Place  
National History Day Competition in Raleigh, NC

**SPONSORS:**

Dr. Katrina Arnold and Mrs. Marva Martin





*Debutante*  
*Destinni Lionazha Singleton*

**DAUGHTER OF:**

Ms. Courtney Singleton and Mr. Luther Singleton

**SCHOOL:**

New Bern High School

**CLASSIFICATION:**

Senior

**ESCORT:**

Mr. Kylin Singleton

**MARSHALL:**

Mr. Luther Singleton

**CHURCH:**

St. Stephens Free Will Baptist Church

**HONORS AND ACTIVITIES:**

Early Childhood Education-Honors, Cheerleading, Track & Field

**SPONSOR:**

Mrs. Tracy Shope Moore, Esquire





*Debutante*  
*Makenna Reese Smith*

**DAUGHTER OF:**

Dr. Tommy Issacs and Mrs. Monica Issacs

**SCHOOL:**

Havelock High School

**CLASSIFICATION:**

Senior

**ESCORT:**

Mr. Takari Finch

**MARSHALL:**

Mr. Tommy Issacs

**CHURCH:**

Harvest Missionary Baptist Church

**HONORS AND ACTIVITIES:**

National Honor Society, Future Business Leaders of America, Student to Student, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Track & Field, Cross Country, Flag Football, 150 hours of Community Service, Teen Court and Worked all four years of high school

**SPONSOR:**

Dr. Roneca Wallace





*Debutante*  
*Jaeda Nylexis-Michelle Tripp*

**DAUGHTER OF:**

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**SCHOOL:**

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**CLASSIFICATION:**

Senior

**ESCORT:**

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**MARSHALL:**

Mr. Sean Gibbs

**CHURCH:**

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**HONORS AND ACTIVITIES:**

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*Debutante*  
*Jada Ta'Ziyah Wright*

**DAUGHTER OF:**

Ms. Jeena Lovick and Mr. Teryl Wright

**SCHOOL:**

New Bern High School

**CLASSIFICATION:**

Senior

**ESCORT:**

Mr. Terion Wright

**MARSHALL:**

Mr. Teryl Wright

**CHURCH:**

United Worship Center and Ephesus Seventh Day Adventist Church

**HONORS AND ACTIVITIES:**

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## *The Queen's Farewell*

Since June 18, 2022, I have been truly blessed to wear the beautiful crown and hold the title of Debutante Queen for the Theta Beta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®. Over the past three years, I have experienced tremendous growth, celebrated accomplishments, and created memories that I will cherish forever. It has been both an honor and a joy to represent this esteemed organization.

First, I want to thank God for giving me the strength, grace, and courage to walk in purpose. I also want to thank my greatest inspiration — my Grandmother, Charity Bryant Murphy — for her unconditional love, wisdom, and prayers. To my Aunt, Carleen Murphy Smith, and my cousin (more like my brother), Julian Smith — thank you for supporting me in all that I do.

To my sponsor, my cousin, Joy Hill Malone — thank you for believing in me and encouraging me to pursue this opportunity as a tribute to my beloved mother, Jennifer Murphy, and your mother, my Aunt Carol Murphy Hill. We did it — in their honor.

Tonight's final promenade as your Queen is deeply meaningful. For the first time, we are here in Jones County — and I am proud to say I represent Pollocksville, Murphytown to be exact. I'm forever grateful for the lessons, the love, and the legacy that have come with this crown.

To the ladies of the Theta Beta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® — I hope I have made you proud. This journey has gifted me a chapter filled with growth, grace, and deep reflection. As I now prepare to begin my senior year at Elizabeth City State University, majoring in Computer Science, I pass this crown with gratitude and humility.

To the 2025 Debutantes — congratulations to each and every one of you. You are all winners, because you chose to show up. You embraced this journey, and that is brave. I leave each of you with something more valuable than a title — a truth I've come to live by:

Always remain true to who you are.

In a world that will try to change you, your greatest power is staying grounded in your authenticity. Be proud of your story, your values, and your voice.

