



The winners of Gamma Phi Delta Sorority's scholarships rejoice. Pictured from left to right in the back row: Princess Childs, Jessica McMorris, Mia Marie Carter, Ashley Tillman and Brittney Flowers. (Front row, L to R) Sewit Mesfen, Cory Carter and Precious Rideout.

## Sorority awards scholarships

By Dianna Saffold  
Sentinel-Voice

The successful women of Gamma Phi Delta Sorority Inc., the Delta Kappa Chapter, are "Bridging the Gap to the Future."

The Delta Kappa Chapter hosted its Ninth Annual Salute & Scholarship Award Luncheon at the Stardust Hotel Convention Center. Before the luncheon, 28 recipients participated in the Annual Career Exploration event hosted by the chapter in cooperation with the Clark County School District. They wrote an essay qualifying them for the Sunday afternoon scholarship awards.

A business and professional women's organization, Gamma Phi Delta's purpose is to unite sisterly for charitable and educational purposes, fostering improvement in the economic and social status of young people.

A West Las Vegas pioneer, Gamma Soror President Ruby Amie-Pilot, mistress of ceremony, maintained a well-paced program during the serving of lunch. The Stardust Salon Ballroom was ideal for the event. A delicious seven-layer chocolate cake followed the menu: Chicken a la Orange, broccoli and twice-baked potato.

Soror Joyce Gilder welcomed the gathering and introduced Charlene Thrower, who shared the history of their chapter as well as the history of the organization. Violet T. Lewis and Elizabeth Garner of Lewis College of Business in Detroit established

Gamma Phi Delta Sorority in 1943. In 1987, the Delta Kappa Chapter here in Las Vegas was organized.

Artist of Tomorrow Avree "Joey" Walker provided entertainment. He is the great-grandson of honorable Gamma Soror Sarann Knight-Preddy. Dressed in traditional African garb, Joey played the Djimbe, a drum with origins in West Africa. The two rhythms featured were Yon Valu and Afro Negro.

"Greatness comes when you convert potential into opportunity" was a statement powerfully articulated by keynote speaker Ken Goodly, MGM Mirage College and Community Relations Manager. Goodly coordinates major staff recruitment efforts as well as developing and managing scholarship programs and internships. A 16-year veteran of the United States Air Force, he holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Human Resources Administration.

The title of his talk was "Ordinary People Who Do Extraordinary Things." The topic was perfect, interesting and well delivered, telling several stories about ordinary people doing extraordinary things.

"What is your passion?" he asked the recipients. "You have earned these scholarships. Now what will you do with these scholarships?" Challenging the young recipients to develop their potential, Goodly was an astute speaker. Upon completion, he

was presented with a wooden plaque, which was well deserved.

Gamma Soror Gladys Collick-Palmer introduced the presentation of scholarships. Several of the scholarships were presented by their donors, including the Dr. Nathaniel Boggs Jr., Scholarship. The namesake was presented by his daughter, Notre Dame graduate and recently appointed Clark County Commissioner, Lynette Boggs McDonald. Dr. Boggs holds three de-

(See Scholarships, Page 15)

## Historic Chambers' gala draws nearly 1,000 guests

By Parker Philpot  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

More than 900 attendees supported the first joint luncheon of the three largest minority Chambers of Commerce in Southern Nevada.

Gov. Kenny Guinn delivered a multiple-point, fact-filled keynote to the luncheon crowd that filled the Gold and Silver Rooms at Bally's Hotel Convention Center. Guinn covered topics ranging from the state's need for an "educated workforce" to the "state of business for minorities."

The large turnout was made up of an audience that included local business owners, professionals and dignitaries. The historic May 27 luncheon was the result of a year of planning and a strong desire to "come together" as expressed by heads of the Urban, Latin and Asian Chambers of Commerce. The three chambers held the event for its members, prospective members, as well as the general public.

Guinn cited statistics that place Nevada's rapidly increasing minority population rate among the "highest in the nation." He highlighted the rise in business ownership by Latinos, African-Americans and Asians is 12 percent of businesses in the state. Guinn cited statistics to show what he calls a growing and "un-



Sentinel-Voice photo by Randy Merritt

Urban Chamber of Commerce President Hannah Brown, left, Latin Chamber chief Eloiza Martinez and Wayne Tanaka were among 900 attendees at the May 27 event at Bally's.

precedented change in the diversity in our population."

In promoting the event, Louie Overstreet, executive director of the Urban Chamber of Commerce (UCC), made it clear that "everyone was invited to attend" and the event would be "inclusive."

Hannah Brown, president of UCC, was delighted with the event's development and attendance. "Everything fell into place," she said, crediting James Yu, president of the Asian Chamber of Commerce (ACC), with providing the spark that brought the event to life. "Yu mentioned the idea of (a joint luncheon) at a UCC luncheon," Brown recalled, referring to the event as the "brainchild of James Yu."

The event lived up to everything it promised to be. Yu and other chamber executives commented on the turnout and expressed plea-

sure at the response.

"This is just a beginning," Yu said. "You have to know your partners to be comfortable to discuss business."

Otto Merida, executive director of the Latin Chamber of Commerce (LCC), suggested that a monthly meeting of chamber presidents and executive directors might be one of the immediate outcomes of this event.

"Unity of diversity" is the phrase long-time resident Dr. Lonnie Hambergren, a neurosurgeon, used to describe the meeting.

"Great, great, great," County Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson Gates said, adding this "historic event kick-off" should "happen every year."

"Phenomenal," said Stan Saito, ACC vice president (See Chambers, Page 7)

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Timothy Williams is a member of the Nevada & Illinois State Bar, practicing primarily in personal injury cases.

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