

history of the divine nine

History of the Divine Nine: A Journey Through Legacy and Leadership

History of the divine nine is a fascinating exploration into the origins and impact of nine historically Black Greek-letter organizations (BGLOs) that have shaped African American culture, leadership, and social activism for over a century. These organizations, collectively known as the Divine Nine, have played a pivotal role in advancing education, civil rights, and community service. Their stories are woven into the fabric of American history, reflecting resilience, unity, and empowerment.

Understanding the Divine Nine: What Are They?

Before diving into the history of the Divine Nine, it's important to clarify what these organizations represent. The Divine Nine refers to the nine historically Black fraternities and sororities that make up the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC). Founded between 1906 and 1963, these groups were established during a time when African Americans faced significant racial discrimination and exclusion from mainstream Greek life. The Divine Nine provided a space for Black students to connect, support each other, and engage in leadership and activism.

The nine organizations include:

- Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. (1906)
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (1908)
- Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. (1911)
- Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. (1911)
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (1913)
- Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. (1914)
- Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. (1920)
- Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. (1922)
- Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc. (1963)

Each organization has a unique history and mission but shares a commitment to scholarship, leadership, and social justice.

The Origins: Early 20th Century Foundations

Alpha Phi Alpha: The Pioneer

The history of the Divine Nine begins with Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., founded on December 4, 1906, at Cornell University. It was the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for African American men. At a time when Black students faced exclusion and isolation on predominantly white campuses, Alpha Phi Alpha provided a brotherhood focused on academic excellence and social uplift.

The founders, known as the "Seven Jewels," envisioned the fraternity as a vehicle for leadership and advocacy. Alpha Phi Alpha became instrumental in the civil rights movement, producing notable members like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Thurgood Marshall.

Alpha Kappa Alpha: The First Sorority

Two years later, in 1908, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. was founded at Howard University by a group of African American women determined to create a sisterhood dedicated to scholarship and service. As the first Black Greek-letter sorority, AKA paved the way for women's leadership within the Black community and beyond.

The sorority emphasized education, community service, and civic engagement, setting a precedent for the other sororities that would follow. Alpha Kappa Alpha's influence is seen in its commitment to programs that address health, education, and economic empowerment.

The Expansion of the Divine Nine

Throughout the 1910s and 1920s, several other fraternities and sororities joined the movement, each adding to the rich tapestry of Black Greek life.

Kappa Alpha Psi and Omega Psi Phi: Brotherhood and Service

Founded in 1911, both Kappa Alpha Psi and Omega Psi Phi brought new dimensions to Black Greek life. Kappa Alpha Psi was established at Indiana University with a focus on achievement in every field of human endeavor, while Omega Psi Phi, founded at Howard University, emphasized manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift.

Omega Psi Phi holds the distinction of being the first fraternity founded at a historically Black college and university (HBCU). Both organizations have produced prominent leaders in politics, education, sports, and entertainment.

Delta Sigma Theta: A Sorority of Activism

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., founded in 1913 at Howard University by 22 young women, is renowned for its commitment to social activism and public

service. Its founders participated in the 1913 Women's Suffrage March in Washington, D.C., signaling a legacy of political engagement.

DST has since been involved in numerous initiatives addressing voter education, economic development, and support for underserved communities.

Phi Beta Sigma and Zeta Phi Beta: Brotherhood and Sisterhood with Purpose

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., founded in 1914 at Howard University, was created with the philosophy of "Culture for Service and Service for Humanity." Its founders aimed to establish a fraternity that would operate in close cooperation with the sorority Zeta Phi Beta, which was founded in 1920.

Zeta Phi Beta emphasized scholarship, service, sisterly love, and finer womanhood, complementing Phi Beta Sigma's mission. Both organizations have worked closely on community programs and educational initiatives.

Sigma Gamma Rho: Empowering Women

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. was founded in 1922 at Butler University by seven African American women dedicated to improving the quality of life for women and their families. It is known for its focus on education, leadership development, and community service.

Over the decades, Sigma Gamma Rho has sponsored programs dealing with youth development, health awareness, and family empowerment.