Don't let obstacles define you.

There will be setbacks. There will be moments of doubt. But those are the very moments that shape you, that prepare you for something greater. Push through, even when it's hard — because on the other side of fear is growth, and on the other side of struggle is strength.

And above all, love yourself — deeply and unconditionally.

The world may try to measure your worth, but never forget — your worth is not up for debate. You are enough — not because of a crown, or a title, or anyone else's opinion — but because of your heart and the person you are destined to become.

To the next Queen: Wear this crown with confidence, grace, and humility. Let it remind you that true leadership begins with self-love — and that your light will inspire more people than you can imagine.

Thank you for allowing me to serve, to shine, and to grow. Being your 2022 Queen will forever be a part of who I am.

With love and gratitude,

*Alexandra Sade Henry*



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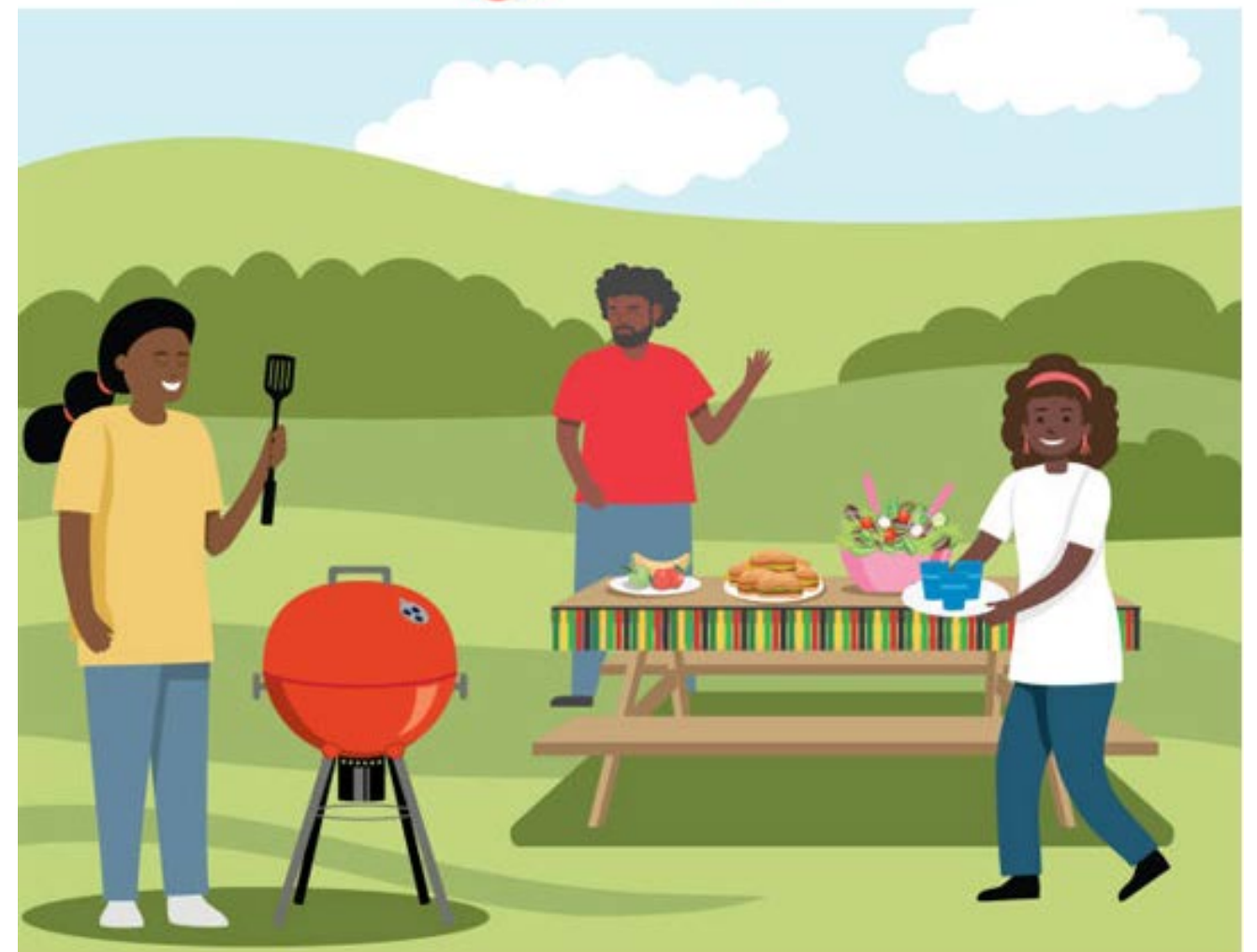
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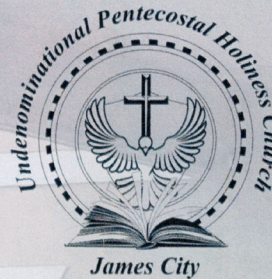
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*May this tradition be an honor.*  
*May God bless & guide you*  
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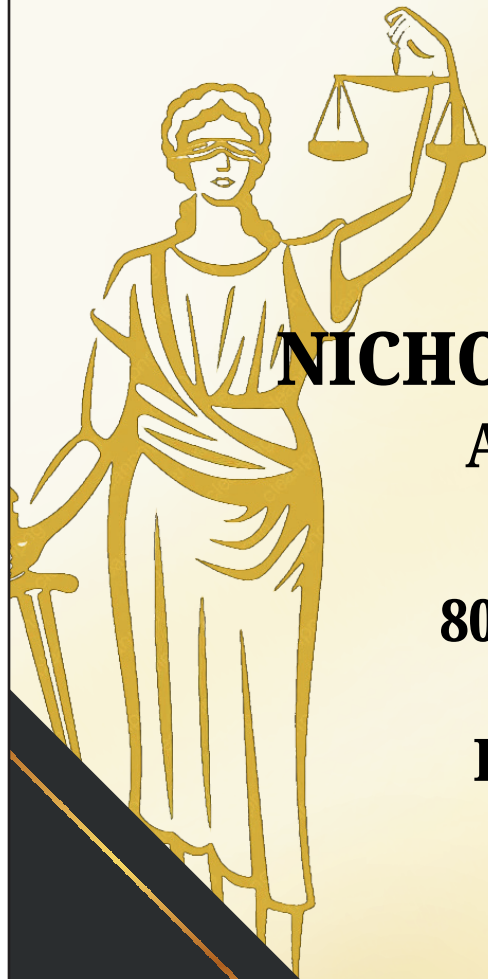


