



## *Silver Jubilee Celebration*

### **“Celebrating 25 Years of Dedicated Community Service”**

The Oak Ridge Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., held its Silver Jubilee Celebration “Celebrating 25 Years of Dedicated Community Service” on Friday May 25, 2007 at the Doubletree Hotel in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. This event celebrated 25 years of service and commitment to excellence that the Chapter has provided the community. The Oak Ridge Alumnae Chapter provides community service to the City of Oak Ridge and surrounding communities through the execution of the annual HBCU Expo, Delta GEMS and Delta Academy mentoring programs, Science and Everyday Experiences (SEE), May Week, Affair of the Heart Scholarship Ball, Adopt-A-Street, Literary Café, Rites of Passage Program and numerous other community support activities. NuFunk band played music for the audience while the audience awaited the start of the Silver Jubilee celebration and viewed the displays of the Chapter’s activities throughout the years.

The program began with greetings from the Oak Ridge Alumnae Chapter President Dean Sheard, and a brief history of the Oak Ridge Alumnae Chapter. The mayor of Oak Ridge, TN, Mayor David Bradshaw welcomed Dr. Louise A. Rice, 23<sup>rd</sup> National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. by giving her a key to the city and making her an honorary Oak Ridge, TN citizen. After the greetings, a prayer was given by Soror Deloris Collins and dinner was served.

Jessica Wilson sang “God Bless the Child” prior to a very informative and inspiring speech by Dr. Louise A. Rice. Dr. Rice spoke on the missions and goals of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and how the Oak Ridge Alumnae Chapter has fostered the goals and missions in its service area. She highlighted the fact that the Oak Ridge Science in Everyday Experiences (SEE) Program is known across the Southern region and nationally. Dr. Rice challenged us to address the many needs of today’s youth and society, reminding each of us to ask ourselves “what will you do today?”

This commemorative program recognized the Chapter Charter members and the Chapter members with custom designed commemorative pins. The Chapter Delta Dears, Annie Stewart Flemings, Ruthie McIntyre, Elizabeth Phipps, and Mary Willis received red decorative Delta Dear pins. Jessica Wilson received a standing ovation for her rendition of “Nobody Loves Delta Like You Do” which announced the 2007 Soror of the Year, Jeanne

Denise Bonner. Membership awards were given to Karen E. Lott and Paula Haynes Hicks for 25 years of membership, Elizabeth Phipps and Lori Whipple for 35 years of membership, Gail Russell for 40 years of membership, and Annie Stewart Flemings for 50 years of membership. The finale of the program was the honoring of the two active Charter members, Elizabeth Lewis Phipps – a graduate of Tennessee State University and Victoria Steward – a graduate of Benedict College. During the singing of the Wind Beneath My Wings by Jessica Wilson, these two sorors were presented with red handkerchiefs, a dozen red roses, pearls, and special program books. Oak Ridge Chapter President Dean Sheard read Resolutions which established the *Elizabeth Lewis Phipps Scholarship* to Tennessee State University and the *Victoria Steward Scholarship* to the Historically Black College or University of Soror Steward's choice. Needless to say, these two Sorors were overwhelmed and overjoyed by the establishment of perpetual scholarships in their honor.

Following the closing of the event, Dr. Rice graciously took pictures with all Sorors who came to greet and welcome her. Dr. Rice met with members of the Oak Ridge Alumnae Chapter (pictured below) later in the evening.



**Figure 1. Soror National President Rice with Sorors of the Oak Ridge Alumnae Chapter. SEATED (LEFT TO RIGHT): Sorors Victoria Steward (Charter Member), Zandra Wilkins, National President Louise A. Rice, Ph.D., Chapter President Dean Sheard, Rosanne Smith, Ph.D. STANDING (LEFT TO RIGHT): Sorors Jeanne Bonner, Lorena Whipple, Karen Lott, Arnetha Johnson, Sylvia Rupert, and Yolanda Childs (25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Jubilee Chairperson).**



**Figure 2.** *Oak Ridge Alumnae Chapter Charter Member Elizabeth Phipps with National President Louise A. Rice, Ph.D., who wears her key to the City of Oak Ridge on a necklace.*



**Figure 3.** *Soror Bessie Jowers Greets National President Louise A. Rice, Ph.D.*



**Figure 4. National President Louise A. Rice, Ph.D. Greets Newest Sorors of the Oak Ridge Alumnae Chapter: Sorors Wanda Moses, Ashley Smith, and Nikki Boyd (Judy Bomar not pictured).**



**Figure 5. National President Louise A. Rice, Ph.D. with Delta GEM Sharlita Green and Oak Ridge Chapter President Dean Sheard.**



**Figure 6. Soror Victoria Steward Challenges National President Louise A. Rice, Ph.D to a jewelry untangling duel!**



**Figure 7. National President Louise A. Rice, Ph.D and Soror Ruthie McIntyre write some words of wisdom.**