Iota Phi Theta: The Youngest Member

The final member of the Divine Nine, Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc., was founded in 1963 at Morgan State University. Emerging during the civil rights era, Iota Phi Theta distinguished itself with a commitment to activism and addressing social injustices.

Its founding reflected a new wave of consciousness and urgency within Black Greek life, emphasizing unity, respect, and leadership.

The Role of the National Pan-Hellenic Council

The National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) was established in 1930 as a collaborative governing body for the Divine Nine organizations. Its purpose was to foster cooperation among the fraternities and sororities, coordinate joint programs, and promote mutual respect.

The NPHC has been central in amplifying the collective voice of the Divine Nine, especially in areas like civil rights advocacy, educational advancement, and community development. Its annual conferences and collaborative initiatives continue to strengthen the bonds between these historic organizations.

The Impact of the Divine Nine on Society

The history of the Divine Nine is not just about founding dates and traditions; it's about the profound impact these organizations have had on African American communities and American society at large.

Leadership and Civil Rights

Many members of the Divine Nine have been at the forefront of social change. From Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (Alpha Phi Alpha) to Shirley Chisholm (Delta Sigma Theta), these organizations have nurtured leaders who challenged segregation, fought for voting rights, and advocated for equality.

Educational Empowerment

Scholarship is a cornerstone of the Divine Nine. These organizations provide scholarships, mentorship, and academic support to students, helping to open doors for future generations. Historically Black colleges and universities have often been hubs for Divine Nine chapters, reinforcing the importance of education within the Black community.

Community Service and Philanthropy

Service has always been central to the Divine Nine's mission. Whether through health initiatives, voter registration drives, or youth programs, these fraternities and sororities have dedicated themselves to uplifting their communities.

Exploring the Legacy Today

Understanding the history of the Divine Nine offers insight into how these organizations continue to evolve. They remain vibrant parts of college life and professional networks, adapting to contemporary challenges while honoring their heritage.

For students considering joining a BGLO, it's essential to recognize the blend of tradition, service, and leadership that characterizes the Divine Nine experience. Membership is not merely about social affiliation; it's a lifelong commitment to excellence and community impact.

Engagement with the Divine Nine also offers networking opportunities, mentorship, and a sense of belonging that transcends college years. Alumni often take active roles in supporting education, social justice, and economic development.

Tips for Those Interested in the Divine Nine

- **Research Each Organization:** Each fraternity and sorority has a distinct culture and mission. Understanding these differences can help prospective members find the best fit.
- **Focus on Service:** Active involvement in community service is a key expectation and benefit of membership.
- **Prepare Academically:** Scholarship is a priority, so maintaining strong academic performance is crucial.
- **Engage with Alumni:** Networking with current members and alumni can provide valuable insights and support.

The history of the Divine Nine is a testament to the power of unity, perseverance, and visionary leadership. These organizations embody a legacy that continues to inspire and empower new generations, proving that brotherhood and sisterhood extend far beyond the college years.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the 'Divine Nine' in the context of history?

The 'Divine Nine' refers to the nine historically Black Greek-letter organizations that make up the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), founded to promote scholarship, leadership, and community service among African American college students.

When was the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) founded?

The National Pan-Hellenic Council was founded in 1930 at Howard University to foster cooperation among the nine historically Black fraternities and sororities.

Which organizations make up the Divine Nine?

The Divine Nine consists of Alpha Phi Alpha, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi, Omega Psi Phi, Delta Sigma Theta, Phi Beta Sigma, Zeta Phi Beta, Sigma Gamma Rho, and Iota Phi Theta.

Why are these organizations collectively called the 'Divine Nine'?

They are called the 'Divine Nine' because there are nine historically Black Greek-letter organizations that have significantly contributed to African American culture, leadership, and civil rights efforts.

What role did the Divine Nine play in the Civil Rights Movement?

Members of the Divine Nine were instrumental in organizing, advocating, and

leading various initiatives during the Civil Rights Movement, promoting social justice and equality.

Who founded the first fraternity in the Divine Nine, and when?

