

THE ARTERY

DECEMBER 2009

EPSILON NU DELTA PRESIDENT SPEAKS**Bro. Clarence Glover****Brothers and Sorors:**

Where has the year gone? 2009 has taken the wings of the morning and flown away.

This year has presented many a challenge to our profession. Things truly are not as they used to be! I have been touched and saddened at the "pot shots" individuals and "powers that be" have taken at us. The frivolous lawsuits filed and we have had to spend good money to defend a cause that is right. Yet there have been those that had we just, listened to that still small voice, been a bit more prudent, spent a little more time, a little more money, slowed down just a tad, listened to our first mind, used that disclaimer thing, may have turned out differently.

I charge each of you to check out your State Laws. Take a refresher course in your laws. I'll bet some have changed and you weren't aware of the changes. Cut backs in government have caused many professions and individuals to be ill-informed.

It is our sincere prayer and desire that 2010 will be, for each of us, a prosperous, healthy and successful year all the way around!

We are looking for a banner attendance at the Osiris in Texas. In addition we will be honoring two "charter" members of Epsilon. They are eagerly awaiting our arrival to meet each of us. The host chapter, our coordinator and the general secretary have worked splendidly to insure that our stay in Dallas will be rewarding. Do get your airline tickets soon. I understand that there is an athletic event being held at the same time. Be sure not only to make your flight arrangements but send your reservations in to the National Office as soon as possible so we can get a good head count.

Remember your Brothers and Sorors who walk through the valley of shadows, are ill or going through it with families, business etc. Don't forget if not for the grace of God there go I!

See you in Dallas

Bro. Clarence



Epsilon Nu Delta President
Bro. Clarence Glover

Member Spotlight: Tryphina Wiseman

Member Spotlight. If you know of a deserving brother or soror who should be recognized in this column, please contact us.

The Artery interviewed Tryphina Wiseman of North Carolina's XI Chapter recently. XI Chapter is famous for the teddy bears it distributes to hospitalized children.



Tell us a little about yourself. I am co-owner of the Wiseman Mortuary Inc. in Fayetteville, NC. I am a graduate of Fayetteville Technical community College. My family firm was started in February 1970 by my parents Walter L. and Lenora Wiseman. My father passed just a few days shy of my 16th birthday. My high school let me co-op and I would come to the funeral home to help mom run the business because she was still working as a nurse. Mom and I have made great progress over the years. Business has increased, a new facility constructed, and although we had two building fires, we're still moving forward.

When did you join Epsilon Nu Delta? I joined in September of 1994 under the direction of the late Thomas "Tommy" Harbor. (Editor's note: Brother Harbor went on to become National President of Epsilon Nu Delta.)

What have been some of your activities within your chapter? I am past secretary, vice president, committee chair and past president of Xi Chapter. **Ed: Wow! You have really been busy on a local level with your Fraternity.**

What are some of your activities outside of Epsilon Nu Delta? Member of Cape Fear District Funeral Directors and Morticians Association of North Carolina, NFD&MA, The Birdies, 100 Black Women in Funeral Service, Ladies Auxiliary, and DMORT. I have also recently been appointed to the North Carolina Board of Mortuary Science.

Given all of the organizations in funeral service you belong to, why did you choose to join Epsilon Nu Delta? I choose to be active in Epsilon Nu Delta to keep abreast of the embalming aspect of funeral service. I am very cautious of my health and my staff plus I like for decedents in my care to look as perfect as possible. I believe that being active in Epsilon is beneficial both socially and academically. Their one-on-one embalming knowledge is more than can be learned in a class room.

Do you have any advice for persons coming into funeral service? There are more and more directors getting into the profession. I feel that a person should have dual licenses. If you are going to be truly devoted, you have to have some contact with the deceased.

