

FCAC LIFELINE



**Regional
Day of
Service**
Exploring
Adoption and
Foster Care

Delta Power!

**Why Delta Women Dominate
Broadcast News**

**Candidates Forum
D.C.'s Special
Election**

**Sister Soldier
Lending a Helping
Hand to Women
Overseas**

**The White House
Connection to
STOMP D.A.T.**

May 2011



On the Cover:
WRC-TV NBC4 Reporter, Soror Tracee Wilkins with WTTG-TV FOX5 Anchor, Soror Allison Seymour
Inside Cover: Soror WUSA-TV CBS9 Anchors, Sorors JC Hayward and Lesli Foster.

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Pride

"Senator, I am one of them. You do not seem to understand who I am. I am a black woman, the daughter of a dining car worker. If my life has any meaning at all, it is that those who start out as outcasts can wind up as being part of the system."

-Soror Patricia Roberts Harris





Colleagues and Sorors, JC Hayward and Lesli Foster.

Photograph courtesy of Lesli Foster

The Newsmakers

Women of Delta Sigma Theta in Washington Broadcast News

By *Miya Wiseman*

In the Washington Metropolitan Area, it'd be difficult to turn on the television news and not see a dynamic woman of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. If you watch NBC affiliate WRC-TV when you're just waking up, you'll likely see the Federal City Alumnae Chapter's (FCAC) own Soror Tracee Wilkins on the scene of a breaking news story. Flip the dial one notch while you're making your first cup of coffee, and there's Soror Allison Seymour on the anchor desk at FOX affiliate, WTTG-TV. If you catch the news at lunch time, there's the legendary Soror JC Hayward on the anchor desk at CBS's WUSA-TV. And right before dinner, you'll see Soror Lesli Foster, also an anchor at WUSA, rounding out the evening hour. Meanwhile, new Sorors Gwen Iffil and Soledad O'Brien hold down the front on the national scene at PBS and CNN respectively. In Washington, every meal has a generous serving of Delta, and it is live and in living color.

With Washington among the top 10 markets for television news, this area is a prime location for journalists

who have "made it." And it is undeniable that Delta women are prevalent among the ranks of that elite class. "It is interesting that you do see a high number of sorority women and then within that, Delta women," Seymour said. "I just think that it speaks to our motivation; the drive that goes into that." "Sorors are so organized!"

With Delta representation at nearly every major network, it is apparent that Delta women are a force to be reckoned with, either in front of the camera or behind it. FCAC Soror, Tracey Webb is a long-time producer at CNN. Webb, 50, has been behind the scenes as a writer and producer at the cable news giant's Washington bureau since 1996. Prior to that, she worked at its global headquarters in her hometown of Atlanta, Georgia. Webb said the number of Deltas involved in network news is a benefit to all. "Delta has a tremendous presence in the media and the values of Delta Sigma Theta are at work in the media," she said. "It's got to be a positive that Deltas apply Delta values to journalism."



Soror Tracey Webb in front of CNN's Washington bureau.

With so many women and particularly women of color represented on-air in Washington, it's hard to believe that just four decades ago, television news didn't represent the actual make-up of Washington D.C. Although blacks accounted for more than 70 percent of the population, the landscape of Washington broadcast journalism was nearly all male and nearly all white. That all changed in the early 1970's. When Hayward kicked down doors nearly 40 years ago to become Washington's first female anchor, black women like Reneé Poussaint, Lark McCarthy, Doris McMillan, and Andrea Roane soon followed in her pioneering footsteps. And young budding journalists like Seymour took notice. In fact, it was from McCarthy, whom Seymour inherited her current position. "How wonderful is D.C. for that," Seymour said. "We have those women--the Susan Kidds of the world and the Reneé Poussaints of the world and for me, I had Maureen Bunyan." Seymour grew up idolizing the long-time anchor who served at WUSA for 22 years and is now at ABC affiliate, WJLA-TV. "Maureen Bunyan is who I wanted to be," she said. And now it is Seymour who is the object of admiration for so many viewers in the Washington area. "I love most when I see somebody

on the street and they say I watch you every day," she said. "I feel like I've touched somebody and they've invited me into their family." "There's nothing like that."