Alpha Phi Alpha, the first fraternity in the Divine Nine, was founded by seven men, known as the 'Seven Jewels,' at Cornell University in 1906.

How have the Divine Nine organizations contributed to higher education?

The Divine Nine organizations have promoted academic excellence, leadership development, and community service among African American college students, helping to create supportive networks and scholarships.

Are the Divine Nine organizations exclusive to African American students today?

While originally founded to support African American students during segregation, today the Divine Nine organizations are open to individuals of all backgrounds who uphold their values and missions.

Additional Resources

The History of the Divine Nine: Exploring the Legacy of African American Greek Organizations

history of the divine nine traces the origins, development, and enduring impact of nine historically African American Greek-letter organizations. Collectively known as the Divine Nine, these fraternities and sororities have played a pivotal role in shaping African American collegiate culture, community leadership, and social activism since the early 20th century. Their rich legacy is intertwined with broader narratives of racial uplift, educational advancement, and civil rights advocacy, making an understanding of their history essential for appreciating their cultural and social significance today.

The Origins of the Divine Nine

The Divine Nine comprises nine Greek-letter organizations that were founded primarily to address the exclusion of African Americans from predominantly white fraternities and sororities during segregation. These organizations emerged as spaces where Black students could foster brotherhood and sisterhood, promote academic excellence, and engage in social and civic activities.

The Founding Organizations

The first of the Divine Nine was Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.,

established in 1906 at Cornell University. It holds the distinction of being the first intercollegiate historically African American fraternity. Alpha Phi Alpha set a precedent for creating supportive networks for African American men in higher education.

Following closely were other organizations:

- **Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.** (1908, Howard University) - The first African American Greek-letter sorority.
- **Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.** (1911, Howard University) - Known for its commitment to scholarship and community service.
- **Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.** (1913, Howard University) - Renowned for its focus on social activism.
- **Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.** (1911, Indiana University) - Notable for promoting achievement and leadership.
- **Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.** (1922, Butler University) - Emphasizes education and community service.
- **Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.** (1920, Howard University) - Focuses on scholarship, service, sisterhood, and finer womanhood.
- **Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.** (1914, Howard University) - Unique for its inclusive membership philosophy.
- **Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc.** (1963, Morgan State University) - The youngest member, emphasizing social action and leadership.

Significance and Impact of the Divine Nine

The history of the Divine Nine is not simply a chronology of organizational founding dates; it is a window into the resilience and agency of African American students amid systemic discrimination. These fraternities and sororities offered crucial support systems during periods of intense racial segregation and continue to influence campus culture and community leadership.

Educational Advancement and Leadership Development

Each organization within the Divine Nine has consistently prioritized academic achievement. For example, Alpha Phi Alpha has awarded scholarships and mentored young men to overcome educational barriers. Similarly, sororities like Alpha Kappa Alpha and Delta Sigma Theta have championed educational programs for young women, reinforcing the link between scholarship and social progress.

Moreover, the Divine Nine has been instrumental in cultivating leadership skills among members. Many notable civil rights leaders, politicians, educators, and cultural icons trace their roots to these organizations. Their

leadership development initiatives have extended beyond college campuses into professional spheres, fostering a legacy of empowerment.

Social Activism and Community Service

Historically, the Divine Nine's influence transcended social bonding. These organizations actively participated in the civil rights movement, voter registration drives, and community uplift programs. For instance, Delta Sigma Theta's involvement in the 1913 Women's Suffrage March exemplified early political activism among African American sororities.

Community service remains a hallmark of the Divine Nine's mission. Through nationwide programs addressing health disparities, educational inequities, and economic development, these organizations contribute tangible benefits to African American communities and society at large.

Challenges and Evolution Over Time

While the history of the Divine Nine is marked by triumphs, it also reflects the challenges of evolving social landscapes. The organizations have faced internal and external pressures, including controversies over hazing practices, membership exclusivity, and adapting to shifting cultural norms.

Addressing Hazing and Membership Issues

In recent decades, many Divine Nine organizations have confronted allegations of hazing, prompting reforms and increased emphasis on safe and ethical membership processes. These challenges highlight the tension between maintaining tradition and ensuring member welfare.