FACING THE CHALLENGE: THE FUNERAL DIRECTORS RESPONSIBILITY TO THE DONOR FAMILY

By Kenneth Dupree

The majority of those who read this article has been or are currently under doctors care to varying degrees. We consult our doctor for treatment of acute and chronic illnesses. The doctor gives us a prescription, we take the prescription to our pharmacy of choice, and in most cases our quality of life is restored. However, there are illnesses whose treatment cannot be found in the local pharmacy or Doctors office: chronic or acute illnesses whose only treatment is an organ transplant. Though advances in Transplant Medicine millions of people who stood at the brink of death now enjoy a second chance at life because of the altruistic gift of life. According to the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) over 100,000 patients (Nationally) are waiting for various types of transplants. Between January and May of 2009 there were 6011 donors (nationally) which resulted in 11,908 transplants. In Pennsylvania alone there are over 7400 people waiting for organs. Organ and Tissue donation not only saves lives, it also improves the quality of life through procedures such as heart valves, corneas and appliances made from long bone allograph. Organ Donation is no longer an experimental science. The procedures are constantly developing in ways that positively affect the lives of millions who are in need of transplants.



The decision to donate can be made by a person prior to death by signing a donor card or indicating their wishes in driver's licenses. The decision can also be made by the next of kin after death has occurred. The decision to become a donor is personal. It is an opportunity to give life in the face of death. During my tenure as a member of the Board of Directors at the Gift of Life Organ Donor Program in Philadelphia I have had the opportunity to meet both Donor Families and Organ Recipients. They are special people. Donor families are comforted with knowing that several people enjoy the normal routines of life which most of us take for granted. The recipients are grateful for another day which would not have been possible without the Gift of Life.

The question becomes, what is the responsibility of the Funeral Service Professional to the family who has decided to give the Gift of Life? We can all agree that our primary role as funeral directors is the Care of the Dead, Comfort of the Family and Protection of Public Health. With this understanding our first concern should be the preparation of the donor for end of life ritual requested by the family. This can be accomplished by insuring that our preparation rooms are adequately stocked with chemicals and sundries needed to treat the organ donor. In addition to our standard arterial fluids we must also stock dehydrate compounds and plastic garments.

Moreover, our technical staff should receive training in the preparation if the donor. As Organ Procurement Organizations such as Gift of Life in Philadelphia work to provide Organ and Tissue for transplant, organ donation will become more commonplace in the future. The Funeral Service Professional must fine tune their skills to meet the challenge.

Additionally, the Funeral Service Professional must embrace the Donor Family by honoring their decision to donate and executing their wishes for the final ritual. Given the development of chemical and sundries in our industry coupled with continuing education, donor families should never be denied visitation based solely on their decision to donate.

It is imperative for local funeral director associations to partner with the Organ procurement organization

OUR 2009 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

This year, Epsilon, with the help of the National Funeral Directors Mortuary Scholarship Fund was able to grant 6 scholarships to mortuary school students. Reading the applications was a work of love, for each person told a story of dedication and ambition, and the funeral service light shone for each! We wish the students all of the best as they enter the worthy professions of funeral directing and embalming. Following is brief information about each recipient along with excerpts from the scholarship application.

Latoya Logan: *Worsham College of Mortuary Science.* “[At a funeral home where I was



working in Chicago...] a guy came up to me and said how he felt we were so helpful to him and how they did a good job on his mother. When that man said how happy he was that made me feel good because I would love for everyone to feel that their loved one is in good hands and is at peace.”

Cecile D. Rowe recently graduated from *Gupton Jones* in Atlanta. “I wish I could attribute



my decision and choice to pursue an education in funeral services on something meaningful or philosophical like, “It was an epiphany in the middle of the night’, or ‘it was a blinding light on the road to Damascus’. My decision was neither of those. It was simply something I knew I had to do since the age of 15.”

Kathy Baril comes to funeral service after having obtained a business degree and being a hair stylist for 19 years. She is a student at *Wayne State University*. She



says, “I want to be that person of strength for someone; I want to make the families I serve have an easier transition through a death experience. I want to make the families I serve have an easier transition...not shut down...”

Karen DeValera has worked for over 24 years in the field of investigations. She is currently the manager for the Office of Internal Affairs; Department of Corrections (Washington, DC) At the time of her application, Karen was taking classes at *American Academy McAllister Institute* online. “I believe that my undergraduate degree, my Juris Doctorate degree...and my years of law enforcement experience is a perfect combination for this field.”



Howardia Turner: Worsham College of Mortuary Science. In her application she stated, “Being a mother of an infant that died at the age of 3 days old, I would NEVER put an infant in the Styrofoam casket that is offered for infants at a cheaper cost...that casket reminds me of the bucket you put fish in after your catch them. If I have to donate a real casket to every family that requests my service for their infant child, that I will do.”