Webb also enjoys the impact her job makes on viewers. "I like being involved in putting together smart programs in which the viewer learns something," she said. Webb serves as a producer for *Late Edition with Wolf Blitzer*, *State of the Union with Candy Crowley* and *Reliable Sources*. "I like being able to talk to and interact with people who decide important issues."

But being a journalist in Washington isn't without its challenges. Personal time is often cut short when there is news to report. Webb, who normally works on weekends, took time off to attend the Founders Day celebration in February. It also happened to be the day that a gunman shot 19 people in Arizona including Congresswoman, Gabrielle Giffords. "I first saw the first message at 1:30," she said. When the luncheon ended later that afternoon, Webb telephoned her executive producer. "I said 'I saw what happened,' and he said, 'yeah you better come back in.'" Seymour said it is sometimes difficult to balance her busy work life with her busy family life. "I'm finding that when I used to do a lot of community based things on weekends, now I have to try and balance that with girls who are becoming members of society and all that they do," she said. "I don't want them to suffer because mommy has a job where she has to go do stuff on the weekends." Intellectual differences can also be challenging, Seymour said. "It's trying to stay objective when issues really hit home and you want to speak out about them," she said. "I always wonder 'am I in the right business,' because I have strong opinions on different things and you can't really share that."

Seymour joined WTTG in 1999 after stints at stations in upstate New York and St. Louis, MO. The D.C. native said she felt blessed to be offered the opportunity to return to her hometown 12 years ago. "I love, love, love D.C.," she said. "This is really the only place that I've ever wanted to work." Seymour, 43, grew up in Northwest Washington and now lives in Silver Spring, MD with her husband, radio host, Marc Clarke, and their three daughters. Her local roots are what endear her to many viewers. "What happens here, happens to me," Seymour said. "Sometimes the community doesn't have that strong of a voice, and if you could turn on the TV and someone makes a reference to something that's important to you, or when we talk about Meridian Park and I say 'ok

also known as Malcolm X Park,' that is a perspective that I feel proud to offer to my co-workers who aren't from here, and to let the community know that I care."

But there is one local delicacy Seymour said she doesn't care for. "I don't like crabs," she said. Seymour spent summers as a child with her grandparents in South Carolina and was made to pick crabs and shrimp. "I don't want to see a shellfish," she said. "I'll eat a crab cake though!"

Both Seymour and Webb are legacies and received their first introductions to Delta through their mothers. "My mama is a good woman," Seymour said. "And in her were the qualities that I wanted to live my life by." "She gave me all the tools I needed to even dare try to pledge a sorority." And by the time Seymour did dare to become a Delta at Hampton University (Gamma Iota) in 1986, she had even more role models to look up to. "When I got to school, the Deltas were just running campus and I wanted to be one of them," she said.

"Not that women in other organizations aren't wonderful women, but for me, I guess it was kind of in my DNA." Webb shares a similar history.

An only child, Webb's mother, aunt, cousin and late godmother are all Deltas, but she was even more influenced when she arrived at Howard University, where she was initiated in 1981. "I had the intellectual knowledge about Delta, but the Alpha chapter sorors I think made the emotional sale for me," Webb said. "They just came across as so smart and savvy." "They did positive things and they came across as loving each other very much." "I was like 'I really, really want to be a part of this.'"

For both Seymour and Webb, who entered the field of journalism more than two decades ago, not only has the diversity of the field changed, but the technology as well. "The way we're gathering news electronically, that whole system has changed," Seymour said. "And all this social media." Seymour said reporters are even required to sometimes film their own stories as well. "They're even going to these one man bands," she said. "We used to just do this in small markets, but a reporter in a top ten market like Washington, needs to know how to shoot." For Webb, the cycle of cable news requires stiff competition. "I still remember when there were the three nightly broadcasts for 30 minutes and then there were newspapers and magazines," she said. "That has totally changed now." Founded in 1980, CNN was the first network to offer 24-hour news coverage. Since then, networks like MSNBC and FOX News have sprung up in its path. And for Webb, that means added pressure. "There's now a pressure on journalists and producers and newsroom managers to constantly pump out info," she said. "Add to that, the explosion of the blogosphere, add to that twitter."