Additionally, discussions around membership inclusivity and the role of these groups in a diversifying student population have spurred debate. Some critics argue that exclusive Greek-letter organizations perpetuate social divides, while supporters emphasize their role in fostering identity and community.

Modern Adaptations and Digital Presence

The Divine Nine has also embraced technological advances to sustain relevance. Social media platforms and virtual events have expanded their reach, connecting alumni and undergraduate members globally. This digital transformation supports ongoing recruitment, philanthropy, and advocacy efforts.

Moreover, contemporary initiatives often address intersectional issues such as gender equality, mental health, and environmental justice, reflecting broader societal concerns within the organizations' traditional frameworks.

The Cultural Legacy of the Divine Nine

Beyond their organizational structures, the Divine Nine have significantly influenced African American culture and identity. Their symbols, rituals, and traditions are woven into the fabric of Black collegiate life and popular culture.

Symbols and Traditions

Distinctive colors, mottos, hand signs, and step shows characterize the Divine Nine's rich ceremonial life. These cultural expressions serve as markers of identity and solidarity, fostering intergenerational bonds among members.

Influence in Popular Culture

The impact of the Divine Nine extends into music, film, and literature, where references to their history and symbolism are common. Prominent artists and entertainers affiliated with these organizations often incorporate elements of their Greek heritage into their work, further amplifying the Divine Nine's visibility and cultural significance.

Understanding the Divine Nine in Contemporary Context

The history of the Divine Nine offers a lens through which to examine ongoing discussions about race, education, and community in America. As these organizations continue to evolve, their foundational commitment to leadership, service, and cultural pride remains a vital force.

For students and scholars alike, the Divine Nine represent more than social clubs; they embody a legacy of collective resilience and aspiration. Their story is integral to understanding the broader African American experience in higher education and beyond.

History Of The Divine Nine

history of the divine nine: The Divine Nine Lawrence C. Ross, 2001-01-01 From the creation of the first black fraternity at Cornell in 1906 to the present day, a fascinating history of America's nine black fraternities and sororities explores the roles of these organizations in shaping generations of African-American leaders. Reissue.

history of the divine nine: Black Greek-letter Organizations in the Twenty-First Century Gregory S. Parks, 2008-06-13 During the twentieth century, black Greek-Letter organizations (BGLOs) united college students dedicated to excellence, fostered kinship, and uplifted African Americans. Members of these organizations include remarkable and influential individuals such as Martin Luther King Jr., Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, novelist Toni Morrison, and Wall Street

pioneer Reginald F. Lewis. Despite the profound influence of these groups, many now question the continuing relevance of BGLOs, arguing that their golden age has passed. Partly because of their perceived link to hip-hop culture, black fraternities and sororities have been unfairly reduced to a media stereotype—a world of hazing without any real substance. The general public knows very little about BGLOs, and surprisingly the members themselves often do not have a thorough understanding of their history and culture or of the issues currently facing their organizations. To foster a greater engagement with the history and contributions of BGLOs, *Black Greek-Letter Organizations in the Twenty-first Century: Our Fight Has Just Begun* brings together an impressive group of authors to explore the contributions and continuing possibilities of BGLOs and their members. Editor Gregory S. Parks and the contributing authors provide historical context for the development of BGLOs, exploring their service activities as well as their relationships with other prominent African American institutions. The book examines BGLOs' responses to a number of contemporary issues, including non-black membership, homosexuality within BGLOs, and the perception of BGLOs as educated gangs. As illustrated by the organized response of BGLO members to the racial injustice they observed in Jena, Louisiana, these organizations still have a vital mission. Both internally and externally, BGLOs struggle to forge a relevant identity for the new century. Internally, these groups wrestle with many issues, including hazing, homophobia, petty intergroup competition, and the difficulty of bridging the divide between college and alumni members. Externally, BGLOs face the challenge of rededicating themselves to their communities and leading an aggressive campaign against modern forms of racism, sexism, and other types of fear-driven behavior. By embracing the history of these organizations and exploring their continuing viability and relevance, *Black Greek-Letter Organizations in the Twenty-first Century* demonstrates that BGLOs can create a positive and enduring future and that their most important work lies ahead.

