



**XAVIER**  
UNIVERSITY of LOUISIANA



## Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Alpha Lambda Chapter Alums Announce \$112,500 Scholarship Endowment to Xavier University of Louisiana

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**New Orleans, LA –** Today, eight Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Alpha Lambda Chapter Alumni Members signed an agreement with Xavier University of Louisiana to donate \$112,500 to the university, establishing the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Alpha Lambda Chapter Alumni Scholarship Endowment. This agreement comes after an initial donation of \$25,000 towards the launch. The inaugural endowment donors include **Dr. Otis Gowdy, Jr. (XU '95; PBS F'94)(Meridian, MS)**, **Dr. Trevonne Thompson (XU '97; PBS F'94)(Chicago, IL)**, **Dr. Vincent Ekenga (XU '12; PBS F'08)(New Orleans, LA)**, **Mr. Ian Heisser (XU '95; PBS Spr '91)(Seattle, WA)**, **Dr. Elton J. Smith (XU '97; PBS F'95)(Wilmington, Delaware)**, **Dr. Anthony Montegut (XU '97; PBS F'94)(Omaha, NE)**, **Dr. Antwar Harrell (XU '96; PBS F'94)(Houston, TX)**, and **Donald R. Naylor, Jr., Esq. (XU '97; PBS F'94)(Houston, TX)**. The alumni members pledged the endowment in honor of the 80<sup>th</sup> Charter Anniversary of the Alpha Lambda Chapter, which was chartered on July 24, 1940.

The group plans to fully fund the initiative by 2025 in recognition of the university's centennial celebration. The inaugural endowment donors all graduated from Xavier University, and credit the institution for launching them into successful careers. The endowment was secured following more than a year of internal planning and months of discussions with Kimberly Reese, Xavier's Associate Vice President for Institutional Advancement. The inaugural donors established the endowment as part of a larger group of more than thirty Alpha Lambda Chapter Alums from all over the United States.

"We are looking forward to this initiative becoming a part of the culture of scholarship and service that is already present at Xavier," said Reese. "This partnership will enable us to continue expanding strong alumni relationships, which is one of the most important ways that we can do our part to ensure the success of current and future Xavierites."

The endowment was announced on Friday, January 8, 2021, in honor of the 107<sup>th</sup> Founding Anniversary of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. as part of their re-dedication to the high ideals of Brotherhood, Scholarship, and Service the fraternity has espoused since its founding on January 9, 1914.

"In establishing this endowment, we honor our time as collegiate members of Alpha Lambda Chapter where we grew as young men and committed ourselves to the fraternity's principle of scholarship," said Donald Naylor, alumni member. "We honor our beloved and noble Xavier for the strong academic and impactful life education we received, and more importantly, we are planting a legacy seed to assist generations of students coming after us. We invite others to join us by giving to this endowment."

This gift is the latest partnership initiative that will empower current and future Xavier students with access to the institution's exceptional education. Xavier has a long history of producing more African American physicians than any other institution in the United States. The institution has also produced some of the nation's top attorneys, military officers, artists and musicians, pharmacists, engineers, educators, and business leaders - many of whom are Phi Beta Sigma, Alpha Lambda Chapter Alums. The Inaugural Donors hope to prolong this history of excellence with this Endowment.

To donate, please visit: <https://giving.xula.edu/pages/-phi-beta-sigma-alpha-lambda-chapter-alumni>

For more information call (504) 520-7575 or email [alumni@xula.edu](mailto:alumni@xula.edu)

80<sup>th</sup>  
CHAPTER CHARTER  
1940 - 2020 ANNIVERSARY



HEISSER



EKENGA



THOMPSON



GOWDY



SMITH



HARRELL



MONTEGUT



NAYLOR



PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY, INC.  
ALPHA LAMBDA CHAPTER ALUMNI

*Scholarship Endowment*

INAUGURAL DONORS COMMIT OVER \$100K



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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Email [alumni@xula.edu](mailto:alumni@xula.edu)

### ***About Xavier University of Louisiana***

Being America's only historically Black and Catholic University is only the first among many distinctions that have set Xavier University of Louisiana apart for more than nine decades. Despite its relatively small size (3,300 students), Xavier is a nationally recognized leader in the STEM and the health sciences, producing more African American students who graduate from medical schools each year than any other university in the United States. Its College of Pharmacy is among the top producers of African American pharmacists.

Its liberal arts-based programs in such areas as art, business, education, psychology, and political science – as well as recent additions in bioinformatics, data science, neuroscience, crime and social justice, and jazz studies – offer students an unbeatable combination of traditional classroom study, hands-on research, service-learning opportunities, and life experiences. The winning Xavier formula provides students with a well-balanced curriculum and an environment that nurtures their intellect and feeds their souls.

For more information about Xavier University of Louisiana, visit us online at [www.xula.edu](http://www.xula.edu) or follow us on Facebook, YouTube, or Twitter @XULA1925. To book interviews and/or to speak with our experts in the field of pharmacy, education, premed, public health, science, technology, math, business, English, communications, and the arts, contact Lance Sumler at (504) 520-5240 or [lsumler@xula.edu](mailto:lsumler@xula.edu).

### ***About Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.***

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity was founded on January 9, 1914, at Howard University in Washington, D.C., by three African American male students on the principles of Brotherhood, Scholarship, and Service. The Founders conceived Phi Beta Sigma as a mechanism to deliver services to the general community. This deep conviction is reflected in the Fraternity's motto, Culture for Service and Service For Humanity. Today, Phi Beta Sigma has blossomed into an international organization of leaders, with more than 800 chapters chartered across the United States and Canada, Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Europe. The Fraternity delivers transformative experiences through its international programs of Bigger and Better Business, Social Action, Education and Sigma Beta Club (youth mentorship program), as well as collaborations with strategic partners. For more information, visit [www.phibetasigma1914.org](http://www.phibetasigma1914.org).