And the 24-hour news cycle has had an unfortunate effect on local news coverage which is one way Seymour said journalism has shifted since she began her career. "Sadly I'm also living through a shift in importance and devaluing of local news and saying you can get it online," she said. "I still really feel like, you want to turn on the TV and see somebody that you know and get your news from that person."

But despite the influx of cable news, Seymour is still popular with local viewers and is often approached on the street. "I can get the big stories and talk to the newsmakers and that's fine, that's what I do," she said. "But meeting people in the community and feeling like I've had an impact—a positive one, in their life somehow, is the reason I do what I do."



Sorors Tracee Wilkins and Allison Seymour share laughs.

Regional Day of Service

The Importance of Adoption and Foster Care

By Sharon J. Smith

The Federal City Alumnae (FCAC) and Washington D.C. Alumnae (WDCAC) Chapters of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. answered the call to shed light on the trials and triumphs surrounding adoption and foster care. In April, the two D.C. Delta chapters co-sponsored this year's Regional Day of Service in conjunction with the Progressive Life Center. *Giving Birth to Families: An Adoption and Foster Care Expo*, was held Saturday, April 2 at the Howard University School of Social Work. It included plenary, panel and breakout sessions, a keynote speaker, and a vendor exhibit hall.

The day began with renowned author and Executive Director for Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children of DC, (CASA DC), Shane Salter. Mr. Salter shared his story of being abandoned with his infant brother by his drug-addicted, teenaged mother at the age of four. This resulted in years of growing up in several different foster care homes, until Salter was placed in a permanent home. Despite his obstacles, Salter went on to become a devoted adoptive parent to special needs children of his own. Unfortunately his sibling was not as fortunate. Salter's younger brother today bears the scars of foster care, which have included drug addiction and incarceration. Salter's heart wrenching, yet inspirational story begged the question of the day: *'How can we care for children in the foster care system?'*

The morning panel discussion, *What You Need to Know About Adoption*, was moderated by Barbara Harrison, an anchor at WRC-TV, NBC4, and the host of Wednesday's Child. During the panel discussion, attendees received valuable information about adoption including, adoption of older children and siblings, and monetary and/or voluntary support to foster care, adoption, and child welfare organizations like CASA, Friends of Wednesday Child Fund, Extra-Ordinary Life, founded by FCAC soror Stacie Turner, local group homes and Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.

One of the most memorable moments of the panel discussions was a question from one of the attendees, Manon Matchett, who said, "I have been looking for her for a long time and today you introduced me to my daughter." Matchett's daughter was one of the foster care children highlighted during the morning panel discussion and also attended the FCAC/WDCAC joint *It's All About You birthday* party held in February for foster children.

The breakout sessions allowed current and prospective adoptive and foster care parents to get a more intimate look at *Effective Parenting Models and How to Prepare Your Heart for Adoption and Foster Care*. Attendees received useful information on how to prepare financially, physically, emotionally, and spiritually for adoption and foster care. The sessions also provided information on several free resources provided by adoption agencies that are available for adoption and foster care parents, including: tuition assistance, child care vouchers and support groups for adoptive and foster parents.

The afternoon and final panel discussion, *Are You Ready to Change Lives for the Better?* was moderated by Soror Allison Seymour, anchor at WTTG-TV, and included Turner, who herself spent time in foster care until she was adopted into a loving home. It was during this time that attendees heard other success stories and how supportive the adoption and foster care community is to each other. "This issue is very near and dear to my heart," Seymour said. "The most important thing that you can do is improve the life of a child."



The second panel included Soror Stacie Turner (FCAC) and was moderated by Soror Allison Seymour.

The Statistics

- Number of children in foster care in region: **4500**
- Available Foster Homes in Region: **2100**
- Percentage of Children in D.C. Foster Care who are Black: **88 %**

When I Became a Delta...

Can You Guess Who This Soror Is?

(Scroll to page 17 for the answer)



...Soror Mona Humphries Bailey was Delta's National President

...I was a student at The Wharton School in Pennsylvania

...I was a member of Wharton Women, Black Wharton and the French conversation club

...President Ronald Reagan was shot by John Hinckley, Jr. outside a hotel in Washington, D.C.