history of the divine nine: Encyclopedia of the African Diaspora Carole Boyce Davies, 2008-07-29 The authoritative source for information on the people, places, and events of the African Diaspora, spanning five continents and five centuries. The field of African Diaspora studies is rapidly growing. Until now there was no single, authoritative source for information on this broad, complex discipline. Drawing on the work of over 300 scholars, this encyclopedia fills that void. Now the researcher, from high school level up, can go to a single reference for information on the historical, political, economic, and cultural relations between people of African descent and the rest of the world community. Five hundred years of relocation and dislocation, of assimilation and separation have produced a rich tapestry of history and culture into which are woven people, places, and events. This authoritative, accessible work picks out the strands of the tapestry, telling the story of diverse peoples, separated by time and distance, but retaining a commonality of origin and experience. Organized in A-Z sections covering global topics, country of origin, and destination country, the work is designed for easy use by all.

history of the divine nine: Black Greek-Letter Organizations in the 21st Century Gregory S. Parks, 2008-06-13 “A masterpiece of multidisciplinary scholarship that clearly demonstrates the contemporary relevance of black fraternities and sororities.” —Hasan Kwame Jeffries, author of *Bloody Lowndes* During the twentieth century, black Greek-Letter organizations (BGLOs) united college students dedicated to excellence, fostered kinship, and uplifted African Americans. Members of these organizations include remarkable and influential individuals such as Martin Luther King Jr., Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, novelist Toni Morrison, and Wall Street pioneer Reginald F. Lewis. Despite the profound influence of these groups, many now question the continuing relevance of BGLOs, arguing that their golden age has passed. To foster a greater engagement with the history and contributions of BGLOs, *Black Greek-Letter Organizations in the Twenty-first Century* brings together an impressive group of authors to explore the contributions and continuing possibilities of BGLOs and their members. Editor Gregory S. Parks and the contributing authors provide historical context for the development of BGLOs, exploring their service activities as well as their relationships with other prominent African American institutions. Both internally and externally, BGLOs struggle to forge a relevant identity for the new century. Internally, these groups wrestle with many issues,

including hazing, homophobia, petty intergroup competition, and the difficulty of bridging the divide between college and alumni members. Externally, BGLOs face the challenge of rededicating themselves to their communities and leading an aggressive campaign against modern forms of racism, sexism, and other types of fear-driven behavior. By embracing the history of these organizations and exploring their continuing viability and relevance, Black Greek-Letter Organizations in the Twenty-first Century demonstrates that BGLOs can create a positive and enduring future and that their most important work lies ahead.

history of the divine nine: Black American History For Dummies Ronda Racha Penrice, 2021-04-14 Go deeper than the Black History you may think you know! Black American History For Dummies reveals the terrors and struggles and celebrates the triumphs of Black Americans. This handy book goes way beyond what you may have studied in school, digging into the complexities and the intrigues that make up Black America. From slavery and the Civil Rights movement to Black Wall Street, Juneteenth, redlining, and Black Lives Matter, this book offers an accessible resource for understanding the facts and events critical to Black history in America. The history of Black Americans is the history of Americans; Americans dance to Black music, read Black literature, watch Black movies, and whether they know it or not reap the benefits of the vibrant political, athletic, and sociological contributions of Black Americans. With this book, you can dive into history, culture, and beyond. See how far there's yet to go in the approach to studying Black American culture and ending racism. Get the authoritative story on the growth and evolution of Black America from slavery, Reconstruction, Jim Crow, the Civil Rights era through to today Discover the Black artists, musicians, athletes, and leaders who have made the United States what it is Develop a fuller understanding of concerns about police brutality and other front-and-center race issues Find out how every aspect of American life connects to Black history Black American History For Dummies is for anyone who needs to learn or re-learn the true history about Black Americans.