Dionne L. Fortress : Wayne State University. She has a bachelor’s degree of Arts in Liberal Science from Bowling Green State University. She has worked as a certified pharmacy technician, and with a local transport service. “I have had the greatest pleasure in allowing families the closure they need with regard to cases which would otherwise have called for a closed casket, as I assist my employer with embalming work and take great pride and care in restorative work.”



Raphael Colley: Florida Community College “When you were young did you ever have the feeling you just couldn’t wait to get your driver’s license so that you could drive? Well that’s the way I feel about getting my mortuary license so that I can become a mortician.... While working at Reeds Funeral Home I’ve been taught that you should always serve the bereaved family with heart-warming care.”

Embalmers Go Hollywood

Hollywood, CA – Nu Chapter, Epsilon Nu Delta Mortuary Fraternity's 6th Annual Toy Drive and Embalmers' Holiday Mixer and Scholarship Gala was held on Saturday, November 7, 2009 at Hollywood Forever Funeral Home, Hollywood, California. The recipients this year were from Cypress College, Department of Mortuary Science.



Epsilon Nu Delta's membership is comprised of common gender, male and female licensed embalmers dedicated to the sacredness of service to the public during their hours of bereavement. **Bro. Anthony S. "Ted" Felder, CFSP**, Nu Chapter President, recognizes the necessity to encourage high scholastic standards among students of mortuary science. He asserts that it is the responsibility of mortuary science students and future embalmers to commit their lives to stellar funeral service, social, moral and educational pursuits. The late **Bro. Robert L.**

Paskel organized Nu Chapter in October 1951. Several years later members came together to expand the Western Region into other needed areas.

The momentum of the Mixer and the Scholarship Gala was attributed to the generous contributions from various co-sponsors: **Hollywood Forever (Homer Alba)**, **International Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association (ICCFA)**, **Morgan's Eloquent Designs (Rochelle Morgan-Hawkins)**, and **Nomis Publications**.

The Nu Chapter awarded scholastic scholarships to the following recipients: **Kyle Butler** (Riverside, CA), **Jessica Z. Garza** (Bakersfield, CA), **Adriana Wells** (Anaheim, CA), **Shawnika R. Joseph** (Moreno Valley, CA), **Franchesca Ricottone** (Fullerton, CA), **Megan Cassidy** (La Palma, CA). Those that will continue the mortuary science program will be extended invitations into the Horus Club. The Horus Club is the student membership branch of the Nu Chapter. The Chapter mentors the student recipients and if needed, assists them with preparing for the California Embalmers' Exam.



Embalmers Go Hollywood

The Mary L. Winston Scholarship Fund was established in June 2002 to defray the California Embalmers examination fees for minority students. This fund is exemplary of Mr. and Mrs. Winston life long dedication to the profession and a fitting tribute to her love for people. There were three winners of the *Mary L. Winston Award*:

Ernestine Burns (Los Angeles, CA), **Namya Shepard** (Inglewood, CA), **Linda McCoy** (Los Angeles). The Chapter also honored Cypress College Spring 2009 graduate **Krislyn Soto** (Corona, CA), with the distinguished *Empowerment Award*.

The *Empowerment Award* was created to acknowledge a young upcoming California Funeral Service Professional enrolled in a mortuary science program, serving their apprenticeship or a recently licensed embalmer. Each candidate must demonstrate the courage, stamina and persistence to endure the hurdles that arise for neophytes entering the profession. Krislyn is employed with **Memory Gardens Memorial Park and Mortuary**, of Brea, Ca.



This great evening was most successful as many gathered to network, support the local Mortuary Science Program and provide more than 100 toys for needy communities in Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Diego. The next big Nu Chapter event is the unparalleled Spring Embalming Technique and Restorative Art Seminar. Each spring the well attended seminar attracts licensees through out the state. The State of California does not require continued education review for licensees; nevertheless, Nu Chapter sees the need for personal enrichment for the novice and the experienced. To be placed on the contact list for events email Nu Chapter at end-nuchapter@gmail.com.