...A new cable television station named MTV was launched

...Sandra Day O'Connor was confirmed as the first female Supreme Court justice

...Yarborough & Peoples were burning up the charts with *Don't Stop the Music* and Chaka Khan was doing the same with *What Cha' Gonna Do for Me*

...The IBM Personal Computer (PC) was released

...Charles Fuller's *A Soldier's Play* premiered in New York (It would later be adapted into the film, *A Soldier's Story* starring Adolph Caesar and Denzel Washington)

May 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Sorority Meeting 10 a.m.
8 <i>Mother's Day</i>	9 Get it Right Cooking Class 6:30 p.m.	10	11	12	13 Delta Academy Meeting 6:30 p.m.	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Get it Right Guts and Guns 6:30 p.m.
22	23	24	25	26 Delta GEMS Meeting 6:30 p.m.	27	28 Delta Academy Activity 10 a.m.
29	30	31				



Candidate Phillip Pannell addresses the crowd.

WARD 8 CANDIDATES FORUM

DC Residents Gather to Meet the Candidates

By Antoinette McIntosh

On March 30, The Federal City Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (FCAC) along with the Anacostia Coordinating Council, local AARP, The Re-entry Network for Returning Citizens, Congress Heights Community Association, Capitol City Associates, and ANC 8E and ANC 8C, co-hosted a candidates forum for the vacant At-Large City Council seat and the Ward 8 School board positions. An audience of approximately 100 people listened as candidates explained their positions on topics that affect our communities. The forum, divided into two sessions, was moderated by Sam Ford, veteran WJLA-TV reporter.

The first session was dedicated to the School Board election. Eight candidates (Soror Sandra V. Williams, Trayon White, Cordell Shelton, Tijwana Philips, Larry Pretlow, Philip Pannel, Anthony Mohammed and Eugene Kinlow) running for the vacant position on the school board gave their proposed solutions for truancy and ways to address students with special needs. The topic of vocational education was also addressed as a means to keep students involved in school and provide them with tangible skills after graduation. One candidate, Mohammed, suggested that parents be required to attend PTA meetings in order for their child to graduate. A majority of the candidates acknowledged that charter schools are beginning to outpace traditional schools in terms of enrollment and that this statistic would affect the future of DC Public Schools.

The second session, focusing on the At-Large election, had five candidates participate. Notably, Vincent Orange was present, but left due to a sudden death in his family. The forum had a moment of silence for Orange.



Reporter, Sam Ford moderated the event.

The forum was a non-partisan event and Republican candidate Patrick Mara, and Statehood Green Party candidate Alan Paige were active participants. The other candidates were Bryan Weaver, Tom Brown, and current School Board member Dorothy Douglas. Acting At-Large Councilmember Sekou Biddle did not attend.

The candidates discussed topics ranging from government salaries, the role of media as a political “watchdog” and their stance on publicly funded school vouchers. However, the main focus for the evening seemed to be the unemployment rate that is disproportionately high for Ward 8 residents. Mara, with agreement from Weaver and Page, stated that the real problem is job readiness. There is also the fact that the Department of Homeland Security’s Headquarters Site, scheduled to locate to St. Elizabeth’s Hospital in Ward 8, is controlled by Federal hiring standards. Brown stated “we need to get employers to the table,” during these discussions in order to change the way employers “screen returning citizens.”

One of Ford’s final questions to the candidates was “Where do you think the media goes overboard?” Brown, responded, “the media should not be the place where we find out information about our city.” “We need to be in the hearing rooms,” he said.

FCAC IN PHOTOS



In March, the third grade students of Martin Luther King Elementary school learned the principles of hip-hop with the CityDance Ensemble. –Photographs courtesy of Soror Tynisha Brooks



This year, FCAC partnered with the Kelly Miller Middle School in Northeast Washington for their science fair. More than 100 students in grades 6 through 8 participated in the fair. Projects were judged by four guest judges including WRC-TV NBC4 meteorologist, Chuck Bell (pictured above left). Designated cash awards, distributed per grade level, were \$100 for the winner, \$75 for second place and \$25 for third place.