history of the divine nine: Higher Education: Handbook of Theory and Research Michael B. Paulsen, Laura W. Perna, 2019-04-02 Published annually since 1985, the Handbook series provides a compendium of thorough and integrative literature reviews on a diverse array of topics of interest to the higher education scholarly and policy communities. Each chapter provides a comprehensive review of research findings on a selected topic, critiques the research literature in terms of its conceptual and methodological rigor and sets forth an agenda for future research intended to advance knowledge on the chosen topic. The Handbook focuses on a comprehensive set of central areas of study in higher education that encompasses the salient dimensions of scholarly and policy inquiries undertaken in the international higher education community. Each annual volume contains chapters on such diverse topics as research on college students and faculty, organization and administration, curriculum and instruction, policy, diversity issues, economics and finance, history and philosophy, community colleges, advances in research methodology and more. The series is fortunate to have attracted annual contributions from distinguished scholars throughout the world.

history of the divine nine: Ebony , 2008-04 EBONY is the flagship magazine of Johnson Publishing. Founded in 1945 by John H. Johnson, it still maintains the highest global circulation of any African American-focused magazine.

history of the divine nine: African American Fraternities and Sororities Tamara L. Brown, Gregory S. Parks, Clarendia M. Phillips, 2012-02-29 The rich history and social significance of the "Divine Nine" African American Greek-letter organizations is explored in this comprehensive anthology. In the long tradition of African American benevolent and secret societies, intercollegiate African American fraternities and sororities have strong traditions of fostering brotherhood and sisterhood among their members, exerting considerable influence in the African American community and being in the forefront of civic action, community service, and philanthropy. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Toni Morrison, Arthur Ashe, and Sarah Vaughn are just a few of the trailblazing members of these organizations. African American Fraternities and Sororities places the history of these organizations in context, linking them to other movements and organizations that predated them and tying their history to the Civil Rights movement. It explores various cultural

aspects of the organizations, such as auxiliary groups, branding, calls, and stepping, and highlights the unique role of African American sororities.

history of the divine nine: Confronting Racism in Higher Education Jeffrey S. Brooks, Noelle Witherspoon-Arnold, 2013-03-01 Racism and ignorance churn on college campuses as surely as they do in society at large. Over the past fifteen years there have been many discussions regarding racism and higher education. Some of these focus on formal policies and dynamics such as Affirmative Action or The Dream Act, while many more discussions are happening in classrooms, dorm rooms and in campus communities. Of course, corollary to these conversations, some of which are generative and some of which are degenerative, is a deafening silence around how individuals and institutions can actually understand, engage and change issues related to racism in higher education. This lack of dialogue and action speaks volumes about individuals and organizations, and suggests a complicit acceptance, tolerance or even support for institutional and individual racism. There is much work to be done if we are to improve the situation around race and race relation in institutions of higher education. There is still much work to be done in unpacking and addressing the educational realities of those who are economically, socially, and politically underserved and oppressed by implicit and overt racism. These realities manifest in ways such as lack of access to and within higher education, in equitable outcomes and in a disparity of the quality of education as a student matriculates through the system. While there are occasional diversity and inclusion efforts made in higher education, institutions still largely address them as quotas, and not as paradigmatic changes. This focus on “counting toward equity rather” than “creating a culture of equity” is basically a form of white privilege that allows administrators and policymakers to show incremental “progress” and avoid more substantive action toward real equity that changes the culture(s) of institutions with longstanding racial histories that marginalize some and privilege others. Issues in higher education are still raced from white perspectives and suffer from a view that race and racism occur in a vacuum. Some literature suggests that racism begins very early in the student experience and continues all the way to college (Berlak & Moyenda). This mis-education, mislabeling and mistreatment based on race often develops as early as five to ten years old and “follows” them to postgraduate education and beyond.