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**Cadence,  
I am SO Proud of you!**



**I am enjoying watching you grow into  
an amazing young lady. Remember to  
always keep God first!**

**LOVE,  
Grandma Debbie**





CADENCE

*I love you and I thank GOD for you! Best wishes  
for success in all that you do!*

*Love, Grandma Cleo*

CADENCE ANAIYAH



*You will always be my little  
girl.*

LOVE,  
YOUR DAD





*For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

*Jeremiah 29:11*

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## Theta Beta Omega Chapter

### 2025 Debutante Ball



**Jaeda Tripp**

Jaeda, we are so proud of you, and we wish you the best!!!

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Rev. Lynn Stiles Godette, Pastor



# Great Job!!



Jaeda

It's been a blessing watching you grow up without your father. We are so proud of you. You have set the bar high for all of us with your amazing accomplishments. Congratulations, we love you!!

Your Grandmother,

*Doris Gibbs*

## Congratulations



Jaeda Tripp

I am so proud of you and your hard work. You shine brighter every day. Your hard work dedication has truly paid off. Your Dad is looking down on you and smiling saying: "That's my girl." Continue to reach for the stars.

Love you,

Uncle Sean



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*Congratulations  
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*Elder Margaret E Priest*



*Congratulations!*

*Jaeda Tripp*

*Good Luck!!*

*-Earline Williams*

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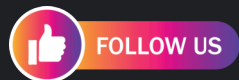


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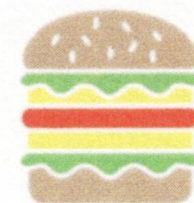
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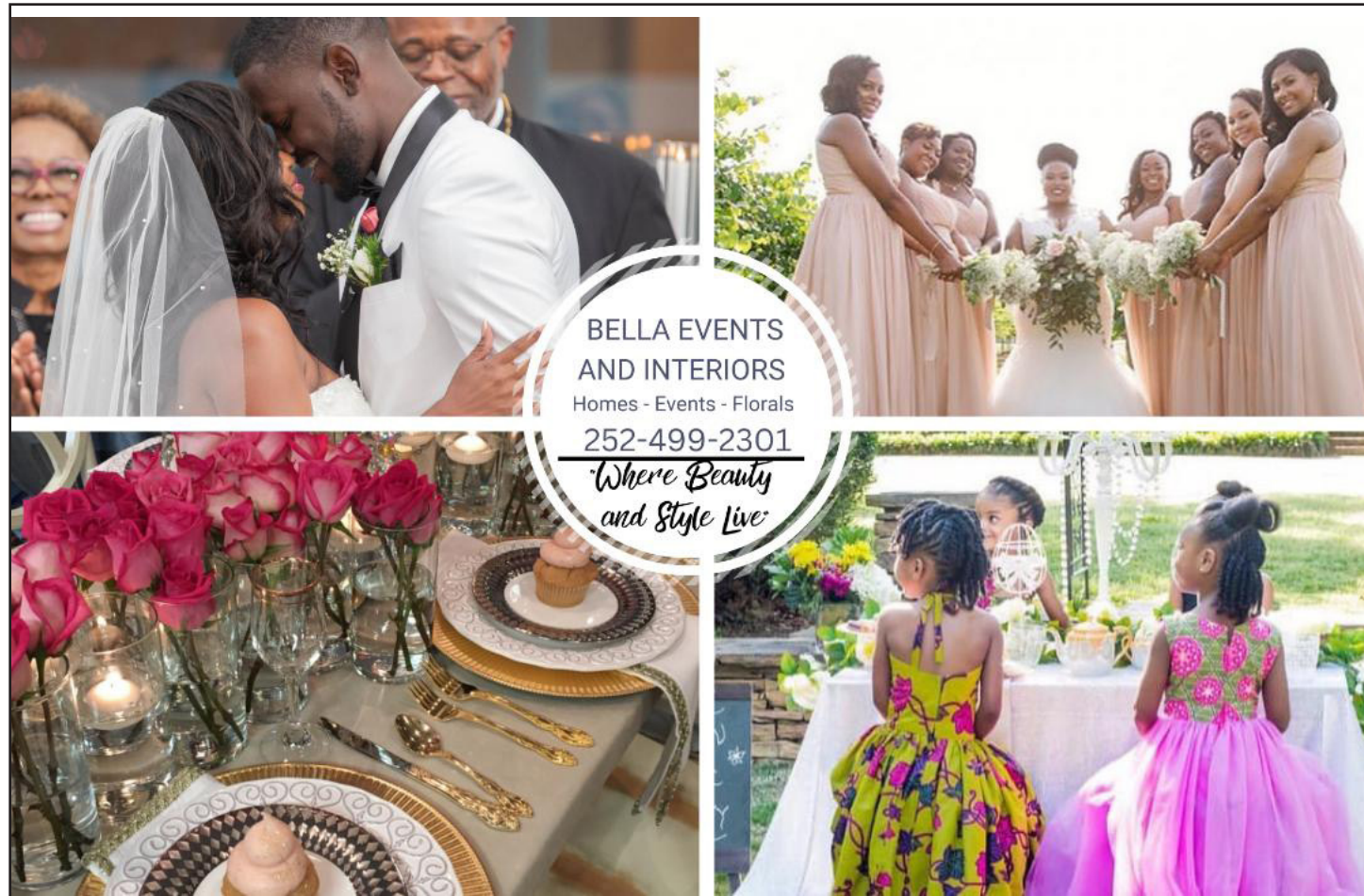
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