–Photographs courtesy of Soror Sandra Griffin; summary courtesy of Soror Lisa Boykin.



I am...

Soror Carla Chissel!

Epsilon Phi, Fall '81

- Member of the Finance Committee
- Member of the Social Action Committee

To submit your profile to “When I Became a Delta,”
email: lifeline@thefcacadst.org

Include the following: Your name; chapter, semester
and year of initiation; any activities you were involved
in; any current FCAC activities.

Photos: 1: One ‘vintage’ photo taken within two years
of your initiation. 2: One current photo taken within
the past two years.

Steppers from the
Calvary Christian
Academy.



STOMP D.A.T.

Stomping at the Drug Free Zone

By Miya Wiseman

Photographs by LaShaunda Ford

Howard University's Cramton Auditorium swelled to an audience of more than 1000 on March 26th. The crowd came to witness the 9th annual STOMP D.A.T.®: Stomping at the Drug Free Zone, youth step show. Sponsored by the Federal City Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., (FCAC) and the Federal City Public Service Foundation, STOMP D.A.T., which stands for Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco, is the largest youth step show in the Washington Metropolitan region. Teams from as far as Nokesville, VA competed against each other with raucous syncopated hand and foot rhythms, elaborate routines and inspiring chants eschewing the use of harmful substances.

And this year, STOMP D.A.T. came to the attention of the highest office in the land. The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy's (ONDCP) Deputy Director, David Mineta was among the crowd with his wife and two young children. Mineta gave words of encouragement to the audience and later presented awards to the three winning teams.

"It was an amazing show," Mineta said later. "Being able to appreciate the hard work of the teams and seeing all that come together was great." Mineta, oldest son of former Transportation Secretary, Norman Mineta is no stranger to Washington, but spent most of his career in his home state of California. Prior to his White House appointment in July of 2010, Mineta spent 20 years promoting substance abuse prevention for several organizations. Although STOMP D.A.T. was the first step show, Mineta attended, he said he was impressed by the showmanship and message put forth by the participants. "The best messengers are the kids," he said. "It's something seeing such great role models saying 'no, I'm about this: I'm not about that.'" "When I was growing up, I wish I had these guys."

Radio host, Sheila Stewart along with WRC-TV reporter and FCAC Soror, Tracee Wilkins served as mistresses of ceremonies for the event. Wilkins awarded gift cards to young audience members who gave the correct answers to drug and alcohol questions.

For the second straight year, the *Shades of You* team proved victorious. The first place winners, who all hail from



ONDCP Deputy Director, David K. Mineta with Soror Tracee Wilkins of WRC-TV NBC4.



First place team, *Shades of You*.

Herndon High School in Herndon, VA, wowed the audience with their energy, enthusiasm and catchy anti-drug chants. Dressed in red shirts and sharp bow ties, *Shades of You* never missed a beat. The team also gave a special tribute step to the nine black Greek letter organizations, who were represented in the judging panel.

“The winning team I thought was very smart,” Mineta said. “They talked to the judges, they went to all the national fraternities and sororities and they obviously got their drug and alcohol message in there as well.” They covered all the bases.”

Mineta also expressed his pleasure at FCAC’s approach to substance abuse prevention. “The other thing that’s really important to us is that the community elders—the Federal City Chapter is taking a strong leadership role about being drug-free and being healthy and making healthy choices.”

In the 1980’s then First Lady, Nancy Reagan made “Just Say No” to drugs a familiar phrase. Mineta said that message has evolved. “That was maybe part of the message—being able to say no,” he said. “What we know now is that you have to say yes to something.” “If you say no, you’re going to have to say yes to some other pursuit, something to replace it.” “And if it’s not drug use, then what is it?” “It’s something healthy like this.”

Although Mineta has been involved with drug prevention for two decades, he was at a loss for words when questions about drugs came from his own daughter. “I was shocked,” Mineta said. “She’s eight years old.” “I’ve done this for 20 years and I’ve talked to everybody else’s kid, then with my kid, I couldn’t say anything.” After the initial shock, Mineta gathered himself and explained drugs to his young daughter. “We just want to make sure that our kids are in a place where they can actually talk to us and they can feel comfortable asking us questions even if it makes me feel a little funny,” he said. And young women are the demographic that ONDCP said programs like STOMP D.A.T. are essential in reaching out to. Members of the Delta GEMS read facts about substance abuse throughout the program.

