



THE ANAX

A Project Life Foundation, Inc. Quarterly Publication

Project Life Foundation,
Inc.

Volume I, Issue I
June 2003

Interview With First Collegiate Chapter President

In this month's newsletter, we will highlight the strategies and goals of Nicholas McElveen, Project Life Foundation's (PLF) first collegiate president. Nicholas currently attends Clemson University where he is scheduled to graduate in December 2003 with a degree in computer science and a minor in fine arts. On February 11, 2003, Nicholas provided the national leadership with the answers to the following questions: **What attracted you to PLF, Inc.?** His reply was "After being an undergraduate at Clemson University for three years, I saw the real Clemson University. I saw how segregated different ethnicities are when it comes to interacting with each other and the lack of Clemson's presence in the under-represented community. I

found this to be unsettling since I came from an area where all students mingled and communicated with each other on a regular basis. The more I saw and learned about Clemson University and its students, the more evidence I saw of segregation and the more I wanted to make changes. Along with being determined to graduate with a degree, I was also determined to try to change race relations and diversify the minds of this institution. When I was introduced to PLF by Jay Blankenship, I found an organization that was inclusive, had a positive outlook on being a service to the community, and was for providing a voice for the youth, in hopes of making them better citizens for tomorrow. I found that PLF allowed me to take the

strides necessary to achieve my goal. **Where are you from?** I am a 1999 board of trustee graduate of South Florence High School in Florence, South Carolina. Nicholas is also a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity.



Nicholas McElveen
See interview page 2

PLF National Board Member Wins Prestigious Jefferson Award

Dr. Romando James, a member of the Project Life Foundation, Inc. National Board of Directors has been selected as a 2003 Jefferson Award Recipient. The award is a Nobel Prize for Public Service in the United States. He received a Bronze Medallion featuring a replica of the Seal of the United States, and the Medallion was signed by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and Senator Robert Taft, Jr.



1st Generations Program, Pendleton Elementary School

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How does it feel to be the first collegiate chapter president of Project Life Foundation, Inc.? At first I was a little apprehensive about being president of the Zeta Beta Chapter of PLF. I was already involved in a number of activities that required my time and dedication, but the opportunity to achieve a personal goal, and what I knew needed to be done at Clemson University was too great to pass on. After being in office for a little less than a year now, I know there is a lot of responsibility that comes along with being president and it hasn't all been easy. I know that with starting a new organization that the campus isn't going to catch on and

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“The opportunity to achieve a personal goal, and what I knew needed to be done at Clemson University was too great to pass on”.

cept a movement overnight, but the feeling that I get from working for an organization that I feel passionate about gives me the energy needed to persevere and push on with the members that we have.

Being the first collegiate chapter president of PLF makes me proud and the members that are currently active in the Zeta Beta Chapter do nothing but perpetuate that feeling. I have met new people and made new friendships. I believe this organization will continue to

reach new heights because of the vision and passion of our current leaders Eddie Weatherington, Darryl Robinson, Jay Blankenship, and the national board of directors. It is an honor to be a part of the history of this “dynamic” organization. **How does being the president of the chapter prepare you for future leadership positions?**

As president of PLF, I'm responsible for many tasks including running the general body business meetings, assisting in the planning of events, and incorporating programs that parallel PLF's mission statement. This position has presented new challenges, and I have taken them on with the help of the diligent members that make up this chapter. In the future, the lessons learned and the obstacles that I have overcome while serving as president will serve as a platform for which I will stand to reach higher and lead more effectively. This experience has given me the confidence that I can provide leadership and direction to any group of men and women with common interest. The confidence I have gained will play a role in my future employment where I will be part of a team that has to reach common goals. My leadership skills will be applied and challenged, but I will be able to provide direction and lead successfully standing strong on the foundation that I received by serving as president of PLF. **What goals have you set for the chapter?** During our first year of being a recognized organization at Clemson University, there were a few things that I knew

needed to be done to insure the survival of the Zeta Beta Chapter. The main goals I had for PLF were:

- To get our name out on campus
- To be recognized as a student organization at Clemson University
- To establish a presence in the community
- To gain dedicated membership
- To be an organization where all ideas are respected and all voices are heard.