history of the divine nine: Historically Black Alonzo Vereen, 2022-12-06 From 2024 Democratic Presidential nominee Kamala Harris to Grammy Award-winning artist Megan Thee Stallion, HBCU attendees phenomenally excel and influence the world. Historically Black celebrates the achievements of these individuals and more iconic alumni in this vibrant collection of biographies and illustrated portraits. The first HBCU was founded in 1837, and today, more than 100 colleges and universities are registered under the HBCU banner. The powerful bonds and traditions from attending an HBCU often extend well beyond attendee’s college years — like the Divine Nine sororities now supporting their Alpha Kappa Alpha sister and 2024 Presidential Nominee, Kamala Harris. Historically Black documents not only HBCU cultural traditions like legacy wielding marching bands and impressive homecomings but also the remarkable stories of former students as their global impact grows. HBCU attendees in the book include: Booker T. Washington, James Weldon Johnson, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, W.E.B. Du Bois, Mary McLeod Bethune, Alice Dunbar Nelson, Zora Neale Hurston, Howard Thurman, Langston Hughes, Thurgood Marshall, Bayard Rustin, Dorothy Vaughan, Katherine Johnson, Mary Jackson, Leontyne Price, Martin Luther King, Jr., Toni Morrison, John Lewis, Bob Hayes, Oprah Winfrey, Kamala Harris, Hakeem M. Oluseyi, Taraji P. Henson, Erykah Badu, Stacey Abrams, Ta-Nehisi Coates, Chadwick Boseman, Hebru Brantley, Ibram X. Kendi, J.R. Smith, Megan Thee Stallion, and Mo’ne Davis.

history of the divine nine: When Colleges Sang J. Lloyd Winstead, 2013-06-30 When Colleges Sang is an illustrated history of the rich culture of college singing from the earliest days of the American republic to the present. Before fraternity songs, alma maters, and the raucous college fight songs became commonplace, students sang. Students in the earliest American colleges created their own literary melodies that they shared with their classmates. As J. Lloyd Winstead documents in When Colleges Sang, college singing expanded in conjunction with the growth of the nation and

the American higher education system. While it was often simply an entertaining pastime, singing had other subtle and not-so-subtle effects. Singing indoctrinated students into the life of formal and informal student organizations as well as encouraged them to conform to college rituals and celebrations. University faculty used songs to reinforce the religious practices and ceremonial observances that their universities supported. Students used singing for more social purposes: students sang to praise their peer's achievements (and underachievements), mock the faculty, and provide humor. In extreme circumstances, they sang to intimidate classmates and faculty, and to defy college authorities. Singing was, and is, an intrinsic part of campus culture. When *Colleges Sang* explores the dynamics that inspired collegiate singing and the development of singing traditions from the earliest days of the American college. Winstead explores this tradition's tenuous beginnings in the Puritan era and follows its progress into the present. Using historical documents provided by various universities, *When Colleges Sang* follows the unique applications and influences of song that persisted in various forms. This original and significant contribution to the literature of higher education sheds light on how college singing traditions have evolved through the generations and have continued to remain culturally relevant even today.

history of the divine nine: *The Other Great Migration* Bernadette Pruitt, 2013-10-24 The twentieth century has seen two great waves of African American migration from rural areas into the city, changing not only the country's demographics but also black culture. In her thorough study of migration to Houston, Bernadette Pruitt portrays the move from rural to urban homes in Jim Crow Houston as a form of black activism and resistance to racism. Between 1900 and 1950 nearly fifty thousand blacks left their rural communities and small towns in Texas and Louisiana for Houston. Jim Crow proscription, disfranchisement, acts of violence and brutality, and rural poverty pushed them from their homes; the lure of social advancement and prosperity based on urban-industrial development drew them. Houston's close proximity to basic minerals, innovations in transportation, increased trade, augmented economic revenue, and industrial development prompted white families, commercial businesses, and industries near the Houston Ship Channel to recruit blacks and other immigrants to the city as domestic laborers and wage earners. Using census data, manuscript collections, government records, and oral history interviews, Pruitt details who the migrants were, why they embarked on their journeys to Houston, the migration networks on which they relied, the jobs they held, the neighborhoods into which they settled, the culture and institutions they transplanted into the city, and the communities and people they transformed in Houston.