THE MORGUE

Are you looking for information? Are you looking for an article about mortuary science? Then you want to go to The Morgue. According to the website for Kansas City Community College, The Morgue is an "...index to English language journals within the field of Mortuary Science.

The need for a computerized indexing system to support students of Mortuary Science has been apparent for many years. The Morgue attempts to provide students, scholars and researchers with an on-line tool specifically targeted at the literature in field of Mortuary Science. The database can be searched by subject heading by scrolling through the subjects indexed list. The database can be searched by author's name by scrolling through the author's indexed list.

At this stage in its development, The Morgue does not index articles relating to association news, conventions, interviews, features, reader's forums, advertisements, classified ads, obituaries or briefs."

Go to www.kckcc.edu Then type The Morgue into the search engine, and you will be directed to the home page for the morgue. There are, according to the site, 60669 article, 322 journals, 1,225 authors and 2004 subjects all about mortuary science!

So if you need information quickly about mortuary science, if a student you know is researching mortuary science, go to the morgue.

We thank The Morgue for archiving articles from the Artery, as well as issues of the Artery 2005-present. Epsilon Nu Delta is proud to be affiliated with The Morgue!



We are delighted to inform you that the mighty Alpha Theta Chapter of Philadelphia has been reactivated.

LINKS IN OUR FRATERNAL CHAIN

We are pleased to announce the birth of Nya , daughter of Soror Danette Moore and her husband Kevin.

Brother James E. Churchman Jr. (Alpha Kappa Chapter, NJ) is now a great Grandfather. Aidan Jolie was born September 5, 2009.



Nya Moore

We regret to inform you of the passing of:

Earl V. "Pro" Felder, father of Brother Ted Felder

Our sister beloved Jacqueline Crawley Davis of Alpha Theta Chapter (PA) passed away. Jacquie was renowned for her ability to sing our Fraternity's song. We shall truly miss her.

Amanda McPhail mother of Soror Gloria Vessels Soror

Ruby Echols Alpha Omega Chapter

Brother Vernon R. Bailey Alpha Beta Chapter

Fenton Bland, Sr. , father of Past National President Epsilon Nu Dealt Brother Fenton Bland, Jr.

Tommie Richardson cousin of Soror Lynn Armstrong Patterson Alpha Delta Chapter

Pearl Jones aunt of Soror Donita Green Alpha Delta Chapter

James Smith father -in-law of Brother Calvin Turn Alpha Delta Chapter, the cousin of Brother Damien Hall Eta Chapter

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in their service area. This relationship can establish lines of communication to insure the procurement process does not interfere with the donor families request for the final ritual.

In 2000 the legendary Blues Artist B.B. King recorded a CD with Rock Star Eric Clapton entitled "Riding with the King". In an interview shortly after the release of the CD, B.B. King was asked what motivated him to record with Eric Clapton. He replied, "In this business you are either in or out." The response of the Funeral Service Professional to the expanding Science of Organ Donation will determine as a profession if we are in or out.

2009 Officers

Note: In order to cut down on unsolicited spam, the email addresses have the @ and . spelled out, as (at) and (dot). When entering the address into your e-mail program's "TO" window, type it in the usual manner, as in this example: jdoe@epsilonnudelta.org

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Annual Osiris of Epsilon Nu Delta Mortuary Fraternity, Inc.

February 12-15th, 2010

Doubletree Hotel Dallas (near the Galleria)

4099 Valley View Ln, Dallas, Tx 75244
(800) 222-8733(Tree)

Hotel: \$99 (END Rate)

Meeting Registration: \$185 (Before 01/31/10)

\$285 (after 01/31/10)

**Contact Soror Lynn Patterson-Armstrong at the
National Office for further information**

theendinc@aol.com

202.529.5579

Transportation to the Hotel from area Airports

Shuttle (Super Shuttle) 800-258-3826, reservations must be made at least 24 hrs in advance. Hotel information says, 12 miles from DFW, 8 miles from LOVE FIELD

FROM DFW to Hotel- shared ride-shuttle \$18 Multiple Stops
Private Execu-car- \$59 plus tip (15%) 4 can ride.

From LOVE FIELD- shared ride shuttle \$17 Multiple Stops
Private Execu-car- \$54 (plus Tip 15%) 4 can ride