With the help of our membership, along with the guidance of Jay Blankenship, we were able to accomplish all of these goals. By putting on public events like the first annual PLF gospel showcase, and by our continued work with the Pendleton Elementary School's First Generations Program, we have grabbed the attention Clemson students, faculty, and staff as well as members of the local community. Twice a month on Saturday's throughout the school year, we attend, assist, help facilitate, and encourage the pursuit of higher education, good values, and the respect for diversity as positive role models. The First Generations Program is part of our commitment to having a positive, progressive presence in the community. It would be nice to have a roster of fifty members, but if only seven are dedicated, then you really only have seven members. Those who are dedicated to our cause in their individual walks of life will have no problem associating themselves with an organization that has the same views. All members participate because they choose to, and everyone has a voice in the direction that (we) progress. Overall, I feel that we have done a lot in our first year at Clemson University, but there is still much more to accomplish.

Member Spotlight

The member that we are spotlighting is Michael Grant. Michael is currently a graduate student at CU majoring in (MFA) Digital Production Arts. Michael is also a graduate of North Carolina

A & T University with a BS degree in Graphic Communication Systems.

"I was impressed by the dedication and efficiency of the PLF leadership from top to bottom that I decided to become a member". PLF is well structured and the organization allows me to contribute and impact my community, and the lives of the youth that so desperately need our attention, support and encouragement. The various com-

munity centered events and activities that PLF plans, and sponsors, will provide me with many opportunities to make a difference.

Michael presently holds several leadership positions in multiple organizations. Michael is a national youth spokesman for PLF, member of the executive board of Bothers of the Academy (BOTA) that is comprised of African-American males that serve as university professors, administrators, and graduate students that provide a network for producing collaborative scholarships. Michael is the co-founder of (PGI) Pre-Graduate Initiative Program which mentors and advises African-

American undergraduate males and females in hopes that they will matriculate into a reputable



graduate school program.

"Sharing of Ones Knowledge, Time and Resources" These principles will help open the thought process of all man kind. (Jay)



Mike & Nicholas with first generation male students

Chairman Thoughts...

I never imaged that in 2003, we as a people would be dealing with issues that were addressed during the civil rights movement. In Greenville, South Carolina there is disharmony over establishing a ML King holiday. The federal bill supporting a ML King holiday was passed in 1983. What ever happen to "One Nation under God"?

What has happened to the social conscience youth? It was the youth and young adult community that has always brought about change in this country. We need more individuals who understand the game of life, especially in America to

volunteer their time and resources to making a difference that can be felt, not lip service.

On September 11, 2001 we were one nation. But ask your self-the question, Where is the idea of one nation undivided at now. We are now fighting for equal educational rights in the courts and to save affirmative action. Does anyone remember Brown vs the Board of Education, or Plessy vs Ferguson?

If we lose the Michigan Case, will the majority schools continue their diversity efforts? Will more students of color decide to attend more HBCU's?

Has anything in America

really changed? If so, what? I would appreciate your e-mail responses to these questions. Feel free to suggest topics for discussion that deal with culture, race, education, politics, business or economics and I will place them in our on-line newsletter.



Chairman Speaking to Clemson University Business Fraternity



Delta Sigma Business Fraternity President B. J. Patel & Chairman Blankenship greet after the "Business In The Community Diversity Presentation"

Chapter News

The Zeta Nu National Office of PLF to begin new chapters in Charleston, South Carolina, Madison, Wisconsin, Huntsville, Alabama, Montgomery, AL, Charlotte, North Carolina and in the Upstate of South Carolina.

Chapter Leadership

Psi Zeta Charleston, SC (Pres.) Mr. Kenny Potter
(Kenny@projectlifefoundation.org)

Delta Delta Madison, Wi (Pres.) Mr. Joe Robinson
Joe@projectlifefoundation.org

Phi Alpha Huntsville, AL (Pres.) Mr. Walter Alexander
Walter@projectlifefoundation.org

Zeta Alpha Charlotte, NC (Pres.) Ms. Tonya Sass
(tonya@projectlifefoundation.org)



Basketball game with First Generations students



Chairman Blankenship & Zeta Beta President speak to First Generations students

Mission

To help all citizens become better citizens, especially the youth and young adults of the community

Statement of Purpose

The Zeta Nu National Chapter of PLF, Inc. is dedicated to the personal and professional development of its membership by placing emphasis on high scholastic achievement, community service, political awareness and involvement, economic and financial involvement and education.

Furthermore, all affiliate chapters of PLF are dedicated to the betterment of its local citizenry, with special emphasis on youth development, by creating and executing programs, practices and policies that align with the mission of PLF, Inc.

Guiding Principles

Achievement♣
Service♣
Dependability♣
Diligence♣
Responsibility♣
Uplift♣

Philosophy

To teach, mentor and provide guidance to all youth and young adults regardless of their race, ethnic background or gender. Provide these individuals with a vehicle to allow their voice to be heard

Project Life Foundation, Inc.

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