history of the divine nine: *African American Army Officers of World War I* Adam P. Wilson, 2015-04-29 In April 1917, Congress approved President Woodrow Wilson's request to declare war on the Central Powers, thrusting the United States into World War I with the rallying cry, The world must be made safe for democracy. Two months later 1,250 African American men--college graduates, businessmen, doctors, lawyers, reverends and non-commissioned officers--volunteered to become the first blacks to receive officer training at Fort Des Moines, Iowa. Denied the full privileges and protections of democracy at home, they prepared to defend it abroad in hopes that their service would be rewarded with equal citizenship at war's end. This book tells the stories of these black American soldiers' lives during training, in combat and after their return home. The author addresses issues of national and international racism and equality and discusses the Army's use of African American troops, the creation of a segregated officer training camp, the war's implications for civil rights in America, and military duty as an obligation of citizenship.

history of the divine nine: *Leadership in Nonprofit Organizations* Kathryn A. Agard, 2011 *Leadership in Non-Profit Organizations* tackles issues and leadership topics for those seeking to understand more about this dynamic sector of society. A major focus of this two-volume reference work is on the specific roles and skills required of the non-profit leader in voluntary organizations. Key features include: contributions from a wide range of authors who reflect the variety, vibrancy and creativity of the sector itself an overview of the history of non-profit organizations in the United States description of a robust and diverse assortment of organizations and opportunities for leadership an exploration of the nature of leadership and its complexity as exemplified in the

non-profit sector availability both in print and online - this title will form part of the 2010 Encyclopedia Collection on SAGE Reference Online. The Handbook includes topics such as: personalities of non-profit leaders vision and starting a nonprofit organization nonprofit law, statutes, taxation and regulations strategic management financial management collaboration public relations for promoting a non-profit organization human resource policies and procedures.

history of the divine nine: Brothers and Sisters Craig LaRon Torbenson, Gregory Parks, 2009 The 1950s are arguably the watershed era in the civil rights movement with the landmark Supreme Court decision of *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954, the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955, and the desegregation of Little Rock (Arkansas) High School in 1957. It was during this period--1955 to be exact--that sociologist Alfred M. Lee published his seminal work *Fraternities without Brotherhood: A Study of Prejudice on the American Campus*. Lee's book was the first and last book to explore diversity within college fraternal groups. More than fifty years later, Craig L. Torbenson and Gregory S. Parks revisit this issue more broadly in their edited volume *Brothers and Sisters: Diversity in College Fraternities and Sororities*. This volume draws from a variety of disciplines in an attempt to provide a holistic analysis of diversity within collegiate fraternal life. It also brings a wide range of scholarly approaches to the inquiry of diversity within college fraternities and sororities. It explores not only from whence these groups have come but where they are currently situated and what issues arise as they progress.

history of the divine nine: Alpha Phi Alpha Gregory S. Parks, Stefan M. Bradley, 2012-01-27 A "thoughtful" historical and sociological look inside the fraternity that's shaped men from W.E.B. DuBois to Martin Luther King, Jr. to Thurgood Marshall (Choice). On December 4, 1906, on Cornell University's campus, seven black men founded one of the greatest and most enduring organizations in American history. Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. has brought together and shaped such esteemed men as Martin Luther King Jr., Cornel West, Thurgood Marshall, Wes Moore, W.E.B. DuBois, Roland Martin, and Paul Robeson. "Born in the shadow of slavery and on the lap of disenfranchisement," Alpha Phi Alpha—like other black Greek-letter organizations—was founded to instill a spirit of high academic achievement and intellectualism, foster meaningful and lifelong ties, and racially uplift those brothers who would be initiated into its ranks. In *Alpha Phi Alpha*, Gregory S. Parks, Stefan M. Bradley, and other contributing authors analyze the fraternity and its members' fidelity to the founding precepts set forth in 1906. They discuss the identity established by the fraternity at its inception, the challenges of protecting the image and brand, and how the organization can identify and train future Alpha men to uphold the standards of an outstanding African American fraternity. Drawing on organizational identity theory and a diverse array of methodologies, the authors raise and answer questions that are relevant not only to Alpha Phi Alpha but to all black Greek-letter organizations.

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