“It’s especially important for young women to hear that message,” he said. “To see their role models in all different age levels saying the same thing and being great role models— I can’t ask for a better vehicle than the Deltas being able to get that out across the country.”

That message is one that Mineta hopes that other chapters and organizations adopt. Not every alumnae chapter is doing this now, but it seems to me a perfect, perfect vehicle to get the message across,” he said. “Because that’s the president and first lady’s message.” “They’re the living example of that.”

Sister Soldier

Lending a Helping Hand to Our Brave Sisters Overseas

By *Antoinette McIntosh*



Sorors in front of the Dorothy Irene Height U.S. Post Office.

to “fellowship with a purpose.” The event included lots of food, games from Bingo to Wii and the “Sister Soldier Packing Party.” The Sister Soldier Project, an initiative started by Myraline Morris Whitaker, in California, operates with the purpose of sending special care packages for women of color serving in active duty military. This project had a great impact as all Washington DC Chapters, both collegiate and alumnae, collected items to ship 100 packages to the dedicated black women soldiers, including Deltas who risk their lives for our country.

Soft Sheen Carson donated enough product for each soldier to receive a hair permanent kit, full size bottles of shampoo and conditioner and two jars of hair gel. Soror Angela Guy, the head of Soft-Sheen Carson eagerly volunteered to provide these products. Sorors also donated or collected hand sanitizers, dental hygiene items (toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, mouthwash), “ethnically correct” comb and/or brush, soap, lotion, hair scrunchies, magazines, razors, shaving cream and feminine hygiene products. Notably, Delta Research Education Foundation (DREF) donated more than 100 customized promotional hand sanitizers and newsletters. “Thank You” cards from DC Project ACE, the Delta GEMS and the Shabazz Academy were also included. The project was made even more special because packages were shipped from The Dorothy Irene Height Post Office.

For Sisterhood Month, the Federal City Alumnae Chapter of Delta

Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (FCAC) partnered with PRO-JEKT ACE and the Washington DC Alumnae Chapter

-----Original Message-----

From: xxxx, Andrea C PFC USA USF-I USF-I JOC J2/WAUKB1
Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2011 9:03 PM
To: Myraline Morris Whitaker
Subject: RE: Sending Free Hair Care Packages, Need 300 More Names by Tuesday, March 29! (8)

Myraline,

Thank you so much for the hair care packages. With the weather getting hotter here it is so difficult to keep your hair well moisturized. I am planning on sending a thank you note to the lovely ladies of Delta Sigma Theta DC chapter. I appreciated the thoughtfulness of the people that take the time out of their day to help us out over here and am grateful for your organization. People do not know how great it is to know that someone back home cares...It's not really about the products or anything in the box but the thought and that someone cared enough to think of me. Here it's all about the mission so often (esp. being the only black female in my group of 4 females total) it's easy to feel alone and isolated due to lack of relating to others, so every time I get a package I say...wow there is a sister that has my back.

Regards,

Andrea
US Army

An actual email from an enlisted soldier.

The Recipe Corner

What's Cooking in FCAC

Bacon and Cheese Bites

-Submitted by Soror Judy Mason

No-stick cooking spray
1/2 cup of sour cream
1 tablespoon of water
1 cup of Buttermilk Pancake & Waffle Mix (Just Add Water)
1/2 cup (2 oz.) shredded Cheddar cheese
1/4 cup bacon, cooked and crumbled
2 tablespoons butter, melted
Paprika



Instructions:

Heat oven to 400°F.

Spray cookie sheet with no-stick cooking spray.

Mix sour cream and water in medium bowl until well combined.

Add pancake mix, cheese and bacon pieces.

Stir just until dry ingredients are moistened.

Drop by rounded teaspoons onto prepared cookie sheet.

Bake 10 to 12 minutes or until lightly browned.

Brush with melted butter; sprinkle with paprika.

Serve warm.

Makes 24 appetizers.