

Upsilon Alpha Omega, the Kappa Alpha Sorority, chartered in Gwinnett 1994. On December 9, Tau Pi Chapter on the University. The Upsilon (“UAO”) of Alpha Kappa Incorporated is proud to establishment of The Undergraduate Alpha Omega Chapter of



Sorority, Incorporated, named for chapter charter members and veteran educators Janice McGruder and CaSandra Smith. Mrs. McGruder and Mrs. Smith have over 35 years of experience in education each and have enriched and enhanced the lives of many children.

Gwinnett Chapter of Alpha Incorporated, was County on January 29, 2012 UAO chartered the campus of Oglethorpe Alpha Omega Chapter Alpha Sorority, announce the McGruder- Smith Scholarship of Upsilon Alpha Kappa Alpha

The McGruder- Smith Undergraduate Scholarship will be awarded annually to a deserving member of Tau Pi chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Tau Pi Chapter is the first Greek- lettered organization for African Americans chartered on the campus of Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, Georgia. UAO serves as the parent chapter to Tau Pi, and provides guidance, mentoring, and support for all undergraduate activities. The chapters also participate in joint meetings and community service initiatives as they work to better the human living conditions via Alpha Kappa Alpha’s award-winning international programmatic thrust.

QUALIFICATIONS

- **Current financial member of Tau Pi Chapter** (or any UAO sponsored undergraduate chapter)
- Currently enrolled as a matriculating student
- Must demonstrate leadership potential and discernable good character
- Must actively participate in the chapter’s service projects

SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION

To be considered for the McGruder-Smith Undergraduate Scholarship of Upsilon Alpha Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, applicants must submit the following by April 17, 2021.

1. A completed application. It is imperative that the application be completed in full.
2. A one-page double-spaced (typed) personal statement summarizing why the applicant should be awarded the McGruder-Smith Undergraduate Scholarship of Upsilon Alpha Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. and how the scholarship will help her pursue her career ambition. Be sure to include community service activities in the statement.
3. A sealed copy of the applicant’s transcript (including prior semester). Must meet minimum (3.0) GPA requirements.
4. A sealed letter of recommendation from any of the following: professors, advisor, employer or minister.

SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION PROCESS

- Completed applications that meet the above criteria must be postmarked by **April 17, 2021** (no exceptions).
- Applicants will be notified by the scholarship committee the week of **May 3, 2021**, if they are selected for an interview. If not selected for an interview, applicants will be advised accordingly.
- The scholarship recipient will be honored at **a Virtual Reception Thursday, June 4, 2021.**

BACKGROUNDS:

Janice McGruder graduated from East Depot High School in LaGrange, GA. She received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Comprehensive Business Education from Albany State College in Albany, GA. and her Masters of Education Degree from North Georgia College in Dahlonega, GA. Mrs. McGruder has dedicated her life to educating children in Georgia.

Mrs. McGruder began her teaching career as a Business Education Teacher where she taught on both the Middle School and High School levels. Changing the lives of children was always her focus. Mrs. McGruder taught a blind student to use the typewriter and one typing class was so large, she had to use a microphone to instruct the class.

Later she taught classes that prepared students for careers. In one of these classes, Mrs. McGruder had the opportunity to ride in a helicopter with students as part of the program. The Careers program gave students a chance to Job Shadow different careers. Mrs. McGruder secured a student a spot in an operating room with a Doctor, another student went to a court room with a Judge and she even had a student to job shadow in the Governor’s office. At the top of the list were the people who job shadowed her. She is proud of the fact that her Daughter and both of her Grandchildren followed her into the field of education.

The last years of her teaching career were spent as a vocational teacher and as a Summer Scholars Educator. The summer program gave her a chance to help students prepare for High School by providing remediation in language arts. The vocational courses included instruction in Banking, Finance and Accounting. These years concluded her rich experience as a Teacher, Team Leader, and Department Head. During this time, she received many awards and recognitions which included: The Fair Street Butler Education Award and The Georgia Career Student Association Lifetime Service Award.

Mrs. McGruder is a loyal member of both St. John Baptist Church in Gainesville, GA. and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. At St. John she became the first Female Treasurer of the church and still remains one of the leaders in the church. In AKA, she was a Charter Member of Lambda Iota Omega in Gainesville, GA and Upsilon Alpha Omega in Lawrenceville GA. She has been on the executive board since Upsilon Alpha Omega was chartered. Alpha Kappa Alpha has given her a chance to serve the community for over 40 years. The positions she held in the organization includes: President of Gwinnett Pearls of Service nonprofit Foundation and President of the National Pan-Hellenic Council in Gwinnett County. Janice is married to Ruben McGruder, formally of Pine Mtn. GA. They have two children Tecia (Kennard) McKay and Rueben D. McGruder and two grandchildren Alex Davidson and Kaylah McGruder.

CaSandra Smith attended elementary school in Albany, Georgia and graduated from Sarasota High School in Sarasota, Florida. She received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education from Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University (FAMU) in Tallahassee, Florida. Dedicating over 37 years to educating children, Mrs. Smith is known for her creativity and uniqueness of spirit.

Mrs. Smith has educated children in the states of Texas, Florida, and Georgia. Her joy comes when a student suddenly and excitedly grasps concepts and ideas. She is of the belief that when a challenge is accepted and mastered, the education of that individual is moved to a different level. She loves teaching and absolutely thrives on helping children learn. Simply put, she is a strong believer that “EDUCATION ROCKS”. Having many talents, Mrs. Smith is the author of numerous poems and songs. She even wrote the school song for one of her schools, which is currently in use today.

Mrs. Smith was initiated in Nu Lambda Omega in Atlanta, Georgia, and is a LIFE MEMBER of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. She is a charter member of Upsilon Alpha Omega Chapter in Lawrenceville, Georgia. Serving Upsilon Alpha Omega Chapter on many levels throughout the years, she has a vast history of committee membership. She actually helped create the first Debutante Cotillion, one of the chapter’s signature events. In fact, since the chapter’s inception, Mrs. Smith has served as an Executive Board member.

Mrs. Smith is a member of Hopewell Northeast Missionary Baptist Church in Grayson, Georgia where she is a member and officer of the Usher Board and an office volunteer. Mrs. Smith’s faith plays a great role in who she is and who she strives to be. Mrs. Smith is married to Carl and they have two daughters, Carla Leigh and Christina Michelle. She is most proud of the fact that her entire family graduated from FAMU and that both of her daughters are members of AKA.



APPLICATION

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Age _____ Prior Semester GPA _____ Expected Date of Graduation _____

Major: _____

Career/Professional Goal _____

College Activities/Honors _____
